

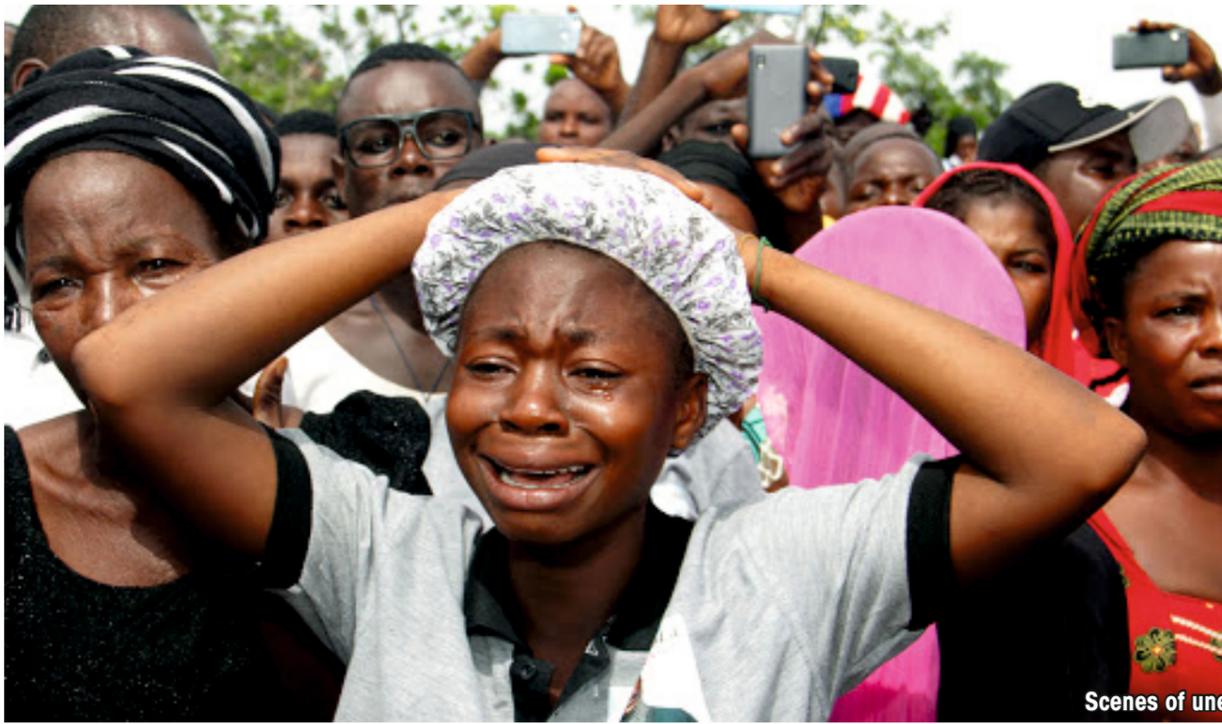
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NEWS

No individual or group can stop Anambra election - BLC

From Nonye Udumiri, Aba

The Biafra Liberation Council (BLC) has warned that it will not stand and watch any group or individual take actions that are capable of truncating the 2021 governorship election in Anambra State.

Rising from a three day meeting, BLC said it has resolved to begin the process of re-uniting the South East into a stable and strong indivisible entity.

Addressing newsmen on their next move in Aba, Abia State on Wednesday, BLC Administration Secretary, Austin-Mary Ndukwu said that inasmuch as it wants a free and independent Biafra, it cannot continue to watch South East being turned into killing field by the Nigeria state.

BLC said that the Anambra State Governorship election is very sacrosanct and extremely important for both Ndigbo and the

entire Biafra-land, as it will serve as a case study for the political future of Ndigbo. The group vowed that no matter the security challenges facing the South Eastern Region of Nigeria, the November 2021 Anambra State election must hold.

BLC said that on no circumstance should governance in any state of the East be allowed to be truncated by any form of violence that could lead to disruption of election. The group said that it is disheartening that such actions against the South East have been orchestrated by senseless utterances, empty threats and actions of few selfish individuals and groups.

"The November 2021 Anambra State election must hold. The date is sacrosanct and cannot be truncated by any individual or group. "Any attempt by anybody to incite the people against Anambra State citizens and government or attack any campaign ground must be

dealt with decisively.

"Beginning from September 2021, the BLC Vanguard Intel Section will be drafted into Anambra State to fish out anybody or group that want to shortchange the electoral campaign or the election proper. "They shall be punished. We advise political parties and politicians in Anambra State to play politics without bitterness by prosecuting people oriented campaigns. "Biafra will want to use this year's Anambra State election as a case study to measure future politics in the South East and Biafra-land in general."

The group further cautioned against any further attacks on properties, government facilities and political leaders and elders in the region, stressing that such actions are taboos and will not be tolerated anymore.

BLC called for a better understanding between the political office holders, religious leaders, elders, women and youths of the South East Zone, stressing that all

hands must be on deck to ensure that peace and tranquility return.

"You don't claim to be wise when you go about calling your father a fool. If your father is a fool, that means you're the son of a fool. It's high time we learnt how to package our-

selves before outsiders so they don't make caricature of our predicaments."

BLC called on the Ohanaeze Ndigbo to live up to their billing as the custodian of the socio-cultural and political stool of the Igbos by standing firm in all their pronouncements, nev-

er to succumb to any threat.

It also urged all traditional rulers and town union presidents in the South East to ensure that they are in full control of their enclaves and avoid leasing out of community lands arbitrarily to strangers without the consent of their people.

Gov. Fintiri commissions 220-bed specialist hospital in Delta

From Olise Nwagbogwu, Asaba

Adamawa State Governor, Alhaji Ahmadu Fintiri has described Nigeria as a nation in crossroad and called for a review of the prevailing federal structure that concentrates power and the nation's commonwealth at the centre.

Inaugurating the 220-bed Asaba Specialist Hospital, Tuesday, Fintiri commended Governor Okowa for demonstrating great leadership traits which had culminated to numerous projects being inaugurated across the state.

"I have seen a trans-

formed Asaba which also rekindles my heart for the country and gives me a more compelling reason to pray for more concessions of responsibilities and resources to the sub-national units of our federation. "At this time that our nation is at a crossroad, we need to rethink our federalism".

"No doubt, we have concerns and agitations, but none is insurmountable if only we can have the right leadership with the courage to tinker the structural federalism to do just a little at devolving more power to the states".

"I am convinced that the centre is holding on to so many responsibilities that

can best be handled by the states. What I am saying in essence is that there is a need for constitutional review to devolve more powers and resources to the states.

In his remarks, Delta state governor, Sen. (Dr) Ifeanyi Okowa has called on the Federal Government to fully operationalise the National Health Act to curb the high rate of maternal and neonatal mortality in the country.

He commended President Muhammadu Buhari for operationalising the National Health Act, but remarked that it was being implemented in part contrary to the full content and letters of the Act as passed by the National Assembly.

We 'll soon pass anti-grazing bill - Wike

From Godson Nwosu, Port-Harcourt

Rivers state Governor, Nyesom Wike has said that he will soon send the anti-open grazing bill to the State House of Assembly for passage into law.

The governor said this during the inauguration of the Isaiah Odoli/Omerelu streets in New GRA phase 1 in Obio-Akpor Local Government Area on Wednesday. He said the law will give legal backing to protect Rivers people from marauding herdsmen.

According to Governor Wike, in addition to protecting farmland in Rivers State,

women and youths, the bill is in keeping with the resolution made by the Southern Governors Forum.

"You can't go to the farm anymore, those who rear cattle, they'll not allow your crops to grow. Let me say it clearly, now that the House of Assembly has come back, we have to submit the bill on Anti-Open Grazing as we agreed in the Southern Governors Forum.

Wike also asserted that Nigerians, who had considered the All Progressives Congress (APC) as better alternative to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in 2015, must be regretting the deplorable condition of the country un-

der APC.

"The exchange rate has now got to N510 to a Dollar. When they took over, it was N150 to a Dollar. They said they'll give employment. Do we have employment today? Are your children employed?"

According to Governor Wike, Nigeria is now on life support and requires prayers from well meaning Nigerians in order to salvage the country.

Inaugurating the road project, former Senate President, Senator David Mark said Rivers people are very lucky to have a governor who fulfills promises made and provides infrastructure with a human touch.

Ogoni youths block major roads over reconstitution of NDDC board

From Godson Nwosu, Pot-Harcourt

It was a difficult day for motorists and commuters along the Eleme axis of the east west road in Rivers state as youths from Ogoni ethnic nationality from the state on Tuesday blocked the road in protest in solidarity with Members of the Ijaw Youth Council over their agitation against federal government's delay in constituting a substantive board of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

Members of the Ogoni Youth Federation who led

the protest did not only asked for immediate constitution of NDDC board but the construction of Port Harcourt Refinery road and state pardon for late Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni sons who were sentenced to death by the regime of late General Sani Abacha.

The President of the Ogoni group, Legbosi Yamabana who addressed newsmen at the scene of the protest issued fourteen days ultimatum to federal government to fix the roads including the bridge within Eleme axis of the East West road which they said have claimed lives of Ogoni

people.

Yamabana who insisted that the Ogoni Youth stand with the position of the Ijaw Youth Council led by Timothy Peter-Igbifa on the constitution of the board of the NDDC warned that if the government fails to heed to their demands they will shut down the road and economic activities in the area.

Some other members of the Ogoni youth group who also spoke during the protest lamented the suffering of the people as a result of the poor state of roads and NDDC affairs and warned that continuous delay may be dangerous.

Our govt will not tolerate criminality of any guise - Uzodimma

By Jennifer John

The governor of Imo State, Senator Hope Uzodimma has warned that his government will no longer tolerate criminality of any guise.

He condemned the killings of innocent citizens, destruction of infrastructure under any guise whatsoever, as he enjoined communities to ensure that infrastructure established in their communities are preserved and bad eggs are flushed out.

The Governor stated this while interacting with leaders from Orsu, Onuimo and Owerri North local government areas when they paid solidarity visit on him on Wednesday at the government house Owerri.

The governor made it clear that government will not shirk its responsibility of protection of lives and properties of citizens and was ready to crush criminality out of the state. He said "We came into office a year and some months ago.

When we came we met the state in a cemetery and we are trying to exhume the body and finding how to animate it. Uzodimma however assured them that all legitimate in-

frastructural deficits in the communities will be addressed as much as available state resources allow, adding that federal government assistance will be sought for where needed to achieve this.

The governor used opportunity to commiserate with the people of Orsu on the unwarranted killings and burnings of property by hoodlums, vowing to get to the root of the matter.

He however promised that Onuimo would get the request for the completion and commencement of School of Engineering, Umuna, a campus of the Imo State University (IMSU) as well as construction of access roads connecting four farming communities in Onuimo which is the food basket of the zone.

Some leaders of the areas who spoke appreciated the achievements recorded by the shared prosperity administration in one year, the successful grappling with challenges posed at the beginning of the administration by Covid 19 pandemic, endSARS crisis and the proactive and pragmatic tackling of the present security challenges.

The legislature for Orsu state constituency, Hon. Ek-

ene Nnodimele and other leaders thanked the governor for his support and concern for the people.

The Onuimo local government area was led by the speaker of the state House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Paul Emeziem accompanied by other leaders from the area including the Interim Management Committee IMC Chairman and others who in separate remarks eulogized Uzodimma on his numerous achievements in one year.

The Owerri North leaders led by Prince Lemmy Akakem, accompanied by Prince Alex Mbata, CEO of ABM global, their Legislator, Hon. Philip Ejiogu and others who unanimously applauded the visionary leadership of the Imo Governor and urged him to move ahead disregarding the distractions and challenges being thrown at him by some disgruntled politicians in the state.

They presented their articulated documented requests for the local government area to the Governor, primary among the needs of the people was Aba/Naze, road, Akwakuma/ Trinity road erosion, Ulakwo- Imerienwe roads among others as well as the Orji, Naze, Obibiezena Health Centres.

NEWS

Insecurity: Sponsored political blackmail against Ndigbo - Isiguzoro

From Nonye Udumiri, Aba

A former Ohanaeze Youth President and current Secretary General of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide (faction), Mazi Okechukwu Isiguzoro has said that the current insecurity in South East is just a political blackmail against Ndigbo.

Isiguzoro added that the wave of insecurity in Igbo-land is politically sponsored to truncate the chances of Igbos to produce the country's next President come 2023.

He stressed that those sponsoring insecurity have just one goal which is to blackmail the South East Presidency Project of 2023 and portray that Igbos should not be trusted with political power and position of Nigeria's number citizen. Isiguzoro further urged Northern elders to stop blackmailing South East

leaders with their wrong notions that they are supporting agitations in the region by keeping silent.

He stressed that contrary to the beliefs of Northern elders on secessionist campaigns, the campaign is gaining more ground based on the fallout of the systematic frustrations of the Federal Government's discrimination against Igbos. Isiguzoro said that unlike most Nigerian youths, Igbo Youths are subjected to untold hardship especially in this COVID-19 worsening economic era, stressing that in every 10 unemployed people, six are Igbo youths.

The Ohanaeze Secretary added that youthful Igbo traders are frustrated either by an unfriendly government's policies or host communities' animosities. He noted that Igbo leaders and Governors are not behind the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and other agitating groups and are un-

happy with the attacks on police formations and government facilities within the zone.

Isiguzoro dismissed Northern elders contentions of possibilities that the silence of Igbo leaders in the insecurity situation reflect support for the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and other agitating groups.

He described the Northern elders notions that Igbo leaders are silent because they support agitators' method of operation as "fallacies and myth" craftily

designed for sinister motives by anti-Igbo exponents. He stressed that the current wave of insecurity in South Eastern Nigeria can be alluded to "hearing the voice of Jacob while touching the hands of Esau".

Isiguzoro said he is very optimistic that the Igbo Presidency Project of 2023 will be a success, stressing that all the anti-Igbo exponents sponsoring insecurity in the South East are ignorantly playing historical roles in the actualization of the project.

ADF urges Ndigbo to imbibe 'Aku-ruo-ulo' spirit

From Nonye Udumiri, Aba

The Alaigbo Development Foundation (ADF) has called on Ndigbo both home and in diaspora to think and invest home in line with the philosophy of 'Aku ruo ulo'.

ADF said that the focus has to be on Agriculture beyond mere subsistent farming that will enable Ndigbo to be self sufficient in food production more than any other thing.

The Apex Igbo intelligentsia group also said that prevailing food and economic as well as security trend requires that Ndigbo embark on mas-

sive allied-agro revolution to make their land the epicenter/beachhead of their investments.

ADF said that the forum aims to encourage revival of Igbo spirit of unity in strength (Igwe-bu-ike) and make Igbo-land (Alaigbo) a self-reliant and productive economy based society.

News Echo also gathered that the forum also provides capacity building and partnership opportunities to willing communities, groups and individuals with the arm of ADF, "Aku-ruo-ulo Cooperative Movement" that is in charge of the idea.

Abia Govt, AfCFTA to make entrepreneurs take over African market

By Glory Ugochukwu

The Abia State Government in partnership with the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) Nigeria Secretariat has begun formal procedures to ensure that entrepreneurs from the state take full advantage of the common market platform being put together through the AfCFTA.

This was made known after a technical meeting between the top officials of the National Secretariat of AfCFTA and the Special Adviser to Governor Okezie Ikeazu, on Social Investment and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Chinenye Nwaogu.

In his remarks, the Special Adviser to Governor Okezie Ikeazu, on Social Investment and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Chinenye Nwaogu had informed the team that from inception in 2015, Governor Ikpeazu has been deliberate in his efforts to grow the MSME ecosystem in Abia State leveraging every available platform and structure, adding that the success of the Made in Aba products promotional campaign was possible because of the personal commitment and huge political backing offered by the Governor. He further

stated that under Governor Ikpeazu, Abia entrepreneurs have enjoyed tremendous goodwill and publicity nationally and globally.

He maintained that Abia remains the state to watch as the continent begins the process of creating a common market for Africans to trade without encumbrances. He assured the National Action Committee that Abia entrepreneurs will make Nigeria proud and will provide the launching pad for the country's effective participation in the continental programme.

The Secretary of the National Action Committee and SSA to the President on Public Sector Matters Francis Anatogu said the NAC-AfCFTA was very impressed with the progress of Abia State Government on the issue.

He also said that the nation has watched with pride how Governor Ikpeazu has brought tremendous publicity and attention to Made in Aba products through his numerous supportive actions and branding activities. He stated that the Governor through his actions has reversed the dwindling market strength and notoriety of Made in Aba products to now become a thing of National pride.



Imo State Governor, Senator Hope Uzodimma (2nd right) cuts the tape to commission operational vans he donated to the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) of the Imo State Police Command. With him is Imo Commissioner of Police, Abutu Yaro (2nd left) and others when the governor paid a condolence visit to the Police Command Headquarters, Owerri on Tuesday.

Anambra poll: PDP aspirant to sue party over alleged high cost of forms

From Ovat Mike, Onitsha

For allegedly discriminating in its sale of gubernatorial election form to aspirants at a

whopping sum of between N26million and N30million for male aspirants and N1million only to female aspirants in Anambra state, chieftain and aspirant of the People's Demo-

cratic Party (PDP), Chief Zeribe Ezeanuna, Tuesday in Onitsha, vowed to drag the party, to the Federal High Court sitting in Awka, the Anambra state capital.

Making the vow, he disclosed that he had notified the national body of his plan to drag the party to court over exclusion because he was not able to pay the cost of the form.

"I petitioned the national body and I am filing a suit for exclusion. It is (the) court strike that delayed the entire thing and by today or so we will file a suit at the Federal High Court Awka."

"It is not fair for PDP to exclude people with money; to discriminate on the basis of money," he stated.

In buttressing his point further, he queried, "how can Senator Uche Ekwunife pay N1million only and I, because I am a man, pay N26million to N30million? It is not fair."

He hinted that, for those who are doing legitimate business in Onitsha, it is not easy for them to pay such a whopping sum adding, "It is only criminals; those that stole money somehow or those that have access to public fund that can afford it."

Asked what his next line of action would be if he failed in his bid to get favorable judgment, he reiterated that, "what happened to APC in Zamfara and Rivers states would happen to the party in Anambra State.

Courts in Rivers State resume after judiciary strike

From Godson Nwosu, Port-Harcourt

Following the suspension of strike action by Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), courts in Port Harcourt and other local government of Rivers State have fully resumed.

News Echo who was at the Judiciary complex in Port Harcourt reports that various court rooms were seen hearing matters before it. In Isiokpo Community in

Ikwerre Local Government Area of the state, Customary Court sitting in the area has also resumed sitting.

Recall the Rivers state Governor, Nyesom Wike had threatened to apply the no work, no pay policy, if the judiciary workers fail to resume work before the end of last month. Members of JUSUN nationwide had embarked on strike to press home their demand for judicial autonomy in the country.

EDITORIAL

Imo govt should extend sympathy to victims security killings

For sometimes now Imo has been in the news for the wrong reasons. The state has been under siege of armed attacks by the duo of a group labeled unknown gunmen and Nigerian military men. Imo people have lamented the loss of her numerous youths some who were allegedly picked innocently and dispatched to the grave.

Stories of over filled mortuary in the state hospital with many dumped at corners in the mug attracted so many outcries from the public. The state suddenly became an outcast with many avoiding visiting it in order not to be caught in the cross fires of gun shots. Economic and social lives suffered huge reverses. Night life itself became a nightmare even as businesses shut down before nightfall.

The Imo crises as much as many could recall took root and festered when the state government engaged the military to quell what it called an attack from a group it called hoodlums. The hoodlums' government later fingered to be members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN). They were alleged to be responsible for the felling of security men on duty and burning of police station as well as the offices of the Independent National Electoral Commission.

To arrest the situation which is becoming a national embarrassment to the government, the federal government ordered the police to restore peace urgently in the South East region especially Imo State. The Inspector General of Police (IGP) in launching the Operation Restore Peace at Enugu was reported to have ordered his men to take the battle to I gbo youths and kill them insisting that nothing would happen.

He is yet to deny such statement which had attracted wide spread condemnation within and outside the country. Perhaps, that was the courage at the back of the military that allegedly opted to gun down Igbo on trumped up charges. Many youths were picked up at random even in their own houses on mere suspicion. Any youth adorning black and black attire is suspected to belong to the dreaded ESN.

The Imo government in sympathy for our military men who lost their lives in the line of duty has gone ahead to give compensation to the families of the fallen victims. The government doled out N5m to the respective families. This action has attracted commentaries from Imo people who felt that the government effort is not equitable having excluded families whose children fell victim to alleged police brutality.

News Echo wishes to align itself with the views of the Imo people. We also consider it hasty that the government went ahead to pay compensation before the report of the Commission it set up to investigate the matter. It would have been more appropriate for the government to wait for the recommendations of the Committee which will be more comprehensive and far reaching.

Again, as employees of the federal government it is not unlikely that there would be further compensation from the government. Some of the interpretations giving to the action from a section of Imolites allude to government admission of guilt. Others hold the view of insensitivity on the part of government against youths it should be protective.

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To pioneer new ways to serve the public and provide credible reports across all media platforms.

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Opinion

Armed herdsmen as harbingers of anarchy

By Dr George Nkwoji



Herdsmen on the prowl

I was as if I was talking to myself in 2016 when I stated that "it will be naive to think that the oppressed southern ethnic groups will fold their arms without finding solutions to defend and protect themselves" while discussing the portentousness of herdsmen invasions on this column. In that discussion, I pointed out that the criminal activities of herdsmen would unite the rest of Nigeria against Fulanis and that there was going to be proliferation of arms. Five years after that publication, it is obvious that there is proliferation of arms with these prevalent attacks on security stations nationwide. It is equally evident that the rest of Nigerians are now united against Fulanis going by the ban on open grazing of cattle in Southern and Middle Belt parts of Nigeria. For the benefit of those who did not read it, that publication is being reproduced below devoid of alteration to prove that the unfolding anarchy in the country has long been foretold. Happy reading.

The migration of a large population of Fulani herdsmen from their communities in the North to the Middle Belts and Southern communities in recent years and the fact that

they are armed with guns with which they invade natives killing and destroying properties is evidence that Nigeria is gradually heading to anarchy. The politics being played with this development where Nigerians from the North claim that it has to do with grazing fields while those from the Middle Belts and Southern Nigeria say that it borders on conquest is another evidence that the country is almost divided into ethnic groups and suspicion reigns supreme. But irrespective of the angle from which the incessant Fulani herdsmen attacks may be viewed, one cannot fail to see them as harbingers of a disunited Nigeria which will result in proliferation of arms, contempt for Fulanis, xenophobia and ethnic genocide.

The manner Fulani nomads brandish arms is evidence that guns have entered into wrong hands and this is bound to trigger an upsurge in the proliferation of arms. The mere fact that sophisticated arms freely enter into this country without being detected and impounded clearly exposes Nigeria's security lapses. Being prodded by the support they received

from Northern Governors and the silence of the

federal government, it will be naïve to think that the oppressed Southern ethnic groups will fold their arms without finding solutions to defend and protect themselves. A majority of them have the capability to manufacture dangerous weapons and therefore would not have the need to cross our borders. As the federal government has not been able to disarm herdsmen and seems not interested to investigate how sophisticated guns got into the hands of illiterates is bound to embolden other tribes to prepare for the coming armageddon. Therefore there will be no telling the extent this state of affairs will get to when the local manufacturing of guns resumes in the quest for personal protection and defense against external attacks.

The Fulanis, though a minority ethnic nationality which was made influential by our British colonialists unwittingly uses armed nomads to incite other ethnic groups against itself. The other ethnic nationalities who are bearing the brunt of

unbridled invasions by their herdsmen are merely watching with trepidation. It is just natural that they would want to treat the situation with equanimity perhaps to see what the federal government which is headed by a Fulani will do. What is prevailing now is the suppression of bottled up anger and how long this will last depends on what the Buhari government does and those it will not do. Fulanis may be basking in the confidence that it controls the apparatus of federal authorities without caring about the feelings of others, but with the level of wanton destruction of Southern communities by herdsmen, the Fulanis should expect a rise in contempt for anything it stands for because it is natural for oppressed people to react in this way but the unfortunate aspect of it is that Fulanis are bringing this upon themselves for being expansionists.

It continues to frighten me whenever I imagine a Nigeria under the reign of tribalism with its concomitants of hatred, suspicion, etc coupled with proliferation of arms in the hands of angry and unemployed people. Though

not their plan but Fulanis have used their rampaging nomads to unite the rest of Nigeria's ethnic nationalities and this unity will haunt them for a long time. It has suddenly dawned on all of them that Fulanis have no friends when it comes to their expansionist quest which means that every ethnic group is a potential enemy to Fulanis. With the awakening of hatred for herdsmen and the strident calls for them to leave Southern communities, it will just take some extremists to burst the bubble and by the time we know it,

Nigeria would have been enmeshed in xenophobia and genocide. Unfortunately Nigerians are not seeing any practical steps taken by the federal government to deal with this ugly development and this is creating feelings of neglect and insecurity. It amounts to paying lips service for President Buhari to issue orders to the military which are unheeded to and he keeps silent when not even a single culprit has been apprehended. How does it feel when security agencies ignore Presidential orders and Mr. President thinks that all is going to be well? This state of affairs is like a double edged sword that cuts

with both sides. Fulani herdsmen who seem to enjoy federal government's protection will lose on both sides when this brazen impunity eventually breaks the patience of Nigerians. Already there are rising demands from Southerners that herdsmen should leave with their cows. There are also mounting campaigns against the presence of cows in the region. Therefore it is incumbent upon the Buhari government to see rampaging armed herdsmen as harbingers of anarchy and since no government has survived a state of anarchy, these nomads are his enemies as what they are doing now may dethrone him. Attacks by herdsmen over grazing are full of Portentousness.

This article was first published May 10, 2016.

Feature

Govt abandoned refuse dump risks epidemic for Imolites

By Ikenna Orioha



The Owerri metropolis littered with refuse

In recent time, indiscriminate dump of garbage has polluted Imo environments especially Owerri metropolis and suburbs thereby retarding commercial activities, causing social discomfort, traffic gridlock and health hazard to residents.

The urban, suburbs and the rural communities had witnessed environmental neatness during the regime of Ikedi Ohakim with the introduction of Green and Clean Initiative Policy which maintained and effectively monitored monthly sanitation exercise in all parts of the state. Mobile Court was established to try and punish offenders so that the policy became successful and appreciated by all environmentally friendly citizens. This feat earned Imo cleanest state in South East and endeared Ikedi Ohakim as most environmentally friendly Governor across the region.

During the rescue mission administration spearheaded by Senator Rochas Okorocha, Imo

witnessed the worst environmental pollution with garbage randomly heaped, littering, stinking and scaring residents and pedestrians, blocking waterways (drainages, gutters), breeding flooding, congesting the streets and major roads. In the light of this environmental degradation, the former Governor (Okorocha) did not put in solid effort to beautify the state environmentally until Emeka Ihedioha came and cleaned up the environmental mess left by Okorocha. Although Ihedioha was unceremoniously removed from seat by the Supreme Court and Hope Uzodimma came in as Governor working to leave a lasting positive impression.

Today, under the shared prosperity administration being championed by Governor Hope Uzodimma, Imo has been adversely challenged with indiscriminate garbage dump which destabilizes the health of the people, leaving them to wonder what the government and the Waste Management

Agency have been doing to evacuate those refuse disposals at some major areas of the state to strengthen sound health, sanitation and friendly environment.

News Echo gathered that garbage litters some major areas in Imo State with the present government putting little effort on motion to clear the refuse. The rate at which residents randomly dump refuse is alarming. The waste bins should be adequately provided to avoid littering garbage on the streets and major roads for easy movement and comfort.

The major areas where garbage is always heaped in Imo State are: Douglas (by Rotebi, School Road, Njemanze, Ama- JK), Mbaize Road, MCC/Uratta, Irete, Egbu (around Shoprite Mall, Jehovah Jireh), Amakohia, Akwakuma, Ubomiri, Nwaoriubi, Onitsha Road, Avu, Obinze, New Owerri among other areas. This poses a health challenge to residents

who have always called on government to evacuate the debris and provide waste management equipment while deploying taskforce to complement waste management agency to monitor offenders or recycle the waste materials to productive gains.

To move forward, Governor Hope Uzodimma should intensify effort to regularly evacuate refuse by providing more clean waste bins so that residents stop random dump of garbage, provide evaluation vehicles and employ more hands (drivers and scavengers) and pay them well to encourage them to thoroughly evacuate waste materials with a view to enhancing cleanliness and good health.

A resident under anonymity had recommended that the Governor "works hard to better the lives of Imo people. I am yet to see any massive impact on the citizens by Uzodimma. Time is going. Forget giving excuses to attract sympathy. Develop Imo. Maintain

cleanliness by evacuating garbage across the state, build infrastructure to encourage productivity".

Apart from flooding, abandoned heap of refuse has become a nightmare in Imo State particularly in Owerri metropolis as offensive odor oozes from the dump. This anomaly has generated a lot of concern from residents who lamented health hazard, traffic gridlock, commerce and unhygienic environment.

The residents who also did not want their names in print, said "Imo residents are at health risk over the indiscriminate garbage especially those who live around Shoprite Mall (Egbu Road), Egbu Market, MCC/Uratta Road, World Bank Road, Mbaize Road, Ekeonunwa Market and Aba Road, Akwakuma, Amakohia, Nworiebu, Ubomiri Roads", regretting that refuse dumps at the heart of Owerri, suburbs have defaced the beauty of Owerri and subjected many residents to health risk.

The residents also blamed some people for randomly dropping garbage instead of dumping garbage into some available waste bins, with a call for citizens to desist from such unhygienic behavior.

"Just give a stiff warning that any person who drops trash on the floor will be penalized. Believe me, nobody will try dumping refuse randomly again. Some citizens do not need soft hand. Government should encourage the Waste Management Agency in the state to gather garbage into the empty bins and throw them immediately to avoid health risk and congestion of the road. It is bad that we have metamorphosed to pigs and we keep shifting blames. Owerri is a city where people will pour dirt inside drainages/gutters whenever there is rain or sun"

Government should do more to ensure that garbage is quickly evacuated from the streets and major roads and dumped at a place where it will be burnt to avoid health hazard, traffic gridlock and environmental pollution, since the state is not yet mature to recycle waste materials to create wealth for even development.

ECHO Entertainment / Showbiz / Fashion

Best-dressed celebrities at Toyin Lawani's wedding

Fashion designer Toyin Lawani got married to photographer Segun Adebayo on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

In an all black affair, Lawani and photographer Adebayo's traditional wedding took place on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

Check out some of the best dressed celebrities;

Tiwa Savage

Tiwa Savage did not wear the Asoebi, but she got the memo to slay in a pink ensemble by Lanre da Silva Ajayi.

Chika Ike

In a one strapped gown, Chika Ike slayed the Asoebi.

Mercy Aigbe

Mercy Aigbe got the Asoebi message and delivered it perfectly a pine coloured and black belted gown in Ceo Luminee.

Esther Agunbiade

In an outfit by Kelikume Fashion and Styling, Esther looked like a delight in the black crisscross strapped gown.

Christiana Kayode

Christiana looked chic and sultry in an outfit by Veekee

James.

Bamike Olawunmi-Adenibuyan

Bam Bam wore an off-shoulder gown that screamed summerbody.

Adeola Adeyemi

Mixing gold lace and the Asoebi made by House of Doxa, Adeola looked like a snack.

Chop life gang

Alex Ekubo, IK Ogbonna and Yomi Casual looked like triplets in a similar short sleeve Agbada. My favorite thing about their get-up was their shoes.



Read & advertise in NEWS ECHO

Cover

Suffering all over the place

■ High cost of food items .Insecurity .Joblessness
 ■ Sickesses .Homelessness .Starvation

By Ori Martins

The governor of Rivers State, Chief Nyesom Wike has recently stated that Nigeria was on a life support, adding that nobody knew what would happen next. Wike stated this at the inauguration of the Isaiah Odoli/Omerelu Streets in New GRA Phase 1 in Obio-Akpor Local Government Area.

Based on the current statistics made available to News Echo by various national and global monitoring bodies on social as well as politico-economic concerns, Wike might not be really far from the truth. It has been established that all the indexes that guarantee stable economy and promote good governance are grossly lacking in the current arrangement in Nigeria. A survey conducted by this newspaper indicated that Nigerians are pathetically suffering from various maladies ranging from insecurity, joblessness, sicknesses, homelessness, high cost of food items to starvation and even untimely death.

As you read this, an 80kg bag of Ijebu garri, the common man's staple, is sold at N10, 000k; 50kg of white or yellow garri goes for N7000k. Five litres of palm oil



A wheelbarrow pusher

costs about N2, 500k while 20 litres is bought at N10, 000k. A 50kg of local rice, is purchased at between N18, 000 and N25,000k in the South East. A bag of beans is fixed at N30,000k just as a

carton of indomie noodles costs between N3000K and N5000k. These food items are approximately beyond the reach of the common Nigerian. A part of the reason is that a civil servant, for instance, who is below level seven, collects a paltry sum of N30, 000k. How then can such a man whose wife is a roadside trader cope with the hard times of the moment?

An Enugu based economist, Eke Mike Obioma, noted that "Things are very bad for Nigerians. It is due the creativity, ingenuity and never say die spirit of the Igbo that we are surviving. Even at that, I came across a review by Aaron O'Neil group released on March 31, 2021 which stated that unemployment rate in Nigeria which was three percent in 1999 is now at 8.39 percent. It goes to show that there are no jobs in the country and keep on rolling out tens of thousands of university graduates every other year. This is quite alarming!"

What is even worrying most Nigerians particularly the Igbo is the current insecurity in the country most especially in the South East. As Njoku Chukwuma, a resident of Ama Wire, Off Road Safety, Egbu,

Owerri North LGA put it; "The rate of insecurity in the South East is very disturbing. Imagine a job seeker who went through the city of Aba, Abakiliki, Awka, Enugu or Owerri and tiredly went home only to be awake all night because heavy shooting by gunmen. The situation in Owerri is even worse. While we have been managing and fighting joblessness and hunger by being our brother's keeper, how do you manage insecurity which comes with it killing of innocent people and burning of houses, shops and other important buildings? This has made business activities to be running on a low race and this affects all and sundry".

The most appalling situation is that many people can no longer feed and this, according to medical experts, is the major cause of some of the sicknesses in town which have ultimately killed many as the most the victims cannot pay their hospitals bills.

As a result, cases of criminal activities are now high. "There is nothing anybody can do now than to ask the almighty God to guide, protect and provide for us", a respondent stated.

Ebubemba Ikeduru bags double awards from disabled groups

... Promises to champion cause of the physically challenged

By Uzoma Ogoke

Clan Chief Chimezie Anosike Kingsley (Ebubemba Ikeduru) has promised to promote the welfare of people with disabilities in Imo State.

He made this promise, Thursday during a courtesy visit and award presentation to him by members of Joint National Association of Persons With Disabilities (JONAPWD) Owerri zone and Ikeduru local government chapters.

Kingsley who could not control his emotions while pointing out numerous dehumanizing experience of persons with disabilities in Nigeria assured of his readiness to champion their course. He revealed that his job abroad for over twenty years has centered on providing services to persons with disabilities, under the

gestures, not only to the disabled in Ikeduru and Owerri zone, but to begin with Imo State and extend to the federation.

Ebubemba Ikeduru enumerated numerous packages enjoyed by people with disabilities in Australia where he is based and promised

to embark on massive fundraise for the disabled in Imo State.

Earlier in their address, the leaders of the association said the visit and award was in recognition and appreciation of the numerous humanitarian services of the Ebubemba, especially to the physically challenged.

They used the opportunity to make some demands from him which included; operational vehicles, financial assistance, employment, skills empowerment, among others.

Highpoint of the occasion was the presentation of the two awards to Clan Chief Kingsley



The publisher of News Echo newspaper and News Insider magazine, Chief (Dr.) Chimezie Kingsley (Ebubemba Ikeduru) poses with persons living with disabilities in his Uzoagba home town, Ikeduru LGA, after he was presented with an award yesterday.

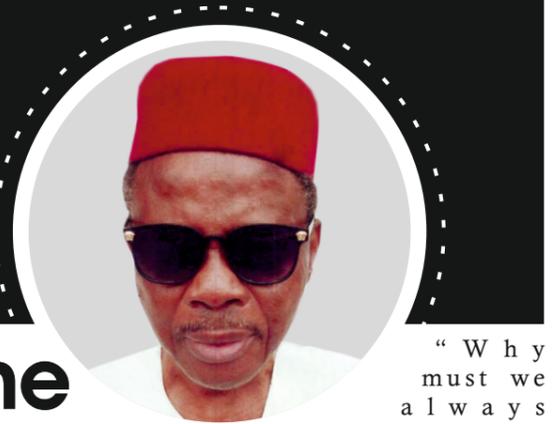


The publisher of News Echo Newspaper and News Insider magazine, Chief (Dr.) Chimezie Kingsley (Ebubemba Ikeduru) being presented with an award for his love for less privileged by the persons living with ies in his Uzoagba home town, Ikeduru LGA, yesterday.

Echos of culture

With Dr. Chuks Osuji

Phone no: +234 803 391 9188 Email: researchcom3@gmail.com



My poetic lamentation: hope for the people, government and the state

“Why must we always swallow bullets in place of our food.” Oh no! One would ask what went wrong with our state capital and what went wrong with our comfortable state?

Who murdered our sleep? Who truncated our comfort and who is instilling anarchy, stealing, bombing and others into our state? Who dismantled the serenity of Imo state? Who are the gunmen? Like in the episode of, Woman of the Oze. Even our leadership was absent and the people thought they had no leader.

Our people went into prayer, prayers and supplications. They prayed, prayed and prayed. They remained solid though shaking and trembling. But their belief in the fact that they have government gave them faith and confidence.

Thank God the Government did not relocate to Abuja as many speculated or even alleged. With firm grip on the situation, working assiduously with genuine security personnel, the governor without noise but very tactfully, gradually held the state together. Not by his own grace but by the grace of Almighty God. Many would disagree but the truth must be told. His quiet strategy yielded results and would continue to yield results.

Much has been achieved and accomplished and with his Democracy Day broadcast, assurance has been given to the people and the police commissioner has spoken as well as the governor. Hurray!, night life is gradually returning to the state capital. The governor's strategy works and will work for the state. One thing the people of Imo State are waiting for is for the governor to unmask those who troubled our peace. Oh no, one may ask, where did we go wrong? Who denied us our sleep and who killed our peace.

In the words of Elizabeth Crong, “When people are not happy, the government does not rest.” When peace takes a flight, the people go into agony. When peace eludes a community, sorrow and rumours take over. May the Almighty God continue to sustain our Imo state and May the souls of those deliberately or erroneously taken away find comfort amongst the triumphant and May they rest in peace in God's own vineyard. According to Christopher wise man, “there are two things which do not have plural. They are peace and truth.” Indeed, this is our known culture of life.



Government House roundabout, Owerri

Few years ago, I was at a foreign embassy waiting for service to be rendered to me. As I was discussing with a young Hausa fellow, he asked, “Are you from SouthEast?” Then I replied in the affirmative. He sighed a little bit and said, “I have always desired to go to Owerri in Imo state which I hear that the people are hospitable, accommodating and are most of the time in a joyful mood particularly with Ngwongwo. Indeed I will like to taste Ngwongwo.” The rest is a story by now.

It means that before 4th April when Owerri correctional centre and state police headquarters were attacked, people outside Imo state had high opinion of the state capital Owerri and the entire state Imo. But that ugly episode in Imo, destroyed our peace, Joy and harmony.

According to Herbert Hughes, “Who did this? Who killed our peace? Who endangered our lives? And who scattered our nation?” From that day on, things have not been the same until just recently.

Owerri, the capital city of Imo State was a land of tranquility where people wake up in the morning to take up their various occupations.

At Ama JK, there will be hustling and bubbling of people and events. Travelers, hawkers and vendors will be meandering among other small business men and women including those who hawk minor edibles. The vendors will be moving towards Okigwe road, announcing highlights of the day's papers. Akara woman will be struggling in the corner of the street with her burn fire while few people will be waiting for the first Akara to be ready. At Douglas road, particularly at the interception of Douglas and Rotobi, vendors will be lined up with both local and international papers. Buyers will surround his table either to buy or review copies of newspapers. There will be joke, jokes and jokes. On the corner will be few individuals clustering, discussing and debating on some few items on any of the newspapers. At the interceptor

Mbaise Road and Egbu Road, individual passengers would line up trying to catch vehicles going to Egbu, Mbaise, Orlu, Obowo and other areas.

In fact, the busy atmosphere of Owerri in any given morning at that time would be both interesting and exciting. At the Nekede junction, there will be a cluster of passengers mostly travelling to the Federal Polytechnic Nekede, FUTO and they are mostly students. What was important was that there was prevalence of serenity, jokes and smiles on the faces of the passengers. From afternoon to even when schools and work places are closed, there will be stream upon stream of people trying to get to their places of residence. Those who go on school run do so from 12noon until 5pm. Indeed, then and only then, the streets of Owerri were crowded. Little quarrels there and there are between struggling drivers and their passengers. At every motor park in Mbaise Road, Egbu Road, Warehouse, Akwakuma, Okigwe Road,

Cherubim Junctions, etc, passengers upon passengers will be busy trying to catch a vehicle to their destination/abode. At Douglas and Ama Jk, you see young men smart looking with fiery eye will be looking for people to pick pocket and traders will be busy parking for the day. Then and only then, Owerri the state capital was a peaceful and serene place. After that incident of 4th April, Owerri and Imo State went “ablaze” chicks went to the roost so early and people will begin to go home early in order to escape the weary eyes of alert security personnel. In short, things went “ablaze.” Serenity disappeared. Hustling and bubbling which characterized the state capital were thrown away. Restaurants and bars remained shut throughout the day. In short, the comfort of Owerri residents was dismantled. Even young ladies who strolled the street of Owerri the Imo State capital doing their own hawking disappeared overnight. According to Captain King of Harmas, he lamented,

For the records

Awake, take up your rightful position, Chimezie Kingsley tells Ndigbo



The publisher, Chief Chimezie Kingsley (Ebubemba Ikeduru) delivering his speech at the launch.

It is with a heart filled with joy and gratitude that I gladly welcome you all to this auspicious occasion, the public presentation as well as unveiling of our ever refreshing, highly educative and exceedingly entertaining two products: News Echo newspaper and News Insider magazine. Whereas News Echo was sensationally launched into the market in August last year, News Insider has just dramatically hit the newsstand this morning.

Just for the sake of emphasis, News Echo is a regional newspaper circulating in the South East and some parts of South-South, including Asaba, Rivers and Bayelsa areas. Our vision is to pioneer new ways to serving the public and providing credible reports across all media platforms with the mission to inspire and promote exceptional journalism, encourage innovation and promote excellence through a quality newspaper which is

reliable, accountable and responsive.

Our distinguished guests, News Echo and News Insider came into being in August 2020 when the global economy was completely and suddenly shutdown – that is, the world was brought to its knees by the raging and deadly pandemic which ultimately came to be known and addressed as covid-19 or corona virus. Recall that all activities in the world from sports, businesses, education, aviation, religion, indeed, all local, national and international ways of life were abruptly collapsed in what was later nicknamed lockdown. Since Ndigbo believe in their **Ikenga Spirit** and in their never-say-die characteristics, I did not look back in setting up this newspaper at that point in time when other investors were closing down their establishments. It was a great risk taken with a positive mind, affirmative action and optimistic vision. As a Christian, I always have the

abiding faith that any odd, challenge, opposition or difficulty will also pass away. The team I gathered to pioneer News Echo worked assiduously and effectively interpreted my dream and today, I am very proud to gather you, my leaders, spiritual and temporal, for this grand occasion even officially presenting these two products namely, News Echo newspaper and News Insider magazine to the public.

Today, while it is true that Imo State is experiencing security challenges, we have again taken the bold step of bringing Ndigbo here in Owerri. Our aim is to prove to the outside world that Imo State, particularly Owerri, is safe, in fact, very safe for businesses and habitation in spite of all recent shootings and killings. We are not unmindful of the assassination and murders that have occurred here thereby giving us a word in the lexicon – UNKNOWN gunmen! With

your coming to Owerri, my dear brothers and sisters, we have collectively achieved a milestone – by this great action of today, we have doused tension all over the world concerning the security situation in Imo State. Mark my word, after today, business activities in Imo will get doubled; investors will be back again; economic and commercial activities will start bubbling once more and our sons and daughters outside South East will now be encouraged to visit home as some of them have been quite afraid because of the present odious news items flittering from Imo and other South East states.

It is at this point I make bold to state that News Echo and News Insider are out to serve as veritable tools for the complete and comprehensive revival of Ndigbo. Since after the war in 1970 when my generation were still toddlers, Ndigbo have, understandably developed cold feet about everything Nigeria.

Sadly, Ndigbo are lagging behind in the Nigerian project. For the first time in democratic Nigeria, an Igbo is not the president, not the vice president; an Igbo is not president of the senate, not deputy senate president; an Igbo is not the house of representative speaker, and not deputy speaker. Even, things are so politically bad for Ndigbo that the national chairman of the ruling party is not an Igbo. We actually want to use News Echo and News Insider to re-launch Ndigbo into the socio-political economic orbit of Nigeria.

Yes. Though I have not come here to lament or cry over a split milk, it is still necessary and important to remind us that our noble forbearers led by the legendary Zik and supported by other iconic minds like M.I. Okpara, Nwafor Orizu, Mbaonu Ojike, Akanu Ibiam, Alvan Ikoku, Mbanefo, Mbaadiwe,

Continues on Pg. 11

For the records

...Take up your rightful position, Chimezie Kingsley tells Ndigbo

Continued from Pg. 10

Mbazuruike Amaechi, Sam Mbakwe, Raymond Njoku and few others led this country to independence. Let me say it with every sense of pride and dignity that in sports, Ndigbo have set admirable records. For instance, the first indigenous Super Eagles coach was our own pathfinder, Dan Anyiam who later moulded Rangers into both national and international champions. About four years before independence, undergraduate boy, Emmanuel Ifeajuna had put Nigeria in the global map of sports when his jump of six feet seven inches won gold in the Vancouver Commonwealth Games. Of course, the first full blooded African to be so honoured in the field of boxing was the great Dick Tiger Ihetu who was so accomplished in the rings that he was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame and was also recognized by the influential magazine, *The Ring Magazine*. Rangers International Football Club were the first club in Nigeria to qualify for the first ever CAF organized club competition in 1975, five years after the civil war, but they lost gallantly to Hafia of Guinea. We equally remember that Christian Chukwu was the first Nigerian to lift the African Cup of Nations just as coach Chris Udemezue took the country to her first ever FIFA organized football competition when he qualified the Flying Eagles to the 1983 U-20 FIFA World Cup Finals in Mexico. As we gather here, the exploits of both Kanu Nwankwo and Chioma

Ajunwa at the Atlanta '96 Olympic Games are still evergreen. And we also chronicle that Enyimba remain the only football club in the country ever to have lifted the once elusive CAF Champions League.

You see, those who are very much conversant with history will tell you that the first indigenous vice chancellor Nigeria ever produced was an Igbo called Prof K.O. Dike who transformed what was regarded as University College Ibadan whose certificates came from Ibadan into an international and award winning university. Again, the second vice chancellor in Nigeria was Prof Eni Njoku who built UNILAG into a glorious university. It is sad to state here that some years ago when UNILAG celebrated its 50th year anniversary, the authorities never deemed it wise to include their pioneer VC in the brochure! In the army, the late General Aguiyi Ironsi was the first GOC of the Nigerian army and fate would have it, he emerged as the first head of state. Between 1959 and 1966, Ndigbo were in the commanding height of Nigeria's hold. Look at this: Zik was the governor general and later president, Orizu was the senate president, Aja was the speaker of the house of representatives and Ironsi was the army commander. This was how the Igbo started. But right now, we are nowhere. This is the task News Echo and News Insider has chosen to lead. We want to provide a platform for Ndigbo to express their political, social, cultural and



The ever humble Ebubemba Ikeduru

economic opinions. As professionals, we want our people to come together to identify our differences, solve them and create a platform for restoring and re-launching themselves into the national consciousness. We therefore call on our politicians, businessmen, captains of industry, traders, sports men and women, religious leaders and the academia to identify with these two products

whenever they want to talk to Ndigbo, any time they want promote their businesses or each time they want to read anything about the South East in contemporary Nigeria.

Finally, I frankly call on all Igbo wards no matter where they are to be a part of this invigoration process of finding everlasting security in South East. This goes to say that all of us must put hands on deck to defeat the present insecurity challenges in our region. This ugly incidents of shootings and killings must stop. Two, our political leaders must also ensure that Ndigbo are accommodated accordingly in the scheme of things at the federal level. To this end, the leadership of Ohanaeze Ndigbo is hereby challenged to provide an effective guide Ala Igbo's growth and development. For it to actualize this noble dream, it must work harmoniously with both the traditional rulers as well as the political class in Igbo nation.

We thank all our awardees including Chief Chekwas

Okorie who came all the way from Enugu. I appreciate all our bishops here. Many thanks to all the traditional rulers that made out time to identify with us today. Inspirational Dr Vivian Okoromma who flew in from Abuja, we appreciate your sacrifice. Of course, we are grateful to associations like Diamond Dynamics, All Stars, ASEF, Imo Angels and sports writers association. Really, we welcome all of you to this special occasion. We pray God to grant you safe journey back home.

Thank you very much and may God bless you.

Being an address presented by the publisher, News Echo newspaper and News Insider magazine, Chief (Dr) Chimezie Kingsley, Ebubemba Ikeduru, June 11, 2021, in Owerri, Imo State on the occasion of the launch of the two products.



Since after the war in 1970 when my generation were still toddlers, Ndigbo have, understandably developed cold feet about everything Nigeria. Sadly, Ndigbo are lagging behind in the Nigerian project. For the first time in democratic Nigeria, an Igbo is not the president, not the vice president; an Igbo is not president of the senate, not deputy senate president; an Igbo is not the house of representative speaker, and not deputy speaker. Even, things are so politically bad for Ndigbo that the national chairman of the ruling party is not an Igbo.

NEWS

Imo commission of inquiry: Govt may pay N731.8m compensation to victims

By Jennifer John

Imo State judicial commission of inquiry on Police brutality, headed by Justice Florence Duruohaigwe has urged Imo State Government to embark on massive enlightenment of the citizenry on their fundamental human rights, even government

has assured of payment of N731.8million compensation to victims.

The commission gave the advice while submitting its report to Governor Hope Uzodimma on Wednesday at the government house Owerri. It recommended a compensation of over N770million to victims, emphasizing that there

was need for citizens to know their rights as it concerns operations and functions of police, adding that citizens should be encouraged to take action on infringement of their rights.

Summarizing the findings, the report which is in three volumes was broken down as follows; Total number of petitions/memoranda received, 154, out of which 45 petitions involve deaths,

36 were deaths by Police and 9 deaths by Soldiers, 9 petitions concerning permanent disability.

According to the report, the petitions struck out or dismissed 43cases for lack of merit or jurisdiction and other reasons.

The number of successful petitions was 102. Amount to be refunded by individual Police amounted to N39.2million, while government is

to pay compensation of N731.8 million, making a total of 770.98 million naira of reparation to victims.

The Commission of inquiry urged the governor to promptly implement the report to restore the confidence of the people in the ability of government to right the wrongs, correct errors of the past and allow the dead rest in peace, as well as embark on mass enlightenment,

upgrade the facilities and increase the capacity of the judiciary for quick dispensation of justice.

Governor Hope Uzodimma in his response appreciated the thorough and dedicated efforts by the commission and promised to implement the recommendations for the benefit of the people. He regretted that what had started as a legitimate, well organized and powerful mass protest ended up in crisis.

Ebonyi school abduction: Kingpin suspect, others arrested

From David Eze, Abakaliki

A suspected kingpin and few members of his gang have been apprehended by Police over the abduction of Enyigba children in Abakaliki Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Governor Umahi, who confirmed this in a press release issued by the state Commissioner for Information and State Orientation, Hon. Barr. Orji Uchenna, in Abakaliki said the suspects are presently in police custody.

The statement reads: "The Governor of Ebonyi State, Chief David Nweze Umahi wished to thank the good people of Izzi and Ikwo for the maturity they have exhibited over the unfortunate abduction of Enyigba children in Abakaliki Local Government Area".

"Recall that the governor had given seven days ultimatum to the people of Enyibichiri to produce the culprits. This directive coupled with the spirited efforts of the good people of Ikwo and Izzi and the committed efforts of the security agencies have started yielding good results"

"The Governor is pleased to inform stakeholders in this regard that the alleged kingpin of the abduction, with a few of his gang members has been apprehended by the police.

They are presently in police custody. The State government has dispatched operatives to go to the boundary of Cameroon where the remaining culprits are said to be hibernating. Everything within the law will be done to bring to justice all the people apprehended, thus

we shall know the status of those that were abducted"

"The Governor warned that any further attack on Ikwo people will be viewed as an act of terrorism and perpetrators will be decisively dealt with.

He reiterated that Izzi and Ikwo people are brothers and sisters of one blood and commended their commitment towards collectively waging a war against criminal elements who want to destroy their cultural heritage by not spilling each other's blood", the statement read.

In another development, Governor Umahi has directed that all the bails granted to the stakeholders of Effium/Ezza Effium be revoked since all the efforts of the government to stop the killings of innocent people in that community are being undermined.

The governor in a statement issued by the state commissioner for information Hon. Uchenna Orji therefore directed the Commissioner of Police to immediately proceed to arrest, detain and prosecute all those under bail from Effium/Ezza Effium community.

He said Government is committed to doing everything within its powers to bring lasting peace to the affected community not minding the insults on the government and people of the state by a few miscreants from both divides of the community.

"Effium/Ezza Effium people are one people and the government is not heeding to the idea of separating them as they are one people who have lived together in peace for donkey years.

The government will continue to sue for peace and co-existence between these two brothers".



Imo State Governor, Senator Hope Uzodimma (left) receiving report of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry on Police Brutality and other Matters from Justice Florence Duruohaigwe (rd) at the New Exco Chambers, Government House, Owerri on Wednesday.

Hold South East governors responsible for insecurity – Chikwe Udensi

By Glory Ugochukwu

The Coordinator of Interpol and a security expert, Chikwe Udensi, has blamed the insecurity in the south eastern states on the state governors.

Speaking to newsmen in Abia state, Udensi who apportioned blame on the five governors said that "the

fact of the matter now is that the level of insecurity in the country has exposed the inability of the federal security agencies to be able to provide security for the country and that is why the federal government has allowed the states to have their own security outfits."

The expert, who regretted that the proposed Ebubeagu security outfit was yet to

come into full force, noted that the Western security outfit, Amotekun is the most viable because of the personnel and their governors' pro-activeness.

Speaking on the security votes the governors receive monthly, he said that the governors that collect these security votes pocket it and they do not use it for the purposes for which they

were funded.

Udensi continued that the security votes are not being used to ensure that "even the minimum security arrangements are put in place. It is a pity, it is pathetic".

When asked who is to blame on insecurity, the federal government or the state government, Udensi said that 'the state governors are responsible for their inability to take advantage of the window provided by the federal government for them to have a very formidable regional security outfit called Ebubeagu and to take responsibility of leadership positions in their various localities.'

He also said that 'the south east governors are not united and are sleeping. South east governors have refused to accept responsibility of providing security for their people.'

He charged 'the south east governors to come together and make a good impact for their people and also asked them to come down from their high offices and take responsibility of the insecurities in their states.'

Malaria when neglected can kill, says medical doctor

From Ovat Mike, Onitsha

The medical doctor in-charge of General Hospital Ifitedunu, in Dunukofia Local Government Area of Anambra State, Dr. Tochukwu Nweke, has cautioned that malaria which some people take as ordinary can kill if neglected.

Nweke said this yesterday, while fielding questions from newsmen in his office. He described malaria as a disease condition caused by a parasite and is transmitted into human body through a

female mosquito known as Anopheles mosquito. "It is the female Anopheles mosquito that transmits the parasite known as plasmodium into the body. This is transmitted through the mosquito to bite; once it is ingested into the system, the parasites moves into the liver where malaria takes place".

Malaria disease, according to Dr. Nweke, is of different types ranging from uncomplicated, complicated, acute and severe to cerebral type. Diagnosis and treatment can only commence when the type is known.

He noted that one of the

cardinal symptoms of malaria is fever and known as step ladder pattern in the observable symptoms. This type of fever comes and goes. "Other symptoms include malaise, body pains, weakness and headache", he noted.

He advised Anambra citizens to sleep inside long lasting insecticidal nets, keep their environment clean, keep away empty cans that can store water and make use of insecticides. The medical director also pleaded with the government to subsidize the cost of malaria drugs and continue to educate people on how to prevent malaria, noting that prevention is better than cure.

NEWS

Insecurity: Ohaneze to deliberate situation in South East June 19

Ohaneze Ndigbo, the Apex Socio-cultural umbrella of Igbo people worldwide will meet on Saturday June 19 over complaints of inhuman treatments against residents of South-East Geo-political zone by security operatives.

Prof. George Obiozor, President Generals of Ohaneze Ndigbo disclosed this in a telephone chat with our reporter on Tuesday in Awka.

Obiozor said, "apart from what you are saying, Ohaneze has received several complaints on harsh treatments by security operatives across the five states of Abia, Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo and Anambra.

"How they order travelers to alight from their vehicles, raise hands up before crossing checkpoints in states across the zone.

"We will be meeting in Enugu this Saturday and that is one of the issues that Ohaneze will deliberate on", he said.

NAN had earlier quoted security sources as saying that the new security order followed deteriorating security

situation in the zone in recent weeks.

Mr Tony Nwankwo, a commercial bus driver in Awka told NAN how he and his passengers escaped deaths when a military man threw a sharp object which shattered tyre of his vehicle last Sunday at Stanel Company Limited, Awka.

"I bought petrol at Stanel near Nnamdi Azikwe University (UNIZIK), Awka and one passenger entered the vehicle there.

"As I was about driving off, I noticed a military man there pointing gun and coming towards my direction.

"I quickly drove off towards Unizik main gate and the military man shot something that shattered one of my tyres, but thank God I was able to drive to safety into the campus", he said.

Another Awka resident, Umore Udofia said a policeman near NIPCO Petroleum Station, Nibo near Awka almost mal-handled him the previous week due to the fact that he did not raise hands up before moving in a shop near

the place.

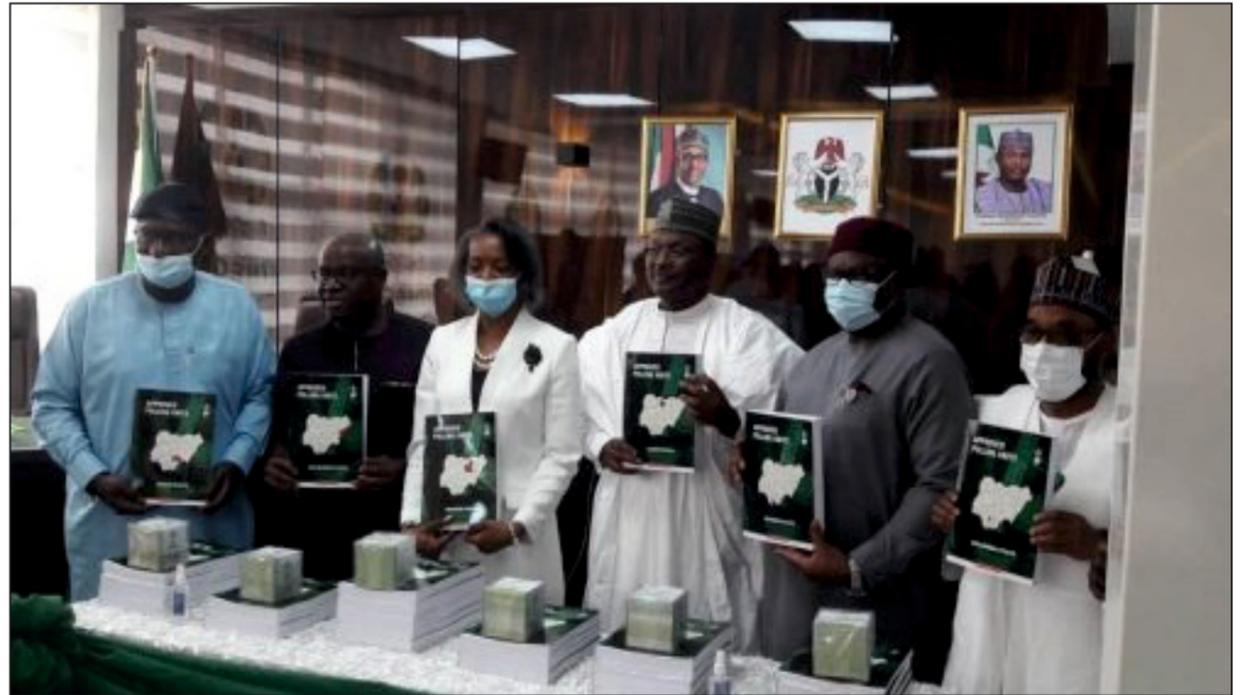
"What saved me that day was as he moved angrily towards me and I spoke Ibibio, my tribe man who hear my

language shouted at the security man to live me alone", he said.

Mr Kenneth Arinze, Awka-based politician said it was

a right move by Ohaneze to discuss the matter with a view to ensuring peaceful movements in the area.

He said the people need the services of security agencies, but added that the security operatives must respect the rights of the people.



(Middle) INEC Chairman, Prof. Yakubu with members of REC, during the unveiling of new polling units in Abuja.

Anambra gets additional 5720 polling units

From Uchenna Ezeadigwe, Awka

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has created an additional five thousand seven hundred and twenty new polling units in Anambra state.

Nigeria presently has one hundred and seventy-six thousand, eight hundred and forty-six Polling Units following the formal unveiling of new Polling Units by INEC.

The National Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, Professor Mahmood Yakubu made this known during a meeting with Resident Electoral Commissioners

and unveiling of the polling units proper at Abuja.

According to Professor Yakubu, this expansion is coming twenty-five years after the first Polling Units were created, hence their adequacy and accessibility in terms of number and location across the country had to be addressed to ensure credible elections.

Yakubu also stated that Polling Units from inappropriate places such as private residences and properties, palaces of traditional rulers and places of worship to public buildings were also relocated to better places for accessibility of voters, polling agents, observers and the media during elections.

Groups empower 200 indigent widows in Ebonyi

From David Eze, Abakaliki

Two Churches and a foundation have empowered over 200 indigent widows in Afikpo, Afikpo North Local Government Area of Ebonyi state to revive their dying petty businesses.

The Churches, Apex Glory of God and Christian Church and Agape World Outreach gave the widows the financial gifts to revive their businesses. The beneficiaries were into selling of vegetable, akamu, palm oil and other petty businesses which were collapsing.

One of the clerics that sponsored the financial packages, Apostle Chukwuma Igbo said it was done to ensure that the widows don't

engage in crime, describing poverty as parent of crime. "We raise some widows to be able to give them a kind of palliative. We gave them some monies to add to what they are doing to enable them to continue to live better.

"We know those of them who are already doing something to support their families and we know those who need like N5, 000-N10, 000 to support their little businesses. We also accommodated those who have not started something but they can start with N5, 000 or thereabouts.

"What we want to achieve is to ensure that indigent widows have something to cope with, for them to have one petty trade or the other and you can agree with me that poverty is a parent of crime.

If a widow who doesn't have anything doing, it can lead to adultery and that is what we are trying to curb to make sure they can fend for themselves. We also have plans to

beef up their businesses", he said.

Some of the widows including Madam Theresa Oko, promised to utilize the money given to her and commended the churches for the gesture.

COVID-19: 50,000 Anambra citizens to benefit from intervention

From Karen James, Nnewi

No fewer than 50,000 persons from Anambra State are to benefit from the COVID-19 action and recovery economic stimulus program when it starts in July.

Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Mark Okoye announced this while receiving the Federal Government Care Technical Committee on COVID-19 Action Recovery Economic Stimulus Team in his office in Awka. They came to assess the preparedness of Anambra State before the take-off of the program.

The project, sponsored by the World Bank in collaboration with Federal Government would aim at cushioning the effects of COVID-19 pandemic in the state. The project, which would be going on simultaneously in the 36 states and Federal Capital Territory (FCT), would aim at empowering the poor and the less privileged across the nation.

According to the commissioner, the project will be in the form of Cash Transfers as well as addressing the food insecurity and provide funding opportunities for Small and Medium Businesses to thrive. The two year intervention project would provide an opportunity for people to assess grants and loans from Anambra State Small Business Agency (ASBA) to boost their businesses.

The leader of the team from Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Abuja, Dr. Martina Nwodu expressed satisfaction at the level of the state's preparedness toward the commencement of the programme.

She listed some of the requirements needed for take-off of the programme to include adequate office spaces, staff with requisite capacity to function in various areas and equipment. Nwodu said the aim was to push funds into the system to reactivate the agricultural sector as well as empower Small and Medium Entrepreneurs across the country.

COVID-19: Uzodimma inaugurates NG-CARES committee

The Governor of Imo State, Sen. Hope Uzodimma has inaugurated the state version of the Steering Committee on Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES)

The NG-CARES is an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria with assistance from the World Bank to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 on the rural economy using CSDP, Fadama and Bank of Industry platforms.

The programme is aimed at restoring the livelihoods

of the poor and vulnerable, maintaining food security and facilitating the recovery of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). This Federal Government programme implemented across the 36 states of the federation, with states encouraged to domesticate it.

On Tuesday Governor Uzodimma inaugurated the Committee with members drawn from critical ministries and agencies of Government to drive the programme. The Commissioner for Finance and Coordinating Economy, Dr. Doris Uzoka Anite serves as the State Focal Person and

Chairman of the State Steering Committee. During the inauguration, Uzodimma admonished the members to work in synergy to ensure the realisation of the set goals for the programme. He harped on the need to keep to the rules of partnership on global interventions, warning that government will not tolerate unnecessary interference and lack of proper coordination.

The members of the steering committee are drawn from, Ministry of finance, Ministry of Budget, Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Gender and

Vulnerable Groups, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Works, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Ministry of Livestock Development, Bureau of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, D.G Bureau for the coordination of Donor Assisted Project, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition, Ministry of Sanitation & Hygiene and the Technical Head, Imo State NG - CARES Coordination Unit.



Stunning: Bride on a knee-length wedding gown for her big day

We just love the outfit this Nigerian bride chose for her court wedding.

We absolutely love to see love in all its glory. That journey from being first strangers to building a life together deserves all the appreciation it gets.

As much as it's somewhat hard to keep up with the wedding dress trend, it's always good to see brides in something very innovative. Our Nigerian bride, Gbemi said 'I do' to her husband in a romantic all-

white themed wedding and we were pleasantly in admiration seeing the images.

The bride clearly knew what she wanted when she was dreaming up her wedding dress. With the help of her designer, Gbemi pulled out all the stops to conceive a unique confection.

The dress, a white bridal satin fabric strategically adorned with beautiful white floral appliques for the top of the knee-length gown was super glamorous, making the

bride's dream come true.

The dress a long train from her waist right down to the floor and some dramatic sleeves.

Gbemi finished her look with beautiful accessories, a stunning fascinator and sandals heels that got her all the attention. We love the design and extra details that made her stand out from all the brides we have seen so far this year.

The groom, on the other hand, looked dapper in his black and white suit combo.



The Python: A revered symbol of worship in Nigeria, Africa

In many religions across Africa, pythons represent something sacred and revered.

The first place that comes to mind is the very popular Python Temple in Ouidah, Benin Republic.

The temple is a historical and modern symbolism of spiritual practice in Benin republic. It also acts as a basilica for voodoo worshippers in West Africa and all over the world. In this town, pythons are respected and worshipped, rather than feared.

In Nigeria, it is also still common to see such beliefs and religions. In

those places, killing a python is forbidden and often attracts very serious penalties such as human-like funeral rites for the killed snake.

Here are four towns in Nigeria that still worship the python.

1. Nembe, Bayelsa state

In Nembe, the python is considered a totem. People in this part of the country believe that the python is only a manifestation of a Spirit being, some sort of deity. When a python is spotted in a home or on the road, it is not killed, but rather removed using traditional methods. A dead python is buried

respectfully if found in Nembe.

2. Idemili, Anambra state

In Idemili local government area of Anambra state, the python is loved, feared and worshipped. The snake, called Eke by Igbos, lives in harmony with the members of these towns.

The python is a respected deity in these parts and there are shrines dedicated to the worship of Eke. It is completely forbidden to kill a python here, as it has grave consequences.

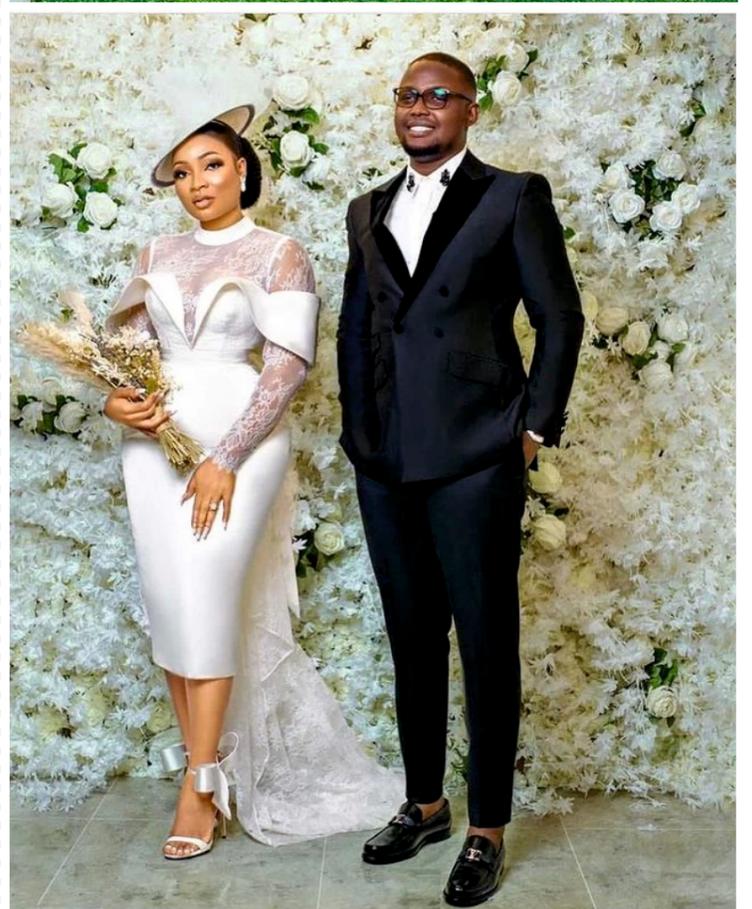
3. Imo state
Just like in Anambra

state, the python is a feared deity in many parts of Imo state. Some say the python helped natives to escape several dangers during the civil war.

4. Machina, Yobe state

In this part of Yobe state, snakes, of unknown species, are very revered. They are believed to be part of the royal family so it is taboo to kill this type of snake.

The snakes come out when the royals are celebrating or when they are mourning. They have venom but do not harm people when they come out.



Relationship

Ways to deal with sexual urges in a celibate relationship

Waiting while dating is an exercise in self-discipline and above all other things, discipline is what you need most.

Celibacy goes against the grain of bodily desires.

As a [young] adult, your body is wired to crave sexual release and the fact that your mind becomes tuned to celibacy does not mean your body will be.

There will be times when it will be nearly impossible to keep the sexual urges under

control.

So when you find yourself in situations like this, what do you do? Here are seven useful tips that could help you out.

1. Don't dwell on it

It's impossible to not have flashes of sexual desire every now and then but because you do not want to have sex, you need ways to drown out the thoughts. It's easier to abstain from what you are not thinking about. So try to not dwell too much on it.

It probably won't be easy. But it's what you signed up for.

2. Get busy

Invest yourself into something that requires your time, dedication, energy and all. The busier you are, the easier it will be to get lost in activities and forget about yourself and the urges, even if momentarily.

There's a reason why they say an idle mind is the devil's workshop, remember?

3. Guard your space

Keep to the barest minimum anything that will lessen your inhibitions and trigger the desire for sexual contact. Movies, clips, photos, people, etc.

Mind you, spending time with your partner will also sometimes trigger this desire. Your discipline will especially be most tested in these periods.

4. Know when to run

Never trust yourself with dangerous situations. Better avoid the situations than try

to stop the action midway through it.

You know what they say; *nafrom clap dance dey start.*

5. Talk to someone

Yeah, it could be quite awkward to ask one or two married people you know if they waited for sex before marriage.

But then, if you somehow know someone who managed to abstain from sex before tying the knot, talk to him or her. It'd require some kind of close relationship to get to the point of speaking about something as intimate as this but if you're lucky to have such person, ask them how they did it.

Their solutions could come in handy for you.

6. Discipline

The truth is that none of these things mentioned above will completely, absolutely take away the urges. There can be nothing to take that away as it is a natural phenomenon which, to an extent, even confirms your healthiness.

At some periods it could be quite a real struggle to rein it all in; but then again,

putting these urges under control is the very underpinning idea of celibacy and you must have known that before embarking on this kind of relationship. This is why the need for sexual discipline cannot be overemphasized.

Waiting while dating is wholly an exercise in self-discipline and above all other things, this is what you need most. Restraint, discipline, a mental fortitude to keep your eyes on the goal is the most supreme here.

7. Will it be worth it in the end?

Never forget to keep asking yourself this question, and reminding yourself of the real reason why you decided to abstain from sex before marriage.

Constantly reminding yourself of this reason will also help keep your urges at bay. It's like setting a personal target and meeting it.

You'll be happy with yourself, and feel a sense of pride and satisfaction if you see it through. And again, all struggles you overcome make you stronger, right?



A celibate couple battling their urges

Signs that say you're a lady in the streets, freak in the sheets

A lady in the streets and freak in the sheets is that babe who looks so presentable to the outside world, but totally cuts loose when she's in the bedroom.

She gets wild and does sexual stuff guys only fantasize about, but you'd never think she's such a 'bad babe' by just looking at her.

She's the underrated sexual goddess. The types of girl guys always pray and ask cupid to send their way.

So here's the ultimate test to know whether you fall in this category or not.

Below, we list all the signs that show that you are what every guy [allegedly] dreams of - a lady in the streets and freak in the sheets!

1. Your clothes are conservative in public, sure, but your closet is filled with the sexiest things ever. And you are always eager to turn your man to jelly by wearing them indoors. You actually derive joy in this.

2. Everyone thinks you are a virgin... but if they knew the extent of things you've tried and done...

3. When people say 'the quiet girls are usually the worst,' you can relate because that's you they're talking about!

4. People defend you behind your back that you're the most innocent of the lot.

They argue with anyone that suggests anything sexual about you.

5. You never lose your cool in public, no matter how turned on you are.

Even if your guy relentlessly flirts and says things that are driving you crazy and turning you all mushy, you always remain outwardly cool, calm and collected.

6. Your boyfriend pardons far too many mistakes.

He takes way more bullshit from you than he's ever taken from anyone else he's ever been in a

relationship with. And you totally know why!

7. Not many people can sexually please a guy like you can and still pass the parent's seal of approval test. No wonder why they keep begging you to come back to them!

8. All the guys you get down with express

[pleasant] shock at how sexual you are.

They never espperit!

9. Your imagination during sexting leaves your partner shocked and stunned.

10. You're down for whatever in the sack, willing to try everything sexual instead of just deciding without actually trying them out!

Your nickname is Miss. Experimental.



Rebound sex might be a mistake

Why you shouldn't have rebound sex

Rebound sex is simply the act of trying to drown out the ache and pain of a breakup with sex.

Most times, when a breakup happens, people look for the most convenient way to forget it. People want to move on, numb out the pain as quickly as possible.

In come rebound sex and rebound relationships - the practices of using sex and substitute emotional connections to forget a relationship that just ended.

Researchers at the University of Missouri have confirmed that rebound sex is a pervasive phenomenon. In a study of 170 undergrads, 35 percent engaged in rebound sex within four weeks of a breakup.

Getting rebound sex may momentarily feel like something magical and you may think that it is a great idea but it really is not because, just as in the case of a drunk, when that high wears off, you will come crashing back to earth and the reality you are trying so hard to hide away from.

The memories you created with that person will still be there, waiting to

smack you right in the face.

You will still be hurt and your heart will still be broken, sore and aching, waiting to be pieced together. That random sex with a stranger won't take care of that automatically. Not even daily doses of sex would [completely] take away that nagging feeling of loss.

There is also the issue of rising body counts to worry about. Don't let the loss of your boyfriend make you lose sight of that. Also there is a risk of STI's, unwanted pregnancies and even where you are careful to avoid all these, random sex could actually create more emotional problems for you.

Your sex partner could start catching feelings for you, or you could be fooled by the great sex into believing that you are in love with the person.

Many times, relationships based off sexual connection only do not last. Add that to the fact that you are fresh off a broken relationship with a lot of unexpressed hurt and unprocessed emotions, and it becomes clearer that that relationship may just be doomed before it began.

Health



Watermelon: Necessity for every pregnant woman

Pregnancy is one of the most fulfilling experiences that could happen to any woman.

But then, there are many challenges that come with being pregnant, with a good number of them related to health issues like acidity and heartburn.

However, studies have it that watermelon does not only have cooling properties that help ease these problems, it also offers instant relief.

In addition, the high water content (92 percent) and fruit sugars of watermelon have been shown to help alleviate morning sickness and dehydration; and the minerals it contains can help prevent third-trimester muscle cramps.

Here are some of the reasons why every pregnant woman should make watermelon their favorite:

1. Watermelon helps reduce swollen feet and hands

Slight swelling of the feet and hands, which is also known as edema, is a condition that is common during pregnancy.

As a matter of fact, approximately 75 percent of pregnant women experience swelling during pregnancy says Mary L. Rosser, MD, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics.

Be that as it may, studies have

shown that watermelon with its high water content reduces the blockages in the veins and the muscles and thus help prevent swollen feet and hands.

2. Watermelon helps prevent pigmentation

Although the exact cause of this condition is unknown, it is thought to occur due to increased levels of hormones produced in pregnancy.

Pigmented skin is another health issue that most pregnant women suffer. And as if suffering from the condition is not enough, the irritating nature of it has a way of sipping off the joy every expectant mother is supposed to have.

However, watermelon with all its goodness keeps the bowel movements smooth and eases the digestion of food; which consequently affects the skin texture for good.

It is also important to note that regular cleansing of the body helps reduce the pigmentation of the skin in various parts of the body.

3. It boosts energy level

Watermelon has been proven to contain a rich amount of minerals like potassium and magnesium, vitamins like A, B1, and B6. And these nutrients are natural energy boosters that can greatly boost the energy level of the body.

In addition, the



Pregnant woman with water melon

forementioned nutrients are very useful for the development of the baby's eyesight, immune, and nervous systems.

4. Watermelon helps prevent preeclampsia

Preeclampsia is a pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure and signs of damage to another organ system, most often the liver and kidneys.

It usually begins after 20 weeks of pregnancy in women whose blood pressure had been normal and can lead to serious effects for both the expectant mother and the unborn child.

However, studies have shown that the high level of lycopene that is contained in watermelon help

reduce the risks of preeclampsia during pregnancy.

Owing to this, it goes to say that the more the watermelon the more the chances of having a baby with intrauterine growth retardation is reduced.

5. Watermelon supports the formation of fetus bone

Watermelon is also particularly high in calcium and potassium, minerals that are directly linked to the proper bone development of the unborn child.

Certain facts about ovulation every woman should know

There are important facts about ovulation every woman who intends to get pregnant should know.

Below are 5 facts about ovulation every woman needs to know

If you want to get pregnant, healthy ovulation is the key

Most women feel they can pregnant just because they are ovulating but that is actually wrong. Because you are ovulating isn't a guarantee you would get pregnant; what is key to getting pregnant is healthy ovulation. Factors like healthy sperm, infertility due to STIs and healthy and unblocked fallopian tubes can affect a woman's odds of getting pregnant.

You should have sex before you ovulate if you are trying to get pregnant

It's important sex comes before and not after ovulation if you are trying to get pregnant. The ovulated eggs need to be fertilised within the first 12 to 24 hours after it is released so it is important you have sex before ovulating so the sperm would be ready and waiting for the egg. Sperm can remain viable for up to 5 days.

The number of eggs in the ovaries decreases with time

Most women think their bodies create new eggs monthly but that is

so wrong. A woman is born with all the eggs she will ever have and there are about 2 million eggs at birth and the number drops to around 500,000 when a woman reaches puberty. This is why women over the age of 35 have a higher risk of experiencing infertility and miscarriage.

Your desire for sex increases during ovulation

A woman's desire for sex increases rapidly during ovulation.

When a woman is most fertile, her libido rises.

Your health habits affect your eggs

It is important to know a woman's health habits can have an effect in her ability to get pregnant and stay pregnant. It can also affect the future baby's health. Folic acid is an important nutrient for women trying to conceive as low levels can increase the risk of miscarriage and birth defects.



Pregnancy test

5 natural ways to fight mouth odor

There are natural ways to get rid of bad breath aside mouthwash.

The good news is that with lifestyle changes and natural remedies, you can get rid of bad breath naturally.

Bad breath is an embarrassing health condition that affects approximately 30% of people around the world. For many people, grabbing a mint or a piece of gum is their go-to solution, as it quickly masks the problem. But this approach often fails to address the root causes of bad breath, which for many people includes dietary deficiency. The reality is that bad breath can be caused by some health conditions, foods,

and even habits.

1. Aloe Vera

You can make your own Aloe Vera mouthwash to combat bad breath. Simply boil some water and add aloe Vera gel once it is cooled. You can also add peppermint oil to taste.

2. Drink water

Drink plenty of water and swish cool water around in your mouth. This is especially helpful to freshen "morning breath."

3. Green Tea

Research has found that green tea temporarily reduces malodor due to its antibacterial and deodorant action. This is probably due to the actions of the polyphenols, antioxidants it contains.

4. Rinse with coconut oil

Sluicing with coconut oil for ten to 15 minutes can remove any bacteria hiding in your mouth to give you fresh breath.

5. Ginger

Ginger has many health and beauty benefits aside from its culinary purposes. It can be used to fight halitosis. Just dice fresh ginger, wash and blend with lemon. Rinse after 15 minutes to get rid of bad odor.

Issues

How to be a Nigerian

By Peter Enahoro



Police officer extorting money from a motorist

How to be a Nigerian was first published in the 1960s as a series of columns in the Daily Times. It became a bestselling book that was re-published in 1996. Almost six decades later, Enahoro's brilliant satirical enquiry into identity, nationalism and inventiveness is still the definitive guide.

How to be a Nigerian, you must learn the lesson that nothing is ever fair, that indeed anything is possible, and you may have to pay your way through life by offering and taking bribe to facilitate many of life's processes. Babies are switched at birth in Nigeria and offered for sale; to leave the hospital with the right baby, and not fall victim of cradle-snatchers, you may have to pay the nurses a little 'something' to guarantee their loyalty. Or better still you may have to patronize an expensive hospital where reputation is still important.

Death is equally expensive in this country. Mortuaries and cemeteries are raided for spare parts by ritualists and their agents. To ensure that your beloved reaches the gates of Heaven or Hell, without a missing ear, tongue or genitalia, you have to pay the mortuary and cemetery attendants to have mercy on the dead from your household. Being alive in Nigeria is worse. Every activity involving life and movement has to be facilitated with cash. It is not for nothing that Nigeria is the second most corrupt country in the world. This is not a

country of saints.

If you insist that you will not offer bribe, then you face a long life of frustration. You will never be able to get anything done. In Nigeria, parents pay a special fee to get their children into schools from nursery to the university. If you are a Nigerian parent, you may also discover that teachers need to be bribed before your child can pass examinations. To be a Nigerian truly, you must realise that

official rules and regulations serve very little purpose. The meaning of the law depends on the man in charge of a particular office at a particular time. Positions and uniforms are to be respected by all means. Policemen, customs and immigration officials live on bribe. Local government officials expect you to grease their palms. To bend the law, you must pay a token fee, and once you do so, you are offered a

special salute by the policeman on the highway or the immigrations officer at the border and allowed to do exactly as you wish. Thus, to be a Nigerian, you must learn to beat the system.

The law can be bought. Justice is available for the highest bidder. The man who is loaded with more cash than sense is king. If you can flaunt wealth, your contemporaries will worship the very ground on



“If you insist that you will not offer bribe, then you face a long life of frustration. You will never be able to get anything done. In Nigeria, parents pay a special fee to get their children into schools from nursery to the university. If you are a Nigerian parent, you may also discover that teachers need to be bribed before your child can pass examinations. To be a Nigerian truly, you must realise that official rules and regulations serve very little purpose. The meaning of the law depends on the man in charge of a particular office at a particular time. Positions and uniforms are to be respected by all means. Policemen, customs and immigration officials live on bribe. Local government officials expect you to grease their palms. To bend the law, you must pay a token fee, and once you do so, you are offered a special salute by the policeman on the highway or the immigrations officer at the border and allowed to do exactly as you wish. Thus, to be a Nigerian, you must learn to beat the system.”



which you walk. Just get rich by any means and as quickly as possible. Nobody will dare question the source of the wealth. With money, you can buy the protection of the state. The high and the low will queue up at your doorstep to pay homage; what they really want is their own share of your loot. Traditional rulers will offer you chieftaincy titles. The state will offer you national honours.

Women will throw themselves at your feet. And not just any woman, but the most beautiful ones who used to be beyond your reach. Newspapers will name you among the most fashionable men in society. A rich man is always fashionable. I have never heard of a poor man being labelled the best-dressed Nigerian. To be a Nigerian, you must be loud with your wealth and accomplishments. Even if you are poor, you must carry on with life with a certain swagger. Don't ever forget that you are a Nigerian; your country is the sixth largest producer of crude oil in the world, the most populous black nation on earth, and the home of the happiest people in the universe.

Indeed, to be a Nigerian, you must be an optimist. This is the only way to survive in a country where there is so much distance between government and the people in the form of widespread poverty, incompetence in high places, and established disregard for the rights of citizens. The roads are bad, electricity supply is epileptic, salaries are not paid on time, there is food scarcity, and the scarcity as well of the basic necessities of life, but you must learn to take everything in your stride. To be a Nigerian, you must see even death, any death at all, in a positive light. You live in a country where accidents are common and death is cheap.

In the midst of it all, you must learn to be joyous. Every weekend, attend a party, wear the best clothes in your wardrobe, and tell yourself that the biggest achievement that any man can be proud of is to remain alive. It doesn't matter if you are trapped in squalor. If you are lucky to have some means, then you are truly lucky. You can throw parties everyday if you wish. You can even

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Issues

Continued from Pg. 17

...How to be a Nigerian

dictate the kind of women you want at the parties and the kind of clothes that they must wear. You would be surprised that there are many women, including housewives, who are ready to appear half-naked just to be seen among the happening crowd in society. If you are rich, then you can create your own government inside Nigeria by providing your own basic amenities, and using the state to rob the poor.

If you are lucky enough to have a small business of your own with employees working under you, then you do not have to pay salaries. Nobody is going to arrest you for failing to pay your own workers. If the workers are not happy, they are free to go. But because they are Nigerians, they are not likely to resign en masse. They too will find a way. They will steal from your company. They will use company time to do business on the side. One day, try and investigate your workers, the same ones who are complaining about salaries and poor conditions of service. You will be surprised that this is the only country in which a messenger who has not been paid for six months lives in a mansion of his own. Your managers have houses abroad. Your directors have their children in foreign schools. And you begin to wonder whether indeed a Nigerian labourer deserves his wages.

To remain sane as a Nigerian, you must be religious. And you must advertise your piety. Sleep in the church. Proclaim your religiosity from the rooftops. Mention God's name in every conversation. In a land where there is so much madness, religion offers you the only opportunity to cling on to a measure of holiness. It is the only way to remind yourself that you are human after all, and that there is something that you still believe in.

There are too many forces compelling you to disbelieve the very existence of God: you will see highly placed persons who are no better than scoundrels; wives of important persons who are no better than cheap prostitutes; men and women of power who are sexual perverts; fraudsters and common criminals who are nevertheless accorded the



Police officer extorting money from a motorist

respect that they do not deserve; children who have sold their souls to devil; young girls who are in the hands of men who are old enough to be their fathers; and housewives who should be

in Hell. To be a Nigerian, you can only look at all these and take your troubled soul to God.

If you are unable to cope, perhaps you might consider the option of exile. There are many

Nigerians abroad eking out a living as economic refugees. Unable to cope with the many disasters of life in the country of their birth, they have fled to other countries where there is

less stress and shock. To be a Nigerian, you must ordinarily learn to live with shock. This is a country where anything can happen. Public buildings go up in flames routinely. Bombs can explode anyhow in busy neighbourhoods, claiming lives and property, and even government officials join the people to express frustration and anxiety. This is a country where the police run away from criminals. It is a country where criminals consider themselves gentlemen and are so treated in many ways. Politicians are not interested in public service; they want access to the public treasury so they can steal a part of the national cake.

To be a Nigerian, you must learn to relate to the National Anthem as if it were a disco tune. I have heard versions of the national anthem which belong more to the hip-hop genre. The average Nigerian considers the anthem a joke. There is a musician who has even worked out a remix version of the song, and it is played regularly in disco halls. To be a Nigerian, you must take life as one long joke. Don't bother about patriotism.

You will be better served by ethnic affiliations. If you feel you are not getting your due in certain circumstances, allege that you are being discriminated against on ethnic grounds. Link up with persons of your own tribe, and get them to push advantages in your direction. It doesn't matter whether you are qualified or not. This is not a country where merit counts for much. Sycophants, mediocre persons and hypocrites stand a better chance of getting up the ladder than a man of talent. They know what to say in the right places. They are experts at blackmailing competitive and able rivals. For such persons, life itself is about politics, and they are prepared to push down anyone who stands in their way.

To be a Nigerian, you must always remember this: you are in the midst of Sharks. Every other Nigerian has a small dagger in his pocket, hoping to draw blood. Get your own dagger! Be on your guard. And may the Lord be with you.

“The law can be bought. Justice is available for the highest bidder. The man who is loaded with more cash than sense is king. If you can flaunt wealth, your contemporaries will worship the very ground on which you walk. Just get rich by any means and as quickly as possible. Nobody will dare question the source of the wealth. With money, you can buy the protection of the state. The high and the low will queue up at your doorstep to pay homage; what they really want is their own share of your loot. Traditional rulers will offer you chieftaincy titles. The state will offer you national honours. Women will throw themselves at your feet, and not just any woman, but the most beautiful ones who used to be beyond your reach. Newspapers will name you among the most fashionable men in society. A rich man is always fashionable. I have never heard of a poor man being labelled the best-dressed Nigerian. To be a Nigerian, you must be loud with your wealth and accomplishments.”

SPORTS



AFCON outing will take you out of Villarreal, Babangida tells Chukwueze

Samuel Chukwueze can secure a move to a bigger club by performing for Nigeria at the African Cup of Nations in 2022.

That is according to Super Eagles legendary winger Tijani

Babangida.

The 22-year-old has established himself as one of the world's brightest young talents playing in La Liga with Villarreal.

Chukwueze has made over 110 appearances in three seasons in

Spain and helped Villarreal win the Europa League final over Manchester United this past campaign.

A left-footer who plays on the right-wing, Chukwueze's frightening pace and nifty footwork has made him a nightmare for opposition fullbacks.

His unique ability has attracted the likes of Chelsea, Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester City.

And Babangida, who spent five years at Ajax, believes the sky's the limit for Chukwueze.

"I believe that Samuel Chukwueze is a very talented player and still very young," he said.

"If you see the way he plays, you will see that the sky can only be his limit. I hope he remains very fit, without injuries so that he can continue to do well at Villarreal or possibly move to a bigger club."

Babangida believes a stellar performance for Nigeria at AFCON, due to start in January 2022, could be just what Chukwueze needs to take the next step in his promising career.

He added: "The AFCON is coming up in Cameroon and if he continues to perform well for club and country, I think Chukwueze is likely to move to a bigger club and he has the quality to play in England."

Ramos bids emotional goodbye to Real Madrid

Sergio Ramos broke down in tears, saying leaving Real Madrid was one of the most difficult moments of his life as he bid farewell on Thursday after 16 years at the club.

The defender played 671 games for Real Madrid and will be remembered as one of the club's greatest ever players, having won five La Liga titles and four Champions Leagues.

The 35-year-old, who struggled for fitness and form last season, was unable to agree an extension to his contract and will become a free agent on July 1.

Ramos and Real Madrid president Florentino Perez delivered short speeches in a presentation room at the club's training ground, with Ramos' family in the audience.

"The moment has come, one of the most difficult in my life, because you are never ready to leave Real

Madrid," Ramos said.

"The fans supported me in the good moments and the bad. I would have liked to say goodbye in the stadium.

"A wonderful stage is closing, one that has been unique in my life, but an exciting new chapter begins and I go into it with a lot of desire to show my quality for many years to come."

Ramos said he wants to "add more titles" to his record and added "this is not a goodbye but a see you later because sooner or later I will return to Real Madrid".

Perez said it was "not an easy day", remembering how he signed Ramos, aged 19, from Sevilla for 27 million euros in 2005.

"He arrived wanting to take on the world," said Perez. "You are undoubtedly one of legends of Real Madrid. You have grown as a player here and been our iconic captain for years."

Wilder will knock Anthony Joshua out in Round 1 – Fury

British boxer, Tyson Fury, has claimed Deontay Wilder will knock out Anthony Joshua in the first round if they ever fight.

He also lashed out at Joshua and his promoter Eddie Hearn, claiming "they are businessmen and I am a Spartan".

Fury will defend his WBC heavyweight belt against Wilder in Las Vegas on July 24.

This comes after a mega-fight with Joshua fell apart.

Joshua will instead put his IBF, WBA and WBO belts on the line against Oleksandr Usyk in September.

"I'll deal with these guys later – the most important thing to me is Wilder, the most dangerous heavyweight in the world who would knock out Joshua in the first round.

"I've got to get past Wilder then those guys will get their five minutes of fame. I'll give them the biggest beatdown they have had in their lives," Fury told Sky Sports.



Fury in training



Chukwueze

Gunmen kidnap Rivers United Coach, Stanley Eguma in Enugu

Unknown gunmen, on Wednesday, kidnapped Rivers United coach, Stanley Eguma in Enugu State.

Mr Eguma was kidnapped on his way from Gombe State where his team lost to Adamawa United on Sunday.

The Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Daniel Ndukwe, while confirming the incident in a statement on Thursday, said the State Commissioner of Police, Mr Mohammed Aliyu, has ordered the immediate rescue of Mr Eguma.

The statement said Mr Eguma was allegedly seized on Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway at about 4 p.m. while returning from Gombe to Port Harcourt, after an NPFL game.

"The unidentified

gunmen, operating in a white Hilux van, trailed and forced the black Hilux van conveying Eguma to stop.

"The assailants pushed two of the passengers out and made away with the black Hilux, abducting Eguma in the process," the statement said.

According to the statement, the commissioner urged members of the public to provide the police with useful information.



Eguma

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SPORTS



Ebuehi set to return to Benfica from Twente



Ebuehi (L) dribbles past an opponent

Super Eagles star, Tyronne Ebuehi, is set to return to Benfica after Twente couldn't agree to another deal with the Portuguese giants.

Ebuehi spent the season on loan at Twente from Benfica. The Nigerian international had joined Benfica from Ado Den Haag in 2018 but could not even play for The Eagles due to a knee injury that kept him out for almost two years.

Following his return, he could not find a way into Benfica's first team and was sent out on loan to Twente. A return to the Dutch top-flight offered him a fresh start, and it turned out to be a good move.

Ebuehi played 33 times in the league for Twente with one goal and one assist to his name. However, despite his impressive performance, he won't be playing at the club next season.

The Reds have an option to

make Ebuehi's deal permanent, but according to Tijmen Van Wissing, per Twente fans, Twente cannot afford to pay Benfica's asking price.

Although the Dutch club is ready to take him on another loan deal, Benfica are only interested in a permanent sale.

It's not clear yet if Ebuehi will now fight for his place at Benfica or the Portuguese team will sell him to another club, according to reports.

Gattuso quits as Fiorentina coach three weeks after appointment

Genaro Gattuso and Fiorentina have agreed to part, just over three weeks after the former Italy international was appointed as coach at the Serie A club.

Fiorentina and Coach Rino Gattuso have decided, by

common consent, not to follow up on the previous agreements and therefore not to start the next season together, the club said on their website, adding that they would "immediately set to work to identify" another coach.

The former AC Milan and Napoli coach was appointed on May 25.



Gattuso

Okagbare, Brume, Amusan others arrive Lagos for Olympics trials

Blessing Okagbare, Ese Bume and Tobi Amusan are among the overseas-based athletes who are at the Yaba College of Technology for the National Trials of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria.

The trials, which started Thursday (yesterday), would be used to select athletes who would represent Nigeria at the Olympics, while those who are yet to meet the Olympics qualification standards also have the opportunity to do so at the event.

It was gathered that US-based Favour Ofili, Dotun Ogundeji, Sade Olatoye, Cici Onyekwere, Ashley

Anumba and Annette Echikunwoke were also in Lagos.

Asides the overseas-based athletes, local athletes are also in Lagos for the trials.

Grace Nwokocha, the only home-based athlete who has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, would feature in the 100m and 200m women's events.

Other notable names include men's 100m and 200m winner at the 2020 National Sports Festival Enoch Adegoke, sports festival high jump winner Dayid Aya and discus winner Utitifon James.

Our correspondent however gathered that notable absentees include Divine Oduduru, Raymond

Ekevwo and Ruth Usoro.

Oduduru has already qualified for the men's 100m and 200m of the Olympics, while Ekevwo has qualified for the men's 100m. Usoro has also qualified for the long jump and triple jump events of the Olympics.

Brume, who broke Chioma Ajunwa's 25-year old African long jump record last month in the US, would be competing for the first time after achieving the feat.

Asides the national trials, an invitational relay which has other African countries in attendance is set to hold on Sunday at the same venue.

"The invitational

relays have become very important as it, for now, remains the only window left for Nigeria to secure qualifications for the relay events of the Olympics.

"We know our women's 4x100m team have qualified provisionally for Tokyo and we are confident others will also make the cut before the June 29, 2021 final deadline for qualification," AFN Secretary General, Adisa Beyioku, said in a statement.

Qualification for the athletics event of the 2020 Olympics will end on June 29.

Nadal pulls out of Wimbledon, Olympics

Rafael Nadal on Thursday said he was withdrawing from Wimbledon and the Tokyo Olympics in a bid "to prolong my career".

The 35-year-old, who won the second of his two titles at the All England Club in 2010 and landed the Olympic singles title in 2008, revealed his decision on his Twitter feed.

"I have decided not to participate at this year's Championships at Wimbledon and the Olympic Games in Tokyo," he tweeted. "It's never an easy decision to take but after listening to my body and discuss(ing) it with my team I understand that it is the right decision."

The 20-time Grand Slam

champion was last week beaten in the semi-finals of the French Open by Novak Djokovic.

"The goal is to prolong my career and continue to do what makes me happy, that is to compete at the highest level and keep fighting for those professional and personal goals at the maximum level of competition," added Nadal.