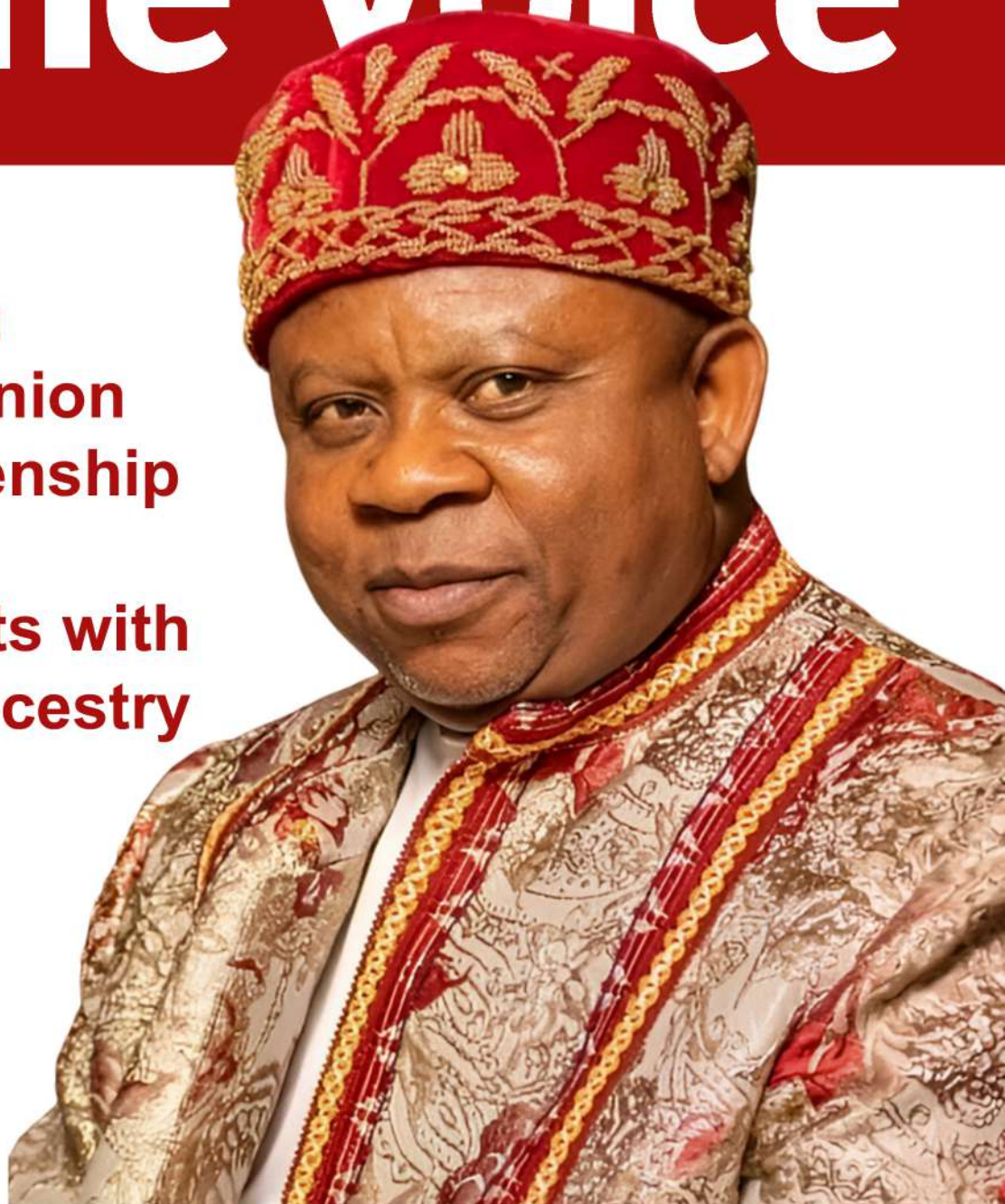




The Voice

**The African
Diaspora Union
seeks citizenship
for African
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Africa Is Not the Future - It's the Forgotten Present



By Aires Muscate

For decades, the dominant narrative about the African continent has always been the same: "Africa is the continent of the future." But the truth - as inconvenient as it may be for many - is that Africa has always been a continent of the present. A present full of strength, talent, and achievement but one that has too often been ignored, postponed, or silenced.

Before the world started obsessing over Africa's natural resources - oil, gold, diamonds, coltan - it was African people themselves who were recognised as the first and most valuable resource. And action followed quickly: Africans were taken, assimilated, and used.

From very early on, colonial powers understood the value of Africans. They were enlisted into imperial armies, placed in government departments, integrated into industrial sectors. Human capital was not just exploited - it was actively extracted. And that logic, though often wrapped in new language today, still persists.

We need only look at two global domains where, without surprise, Africans continue to stand among the best in the world: sport and culture.

It's no coincidence that athletic podiums are so often filled with names of African origin. Whether in football, track and field, boxing or martial arts, African athletes — or those of African descent — dominate. And many do so wearing the flags of countries that are not their own, in what I consider a modern and subtle form of symbolic servitude. The anthems may change, but the roots remain.

The story is similar in the cultural sphere. Africa sets the pace, dictates trends, inspires movements. In fashion, African designers are now regulars on the runways of Milan, Paris, and New York, walking tall with pride and identity. African models are no longer "exotic exceptions." They are essential and admired.



In science, though less televised, African excellence shines just as brightly. African students thrive in universities across Europe and the U.S. We see African doctors reshaping clinical practices, engineers developing cutting-edge technologies. From devices to vehicles, the innovation is there - silent, but powerful.

And in music? Africa no longer asks for a place - it owns it. Afrobeat, Kizomba, Kuduro, Gqom, Amapiano — these aren't just regional genres. They're global phenomena. They soundtrack international parties, influence world music charts, and cross borders with confidence.

But perhaps the most ironic even comic- part is watching how the Western world now rushes to associate itself with Africa. Festivals like AfroNation, AfroNight, African Experience emerge. In Portugal, I once saw an African fashion boutique owned by a Chinese businessman. The label "African" sells even when the soul is missing.

We now have magazines, TV channels, and news outlets adopting African names- Jeune Afrique, Afrique Magazine, RTP África. But let's be clear: this isn't generosity - it's exploitation across various fronts.

Most notably, these are also the very domains where Africans are most frequently naturalised — repurposed to represent someone else's flag or culture.

That's why these areas — sport, culture, fashion, science, music — must become platforms for cultural and identity empowerment. They deserve special attention, real investment, and intentional development across all African countries. Not just to increase visibility — but to multiply impact on the lives of young people.

Yes, Africa should invest in all areas of growth. But in these specific domains, we already have a natural head start — and we've achieved excellence with little institutional support. Imagine what we could do with real infrastructure, leadership, and vision.

It is now up to African leadership — political, cultural, entrepreneurial — to convert this natural advantage into public policy, cultural pride, and long-term strategy. It is up to each of us to recognise that the "future" they keep promising is already here — and it has a name: Africa.

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African Descendants Citizenship Bill



A Bill for an Act to restore Nigerian Citizenship to descendants of Africans forcibly removed during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade has been submitted to the Senate Arm of the Nigerian National Assembly through the Senate Committee Chairman for Repatriation Senator Ned Woko, on the 14th of May 2025.

The Bill provides a legal framework through which individuals of African descent in the diaspora, with verifiable ancestral roots in Nigeria, may apply for and be granted Nigerian citizenship.

This Bill seeks to recognize and operationalize the right of return and right of citizenship for descendants of Africans who were involuntarily displaced during the transatlantic slave trade and other historical displacements. It provides a legal framework through which individuals of African descent in the diaspora, with verifiable ancestral roots in Nigeria, may apply for and be granted Nigerian citizenship, and for related matters.

It is a bill that seeks to right a long-standing wrong; a bill that aligns our national conscience with the demands of justice, history, and our Pan-African commitments.

For over 400 years, millions of Africans were violently uprooted from their homeland and subjected to the horrors of slavery across the Americas and the Caribbean and other parts of Europe. These were not mere historical footnotes; they were human beings whose connection to the African continent (and specifically to the territories now comprising modern Nigeria) was severed by violence, cruelty, and systemic exploitation.

The bill seeks to:

1. Restore Nigerian citizenship (symbolically and legally) to the descendants of those forcibly removed, offering them a dignified path home.



2. Institutionalize a citizenship pathway for persons of Nigerian descent who were denied such status by historical events;

3. Promote justice, dignity, and reparative inclusion for descendants of enslaved Africans in line with Nigeria's national and Pan-African commitments.

4. Facilitate reparative justice and reintegration in line with Nigeria's National Diaspora Policy, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, and other Pan-African frameworks that call for unity, redress, and inclusion of the African Diaspora in continental development.

5. Acknowledge the historical injustice of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

6. Recognize and restore the citizenship rights of Historic African Diaspora (HAD) forcibly removed from Africa during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

African Descendants Citizenship Bill



The African Diaspora Union believes that passing this bill will affirm Nigeria moral and historical responsibility to those whose ancestors were torn from their shores w'll reconnect with their lost kin, thereby expanding the frontiers of Nigerian cultural diplomacy, soft power, and economic collaboration. African Descendants who were victims of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, while willing to invest in Africa, should not come home as visitors or tourists but as citizens of Nigeria. Furthermore, passing this Bill will strengthen Nigeria's Pan-African identity and fulfil our obligations under international and regional conventions on diaspora inclusion.

A major justification of this Bill is reparative justice and policy alignment. The bill also integrates with Nigerian Diaspora Policy, which recognises the African Diaspora as the "sixth region of Africa." It encourages economic and cultural reintegration and offers a form of reparative justice, not necessarily through monetary compensation, but through the restoration of identity, belonging, and dignity.

While Africa cannot undo the past, we can choose to confront it with courage, empathy, and action. The Global President of the African Diaspora Union/AFRIDU Archbishop Prof Chidiebere Anelechi Ogbu said this bill is not just about citizenship; it is about closing the circle of history. It is about extending a hand across oceans and centuries and saying: "You are welcome home."



Without Local Investors, Foreigners Won't Invest In Nigeria – Aliko Dangote

By Emperor Simon



According to Africa's richest man, domestic investors are the ones who will attract foreign investors.

President of the Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote, has advised the federal and state governments to patronize local investors for economic development.

He gave the advice at the Taraba International Investment Summit in Jalingo, which attracted investors from across Nigeria and beyond.

Africa's richest man said domestic investors are the ones who will attract foreign investors, as according to him, no foreign investors would come into a country where local businesses are not thriving.

"I want to give a word of advice, Your Excellency, the only way for you to attract foreign investments or investors is by having local investors. Domestic investors are the ones who actually attract foreign investors.

"If you don't invite local investors to come and invest, no foreigner will come and invest. Foreigners are attracted only when they see prospects for investment. Once they see that, yes, things are flowing, you don't have to invite them, they will come," Dangote said.

'FG makes more money in our cement business' He further disclosed that the federal government benefits fifty-two kobo for every One Naira he makes from his Dangote Cement Factory.

"I'm sure it might interest you to know that the federal government of Nigeria, not even the state, makes more money from, for example, our cement business. For every N1 that we turn around, 52 kobo goes to the federal government of Nigeria. So, that's the benefit. When the government facilitates, they give you what it takes to create your own business. What we should do, also, you should behave and pay your taxes.

"So, I want to encourage that the government should continue to encourage investment, especially domestic investment. If you encourage, you have more investment. If you don't encourage, there will not be jobs," he maintained.

Dangote commended Governor Agbu Kefas for organising the Investment Summit, which he noted would open Taraba up for investments. According to him, Taraba state is endowed with resources, including a vast arable land for agricultural production, which he said would create jobs and reduce poverty in the state and the country as a whole.

He assured that his organisation would invest in Taraba State. "We will invest in Taraba State. We will not go anywhere and invest. This is home. We will keep creating jobs," he added.

Also speaking, Chairman of the United Bank of Africa (UBA) Tony Elumelu assured of his organisation's readiness to invest in Taraba State.





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TRAGEDY IN HOLLAND

Jeffrey And Emma Bodies Found In Car Pulled From Water In Winschoten



The evil man who killed innocent children

Jeffrey and Emma buried

In the search for the missing Jeffrey (10) and Emma (8), the police found multiple bodies in a car in a lake near Renselweg in Winschoten last month. The police officially identify the victims, and they are the missing children and their father, who abducted them from their mother's home.

The authorities pulled the car out of the water just after midnight. Photos from the scene show that the license plate matches the father's car. The police previously reported that they found a letter indicating that the 67-year-old man intended to kill himself and the children.

The children have been missing over six days and neighbors and across the country express concern over the safety of the two children. Their father was said to have driven them away from his Beerta home in his gray Toyota Avenis. Over the past few days, the police and volunteers searched for the children in several places in the province of Groningen.

The police shared a timeline on the investigation program Opsporing Verzocht, a program for reporting investigations on criminal matters and missing persons or murder. It showed that the father was seen driving through Winschoten at 9:40 a.m. on Saturday. Between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., he was at a gambling hall in Bunde, just across the German border.

He then drove back to pick up Jeffrey and Emma in Beerta, where a friend was watching them at his home. The car was last seen at 3:45 p.m. on the A7 near Winschoten. The police issued an Amber Alert for the children immediately but unfortunately no trace of the man or the children was found again until the car was pulled out of water. All the occupants dead. An outcry has been pouring out for the loss of these two innocent children who are victims of domestic violence which has caused them their innocent lives.

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Africans Lost Nearly \$70M To **DENIED VISAS** Applications To Europe In 2024

When Joel Anyaegbu's application for a Schengen visa to travel to Barcelona was denied late last year, he was surprised but immediately reapplied. He sent in more documents than were required, including bank statements and proof of property ownership in Nigeria. He was rejected again.

"The information submitted regarding the justification for the purpose and conditions of the intended stay were not reliable," read a checklist returned with his passport from the Spanish consulate in Lagos. The 32-year-old gaming consultant said he felt humiliated.

"I had to cancel meetings with partners at the conference I was attending," he told CNN. "I emailed the embassy to understand why I was denied but it has not been answered to date."

Anyaegbu's was among the 50,376 short-stay Schengen visa applications rejected in Nigeria last year, nearly half of all submissions, according to [newly released data](#) from the European Commission.

Applicants worldwide pay a non-refundable visa fee of 90 euros (about \$100), so Nigerians alone lost over 4.5 million euros (about \$5 million) seeking permission to travel to the 29 European countries that make up the Schengen Area.

In total, African countries lost 60 million euros (\$67.5 million) in rejected Schengen visa fees in 2024, analysis from the LAGO Collective shows. The London-based research and arts organization has been monitoring data on European short-term visas since 2022 and says Africa is the continent worst affected by the cost of visa rejections.

"The poorest countries in the world pay the richest countries in the world money for not getting visas," its founder Marta Foresti told CNN. "As in 2023, the poorer the country of application, the higher the rejection rates. African countries are disproportionately affected with rejection rates as high as 40-50% for countries like Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria." She says this proves "inbuilt discrimination and bias" in the process.

A European Commission spokesperson told CNN that member states consider visa applications on a case-by-case basis. "Each file is assessed by experienced decision-makers on its own merits, in particular regarding the purpose of stay, sufficient means of subsistence, and the applicants' will to return to their country of residence after a visit to the EU," the spokesperson said via email.

'Insufficient reasoning'

Africans have long complained about inconsistent, sometimes baffling decisions about who gets approved or denied while applying for European visas. Cameroonian Jean Mboulé was born in France but when he applied for a visa in 2022 alongside his wife using similar documents, his application was rejected but hers was not.

"At the time she was unemployed but with a South African passport. She had no income but received a visa on the back of my financial statement," he told CNN. "But the embassy said they refused my application because my documents were fake, and they weren't sure I would come back to South Africa, where I am a permanent resident, if I went to France." The 39-year-old regional executive took legal action in French courts and won, forcing the French embassy in Johannesburg to grant his visa and pay him a fine of 1,200 euros.



...Continued on Page 16

He told an administrative tribunal in the French city of Nantes that the embassy's decision to deny him a visa was "tainted by insufficient reasoning."

Mboulé pointed out that he had provided sufficient guarantees that he would return at the end of his trip to his wife and daughter in South Africa where he owns a building. After he got the visa, he chose to go to Mauritius instead as he didn't want to spend his money in France.

The Cameroonian's case is unique as many Africans denied Schengen visas rarely appeal or contest the decisions in court. Like Anyaegbu, the Nigerian gaming consultant, they often reapply, losing more money in the process. Mboulé has travelled several times to the UK and other African countries but was still denied twice for Schengen.



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO DR. ALAYAKI

On behalf of the Chairman, Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Ogun State Branch, Dr. Ogunjimi Luqman Opeoluwa and all members of our esteemed association, it is with immense pride and joy that we extend our warmest congratulations to one of our favourite, dependable, reliable member, Dr Adewunmi Alayaki, a past Secretary General of NMA (National), past Chairman NMA Ogun, on his conferment of National Honour Award by the Prof. Bala Audu led, Nigerian Medical Association on the 1st May, 2025.

We felicitate with you on the well-deserved conferment of the National Honour Award by the Nigerian Medical Association in recognition of your contribution in the Health Sector and to the Nigerian Medical Association. This prestigious recognition is a testament to your outstanding contributions, dedication, and leadership to the medical profession.

Your remarkable journey, from serving as Chairman of NMA Ogun State to Secretary General of NMA National, has left an indelible mark. Your commitment to excellence and passion for the medical community has earned you this esteemed honor.



We're proud to celebrate your achievement and acknowledge your continued influence as a pillar of NMA Ogun State. Wishing you continued success and many more accolades!

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E-Signed

Dr. Ishola Adedoyin

PRO, NMA Ogun State



Former DR Congo PM Sentenced To Hard Labour On Corruption Charge By Otilie Mitchell

A former prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo has been sentenced to a decade's forced labour for corruption. Augustin Matata Ponyo was found guilty of embezzling about \$245m (£182m) of public funds by the Congolese Constitutional Court last month, alongside Deogratias Mutombo, the former governor of the DR Congo's central bank. Matata's lawyer told Reuters news agency that the ruling was unfair and politically motivated.

Part of the funds were taken from a major agricultural development intended to tackle the country's chronic food shortages.

Matata served as prime minister of the DRC from 2012 to 2016 and now heads the country's Leadership and Governance for Development party (LGD).

Prior to his premiership, he was finance minister and received praise from the International Monetary Fund at the time for stabilising the country's economy.

Deogratias Mutombo, the central bank's former governor, has also been sentenced to five years of forced labour in the same case and has not commented publicly on the ruling.

Forced labour is legal in DR Congo when mandated by a court for a criminal penalty, according to the US State Department.

Both men have been barred from public service for five years from the end of their terms of forced labour, the AFP news agency reports.

Matata, who campaigned against DRC President Felix Tshisekedi in the 2023 vote before dropping out, has consistently denied the charges.

The case has stretched over almost four years since the country's Inspectorate General of Finance reported the theft from the Bukanga-Lonzo Agro-Industrial Park in 2020.

The park was one of Africa's largest ever agricultural investments according to the Reuters news agency and the African Development Bank Group had expected to provide 22,000 jobs.

It was intended to provide reprieve to the 28 million people who currently face acute food insecurity in DR Congo, which has been plagued by conflict for more than 30 years, since the 1994 Rwandan genocide.



Dutch Museum Returns 'Priceless' Benin Bronzes To Nigeria

The bronzes will be shipped to Lagos in mid-June.



Wearing protective gloves, a staff member at the Wereldmuseum in Leiden carefully removes a Benin Bronze from display, puts it on a pillow. The artefact, one of many looted over a century ago from modern-day Nigeria, is then gently wrapped in dozens of layers of special paper in order to be repatriated.

This marks the return of 113 historic pieces to the Wereldmuseum (World Museum), part of a broader push for Western institutions to return cultural items taken during colonial times.

"These don't belong here. They were violently taken, so they need to go back," said museum director Marieke van Bommel. "This is a typical example of looted art," she added.

The bronzes' tragic and violent history dates back to 1897, when a British military expedition attacked the Kingdom of Benin in retaliation for the deaths of nine officers. British forces destroyed Benin's capital city, killed thousands, and looted its royal palace. Many of the bronzes were sold to fund the expedition, and later dispersed to European and American museums.

Nigeria has long campaigned for their return. The Netherlands is now repatriating a total of 119 pieces (including six from Rotterdam), while Germany has also agreed to the restitution of looted artifacts. The British Museum, however, continues to refuse returns, citing a 1963 law preventing such action.

Van Bommel expressed hope that other nations will follow the Dutch example.

"I think we all agree that this collection doesn't belong in European museums. We do hope that other countries will follow this example," she said. "It's a cultural value, so we never put a price on it," she noted. Four bronzes will remain in the museum temporarily on loan to educate visitors.

The Leiden museum has previously returned items to Indonesia, Mexico, and a community in the U.S. The Benin Bronzes will be shipped to Lagos in mid-June. In 2023 former Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari had announced that the bronzes would be handed over to the Oba of Benin and not the Nigerian state. A new museum is planned in Benin City to house and showcase these treasures.



...continued



The artifact is a "Benin Bronze," a priceless cultural object looted from modern-day Nigeria more than 120 years ago, now being removed from display and returned to its rightful home.

The story of the Benin Bronzes is one of violence and tragedy. It began when nine British officers were killed on a trade mission to the then independent kingdom of Benin, in the south of present-day Nigeria.

Most of the ornate bronzes were then sold to finance the expedition, auctioned off or sold to museums across Europe and the U.S.

The Netherlands has agreed to return 119 bronzes in total, six more are coming from Rotterdam and Germany, has also begun handing back its loot.

However, the British Museum in London has refused to return any of its famed collection. A law passed in 1963 technically prevents the museum from giving back the treasures.

"I think we all agree that this collection doesn't belong in European museums. We do hope that other countries will follow this example," she said.

The collection is priceless, said Van Bommel. "It's a cultural value, so we never put a price on it."



GOV. OBOREWORI MOVE TO APC

Better Days Ahead For Delta State- Akpeki

Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, APC, Delta Central, Chief Paulinus Akpeki has called on all well-meaning sons and daughters of Delta State to rally round the progressive move made by His Excellency, Rt. Hon Sheriff Oborewori and the entire people's Democratic Party, PDP structure in the state to the All Progressives Congress, APC.

The call was contained in a statement welcoming the Governor and the entire PDP leadership to the APC, issued in Asaba, Delta State.

According to Chief Akpeki, a former member of the House of Representatives and Constituent Assembly member, the historic move of the new defectors is in support of President Bola Tinubu's transformative Agenda for Nigeria.



"This realignment for the continued support and commitment in consolidating the Renewed Hope Agenda of Mr. President in Delta State will ensure the dividend of Democracy in the state.

"It is with immense pleasure and admiration that I join other APC members in the state to welcome His Excellency, Sheriff Oborewori, His Excellency Dr. Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa and the entire PDP family to the APC.

"It is now obvious that with this development, there are better days ahead for Delta State," he added.

By Eubaldus Enahoro



Fighting Corruption: Stakeholders Urge Nigerians To Support Anti-Corruption Reforms

By Eubaldus Enahoro



BENIN CITY - Civil Society Organizations, CSO's and Stakeholders have advocated for strong engagement and contributions of everyone to reduce corruption, improve service delivery and support anti-corruption reforms in Nigeria.

The recommendation was made by participants during the Civil Society Advocacy To Strengthen Anti-Corruption Reforms in Nigeria (CASARN) project, Mid-Term Review Meeting/Validation of Anti-corruption and Transparency Units (ACTUs) organized by African Network for Environment and Economic Justice ANEEJ, in Benin City.

The stakeholders noted that the story of Corruption would have been worse in the country, but for the Anti-corruption and Transparency Units (ACTUs) across Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs.

The Mid-term review meeting assessed achievements, challenges, lessons learnt and possible next step to improve implementation of the CASARN project to achieve its set goal and objectives.

There was also the presentation of the draft research report on the Assessment of the management framework and effectiveness of the ACTUs across Federal MDAs.

The Executive Director, of ANEEJ, Rev. David Ugolor who was represented by ANEEJ Deputy Executive Director, Comrade Leo Atakpu said the CASARN project is part of the Rule of Law and Anti-corruption (RoLAC II) programme being implemented by the International IDEA with funding from the European Union in Nigeria.

"Today's meeting is a significant milestone in our collective effort to overcome corruption through strategic civil society advocacy, effective institutional engagement, and cross-sector partnerships. Through CASARN, we are working hand in hand with government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, civil society organisations, and the media to promote critical reforms and empower citizens to hold public officials accountable.

"Our efforts are rooted in prevention, and we believe that sustained collaboration among stakeholders including government actors, NGOs, faith-based organisations, the media, and local communities is essential for building a transparent and accountable Nigeria.

"Today's meeting will allow us to reflect on our progress over the past eight months, evaluate project implementation, share challenges and lessons learned, and validate the draft ACTUs assessment report".

"While sharing the achievements of the CASARN project thus far since its inception in September, 2024, Ugolor urged participants to feed the organisation back as they engage them in discussion that will shape the future direction of CASARN and expressed appreciation to the European Union and International IDEA for their financial and technical support," he added.

The participants drawn from Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related offences Commission, ICPC-Abuja, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), National Orientation Agency (Edo State), ACTUs representative from Federal Psychiatric Hospital in Benin, other relevant MDAs, RoLAC State Coordinators office, civil society organizations and the media recommended on possible next steps to chart a way forward to achieve maximum results as intended.

...Continued from Page 21

According to the ICPC representative from Abuja, Mr. Kupolati Kayode in his remarks said that ACTUs are put in place by the Federal government to give ICPC the support to fight Corruption.

"The ACTUs were put in place in the various MDAs at the Federal level on the request of ICPC as part of efforts in enlisting their support in the war against Corruption as the Commission cannot fight Corruption alone," he disclosed.

Other Participants, including the ACTU Chairperson in the Nigeria Information Technology Agency (NITDA) Mrs. Elizabeth Ntekim, the Secretary of Edo Civil Society Organizations (EDOSCO) Comrade Osazee Edigin who commended ANEEJ for the great work made robust inputs on how the existing ACTUs can be strengthened to improve transparency and accountability in the respective MDAs and they maintained that it is the responsibility of everyone to have a collective responsibility to change the system "We all have a responsibility to contribute to the reduction of Corruption where ever we find ourselves," they noted.



They identified attitudinal change, actionable steps and recommended improvement the CASARN project implementation to achieve optimal results and valuable inputs to improve and firm up the draft ACTUs research report, which will be finalized and used as policy document for stakeholders' engagement.

The Participants also expressed happiness in the new knowledge of ACTUs and recommended its setup in state MDAs and adequate funding by the Federal Government.

It was recommended that there has to be improvement on awareness about the advocacy to Strengthen Anti-Corruption Reforms in the next five months when the one year project will be rounding up.

Risper Membo Celebrates 40 In Style

Congratulations to our daughter, Risper Isioma Member Otieno who recently in the month of April clocked 40 years old. She took a trip to Dubai, United Arab Emirate where she celebrated the occasion. On behalf of my wife and children, we rejoice with you and pray with you for long life and prosperity. We are truly proud of the woman you have become and it was great working with you in Kisumu, Kenya. Mom Sandra loves you as much as I do. We continue to uphold you in my prayers. Have a wonderful year 2025 and we would see you soon. Happy Birthday Risper





P R E S E N T S

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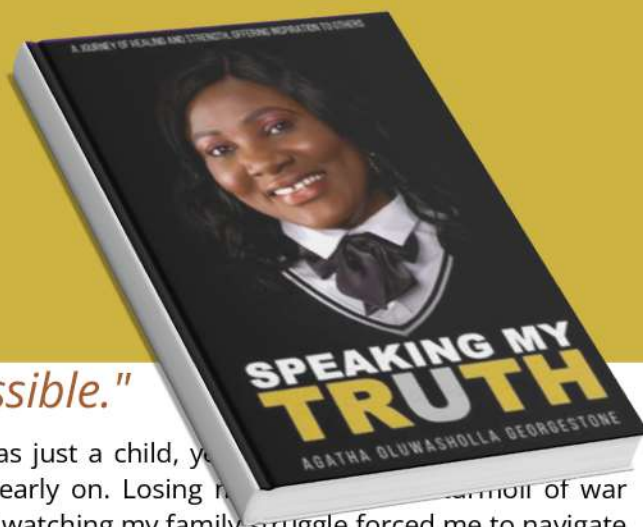
Speaking My Truth

By Agatha Oluwasholla Georgestone

"You're not alone, and healing is possible."

My Truth, My Journey: Rising from Trauma to Triumph. This is the new book publication by Agatha Oluwasholla Georgestone. She has documented the story of her life and shares her journey so far and how she has been able to overcome the various challenges and embraced healing in the process.

Listen to My Truth, My Journey: Rising from Trauma to Triumph, the heartfelt true story of resilience, faith, and courage by Agatha Oluwasholla Georgestone. The book has been made available in various versions; you have the audio book, narrated by Agatha herself, which brings you a moving journey from unimaginable loss to quiet triumphs of healing and empowerment. In this short interview, she spoke with Ernest Ayo Mason of the Voice magazine. Kindly enjoy her interview and do not forget to order for your copy of the book via Amazon.com



"I was just a child, yet I experienced the horror of war and watching my family struggle forced me to navigate a world that seemed to overlook our humanity. My journey is one of resilience and healing—a story of rising beyond trauma to find strength, belonging, and self-worth. Witnessing my father's last moments in a country torn by conflict, and stepping up to care for my mother as she faced mental health struggles, taught me the power of compassion, courage, and love."

In My Truth, My Journey: Rising from Trauma to Triumph, Agatha Georgestone shares her powerful story of navigating life as a young refugee, determined to find hope and joy amidst loss and uncertainty.

Separated from the innocence of childhood, Agatha learned to find purpose and strength each day, balancing new responsibilities in foreign lands and caring for her mother, who bravely confronted the grief of losing her husband and homeland. Her story reveals the unseen impact of mental health on families, especially when young caregivers shoulder that weight. Yet, Agatha's journey demonstrates how love, support, and resilience can uplift those carrying such burdens, empowering them to create brighter futures.

Through financial hardship and emotional challenges, Agatha found hope and resilience through faith, discovering how mental health struggles can be part of a family's healing journey. Her story is a powerful testament to the strength within each of us, even in the darkest times. Speaking to anyone who has ever faced adversity, she shows that strength is not only about enduring but also about nurturing a healing spirit that brings light, purpose, and peace.

...Continued from Page 25

Empowering, compassionate, and deeply inspiring, My Truth, My Journey offers wisdom for overcoming life's challenges and finding hope within. It is a memoir for all who have faced hardship, showing that even in our toughest moments, a way forward is possible. This story serves as a gentle reminder that resilience is attainable, and that healing, love, and joy are waiting, no matter how difficult the journey may seem.

TV: What inspired you to write The Brave Horizon book?

Agatha: The Brave Horizon was born from the ashes of my personal pain. I've walked through the storms of trauma, grief, mental illness, and overwhelming loneliness. Losing my father during the civil war, being separated from my mother, surviving abuse, and battling depression all shaped me. But what inspired me most was the desire to turn my suffering into a source of hope for others. I wanted to create something meaningful that could speak to someone.

TV: What do you hope readers will digest from your book?

Agatha: I hope readers walk away with courage, the courage to face their truth, seek help, and begin their healing journey. I want them to know that brokenness does not define them. The Brave Horizon is a testimony that even when everything falls apart, there's still a way forward. My prayer is that my story sparks something in them, whether it's hope, reflection, or the strength to make a change.

TV: What's one thing you know now that you wish you'd known when you started advocating for Mental Health Awareness?

Agatha: I wish I'd known how deeply rooted the stigma still is. I assumed people would be more open and ready to talk. But many are afraid, afraid of judgment, of seeming weak, of facing their own pain. I've learned that advocacy isn't just about shouting the message loud, it's about creating safe spaces, listening with compassion, and walking gently with people at their own pace.

TV: Are there any areas of your work on mental health that you find challenging?

Agatha: Yes, absolutely. One of the hardest parts is managing the emotional toll. Listening to others share their pain can be deeply moving, but it can also trigger my own memories. It takes constant emotional self-care to show up fully for others while also protecting my own well-being. Another challenge is getting funding and support for mental health projects, it's still an under-prioritized area in many systems.



TV: What methods do you use to manage your own stress and prevent depression?

I lean on my faith, my creativity, and my community. Prayer and journaling keep me spiritually grounded. Sewing and DIY crafts help me disconnect from stress and reconnect with joy. I also speak with a counsellor when I need to and surround myself with people who uplift me. I've learned that asking for help isn't a weakness, it's strength.

TV: What advice would you give to people who suffer from mental health issues?

Please don't suffer in silence. You are not alone, and your life matters. Talk to someone you trust, seek professional support, and know that healing is not linear, it's a journey. Be kind to yourself. Don't compare your progress to others. Celebrate every small step forward. And remember: your struggles don't make you weak, they make you human.

TV: Thank you for granting us this short interview

Agatha: You are most welcome and deep appreciation to your publication

By Ernest Ayo Mason



"Hope for the Widow's, Orphans, Poor & the Stranger"



Farida van Rooij Brinkman
Founder "Young Orphans United"
Mission-shop Barbeelstraat 12
1317PZ Almere



"Young Orphans United", Pakistan

Phone +31(6)46386282 email: faridabrinkman@gmail.com
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Dear Interested Readers,

One of the great problems in the world, and one that concerns me personally, is the countless orphans. Children who sometimes, through tragic circumstances, are given the unwanted status of orphans and in that status often lose all hope of a "normal" life. In many distressing cases we see abuse and exploitation of these children. My hope is that this message will touch your heart. I am writing to share with you an important initiative of Young Orphans United in collaboration with the Overseas Pakistani Christian Alliance (OPCA), with which organization I am also involved. OPCA is committed to providing food, medicine, and care to people in need and has recently launched a new project called YOU (Young Orphans United), aimed at providing shelter and care for homeless children in Pakistan.

The situation these children face is dire. Many are homeless, forced to live on the streets without access to education, food, or basic health care. For these children, every day is a struggle to survive, and the lack of a stable and loving environment only increases their vulnerability.

Young Orphans United and Overseas Pakistani Christian Alliance strongly believe that every child deserves a safe and caring home where they are loved, supported, and able to thrive. This is why we have committed to creating an orphanage through the "YOU" initiative, a place where these children will not only receive shelter and food but also education, healthcare, and the emotional support they need to thrive.

However, to make this dream and vision a reality, we need the support of people with a heart like you. We ask that you consider donating to help us create a safe place for these children. Your contribution, no matter how big or small, will go directly toward securing a physical space, providing essential services and ensuring that each child receives the care and attention they deserve.

By supporting this cause, you are directly helping to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in Pakistan. Your generosity not only provides them with a roof over their heads but also the hope and opportunity for a better future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. Should you donate, we greatly appreciate your consideration and hope that your donation will help make a profound difference in the lives of these children. Together, we can create a future where every child has a safe home and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

I look forward to hearing from you all, and I am grateful for any support you can offer.

With love,

Farida Brinkman
Founder of "Young Orphans United"



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Nigeria Is In A State Of Total Decline

There is a sickness in the soul of our nation today, one deeper than poverty, more corrosive than inflation, and more dangerous than insecurity. It is the systematic destruction of our collective psyche, a desecration of the very conscience that once restrained evil and upheld virtue.

There was a time in this country when shame meant something. When a man accused of theft would retreat in silence; when public disgrace came with consequences. There was a time when those who rigged elections, looted public funds, or unleashed violence would at least pretend to hide, not because they were innocent, but because they knew society would not embrace them.

But today, under this regime, we are witnessing a grotesque inversion of values. The thief now walks like a hero. The election rigger is celebrated. The suppressor of truth now preaches morality. What once would have driven men into hiding is now worn as a badge of honour. We are not just in a state of economic decline; we are in a moral free fall.

This administration has not only failed to lead, but it has nurtured and enabled shamelessness. It has erected an altar where integrity is mocked and impunity is rewarded. The psychological collapse of our people did not happen overnight. It was fed, day by day, by a government that normalized lawlessness, silenced dissent, and demonized those who stood for truth.

They used to ask, "Where are the voices? Where are the protesters?" When Mr. Peter Obi and a handful of others raised their voices against injustice.

Today, the injustice has multiplied a thousand fold, and yet those voices are mocked, not multiplied. Those who should speak are silent, and those who should be silent now speak with arrogance against values our forebears held sacred.

This is not just a political crisis. It is a moral one. And I say this with firm resolve and deep empathy. If we do not confront this decay, we risk raising a generation that no longer knows the difference between right and wrong. A generation to whom integrity is alien and shame is extinct.

We must reject this descent. We must rise, not just to change leadership, but to rebuild conscience. We must restore the moral compass of our people and remind this administration and the world that Nigeria may be broken, but her soul is not for sale.

Let it be known that the silence of today will not be the song of tomorrow. We will speak. We will stand. And we will rebuild.

Dr. Moses Paul,
Free Nigeria Movement



Response to Dr. Moses Paul

What a powerful and poignant piece!

Dr. Moses Paul's words cut through the noise, exposing the moral decay that has gripped our nation. The systematic destruction of our collective psyche, the normalisation of lawlessness, and the Celebrations of shamelessness are indeed threats to our very existence.

It's heartening to see leaders like Dr. Moses Paul, Pat Utomi, and Peter Obi raise their voices against injustice, even in the face of mockery and silence from others. Their courage and conviction are beacons of hope in a time of great darkness.

The call to action is clear: we must reject this descent into moral decay and rise to rebuild our conscience. We must restore the moral compass of our people and remind our leaders that integrity matters.

The silence of today will not be the song of tomorrow; we will speak, we will stand, and we will rebuild.

To Dr. Moses Paul and the Free Nigeria Movement, I say, keep shining your light, keep speaking truth to power, and keep inspiring others to join the fight for a better Nigeria. Your efforts are not in vain, and a brighter future is possible if we stand together against injustice and moral decay.



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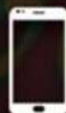
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MY JOURNEY WITH GOD

Embarking on a journey with God can be a transformative adventure, but it's not without its challenges. This lifelong quest requires cultivating intimacy and trust in the Almighty, despite the obstacles and persecutions that come with authentic Christian living. It also involves seeking and following God's guidance, surrendering one's will, and yielding to the Holy Spirit's promptings, even when uncomfortable.

In this memoir, Tony Agbugba, a veteran Catholic journalist with three decades of experience, shares his personal story of discovering the Almighty. With candid vulnerability, he recounts his journey of deploying his talents, treasures, and time in service to God through the Catholic Church.

A compelling book, this memoir will resonate with Catholics in Africa and beyond. Agbugba's vivid narration of his childhood experiences, and its recurring theme in his adult life, coupled with an insightful exposition on the Catholic church, makes this memoir a must-read for all.

About the Author

Tony Kelechi Agbugba is an international award-winning Journalist, Author, and Public Relations practitioner of repute. He is a former President of the Catholic Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria (CAMPAN), Archdiocese of Lagos, and General Secretary of SIGNIS Nigeria, the umbrella body of Catholic Communicators.

He is also a former Chairman of the Association of Nigerian Authors, Ogun State Chapter, and a distinguished member of the Lagos Chapter of ANA. Mr. Agbugba is a former Editor of the Catholic Herald Newspaper, Lagos Archdiocese, and is the Communications Manager of the Directorate of Social Communications, Lagos Archdiocese. He is a member of the Order of the Knights of St. Mulumba, Lagos Metro-Council, and has authored over ten books; Not My Child; The Lion and the Ghost; The Troubled Scholar; Francis the Schemer; Eclipse of the Gods; Timi and the Boa; Labyrinth of Broken Dreams, including biographies and poetry collections. He is married to Adline and the marriage is blessed with children.

MY JOURNEY WITH GOD

TONY AGBUGBA

TONY AGBUGBA

MY JOURNEY WITH GOD

...A Catholic Journalist's intriguing story of self growth and spirituality

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Still on the 60th Birthday of Pastor Elvis

Wow! Wow!! Wow!!!

Happy birthday to you Very Dearly Beloved Sir. May Almighty God exceedingly, abundantly and mightily bless your new age with all the good things of life in Jesus Almighty Name Amen. More grace, wisdom, promotion, open doors, favour, breakthroughs, divine mercy, prosperity, divine protection, long life and sound health in Jesus Almighty Name Amen. Many happy returns to you Sir. Congratulations Sir. Remain blessed forever in Jesus Almighty Name Amen. You are dearly loved, appreciated and celebrated with love. Amen. Please have a very blessed and wonderful celebration. Amen and amen



Happy Belated Birthday, Pastor Elvis!

May this new year of your life be filled with divine favor, renewed strength, and unwavering joy. May the Lord continue to guide your steps, anoint your voice, and enlarge your territory.

You are a vessel of His grace, and your leadership and faith are a blessing to many. I pray that as you pour into others, the Lord will pour abundantly back into you, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.

Wishing you peace, purpose, and the continual presence of the Holy Spirit in all you do. Have a truly blessed and joyful year ahead!

Irene Hinn



Happy Birthday Pastor Elvis!!!

We are praying God will grant you more Years for your Life, and more Life for your Years!

May He cause you and your family to Prosper with whatever you put your on. Thank you for all that you do!

Louis & Sharon



Congratulation on your 60th birthday celebration.

Dear Pastor Elvis,
When my mum passed away in September 2016 and you invited me through the embassy of Kenya for the Voice Achievers Award in October 2016, I never in my wildest dreams would expect me to stand here with you in 2025 celebrating your 60th birthday.

You and The Voice Achievers Award honored me with an award in 2017 for my foundation Pamoja Kenia, and after that my life went into a roller coaster. Pamoja Kenia realizes WATER & SANITATION for communities in rural areas in Kenya. So far and thanks to The Voice Achievers Award we have provided 34.000 families with WATER & Sanitation, and we have done 26 projects. I am humbled and honored to say that until today we remain good friends which I don't take for granted.

A big thank you to all your faith and believe in human nature. Amen to God you are a blessing to humankind.

Regard,
Marion & Theo
Den Haag, The Netherlands

Thank you, Pastor, for your dedication and service to our church community. Your wisdom and guidance have been so meaningful to my life." "We are blessed to have you as the shepherd of our congregation. Your sermons inspire us each week, and we thank you for all that you do."



Enjoy your DIAMOND JUBILEE sir!

A very happy birthday to you Rev.! We celebrate n honor you deeply! Your contribution to humanity cannot go unnoticed! Enjoy your DIAMOND JUBILEE sir!
Bishop Dr. George Kennedy
Nairobi, Kenya



Celebration OF AN ICON

PASTOR ELVIS NDUBUISI IRUH

An enigmatic brother.
A passionate Mentor.
A pragmatic Media guru.
A dogged Spiritual Leader.
A Boss and indefatigable human capacity developer.
My autograph is incomplete without this notable Personality.
I came in contact with MR. ELVIS NDUBUISI IRUH precisely in the Millennium Year (2000) a year after the commissioning of the First ever African News Print in the Netherlands. (The Voice Magazine).

As the Chairman / Editor in Chief, his resilience, commitment couples with other unshared attributes in fostering the growth and development of the Media House flushed my imagination as a growing Media personnel.

It was a remarkable event in my life.
Irrespective of challenges and other unimaginable and unforeseen difficulties within and outside the establishment that shake the foundation of the Media House, God uses both of us to sustain this Print Media.
I was an undergraduate in Mass Communication at University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos State before the interruption to travel abroad which ultimately landed me in Germany where I later relocated to the Netherlands.

It was after my Five (5) years in Europe I came across the humble but accommodating gentlemen, then MR. ELVIS NDUBUISI IRUH.
Between that period till late 2003, when I decided to relocate to my home Country, Nigeria.
The relationship developed beyond a brother and boss. We were all about as a family member.

Virtually, it has been a blessing to acquaintances with him and the rest of his family both in Europe and Nigeria.

To buttress my narration, I left Europe as the *Associate Editor* of the Print Media and as a Member of the Editorial Board. This coveted position never arises on the platter of gold.

I worked vigorously to lift the image of the Media House to the very capacity I could, which was acknowledged and hugely appreciated by my Boss (who recently celebrated his Diamond Jubilee Anniversary).

Till date, despite being a partisan Politician in Nigeria. I still hold and affirm my Professional position as the *Editor* of this notable Media outfit, *The Voice Magazine.*

9th April, 2025, is a milestone event and a Hallmark Day in the historical life of my Boss, Pastor Elvis Ndubuisi IRUH.

To be frank and sincere, it is an event I prayed for and wish to feature and participate in physically. Though there are constraints and little bottle necks, though that should never be a reason for failure to celebrate and rejoice with an enigmatic leader and brother.

I heartedly wish you the very best on the auspicious occasion of your 60th birthday anniversary.

It is significant and consequential.

It is equally pertinent for me to pray for the attainment of your heart desires in life. It is your caring and darling Wife, Mrs. Sandra Iruh that could attest and affirms the relationship we evolved.

Your God blessed Daughters could not brilliantly affirm me brightly when I left for Nigeria.

Deborah Iruh was growing brilliantly though very curious in getting things into her cognitive, then. Esther Iruh was very little a girl but very gentle and mild. She hardly talk each time I visited our abode in Almere.

...Continued from Page 34

My Sister and loving Wife, Mrs. Sandra Iruh, has been relishing how great she and the family missed my company. Nevertheless, I always share and instill in the family that nothing to worry about. We remain one indivisible family. Yes.....!!

You are celebrating your 60th Birthday Anniversary today 9th April, 2025. By His grace, of you will live heartily in sound mind and abundant prosperity that accommodate Longevity to celebrate 70th, 80th, 90th and Centurion Anniversary in Jesus Christ name.

I pray for renew and refined anointing. You will grow from strength to strength according to God in grace. You and your wife will live to celebrate your grand and great children in Jesus Christ's name.

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#ABROADLIFE

*He couldn't see a future in Nigeria
after 2020. He still doesn't.*

The Nigerian experience is physical, emotional, and sometimes international. No one knows it better than our features on #TheAbroadLife, a series where we detail and explore Nigerian experiences while living abroad.

Ben (33) decided to leave Nigeria permanently after experiencing the #EndSARS protests, but the country and its problems haven't left him alone. In this week's Abroad Life, he shares how he's starting life over as a newly married man in the UK.

When did you move out of Nigeria, and where do you currently live?

We moved from Nigeria in November 2023 and currently live in the UK.

What motivated your decision to move?

Honestly, everything about Nigeria made us consider leaving. I had spent my entire life there, and after some experiences, I realized I didn't see a future that aligned with the life I wanted. It wasn't a career move because I was doing well in Nigeria. I was a finance manager in a multinational company, and my wife was also thriving in her field.

I was deeply involved in the EndSARS protests and the elections, which made me lose hope in the country's direction. I couldn't envision a future in Nigeria where I could live and raise a family the way I wanted.

You mentioned having a good job and a comfortable life in Nigeria. What did that life look like?

Life in Nigeria was comfortable to an extent. We lived in a rented apartment, had two cars, and had enough savings. I could afford my basic needs and some luxuries, but we still had limits.

For example, international vacations weren't easy to afford consistently, and despite earning well, my lifestyle wasn't on the same level as that of my counterparts in other countries. The cost of living was high, and keeping up with inflation was always a struggle. Even though I wasn't suffering, I wasn't enjoying life the way I wanted. So when my wife got recruited by one of the Big Four firms in the UK, we knew we had to move.

...Continued from Page 37

How different is your life in the UK compared to Nigeria?

The quality of life has improved significantly. One major difference is the convenience of basic things. In Nigeria, I spent hours in traffic, queued for fuel, and dealt with power outages, but now, I don't worry about those things. My commute to work is a two-minute walk instead of the usual five hours in Lagos traffic. The extra time has allowed me to focus on myself.

I go to the gym, cook more, learn new skills, and even learn new languages. In Nigeria, I was constantly in survival mode, always chasing money because of how fast expenses were growing. Here, financial stability is more predictable. For example, my budget from 2024 to 2025 increased by less than 5%, something that's now impossible in Nigeria.

Travelling is also easier. I visited a friend abroad, and the cost of my trip was cheaper than what my sister spent flying from Lagos to Abuja at the same time. That accessibility is life-changing.

Overall, life is less stressful, and my mental well-being has improved. Ironically, the only time I feel real stress now is when I read Nigerian news and get frustrated about how things are still going wrong.

Lmao, sorry. How's married life going?

We moved about one or two months after getting married. The months leading up to our relocation were spent focused on visa applications and settling logistics, so we didn't have much time to fully experience married life before leaving Nigeria.

Since moving, we've had more time together, which has been great for our marriage. In Nigeria, my job had long hours, so I didn't get to spend as much time with my wife except on weekends, but here, we get to do things like walk to work together, have lunch together, and just generally spend more time with each other.

Thankfully, we have similar views on money, which has also made handling our finances much easier here. It's not that we have a lot of money, but we plan and manage it well as a couple. That financial understanding has been a big advantage.

Did having a partner make the Japa move easier for you?

Everyone's journey is different. Some people migrate alone and have their partners join later, while others find partners after relocating.

Moving with my wife made the transition much easier. Coming from Nigeria, where we had lived all our lives, adjusting to a new country was a huge learning curve. If I had moved alone, I think I would have struggled more. Having someone to share both the good and tough moments with made a big difference.

Also, we moved right before winter, and adjusting to five or six months of cold was hard. I can't imagine going through that alone. So, if someone is already in a committed relationship, I'd strongly recommend moving together, not just for the sake of migration, but if the relationship is already serious, just do it.

Is there anything you miss about Nigeria?

Definitely the food. There is no African restaurant where we live. At one point, my wife and I had to travel to London just to eat Nigerian food. It's an adjustment not having access to familiar meals. Entertainment is also another thing I miss. In Nigeria, Friday nights meant stopping at a lounge, eating grilled fish, and enjoying music. Here, we struggle to find places that match that vibe. It took time to find new ways to have fun. I also miss having family around.

On a scale of one to ten, how happy are you in the UK? Ten. Life is beautiful here.



Written By: Margaret Aladeselu



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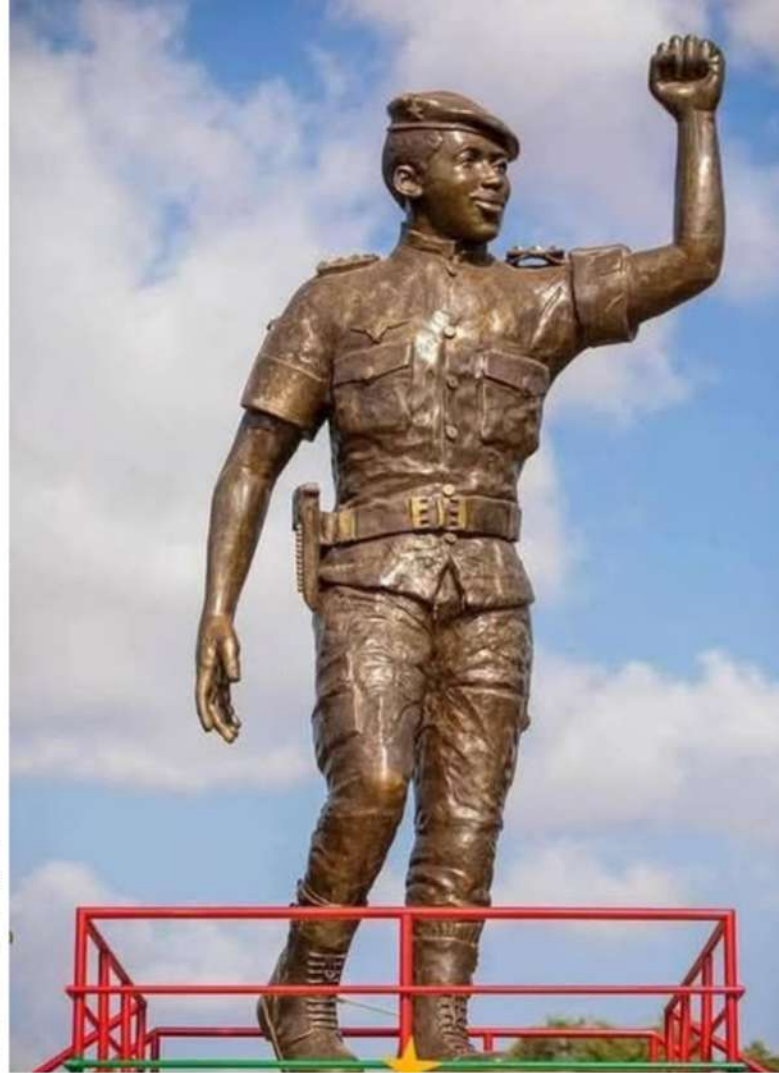


Burkinabe People Unveil Statue Of Thomas Sankara, Honoring His Pan-Africanist Legacy

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso – In a powerful display of national pride and Pan-African solidarity, the people of Burkina Faso have unveiled a grand statue of their former president, Captain Thomas Sankara, at a vibrant ceremony in the capital, Ouagadougou. The monument, inaugurated on May 17, 2025, by Burkina Faso's current leader, Captain Ibrahim Traoré, stands as a tribute to the revolutionary leader assassinated in 1987, widely believed to have been orchestrated by Western powers due to his uncompromising Pan-Africanist ideals.

Thomas Sankara, often called "Africa's Che Guevara," led Burkina Faso from 1983 to 1987, renaming the country from Upper Volta to Burkina Faso, meaning "Land of Upright People." During his brief tenure, Sankara championed self-reliance, anti-imperialism, and social justice, implementing policies that boosted literacy by 60%, built 350 schools, constructed roads and railways without foreign aid, banned forced marriages, redistributed land to the poor, and vaccinated 2.5 million children. His outspoken criticism of Western interference in Africa, including France's neocolonial grip, made him a target, leading to his assassination at age 37 in a French-backed coup led by Blaise Compaoré.

The statue, part of the newly opened Thomas Sankara Memorial and Museum, designed by renowned Burkinabe architect Francis Kéré, symbolizes a resurgence of Sankarist ideals. The 14-hectare site includes a mausoleum honoring Sankara and his 12 aides killed alongside him, an 87-meter tower, an amphitheater, and green spaces for community gatherings. "This is not just a statue; it is a beacon of African dignity and resistance," said Kéré, emphasizing the memorial's role as a space for reflection and celebration of Sankara's vision.



Current President Ibrahim Traoré, who seized power in a 2022 coup, has been hailed as Sankara's ideological heir, earning the nickname "Sankara's reincarnation" among supporters. Traoré's policies echo Sankara's anti-imperialist stance, including expelling French troops, nationalizing resources like gold, and banning British legal wigs in favor of traditional Burkinabe attire. His leadership in forming the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) alongside Mali and Niger marks a bold step toward regional sovereignty, uniting African armies to protect their resources from Western exploitation. The AES, established in 2023, is seen as a realization of Sankara's dream of a unified, self-reliant Africa.

Sankara's vision continues to inspire beyond Burkina Faso, resonating with Pan-Africanists across the continent and diaspora. In Kenya, renowned scholar and activist Professor PLO Lumumba frequently invokes Sankara's principles, urging African leaders to prioritize sovereignty and resource control.

"Sankara spoke truth to power, challenging global powers while uplifting his people. His legacy is a clarion call for Africa's awakening," Lumumba said at a recent lecture in Nairobi, echoing sentiments shared by many at the statue's unveiling.

...Continued from Page 42

The ceremony, attended by thousands waving Burkinabe and AES flags, also drew international attention, with solidarity protests across West Africa denouncing foreign interference. However, Traoré's leadership, like Sankara's, faces challenges, including alleged coup attempts and accusations from Western powers, such as U.S. AFRICOM Commander General Michael Langley, who claimed Traoré misuses gold reserves-a charge supporters dismiss as a smear tactic reminiscent of those used against Sankara.

As Burkina Faso navigates ongoing security challenges, with parts of the country under insurgent control, the statue stands as a symbol of hope and defiance. "Sankara's spirit lives in us, in Captain Traoré, and in every African fighting for our land and resources," said a young protester at the event, reflecting the sentiment of a new generation.

The Thomas Sankara Memorial is expected to become a pilgrimage site for Pan-Africanists, reinforcing Burkina Faso's role as a beacon of resistance in the Sahel and beyond. As Traoré continues to push for economic and cultural independence, the world watches to see if he can fulfill Sankara's vision while avoiding the fate of his predecessor.

By Juba Global News Network Correspondent in Ouagadougou



Comrade Leo Atakpu Presented With Outstanding Activist Of The Year Award

Deputy Executive Director, Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) Comrade Leo Atakpu has been celebrated as an outstanding activist of the year for his service to humanity.

The Project Coordinator, BA Global Awards, Dr. Bishop Akhalamhe who made the presentation to Comrade Leo Atakpu at the 14th edition of the Non governmental organization said they have decided to celebrate prominent individuals who have impacted the society while alive.

According to Bishop Akhalamhe, "We are celebrating 14 awardees because they have made an impact in Edo State, the nation and the society in general. Today, we are presenting you with an award for being an outstanding activist of the year and for your humility."

In his response, Comrade Leo Atakpu thanked BA Global Awards for recognizing what he has done and he pledged to redouble his efforts to impact lives and humanity

"We will continue to do our part to salvage Nigeria, because service to humanity is the best way of life" he noted.



South African Teacher Wins Case After Contract Termination In South Korea

The South Korean ministry of employment and labour (Moel) has ordered that country's private school owner to settle outstanding payments owed to a South African teacher, warning failure to comply will result in criminal proceedings.

The Moel conducted an investigation into the owner and the employee. The owner was ordered to pay the teacher's unpaid wages.

Megan Dube, who teaches English, was fired by the school director at a private kindergarten in Asan, South Korea, where she worked for a month. She shared her experience with TimesLIVE, detailing her ordeal after a cultural clash with the kindergarten owner.

"The issue started when I asked for my contract at the beginning of teacher training. She didn't like being confronted in front of people, but it had been almost four weeks requesting a copy of my contract and each time she refused to give it to me," she said.

Though she offered to print a copy from her work laptop, the owner refused and wanted her to work on a government protected public holiday (known as a red day) with no pay.

"When I got to work the next day, I was issued a termination of contract. I asked the reason I was being dismissed. In the letter she wrote that she fired me for being rude."



Dube said the owner has a history of purposely hiring South Africans only to exploit them.

"She was biased because most of the teachers she mistreated were black female South Africans. She didn't like me from the first week of training and looked for ways to exploit me."

Dube said she approached the teachers' union but felt they were slow to address her issue. She took matters into her own hands, waiting 14 days before filing a complaint with the Moel over unpaid wages, bypassing union assistance.

The teachers' union kept asking that she wait for them to hear back from an attorney from the workers' rights centre because they had not worked with the school before.

"I waited for at least three weeks and I feel filing on one's own would be more efficient than filing through the union as the union doesn't handle individual cases and also cannot provide translators and lawyers for their members.

"I am hopeful I will get paid — but it's not guaranteed as two other ex-employees have also filed cases for unpaid wages against the same director."



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Systemic Corruption: A Cancer Eating Away At Nigeria's Fabric

By Abiodun Adigun



Corruption has become a cankerworm eating away at the very fabric of our nation. It has a devastating impact on society, eroding trust in institutions and undermining the rule of law.

It diverts resources away from essential public services, such as healthcare and education, and into the pockets of corrupt officials and their cronies.

This not only perpetuates poverty and inequality but also stifles economic growth and development.

Furthermore, corruption distorts market mechanisms, creates unfair advantages, and discourages investment, ultimately hindering a country's progress and prosperity.

The effects of corruption are far-reaching, affecting not only the economy but also the social fabric of a nation, leading to widespread disillusionment and social unrest.

The recent claim that the Federal Government has returned properties seized from Patience Jonathan, a former First Lady, by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has sparked widespread criticism and frustration.

Many Nigerians believe that the current political system indirectly supports corruption, allowing influential individuals with questionable pasts to thrive in government without facing accountability.

The perception that joining the ruling party, APC, offers a form of absolution for past corruption cases has further eroded public trust.

This notion suggests that the EFCC, an institution established to combat corruption, is instead used as a tool for political witch-hunts and suppressing dissent.

The selective application of justice, where high-profile corruption cases are often overlooked while lesser offenders are pursued with vigour, only adds to the public's disillusionment.

The consequences of corruption in Nigeria are far-reaching and devastating.

It has stifled development, exacerbated poverty, and undermined the nation's progress.

The current administration's policies, particularly the harsh economic reforms, have placed an undue burden on ordinary citizens, forcing them to bear the weight of past mismanagement and stolen wealth.

Some key issues with the current system include:

a) The EFCC's focus on prosecuting low-level offenders while ignoring high-profile corruption cases undermines its credibility and effectiveness.

b) The use of the EFCC as a tool for suppressing opposition voices and dissent has further eroded public trust in the institution.

c) The return of seized properties to influential individuals without a clear explanation or justification has raised concerns about the government's commitment to fighting corruption.

To combat corruption effectively, Nigeria needs a more robust and impartial system that holds everyone accountable, regardless of their position or influence. This requires a multifaceted approach, including:

a) Ensuring that anti-corruption agencies like the EFCC are independent, impartial, and effective in prosecuting corruption cases.

b) Implementing policies that promote transparency and accountability in government dealings and public institutions.

c) Fostering a culture of civic engagement and participation, where citizens feel empowered to demand accountability from their leaders.

By working together, Nigerians can create a more just and equitable society where corruption is not tolerated and everyone is held to the same standards of accountability.

President Tinubu Congratulates Professor Mary Lar On Her 90th Birthday

President Bola Tinubu congratulates Prof. Mary Nanwor Lar, a famous educationist and one time Nigerian Ambassador to the Netherlands, on her 90th birthday.

The President extols the nonagenarian for her pace-setting contributions to education, diplomacy, and nation-building.

Born May 15 1935, in Langtang, Plateau State, Prof Lar is a famous teacher who dedicated much of her life to teaching and shaping generations of young Nigerians.

After years of service at various government secondary schools, she moved her illustrious career to the University of Jos, where she excelled, becoming the first female professor from Northern Nigeria.

President Tinubu recalls the celebrant's supportive role during her husband, Chief Solomon Lar's tenure as the first civilian governor of Plateau State.

The President prayed the Almighty God to bless the don with good health so she could continue impacting lives through her community services.

A grand celebration was held for her in Abuja, Nigeria where she presented her book – “Life with my best friend”. She documented her life both in book and documentary of her life.



The publisher of the Voice magazine, Pastor Elvis Iruh put a telephone call to her to congratulate her, and she still vividly remembers her time in the Netherlands as Ambassador of Nigeria, and she extend her greetings to all Nigerians in the Netherlands for the warm time they gave her during her tenure as Ambassador.

She also thanked the Voice magazine for giving her space during her tenure to address Nigerians. She invited us to her home in Abuja whenever we are able to visit the country.

Congratulations to you Her Excellency, Ambassador Mary Lar, OON.

By Bayo Onanuga
Special Adviser to the President
(Information and Strategy)





Professor Ambassador Mary Lar Celebrates Her 90th Birthday In Abuja, Nigeria



The Culture Bridge We Try To Build

I am a (grand) father. But long before that, I was a first generation diaspora. I carried not just a suitcase. Instead, I brought a whole continent of stories, customs, fears, and hopes. I carried them across the ocean, from Nigeria to Belgium.

When I arrived in Europe, I knew I was entering a world that spoke a different language. Not just French or Dutch or German. But a language of culture, of history, of what it means to belong. And yet, I stayed. I worked. And we raised a family.

Our sons were born here. Belgium is the only home they have ever truly known. From the time they were old enough to walk, we tried to raise them on two legs. One planted in the orderly cobblestones of Europe, and the other in the red earth of our Igbo heritage. We visited Nigeria reasonably often. Christmas in Lagos, New Year in Ichi, Nnewi. Easter in Abuja, Iwaji and Ifejioku back in our Igbuzo hometown. They drank Zobo. But also Fanta in glass bottles, tongues painted orange, to their delight. And they learned to greet elders in Igbo: Omogwu, Olofe, Akukalia, Amuapa,...They knew the songs. They danced at Ibunmanya traditional marriages. They buried their fingers in pounded yam and egwusi soup. They sometimes even asked for more jollof rice. But by the time the older son turned 15, the visits stopped.

Nigeria had started changing. But they also started making their own Easter, summer, and Christmas plans with their friends.

Did Nigeria really change or it revealed more of what it had always been: fragile, violent, neglected? Our homeland still wakes early to call upon the ancestors on our behalf. My own father is now nearing the sunset of his life at 98. Meanwhile, mother's mother, 101, in Ichi, still remembers the Biafran war like it was yesterday. But today, we can't even say for certain they are safe.

My son is now a father himself. His son – my grandson – is five. A lively, curious boy with the wild laughter of a hyena cub and the soft curls of his Belgian mother. My son wants him to know Nigeria too like he did. He wants to stop and show him the Atakpo river before entering Igbuzo. He'd like to take him to Okpuzu river and drink from the stream. Maybe even wash his head and face, calling on goddess Oboshi to take charge, fight his battles. He probably wants to take a dive into the river like I did with him. He wants to have his head touched and blessed by the great-grandparents whose blood runs in his veins. But the road home no longer feels like a road. It feels like a battlefield.

*Collins
Nweke*



"Daddy," he said to me yesterday over breakfast, voice low, pained. "How do I take my wife and son into a country where churches are bombed? Roads are unsafe, and children are kidnapped from school?" How can I explain to my Belgian wife? She doesn't understand. It is considered fine when a police officer points an AK47 at you at a traffic checkpoint. The officer's eyes are deep red and stone-faced. Yes I survived it. It felt cool to me at the time because I had seen it in Nigerian films. Nollywood playing out live. Yes, I saw it often in the Naija movies. You and Mummy watched these films. You got us to watch them too. It served as a partial introduction to our ancestral homeland. They do not have all of that orientation"

I had no answer. I am his father. Fathers are supposed to have answers. Frustrating!

Instead, I gave him what we fathers often give when our strength fails: perspective wrapped in silence. I tried to tell him, gently, that we are not the only ones caught between worlds. Sometimes, we must carry our culture not in our luggage. We carry it in our habits, in our stories, and in how we name our children. I reminded him that we named him Tonna and his brother Chidi. We must carry our culture in what we teach them to love.

Still, I see the ache in his eyes. The guilt of a son who can't take his own child to see his roots. The fear that something irreplaceable is being lost in translation. He loves Nigeria as a land and the people in it. He blames Nigeria, its broken politics, its indifferent governance. He even praises Ibrahim Traoré of Burkina Faso. I don't blame him. Nigeria has failed many of us, repeatedly. Yet I find myself defending the homeland still. Not out of naivety. But out of something older: loyalty, or the stubborn refusal to give up on the soil that birthed me.



...Continued from Page 49

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The Fulani's Role In Nigeria's Security Challenges

In recent years, Nigeria has witnessed a surge in violent attacks and kidnappings attributed to Fulani herdsmen.

These incidents have been reported in various parts of the country, including Benue, Plateau, and other southern and western regions.

The frequency and brutality of these attacks have raised concerns about the underlying causes and motivations behind them.

The Fulani have been linked to numerous attacks on farmers, villagers, and communities, resulting in loss of life and property. In Benue, for instance, daily reports of nefarious attacks and killings have become a harsh reality.

Similarly, in Plateau, different killings have been attributed to the Fulani. These incidents have sparked fears and tensions among local populations.

In addition to attacks on communities, the Fulani have also been implicated in kidnappings and banditry in southern and western Nigeria.

Farmers and travellers have been targeted, with kidnappers demanding ransom from families and communities.

These incidents have disrupted economic activities and created a sense of insecurity among citizens.

Some observers believe that these attacks are not merely random acts of violence but are instead orchestrated for political reasons.

They argue that certain groups or individuals may be sponsoring these activities to create unrest and destabilize the country.

This narrative suggests that the Fulani's actions are part of a larger strategy to achieve specific political objectives.

Burkina Faso's Tomato Leap: A wake-up Call For Ghana



Dr. Mavis Owureku-Asare

In West Africa, the humble tomato is more than just a kitchen staple—it's a symbol of economic opportunity and vulnerability. So when Burkina Faso recently unveiled two state-of-the-art tomato processing factories in Bobo-Dioulasso and Yako with a third one under construction, it wasn't just a win for their agricultural sector; it sent a clear message to neighbours like Ghana: the time for relying on others is over.

For years, Ghana has leaned heavily on Burkina Faso for fresh tomato imports, especially during the dry season. Our markets, from Bolgatanga to Accra, are flooded with tomatoes that travel hundreds of kilometers across the border, supplying urban demand that local farmers can't meet consistently. This reliance, while convenient, masks a much deeper problem: our inability to fix the cracks in Ghana's tomato value chain.

Now, with Burkina Faso prioritising domestic processing of its tomato harvest, the game is changing. Each of the factories in operation can process five tonnes of tomato paste per hour. That means more tomatoes will stay in Burkina Faso—processed, preserved and packaged—not loaded onto trucks bound for Ghana. And we will feel it.

Ghana is already one of the top importers of tomato paste in West Africa, spending millions of dollars annually on products primarily from Italy and China. Ironically, even the few locally processed tomato products are often made from imported tomato concentrates, simply reconstituted into tomato mix.

Ghana once had functioning tomato factories—in Pwalugu, Wenchi, and Nsawam. Today, most of them are dormant. Why? Inconsistent supply, lack of investment, poor infrastructure, and a fragmented approach to agribusiness development. Meanwhile, countries like Burkina Faso are building forward investing in farmer cooperatives, irrigation and processing plants that add value locally.

So, what happens next?

If Ghana doesn't act fast, we risk being priced out of even the fresh tomato trade. Burkina Faso could soon sell us not just tomatoes, but tomato paste—and even that, we'll struggle to produce ourselves. Our smallholder farmers will continue to suffer from postharvest losses, our food import bill will balloon, and our local industries will remain in limbo.

...Continued from Page 52



This doesn't have to be our fate.

Ghana needs to treat this as a turning point. We must:

- Reinvest in sustainable tomato processing infrastructure and link them directly to farmer cooperatives.
- Scale up innovative preservation technologies like solar drying at the community level.
- Support local farmers with irrigation, inputs and guaranteed markets.
- Encourage public-private partnerships to de-risk agribusiness investments.



Burkina Faso has done its part—now it's our turn. The tomato trade isn't about agriculture; it's about sovereignty, jobs and food security. We cannot afford to keep importing what we can grow, process and package ourselves. Let's not wait until the tomatoes stop coming.

Dr Mavis Owureku-Asare, the writer is a food scientist, CEO of Impact Food Hub and advocate for agribusiness transformation in West Africa.

Email: info@impactfoodhub.com



written by:

Dr. Mavis Owureku-Asare

Alleviating The Suffering Of Nigerian Workers

By Abiodun Adigun

As Nigeria commemorates Workers' Day, the reality is that workers and people alike are grappling with unprecedented hardship.

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has aptly described the situation as "excruciating and painful," with workers bearing the brunt of anti-worker policies since the current administration took office.

The facts are undeniable: rampant inflation, unaffordable living costs, and wages that barely cover basic necessities.

The divide between the haves and have-nots has widened, with workers and the masses suffering at the hands of neoliberal economic policies and exploitative practices.

While the NLC's efforts to negotiate the National Minimum Wage and push for its implementation are commendable, the reality is that more needs to be done.

The struggle for workers' rights is far from over, and the labour movement must intensify its fight for fair wages, better working conditions, and social justice.

The current government's response to workers' demands has been woefully inadequate.

Instead of listening to the NLC and addressing the root causes of poverty and hardship, the government seems more interested in enforcing policies that benefit the ruling elite.

The people are crying out for relief, and it's time for the government to take concrete actions to alleviate their suffering.



The NLC must also step up its game, mobilizing workers and the larger society to demand change.

The labour movement's strength lies in its unity and collective action. It's time to move beyond mere negotiations and adopt a more militant approach to push for workers' rights.

To the government, the message is clear: enough is enough.

The people will no longer tolerate policies that exacerbate poverty and inequality.

It's time to prioritize the welfare of citizens, invest in social services, and create an environment conducive to economic growth and development.

The NLC, TUC and workers must continue to raise their voices, demanding justice and fairness.

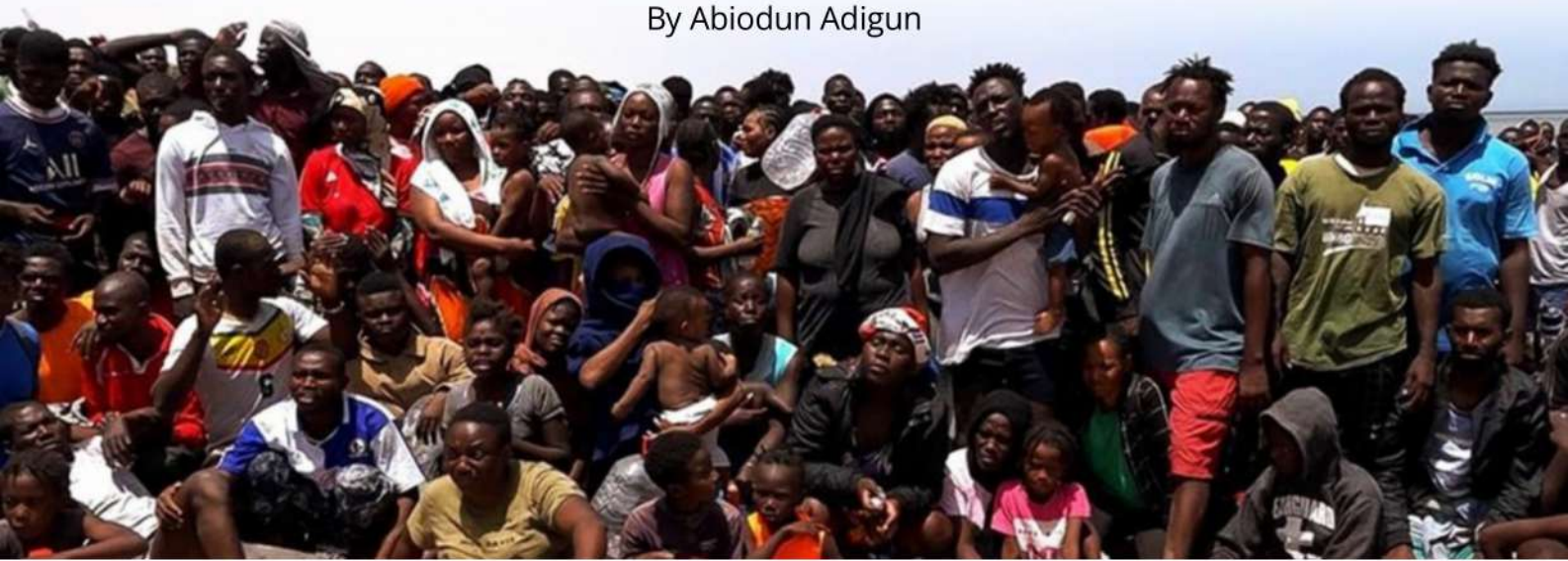
The struggle for workers' rights is a collective effort, and together, Nigerians can build a more equitable society where everyone has access to basic necessities and opportunities for growth.

The government must listen to the people and take decisive action to address the economic challenges facing the nation.

The time for hesitation is over; the time for action is now.

The Unseen Horrors: Sudanese Refugees In Libya

By Abiodun Adigun



In the scorching deserts of Libya, a humanitarian crisis unfolds, shrouded in silence.

The Sudanese war, a relentless conflict that has ravaged the nation for years, has spawned a trail of devastation, displacing millions and leaving them at the mercy of ruthless traffickers and militias.

Over 240,000 Sudanese refugees have fled to Libya, seeking solace from the war-torn streets of their homeland.

Instead, they find themselves ensnared in a living nightmare, forced to endure unimaginable horrors. Starvation, rape, murder, slavery, and organ harvesting – the atrocities perpetrated against these vulnerable souls are a stark reminder of the darkest aspects of human nature.

Farid, a 17-year-old Sudanese refugee, recounts his harrowing experience in Libya. "Kufra is a tribal area. And we are slaves in their land," he says, his voice laced with despair. "They make us fight for them or sell us into forced labor. If you refuse, they can take your organs and bury you by the road."

The echoes of Farid's testimony are hauntingly familiar.

Ahmed, another young Sudanese refugee, describes his journey through Libya's detention centres as a "brutal game of snakes and ladders."

The Mediterranean crossing, he says, is a "small boat lottery," where the odds of survival are stacked against those who can't afford to pay for a safer passage.

As the international community remains largely silent, the African Union and the United Nations seem woefully inadequate in their response to this crisis.

The numbers are staggering – over 12 million Sudanese nationals displaced, 8.6 million forced to flee their homes, and 4.9 million on the brink of famine.

The world cannot afford to turn a blind eye to this humanitarian catastrophe.

The Sudanese war has spawned a refugee crisis of epic proportions, with Libya's lawless landscape providing a fertile ground for traffickers and militias to exploit the vulnerable.

As we bear witness to these unseen horrors, we must demand action from our leaders.

The African Union and the United Nations must intervene decisively, providing aid, protection, and a pathway to safety for these refugees.

The international community must also acknowledge its responsibility in addressing the root causes of this conflict, working towards a lasting solution that brings peace and stability to Sudan.

Until then, the voices of Farid, Ahmed, and countless others will continue to echo through the deserts of Libya, a haunting reminder of the human cost of inaction.

DR Congo Strips Ex-leader Of Immunity Over Treason Charges

By Emery Makumeno



The Democratic Republic of Congo's senate has stripped former President Joseph Kabila of his immunity, paving the way for his prosecution over his alleged backing of rebels in the east.

Authorities have accused him of treason and war crimes, saying there was a "substantial body of documents, testimony and material facts" linking Kabila to the M23 armed group, which has taken control of several towns in the mineral-rich east.

Kabila, 53, has not commented on the accusations but has in the past denied any connection with the insurgents. Nearly 90 senators on Thursday voted in favour of his treason prosecution, while five opposed it.

"The senate authorises the prosecution and lifting of Joseph Kabila's immunity," declared senate Speaker Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde after Thursday's vote.

The former president, who led the country between 2001 and 2019, did not appear before the senate to defend himself. After stepping down, he was given the title of "senator for life", which gives him legal immunity.

In order to pursue the charges against him, DR Congo's military prosecutor had asked the senate to lift this privilege. Kabila has been living outside the country, in South Africa, for the past two years. But at the beginning of last month he said he would be returning to help find a solution to the conflict in the east.

A few weeks later, there were reports that the former president had come back and was in Goma, one of the cities captured by the M23. But these were denied by his political party, the People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy (PPRD).

Last month, the authorities banned the PPRD because of its "ambiguous attitude" to the occupation of Congolese territory by the M23.

Ordering the seizure of Kabila's assets, Justice Minister Mutamba said the former president should return to the country and "face justice... and present his defence".

Analysts say any trial of Kabila could further destabilise the country, which has been battling the M23 rebellion since 2012. Kabila's party termed his prosecution "pure theatre" aimed at distracting Congolese people from the main challenges facing the country, AFP news agency reported.

Kabila, a former military officer, took over leadership of the country in 2001 at the age of just 29, after his father Laurent Kabila, was assassinated. While Kabila supported Tshisekedi's rise to power, they later fell out and relations between their parties' coalition formally ended in December 2020.

Kabila has retained significant power through his political party and his influence within the ruling coalition, potentially undermining Tshisekedi's presidency. Kabila left DR Congo in 2023, officially to study in South Africa.

Fighting between the M23 and the Congolese army and allied militia has continued in the east as the rebels attempt to expand their territory.

DR Congo and Rwanda, which denies accusations it backs the M23, may be edging towards a peace deal to end the fighting, which has seen hundreds of thousands of civilians forced from their homes in recent months.

The two countries signed a preliminary agreement in Washington last month and said they had agreed on a pathway to peace. Last year, three M23 leaders were prosecuted in absentia by a military court and given death sentences for treason.

The government in March offered a reward of \$5m (£4m) for help arresting the rebel leaders. Corneille Nangaa, Sultani Makenga and Bertrand Bisimwa. Additional reporting by Wycliffe Muia in Nairobi.



Peter Obi Extols Alex Otti's Impactful Achievements In Two Years

Reveals Why He's Not Desperate To Rule Nigeria

By ISAAC DANIEL

The Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 general election, His Excellency, Mr. Peter Obi has extolled the achievements of Abia State Governor, His Excellency, Dr. Alex within two years in office, stating that one doesn't need to tune to the radio to know what the Governor is doing.

Mr. Peter Obi was speaking during a Special Anniversary Sabbath Service held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Aguiyi Ironsi Layout, Umuahia. He noted that the two years anniversary of Governor Otti is worth celebrating as he has shown two years of impactful leadership with a difference.

"We have come to celebrate Two years with a difference. People have always said that they need eight years, they need ten years, they need twenty years. But, I've always said that one day can make a difference.

"Everybody is seeing it in Abia. You don't need to tune to the radio. You don't need people to tell you. There's a difference. And that's what we're celebrating today.

While calling on Abians to continue to uphold the Government of Governor Alex Otti in prayers, Mr. Obi urged Nigerians to pray that God touches the leaders as trustees to always use public funds to serve the people like Dr. Alex Otti is doing in Abia.

"It is difficult to govern Nigeria, especially when you want to do it right. Continue to remember the Governor and the Commissioners who are helping him in prayers. Do the same thing for Nigeria; that God should touch all of us who are leaders. Touch our hearts to use public money for public good. It is not our money.

"We are just trustees. Like it's happening in Abia. We want it to happen everywhere in Nigeria.

"When I say to people, I'm not desperate to be a President, I'm desperate to see Nigeria work. We want future leaders like him (Governor Otti)," the former Anambra Governor stated.

Speaking at the event, Governor Alex Otti attributed all the modest achievements recorded by his administration within two years to God who has been inspiring and strengthening him.

Governor Otti who noted that without the grace of God and his enablement, all his vision for the State would not have been made possible.

"I think, it's 1 Corinthians 3, verse 6, I'm going up to verse 7, and it says, I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God gave the increase. I, in this case was Paul. Paul said he planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase"

"And verse 7 goes further to say, neither he who planted is anything, nor he who watered, but God who gave the increase. And that's why we are here, because we know that, we all have worked hard, but then you could work hard and nothing would come out of it, if God doesn't give you the increase and doesn't back you up.

"So, because we recognize that everything we have done is of the Lord... so we return all the thanks to him," Governor Otti stated.

...Continued from Page 57

He used the opportunity to thank all government officials including the legislative and judicial arms for their support for the new Abia project.

While also thanking the Presidential candidate of the Labour Party and former Governor of Anambra State, Mr. Peter Obi for always identifying with his administration, he equally appreciated the Church for their sustained prayers.

Earlier in his message on the topic; "At The Fullness Of Time", the former President, Abia North Conference of Seventh - Day Adventist Church, Pastor Enyinnaya Uguru enjoined leaders to be cautious on how they celebrate the present else they loose focus of the future. He stated that God's purpose manifested in the life of Governor Otti in 2023 after several attempts to become Governor, adding that "Periods of delays are periods of preparation."

Pastor Uguru who said he stopped listening to Government media platforms because of lies, boldly said that the Governor is doing very well. "You are doing well, am saying it because I have evidences."

While reacting to the theme of the celebration "Two years of Transformation; Sustaining the Momentum", the preacher said with Governor Otti on the saddle, Abia would continue to prosper. He prayed God to give the Governor more wisdom and understanding for more selfless services to the people.



DR ALEX OTTI OFR
GOVERNOR ABIYA STATE

The service which featured special prayers for the administration of Governor Alex Otti and his cabinet was attended by notable Abians including senior Government appointees.



Gov. Sanwo,-Olu Bags UK Educational Appointment

By ISAAC DANIEL



Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has been appointed the Patron for the Centre for African Social and Economic Transformation (CASET) at the University of the West of England, Bristol.

The highly elated Governor announced it with celebration as the globally esteemed appointment is a worthy endorsement of his administration's excellent performance.

"I'm honoured to be appointed as Patron of the newly established Centre for African Social and Economic Transformation (CASET) at the University of the West of England, Bristol", he said.

"This appointment is a recognition of the work we're doing in Lagos and a powerful reminder of the importance of collaboration in shaping Africa's future.

"CASET brings together academics, policymakers, and industry leaders to address some of the continent's most pressing challenges. It's about building partnerships that can drive real, lasting change and that is something we are deeply committed to in Lagos.

"I'm especially proud that the University recognises the progress we've made in areas such as entrepreneurship and digital innovation. These are central to our vision for a more inclusive and resilient Lagos" he explained on why he received the appointment.

Governor Sanwo-Olu further informed that "his role presents an opportunity to deepen our ties with UWE Bristol he and explore new ways to build capacity, shape policy, and support the next generation of African change makers.



SOROSKE GLOBAL PLATFORMS

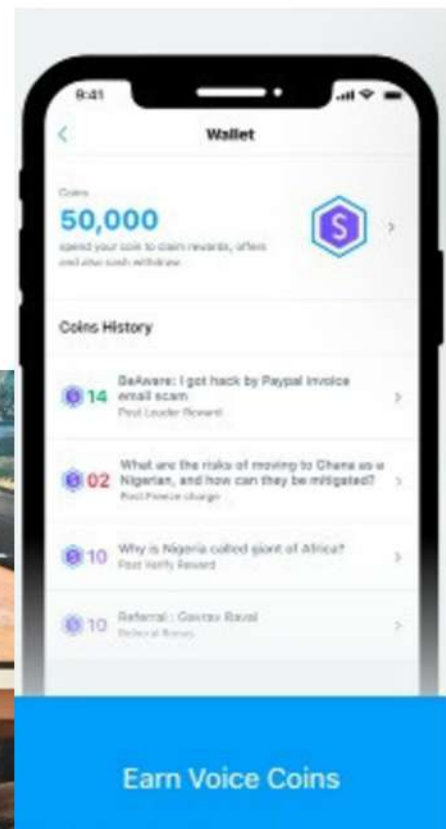
The Voice Of The people

Business Presentation Pitch

Who are We?

We are U, with a drive to solve Economic Growth Development problems in Developing nations while leveraging on the endless possibilities of Modern-Day Technology such as IoT, AI, ML & Predictive Analytics.

- We live today in a complex world, a world full of interactions on social media, where the simplest action (Such as a Tweet or content on a social media platform or a Blog) can cause the most perplexing and counterintuitive reaction to cause disruption and problems.
- These problems, prevalent in today's institutions, organizations and societies, cannot be solved by analysing the parts individually, but by looking at the bigger complex picture.



* Especially for most developing nations, if not all, are faced with complex Economic and Governance problems which can only be solved with the right Mind and Skill Sets.

* With the right Mindset, the Will of the People and Cutting-Edge Technology, we can reverse the effects of those Social Media interactions and make them positively disruptive. The Future is Bright and Awesome!

Convergence Consulting sees this complexity as a challenge, and this drives us to initiate projects that will not only propose solutions to the Governance and accountability issues facing developing nations but also give the People a voice to revert to the True Definition of Democracy: By the People and for the People, which consequently would foster Economic Growth Development and well-being. We are creating a truly digital Ecosystem that is interactive and self-governing.

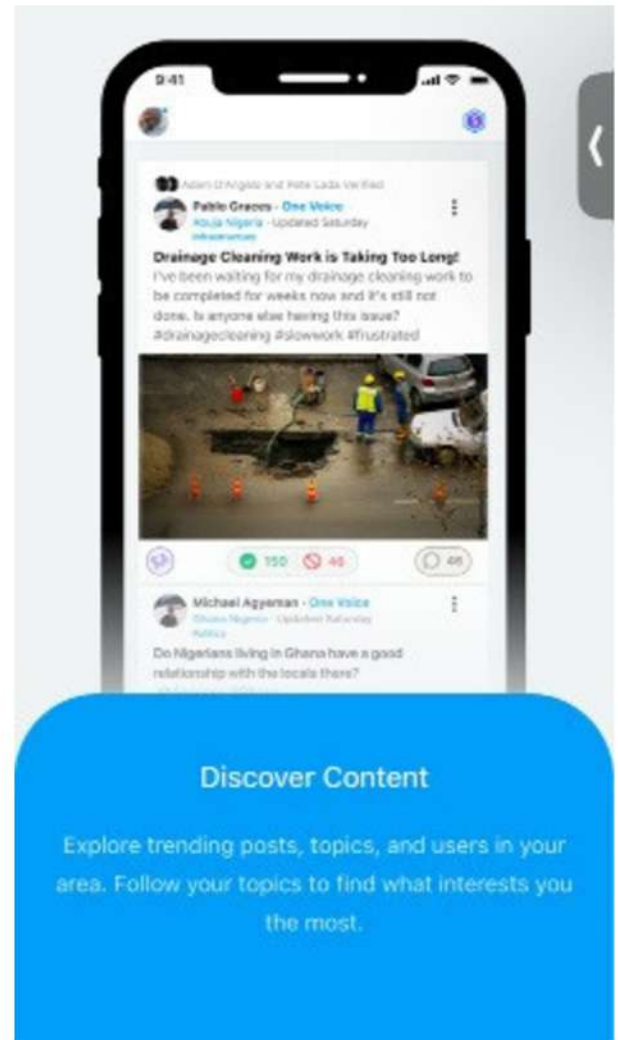
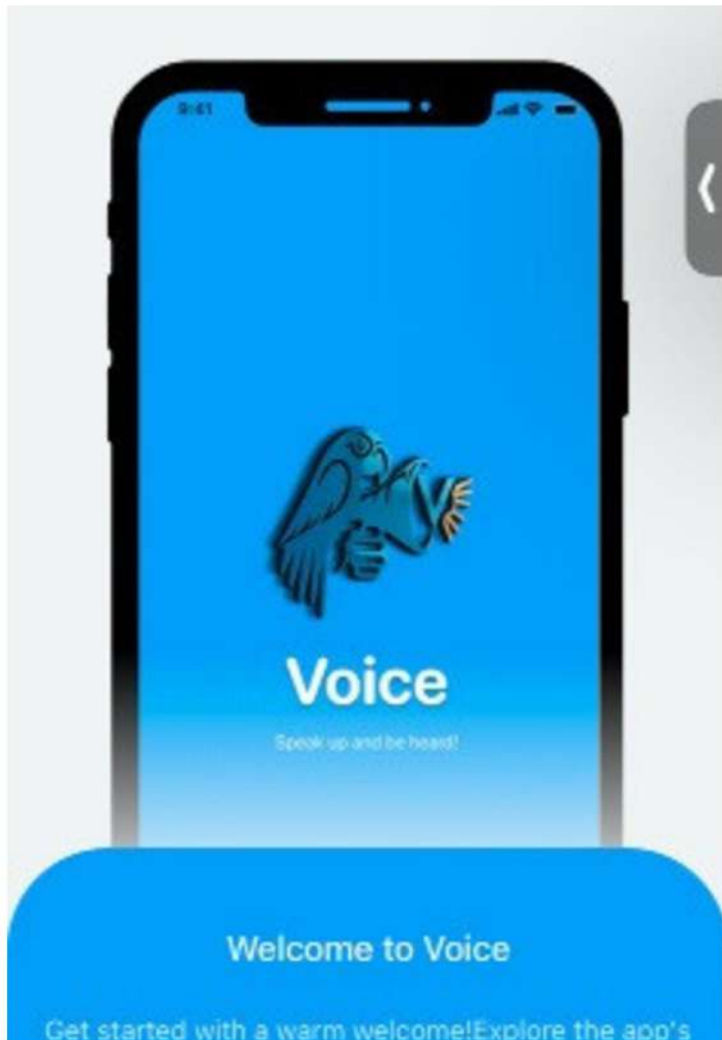
In a nutshell, this is what we are aiming at accomplishing

1. Revolutionize social media to make it an Ecosystem for Economic Growth Development
2. Create over 200,000 direct jobs for Content Managers on the platform across the 774 LGAs in Nigeria

...Continued from Page 60

The Voice

AFRICAN NEWS MAGAZINE



Create wealth and passive income for millions of Nigerians while interacting on the platform and solving socio-economic problems in their communities SoroSoke Global Platforms
– The Voice of the people

The Problems: Negative image of Social Media (Or Micro Blogging) Platforms due to (Deliberate or Otherwise) abuse of use
– For fake or incorrect content
– Violence incitement
– Misleading content
– All possible forms of misuse and abuse of such a powerful platform

The lack of use of Social Media to deliberately and directly foster Economic Growth Development – The current social media as it is, creates awareness but does not directly impact economic growth.

The Solution: We are creating a World Class Social Media App (To be dubbed as “Voice”, the Socio-Economic Development App) that would solve both problems mentioned above. It would be a digital community for all with interactions, information dissemination and accountability.

The brains behind these are out to transfer Knowledge & Economic Growth Development through their expertise.



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CONFERENCE - JUNE 5

10AM-5PM

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FLUWELN BURG WAL 58, DEN HAAG

NETWORKING - JUNE 6

11AM-5PM

WALDORPSTRAAT 17 DEN HAAG

CHOCOLATE EXHIBITION - JUNE 7

10AM-3PM

WALDORPSTRAAT 17 DEN HAAG



Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend
Nederland



Ghana National Chamber
of Commerce & Industry



Djembe Festival & Expopme, An opportunity For The City Of Kribi And Its Residents

A strategic partnership with the Dutch and Luxembourg diaspora towards inclusive economic diplomacy, serving African small and medium-sized businesses, is the theme of the first edition of the Djembe Festival and Expopme. Activities were launched yesterday at the esplanade of the Kribi Urban Community Hall by the First Deputy Prefect, Mr. Emmanuel Kingue, in the presence of Mayor Guy Emmanuel Sabikanda, patron of this festival, which runs until May 17, 2025, in Kribi.



The Djembe Festival is the result of a meeting between Mayor Guy Emmanuel Sabikanda and the Cameroonian diaspora during his trip to the Netherlands.

After several fruitful discussions, Kribi, a strategic city for the African sub-region, was chosen as the venue. Kribi embodies the convergence of exceptional heritage, living tradition, and the dynamics of economic development, as highlighted by H.M. Caroline Ngo Mbamsseck Bayiha, promoter of the Djembe & Expopme festival, under the leadership of Her Royal Highness Maxima, Queen of the Netherlands, Ambassador to the United Nations for Inclusive Finance, and the First Lady of Cameroon, Ms. Chantal Biya.

The goal of this festival in Kribi is to showcase the potential of Cameroonians through small and medium-sized businesses, which will lead to exhibitions and sales of local products that the Cameroonian diaspora in the Netherlands will discover from May 13 to 17, 2025, in order to establish international visibility.

It should be remembered that "Djembe" in West Africa is a communication tool used during traditional festivities, hence the presence of several traditional chiefs in Kribi's neighborhoods and villages.



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Mohamed Salah Named Premier League's Player Of The Season For 2024-25

The Liverpool forward claims the award for the second time in his career, having first won it in 2017-18 at the end of his sensational debut campaign with the club.

Liverpoolfc.com reports that Salah has produced one of the greatest-ever individual Premier League seasons to help spearhead the Reds' title glory this term, which was secured with four matches to spare in April.

He has supplied 28 goals and 18 assists in the top flight for Arne Slot's side ahead of Sunday's final fixture, at home to Crystal Palace.

The Egyptian is on course to top the charts as the division's leading goalscorer and creator courtesy of those figures.

He saw off competition for the Player of the Season accolade from teammates Ryan Gravenberch and Virgil van Dijk, as well as Morgan Gibbs-White, Alexander Isak, Bryan Mbeumo, Declan Rice and Chris Wood from elsewhere.



Ajax Head Coach Farioli Quits After One Season Over Dispute With Management



Ajax head coach Francesco Farioli announced his departure from the club on Sunday, ending his tenure after a single season due to fundamental disagreements with the club's leadership about the direction of the team.

Farioli informed the players earlier in the day that he would step down. In a statement released by Ajax, the Italian coach said, "Given these differences in the principles and foundations of this project, I feel deep in my heart that this is the best moment to part ways."

Under his leadership, Ajax recovered and finished second in the Eredivisie, just one point behind champions PSV. With this result, Ajax secured direct qualification for the Champions League group stage.

Farioli's departure comes alongside that of his entire coaching staff, including assistants Daniele Cavalletto and Felipe Sanchez Mateos, as well as goalkeeping coach Jarkko Tuomisto.

"My journey at Ajax began almost a year ago at the De Toekomst training ground, with the goal of bringing Ajax back to where it belongs," Farioli said. "It was an absolute privilege to serve this club and to experience a unique, intense, and emotional season in which we shared belief, fighting spirit, and pride, and ultimately fulfilled our mission."

Despite Ajax's strong finish, tension reportedly arose between Farioli and the club's management regarding tactical philosophy. NOS sources suggest that Ajax's leadership preferred a more attacking style of play for the upcoming season, but Farioli doubted whether that was feasible with the current roster. The club's financial constraints reportedly limit its ability to significantly strengthen the squad over the summer.

At one point, Farioli's side held a nine-point lead over PSV, but with five matches remaining, the pressure mounted. Ajax dropped crucial points, collecting just two from the next four matches and relinquishing their lead. On the final matchday, Ajax defeated FC Twente 2-0, but PSV's 3-1 victory over Sparta meant the Eindhoven club clinched the title by a single point.

Following the decision, Ajax technical director Alex Kroes expressed regret over Farioli's departure. "I find this incredibly unfortunate," he said. "Francesco and his staff helped us immensely. It was an intense season filled with great memories, and we achieved our objective. He played a major role in improving the elite sports culture within Ajax."

Farioli also took a moment to thank Ajax fans: "Together we experienced incredible and unforgettable moments." His emotional reaction after the final whistle against FC Twente, when he broke into tears, reflected what he described as "eleven months of work, dedication, and sacrifice."



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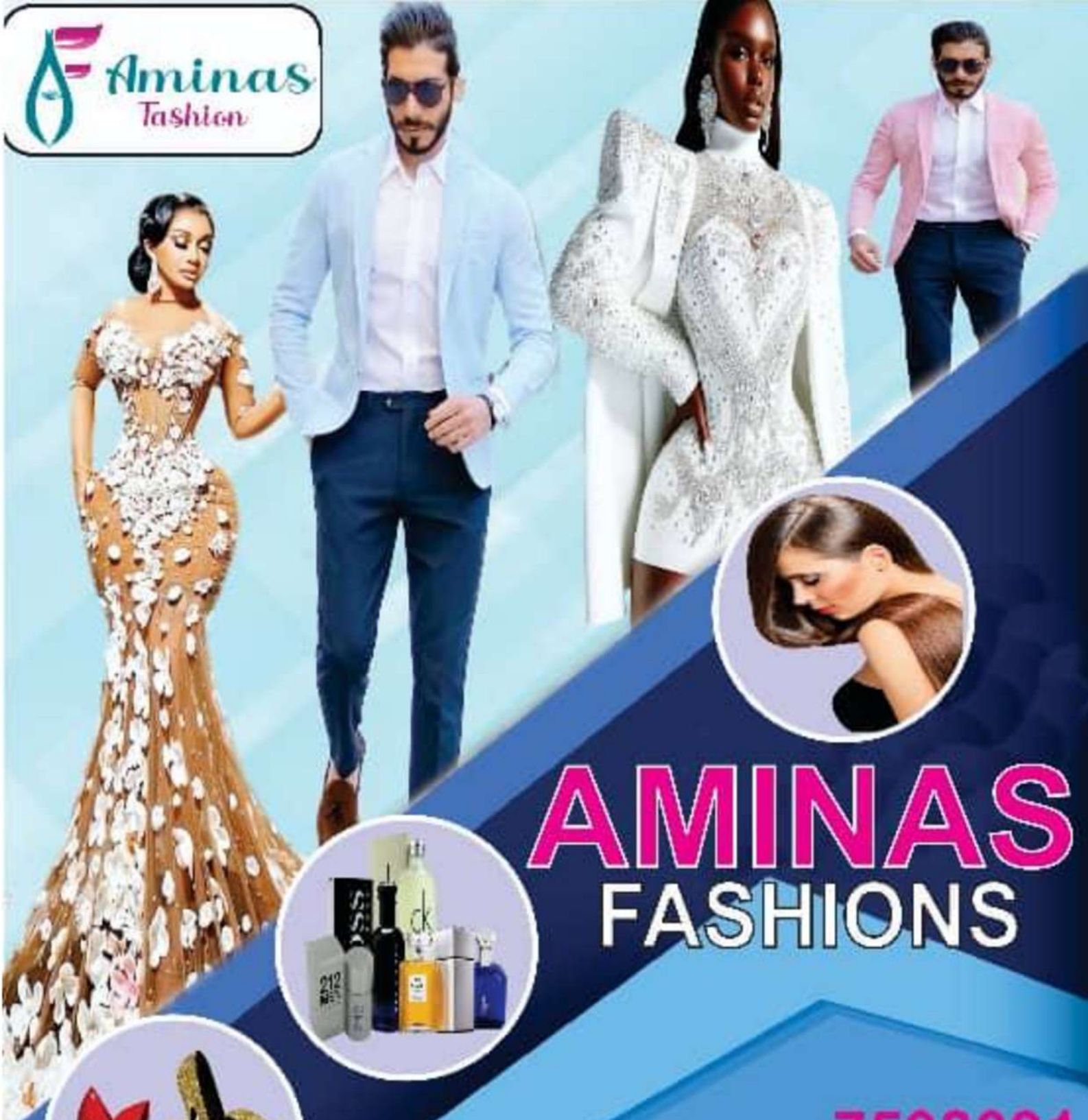
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