

Opobo/Nkoro Is 100% For Sim - Alapu

The Alapu Council of Opobo Nkoro has dismissed the insinuation from the All Progressives Congress that the people are nursing the ambition to partner with members of other political parties who failed to put the entire people of Opobo/Nkoro at the road map for development. This disclaimer is coming against the speculations that some stakeholders in Opobo Nkoro Local Government Area are divided over the candidacy of Sir Sim Fubara as the PDP gubernatorial candidate for the 2023 general elections. In a statement made on Saturday at Opobo Town, the chairman Alapu Council of Elder Statesmen of Opobo Chief Eddy Brown informed the audience that those masquerading at Opobo as

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Sir Sim Fubara & Prof. Ngozi Ordu during Opobo/Nkoro GDI PVC on Saturday



Crowd of Supporters during the Opobo/Nkoro GDI PVC Rally

Wike To Presidential Candidates

No More Free Votes From Rivers

Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike has declared that in the 2023 general election, votes from the state will be put

where a concrete reward is guaranteed for such electoral support.

He said that since 1999, the Peoples Democratic Party

By Balafama Jaja

(PDP) has received the most votes from Rivers State yet in return, the state is yet to receive any visible benefits

in terms of federal government projects.

Wike made the observation at the formal inauguration of the Etche

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Campus of the Rivers State University in Abara community of Etche Local Government Area on Tuesday.

He said: "At the appropriate time, we will take decision on what to do. This is because, since 1999, I want Rivers people to reflect on this, ponder over it, we brought the highest votes to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

"I challenge any State to say they brought more votes for the PDP. I challenge any State to say, in terms of support, for the PDP. Which State has given more support than Rivers State? Is there anyone? Since 1999, show me one federal project in Rivers State. Is there anyone? So, if you want our votes, then tell me what you will give

Rivers people. Our votes are not for dash anymore."

The governor recalled that while some of his colleagues during the 2019 general elections negotiated and gave their votes to President Muhammadu Buhari, Rivers State alone resisted by giving all its votes to PDP.

According to him, those colleagues of his were now talking as if they love the PDP more.

"This (federal) government fought us, but we survived it. Most of them who are talking now, if this federal government had descended on them, most of them would have crumbled. They were going to negotiate with Buhari in 2019, that was how Buhari won election. They came to me, I said no negotiation, PDP must win," he added.

The governor revealed

that some of his close associates have expressed concern about his safety, but he has told them not to be bothered because God was on his side.

"Some people tell me be careful, they will kill you. Kill who? who told you will not die first before you reach me. So those of you who are panicking, you don't need to panic. If you have God, what are you afraid of? They've chased us, they've fought us but today we are standing strong."

He also clarified his comments on why he said he was willing to deal with those who want to challenge his electoral capacity.

The governor said God has given him power, and resources as a governor to do what is appropriately good for Rivers people and will not leave what he would do for God to do.

Meanwhile, reports have emerged that the face-off between Governor Nyesom Wike and the presidential candidate of the PDP, Atiku Abubakar, has been resolved.

Kaduna State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship candidate, Isa Mohammed Ashiru, revealed this to journalists.

According to him, they were now ready to meet with the party's National Working Committee, NWC, to take a decision.

He was speaking following Tuesday night's meeting he and 16 other PDP governorship candidates had with Wike in Port Harcourt, days after first meeting with the party's presidential flag bearer and former Vice President, Atiku.

Ashiru, speaking on behalf of the team of PDP

guber candidates after the closed-door meeting with Wike, said: "It was fruitful and an open discussion with sincerity.

"We are home and dry. We discussed issues that border on the situation within the party."

Ashiru, who declined giving details of the meeting, said: "But we are through. We have discussed with the presidential candidate.

"We are here with our brother and friend (Wike). Issues that border on what has happened have been sorted out. The issues have been resolved as far as I'm concerned because we have heard from both sides.

"We are going to meet with the National Working Committee to take a decision," he added. **TG**

Opobo/Nkoro...

leaders, they don't know their names even as they seek for attention and division. According to him, they have no better credentials and personality profiles within the Local Government Area and as such are not respected by the people, youths, women and men of Opobo but only dreamers.

He dismissed such claims as incorrect and maintained that there is one and only Opobo that can endorse Sir Sim Fubara to victory.

"On behalf of the Opobo elders, citizens, statesmen for Sim, comprising the Alapu members of Opobo Kingdom, distinguished titled citizens both home and abroad, we join His Majesty the king of Opobo to welcome all of you here to this great occasion.

He also used the opportunity to thank the organisers of the Grassroots' Development initiatives GDI ably led by Hon. Bright Amaewhule for the

sensitization rally on PVC registration and collection which according to him, is yielding results throughout Rivers State. He pledged his unalloyed support on behalf of the Alapu members of Opobo Kingdom and reaffirmed that Opobo and its environs are 100% for Sir Sim Fubara. According to him, since the elder statesmen have spoken, the Gods are spoken.

"We want to specially thank the GDI that has made it possible for our people for the first time to get our PVCs. A lot has been spoken about getting these PVCs, now we are all ready and we use this

opportunity to thank you and to assure you that this is the first time in the history of the political arrangement that you have Opobo elders statesmen in this number. We have come to assure you that Opobo is for Sim, we don't care for what else anybody is doing, Opobo is for Sim and once the elders have spoken, the gods have spoken and so shall it be. Let me once again thank you on behalf of the elder statesmen of Opobo for Sim and also our indefatigable governor who has worked tirelessly to ensure that GDI is standing, thank you so much. We still

have much to say for him, but we will keep that for the chiefs. But for now we are very glad that you all came and on behalf of the Majesty, we assure you that we are 100% for Sim."

Dignitaries who were present at the event also experienced the serene atmosphere of the entire Opobo Kingdom under His Majesty, King Dandeson Douglas Jaja (Jekki v), the natural ruler of Opobo Nkoro, chairman Rivers State Traditional Rulers Council. **TG**

Expert To Rivers Tax Payers: Beware Of Fraudsters

A Port Harcourt-based tax expert, Clement Ilamina Akanibo, has stressed the need for tax payers to know their rights. In a chat with BusinessDay in Port Harcourt recently, Akanibo, a chartered tax practitioner, said knowledge of such rights would prevent tax payers from being defrauded. Lamenting that taxation is still strange to people at the grassroot, he said his company had taken steps to educate them on the concept. "A lot of people at the grassroot - micro, small and medium enterprises - tax language is still strange to them. They have not been properly educated. We want to bring that message to the grassroot and tell them to say no to all illegal taxes. If you're supposed to pay tax, the tax

has to be legal, listed and you know how much you are to pay. "If somebody will bring you a demand notice, that person will give you chance - maybe two weeks - for you to arrange yourself and make the payment; they will send you a reminder after which they can now send for enforcement, that is for you to pay. But you see that at the lower level, that procedure is not being followed. They will just come and say 'where is your tax receipt? Pay now.' You take cash and give them. No accountability," he said. Recalling an incident where some persons came from neighbouring states to defraud companies in Port Harcourt by posing as agents of Rivers State Internal Revenue

Service (RIRS) a few

years ago, Akanibo said to stop the trend, his team had formed an association that would protect the interest of tax payers. He said: "We have formed tax payers association to make sure that we take care of that. In the tax payers association, we have lawyers, we have experts there, so that if anything like that happens, just give us a phone call, we will arrange a patrol van to

come and pick them."

Akanibo, who is the principal consultant and chief executive officer of Corporate Management Consult, suggested the installment of an electronic revenue management system to reduce the activities of illegal tax collectors in Rivers State and make tax payment easy. He added that by removing fraudsters from the tax system, the state and the local governments would generate more revenue.

"We want to positively affect the tax system in the state. In doing that, we're also encouraging that, now we have the e-revenue management system, why don't we install that?

We're also in touch with technical people in China who are going to bring small gadgets where we can swipe and pay. I can put agents to create jobs. For example, if Obio/Akpor want to collect and they buy those equipment, we configure them to Obio/Akpor account. Anywhere they go, just swipe it, if it's N200 they pay, it goes directly to their account. At the end of the day, those agents will be paid commission from what they have collected. With that, Obio/Akpor will have more money and they will be able to pay the field agents. All this touting will stop. There will be a track record. Even after ten years, there will be a track record of payment," he said. **TG**



Amb. Akanibo

We've Chosen Men In PDP Over Boys In APC - Finebone

Former Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress, Rivers State, now a member of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Senibo Chris Finebone has received accolades for his ability to identify with the GDI movement and the PDP family in Opobo Nkoro Local Government Area of Rivers State. Senibo Finebone who was speaking at the GDI grand finale sensitization tour at Opobo at the weekend told the mammoth crowd that it has become obvious that he was at a wrong party since all the time, he never received the support of his immediate family and elites while serving as the publicity secretary of the All Progressives Congress APC Rivers State. He reassured the GDI that they are reclaiming their territory which long belongs to them, warning that they should be on the alert as the opposition are in the struggle to infiltrate using no-indigenes of Opobo Nkoro to which the GDI presence in a wider perspective remains a threat.

"Before I say a word, I want to make a rendition of 'GDI di ebube' People are on familiar territory, this is your territory, you are showing that you own this territory. Some individuals a few days ago came and pretended to be here. They were 90% hired from Ikot-Abasi Akwa Ibom State. Today I know that GDI will speak today, GDI is speaking today, you have reclaimed your territory, and pretence has taken to their heels. They have run away and we are here, I keep saying that we shall talk when the time comes, it is not time yet."

Senibo Finebone opined that his decision to join the Peoples Democratic Party PDP was the best as it has brought his entire family together more than before. He expressed optimism that it was difficult managing the crisis of not receiving the blessings of his people and family while in APC even as their state publicity secretary and thanked the efforts of the GDI for championing the PVC sensitization in Opobo Nkoro as well as Rivers State.

He further promised that with time, he was going to unfold his full episode on the reasons for identifying with the PDP citing examples from some others who were in

opposition to the PDP but now working with the PDP as a family.

"I can see Nwanosike here, when the sea was rough, we were at the opposite ends today we are together so you can imagine where the talk will go to"

He confessed that he did his people wrong by not identifying with the Peoples Democratic Party PDP all this while and assured that he has done the right thing and expressed his happiness that his people in Opobo Nkoro are happy with him.

"I know that I have done the right thing whenever you do something your wife is happy with, your grown up children who can decide are happy. So when your immediate family is happy, your extended family is happy even the traditional institution is happy, you know that you are a good son and a good citizen".

He went further to recall that he is getting united with his friends and people to which some fellows who were in opposition with him are now counting their losses having joined the PDP family where the ship of governance remains people oriented.

"And the other day we were having a function and a member of the party just tapped me, he just crossed over and he said 'do you know that we were in the company of boys and now we are in the company of men?' But I can tell you that we have chosen the company of men over the company of boys. I thank you all and I tell you that Opobo shows our appreciation to our leader, the governor of Rivers State, we will show appreciation to all of you that are standing by us and the sky's the limit for all of us. Thank you very much and God bless you all".

Also speaking, Honourable Commissioner of Water Resources, Rivers State, Hon. Tamunosisi Gogo Jaja praised the Peoples Democratic Party members,

supporters and the organisers of the PVC sensitisation rally in Rivers State, the Grassroot Development Initiatives GDI, urging them to be sure that they have collected their PVCs from the INEC designated areas in readiness for the general elections come 2023. The commissioner who was speaking at the grand finale of the PVC sensitisation tour organised by the Grassroots'



Development Initiatives GDI in Opobo Nkoro at the weekend told the marmot crowd that it is the only way to make the aspirations of the party come to reality and the efforts to ensure that Sir Sim Fubara cum Prof. Mrs. Ngozi Odu of the Peoples Democratic Party mandate to become governor and deputy governor come 2023 becomes a reality. He maintained that the GDI sensitization on PVC has woken up every facet of the general public in Rivers State in readiness for the forthcoming general elections next year 2023 and reassured that the Peoples Democratic Party PDP must remain victorious.

"My brother there is this proverb that says that the evening service does not need long preaching and people kept for so long. We are here today for just one purpose and the purpose is to pick all our remaining PVCs that are remaining with the Independent National Electoral Commission INEC."

The honourable commissioner recalled that the opposition has been in loggerheads trying to fuse in

By Ihuoma Okoronkwo

negative ideas without looking at the past and the history of the suffering that the Opobo Nkoro habitation terrain has passed through and the efforts some persons and the past government did put in place. He regretted that some persons have refused to see even when their eyes suffers no defect and sued for unity amongst

and sundry most especially the Andoni and the Opobo Nkoro areas and the efforts of the governor of Rivers State His Excellency Barr. Ezeunwo Nyesom Wike to see that these sufferings end and sued for co-operation of the senatorial district for the actualisation of the PDPs mandate come 2023.

"The Opobo Road, the Andoni Road that has led us into this place, we were not driving into this place before now and before this time, and those eyes will continue to remain blind. As you pick your PVC, I want you to vote in such a way that the same people that their eyes have remained blind will continue to remain blind because we are from the extraction and we want to really say on behalf of the Rivers South East senatorial district, we want to thank all."

He maintained that the political bond between members of the constituency has remained peaceful and going by that synergy, the region is going to experience spontaneous change with the PDP mandate to maintain victory in the coming polls of 2023. He also pleaded that every eligible voter within the senatorial district to show commitment to the actualisation of the mandate to which he maintained must be successful.

"This PVC that you are picking is going to be at our advantage, it's going to be at the advantage of the good people of Opobo Nkoro, it's going to be at the advantage of how we are going to get back to power. I want to say as the highest electoral officer or the personnel from the Ogoni extraction, I am from the Rivers South East senatorial zone. With the bond between the Opobo's and Ogoni's that has remained peaceful and will continue to remain peaceful with the understanding and the political calculations of how we are putting things together have always remained in bold. Don't think of anything that is happening. We are remaining here and because this area belongs to us we keep it together because there is nothing that can push us. God bless us all." **TG**

the entire people of Opobo Nkoro for the actualisation of the Peoples Democratic Party PDP mandate to have Sir Sim Fubara and Prof Mrs. Ngozi Odu win the gubernatorial election and be sworn in as governor come 2023.

"But let me stand because some few days ago some group of persons came to the land of Opobo here and they said some things that they are not supposed to say. What I want to tell you here today is that eyes that cannot see will remain blind. I drove all the way from Saakpenwa this afternoon and I got into the Opobo. The road that was abandoned by another administration, that road was done by our leader, the Grand Patron of GDI, no other person but the governor of Rivers State, His Excellency Barr. Ezeunwo Nyesom Wike. The eyes that cannot see that will remain blind have forgotten what has happened."

He recalled the terrain the entire people of Rivers South East were faced with in the past in the areas of location, accessibility, movement and inability to attract investment from all

The Unending Menace Of Dismissed Uniformed Officers

Recent developments have made it imperative for the federal government to consider rejigging its military with a view to separating soldiers who are dismissed from service from the ones who are in active service. This will help check the excesses of these dismissed officers who allegedly hide under their military uniforms to harass people sometimes. It will also restore

confidence in the mind if the general public that safety is still the watch word of our government.

Times without number, many serving military men and women are dismissed from active service, the social media space - the facebook, instagram and others - showing how dismissed officers of the Nigerian Army were caught by men of the Armed Forces or militia groups.

Often times, we wonder why we the civilians cannot identify a dismissed soldier seeing that he or she is dressed in the military uniform to which we lack the wherewithal to ask or request for his identity cards for proper identification.

The number of dismissed military officers of the Nigerian Army from the public point of view appears to be threatening the security architecture of our different states of the federation and we would like to know how this issue can be brought to a point of public discourse to enable the government to find a lasting solution to its host of problems. From observations, there seems to be foul play coming from the ministry of interior that handles issues relating to the welfare, recruitment and dismissal of men and women of the Nigerian Army. It appears that the actual number of dismissed officers are not made public, there are no publications of disclaimer on such officers and again there are many dismissed officers who are still in custody of their rifles and uniforms which they parade around, deceiving the general public and it seems no attempts are made to seize such uniforms as well as their rifles from them. Hence they still operate in disguise as uniformed officers unknown to the general public that they are no longer in active

service.

This paints a negative picture

of the Nigerian Army and other uniformed officers in the minds of the public, especially as

they sometimes stand at road blocks - just like men of the Nigerian Police too - and demand a ransom from the average bus and taxi drivers, a situation most eminent Nigerians are beginning to wonder and as well raise eyebrows on, knowing that Nigerian Army officers are never known for extortion, let alone conniving with some civilian officers in uniforms for such acts.

In as much as the military men don't succumb to the leadership of the civilians, what could be responsible for the recent synergy between the Police and some military officers at some check points, aside recent cases of ante robbery squads put up by some states of the federation for the purposes of insurgency, does it mean that the two for are working together to fight insurgency?

By mere simple observation, one can easily decode some facts, especially the issue that exposes the scenario of some of our soldiers who escape from their places of assignment unknown by their colleagues and the general public. Many a time, there have been a series of issues from some fake or dismissed soldiers who lament their unconstitutional dismissal from active service to which they have laid their complaints to the appropriate quarters expecting that they would be called back but to no avail. Each time they are apprehended by members of the public and the media is involved, it becomes an eye opener to know that some of them got dismissed without retrieving their rifles, identity cards and uniforms from them. Sometimes too, some officers are found driving inter-state movement carrying passengers from one location to another, paying no homage to other security agents and giving no attention to road safety

officers and other law enforcement officers doing their legitimate duties on our roads. There was one such incident where a dismissed soldier complained that he went off duty to reactivate his medically prescribed inhaler which as an asthmatic patient, he ought not to lack, but got fired immediately his absence was felt. Maybe that was not the true story but it became obvious to see such a confession from some military officers who were dismissed from service



A Fake Soldier who killed a man that gave him a lift

roaming the streets as serving military officers. There are other cases where some apprehended dismissed officers confessed that they have been dismissed from active service even though they still parade themselves as army officers as the case may be. Some others exist where these same fake officers were caught and it became obvious that they ran away from their places of assignment to which they were declared AWOL - absent without official leave. Knowing the implication, they have been moving freely at places they ought not to and as such have become misinterpreted in the military image and dignity. Members of the public will, in most cases, assume that it was a military officer who did what nobody believed he will do and hence their fake presence or involvement made them to believe the genuineness of the group where it was a militia group.

If you reside within some locations at the Nigerian border towns like Ogoja, Bakassi, or Abakaliki etc to be precise, you will notice the presence of some dismissed military officers in uniforms parading as officers of the Nigerian Army. It is only

military officers who can easily differentiate between who is serving and who is not serving. To the general public, all are military officers. In places like these, they mix up with other serving officers and the general public cannot differentiate between them. And should there be any unforeseen circumstance where their presence was felt, the general public's assumption will be that military officers were in attendance. This has become a challenge which Nigerian Military officers should strive to defend in lieu of their services which ought not to be compromised. There should be an image which the general public should use to identify a serving military officer to avoid being faked by dismissed military officers and impersonators.

Those who have the wherewithal to impersonate military officers may have not been taught the bitter lessons of their lives. Those who kill military officers and go scot-free use the same uniforms to impersonate and deceive the general public. At places where there is insurgency, they are sometimes the group that cause mayhem that puts the image of the military at stake.

And sometimes, militia groups join the quorum to fight or even disarm military officers to have access to these military gadgets with which to operate and deceive the public.

One would have loved to ask if there are still cases of soldiers missing in action, or if there are still cases of military officers who are not at their places of assignment and at the same time nowhere to be found. From indications, a lot needs to be done to separate and straighten these ties and put the general public on clear standing to avoid further flaws and deception. Too many Nigerians may have this premonition never to

believe the information from the government regarding the welfare and deployment of the military officers at different designation across board.

Much ado about these threats leaves a vacuum of silence and continuous trap of dubious raiding of public opinion and security by unidentified militia groups or individuals causing some of these problems here and there. The civilians, by mere understanding have no such effrontery, temerity and brevity to demand or acost a soldier for proper identification anytime anywhere. It is by mere understanding of the fundamental human rights of an individual that a military officer may decide to avail himself or herself to whosoever for response, direction or proper identification. Courtesy demands that proper attention be given to these issues threatening our security and collective well being in order to put records straight, intensify unity and resolve such negativities that twist our general understanding of our security architecture to which we all owe allegiance.

We therefore call on all stakeholders, the established regulatory agencies, the military, the Nigerian Police, Ministry of interior and other uniformed organisations to rise up and defeat these threats and killings carried out by hoodlums to which the military officers are indicted and put an end to this cold war erupting at different locations within the federation. Nigerians are still falling victim to these threats by negligence to do the right thing. Many would have shared their bitter experiences if not for their untimely deaths just the same way some victims have lived with their brunts to the point that they are no longer willing to share their stories seeing that their situations can no longer change. In addition, we plead with members of the public to take advantage of the military agencies where genuine information are obtainable for guidance, ignorance can never be an excuse even in a worse case scenario. **TG**

RSG Denies Planning To Kill Sen. Maeba

The Chief of Staff to the Rivers State governor, Emeka Woke, has described the allegation by Senator Lee Maeba, that his life is under threat, as a spurious tale concocted by a deranged mind.

Senator Maeba, had on Saturday in Punch newspaper alleged that a meeting was held at the Government House, Port Harcourt to clampdown on him and others.

The Chief of Staff refuted the allegation on Saturday at Opobo town, the headquarters of Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area during the grand finale of the state-wide Grassroots Development Initiative (GDI) Permanent Voters' Card (PVC) collection sensitisation rally.

Woke stated that there is no such plan to clampdown or eliminate any person in the State, as such character is not in the DNA of the present administration. He urged those who are not popular and vast in grassroots politics, to leave it for those who know the game, rather than making frivolous claims.

"On my way here, I read from Punch newspaper, one man that is unable to come home, called Ledogo, saying he will not come home again to campaign for PDP presidential candidate. He said the reason that he will not come was because I held a meeting in Government House that anything he comes to Rivers State, he should be killed.

"My brothers, such thing did not happen and it will not happen. Any person that cannot come to Rivers State should look for a better excuse and not killing excuse."

Woke further added: "This government, we don't kill anybody. We have never and will never kill anybody. Please if you don't have strength, tell your people that you don't have strength."

The Chief of Staff also took a swipe at the former Director General of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, Dr. Dakuku Peterside, who hails from Opobo for claiming the governor Nyesom Ezenwo Wike's administration has done nothing for the council.

He wondered why Dakuku, who served as a

Commissioner for Works under the Chibuike Amaechi's administration and never made any effort to advance work on the Opobo axis of the Ogoni-Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro Unity Road, from the point the administration of Dr. Peter Odili stopped work, would turn around to lie against a governor who provided road for the people of Opobo.

"Before he became commissioner, the former governor of the State, Dr. Peter Odili, had initiated this laudable project, the Unity Road to run from Ogoni, Andoni and Opobo and then he stopped in 2007.

"From October 2007, when your son (Dakuku) became Commissioner for Works until May, 2011, four good years, he did not add one meter to the road."

"The same man said Wike did not do anything for Opobo people. Yes, let us agree, because the lawyers will say, assuming though not conceding that Wike did not do anything. From that time in 1999 when he (Dakuku) started politics until Wike

became governor, Dakuku was not able to drive a car to Opobo. Even if Wike has not done anything, the road he gave to Opobo is it not something."

Woke, said it was



Gov. Wike of Rivers

unbelievable that Dakuku, who got a contract for Opobo shore protection and embezzled funds, could still have the audacity to accuse the Wike's administration that has linked the entire Opobo/Nkoro island to the rest of the State by road, of doing nothing for the council.

"This is not campaign, but at campaign time, we will inform you that he (Dakuku) was given contract. The only thing that he was asked to do for his people, shore protection, he embezzled the money and that contract was not executed. So, when the time comes, we will tell

Opobo who is their real son, because I don't believe that an indigene of Opobo will hate Opobo so much."

He noted that all Dakuku said during a gathering of few APC members in Opobo last week, was his usual tantrum against governor Wike, in order to gain relevance in the political space.

"You know, in Rivers State, anybody in opposition that is aspiring to get any position, no matter how little that aspiration is, the only qualification for you to aspire is to come out and abuse Wike. When you come and abuse Wike and say Wike didn't do this, Wike did not do that, then you can be considered for a little position. And so, that is just what Dakuku did.

"If you adopt one strategy to achieve something and it doesn't work, the proper thing to do is to change strategy. Dakuku needs to change his strategy, since they no longer work."

In his remarks, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP governorship candidate in Rivers State, Siminalaye Fubara, lauded members of GDI for sensitising Rivers people in the 23 Local

Government Areas, on the need to collect their PVC, which is their power to elect the rightful leadership during the 2023 general elections.

Fubara, who hails from Opobo, said he is confident that his kinsmen will overwhelmingly support his governorship ambition.

"A non-indigene is the one who will come here and struggle, abuse people. I'm an indigene, a free born. You can trace my father's house. So, do I need to struggle to get your support? So, I will end by saying you know what to do."

The event was graced by dignitaries across the state, including the Chairman of Rivers PDP, and Chairman of Inter Party Advisory Council (IPAC), Ambassador Desmond Akwor and his Executive Council, Chairmen of LGAs, members of the Rivers State House of Assembly, members of the State Executive Council, Special Advisers to the State governor as well as members of the GDI, led by its President-General, Mr. Bright Amaewhule, amongst others. **TC**

Rivers NSCDC To Sanction Corrupt Officers

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps NSCDC says it has set up a Disciplinary Panel to investigate the viral CCTV video of some personnel of the Corps extorting money from an Independent Petroleum Marketer in Rivers State.

The Commandant General of NSCDC Dr. Ahmed Audi in a statement warned that any member of the service caught in such a heinous crime will be severely dealt with.

He said the corps will ensure it sanctions anyone found wanting in the viral video.

Dr. Ahmed Audi noted that the Corps will adopt its internal disciplinary mechanism to address the situation and bring the perpetrators to book.

"I will make scapegoats out of these bad

elements within the system to serve as a deterrent to others like them if what is seen in that video is correct.

"The Corps is out leading the fight against Oil theft and illegal oil bunkering and some bad eggs within the service are out there sabotaging our efforts, giving us a bad name and image.

"Only last week, I read the 'Riot Act' to all heads of the Anti-vandal unit in the Niger Delta region, this time around, I will make sure that anyone dragging our name in the mud is shown the way out.

"I have given the Investigative committee only one week to authenticate the video and submit their report which we shall act on with immediate alacrity".

Dr. Audi reiterated that it is unfortunate and highly disgraceful for any

officer of the law who ought to be custodians of Integrity, truth, and justice to be seen negotiating and extorting money from the citizens they are meant to protect.

He further explained that the Corps will adopt its internal disciplinary mechanism to address the situation and bring the perpetrators to book.

He reaffirms the Corps' commitment to salvaging the nation from economic saboteurs carting away the nation's crude oil and other



Petroleum products.

"Only a few days ago we commissioned 8 gunboats in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, to wage a full-scale war against oil theft and illegal bunkering and we will not be deterred from protecting our commonwealth and improving government's revenue in this sector", he said. **TC**

News From The LGAs

Andoni: Community Shouts Over Alleged Invasion

The people of Agbama Coastal Community in Andoni Local Government Area have raised alarm over possible threats to the existing peace in the area due to what they termed unprovoked and unjustified invasion of the area allegedly by some military men from Ikot-Abasi in Akwa-Ibom State.

The Community Leaders including the CDC and Youth Body during a courtesy visit on the Andoni Council Chairman Erastus Awortu at the Council Headquarters in Ngo, say the situation is capable of truncating the

existing peace in the Community.

They lamented that palpable tension and apprehension now pervade the Community due to incessant invasion of the area by the military men.

The people who are predominantly fishermen and petty traders say they cannot

freely go about their lawful business without fear of attack.

The y say lives and property are now endangered in the Community and that if nothing is done to forestall further incursion by the men on military uniform the

situation could get worst.

He assured them that the

The people of Agbama Coastal Community in a save our soul message appealed to the Andoni Council Chairman, the Andoni Traditional Rulers Council and the Rivers State Government to come to their aid.

In his response, the Andoni Council Chairman Erastus Awortu urged the people of Agbama Coastal Community to continue to maintain the existing peace in the area in the face of provocation by the military men from outside the State.

He assured them that the

Council would authenticate the veracity of their complaints and take appropriate steps to address the situation.

Awortu warned that the Council would not hesitate to take decisive steps to nip in the bud any potential threat in any part of Andoni capable of truncating the prevailing peace in Andoni.

The delegation from Agbama Coastal Community were led to the courtesy visit by its Central Coastal Chairman, Godswill Uriayork and Youth President, Isiotu Bright. **TG**



Asari-Toru: Chairman Urges Police To Tackle Kidnapping

Alarmed by the upsurge of kidnappings and criminality, the Executive Chairman of Asari-Toru Local Government Area, Hon. Onengiyeofori George, has challenged the Police to curb the renewed spate of such activities along the Emohua - Kalabari Road.

In a statement issued by

his Chief Press Secretary, Mr John Paul Braide, on Sunday 4th September, 2022 in Buguma City, the ASALGA Council Boss, charged the Police to live up to its promise to safeguard the only route to Kalabari land.

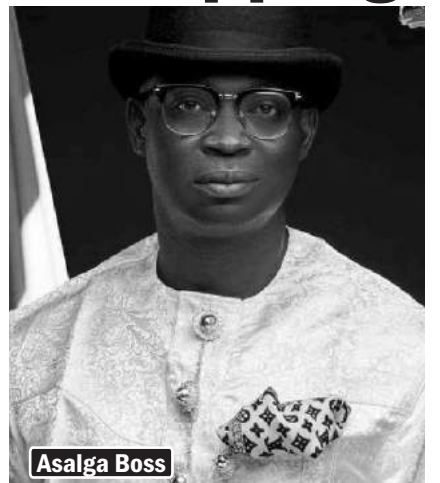
Hon. Onengiyeofori George, who condemned the kidnapping incident on Saturday 3rd September

night, in which the driver, one Salvation Taylor Harry was gruesomely murdered, has sympathized with the bereaved family over their loss.

Consequently, the Executive Chairman of the LGA has ordered the closure of Buguma motor park after 6pm daily, warning all motorists and drivers alike to desist forthwith from

endangering the lives of Asalgans by continuing to ply the route after the closure of the park.

He further advised passengers and all Asalgans to be conscious of their personal safety and ensure that night traveling is discouraged at the moment until sanity and security on the road are restored. **TG**



Bille: Woman Still In Shock Over Husband's Abduction

A woman whose husband was killed by suspected



pirates is still unconscious days after the sudden death of her bread winner.

The critical health condition of the widow was made known by her son, Diepreyi Igani, who narrated their ordeal to journalists.

He said his slain father, Mr S. Igani was traveling to Port Harcourt with his sibling sister, Naomi Igani on a passenger boat from Billie in Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State.

On sighting the pirates, the boat driver attempted to escape through another water route but the boat engine went off.

While trying to start the boat engine again, the pirates closed in on them, shot the boat driver's leg and killed his dad on the spot with bullets.

According to the bereaved son, the injured boat driver is receiving

treatment in an undisclosed hospital while the remains of his slain dad had been deposited in the mortuary.

"Since the killing of my dad, my mum had been unconscious with her health condition getting critical daily.

"We are appealing to well meaning Nigerians to come to our aid as the death of our dad has brought more economic hardship on us because he was our bread winner," the mourning son narrated.

The state police

command had confirmed the incident, saying it had commenced investigation to ascertain what happened and ensure that those behind the dastardly act are apprehended and brought to book. **TG**

Degema: Gunmen Kill Boat Travellers, Injure 4

Six boat travellers have been killed on the old Calabar River while enroute Port Harcourt from Bille Community in Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Community sources said the killing occurred on Saturday morning, adding that four other persons sustained several degrees of injuries.

The sources said it was

unclear if it was Nigerian Army's personnel or criminals that carried out the shooting as soldiers and bunkerers regularly clashed in the area.

Meanwhile, the people of Touma-Ama community, in Bille have fled into the swamp for safety following the invasion of the community by personnel of the Nigerian Army.

Eyewitnesses said the soldiers invaded the village

with ten Gunboats in early hours of Tuesday, 6th September, 2022.



Sea Pirates

Our correspondent

Emohua-Kalabari Road Kidnappings: Ijaw Youths Bicker

Youths in the Kalabari Kingdom have called on security agencies and Local Government Chairmen in the three Kalabari Kingdoms to step up measures to protect the lives of Kalabari people plying the Emohua- Kalabari

road.

The Chairman of Ijaw Youths Council IYC Kalabari Clan Edward Asikitam said this while condemning the hrecent kidnap of eight passengers and the killing of the driver of a commercial sienna car on Saturday

evening.

Edward Asikitam further said that the Chairmen in the Kalabari road should take the responsibility of providing adequate security for commuters along the Emohua-Kalabari road.

The Chairman of Ijaw

Youths Council IYC Kalabari Clan, Edward Asikitam further asked the Rivers State Government to use part of the 13 percent derivation from oil proceeds to fix the Emohua-Kalabari road. **TG**

News From The LGAs

Opobo/Nkoro: We'll Speak With Our PVCs - Hon Enyiada

The Chairman of Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area, Hon. Enyiada Cookey-Gam, has declared that his people will make a bold statement with their PVCs during the 2023 governorship election in the state.

The Council chairman made the disclosure at Opobo/Nkoro during the grand finale of the Grassroots Development Initiative GDI PVC sensitization rally at the Opobo Central Park.

He said the good people

of Opobo/Nkoro will remain grateful to the Rivers State governor Chief. Barr. Nyesom Wike, Supporting the emergence of Sir. Similaye Fubara as Rivers State People's Democratic Party (PDP) gubernatorial candidate in the forthcoming elections and also for linking Opobo up to the urban city which has been the greatest challenge facing the people over the years.

Hon. Enyiada also commended the president general of the Grassroots

By Ihuoma Okoronkwo

Development Initiative GDI, Chief. Bright Amaewhule, for choosing Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area to host the grand finale.

"Today crown it all with all the sensitization rally that has been going on in the nooks and crannies of the 23 Local Government Area and tell me for free, today we witnessed huge of crowd and it's peace and people making a statement that the people of Opobo are ready and have

collected their pvc to exhibit their franchise and nobody will disenfranchise them."

"Opobo/Nkoro citizen are collecting their pvc getting ready to make a statement during the election, because Amaopusenibo Sim Fubara is well loved by the people."

The chairman urge the youths to maintain peace, to enable government bring development to Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area and by extension Rivers State

"The youths are the driving force of the communities, so they should be maintain peace, so that the dividends of democracy can be delivered to them." **TG**



Hon. Enyiada

Bille Kingdom Decries Incessant Military Invasions

The people of Bille Kingdom in Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State, have condemned the incessant invasions, arrests, sporadic gunshots and the brutal treatment meted out on Bille

people by the Nigerian Military.

Chairman of the Bille Kingdom Council of Chiefs, Chief Bennett Okpoki, who spoke to journalists in Port Harcourt, also condemned the attack on a Bille

passenger-boat on Friday, 2nd September, 2022, which left one Mr Igani dead and several others inflicted with gun shot wounds by gunmen suspected to be sea pirates. Chief Okpoki, however, disassociated Bille kingdom from the claims by the

military that Bille people attacked its personnel, noting that Bille kingdom cannot be victims to pirates attacks and same time suspected to have attacked military officers. He called on the federal government and the State

government, the Chief of Defence staff to urgently intervene in the matter to curb the frequent sea pirate activities on Bille water ways, as well as release those arrested by the military. **TG**

Ikwerre: Police Arrests Child-Trafficking Rev. Sister

Operatives of the Rivers State Police Command have arrested a suspected child trafficker, Maureen Wechinwu, who claims to be a Reverend Sister and confessed she 'buys' the children.

The police had, based on intelligence reports, arrested Maureen at her residence in Aluu, Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, and rescued 15 children from her home.

The Commissioner of Police, Friday Eboka, revealed that the children rescued from the suspected trafficker were aged between seven and nine, adding that the suspect would be prosecuted upon completion of investigations.

Eboka said preliminary investigations have shown that the children were picked from different parts of the South-South states and we're being sold out.

He said it took over 24 hour before the children were able to tell their experiences to the police, adding that they were being tortured and maybe hypnotised as well.

He said: "On September 3, Operation Restore Peace Personnel of the Command, acting on credible information regarding hideout of child traffickers, stormed Omuigwe Abuja Phase II, Aluu, in Ikwerre

Local Government Area, where a lady who claimed to be Rev. Sister Maureen Wechinwu, aged 44 years was arrested.

"Fifteen children were rescued, case transferred to CP Monitoring Unit for discrete investigation.



Sis. Maureen

"Investigation revealed the following facts: Prosper Godwin (m) was abducted at Ikpazasia market in Bayelsa State on 31/10/2020, together with two others whom he does not know their whereabouts, and was taken to the suspect.

"Later, he (Prosper) was sold to a woman in Lagos and subsequently returned back to the suspect.

"The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Godwin Ododor, have been contacted and they corroborated the child's statement.

"Queen Harry (f) was abducted at Ojukwu filed Mile 1, Diobu, Port Harcourt at about 7p.m., while on an errand with the elder sister.

"The mother, Mrs. Florence, have been contacted and she corroborated the facts.

"Miracle John Ohiri (f) was abducted on 19/11/2021 at Ada-George Road, Port Harcourt, opposite Holy Rock Church, along with her mother and two siblings, who have not been seen till date.

"The father, John Ohiri, has been contacted for identification of the child, who corroborated her statement that he reported the incident at Rumuokpakani Police Station.

"Favour Edeze (f) was abducted at Creek Road Market Port Harcourt 29/04/2022 at about 10a.m., while on errand.

"The father, one Emeka Edeze, has been contacted and identified his child and also confirmed the incident.

"Chimele Obinna (f) was abducted on 24/04/2022 at Rumuodara/Culvet Oroigwe, Port Harcourt, while seated in front of their house with her sister.

"The mother, Glory Obinna, was contacted and she stated that the incident was reported at Okporo Police Station."

Eboka stated five parents have come and identified their children and that the police were yet to locate the parents of the

remaining, calling in parents who lost their children to visit the command.

Maureen Wechinwu, in an interview, stated that she has become a disgrace to her people and to herself, insisting that she is not into trafficking.

Maureen said: "I run an orphanage with children of mad people. Fransisca Onyinyechi, who was given birth to by a mad woman in Ogbogoro community market, is one.

"I cannot say that I am a reverend sister now that I am a disgrace. But I believe I was earlier.

"I am of the Ladies of Victory Missionary Sisters. It is in England, a Foreign Congregation. I am the only Nigerian in it.

"Some of the children are mad people's children. The others are brought to me by one Mr. Victor.

"Sometimes he comes with them in twos. One Miss Alice brought two to me. Alice said since I am a beginner that I should take them.

"Sometimes when Victor brings children, he will be demanding money. But due to the pressure on me sometimes I give N50,000, N60,000, and N100,000.

Two women, who have already identified their children at the police headquarters, expressed joy

over the police operation that led to the children's rescue.

Glory Onyia, mother of one of the rescued children, disclosed that her child went missing five months ago, adding that the family has been in pain.

Onyia said: "My child got missing on April 22. He is an eight-year-old boy. I have been moving around from church to church. I even went to Okporo Police Station to give reports.

"I went out and when I returned I did not see my child till night; I searched for him all around.

"I am very happy. When he saw me he was very happy, shouting Mummy and everybody in our compound shouted when the police brought him."

Also, Nkechinyere Harry said: "My daughter is Queen Harry, she is nine. She was kidnapped at Miles One close to Ojukwu field.

"I sent her to go to the market where they sell bole. I usually sent her to go there to get yam peels for our goats.

"I sent her elder sister and she went with her. When they got there, one man sent her elder on an errand.

"When she returned, Queen was missing. She came back home, but could not find her." **TG**

Photonews of GDI PVC Sensitization Grand Finale At Opobo/Nkoro LGA On Saturday 3rd September, 2022



Sir Siminalayi Fubara & Prof. Ngozi Ordu



Amb. Desmond Akawor & Joseph Yobo



Mrs Sotonye Toby Fulton



Hon. Engr. S. Nwanosike



Hon. Adonye Diri



Sir Hon. Kenneth Kobani



Hon. Enyiada Cookey-Gam



Engr. Emeka Woke



Hon. Elder Clapton Ogolo



Rt. Hon. Ehie Edison



Orubienimigha Adolphus



Alabo Sen. Adawari Pepple



Sir Siminalayi Fubara & Prof. Ngozi Ordu



Chief Allwell Onyesoh & Hon. Awaji Abiante



Hon. Dr. Tamunosisi Gogo Jaja & Dr. Sam Sam Jaja



Dandizzy & Senibo Darius Owujie

Photonews of GDI PVC Sensitization Grand Finale At Opobo/Nkoro LGA On Saturday 3rd September, 2022



National News

Sowore Accuses FG Over Brother's Death

O moyele Sowore, a human rights advocate and presidential candidate for the African Action Congress, AAC, has charged the Federal Government with being involved in his younger brother Olajide Felix Sowore's demise.

Sowore tweeted a number of times using his verified twitter account:

"A year ago, my immediate younger brother Olajide Felix Sowore was brutally cut down by forces undoubtedly connected to the Muhammadu Buhari regime.

"I say it without hesitation that events following his brutal murder points to State complicity.

"Upon his gruesome murder our family made several efforts to resolve his murder by cooperating with the Nigeria Police Force, despite several meetings and phone conversations nothing concrete was done to unravel his killers except the police trying to cajole the family to bury him without carrying out an autopsy."

"Shortly after his burial, the Police presented photos of two young men

By Ismael Bereba

they alleged were "Fulani herdsmen/kidnappers" they arrested in a forest. They



Buhari

stated that these men had "confessed" to killing my brother during a kidnapping operation at an abandoned

Police check point near Benin City.

They promised to commence prosecution in two weeks, that was in October 2021. We never heard back from the Nigeria police again", he said.

He said he would ensure that justice is served.

"However, we remain committed to ensuring that his death will not be in vain and that the conditions that permit the unconscionable termination of life by dark forces propelled by impunity, incompetence and complicity in Nigeria would

be wiped out during our time; as a result, those responsible for his murder should not rejoice. Justice will prevail no matter how long it is delayed, he concluded.

Felix was brutally murdered a year ago by unknown gunmen, but

One year after his brother's death, Sowore said events following his brother's death pointed to the Government.

Meanwhile the government is yet to comment on the allegations. **TG**

Peter Obi Explains Meaning Of 'Obidient'

The Presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP) in Nigeria's 2023 general elections, Peter Obi, has explained the full meaning of OBIDIENT.

Obidient, formed from his surname Obi, was coined by his supporters and is widely used to identify a staunch supporter of Dr. Peter Obi.

In a tweet on his verified Twitter account on Saturday, the Labour Party (LP) flagbearer explained the term.

"O – Organized; B – broad-based; I – Inclusive; D – democratic; I – international; E – excellence-driven; N – Nigerians from every ethnic group; T – Transparency in governance", he tweeted.

The 61-year-old former banker and businessman served as the governor of Anambra State for eight years.

Youths all throughout the country who claim to be sick of the old guard follow Obi, a former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) supporter, with cult-like fervor.

The candidate is currently traveling the world and interacting with institutions, organizations, and Nigerians living overseas.

Speaking on Friday in Atlanta, Obi pledged that his administration would fund security, diplomacy, and economic involvement. He said this would take the country on a prosperous path and make it remain a highly valued contributor to the global economy.

"We look forward to

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

"We intend to truly

stamp out corruption finally with a zero-tolerance approach to this cancer that stymies growth. We will have zero tolerance for corruption. You can expect a sledgehammer approach."

CBN Lauds Access Bank For Sustainable Practices

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) commended Access Bank Plc for its dedication to sustainable banking practices.

At a roundtable in Abuja that was co-hosted with the European Organization for Sustainable Development, Dr. Aisha Mahmood, Special Adviser to the CBN Governor on Sustainable Banking, presented the commendation.

The discussion, which included the CBN Director of the Banking Supervision Department, Mr. Mustafa Haruna, and Access Bank Deputy Managing Director, Chizoba Okoli, among others, aimed to encourage senior bank executives to adopt comprehensive sustainability standards in order to advance world-class sustainable banking and

financing.

Mahmood noted that three financial institutions in Nigeria, notably Access Bank, Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN), and Bank of Industry (BoI), had demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the



Emefiele, CBN Governor

implementation of sustainable actions required for a good performance.

According to her, DBN became the first development financial institution and the second in Africa to receive sustainability certification in

Obi added that a stable and peaceful Nigeria would contribute to Africa's continued rise and integration into the global economy. **TG**



Peter Obi

2020, while Access Bank continued to be the first African commercial bank to receive the certification from the EOSD. I am confident that this workshop will inspire other financial institutions to adopt the SSCI to develop resilient economies that benefit the environment, businesses, and society, the speaker asserted.

Nigerian financial institutions have begun integrating economic and social framework to manage risks and opportunities in their business operations and activities since the adoption of the country's sustainability banking principles. In order to shape that process, the adoption of these recognizable certification standards will be quite helpful.

According to her, "There

has been conscious efforts to embrace partnership, develop initiatives, policies, and regulations to address issues such as climate change, inequality, human rights to mention a few.

"In achieving the overall development agenda, getting financing right and sustainable banking is very critical. In fact, without this, the global community will not be able to meet the development goals by 2030.

"For us at Access Bank, our commitment to sustainability has yielded great benefits, we have made significant progress in embedding sustainability and a core of our business decisions, operations and practices thereby impacting lives positively now and in the future." **TG**

Sterling Bank Introduces Virtual Cards for Customers

In order to make local or international payments quickly and easily on websites like Netflix and Apple as well as to shop on websites like Amazon, among others, Sterling Bank Plc has introduced virtual cards for its current and prospective customers.

Mr. Olayinka Oni, Chief Digital Officer at Sterling Bank, who made this announcement in a statement released by the bank, said the service is accessible via the One Bank app

and is available to all registered and new One Bank clients.

He advised new customers to open an account by downloading the app on the iOS store or Android play store to create their virtual cards.

According to Oni, Sterling Bank launched One Bank in 2019 as a fully digital banking solution. He explained that the solution offers the customer the ability to register and bank instantly, adding that the solution also allows the customer to make payments,

invest and borrow money.

He said that with One Bank, customers could carry out all banking services without entering a branch. He can self-onboard, enter his BVN, upload his documents, and start transacting without entering any Sterling bank branch.

"Customers using One Bank can experience the ease of starting an investment plan, applying for a loan, and transferring forex, as well as enjoy a dynamic news feed,

scroll through forex updates, and many other features, he added."

Sterling Bank Plc is a leading national commercial banking establishment in Nigeria. It commenced operations as NAL Bank in 1960. The bank has developed into a significant financial institution with total assets of N1.629 trillion at present, 141 business locations, and 700 ATMs nationwide, "he said. **TG**

Opinion

Amaechi's Mission And Misadventure

He came so close to the laurel. But, since nearly doesn't kill a bird, he fell short, despite his high rating by bookmakers. For Chief Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi (CRA), the Dan Amana Daura, his contest for the governing All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential ticket had a chequered history.

In the build-up to the party's special convention and presidential primary, Amaechi, who was serving as Nigeria's Minister of Transportation, exuded the confidence of an anointed candidate.

The Daura Emirate, to which the outgoing President Muhammadu Buhari belongs, buoyed the Minister's confidence the more when he was turbaned as the Dan Amana Daura: the chosen one.

If anybody had whispered to Amaechi's ears that he was being conned or set up for a calamitous ending, chances are that he would have cursed the talebearer. Yet, coming mere months away from the governing party's much anticipated presidential primary, Amaechi appropriated the aplomb and adulation as the possible successor of his principal. He forgot that the man he was priming himself to succeed was a lucky man, who believes that all men should try their luck and be their own man.

Believing in the spiritual pointers of his names - Amaechi, Chibuike and Rotimi - which suggest that although no one knows tomorrow, God is his strength, even as his friends would stand with him. But, the man, whose friends eulogise him as the Lion of Ubima, forgot that among his friends are those who see him as a game.

He forgot also that like a lone son when the jungle matures, as young boys are wont to say, he would learn that he is on his own. After all, his principal wears a badge of selfishness, on which was inscribed the following words: I belong to all and belong to none!

Yet, in his confidence that Chibuike, "God is my strength," Amaechi mistook obduracy and blind loyalty for courage and insight. That

was why he saw himself moving against the will of an incumbent President, the leader of his party and kinsman, to seek a second term as chairman of Nigeria's Governors' Forum (NGF).

Technically, it could be argued that Chibuike Amaechi's journey to trying his luck at the presidential contest essentially began in the year 2013. It happened that the NGF chairmanship election provided him with a golden opportunity to, not only expand his national political circle but also create a beneficial political future for himself after his final term as governor of Rivers State.

After the controversial 19 versus 16 splits from the NGF election, Amaechi was suspended from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) alongside other 'rebels' within the Governors' Forum from the party.

It became evident that Amaechi's insistence on seeking a second term as NGF chairman had effectively divided the forum, when the faction led by the then Plateau State governor, Jonah Jang, convened a meeting on June 17, 2013.

Although the governors of Adamawa and Kaduna states sent apologies, only 16 others attended, thereby leaving the absentees as Amaechi's cohorts, which were clearly in the majority.

At that meeting convened by Jang, a case was made for the recall of the then Sokoto State governor, Aliyu Wamakko, who was suspended. But, while the forum accepted the plea for Wamakko's recall, nothing was said about Amaechi, because it was obvious that the Rivers State chief executive had strayed.

Another ready feature of the division within the NGF under Amaechi was that most of the then opposition or Progressives Governors were siding with the then Rivers State governor and former NGF chairman.

Amaechi in the contest to wrest control of NGF from then President Goodluck Jonathan included Alhaji Sule Lamido, who had eyes on the 2015 Presidency, Dr Babangida Aliu (Talba), Rabi'u Kwankwaso, Abdulfatah Ahmed and Wamakko.

Although Amaechi insisted that he remained the NGF chairman, he did not convene any meeting of the forum until Jang did. While Amaechi pledged allegiance to President Jonathan, he warned Jang to stop parading himself as the chairman of



Amaechi

NGF, reminding the then Plateau State governor that the then Lagos State Governor, Babatunde Fashola had approached the court to affirm that there was only one chairman elected from the May 24, 2013 chairmanship election.

Despite pledging loyalty to Jonathan, Jang and his group from the PDP accused the then Rivers State governor of hobnobbing with members of the opposition.

It is believed that the leadership crisis within the influential NGF paved the way for the eventual division within the fold of the then governing PDP, which also culminated in Jonathan's loss of the 2015 presidential poll as an incumbent.

Consequently, when the new PDP moved en masse into the newly formed APC, the Lion of Ubima was not only welcomed as a lion-killer but also regaled as the hero of APC's effective battle against PDP. In a bid to reward his ingenuity in 'taking the battle to Jonathan's backyard', Amaechi was made the Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign Organisation.

As the commander of the majority members of the Nigeria Governors' Forum,

By Leo Sobechi

the former Rivers State governor was festooned with the powers of a political field marshal. And his head grew bigger, just as he savoured the imaginary Lion's mane around him.

Further, as victory smiled on APC in the 2015 poll, Amaechi dreamed big. His dreams got bigger when he was saddled with the responsibility of overseeing the hefty Transportation Ministry. And, believing that he is the beloved of President Muhammadu Buhari, who appointed him to the prestigious ministry, Amaechi sought to emasculate the Aviation section.

The attempt to do battle with the Minister of State, Hadi Sirika, proved to the Minister that not all battles are won by the Lion: Hadi had the Aviation carved out as a separate ministry beyond the oversight or supervision of the Transportation Minister.

However, despite the cautionary signs from the needless confrontation with the junior Minister, Amaechi's head continued to swell with bigger dreams. As Minister of Transportation, Amaechi ensured that he used the rail development programme to ingratiate himself to the President and Commander-in-Chief.

Amaechi's efforts to defend the construction of a standard railway gauge from Kano to Maradi in the Niger Republic before the members of the House of Representatives rang so hollowly and deficient in sound patriotic and economic reasoning.

Juxtaposing the Kano-Maradi rail line with the Port Harcourt-Maiduguri obsolete gauge exposed Amaechi's facetious attempt to translate President Buhari's body language into Nigeria's rail development master plan. Not that alone, the Lion of Ubima seemed to think that by accommodating the Niger Republic - where Buhari's cousins are - at the expense of the Eastern rail corridor in the national rail masterplan, he would enjoy President Buhari's reciprocal support for his presidential ambition.

All Amaechi could get as a reward from President Buhari when it mattered most, was mere, but colourful turbans as the Dan Amana Daura, which, coming months to the APC presidential primary, raised his hopes for an eventual thud on the floor like the fall of Humpty Dumpty.

That Amaechi's big dreams would end up like a nightmare became evident on the eve of the APC Special Convention and presidential primary. When he was asked by his supporters to open his palms as other contenders were doing, the Lion of Ubima squirmed sheepishly that he could be accused of having made much money.

It became obvious that those who goaded him on during the fight with Jonathan were disappointed in him because those his former colleagues in the NGF saw the Lion of Ubima as a man who likes to keep a lion's share to himself. And they turned their backs on him.

Also, at the APC presidential primary, Amaechi saw the emptiness of the soul-lifting adulations being heaped on him as a Lion-killer and supremo of APC triumph over PDP. He saw that he was found useful only because he was obedient to the dictates of the owners of the house rather than being ranked as a part owner.

Now, the chickens are coming home to roost as another major election cycle dawns. Amaechi's political nemesis, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, is being courted left, right and centre by even those he (Amaechi) tried to upstage, simply because he fought against his next-door neighbour in the illusive dream of mounting the high horse.

Whatever happens in the upcoming general elections, CRA will have a lot of introspection to do. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi would have learnt that attempts to grab opportunities do not bear sustainable dividends. But, most importantly, the Lion of Ubima would have seen how easy it is to transform a dummy lion into a pussy cat.

Foreign News

New British PM: Queen Elizabeth Breaks Tradition

Queen Elizabeth II made history on Tuesday, both accepting the resignation of former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and appointing new Prime Minister Liz Truss at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. Truss is England's third female prime minister and the 15th prime minister to

serve during the queen's 70-year reign. Breaking tradition, the 96-year-old reigning monarch chose to relocate the symbolic events due to her ongoing health and mobility issues. The queen has previously appointed all prime ministers during her reign at Buckingham Palace.



The queen spends her summer holidays at Balmoral Castle and chose not to make the lengthy return to London for the occasion. She greeted both Johnson and Truss while wearing a plaid, tartan skirt and gray sweater. She was also using a walking stick.

Queen Elizabeth has been forced to miss several events in recent months due to her health issues. Just last week, she pulled out of the Braemar Gathering, though her son, Prince Charles, still attended. Back in July, ET confirmed that she entrusted more of her monarch duties to Charles. **TG**

Kenya: Supreme Court Confirms William Ruto's Victory

Kenya's Supreme Court has ruled that William Ruto was



properly elected president, dismissing several petitions seeking to annul the result of the 9 August election.

His rival, Raila Odinga, and others had alleged there had been massive fraud.

But in a scathing ruling, the judges said some of the petitioners

had falsified evidence.

Mr. Ruto garnered 50.5% of the vote in the closely fought election against 48.8% for Mr Odinga.

The 55-year-old will be sworn in as the country's fifth president next week.

Following the ruling, Mr Ruto said he would extend a hand of friendship to his political opponents, and

praised the judiciary and the electoral commission for upholding the "will of the people".

Despite being the current deputy president, Mr Ruto was not backed by the outgoing President, Uhuru Kenyatta, who instead campaigned for his former rival, Mr Odinga.

But Mr Ruto said he

would be speaking to both men shortly and promised that his government would look after them in retirement.

"We are not enemies, we are Kenyans. Let us unite to make Kenya a nation of which everyone shall be proud to call home," he said. **TG**

Russian Gas: China's Firms Rescue European Nations

Major firms including Sinopec have sent natural gas shipments to Europe throughout the year.

China, the world's biggest buyer of the key fuel, has seen demand slump

amid strict COVID-19 policies.

The Chinese firms are sending the liquefied natural gas to European nations as an energy crisis sweeps the continent, according to a Bloomberg

report.

Traders told Bloomberg that major shippers including Sinopec and PetroChina Co have sold shipments of liquefied natural gas to struggling European nations

throughout the year.

The shipments from China come as Russia halts flows indefinitely via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline, continuing its streak of reducing energy supplies to Europe. **TG**



730 Children Die In Somali Nutrition Centres

Hundreds of children have died in nutrition centres across Somalia, the United Nations children's agency (UNICEF) said on Tuesday, a day after it warned that parts of Somalia will be hit by famine in the coming months.

The Horn of Africa region is on track for a fifth consecutive failed rainy season. In 2011, a famine in Somalia claimed more than a

quarter of a million lives, most of them children.

"Some 730 children have been reported to have died in food and nutrition centres across the country between January and July this year but the numbers could be more as many deaths go unreported," UNICEF Somalia representative, Wafaa Saeed, told a Geneva press briefing.

The centres are for children with severe acute malnutrition as well as other

complications such as measles, cholera or malaria and are considered just a snapshot of the situation



across the country.

"We don't know the full picture. I have met many, many families whose children have died along the way (to centres)," said Victor Chinyama, the UNICEF spokesman in Mogadishu.

UNICEF said that disease outbreaks were increasing among children, with some 13,000 suspected measles cases reported in recent months of which 78 percent were children under five years of age.

Funding for Somalia has increased in recent weeks and the United Nations' \$1.46bn appeal is now 67-percent funded. But aid officials warned that it had come very late and that more was needed.

"We are going to be witnessing the death of children on an unimaginable scale if we don't act fast," said Audrey Crawford, Somalia's country director at the Danish Refugee Council. **TG**

6000 Cameroon Refugees Get Over Digital Ids

Cameroon, home to half a million refugees, is one of a few African nations that has issued a number of IDs to help refugees access basic services.

As a refugee in



Cameroon, Shelley Teckombi Yazembrou struggled for nearly seven years to open a bank account, or even move around freely, simply because she did not have a national identity card.

That changed in June, thanks to a pilot programme by Cameroon's government and the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), under which 6,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) were issued biometrics-based IDs to help them access basic services.

Now that they have the

identity cards, Central Africans in the eastern Gado-Badzéré camp – where

Russia Offers \$16,000 For Ukraine's Robotic Vehicle

TheMIS unmanned ground vehicle is being used to evacuate civilians in Ukraine, according to its Estonian manufacturer, Milrem Robotics.

A Russian think tank is offering a \$16,000 bounty for the THEMIS robotic vehicle.

The vehicle was recently delivered to Ukraine, where

Yazembrou lives – and the Mandjou area are starting to access education, jobs,

it is reportedly used to evacuate wounded civilians.

The think tank, CAST, told Insider it wants to supply such a system to the Russian military.

A Moscow-based think tank with ties to Russia's military establishment is offering a cash reward – one bigger than what most soldiers make in a year – for the capture "by any means"

healthcare, and travel around without fear of arrest. **TG**

necessary of a cutting-edge robotic vehicle that is being used to assist in the evacuation of wounded civilians in Ukraine.

Dubbed THEMIS, the remotely controlled, unmanned ground vehicle is manufactured by an Estonian defense contractor, Milrem Robotics. **TG**

Health

Health Benefits Of Plantain

Plantains (*Musa x paradisiacal*) are a member of the banana family. They are a major food staple in Africa, and they also form part of the diet in Latin America.

Unlike bananas, people usually cook plantains before eating them. Cooking methods include frying, baking and boiling.

People can also eat plantains at different stages of ripeness, from when the fruit is green through to when it is yellow and black.

Drying and grinding green plantains produces flour that people use in Caribbean and West Indian cooking.

Nutritional information

Plantains are a low fat source of starchy carbohydrates and fiber. They also contain good amounts of vitamins and minerals, including vitamin C and potassium.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture Trusted Source, 1 cup of baked yellow plantain contains:

239 calories

57.5 grams (g) of carbs

2.1 g of protein

0.2 g of fat

3.06 g of fiber

Plantains also contain vitamins and minerals, with 1 cup contributing the following amounts toward a person's recommended Daily Value (DV) Trusted Source:

Nutrient	Quantity in 1 cup of baked yellow plantain	% of DV
Vitamin A	62 micrograms	7%
Vitamin C	22 milligrams (mg)	25%
Vitamin B6	0.29 mg	17%
Potassium	663 mg	14%
Magnesium	57 mg	14%

Potential health benefits

People can eat plantains as part of a healthful diet. They are high in carbs, however, so if a person is trying to manage their weight, they should be aware of portion size.

Also, it may be preferable to bake or boil plantains rather than frying them.

That said, eating plantains in moderation can greatly contribute to a healthful diet, as they contain essential vitamins, minerals, and fiber. The sections below outline some of the potential health benefits of plantains.

They are a good source of fiber

Fiber is an essential part of the

diet and helps regulate a person's bowel movements. Fiber also appears to reduce the risk of developing various conditions, including:

heart disease

diabetes

diverticular disease

constipation

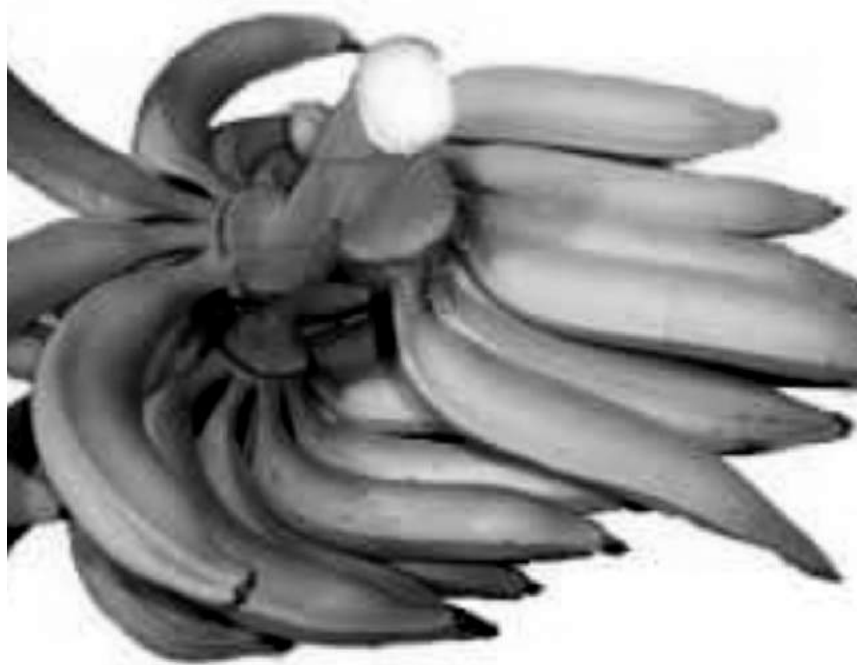
The recommended DV for fiber is 28 Trusted Source. Including 1 cup of baked plantain as part of a meal can contribute just over 3 g

Source suggests that replacing 10% of wheat flour with plantain flour increased the antioxidants and fiber in baked cookies.

They help support the immune system

Plantains are a good source of vitamin C, and including them as part of a varied diet can help support the immune system.

However, heat and light can destroy vitamin C. So, when



toward this target.

People can maintain their fiber intake by including a wide variety of fruits and vegetables in their daily diet. They are rich in antioxidants. According to one 2020 study Trusted Source, plantains naturally contain beneficial plant compounds, including polyphenols and flavonoids.

These compounds act as antioxidants and help fight free radicals. Free radicals cause oxidative stress and damage in the body.

Also, a 2015 study Trusted

Source suggests that replacing 10% of wheat flour with plantain flour increased the antioxidants and fiber in baked cookies.

Plantains also contain vitamin A. According to one 2018 study Trusted Source, vitamin A is anti-inflammatory and helps regulate immune function.

They contain potassium, which may lower blood pressure. Potassium is essential for the normal functioning of the heart, nerves, and muscles. It helps metabolize carbs and

synthesize protein.

Eating a potassium-rich diet may help regulate blood pressure and lower the risk of stroke.

Getting enough potassium in the diet helps balance sodium, which can increase blood pressure. Some people may experience high blood pressure when following a diet high in sodium.

Plantains are a good source of potassium. Including them in the diet may help regulate the body's sodium and potassium balance.

Having overweight also increases the risk of high blood pressure, which, along with insulin resistance, forms the condition metabolic syndrome.

A 2020 study Trusted Source in rats suggests that plantain extracts helped regulate hormones associated with obesity and showed antidiabetic effects. However, further studies are necessary to confirm that these benefits also apply to humans.

They contain vitamin B6, which is good for a healthy heart and mind

Vitamin B6 performs a wide variety of functions in the body. It is essential for the metabolism of macronutrients, healthy red blood cells, and neurotransmitters.

Eating 1 cup of plantain contributes 17% toward a person's vitamin B6 requirement.

According to the Office of Dietary Supplements Trusted Source, vitamin B6

may have the following health benefits:

It may reduce cardiovascular risk by lowering homocysteine.

It may support brain health and reduce cognitive decline.

It may reduce the symptoms of premenstrual syndrome.

It may help reduce the symptoms of morning sickness in pregnancy.

A 2019 study Trusted Source suggests that older Puerto Rican adults with suboptimal vitamin B6 levels had more symptoms of depression.

Another study Trusted Source indicates that vitamin B6 (30 mg daily) and magnesium (300 mg daily) reduced depressive symptoms by 40% over an 8-week period in adults with depression and anxiety. Plantains contain good levels of both vitamin B6 and magnesium.

Summary

Plantains are a carb-rich food and a good source of fiber, vitamins, and minerals. They also contain antioxidants that fight free radicals.

With good levels of vitamin C, they can also support immune function. Likewise, their vitamin B6 content may reduce cardiovascular risk and improve mood.

However, people who are trying to manage their weight need to be mindful of portion size and cooking method due to the high levels of calories and carbs that plantains contain. **TG**

STIs: World Health Organisation Releases New Module

At the 23rd World Congress of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI), WHO released a new module of its implementation tool for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to support countries implementing, and scaling up integrated STI services for people who use PrEP. The module provides a framework and practical guidance for decision-makers, programme and facility managers, and health care workers for the gradual integration of sexually transmitted infection (STIs) services considering the local

context and modes of PrEP delivery services.

People who would benefit from PrEP for HIV infection are also often at high risk of another STIs. Globally, 1 in every 4 persons who would benefit from HIV PrEP have been diagnosed previously with at least 1 STI - namely gonorrhoea, syphilis or chlamydia before starting PrEP.

Since STIs are asymptomatic, many of these infections would have been missed and the chain of transmission would have continued if testing had not occurred. Considering that many STIs are easily cured,

offering STI services for people on PrEP is an opportunity that should not be missed. Recently, WHO has conducted a review of national guidance documents for HIV PrEP and found that one third did not mention STIs as part of their PrEP-related recommendations.

"Offering STI services for people who use PrEP creates an opportunity to reach those at higher risk of infection who might otherwise remain undiagnosed, particularly as most STIs do not present signs or symptoms," said Teodora Wi, lead of WHO's

Global STIs Programme. "This approach is beneficial for the person with an STI, their sexual partners and also for the STI response," she added.

"Service integration at the primary level of care creates efficiencies and synergies for the health system and promotes a people-centred approach to improve people's sexual health and their quality of care," said Meg Doherty, Director of WHO's Global HIV, Hepatitis and STIs Programmes. "We hope that this new guidance will contribute to these goals." **TG**

Gist Entertainment

BBNaija: Deji, Diana React After Eviction

BBNaija Level-up housemates, Deji (Fake), alongside Diana, and Giddyfia became the ninth and 10th housemates to face eviction.

Beauty's disqualification as well as eviction of Cyph, Christy O, Khalid, Ilebaye, Kess, Pharmsavi, Modella and Amaka, leaves 16

housemates out of 28 to compete for the 100 million grand prize.

Fake housemate, Deji was the first to face eviction on the night. When Ebuka asked the fake housemates in the house to reveal themselves, Deji initially hesitated.

Ebuka then decided to reveal his identity, which shocked his lover, Chichi,

who became teary. Phyna and other housemates were also shocked.

When asked by Ebuka who he would miss the most, Deji mentioned Dotun and Chichi.

He said he wasn't sure about his relationship with Chichi at first, but he grew into it and hopes to build their relationship when they are outside the House. **TG**



Headies Awards: Wizkid, Tems Shine In Atlanta



Nigerian Singers, Wizkid and Tems shine at the 15th annual The Headies Awards, held at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre in Atlanta on Sunday. Apart from their two joint awards ("Essence" won song of the year and best R&B single), Wizkid won album of the year

for Made in Lagos (Deluxe Edition), while Tems won best female artiste and best R&B album for If Orange Was a Place.

Meanwhile, Olamide, Wizkid, Davido, Burna, BNXXN, Adekunle Gold, others also won individual awards at the event which took place outside Nigeria for the first time.

Full list of winners:

Best Rap Album – Olamide (Carpe Diem)

Best Collaboration – Wizkid

feat. Tems (Essence)

Best R 'n' B Single – Wizkid

feat. Tems (Essence)

Album of the Year – Wizkid (Made in Lagos (Deluxe Edition))

Best Afrobeat Album – Wizkid (Made in Lagos)

Songwriter of the Year – Adekunle Gold (Sinner).

Best Music Video – TG Omori (Champion – Fireboy DML feat. D Smoke)

Artiste of the Year – Burna Boy (Nigeria).

Best Male Artiste – Burna Boy

Digital Artiste of the Year – Davido

Humanitarian Award of the Year – Davido.

Best Recording of the Year – Patoranking (Celebrate Me)

Producer of the Year – SARZ (Monalisa – Lojay and SARZ)

Best Alternative Album – Ibeji, among others. **TG**

NBC Awards Organizers Call For Entries

The organisers of the maiden edition of the Nigeria Broadcasting Awards championed by the Broadcasting Organizations of Nigeria (BON) have called for entries from broadcast professionals for works done between 1 August, 2021 to 31 August, 2022, for the awards. The body also unveiled 12 categories opened for honours in Television and

Radio.

According to the body, the award is open to broadcasting professionals practicing in Nigeria and broadcasting organizations licensed by the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) to practice in the country

The Nigeria Broadcasting Award (TNBA) is the industry's

attempt at recognizing and celebrating excellence in the Nigerian broadcasting industry. TNBA aims to motivate professionals to deliver higher professional standards by providing incentives that ignite and reward creativity, original ideas and concepts across broadcast platforms (Radio and Television) licensed to operate in Nigeria.



"Each award, along undeniable prestige of industry recognition, carries a statuette to make winning a lasting memory," says John Ugbe, Chairman BON and CEO, MultiChoice Nigeria. **TG**

We Can't Live Without Sex In This World – Actress



Social media influencer and actress, Shugatiti (born Abena Serwaa Frimpong) doesn't take prisoners when it

comes to baring it all on social media and looking the part in every facet of her life. The actress who owns a kitchen/cafeteria in Ghana and as well as a sex tolls store confirmed in a recent interview that everything about her revolves around sex.

The actress describes the act of having sexual intercourse as one that keeps

humans in better living conditions than any other thing.

According to her, sex has made her to also focus on selling sex toys apart from managing a restaurant and social media advertisement.

She describes selling the toys as important adding that it has fetched her a lot of

money.

"Apart from advertising on social media and managing a restaurant, I sell sex toys. What is life about? Let's be fair – can you go without sex? We cannot live without sex in this world" she explained to Halifax Ansah-Addo on Okay FM. **TG**

BBNaija: Don Jazzy Lists Likely Winners Of N100M

The CEO Mavin Record, Don Jazzy has spotted five housemates he likes in BBNaija season 7.

Don Jazzy in a tweet on Thursday said he likes Doyin, Bryan, Bella, Allyson and Hermes.

The Entertainer said he will burst a bottle of

champagne if any of them surface the champion of the show.

Don Jazzy made this known when asked if he was related to Allyson.

Jazzy reacted by retweeting "I like her too. I like Doyin, Bryan, Bella, Allyson and Hermes. Anyone wey win we go pop

champagne. #bbnaija,"

The winner of the 'Level up' edition will walk away with a total of N100 million worth of prizes.

So far, eight housemates have been evicted from the show. Amaka was the last housemate to be evicted on Monday. **TG**



Gist Sports

Super Falcons Lose To USA

The Super Falcons of Nigeria have lost their second international friendly match against the United States Women's National Team 2-1.

The match was played in the early hours of Wednesday morning (Nigeria Time) in Washington DC.

The first of the twin friendly between the two teams saw the USA team beat the Super Falcons 4-0 at Children's Mercy Park, Kansas City.

Kansas City.

USA took the lead in the game in Washington after Blessing Demehin put the ball into her own net before Uchenna Kanu equalized in the 50th minute to give the Nigeria team hope of nicking a win against the Americans.

However, Rosemary Lavelle cut that hope short in the 66th minute when she headed in a cross from Megan Rapinoe to clinch yet another win for the Americans.

The USA have now extended their winning streak against the ninth African champion to eight.

This will be the first time in 22 years the Super Falcons will be scoring against the US team with the last time being the women's football event at the Sydney 2000 Olympics with the scoreline ending 3-1 in favour of the world champions.

Both teams have qualified for the 9th FIFA Women's World Cup finals. **TG**



Int'l Friendly: Super Eagles Face Desert Warriors



The Super Eagles of Nigeria will be facing the Desert Warriors of Algeria in an international friendly on September 27 at the New Stadium, Oran,

Algeria.

Both nations failed to qualify for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar with Nigeria losing out to bitter rivals, Ghana, and Algeria beaten to the ticket by Cameroon.

Algeria were initially billed to face the Black Stars of Ghana for the international friendly, but

Ghana pulled out of the tie compelling the Algerian football authorities to get another opponent.

Algeria defeated Nigeria 2-1 in the semi-final of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations via 95th minute free-kick from Man City winger, Riyadh Mahrez.

Algeria will go on to

win Senegal in the final thanks to a Baghdad Bounedjah second-minute strike.

The match is expected to be a tough test for Super Eagles manager, Jose Pesiero, as Algeria have always proven to be a tough opponent for the Super Eagles. **TG**

US Open: Jabeur First African Woman To Reach S/Final

Tunisia's Ons Jabeur broke another record as she advanced into the penultimate stage of the US Open, becoming the first African woman to do so by beating Australian, Ajla Tomljanović 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) in the quarter final on Tuesday.

She reaches her second Grand Slam semi-final after her exploits at Wimbledon

where she went all the way to the final before losing to Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina. The feat meant she also became the first African woman to reach a Wimbledon final.

Jabeur's straight sets victory was her fourth in this year's edition and the 5th seed now waits for the winner of the game between Coco Gauff and Caroline Garcia.

She came back strong in the second set despite being behind 5-4 at some point to prevent the game being played for more than the one hour plus it had lasted.

She said after the win that Tomljanović was a tough opponent who made her work for the victory and also hopes that she continues to be a role model for girls in Africa.

Tomljanović was responsible for bringing Serena Williams' fairytale run at this year's US Open to an abrupt end in the third round. **TG**



Anthony Joshua Accepts To Fight Tyson Fury

Anthony Joshua has accepted the challenge, heavyweight champion, Tyson Fury threw at him to fight him this year for his WBC title.

Fury called out Joshua for a "battle of Britain" fight via a video he posted on his Twitter account on Monday.

He acknowledged the beltless status of Joshua, and called him out to challenge him for his WBC belt.

Joshua, via a tweet, responded him, saying he does not do online talks for attention, and that if Fury is seriously interested in getting into



the ring, he should contact the right authorities.

He tweeted, "Yea calm. I don't do the online discussions just for clout, so if your really about it shout

@258mgt. I'll be ready in December. Khalas."

Joshua had lost his WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO heavyweight titles to Usyk last September, with the Ukrainian repeating the same feat last month to retain the

belts.

Although Joshua's promoter, Eddie Hearn, had disclosed Joshua will return to the ring early next year, it seems Joshua will be coming back earlier than that. **TG**

France's Tiafoe Dumps Nadal Out Of US Open

After over three hours of a gruelling slugfest at the Arthur Ashe, homeboy Frances Tiafoe came out on top defeating Rafael Nadal 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3

The win is the biggest victory in the 24-year-old, 22 seed's career.

James Blake was the

last American to beat Nadal in a Major in 2005 when he saw off the Spaniard in the same four sets, on the same court.

"I'm beyond happy and can't believe it. He's the greatest of all time and something special happened today", an ecstatic Tiafoe said.

The loss for Nadal

ends the possibility of him returning to the number spot on the ATP Rankings following the exit of current number one and US Open men's defending champion, Daniil Medvedev. **TG**



Advertorial

In the presence of GOD, there is fullness of Joy. Col. (Ven) BS Nwankwo weds Miss Glory Onyeso at St. Jude's Military Church (PROT) Nigerian Army Port Harcourt.



Lt. Col. Nwankwo & wife



Parents of the bride, Ven. & Dr. Mrs. Onyeso with Mrs. Ufomba at the middle



L-R is Capt. (Can) IA Rikoto, Col (Rev) YA Ishaya, Ag Director chaplain services (PROT) Nigerian Army



Officiating ministers



R-L is Mrs. Rikoto, Mrs. David, Mrs. Kayea & others



St. Jude's CM, Mr. Emmanuel David conducting



Dame Beatrice Ene-Bong & Bar. Lady Ebere Ohaneje



L-R is Lady Timi Agbani, lady Gloria Ikuru & Mrs. Amadi



L-R is Edith, Queen Envie & Collins



L-R is Col. Mashegu CO.29 batalion, Borí Camp & others



Mrs. Danjuma Sani & Mrs. Alumunga



Signing of the marriage register. Couple surrounded by military ministers



Bride received marriage certificate



Group photograph with Mrs. Grace Woke



L-R is Lt Col. Evans, Col. Baraya & Col Femi David with couple at the middle



Crossing of the sword



Couple with the bridal train



Couple with bride's family



Page boys & little brides



Sir & lady Ikuru



Mrs. Adjekophori Veronica & Aunt Ngozi



Cutting of the cake with the sword