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Grant Traditional Rulers Constitutional Role

- Oba Hameed Makama Oyelude



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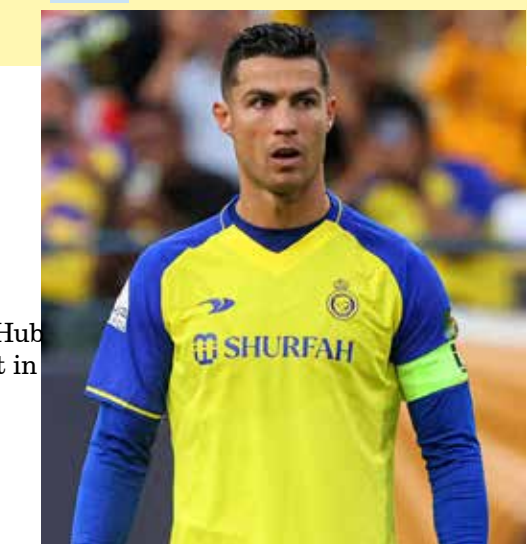
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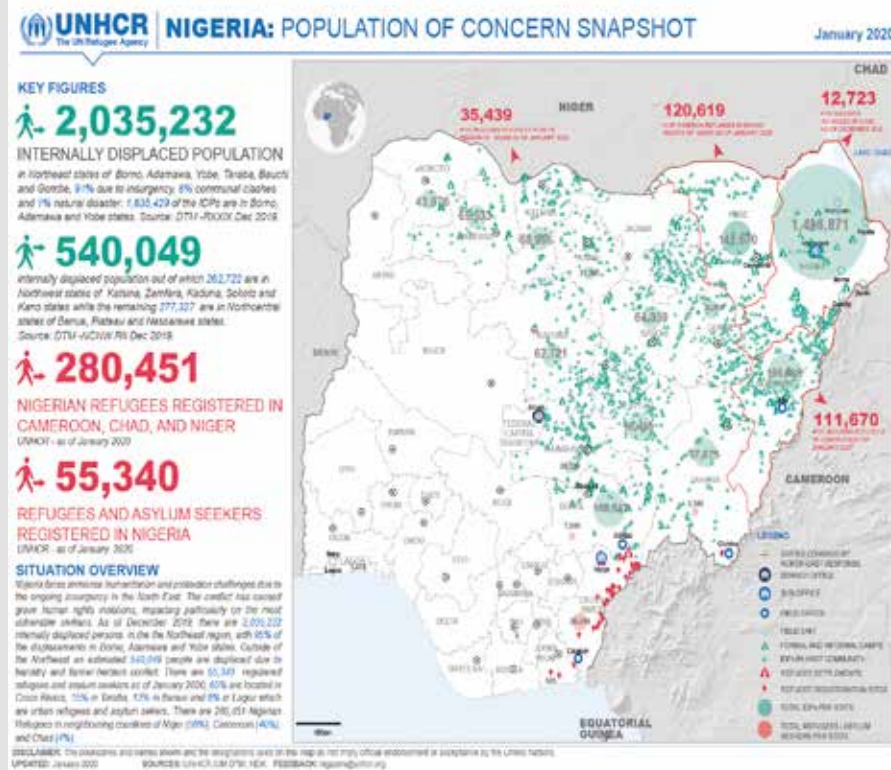
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From the Editor's Desk

You are welcome to the April - June edition of OurNigeriaNews Magazine. In this edition we had the privilege of interviewing a monarch, the first class king of Owu Kuta kingdom, Oba Hameed Makama Adekunle Oyelude (Tegbosun II), the Permanent Chairman of the Supreme Royal Council of All Owu Obas and Chiefs in Yoruba Land who has not only been on the throne for over ten years now, but has put the kingdom on the world map in such a short period. In this exclusive interview, he shed light on the role of traditional rulers in contemporary society, while highlighting also, some of the challenges the traditional institution faces, especially in Nigeria.

Monarchs are an integral part of our cultural heritage and play a vital role in promoting social cohesion and community development. They are the custodians of our traditions, and their leadership provides a sense of continuity and stability.

In a rapidly changing world, where globalization and technology are reshaping our values and beliefs,

traditional rulers can help preserve our cultural identity and ensure that our communities do not lose their sense of place and belonging.

However, the role of monarchs in the 21st century goes beyond preserving our cultural heritage. They also have a critical role to play in promoting

“*Monarchs are an integral part of our cultural heritage and play a vital role in promoting social cohesion and community development. They are the custodians of our traditions, and their leadership provides a sense of continuity and stability.*”

economic and sustainable development. By working with government and private sector organizations, monarchs can attract investments, promote entrepreneurship, and provide social services to their communities.

In the interview, His Majesty emphasized the need for monarchs to adapt to changing times and leverage technology to improve their effectiveness. He strongly advocated the need for government to consider a constitutional role for traditional rulers.

Also in this edition, we beamed our searchlight on such other issues of interest, especially the post 2023 general elections analysis, with articles looking at winners and losers in the governorship elections, and President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed's labourious journey to a well deserved victory.

There are other stories - entertainment, people and event, life style, sport, weather and personality focus on two celebrated Nigerians, the immediate past Chief of Army Staff, Ambassador Tukur Yusuf Buratai and the former Permanent Secretary of the federal Ministry of Finance, Dr. Mohammed Dikwa, whom we believe is a possible candidate for the governorship of Central Bank of Nigeria.

Results of Nigeria's 2023 Governorship Elections: Winners and Losers

By Matthew Eloyi



Millions of Nigerians trooped to the polls on Saturday, March 18, 2023, to elect new governors or re-elect incumbents in 28 out of the 36 states in the country, as governorship elections of eight states (Anambra, Bayelsa, Edo, Ekiti, Imo, Kogi, Osun and Ondo) are held off-season due to litigations and court judgements. Winners have been declared in 26 states while elections in Adamawa and Kebbi states were declared inconclusive. The election in Adamawa was declared inconclusive due to the margin of votes between the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Aishatu

Dahiru famously known as Binani and the incumbent, Governor Ahmadu Fintiri of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Binani scored 390,275 votes while Fintiri polled 421,524 votes. However, according to INEC, elections were not held in 47 wards, affecting 69 polling units, resulting in a margin of 31,249. INEC noted that the total number of PVCs collected in places where elections were not held amounted to 37,016. The state collation officer said, "based on these findings and analysis as stated in the electoral laws, where the margin between two candidates is lesser than the total number of collected PVCs in areas where

elections were not held, the election is declared inconclusive." On the other hand, the Kebbi election was declared inconclusive because the total number of cancelled votes was more than the number of valid votes. Officially, nine of the 11 governors who sought re-election in the March 18 polls have been declared winners by INEC, to return to office for another four-year term. They are Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State, Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State, Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq of Kwara State, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa

Yahaya of Gombe State, Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State, Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State and Governor Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State. So far, Governor Bello Matawalle of Zamfara State is the only incumbent who has lost his re-election bid while the fate of Governor Ahmadu Fintiri of Adamawa State is yet to be determined. Matawalle lost his seat to Dauda Lawal of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who scored 377,726 votes while he (Matawalle) scored 311,976 votes.

In Abia State, Alex Otti of the Labour Party (LP) was declared the winner of the election having polled 175,467 votes to defeat his closest rival, Okey Ahiwe of the Peoples Democratic Party, who polled 88,529 votes. In Akwa Ibom State, Umo Eno of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was declared the winner of the election as he won in 29 out of 31 Local Government Areas in the state to defeat his closest rival, Sen. Bassey Akpan of the Young Progressive Party (YPP). Eno scored 354,348 votes while Akpan got 136,262 votes. Also in Benue, the candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia, was declared the winner of the election after scoring 473,933 votes to defeat his closest rival, Mr Titus Uba of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who scored 223,913 votes.

Like in Benue, the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Cross River State, Sen. Bassey Otu, was declared the governor-elect having polled 258,619 votes to defeat the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Sandy Onor, who scored 179,636 votes. With the victory, Sen. Otu becomes the first governor of River State to be elected on the platform of a different party outside PDP which had governed the state since the return of democracy in 1999. Also, Sheriff Oborevwori of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) won the governorship election in Delta State, having polled 360,234 votes to defeat the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Senator Ovie Omo-Agege who scored 240,229.

In Ebonyi State, the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Francis Nwifuru emerged winner after polling 199,131 votes to defeat Ifeanyi Odii of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who scored 80,191 and Ben Odo of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) who got 52,189 votes. In Enugu

"In all, elections have been won and lost but the ripples will take a while to settle. Some losers have conceded defeat by congratulating the winners while some are still challenging the outcome of the elections. Whatever it is, the winners remain winners until the court says otherwise."

State, the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peter Mbah was declared winner having polled 160,895 votes slightly above his closest rivals — Chijioke Edeoga of the Labour Party (LP) who scored 157,552 and Uche Nnaji of the All Progressives Congress (APC) who got 14,575 votes, amongst others.

Umar Namadi of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was declared the winner of the Jigawa governorship election having scored 618,449 votes to beat his closest rival, Mustapha Sule Lamido who polled 368,726 votes. Similarly, the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Senator Uba Sani was declared the winner of the 2023 governorship election in Kaduna State having polled a total of 730,002 votes to defeat his closest rival, Isa Ashiru of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who polled 719,196 votes. In Kano, the candidate of the New Nigerian People's Party (NNPP), Abba Yusuf was declared winner having polled 1,019,602 votes to defeat the incumbent Deputy Governor of the state, Yusuf Gawuna, of the All Progressive Congress (APC), who

scored 892,705 votes.

Dikko Umar-Radda of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was also declared the winner of the governorship election in Katsina State having polled 859,892 votes to defeat his closet rival, Sen. Yakubu Lado-Danmarke of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who scored 486,620 votes. In Niger, Umar Bago of the All Progressives Congress (APC) won the election after scoring 469,896 votes to defeat his closest rival, Isah Liman-Kantigi of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who scored 387,476 votes. In Plateau, Caleb Mutfwang of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was declared the winner having scored 525,299 votes to defeat his closest rival and the candidate of the ruling APC, Dr Nentawe Yilwatda, who polled 481,370 votes.

Similarly, in Rivers State, Sim Fubara of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) won the election after polling 302,614 votes against his closest rival, Tonye Cole of the All Progressives Congress (APC) who scored 95,274 votes. In Sokoto State, Ahmad Aliyu of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was declared the winner of the election having polled 453,661 votes to defeat his closest rival, Malam Sa'idu Umar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who polled 404,632 votes. In Taraba, Kefas Agbu of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) emerged winner after scoring 57,926 votes to edge out the candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Muhammad Yahaya, who polled 202,277.

In all, elections have been won and lost but the ripples will take a while to settle. Some losers have conceded defeat by congratulating the winners while some are still challenging the outcome of the elections. Whatever it is, the winners remain winners until the court says otherwise.



Tukur Yusufu Buratai: Still in the Service of Fatherland

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Though not seen in the front pages of any Nigerian newspaper yet, there is a photograph of president-elect Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress standing with erstwhile Chief of Army Staff General Yusufu Tukur Buratai somewhere in the Federal Capital Territory. Both men are in traditional outfits, the sunniness of Tinubu's recent electoral victory apparent from his white brocade. A head taller, Buratai is wearing an ash-coloured kaftan. Both are smiling, the sort of smile you glimpse on the faces of those who have gone to battle fronts and come out victorious.

Both men have every reason to smile. For close to six years, he was COAS, Buratai had to contend with the menace of Boko Haram insurgents who had most of the north-east by the jugular. It was as if nothing could dislodge them, not even the formidable Nigeria Military. But then, with the full support of President Muhammadu Buhari who appointed Buratai as COAS in January 2015, along with other service chiefs, the frightening spectre of Boko Haram became history.

Today, Nigeria's COAS from 2015 – 2021 can chest-thump anywhere about his achievements in decimating the ranks and file of the religious sect. It was during his time as COAS that the mouthy and cocky former head of Boko Haram Abubakar Shekau was annihilated, counting many of the senior commanders of the insurgents.

Though under intense pressure to relieve his service chiefs for underwhelming performance in the face of the worsening security situation in Nigeria at some crucial point, PMB refused to bow under. He knew for certain they were right on track in containing the scourge of Boko Haram however much the general public may think differently.

And true to his belief and trust in them, the service chiefs had done some appreciable job in wiping out whatever was remaining of the terrorist organisation in Nigeria.

Of course, for a job well done, PMB rewarded Buratai with an ambassadorial posting to the Republic of Benin. It is a record in the history of Nigeria for a retired service chief to be thus rewarded by the Commander-in-Chief. Some of those who came before him were either disgraced out of office or simply went into oblivion. Nothing much was heard of them post-military career.

It is not hard to see why. They either performed below par or didn't meet the expectations required of them while in office. For Buratai, it was the exact opposite. Making him the public face of Nigeria's image in a neighbouring West African country says much for the trust and confidence reposed in him by PMB. So far, Buratai has not disappointed in his mission – another reason, perhaps, for the straight-from-the-gut smile with the president-elect in a photo-op taken about three weeks ago just on the cusp of Tinubu's electoral victory in the February 25 presidential polls.

As for Tinubu himself, his smiling visage in the picture was just so apt considering the numerous obstacles he has had to overcome on his road to the presidency. Prior to the election last February, Tinubu was fair game for all manner of jibes and put-downs more than any of his political opponents. Critics, especially from the opposition parties, took him to the cleaners serially, asterisking everything from his provenance to his educational qualification and health. Some called him a drug dealer who, at one time, had a case to answer with the American Drug Enforcement Agency. Others carped that he's had the state he once ruled as governor

smack in his pocket for years, starting from 1999.

Tinubu's traducers grew as the election got closer and they found more ammunition to lob at him following his now famous Emi 'lokan declaration in Abeokuta last June. What insouciance! What arrogance! And how dare he?

For some time in both the mainstream and social media, Emi 'lokan became the subject of discussion everywhere in the country. Having made the emergence of PMB possible in 2015, Tinubu had let on that it was his turn to rule Nigeria, and then explained it was his lifelong ambition to become that.

To most critics, nothing smacks of hubris more than that statement, something close to saying Nigeria belongs to a certain class of people of which Tinubu himself is one and now it was his turn to become president. From then on, it seemed all was lost for the man who would be the number one citizen in the country. Though he won his party's primaries handily, the bigger battle was expected in the presidential election.

With the rising profile and popularity of a previously unknown Peter Obi of the Labour Party, a battle-scarred political gladiator in the person of Atiku Abubakar of Peoples Democratic Party, it was sure to be a keenly contested election with no chances of success for a candidate from the ruling party with a rap sheet hanging on its neck. Nearly everyone - including members of the party – blamed APC for everything from a spiraling economy to unemployment, insecurity and much else.

"Never again," they swore, often thumbing their noses at the party leadership. "It was this same man who got us into this mess with that

unholy alliance in 2015," others charged, vowing to take their pound of flesh in the forthcoming election. It never got to be.

Instead, the Jagaban of Borgu also known by several aliases won, defeating his opponents by nearly two million votes. Why wouldn't that victory, against all possible odds, elicit the sweet smile of success you see on his face with the former COAS?

But beyond the smile is Buratai's unflinching support for the new president-elect, which explains the photo-op. Those in the know say the former COAS had always given a nod to a Tinubu presidency. For instance, when some prominent Nigerians, among them former president Olusegun Obasanjo, faulted the credibility of the polls that brought Tinubu to power, Buratai quickly stepped forward to defend democracy. He didn't stop there; he was one of the first Nigerians to congratulate the president-elect.

"Let me begin by congratulating Nigerian voters who turned out on the 25th of February 2023 to exercise their civic duty and voted en-masse Asiwaju Bola Tinubu of the APC as our President-Elect," Buratai said, insisting "It is a clear reflection of the will of the people." Continuing, the former COAS declared: "At this juncture, I say with all sense of responsibility that our collective future is assured under the renewed hope vision and mission of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu. I believe the President-elect is a man of capacity, empathy, vision, and all that it takes to lead Nigeria to the Promised Land."

With Tinubu's emergence, the general went on, "continuity has been achieved at the Federal level with the emergence of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the President-Elect from the APC."

To be sure, it is a good thing the former COAS is still lending his voice to matters of national concern. On retirement, some generals in the Nigeria Army, especially those from the northern part of the country, turn their attention to what they've always done side by side their military career: farming.

Some others are content with being traditional rulers of their natal communities, an emirate council, say, or some such important positions bestowed on them in appreciation of services rendered to the communities.

True, Buratai has his farm to look after post-COAS even while he's engaged as an ambassador of the Federal Republic. But if you look at his itinerary in the last couple of weeks, the man has been up about, stopping over at communities just on a whim to feel the pulse of the villagers and how they are doing generally.

At the peak of his power in the Abbasid Dynasty in 8th century Baghdad, fifth caliph Haroun Al Rachid used to surprise his subjects with unannounced nocturnal visits thus getting to know them closely. Buratai is not a traditional ruler anywhere in the north. Still, acquainting himself with the wellbeing or otherwise of those in some communities is something that has driven him.

In one such community in Gombe state last week, the former COAS is seen in a one-on-one with the senior citizens of that settlement. With one voice and later speaking for the rest, the oldest among them thanked Buratai for his accomplishment in curtailing and even stopping the Boko Haram insurgents dead on their tracks in the north east then made some comparisons to late Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and Sardauna of Sokoto, Sir Ahmadu Bello for their developmental efforts in the region. When the guest humbly asked if they meant what they said, they acquiesced by nodding their heads in the affirmative. Smack in the centre of the community with the traditional ruler himself speaking, anyone can be forgiven for mistaking the parley between them and Buratai for a politician on the stump. He wasn't and neither was the community hamming it the way they welcome those seeking for office prior to elections.

Now that he is a private citizen, farmer, statesman and APC chieftain, the retired general visited some previously war-ravaged settlements in the north east. He has also visited

his own natal Biu where he recently received locals during a visit to his farm. It is typical of a gentleman and an officer who has never lacked the common touch.

One distinctive quality of outstanding leaders everywhere is that, regardless of whether they hold an official position, people just accept their authority and submit to them as a result of their charisma and influence. Even though Buratai has already retired from the army since 2021, Nigerians still regard him as the epitome of the army and turn to him for leadership. Buratai is viewed by Nigerians as someone who can take huge risks to protect them, and I believe that over time, people have come to agree that he represents security and protection. Only a few years ago as COAS, Nigerians frequently saw Buratai in army fatigues exercising with soldiers under him – effortless push-ups, sit-ups, road work and suchlike workouts to keep body and mind in shape. Now out of service, it is impossible to imagine the erstwhile COAS forgetting his routine morning drills – whether in a private or public gym.

What has also been part of his regular schedule is his active involvement in politics. A high-ranking member of the APC, his early congratulatory message to and support for the president-elect is not for nothing, say political analysts.

It is not an unlikely prospect that the retired general will make a stab at political office in the future. Today, Air Vice Marshal Siddique Abubakar Chief of Air Staff appointed at the same time with Buratai in 2015 is angling to be governor of Bauchi state under the APC. Given the active participation and involvement of former military brass in Nigeria's political space, nothing suggests Buratai will not take his turn when that plum opportunity presents itself.

After putting an end to the scourge of Boko Haram, and then served meritoriously as Nigeria's ambassador to the republic of Benin, pursuing a political career will be a continuation of Buratai's service to fatherland.



His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr) Hammed Adekunle Makama Oyelude (Tegbosun III) the Olowu of Owu-Kuta Kingdom Permanent Chairman of the Supreme Royal Council of All Owu Obas & Chiefs In Yoruba Land.

Grant Traditional Rulers Constitutional Role

*A little over 10-years ago, His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr) Hammed Adekunle Makama Oyelude (Tegbosun III) the Olowu of Owu-Kuta Kingdom Permanent Chairman of the Supreme Royal Council of All Owu Obas & Chiefs in Yoruba Land, ascended the throne of his forebears as the Olowu of Owu-Kuta, and in that period in review, has brought a commendable measure of development to his people, by way of attracting opportunities for development to his Kindom and subjects. In this exclusive interview with the **OurNigeriaNews Magazine team - Jerry Adesewo, Aisha Rabo, Auwal Ahmad Umar and Dr. M.S. Abubakar Publisher**, he spoke a lot of burning issues, from traditional, to the contemporary.*

Can you tell us about Owu Kuta Kingdom?

Owu Kuta Kingdom is part of the larger Owu dynasty. As you are aware, Owu is the largest Yoruba ethnic tribe. When you talk of the Ekitis and few extractions in Ondo state, when you talk of the Ijesas, they are domiciled purely here in Osun and very few Ijesa domiciled in Kwara, and when you talk of the Ijebus, they are domiciled majorly in Ogun state and some parts of Lagos state. And when you talk of the Aworis, they are domiciled in Lagos, when you talk of the Ilajes, they are domiciled in Ondo state, but Owu, we are like the Jews spread across Yoruba land. Owu Kuta is perhaps the second Owu settlement. My forebears migrated from our then ancestral headquarters, "Owu-Ipole" as it is called in those days, before it metamorphosed into Owu Kuta, after the war.

My forebears migrated before the disintegration of the Owu Empire then. That was during the war between 1820 - 1827. We migrated to Owu-Kuta in 1426, and have been here ever since. And my forefathers have been ruling the community. Ours is an ancient community with a very rich historical and cultural background. My duty and role are clearly defined. I am enthroned to maintain culture and tradition and administer the kingdom. In Owu-Kuta, there are 16 districts. Here in the southwest, rather than calling it district heads, we call

them "Baales". They administer all their various districts, including the villages under them. Apart from maintaining culture and tradition administratively, responsibilities bestowed it upon me to maintain peace and harmony among my subjects which I have been doing for the past ten years and some months under review. To the glory of God, I have been doing it effectively and satisfactorily.

Can you tell us the mystery or history behind the first forebear of this kingdom, especially the name: Iku-ta-mi-ti?

The name of the kingdom was derived during the period of our progenitor, and coincidentally, I am a direct descendant of the founder. We are talking of 1400s, when you have nothing like vehicles and have to travel on horses or foot. They left Owu Ipole, and as they keep moving, when they reach a particular place where they want to settle down and rest, they will do head count of all the people they left "Owu Ipole" with, only to find out that some are too weak to proceed further. They believed there was something killing them, but with the benefit of hindsight, and the advantage of medical advancement today, it is obvious that they were dying of either fatigue, water or air borne diseases, and not evil spirits from the forests they travelled through. So, as the journey progresses, their number reduces, until they got to this particular spot (Owu-Kuta)

where after nine days, they counted but no one had died. As was the tradition then, Alugbua bestowed on his chief diviner, Ato-hun-mo-pe, to consult the Ifa oracle for directives. Upon that consultation, Ifa revealed they had reached their destination and could settle settle their. And that was how this kingdom derived its name, Iku-ta-mi-ti, later shortened to Kuta, as we have it today.

In view of modernity, civilization that we are beginning to, or have embraced, how easy or difficult has it been performing your traditional role of preserving the culture and tradition of this kingdom?

The modernity and the changes in view of the evolving global changes which did not exclude us in Africa has really affected our culture, virtually all over Nigeria and Africa, because there should be clear difference between religion and culture, but our people have been misdirected to interpret culture to be interwoven with religion now. Arab has their culture. Take for instance, in Libya and some Arab countries in the mangrove areas, you will find them sitting and living under the tents. It is not part of our culture here. Here we have masquerades but in the West, what they have is 'halloween'. Up north, they have "Durbar", but here, it's not part of our culture. Now, if you don't know where you are coming from, you will certainly not know where you are heading to. Upon ascending the throne, I Made a covenant with my people that I



Oba Hameed Oyelude with first wife Yeyelowu Fatima Adeola Oyelude

will continue to uphold the culture and tradition of the Yoruba race and especially, that of the Owu kingdom. It has not been easy but I am doing it. Annually we celebrate masquerade festival. We still have some traditional festivals inherited from our fathers; and we also have entertainment masquerades. Our biggest festival, which we are still looking at bringing UNESCO to be part of, is the 'Alugbua' Festival, which we celebrate annually in

honour of our progenitor, who after living for over 300 years, and death did not come. He called his children together, informing them that he want to change abode.

In those days, they don't select a rich man to be king. It is either a strong warrior or a hunter. So, he gathered his children and said, if you have a problem, come and consult me. Call me, I will arise. He picked his wife, his hunting dog and left, until he got to

this particular spot where he turned into a river. His wife also turned to a river, close to where her husband dissapeared into the ground, which is known as 'Odo-Ayaba'. That groove is there till today and we celebrate it every year. Also, Alugbua's horse, which brought them to that spot, climbed a tree and dissapeared till today. I wish that such tree or heritage has been preserved, you can imagine what tourist attraction it would have been today. So, I'm

striving hard to continue to uphold the culture of our people so that it will not go into extinction.

What other plans are in place to open up the kingdom to tourist possibilities which could also be of economic gain for the kingdom?

Without sounding immodest, this ultra-modern palace you are sitting now, is one of the best you can find around here. It is part of the tourist.

I allow visitors from all walks of life to visit this palace even from outside of the shore of this nation; although, we have not monetized it yet, someday, it will attract visitors just like the Buckingham Palace in the UK, which you have to pay to tour. We are not yet where we want to be. We will collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Culture so to upgrade the Alugbua festival, to something similar to the Osun-Oshogbo festival. Not for purposes of competition,

but to use it to draw attention of the entire world to our Kingdom. Work is still ongoing. Kuta will become a small London. We have succeeded in putting Kuta on the world map already. taking advantage of the digital age that we are in. With a single tap on the internet, you can access a lot of information about Kuta today.

As a first class kingdom, what has being the Olowu of Kuta been like?



Oba Hameed Oyelude with second Wife Olori Oluwasheyi Abebi Oyelude



Yeyelowu Fatima Adeola Oyelude and her Children

I believe in destiny. I have been destined to come and serve my community. I am not ruling but serving. Don't forget that ours is Aristocratic-from generation to generation, family to family. I am fulfilling my dreams in the sense that I am serving my people with the fear of God, and putting smiles on their faces. What my people are not getting from an average everyday politician, they are getting it from this palace, despite the fact that we don't have budget to do so. I am putting smiles on their faces in terms of human empowerment. For the past ten

years, I have successfully enlisted many of my people in various federal government parastatals. Kuta of today, is different from Kuta of ten years ago.

Has there been any form of limitations, in terms of who you were then and who you are now?

(Laughs) Of course there are restrictions. Once a bubbling prince living in Lagos, free like a bird, to traverse the length and breadth of the country. I have lived in the north, moving round as freely as

the need arises. But here are I am now, 'caged' (Laughs). That is what destiny has brought upon me. It is a responsibility that I cannot play with. I was chosen for this day, and I am glad I'm doing it effectively. Before becoming a monarch, I could just be driving around, sight a restaurant and stop bye to eat to my heart's satisfaction. Today, I dare not try it. The headline in the dailies the next day would be 'Kabiesi Eating in a Buka' or something like that.

As an ordinary citizen, I could walk in to a club to enjoy myself, see a

beautiful lady, admire her and ask her out appropriately. Today, it is impossible. I dare not come close to the gate of a club house. It will make headlines, for the wrong reasons! In the second year of my ascension, One day. I dressed in short, T-shirt and hat, and riding around on a horse. A picture was taken and uploaded to my Facebook page. It had hardly landed when my mentor and father, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida saw it on Facebook. He called me immediately, "Kabiesi, go and remove this picture, you are no longer Adekunle. You are now Kabiesi." I try to defend myself

by arguing that I am on a horse, but he insisted. "Yes, I know, but take it down." he said with a note of finality, and all I could say was "Yes sir!" So, that's part of the restriction. We are bound by tradition. We are not as free as we think we are. However, each time I travelled abroad, I still go with my agbada but due to the weather, at times you see me in shirts. I don't drop culture wherever I go.

How powerful are traditional monarchs in a modern dispensation such as ours?

Without fear of contradiction, I could tell you for free that, there are no powerful monarchs. What we have are influential monarchs. Our their way out, our colonial masters took away all the powers that the monarchs use to posses, and handed the rest to the politicians. used to have in those days and the politicians take the rest.

However, we have influential monarchs. There have been ongoing agitations that the traditional rulers should be granted constitutional role and each time that is being moved, our politicians would gang up against



Oba Hameed Oyelude, with President-Elect Sen Bola Tinubu

it. But I hope they find it necessary to grant traditional rulers or institutions that constitutional role. As it is now, every traditional ruler from our apex leader like the Sultan of Sokoto, Ooni of Ife, Alaafin of Oyo, if anything happens, it takes the local government secretary to send a query to the palace. That simply shows you there are no powerful monarchs.

Look at what is happening in Okene. From the Ministry of Local

Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, the local government secretary is marshaled to issue a query against a monarch. During the era of President Buhari as the Head of State, he sent a query to the then Ooni of Ife and the then Emir of Kano because they were going to travel to Israel, according to him, without permission. That query was executed by the Local Government Secretary.

As a monarch, how do you balance your relationship and involvement in community development of your kingdom, without being seen to be political?

So we don't wield so much power like our forefathers. Powerful, or influential, a traditional ruler must be apolitical. A reasonable traditional ruler that seeks the progress of his kingdom must always be pro-establishment. Any government of the day must be supported by

a responsible traditional ruler, because without that, you will be denying your kingdom and subjects the dividends of democracy. That is not to say a traditional ruler must become an appendage of a government in power, as against being a representative of their people. Traditional rulers don't have budgets to construct roads on their own. They have to lobby and influence such development

projects into existence. And when you have been termed as not being supportive of an administration, your community will miss a lot and posterity will not judge you right because the good or bad that happens during your reign will be attributed to your tomorrow when you are no longer there. So I try as much as possible to get close to every government of the day, and it has paid off. That way, I have been

able to strengthen my kingdom and subjects.

What is your position on the issue of constitutional role for the traditional rulers? How best do you think these roles should be defined?

My first answer is a capital Yes. I believe the traditional institutions deserve a constitutional role. It will solve a lot of problems. This



Oba Hameed Oyelude, his Mother and Former Chief of Army State Gen TY Buratai



Olori Oluwasheyi Abebi Oyelude

precarious security situation we find ourselves never happened in the days of our forefathers because no visitor or strangers will stray into any community without the knowledge of the traditional ruler. If traditional rulers have a defined constitutional role, they will have adequate funding. In this part of the country, traditional rulers are not faring well. What the traditional rulers are holding on to now was bequeathed to them by the late General Sani Abacha; the 5% gross allocation of local government. In many instances, in many states, it is not 5%. What they get now is less than 3%. I even learnt that in the north, they don't touch their own 5%, but in the southwest, it has reduced to 3% in some states. Till date, not a dime has been added to that 5%. Nonetheless, in some local government, you have like 10-30 districts to cater for.

How then do they function effectively without constitutional role?

In those days, the traditional rulers can arrest an intruder and keep him/her in local cells in the palace. Traditional rulers can't dare do that today. He will be charged for abduction or kidnapping because he does not have constitutional role to do that. If is a traditional ruler without constitutional role says he has an advice to pass to the governor. The governor might decide not listening to it. I think our apex leader or the National Council of traditional rulers, co-chaired by His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto and his imperial majesty presented a memo to the present Senate and we hope something will come out of it.

In the meantime, how do you manage in this condition, especially when you have to fund other districts when it has to perform developmental duty within the kingdom and also giving the experience or the situation of things at the moment?

I can only speak for myself because my exposure and network of friends and associates have been very helpful. There is a proverb in Yoruba that says you don't go to the palace



Olori Oluwasheyi Abebi Oyelude

to take things. You take to the palace. Even the Bible says that, "you will take from those who don't have to give to those who have". But gone are those days. On a daily basis, the demand is overwhelming. If not that we have supportive subjects now, we wouldn't have lived up to that responsibility. That is why I said I can only speak for myself. Government need to do something to improve the welfare of the traditional institution, most especially in the southwest because our colleagues up north, still have their percentages intact. Some I have spoken to, aside their 5%, the state government even takes care of their palace guards and security aides. So a lot of things need to change.

What is your take on the agitation for eradication of the monarchical system, in the wake of the demise of the Queen of England?

“Without fear of contradiction, I could tell you for free that, there are no powerful monarchs. What we have are influential monarchs”

Equating African monarchical system with what is obtainable in the West, would be an injustice. In Britain, an

average British citizen pays obeisance to the Queen, or the King as the case might be. The British monarchical system is so powerful that the Queen/King has to be signed by the monarch before it becomes operational. Moreso, the King of England virtually operates an open budget/cheque. Nobody has such either in Nigeria or anywhere in Africa. Britain still remains the Great Britain because they held on to their tradition. Take for instance, France had long abolished the monarchical system since the French revolution, but they still adore and adopt the British monarchical system during the Roman Empire. No doubt there would be agitation here and there. I



Oba Hameed Oyelude with first wife Yeyelowu Fatima Adeola Oyelude and their Children

believe they will still maintain it. In Nigeria, as obtainable in other part of the world, if there is a law that permits abdication, many people that assumed they will come to the throne to make money, would have left the throne in disappointment. But there is no law like that in our country. In the Western world, there such law. You might just say you are tired and want to leave the throne and you will be living your normal life, but here, until the day the transformer blows; If you just leave the throne like that they would think that something is wrong with your

head. So we are different. The role they are playing over there is quite different from the one we play over here.

Within Nigeria, there has always been this controversy between the Ooni of Ife and the Alaafin of Oyo in terms of issue of supremacy.

How do you think this age long supremacy should be addressed without necessarily causing animosity between the two royalties?

This question is like you asking a son to assess and do evaluation of his father. It is like asking a Brigadier-General to do assessment of a Major-General.

It is believed and accepted that Ooni of Ife is sitting on the highest throne of the Yorubation. Anything called Yoruba, Ooni of Ife is the Oduduwa now that we can see. Ooni of Ife is my father. Alaafin of Oyo is my father. There is no room for crisis. Traditionally, there shouldn't be. So I think the media need to do less of helping to fuel non existing crisis

between the two royals.

The late Alaafin of Oyo, of blessed memory, Oba Lamidi Adeyemi III, Iku Baba Yeye, was a cultural man to the core. He was a repository of history. The former late Ooni of Ife, King Okunade Sijuade Olubuse II was a true definition of a good lord, a king like no other. He has unequal royal cabinet and unequal royal candour and unparalleled influence all over the world and not only in Nigeria. They are both our fathers but Ooni of Ife is sitting on the highest throne of every Yoruba sons and daughters. He is the one seated on the cradle of

Oduduwa, where Oduduwa sits. That is why he is related to as the Arole Olofin Adimula. No controversy. If you look at the present Oni of Ife, may God grant him long reign. On assumption of office, he changed the narrative by visiting all the other monarchs like the Alaafin of Oyo, Ewi of Ado Ekiti and Oba of Benin among others. He did not wait for them to visit him. But I tell you, the late Alaafin of Oyo is a super monarch. He is very influential and very close to the then Emir of Kano, His Royal Highness, Emir Ado Bayero.

What is your favourite pass time as

a monarch?

I watch news and documentaries a lot as a way of relaxation. And of course I read a lot, but mainly about leadership. However, whenever I ***have substantial time to play with, I simply turn to music. I love music a lot and I listen to the music from the north, south and west. I can recite from the heart, the music of great Nigerian musicians like Shata, Garuba Super, Odolaye Aremu, Yusuf Olatunji, Haruna Ishola, and so on. But really, I hardly rest, because there is so much to do, unless when I travel abroad.***

A Brief History of Owu-Kuta Kingdom

By Matthew Atungwu



Oba Ibraheem Alabi Oyelude (Tegbosun II)
1938-1962

The historic Owu-Kuta was established by the Great Akindele Anlugbua, who won multiple wars with great success as the unconquerable guardian of his people. He moved from Orile-Owu, the ancestral capital of all Owus, and created the Kuta Kingdom in the middle of the 15th century.

Akindele was one of the sons of HRM Oba Ajibosin Asukungbade, the first Olowu of Owu-Ipole, whose mother was Olawumi Iyanude, a descendant of the Old Ife dynasty's Oduduwa. In Owu Kingdom, Princess Iyanude is the mother. She was the youngest of Ojodu's seven children. Morolahun, Akindele's lone child, became the first Olowu of Kuta (1457-1552).

Since 1966, the Olowu of Kuta has been recognised by government as a First-Class King. It consists of 24 baales and 23 villages, four of which—Ikoyi-Kuta, Aiyedade, Railway Station, and Konkon — have grown into cities. The four male sons of Morolahun gave rise to the four ruling houses of Kuta that exist today.

There are numerous villages that service Kuta, which has an estimated population of 90,000. These villages include Konko, Olodu the Train Station, Kejo, Arugbode, Egan Aro, Aba Owu, and Alagba. The nearby hamlet of Ikoyi, which has a distinct population and a ruler (the Olukoyi) who is also a member of the Kuta Traditional Council, coexists with Kuta.

The town contains various complexes, three primary schools, two nurseries, one school for Arabic, and two grammar schools for secondary education. Moreover, it features a State Hospital, a Maternity Center, a Dispensary, a Community Bank, and a Post Office. Islam, Christianity, and traditional worships—the three major religions—are openly practised.



Prince Oyebayo Oyelude
(Father of HRM Makama)

The majority of the population works in agriculture. But people also work in trade, blacksmithing, dyeing, and carpentry.

“Whatever which God writes on your forehead, you will reach,” says the Qur’an. Whatever the outcome of history may be, it is sacredly believed that Olowu ascended to the throne of the Owu-Kuta Kingdom at a young age, observed the intrigues and issues that plagued some of his forebears, and then grabbed the bull by the horns and subjugated them. As he ascended to the throne of his forefathers, he accomplished a feat formerly thought impossible: bringing together all four (4) governing houses. He also extended a royal hand of friendship to other great princes of the ruling houses, having accelerated the Kingdom’s development and provided it with stability, character, and direction. Indeed, he is the innovator’s architect. A visionary king who envisioned the current Owu-Kuta Kingdom in his thoughts.

With his leadership, the Kingdom is more fortunate and has accomplished tremendously. The “Lt. Gen. TY Buratai Bailey Bridge” at Kuta, which spans the Osun River and connects Ede, is a noteworthy development monument that he inspired and accomplished. He has received numerous accolades and stirring testimonials to the influence and stature he has reached.

There are four ruling houses at Kuta viz:

1. Tegbosun Ruling House
2. Delumo Ruling House
3. Adeyi Ruling House
4. Lanloye Ruling House

There is a government “Declaration” that was registered on July 21, 1965, after being authorised by the Governor in Council on July 20, 1965.

Candidates are presented by the town’s four leading households in a rotating fashion to occupy



Oba Tijani Olalekan Abidoye (Omoni III)
1980-1991



Oba Emmanuel Ademola Akinloye
(Deyioye I)
1965-1979



Oba Shittu Bamgbade (Delumo III)
1998-2011

the Olowu of Kuta's throne. A candidate or candidates must be nominated by the ruling house whose turn it is to furnish one during a family meeting before being submitted to the kingmakers.

KINGMAKERS AT KUTA

There are six kingmakers as hereunder listed:

1. The Oosa of Kuta
2. The Aro of Kuta

3. The Odofin of Kuta
4. The Otun of Kuta
5. The Jagun of Kuta
6. The Ejemu of Kuta

The Mogaji of the ruling houses is typically chosen from among the oldest male members of the ruling houses.

A number of villages, including Konko, Olodu the Railway Station,

Kejo, Arugbode, Egan Aro, Aba Owu, and Alagba, serve Kuta, which has an estimated population of 90,000. The nearby hamlet of Ikoyi, which has a distinct population and a ruler (the Olukoyi) who is also a member of the Kuta Traditional Council, coexists with Kuta.

The town contains various complexes, three primary schools, two nurseries, one school for

Arabic, and two grammar schools for secondary education. Moreover, it features a State Hospital, a Maternity Center, a Dispensary, a Community Bank, and a Post Office. Islam, Christianity, and traditional worships—the three major religions—are openly practised. The majority of the population works in agriculture. But many also work in trade, blacksmithing, dyeing, and carpentry.

REIGNS OF OBAS

The following Obas were known to have ruled over the community since its foundation, i.e from 1487 till date:

Oba Morolahun	1457-1552
ObTegbosun I	1552-1602
Oba elumo	1602-1642
Oba Adeyi I	1642-1647
Oba anloye	1647-1772
Oba Omoni	1772-1912
Oba Adekigbe Delumo II	

	1912-1937
Oba Oyelude Tegbosun II	
	1938-1962
Oba Akinloye	1965-1979
Oba Olalekan Omoni II	
	1980-1991
Oba Shittu Bamgbade Delumo III	
	1998-2011
Current Oba Adekunle Hameed Adekunle Oyelude Makama Tegbosun III	



Oba Hameed, Kabiesi Ologburo of Ogburo and Kabiesi Ola of Ajagunlase



Oba Hameed with OurNigeria News Magazine team at his historical gallery



Jerry Adesewo, Aisha Rabo, Oba Hameed Auwal Ahmad Umar and Dr. M.S. Abubakar, Publisher



Auwal Ahmad Umar, Oba Hameed, Aisha Rabo, and Dr. M.S. Abubakar, Publisher



R: Mr Richard (a journalist) Prince Dayo Adegbosin, Kabiesi Ola of Ajagunlase, Kabiesi Onigege of Igege, Kabiesi Ologburo of Ogburo, Prince Oyelayo Saani.

Tems Baby: The Rising of a Star

By Jennifer S Kuwanta

It has been said that stars shine differently at their own time and with little effort they become visible to the big wide world.

Popular Nigerian singer, Tems is a star whose light is becoming visible to the entire world and of course they can't help but acknowledge the presence of a star. Her unique and sensational voice coupled with the inspiring lyrics of her songs has captured the heart of many Nigerians.

Temilade Openiyi (born June 11, 1995), known professionally as Tems or Tems baby is a singer, record producer and songwriter. Temilade is regarded as one of Nigeria's leading artiste that sits at the intersection of Afrobeats, R&B and Alté, Contemporary, R&B/Soul, Afropop genres of music. The 27 year old superstar's voice has been described as deep, velvety, and androgynous.

Tems rose to prominence after being featured on Wizkid's 2020 single "Essence", which peaked at number 9 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart following the release of the remix version with Justin Bieber.

So far, Tems has received many accolades, including a Grammy Award, two NAACP Image Awards, two BET Awards and two Soul Train Music Awards. She also co-wrote the song "Lift Me Up" by Rihanna, which earned her nominations for the Oscar's award, Academy Award for Best Original Song, and the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song.

Temilade's attainment of success within a very short time frame has amused a whole lot of people, as to who this diva is; emerging from the blues and sky rocketing to the fore front of the world stage in just a short period of time.

Let's take a look at Tems growth to success and achievements so far: In 2020, Tems released her debut extended play, 'For Broken Ears'.

Her second extended play, 'If Orange Was a Place' (2021), was released

after she signed an international record deal with RCA Records.

In 2022, Tems' vocals from her song "Higher" were sampled by Future on his single, "Wait for U", which led to her being credited as a featured artist alongside Drake on the song. It debuted atop the Billboard Hot 100, making her the first African artist to debut at number one and the second Nigerian artist to top the chart. The song earned her the Grammy Award for Best Melodic Rap Performance.

Tems covered Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry" for the Black Panther: Wakanda Forever soundtrack album in July 2022 and in the same month, her song "Free Mind" from her debut EP debuted on the Billboard Hot 100.

Tems Early life and childhood
Temilade Openiyi was born in Lagos, Nigeria, to a Nigerian mother and a British-Nigerian father. She is the second child of the family and has an older brother.

Shortly after her birth, the family relocated to the UK; however, when she was 5 years old, her parents' divorce caused her to return to Nigeria. Thus, she and her brother moved back with their mum to Nigeria. While her father remained in the UK.

Tems and her family resided in Ilupeju before moving to Lekki and later Ajah.

Tems attended Downen College, Lekki for her secondary education and South Africa, Johannesburg for her tertiary education where she got a degree in Economics.

Tems was raised in a Christian family. As a child, her mother allowed her to listen to only gospel songs. However, when she became older, she sought to discover other music genres. And this led her to songs by superstars such as Aaliyah, Lil Wayne, Beyoncé and Destiny Child.

Whilst in high school, her music teacher, discovered that she was

gifted musically.

According to Tems, she had believed her voice was too heavy for a girl, but as her teacher helped refine her sound, she began to envisage a career in music. She sang in a local church choir and learned to play the piano. She practiced singing with her brother and often used his guitar accompaniment.

At the age of 15, she stopped listening to other artists in search of her own identity, because "I wanted to learn how to attack a song from what I was feeling, not what Beyoncé would do or anyone else". she said.

In an interview, she said, "I used to write poems a lot – I'll just sit down and write things I'm feeling, and it'll come out so poetic, even if I'm just talking about breakfast," she laughs. "So then I just started writing songs, at around 11. Some were about me not having friends and some about my classmates saying I was weird."

The singer cites music acts like Lauryn Hill, Burna Boy, Asa, and Adele to be her source of inspiration in the industry and motivated her to do more as an artist.

2018–2021: Career beginnings and extended plays
The alternative singer's journey into the music industry began when she was 20. She released her first EP, "Time Swap EP" in 2013.

Temilade initially worked in the corporate sector as a digital marketer before quitting to pursue music full-time. While in the University, she began to learn sound production skills on YouTube, with the aim of producing beats for her own songs.

With so much determination, on 18 July 2018, Tems released her first recognized debut single, "Mr Rebel", a song which she produced by herself that got more than 200,000 views on youtube. Rebel helped introduce her to the Nigerian music scene, and many people noticed that she was a talented Alté artiste.



Securing Nigeria's Waterways: Gambo at the first African Maritime Forces Summit in Cape Verde

By Aishatu S. Rabo

In an effort to improve the security of Nigerian waterways, Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo attended the first African Maritime Forces Summit in Cape Verde.

The summit is a strategic-level meeting where African maritime and naval infantry leaders meet with international partners to talk about transnational maritime security problems in African waters.

Maritime security in Africa is a very important issue that has big effects on the continent's economy, politics, and society. Africa's stability and economic growth depend on its coasts and offshore resources, such as oil and gas reserves, fishing stocks, and trade routes.

Africa's coasts and waterways are also vulnerable to a number of security risks, such as piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, and human trafficking. These things can make the area less stable and hurt the environment, the economy, and the health and happiness of the people who live there.

Because maritime security in Africa

is so important, it's important for scholars to understand the problems and opportunities that come with it. This means understanding the root causes of insecurity in the region, like poverty, war, and bad government, as well as how international actors shape the security landscape.

During the summit, Vice Admiral Gambo, who is the Chief of Naval Staff, talked about current events and met with Vice Admiral Olivier Lebas Ceclant of the French Navy. He also had bilateral talks with the Head of Plans and Maritime Policy Department, Italian Navy General Staff Rear Admiral Massimiliano Lauretti, and Admiral Linda Fagan, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, all about safeguarding the Nigerian coasts and waterways.

Also speaking during the summit, the Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa (NAVEUR-NAF), Adm. Stuart B. Munsch, who is the organiser of the summit, said, The African Maritime Forces Summit demonstrates our commitment to supporting African-led solutions to the transnational maritime issues affecting Africa's coastal nations, which sit astride several of the world's most strategically

important waterways. I am proud to join with allies and partners from four continents to discuss how our collective efforts can expand the zone of security, stability, and prosperity for the African people and for us all.

Munsch said that the summit's theme is "Security at Sea, Stability on Land," and that it will give leaders a chance to talk about strategic and operational approaches to maritime security, such as improving law enforcement, the roles and missions of naval infantry, and initiatives that are specific to a region.

The US Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, said, "We as a Navy aim to demonstrate the strategic and security benefits that derive from fully embracing the unique skills and capabilities that our allies and partners have to offer. The nations of Africa share the same united perspective of free and open sea lanes. "Coming together in this unique forum to learn from each other bridges geographic and governmental gaps and strengthens our shared commitment to addressing African maritime security initiatives."



TUKUR BURATAI RESEARCH CENTRE

**Gombe Celebrates
President-Elect,
ASIWAJU BOLA AHMED
TINUBU @ 71**

On behalf of Tukur Buratai Research Centre, I wish to heartily felicitate with our dear leader and President Elect, of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu on the occasion of his 71st birthday anniversary.

In this historic moment, we acknowledge Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu's selfless service to humanity and contribution to the enthronement of progressive governance in Nigeria as exemplified by the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the last eight years under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari.

We pray that the Almighty God will grant the President-Elect good health, wisdom and guidance as he takes over the governance of our dear country on 29th May.

Happy birthday once again Your Excellency!

Signed:



Amb. Tukur Yusufu Buratai
(Lt General - Rtd), CFR,
FSS, MSS, DSS, (psc(+)), FICRPC, FISS

His Excellency, **ASIWAJU BOLA AHMED TINUBU**
President-elect, Federal Republic of Nigeria



establishment, Al-Ansar University has proven to be a first-class institution, striving to represent the values of its proprietor, Dr. Mohammed Kyari Dikwa, which includes hard work, commitment, innovation, and integrity. The university accepts both men and women without regard to their socioeconomic status, gender,

to offer top-notch education to students in Nigeria and beyond, Al-Ansar University officially commenced academic activities in February 2023. Staff and students are showing eagerness to tackle the challenges and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead as they embark on the new phase of their academic careers. There is no doubt

will attract individuals seeking innovations, concepts, and services that will benefit humanity and advance societal development.

An important tenet of Al-Ansar University's philosophy is its Islamic emphasis. The goal is to create a superb atmosphere that integrates the best aspects of Western education



Al-Ansar University, The First Of Its Kind, And Best Among Its Equals

By Auwal Ahmad Umar

The education sector is one of the most dynamic and rapidly evolving sectors currently in existence. There are thousands of institutions coming up with innovative ways of shaping socially responsible and goal-oriented individuals into world-class professionals, but Al-Ansar University tends to stand out arguably as one of the best, among its equals because of its extra dedication to the creation of competitively sound graduates.

Guided by moral teachings in the Holy Books on the importance of knowledge and the duty of every human to seek knowledge, Al-Ansar University serves as a means for innovation, service, Islamic development, national integration, and peaceful coexistence where future technocrats, experts, leaders, and scholars of Nigeria and the world are produced.

In April 2022, the Federal Executive Council approved the establishment

of Al-Ansar University, Maiduguri, Borno State. In November of the same year, Al-Ansar University obtained accreditation from the National University Commission (NUC) for five medical courses, including B.Sc Human Anatomy, B.Sc Human Physiology, B.NSC Nursing Science, B.MLS Medical Laboratory Science, B.Sc Public Health, B.Sc Biotechnology, and B.Sc Biochemistry.

In just one year since its

race, religion, or any other factor, including culture. The guiding principles of Al-Ansar University are also based on the need to inspire and motivate young people, particularly those from Borno State and the Northeast geopolitical zone, to broaden their horizons and embrace Western education as a tool for societal advancement without fear of ignoring Islam and Islamic values, and to serve humanity.

In what seems to be an important turning point for the recently founded university, which aims

that the institution is positioned to have a positive impact on the Nigerian educational system and contribute to the development of the nation, with a strong emphasis on academic excellence and dedication to producing graduates with a wide range of skills.

The university strives to uphold the following values: equity, justice, openness, knowledge, creativity, service, and, most importantly, the fear of God. Its primary focus is on knowledge discovery through research and teaching, which

while functioning within an Islamic cultural context. This will ensure that all students who complete the university's undergraduate program reflect a profound appreciation of Islamic culture. Additionally, the university seeks to increase Arabic language usage and comprehension in Northern Nigeria, which is predominantly Muslim. This is based on the idea that a more effective use of Arabic will lead to a simpler, deeper, and better understanding of Islam.



Making Real the Emi l'okan Declaration

By MS Abubakar

There are not many Nigerian politicians who have boasted to become president and actually be it. From the First Republic to now, not one of them made it known publicly that his life ambition is to one day rule Nigeria. Obafemi Awolowo never did, neither did Nnamdi Azikiwe, Aminu Kano nor Ibrahim Waziri all of who committed their later years and even more human and material resources to pursuing that dream. A school teacher, Shehu Shagari had no ambition beyond becoming a senator of the Federal Republic. He ended up being president for four years and three months.

Even military rulers never imagined or boasted they would one day be heads of state. The first coup in January 1966 brought in Aguiyi Ironsi by virtue of his position as the most senior military officer in the army then. The reprisal putsch in July of the same year saw Yakubu Gowon emerge as head of state only to be toppled in another take

over in 1975. Gowon's successor Murtala Mohammed was himself overthrown and killed on February 13 1976, paving way for Olusegun Obasanjo who, it was said, cried after it became clear he would be head of state.

Even OBJ's second coming as a civilian president in 1999 was almost serendipitous, according to knowledgeable accounts, same thing for Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and Goodluck Jonathan who came after him. Though he angled for the presidency thrice and failed, it is not certain Muhammadu Buhari ever made a public pronouncement his life ambition is to rule Nigeria before occupying that office in 2015.

So, when Bola Ahmed Tinubu, presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress publicly declared during his campaign last June in Abeokuta, the capital of Ogun state that his life ambition is to one day become president of Nigeria, political pundits and sundry

commentators thought he had gone too far.

For one, it smacked of arrogance and hubris, as if it was a done deal for him to win an election that was still months away. For politicians who keep their innermost thoughts to themselves, it was considered in many political circles as an unguarded utterance, sort of an impolitic thing to say in public. Tinubu's political detractors and admirers alike took it to mean that, having made possible Buhari's presidency, it was now his turn to become president of Nigeria. Of course, political analysts of all stripes took on the candidate from the get-go, some wondering what his turn was to do.

Writing in his opinion page of the Punch in September 13 2022 headlined "Emi l'okan: Tinubu's turn to do what?" Tayo Oke pointedly noted the candidate's self-assuredness and cockiness in his declaration and his determination to win.

"It is neither a plea nor a bargain," Oke observed in his piece. "It is a stake on a claim not given to negotiations. It is throwing down the gauntlet and challenging any objector to a duel. It is a readiness and an invitation to settle the score without further ado. In short, it is saying now or never. It is partly bravery, and partly bravado, but there is no mistaking the intention. It is all or nothing."

Nine months after the pronouncement, the man who would be president of Nigeria finally got his wish. Following months of combative campaigning and subsequent election on February 25, INEC declared the APC candidate winner of the just concluded election on March 1. For him, it was a dream come true, of willing something to be and actually making it happen, a rarity in the annals of politics in Nigeria's history.

With 8,794,726 votes, the man known by several monikers (Asiwaju, Jagaban) easily trounced 17 other presidential wannabes in the polls, including Atiku Abubakar of the PDP, Peter Obi of LP and Rabiu Kwankwaso of NNPP. How he got the mandate has now generated a lot of controversy with candidates of the opposition parties claiming foul play. How the courts will adjudicate on the matter should be of interest to Nigerians and the rest of the world watching keenly as the months roll by. For now however, Tinubu's 'Nostradamic' prediction is still the talk of the town.

A long walk to the presidency

If there's any truth to Tinubu's ambition to rule Nigeria, then it started way back in time and not a recent development. In fact, some say it started way back in 1992, the same year Atiku began his bid for the presidency. Not many Nigerians remember now that the former vice president contested as a presidential aspirant under the Social Democratic Party. He lost to MKO Abiola in the primaries.

At about the same time, too, another politician in the same party had his sight as a senator of the Federal Republic representing Lagos West district. Tinubu won, starting off a brilliant political career that

was truncated briefly after June 12 presidential election was annulled by the military government of Ibrahim Babangida. From politics, he would become a member of the National Democratic Coalition formed in 1994 with the twin objectives of making Sani Abacha step down as head of state as well as restoring MKO's stolen mandate.

Both failed, forcing some of the core members of NADECO into exile. Tinubu was one of them and only returned after Abacha's sudden death in June 1998. The president-elect put on his political garb once again after General Abdulsalami Abubakar blew the whistle for the current political dispensation to begin in 1998. Along with like-minded politicians, Tinubu formed the Alliance for Democracy and became the party's flag bearer as governor of Lagos state. He won and then secured a resounding victory for a second tenure in 2003.

From then on, you could say Tinubu was on a roll politically, handpicking his successors in the littoral state and also spreading his political tentacles across a broad spectrum of the political divide in the country, forming alliances with progressive minded politicians like him. His effort at bridge building paid off most times and handsomely too, most famously in forming an alliance of progressive

“In a balanced profile on Tinubu published by Premium Times soon after his electoral victory last Wednesday, Bisi Abidoye commented thusly reflecting on his long journey from being a political minnow to the heavyweight he has morphed into.”

political parties (APC) resulting in the election of PMB in 2015, a point attested to by the current president himself.

"If Bola Ahmed Tinubu did not participate, there wouldn't have been a merger and there wouldn't

have been an APC government at the centre," PMB once admitted in an interview. "That is absolutely clear."

One time governor of Rivers state and erstwhile Minister of Transportation Rotimi Amaechi corroborated the president's view in another interview: "I think what was important is that he was able to gather the political class together – it was key, more than gathering the populace, because once you gather the leadership of the political class then you could ensure there was unanimity of purpose and they could sell jointly this CHANGE mantra...He is a progressive."

In a balanced profile on Tinubu published by Premium Times soon after his electoral victory last Wednesday, Bisi Abidoye commented thusly reflecting on his long journey from being a political minnow to the heavyweight he has morphed into.

"Mr. Tinubu has consistently played major roles in party politics since 1992 when he was elected senator for Lagos West District," Abidoye writes. "He has since then been governor of Lagos for eight years. But unlike his three main opponents, including former Governor Rabiu Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), who returned fourth, this was the first time he would be running for president, whether in the party primaries or general elections. His victory means that he took the prize on first attempt, just like Shehu Shagari, Olusegun Obasanjo and Umaru Yar'adua before him."

That victory, Abidoye states clearly in the article headlined "Profile: The man Tinubu and his thorny path to presidential victory," was not so certain at some point. "It seemed on many occasions, between the point that he declared his bid and the certification of his election early Wednesday morning, that the feat might elude him. Mr. Tinubu was the first in the APC to announce his bid. That was in January 2022, after a meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari at the presidential villa in Abuja.

"The choice of location or timing

of the announcement seemed to have been a strategic design to create the impression that President Muhammadu Buhari was in full support of the former governor's ambition. But after several weeks of hesitation, many other aspirants declared too, including some ministers assumed to be close to the president.

"And when Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, an associate of Mr. Tinubu, also declared, it was taken as a confirmation that the president did not want the former Lagos governor, his most important political ally since they formed the APC in 2013, to succeed him. Mr. Tinubu's presidential ambition finally seemed imperiled a few days before the party primaries when he made the controversial "Emi lokan" (it is my turn) remark in Abeokuta, Ogun State while addressing party delegates. It was taken as a public attack on the president and the last kicks of a dying horse. But after a few more days of intrigues in the party, Mr. Tinubu recorded a stunning landslide victory at the APC national convention in Abuja."

Continuing, the journalist surmised that "it did not take long before the speculation that the president was not supportive of his candidature regained life. Mr. Tinubu seemed to confirm the speculation when at a campaign stop again in Abeokuta, he spoke out against a fuel supply shortage that had lingered for several months across the country, and a currency redesign policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria. Kaduna State Governor, Nasir el-Rufai, later said on television that some fifth columnists at the presidency designed the two disruptive policies to incite voters against the APC at the general elections...It was under these circumstances that the APC went into the elections on Saturday. And the outcome underscored widespread dissatisfaction with the ruling party. In the presidential poll, it came top in only 12 states across the country, down from 19 when Mr. Buhari was reelected in 2019. Mr. Tinubu also lost Lagos, his stronghold since 1999, to the Labour Party while Mr. Buhari's Katsina flipped to the PDP. In the North of Nigeria, where it had been dominant since 2015, the APC won only six of the 15 states in which it has governors."

A difficult and daunting task no doubt for the Lion of Bourdillion but he won all the same. And in any case, if there's any Nigerian politician with battle scars to show for his gladiatorial combats in the past up to now, Tinubu has a claim.

He literally fought off President Obasanjo calling the shots from Aso Villa when he denied Lagos state the much-needed Federal allocation for years. What was OBJ's reason? To the consternation of the Federal Government, Tinubu created more local government developing authorities in the state he presided over. The battle lasted long and it was only after Yar'Adua became president that Lagos state got his share of the Federal allocation OBJ deprived the state of.

The president-elect was also accused of keeping Lagos state smack in his pocket from when he became governor in 1999 till date. How did he do it? By having a major say in those elected governor after him. One who fell out with him never got a second tenure – evidence of Tinubu's dictatorial tendencies.

His travails continued up until October 2020 during the ENDSARS Youth protest across the country. Somehow he was the target of barbed attacks by the demonstrators in Lagos. He wisely stayed off the streets and only made his appearance after the protesters had been disbanded.

Tinubu became the butt of jokes soon after his declaration to join the presidential race. Some carped about the state of his health, even his birth and educational qualifications were questioned with the thoroughness and doggedness of a sleuth on the trail of a long-sought-for criminal. Skit makers and photo shop tyros and experts had their day, as well, turning the man into a sort of doddery individual who cannot lift a cup of tea without his hands quivering like a feverish patient.

Journalists and sundry commentators took on him severally, on his supposed invincibility as a power broker and strategist. In one article, for instance, a reporter wrote that having attained this much power and influence, the next route was downhill for Tinubu. "Those who know a thing or two about

the law of diminishing returns are worried Tinubu's ambition might be truncated for that very reason. There's only one way to go after a man has reached the pinnacle of his career – downhill. BAT has got it all: senator, governor, kingmaker, revered party leader, close confidant of pols and princes, friends with ordinary folk in the street, read road transport workers, and an adulation from some in the South-west comparable to that bestowed on religious revolutionaries or benevolent leaders."

Editor in chief of TELL magazine, Nosa Igiebor, was more bruising in his assessment and chances of Tinubu winning the presidency in a piece published days to the election. Headlined "Tinubu's Life," Igiebor made very clear from the start the rise and rise of Tinubu. "He has been celebrated for years by his army of acolytes as the grandmaster of political strategies. His reputation was further burnished and his place atop the country's political pyramid confirmed by the historic triumph of the All Progressives Congress in 2015 general elections."

Igiebor went on to compare the subject of his piece to a god. "He was transformed from the Emperor of Lagos and political overseer of the South-west to Capone of the APC and given the grandiloquent title of national leader." But as the campaigns continued, Igiebor wrote in the article, Tinubu began to show signs of not quite being up to it, especially physically. "He has been a sorry spectacle talking gibberish, his tentative dance steps notwithstanding, showing signs of physical frailty and supplying rich materials for skit makers and comedians. He's become the subject of uncountable memes. The emperor always showing up without clothes."

Against all possible odds, against what the bookmakers predicted would be the outcome of the presidential election, the man won nonetheless, defeating an old timer and rival like Atiku. Though as question now hangs over his victory, Tinubu will be sworn in as president of Nigeria on May 29, becoming the only Nigerian politician who made real his life ambition, something close to triumph of the will.

INSIDE ABUJA'S GROWING ÀMÀLÀ JOINTS

Jerry Adesewo



water is absorbed. More hot water is added, and then the dough is left to simmer for approximately five minutes. Then the dough is kneaded until it has the desired texture. Kneading the dough into a smooth paste is the most difficult part of making àmàlà.

Though birthed in Yorubaland, today, àmàlà is eaten by all and sundry. The proliferation of àmàlà joints across the country is a testimony to the growing status of this delicious meal. Nearly every districts, areas, and zones in Abuja boasts a minimum of three to five

àmàlà joints, with each of them making a brisk business out their venture.

The exploit of àmàlà in the nation's capital is such that you cannot name 10 bukas without at least 5 àmàlà joints. And a visit to each of those joints would blow your mind, as you are confronted with able bodied men in suits, ties and babarigas on a long queue waiting to be served hot àmàlà with gbegiri and ewédú to go with it.

Matosh Kitchen, located in the Wuye district of Abuja and popularly known as Iya Oyo Àmàlà is one of the top àmàlà joints in Abuja. The joint, patronised by the high and low; classy and urbane, attracts over 500 customers on a single day. These customers are not limited to artisans but top class citizens like governors, ministers, members of the National Assembly, top civil servants and business executives who value the taste of home-made dishes.

Àmàlà Place, which is located by RCCG Grace City, Opposite Next Cash & Carry in Mabushi is another àmàlà joint with great followership. Here, you won't get much of aesthetic but you can be sure of a memorable àmàlà meal that is more delicious than what your mother or wife could replicate at home. They are one of the earliest in town and despite the replication of àmàlà joints around the city, àmàlà place still attracts huge clientele.

Somewhere in Garki 2, tucked within the Skychef Garden, on 85 Ladoke Akintola Boulevard, is the Omoneye àmàlà

joint, another crowd pulling àmàlà manufacturing company where Abuja residents throng day and night in search of àmàlà.

The list, of course, is not complete without mentioning Àmàlà Korner, probably the most central of all of àmàlà joints in Abuja by reason of its location. It is planted within the Woodbridge Garden, Kur Mohammed Way, Behind Central mosque, and of course within reach of most of the ministries and government departments located around the central area.

One is not sure, what competitive edge these bukas have over the order, but one thing is sure, the only thing they have in common is the primary product itself – àmàlà! And you cannot but be amazed at the level of patronage that these àmàlà joints attract. They are usually besieged to the point that one begins to wonder if there is more to it.

Prince Anayochukwu Onukhagha is an Igbo man from the Eastern part of the nation where they have in abundance, assorted traditional foods of their own. However, he confessed to àmàlà being one of his favourite staple food. "My week is not complete without àmàlà, ewédú, and gbegiri. I can't really remember when I first ate àmàlà but I got so used to it that I have to visit the àmàlà joint at least three times in a week."

"I am choosy when it comes to eating out because of the perceived low standard of most of the àmàlà joints. But once I gave it a trial and confirmed that both the food and the environment are hygienic enough, there was no stopping me. Interestingly, they are quite affordable and I am sure this is responsible for the mad rush for the àmàlà joints in Abuja." Mr. Adekunle Ademefun, a development worker, recounted.

In view of the foregoing, there is no contending the fact that the àmàlà joint is a viable one. These canteens have become a major employer of labour, helping to bridge the unemployment gap in the country. Hence, as months and years roll by, more àmàlà joint businesses are sure to spring up in the metropolis as well as in the satellite towns of Gwagwalada, Karu, Nyanyan, Bwari, Kado and Kubwa among others.

Tukur Buratai Institute for War and Peace: A Hub of Research and Community Development in Nigeria

By Auwal Ahmad Umar

The Tukur Buratai Institute for War and Peace under the Nigerian Army University has recorded a number of milestones, since its establishment in 2019, among which is the symbiotic relations it has established with the host community, Buratai, Biu Local Government Area of Borno State.

The host community, Buratai has been enjoying peace and stability, as well as various interventions from

Garba Rtd, in an interview, told OurNigeriaNews in Buratai, that the institute was a research hub of the Nigerian Army University, Bui, which despite its short existence, had recorded a huge success in its trail.

Brigadier General Garba said the name was initially Tukur Yusuf Buratai Counter Terrorism Centre, but was later changed and upgraded to Tukur Buratai Institute for War and Peace, established for record-

the materials and so on and conduct deep research so that hopefully we will come up with solutions to some of these problems and be able to nib it in the bud before they get out of hand," said

Consequently, he said the successes recorded were due to the approach adopted by the Nigerian Army in winning the hearts of the people and getting them to be involved in finding solutions to the challenge.



the Nigerian Army, such as education and other social amenities as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility.

The Army itself gets to have regular security intelligence alerts from the community, as a form of reciprocal gesture to the interventions from the Nigerian Army.

The Director General of the Tukur Buratai Institute for War and Peace, Brigadier General Abdullahi Dadan

keeping for research purposes, after realizing that its operations were not being documented.

"So, the Army decided that facing the challenge of insurgency in the North East, the Boko Haram Insurgency, the Army then decided that they should have something like a Museum, where all its activities in countering terrorism will be well documented so that with time researchers will go into the documents, the archives and

He said after living within the community and knowing their needs, he felt interventions in that regard would get them interested in assisting them to win the war on the insurgency.

Brigadier General Garba said the most needed intervention in the area was education, because the area was among the most disadvantaged in terms of the education of the children, due to the insurgency

arising from the loss of parents and living in the camps

He said it was also one of the means of fighting the insurgency where the Nigerian Army uses either the use force (kinetic), or the non-kinetic, where the hearts of the people are won over, saying "if you can make the people realize that you mean well to them and you give them the appropriate education within the means they can afford for those who cannot afford, they are still given the chance to not just Western Education, but also the religious education."

He said the community in turn gets to share with them vital security intelligence reports for the success of the Army's operations.

The Nigerian Army felt the need to further develop the intellectual capability of our military personnel and have its own university because of the difficulty in procuring some equipment to conduct its operations due to international politics.

After understanding that China and other countries had such universities that turned out to be research hubs, the army felt the need to have its own. Brigadier General Garba said the process started around 2017 and by 2019 it scaled through the Federal Executive Council and it became a reality.

He said the agreement was the upgrade of the centre to an institute, charged with the responsibility of conducting detailed research on all aspects of war and peace.

"The institute is supposed to look at the possibility of coming up with solutions after deep research, on how to resolve issues before they degenerate to war and should they degenerate to war, which measures can be taken to bring that war to a quick end to reduce the impact of the war on people and equipment and property and so on," said Brigadier General Garba.

He said the detailed research was meant to look at all aspects

of war and peace and make recommendations to superior authorities, and implement them for peace in Nigeria, Africa, and the world.

Brigadier General Garba said already, the institute had started relating and making steady progress with many other such bodies around the world, with many partnerships being planned, with the African Union's Centre for Terrorism Studies in Algiers among others.

"But all these are to further deepen our collaboration and exchange of ideas, persons, and researchers, so that we look at these issues and come up with solutions that will save man from calamities of war and help improve peace, not only in Africa but all over the world," Brigadier General Garba said.

“
He served the Nigerian Army for 29 years and 7 months and after retirement also served as a teacher at the National Defence College as a member of the Faculty for 9 years.

He said the institute had lived up to its expectations despite being in existence for barely two years, such as organizing some courses, seminars, and workshops, which is the best way a research institution should start.

Brigadier General Garba said for now, the institute had many courses on disaster response and management and had started working in partnerships with many bodies, with plans to launch its journals.

He lamented that communities were busy losing their values through a lack of proper family upbringing, making them lose their direction and get lured into crime unknowingly through misguided values.

Brigadier General Garba said the

family and community should be targeted to re-enact the culture of training of the child in a community and not necessarily by one's biological family.

He also said the traditional institution needed to play their own role of directing their community, irrespective of whether their roles are spelt out in the constitution or not.

Similarly, he said because of the influence of the religious leaders on the people, they should do more to ensure peaceful co-existence in the community.

Overall, he called the entire community to adopt the all-community approach and not to keep quiet whenever they see something suspicious, by reporting them to the appropriate quarters for prompt and appropriate action.

“But we seem to have this notion that if it doesn't affect me that all. But it's obvious that when we leave things we consider minor, we ignore it and it boomerangs and overcomes everybody,” said Brigadier General Garba.

He said the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East had largely been contained and as such the area is safe, if only people could witness it by themselves, only the remnants of the insurgents were on the verge of giving up.

General Garba commended the President Buhari-Led Administration for its efforts and support in the counter-terrorism operations in the North East.

He served the Nigerian Army for 29 years and 7 months and after retirement also served as a teacher at the National Defence College as a member of the Faculty for 9 years.

Brigadier General Garba says he drives his inspiration by the leadership example he presents to his subordinates by conducting his duties diligently for them to emulate, thereby contributing to meeting the goals and objectives of the organization.



PEOPLE AND THE EVENT

Prior to his current position, he worked as a Higher Technical Officer at the Ministry of Works Damaturu, where he was in charge of Infrastructural Development from 2004 to 2017, and as a Site Engineer with DAM and GEE Geospatial Link Yobe from 2017 to 2020.

In recognition of his service to humanity, a group, Arewa mu

Duniyar Mu, on February 11, 2023, conferred a chieftaincy title of Matawallen Arewa on Muhammad. The conferment of the chieftaincy title was done by the Emir of Bauchi, HRH Dr Rilwanu Sulaiman Adamu who was ably represented by Alhaji Ado Danrimi Garba, Wakilin Tarihin Bauchi and was witnessed by well-wishers across the nation.



ENGR HASSAN MUHAMMAD: A DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN CONTRIBUTING TO HUMANITY”

By Matthew Eloyi

Ambassador Engr Hassan Muhammad (Sarkin Yakin Garkuwan Keffi) is a distinguished and amiable Gentleman who has contributed immensely towards humanity in general. He is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of GUENA Logistics and Engineering

Service and the President of TY Buratai Academy FC. He hailed from Yobe State and was born in the state on the 15th of July, 1980.

He attended Babuje Primary School Gashu'a between 1986 and 1992 and also obtained a NABTEB Certificate from Nana Aisha College

of Islamic Studies Damaturu in 2014. Between 2002 and 2004, he studied at Federal Polytechnic Damaturu where he obtained National Diploma Certificate in Civil Engineering Technology. He further obtained Higher National Diploma Certificated in Civil Engineering Technology from the same institution in 2016.

TORNADOES: Nature's Most Violent and Destructive Weather Phenomenon

By Halima Abdulkadiri

Nigeria is a blessed country which is natural disaster free unlike other countries of the world that suffer different kinds of natural disasters, like Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Volcano, Land slide, Ice storm, Hurricane, Avalanche, Droughts, Typhoon, Tsunami, etc, tormenting them.

Earthquakes have been the most occurring disaster that has hit hard in different parts of the world. But of recent there have been records of Tornado outbreaks in several parts of the US.

Tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground. Because wind is invisible, it is hard to see a tornado unless it forms a condensation funnel made up of water droplets, dust and debris. Tornadoes can be among the most violent phenomena of all atmospheric storms we experience.

History has it that Tornadoes occur in many parts of the world, including Australia, Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. Even

New Zealand reports about 20 tornadoes each year. Two of the highest concentrations of tornadoes outside the U.S. are Argentina and Bangladesh. Records has it that Tornado is most frequently occurs in North America, particularly in central and southeastern regions of the United States colloquially known as Tornado Alley.

Tornadoes can destroy or severely damage physical infrastructure including buildings in a community. This can result in direct losses but also indirect losses such as the closure of key social institutions reverberating further through the community.

Are you wondering how it operates? Tornado is a violently rotating column of air that is in contact with both the surface of the Earth and a cumulonimbus cloud or, in rare cases, the base of a cumulus cloud. It is often referred to as a twister, whirlwind or cyclone. It is said that most tornadoes have wind speeds less than 180 kilometers per hour 110 miles per hour, about 80 meters 250 feet across, and travel several kilometers a few

miles before dissipating. The most extreme tornadoes can attain wind speeds of more than 480 kilometers per hour 300 mph, are more than 3 kilometers 2 mi in diameter, and stay on the ground for more than 100 km, 60 mi.

Tornado usually have a season, which is the time of year the U.S. sees the most tornadoes. The peak "tornado season" for the southern Plains (Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas) is from May into early June. On the Gulf coast, it is earlier in the spring. In the northern Plains and upper Midwest (North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota), tornado season is in June or July. But, remember, tornadoes can happen at any time of year. Tornadoes can also happen at any time of day or night, but most tornadoes occur between 4–9 p.m.

Recently, six (6) America states, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee were hit by tornadoes in March 25 2023 on Friday night, according to reports from the National Weather Service.

The deadly tornado outbreak and

strong thunderstorms swept across Mississippi and Alabama late Friday, with one long-track twister leaving a trail of destruction for more than 90 miles, local and federal authorities said.

At least 25 people have died in Mississippi. A man in Alabama who was rescued by first responders later succumbed to his injuries.

"We lost everything. We didn't have insurance for any of this," said Spells, who rented the property with his girlfriend. He is already looking ahead over the next few months and doesn't believe his future includes life in Rolling Fork.

US President Joe Biden approved a major disaster declaration for Mississippi early Sunday, unlocking federal aid to assist in recovery efforts after twisters caused wind gusts of over 166 mph and flattened buildings, killing at least 25 people in the state and one in Alabama. Officials were still tallying the dead.

The White House's action will allow individuals in at least four Mississippi counties to receive federal grants for temporary housing and home repairs, as well as loans to cover uninsured property losses. Top Biden officials arrived in Mississippi on Sunday to assess the damages and laid out a plan for what they said will be a long road to recovery, even as the state was preparing for more violent storms.

The damage from Friday night's tornado is one of the worst on record in the state's history — presents tough challenges for the majority-Black communities that were most affected. Questions also remain about how various levels of governments should have better prepared and warned residents, many of whom live below the poverty line.

The White House granted the declaration following a request by Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves (R), who thanked the president for approving federal disaster assistance, adding that officials at all levels of government are working as a "united front."

"It's been my experience in times like this that there is no such thing as politics," Reeves said. He also said he believed search-and-rescue teams have searched most of the rubble.

Rolling Fork Mayor Eldridge Walker (D), who is also the local funeral director, said he personally had lost friends to the tornadoes. "I'm having to meet my families, those who have lost loved ones, and help them make it through this traumatic time." Thirteen Rolling Fork residents were killed by the tornado, the county coroner.

According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau figures for Rolling Fork, located in Mississippi's Lower Delta with a population of roughly 2,000, more than 80 percent of residents are Black and about 21 percent live below the poverty line — a rate higher than the state average. Roughly 30 percent of residents live in mobile homes, census data shows. (Research shows that mobile homes are significantly more vulnerable to tornado damage).

The National Weather Service forecast office in Jackson, Miss., which is in the process of surveying the damage from Friday night's storm, rated the tornado that swept through Rolling Fork and Silver City a 4 on the Enhanced Fujita scale of 0-to-5 intensity. The United States averages 1,150 to 1,200 tornadoes per year, and EF4s make up just about 1 percent of the total.

Charles Weissinger, 72, a lifelong resident of Rolling Fork, was at home with his wife and 5-year-old grandson when the tornado struck around 8 p.m. A tree crashed through one corner of their house. A door, ripped from its hinges, sailed through the center of the home. The storm tore off part of the roof and blew out the windows.

"I laid down on top of my grandson to make sure flying glass did not cut him," Weissinger said. "He was very frightened. We all were."

Weissinger told The Washington Post that he and his family had trouble finding their way out of their house. Their ears popped as the storm moved on. It was dark and overcast,

but it was clear the damage was widespread.

"The vast preponderance of all the residential and commercial property in our little community is effectively gone," Weissinger said. "I'm sitting in my office right now and the roof is gone. I'm looking at blue sky."

Heavy machinery had largely cleared Rolling Fork streets and back roads by noon Saturday. Soon after that, large excavators were at work removing power lines and rubble. Many homes will never see repairs. Rattled to their foundations by the monster tornado Friday, some were already on the backs of tractor-trailers, headed to a dump site.

In Silver City, 30 miles east of Rolling Fork, just a few buildings are left standing in this Mississippi Delta community of about 200.

The Weather Service in Jackson reported that the Rolling Fork twister was on the ground for 59 miles, an unusually long distance. Fewer than 1 percent of tornadoes in the United States travel more than 50 miles, according to a Washington Post analysis of Weather Service data recorded between 1950 and 2021.

Severe weather pounded other parts of the South. Thirty homes in Troup County, Ga., were destroyed and 100 more damaged, said the county's emergency management director, Zac Steele. No deaths were reported.

The tornadoes were part of a weather system that was wreaking havoc in many parts of the country, causing substantial snowfall across parts of the upper Midwest and western Great Lakes, said Bill Bunting, the operations chief at the Storm Prediction Center.

"Scientists are not sure whether there is a link between climate change and the frequency or strength of tornadoes, in part because of limited data. But researchers say that in recent years tornadoes seem to be occurring in greater "clusters," and that a so-called tornado alley in the Great Plains where most tornadoes occurrence appears to be shifting eastward."

Nigeria's redesign; avarice versus envy

By Prince Charles Dickson Ph.D

“An illusion shared by everyone becomes a reality” —Erich Fromm

Two neighbours came before Jupiter and prayed to him to grant their hearts' desire. Now the one was full of avarice, and the other ate up with envy.

So, to punish them both, Jupiter granted that each might have whatever he wished for himself, but only on condition that his neighbour had twice as much.

The Avaricious man prayed to have a room full of gold. No sooner said than done; but all his joy was turned to grief when he found that his neighbour had two rooms full of the precious metal. Then came the turn of the Envious man, who could not bear to think that his neighbour had any joy at all.

So, he prayed that he might have one of his own eyes put out, by which means his companion would become totally blind.

Vices are their own punishment.

How does the above relate with Nigeria—especially in these times. What constitutes a crisis worthy of leadership attention? At what point is enough, really enough. I will write a few paragraphs' gist with us. For better understanding, let me tutor us!

Nigeria has been facing a currency crisis for several years now. The country's currency, the , has been steadily losing value against major

foreign currencies like the US dollar, Euro, and British pound. The following are some of the factors that have contributed to the currency crisis in Nigeria:

1. Overdependence on oil exports: Nigeria is a major oil-producing country, and the economy heavily relies on oil exports for revenue. The fall in oil prices in recent years has led to a significant reduction in foreign exchange earnings, thereby putting pressure on the .

2. High inflation rate: Nigeria has been experiencing high inflation rates for several years. This has eroded the value of the and made it more expensive to import goods and services.

3. Weak economic fundamentals: Nigeria's economy has been characterized by low productivity, weak infrastructure, and poor business environment. This has led to a lack of investor confidence, which in turn has contributed to a weak .

4. Foreign exchange restrictions: The Nigerian government has put in place several foreign exchange restrictions in an attempt to conserve foreign exchange reserves. However, these restrictions have led to a scarcity of foreign exchange and have further weakened the .

The currency crisis in Nigeria has had several negative impacts on the economy, including rising inflation,

high unemployment, and low economic growth. The government has taken several measures to address the crisis, including devaluing the and introducing foreign exchange policies aimed at stabilizing the currency. However, more needs to be done to address the root causes of the crisis and put the economy on a sustainable growth path.

In the light of these we decided on a redesign. A currency swap naturally followed it, in the Nigerian context. The fact of the matter was, there was no campaign to enlighten the masses. There was no form of advocacy, the ordinary man on the streets did not know what to expect, did not understand the entire process. Who we be sef? And after all what do we know, it came with a cash crunch... the last time Nigerians experienced this was in the 1980s. Why the design, we still don't have a grasp. A nation with no sense of emergency, maybe that's why we don't have any natural disasters, albeit self-inflicted floods that

can and should be avoided. We are not bothered about the crisis, the Central Bank chief went ahead with his mandatory role of redesigning the notes, he did not tell the minister for finance, the ministry was left in the loop, and those in economic and national planning were not aware. The national assembly was as usual not beyond a n

assembly.

We all started the blame game, the apex bank chief feeling like James Bond and others went on the defense. We were told that it was targeted at politicians who wanted to buy votes for the upcoming (now concluded) elections. The politicians played their roles, went to court, government carry government go court. Nigeria is indeed a country. Governors threatened banks, banks punished citizens. And one ponders, if indeed we are 200 million Nigerians why should we bear the brunt of the thievery of barely 1%. Abi Nigerians politicians pass 1million?

We are a people that just do anyhow, go anyway and at the end nothing happens. In the interim, banks were touched in parts of the country, no one was held liable, while other parts just moved on painfully. The old notes disappeared and the new notes were nowhere to be found. If Venezuela was

was at best rant and dramatize.

The central bank said they had destroyed the old notes, they said the new notes were not enough or being printed. Who is printing and why was the printing not done first. Why reduce the old notes and not make available the new notes. We just dey play! Banks are operating at lowest capacity; electronic banking is at best working in babalawo mood. The more you look, the more your eyes hurt from seeing nothing. We are possibly the most impossible people. The governors had alleged that contrary to the CBN defence that they had destroyed the old notes, the notes were there and months after, we know better, the old notes are appearing, after the dance of the naked at the nation's apex court the old notes stay till the end of the year.

However, the damage done to small businesses, the fact that Nigerians have painfully learned the difference between cash at hand and cash at bank cannot be quantified. For a policy that ordinarily should have enhanced the security features of the currency and prevent counterfeiting, because the new notes were supposed to feature new designs, images, and colours, which are meant to reflect Nigeria's diverse cultural heritage. Counterfeiting has been on the rise, with even the ordinary Nigerian not knowing anything about the new notes, as counterfeiters are producing fake notes everyday.

Public confidence in our is at an all-time low. We are supposed to have witnessed a reduction in transaction costs for businesses that handle cash transactions. But it has rather tripled costs, many argue that the new notes are not more durable than the old ones.

This exercise has killed the economy, all the aims for which the two neighbours came before Jupiter and prayed him to grant their hearts' desire, has failed because we are a nation full of avarice, and the other eaten up with envy, nothing works according to the original plan, until some interests are being served, when will it change—only time will tell!

picturesque, Nigeria is the reality; Nigerians were buying with and all the authorities did





Theatre and Culture of Peace: An Exploration of Nigeria's Theatre Scene

Jerry Adesewo

Theatre has been an integral part of human culture for centuries, and it continues to be an important medium of expression and communication. The performing arts have the power to shape opinions, create new perspectives and bring about social change. This is especially true in the context of Nigeria, a country that has been plagued by violence and unrest for many years. In Nigeria, a country with a rich artistic heritage, theatre has played an important role in promoting peace and fostering a sense of community.

Nigeria is home to a diverse range of cultural traditions, with over 250 ethnic groups and a multitude of

languages. This diversity is reflected in the country's theatre scene, which includes both traditional and modern forms of performance. Traditional Nigerian theatre, such as the Yoruba "Egungun" masquerade or the Hausa "Dan Maraya" musical style, often incorporates music, dance, and storytelling to convey moral messages and cultural values.

In recent decades, Nigerian theatre has also embraced contemporary forms of performance, including drama, dance, and spoken word poetry. These forms have been used to explore a range of themes, from gender and sexuality to corruption and political violence. One notable example is the Nigerian playwright

and poet Wole Soyinka, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1986. Soyinka's plays, such as "Death and the King's Horseman" and "The Lion and the Jewel," have explored themes of power, colonialism, and identity.

The Crown Troupe of Africa, founded in Lagos in 1996 has gained recognition for its innovative performances, which often incorporate elements of traditional Nigerian culture with contemporary themes and techniques. The group's founder and artistic director, Segun Adefila, has said that the goal of the Crown Troupe is to "use theatre to bring about social change and make a positive impact on our society."

That statement underscores the relationship between theatre and the culture of peace.

Crown Troupe has facilitated several projects, using theatre to explore issues of extrajudicial killings and mob violence, which are common in many parts of Nigeria. Their performances, which incorporate elements of dance and music, seek to promote a culture of respect for the rule of law and human rights.

One of the most pressing issues facing Nigerian society today is the ongoing conflict between the government and various armed groups, particularly in the northern regions of the country. This conflict has resulted in widespread violence and displacement, as well as a sense of social fragmentation and mistrust. In this context, theatre has played an important role in promoting dialogue and understanding among different groups.

One example of this is the "Theatre for Peace" initiative, launched in 2004 by the National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners. The initiative brings together artists, community leaders, and other stakeholders to create performances that address issues of conflict and violence. These performances are often held in areas affected by the conflict, and seek to foster dialogue and understanding among different groups.

As I often say, "Theatre is a powerful tool for social transformation. It can bring people together, create empathy, and foster a sense of community." In a country where conflict and division remain all too common, theatre offers a glimmer of hope and a means of promoting a culture of peace.

At the Arojah Royal Theatre, which I founded and function as its Artistic Director, one of our set goals is the 'enthronement of an egalitarian society, through the fundamentality of the art, using theatre as a tool for social force. We are dedicated to promoting peace, culture, and development through the medium of theatre, promoting theatre for social engagement and mobilization in Nigeria through the Play Reading

and Interactive Session, the Cultural Partnership Initiative, and the Holding Talks.

Worthy of note is the On-Nigeria project, funded by the MacArthur Foundation in Nigeria through the Centre for Information and Technology Development (CITAD), which has seen the theatre tour the North central of Nigeria advocating for transparent government and accountability as a panacea for peace in Nigeria. Our forthcoming festival, the Abuja International Theatre festival and Awards (ABITFA) and the 4th edition of The Abuja Students Playwriting Prize (TASPP), are both seeking to strengthen peace-building in Nigeria, as our chosen theme reflected: 'Performing Arts, Peace-building and the Society'.

Theatre is a powerful tool for peacebuilding. It has the ability to bring people together and create a shared experience that can bridge cultural divides. Theatre can also be used to address social issues and promote dialogue around topics that may be considered taboo. Through theatre, individuals are able to engage with complex issues in a safe and non-threatening environment.

In Nigeria, theatre has been used as a tool for peacebuilding for many years. One notable example is the work of the Theatre for Development (TFD) movement. TFD was a grassroots theatre movement that emerged in Nigeria in the 1980s. It used theatre as a means of promoting social change and addressing issues such as gender inequality, HIV/AIDS, and corruption.

TFD was particularly successful because it used local languages and cultural practices in its performances. This made it more accessible to the local population and helped to build trust and understanding. TFD also used a participatory approach, where members of the community were actively involved in the creation and performance of the plays. This helped to build a sense of ownership and empowerment among the participants.

Theatre has the power to bring about social change by challenging dominant narratives and promoting

alternative perspectives. Through theatre, people can explore complex social issues, challenge stereotypes and promote understanding. Theatre can also provide a platform for marginalized groups to voice their concerns and express their opinions.

Another notable example is Patrick-Jude Otteh's Jos Repertory Theatre, founded in 2003, and which has been actively promoting the values of peace and inclusivity through their performances and the annual Jos Theatre Festival. The theatre has been at the forefront of advocating for social justice and promoting the rich cultural heritage of Nigeria.

The Jos Repertory Theatre has produced many outstanding plays and performances over the years. Plays which reflects the realities of Nigerian society and address the issues that affect people's daily lives. The following are some of their notable works that promote the values of peace, diversity, and inclusivity.

The role of theatre in promoting peace and understanding cannot be overstated. Theatre has the ability to break down barriers and bring people from different backgrounds together. Through the use of storytelling and performance, theatre can help people understand different perspectives and experiences. This can be particularly important in a country like Nigeria, where there are many different ethnic groups and cultures.

One of the ways in which theatre can promote peace is by telling stories that are rooted in the local culture. By using local stories, characters, and themes, theatre can help people connect with their own culture and heritage. This can create a sense of pride and belonging that can help to reduce tensions and conflicts.

Another way in which theatre can promote peace is by addressing sensitive issues in a non-confrontational way. Theatre can provide a safe space for people to explore difficult topics and to express their feelings and emotions. By doing so, theatre can help to promote dialogue and understanding between different groups.

Celebrating women in theatre

By Jennifer S Kuwanta

The international women's month is centered on celebrating women from all spheres of life, for their social, economic, cultural and political achievements.

Celebrating women from all spheres of life would be incomplete without celebrating women in the theatre space, and raising awareness on the least acknowledged yet essential form of entertainment, theatre.

The great scholar, Oscar Wilde wrote: "I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

The theatre is a place where creativity is being harnessed to the fullest; it is the mirror of life and life itself. It is an art form that challenges and calls to order the ills and wrongs of the society without fear of threat or sanction. Theatre is an integral part of every society as it serves as a vanguard, it educates, raises awareness, highly entertains, and informs amongst so many other functions.

World Theatre Day is being celebrated on March 27th every year. The International Theatre Institute has set the theme of this year's World Theatre Day as "Theatre and a Culture of Peace." On this day, the art of theatre are celebrated to raise awareness about their importance in entertainment and the changes they bring to society. Additionally, it helps to promote theatre in all its forms across the world.

The international women's month is centered on increasing visibility while calling out inequality. However, for a long time, women have not been given the opportunity to fully express themselves in this field due to societal pressure, discrimination by some predecessors of theatre in Nigeria and diaspora, amongst many other issues.

Women are in the right position to tell stories that reflect the realities

of their lives and the challenges they face, for he who wears the shoes knows we're it hurts.

The theatre has become an avenue for women to tell their own stories in accordance to their realities. It has become a platform to express and relate the challenges they face, in order for change to occur, especially in a country as Nigeria, where women's voices are often silenced.

But this narrative is changing, and women are taking their place on centre stage. They've realized that no one can tell their stories better than them, so they cannot remain silent when being misinterpreted, overly depicted as less, being subjugated, and told to keep mute (being nothing more than props).

It is now exciting to see women in the theatre thriving despite the challenges being posed by society, stereotypical elements and irregularities. They are breaking boundaries, shattering stereotypes and changing the status quo.

Amongst many are a few iconic women mentioned below who have made notable changes, attained great heights and are worth being celebrated. These women in theatre are not just actors; they are poets, directors, producers, who show their capacity in a male dominated field and push for contents that concerns women, and writers who have also used their writings to push back against the issues many women face.

Zulu Sofola:

Zulu is undoubtedly the matriarch of modern African theatre. Her greatest contribution to African drama is the introduction of powerful women on the African Stage in a world where male writers depicted women as less.

She was the first published female Nigerian playwright and dramatist. Sofola became the first female Professor of Theater Arts in Africa. She was considered one of the most distinguished women in Nigerian literature. She remains a source of

inspiration to young African writers.



Joke Silva

Joke is a renowned Nigerian Nollywood actress, director, and businesswoman. In addition to acting, she produces plays, primarily for theatre, and a few for the movies and radio too.



According to her, theatre encourages more understanding and interaction between the actor and the audience unlike the screen movies. The Nollywood veteran actress noted that theatre plays an ambassadorial and intellectual role in the society either as entertainment or culture.

Beyond acting and directing, Joke Silva trains corporate organizations on using acting skills to enhance

corporate skills and she runs a school called the Lufodo Academy of Performing Arts, where young people are trained in the basics of acting.

Joke has received several nominations and awards for her work, including multiple African Movie Academy Awards. In October 2012, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime appointed Joke Silva a goodwill ambassador and On 29 September 2014, Silva was honored as a Member of the Order of the Federal Republic, one of Nigeria's national awards, at the International Conference Centre in Abuja.

Lantana Ahmed

Hajiya Lantana Ahmed is a theatre practitioner, currently lecturing at Nasarawa State University, Keffi.



Her personality has inspired women, to be anything they want to be, with no limitations to gender, age, or religion.

Lantana Ahmed is an icon worth emulating for her versatility in diverse fields, including being a woman who veered into politics, to answer a professional calling.

Lantana was a banker, public relations officer, political appointee, lecturer, and Head Of Department at various times of her working life. She served as Minister of Culture and Tourism during Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma's tenure in Nasarawa State.

During her time as minister, funds assigned for the sector was judiciously, this was evident especially in competitions her state engaged in as she invested a lot of

money for an outstanding outcome which always brings her state to win first place throughout her tenure as minister.

She was also the Head of Department of Theatre and Cultural Studies at Nasarawa State University, Keffi.

Ifeoma Fafunwa

Ifeoma Fafunwa is a director, playwright and architect. She is the founder and creative director of iOpenEye, a Nigerian production company driving social change through performance art.



Fafunwa's popular play, Hear Word! Naija Woman Talk True, tackles issues of inequality. She wrote about what the world would look like if equality did exist, if women were part of decision-making and leadership.

The stories are based on real issues affecting the lives of women across Nigeria and examine what factors limit their potential for independence, leadership, and meaningful contribution. HEAR WORD! bravely examines the cultural and societal norms that oppress and limit African women and empowers women to break the culture of silence, unite, challenge the status quo, move beyond barriers and create solutions

In her own words, she said: "I was drawn to stories around this culture of silence. Many women experienced domestic violence or psychological abuse and did not share it with anyone. It crossed the socioeconomic classes, all the way up – there were female deputy governors getting beaten and saying

nothing." Ifeoma Fafunwa told her story, making women stand tall and strong.

Pamela Udoka

Pamela Udoka is an actor, director and serial producer of children productions. She is a director at the National Troupe of Nigeria.



Pamela holds a B. A. (Hons.) Theatre Arts, (UI); M.Sc, Clinical Psychology (Unilag); M.Phil Clinical Psychology (UI); and is currently a Ph.D student of Clinical Psychology, University of Ibadan. An elected member, Executive Committee, ASSITEJ (International Association of Theatres for Children & Young People) and the Founding & current President of its Nigeria National Centre. Pamela, a wife, mother, regular guest of radio and TV programmes, Public Speaker is married to Dr. Arnold Udoka and they are blessed with children.

She is a certified and licensed Clinical Psychologist, Relationship/Marital & Sex Therapist is the Lead Therapist at Family Wellness Psychological Centre, Lagos. She developed a Marital Conflict Inventory (MCI) for assessment which guides psychotherapy for treatment of poor communication patterns, third-party interference, sexual-disorders and sexual-dysfunctions in marriages. Her practice also caters for depression, general anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and sex-related traumas, arising from emotional, psychological, domestic, sexual and physical abuse.

Esther Omale

Esther Ojogbane Onwuka is the National Deputy President of the

ENTERTAINMENT

National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (NANTAP), the umbrella body of all theatre and allied arts practitioners in Nigeria.



She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Abuja and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Theatre Arts with a specialization in dance and choreography. Her professional career started in 1996 when she joined the Abuja Council for Arts and Culture as a dance artist. In that capacity, she represented Nigeria nationally and internationally and won laurels which brought glory to her fatherland. This she did until 2013 when she joined the University of Abuja as a lecturer.

She is a perfect example of Women in Theatre, rising from being an artiste, to a theatre scholar, and of course an administrator. As an arts administrator and choreographer, some of her professional engagements include participation in Nigeria's Centenary Multi-Media Show, cultural performance at the United Nations day in Abuja, Nigeria's outing at the Royal Military Tattoo in Edinburgh and Opening and Closing ceremonies of Edo 2020.

In addition to her Deputy Presidency of NANTAP, Esther belongs to key Professional bodies which include, SONTA (Society of Nigerian Theatre Artistes), AFTA (African Theatre Association), GOND (Guild of Nigerian Dancers, and ADSPON (Association of Scholars and Practitioners of Nigeria), through which her acting career has earned



her several awards and recognition, on and off the stage

Conclusion

"The roles women have played to impact our society and bring about positive change have to be appreciated. For we know the journey made towards changing status quo is an uneasy one. This is why they have to be celebrated and appreciated with every given chance," author, filmmaker and creative philanthropist, Theresa Oyinbo Ameh, popularly known by her fans, said during the World

shape the industry. They are creating opportunities for themselves and other women to showcase their talents. The theatre is a space for self-expression, and women in theatre in Nigeria are using it to express themselves in a way that is authentic and true to who they are. They are defying societal norms and expectations and paving the way for future generations of women to do the same."

He went further to identify some of such women, especially those



Theatre Day 2023 celebration in Abuja.

On her own part, Om'Oba Jerry Adesewo, Artistic Director of Arojah Royal Theatre and one of the hosts of the Abuja event said, "Women in theatre in Nigeria are not just actors; they are directors, producers, and writers. They are taking on leadership roles and making decisions that

within the Abuja art space like, Bikiye Graham Douglas of Beeta Arts Foundation, Oluwaseun Odukoya, popularly known as Auntie Shine-Shine, Jamaima Aungulu of Krump Studios, Jovita Anyanwu, popularly known as Auntie Telewire, Chioma Eziani, filmmaker, Patience Bitrus, and Roli Ukwu of 2MG Theatre, among numerous others.

SPORTS

CRISTIANO RONALDO:

Breaking records with reckless abandon

Muhammad Auwal Gombe

As per FIFA, Cristiano Ronaldo has scored more goals than any other player in the history of football.

Over the course of his 20-year professional career, Cristiano Ronaldo has shattered records wherever he has played.

A five-time Ballon d'Or winner, a five-time UEFA Champions League winner, and a four-time European Golden Shoe winner, Cristiano Ronaldo is widely regarded as one of the all-time great in the game.

He holds the record for most goals scored (140), most assists provided (42), and most appearances made (183) in UEFA Champions League history.

The first player to score over 800 officially recognised goals by FIFA, Ronaldo is also the all-time leading goal-scorer in international football having netted 122 times for Portugal.

Ronaldo's unparalleled footballing ability has seen him make a mark with every club that he's represented

so far, scoring hat-tricks for all of them including Al Nassr - his current team. The Portuguese superstar, in fact, has netted the most hat-tricks (61) in football history.

After beginning his career with the Portuguese club Sporting Lisbon for whom he scored five times, Ronaldo moved to Manchester United and netted 145 goals in 346 games across two spells for the Red Devils.

Real Madrid secured his services in 2009 and Ronaldo showcased what a phenomenon he truly is by scoring 450 goals in 438 appearances for Los Blancos during his peak years.

Ronaldo's next move took him from the most successful club in Spain to the most decorated club in Italy as he joined Juventus in 2018 before going on to find the back of the net for them 101 times.

He then made an emotional return to Manchester United in 2021 for a brief second spell before joining his current team Saudi Pro League's Al Nassr in December 2022.

He played his first match for Al Nassr in January 2023 and didn't waste much time to get on the scoresheet for them besides also scoring for the Portugal national team in the 2024 UEFA EURO Qualifiers this year.

Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo also holds the record for scoring the most hat-tricks by an active footballer, with 61 hat-tricks during his trophy-laden career.

Ronaldo, who has the most headed goals in the 21st century among his innumerable records, registered the first hat-trick of his senior career in Manchester United's 6-0 win against Newcastle United in 2008 while his last came in the Red Devils' 3-2 win against Tottenham Hotspur in their recent Premier League encounter

In a Portugal shirt, Cristiano's last hat-trick came in Portugal's 5-0 win against Luxembourg in a World Cup 2022 qualifying game.

His triple strike was his 10th hat-trick for the national team and he became the first player to score 10 hat-tricks in international football History.



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