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By N.Ugoh

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*continued on p(26-27)*

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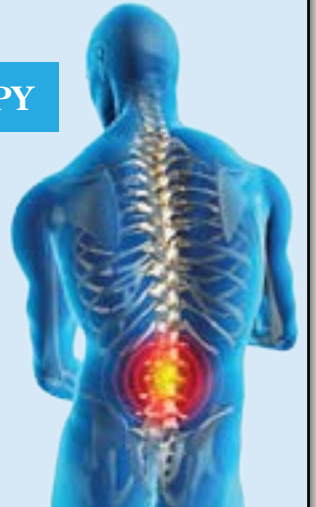
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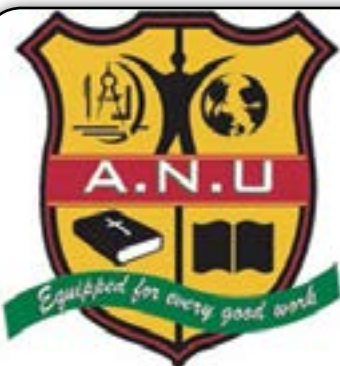
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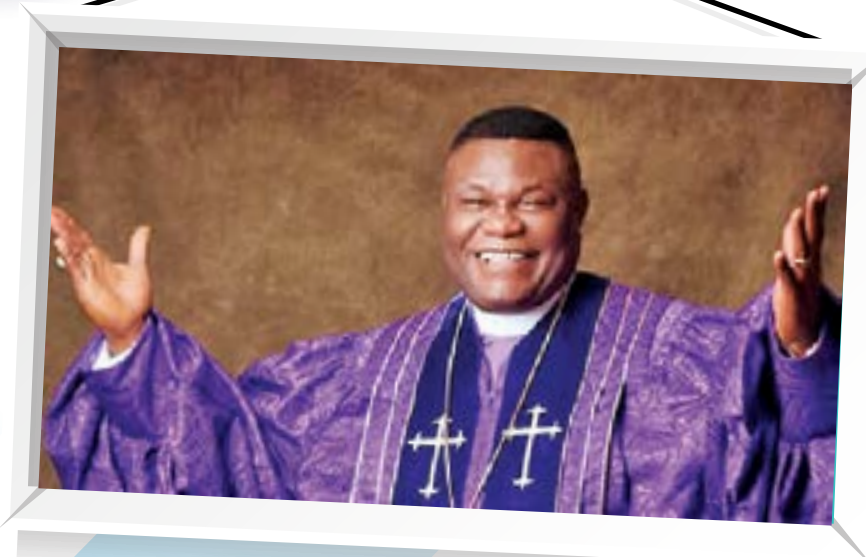
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# TRUDEAU DISMISSES CANADA'S AMBASSADOR TO CHINA



pic: www.dh.ca

Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau, has asked his ambassador to China to resign after he made a statement regarded as undiplomatic about Huawei's high-profile extradition case.

John McCallum had maintained that Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, could make

a strong argument against being sent to the US. His statement was seen to be unnecessary political interference.

Meng, the daughter of Huawei's founder, was arrested in Vancouver last December over alleged violations of US sanctions on Iran.

In a retaliatory

move, China detained two Canadian citizens on national security grounds. A Chinese court later retried a Canadian man who had been jailed for drugs smuggling and sentenced him to death.

"Last night I asked for and accepted John McCallum's resignation as Canada's ambassador to China," Trudeau said in a statement, which did not explain his reasons.

Trudeau, however, stated recently that he had no plans to replace McCallum, who immediately apologized, saying he "mis-spoke".

Charles Burton,

Professor at Brock University and a former Canadian diplomat to China, said his comments on Meng possibly avoiding extradition had signaled to Beijing that its hard-line tactics were working.

"He really made it untenable for the prime minister to sustain him [in his post] for any length of time and he had to go," Burton said by telephone, suggesting Trudeau should quickly appoint a special envoy to handle the dispute.

The foreign ministry has declined comment on the dismissal.

## CANADA REOPEN PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM



Image Source: ww.cscimmigration.com

The Federal Government of Canada has announced that Canada's Parents and Grandparents Program has been reopened to interested sponsors. The forms will be available starting at noon EST on January 28, 2019.

The program which is known as the PGP makes it possible for Canadians and permanent residents to sponsor their parents as well as their grandparents for Canadian permanent residence.

According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), around 20,000 fresh PGP applications will be processed in 2019.

Anyone that hopes to sponsor his parents and/or grandparents via the PGP will be required to first complete an online Interest to Sponsor form. After that, IRCC will process these Interest to Sponsor forms according to their order of receipt then invitations to apply for the PGP will be sent until the program's ceiling of 20,000 complete applications is at-

tained.

This first-come first-served pattern of accepting applications has replaced the controversial lottery approach that was introduced by IRCC last year and later canceled.

Filling an Interest to Sponsor form notifies IRCC of your desire to be considered as a potential sponsor.

IRCC has revealed that interested sponsors should first endeavor to review the eligibility prerequisites so as to ensure that they meet all that the program requires including the Minimum Necessary Income requirement.

Potential sponsors will be required by IRCC to upload a copy of their status in Canada document during the submission of their interest to sponsor form.

Those that are invited to apply will have a maximum of 60 days to submit their completed application forms and all supporting documents.

To know more about the PGP, send an email to [pgp@canada-visa.com](mailto:pgp@canada-visa.com)

## TORONTO SERIAL KILLER PLEADS GUILTY

A middle-aged man accused of sexually assaulting and killing men he comes in contact with in Toronto's Gay Village district over seven years has pleaded guilty to eight counts of first-degree murder. Prosecutors also accused him of dismembering the bodies of victims.

Bruce McArthur, wearing a black sweater, stood up and said "guilty" eight times as the charges were read late last month.

Police found the remains of seven of the men in large planters at a property where McArthur had worked. The remains of the eighth victim were found in a ravine behind the same property in midtown Toronto.

Police prosecu-

tor says the cases involved sexual assault or kidnapping and homicide.

McArthur relocated to the Toronto area around the year 2000 from a suburb where he previously got married, raised two children and worked as a traveling salesman of underwear and socks.

His landscaping business was small, but he periodically hired workers, including a 40-year-old man who disappeared in 2010.

A special task force was set up by Police authorities in Toronto to look into the disappearances of men in the gay village area of Toronto shortly after some went missing. McArthur was arrested six months later.

## I WANT TO BE WORLD BANK PRESIDENT - OKONJO IWEALA

Nigeria's former Minister of Finance, Prof. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has said she is still very much interested in vying for the post of World Bank's President.

Okonjo-Iweala, in an interview with Richard Quest on Cable News Network (CNN), disclosed this recently in Davos, Switzerland.

She said: "I know that, because I contested the last time in 2012, and many people were asking that question. It is a shareholder's decision and they have to decide how they want it. Someone has to nominate."

"If the right person were to nominate, and if the circumstances are right and people feel I

can do the job, yes!"

When asked if she has declared an interest, she said: "No I have not declared my candidacy, you asked a hypothetical question and I answered it fairly. I'm very happy right now, and I just want you to know that I'm enjoying life for a change for a portfolio of what I like."

Okonjo-Iweala, an economist, author, and entrepreneur, was Nigeria's first female Finance Minister and the first female Foreign Affairs Minister.

She was also the first female black candidate to contest for the presidency of the World Bank Group in 2012.

During her time as a Minister of Finance, she spearheaded nego-

tiations with the Paris Club of creditors that led to the wiping out of \$30 billion Nigeria's debt.

She also initiated processes that helped improve the country's macroeconomic management to reduce macroeconomic volatility.

Okonjo-Iweala started out as an intern in World Bank Group.

After graduation, she returned to World Bank Group and worked for many years as a development economist. She held the post of Corporate Secretary and Vice President.

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*Editorial*

# HUAWEI: A GLANCE AT CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY

What does Canada really stand for in today's global politics? In the face of growing threats from oil-rich Saudi Arabia and its unapologetic suppression of individual freedom and women's rights, China's buzzing influence in Africa and Asia, US muscle-pull stance on NAFTA and the growing threat of extremism, how can Canada play a leading role? The recent espionage case against Huawei,

leading to the arrest of its top boss, is a quick reminder that there's no substitute for the protection of what we stand for as a free state.

The threat to undermine security and privacy by a country known for espionage and theft of technology should not make the federal government compromise. The recent stance by Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, asking Canada's Ambassador to China

to resign is indeed noteworthy, as it will send a signal to Beijing that if it is a rough player in international politics, Canada isn't going to be Hoodwinked to do it's bidding. As a country, still battling with issues of race, identity segregation, Anti-Semitism and so on, the least we can accommodate is to bulge for dictators, even in democratic regalia.

Of course, taking for granted China's influence in global affairs is a great risk, due to its incursion into the territories the West has given up literarily. This is in fact why Canada should rise and trade, make deals and make sure it doesn't become a superpower without an 'intimidating' global influence. A superpower that can bark with its subsuming presence and capable of making oppressive regimes succumb or land at the negotiating table. The existence of a 'stick' in global affairs is consequent upon its impact if it is inflicted on the other.

The United States under Donald Trump has wielded the enormous power of America to make things pretty difficult for Iran, China now has to come to the table, and Rus-

sia is trembling. The growing trend of right-wing politics in Europe, Brexit and a nationalistic drive in the US means at some point, Canada may have to stand and wake up to the unbelievable reality that it could be the only country or a part of a tiny set, standing up for its existence and prosperity, wielding away threats without allied support. Wake up Canada!

## As we're left with Butiku

It is self-evident that the February 16 general elections will produce a winner between the two mainstream parties; viz a viz, The All Progressives Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP). From all indications, Nigerians are left with either President Muhammadu Buhari of the APC and Atiku Abubakar of the PDP. Former education minister, Oby Ezekwesili, who recently bowed out from the presidential race once referred to the duo as Butiku.

Given the obvious reality, Nigeria's party politics has to be reformed. The conduct of primaries, the emergence of candidates for elective posts has to be fair to all. A situation where the moneybags decide and political godfathers choose whoever they feel they want is an aberration of democratic ideals. The mainstream political parties often do not reflect the minds of Nigerians during electioneering. It will take perhaps, two more decades or more for independent candidates to stage a big fight for the presidency. Remember, Trump did it and of course, with a lot of money too. If independent candidates will emerge from the fringes of the two dominant parties, they must get to the grassroots and start a movement, grow the movement and nourish it. Until then, we will continue to have limited options and our fate as a nation is sealed to their narrow specs.

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# HEALTHY LIVING

HEALTH IS WEALTH, TAKE CARE OF YOURS

*Disclaimer: In no way are any of the suggestion herein meant to take the place of advice given by a licensed health care professional. Please always consult your doctor before commencing any medical treatment.*

## Older adult or senior? Why you need the flu shot



(NC) If you're an adult, you may be skeptical about whether you need a yearly shot against influenza. Will it help? Can you get a mild case of the flu from the vaccine?

As you age, your immune system gets weaker, making it harder to fight off viruses such as the flu. And people 65 years of age or older are at greater risk of getting seriously ill or dying from the flu, especially if there are underlying medical conditions.

A recent Canadian study found that getting sick with the flu could increase the risk of having a heart attack, especially among those over 65.

Getting a flu shot is

the best way to protect you and your family because it lowers your risk of serious complications like pneumonia.

Health experts recommend getting vaccinated every year, as the flu viruses are always changing. The vaccine is designed before each flu season to protect against the most common influenza viruses expected to go around.

The flu shot is safe. Every batch of vaccine is tested according to strict guidelines for safety and quality before it is used. And contrary to what some people think, you can't get the flu from the flu vaccine.

Find more information online at [ontario.ca/flu](http://ontario.ca/flu).

## FIGHT CANCER, EAT TO HEAL

By Greta Glory

Of all gynecological maladies, endometrial cancer is the most common. To block the risk of being attack by this cancer, having a balanced and healthy diet is always imperative, but it does not always mean passing upon the tasty food you love. Here are appetizing cancer-fighting foods that should be a part of your daily diet:

1. Add more allium vegetables to your home-cooked meals. Shallots, garlic, onions and leeks are examples of allium vegetables that make dishes more flavorful, and its natu-

ral sulfur compounds cut the odds of cancer enzyme formation. Using ½ cup of any these aromatic vegetables on your daily homemade recipes will reduce by 59% the growth of HIF-1 alpha, an enzyme responsible for uterine cancers, according to Vanderbilt University researchers.

2. Pack your basket with guavas. One guava day, keeps the cancer at bay. Yes, Mayo Clinic researchers found out that one guava fruit contains lycopene capable of reducing indications of endometrial cancer by 25%. Lycopene is beneficial to the healthy growth

of uterine cells, at the same time, reduces the formation of abnormal ones. Watermelon and tomatoes are rich in lycopene, too. Nevertheless, you may take 15 mg. of lycopene supplement only on a physician's advice.

3. Berries boost your immune system. Berries are superfood famous of their brain-boosting abilities. Having as little as ½ cup of berries every day tamps down the threats of endometrial cancer as much as 34%. Thanks to the proanthocyanidins compounds of the fruits, study coauthor Marta Rossi, Ph.D. said it strengthens im-

munity and destroy radical cells effectively faster.

4. Ground flax restores hormones. A study in Acta Oncologica Journal showed that excess toxins and hormones can lead to the growth of endometrical cancers. But, if you are eating flax every day you need not worry since this plant is a natural source of lignan compounds that reduce excess toxins and hormones found in your liver. Study coauthor Claudio Pelucchi, PhD. suggested that adding 2 tablespoons of ground flax on your yogurt or salad will allow you to control cancer risk by 20%.

## Tips to protect your kids from the flu this winter

(NC) In the winter, when kids are cooped up indoors at home and school, it's easier for them to catch and spread vi-

ruses like the flu.

For children under five who get the flu, complications can include pneumonia, ear infections and dehydration, which can result in a trip to the hospital, or even death in rare cases.

Help protect your kids with these tips:

Get the shot. It's your best defence. The flu shot helps children build up their immunity so they're better able to fight off the infection. In Ontario, children between the age of two to 17 can get the flu vaccine as an injection or a nasal spray.

Coughing and

sneezing etiquette. Germs are spread through the air. That's why it's important to teach kids to cover their mouths and cough or sneeze into a tissue or their sleeves to stop germs from spreading.

Keep hands and shared objects clean. Washing with soap and water (or hand sanitizer) for at least 15 seconds helps prevent the virus from spreading, as it can live on hands for up to three hours. Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and shared objects like countertops, keyboards and toys help prevent

germs from spreading.

Eat healthy and exercise. The healthier kids are, the better they're able to fight off infections like the flu. This means ensuring they are eating plenty of fruits and vegetables and getting enough exercise.

Stay at home when sick. Viruses spread more easily in public settings like schools and businesses. If your child is sick, it's best to keep them at home.

The vaccine is free for all children in Ontario six months of age and older. Getting the flu vaccine has never been easier — simply head to your healthcare provider's office or a local public health unit. Children over the age of five can also get the flu vaccine at a participating pharmacy.

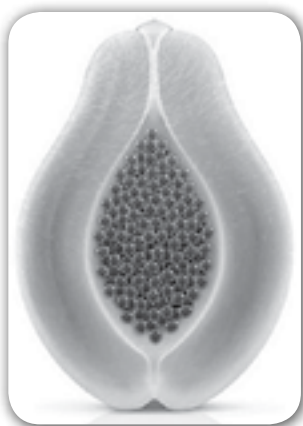
Find more information online at [ontario.ca/flu](http://ontario.ca/flu).

## PAPAYA: YOUR D.I.Y. SKIN REJUVENATOR

By N.Ugoh

When looking for beauty products that will help to make your skin softer and hydrated, nothings beats what natural ingredients can offer. The fact that these natural ingredients are not too pricey and easy to find or make at home will surely take those wrinkles away.

Yes, those wrinkles, lines and blemishes on your face will soon say goodbye with the rejuvenating powers of papain, found in papaya fruit. In a research, Svendsen stated that papain is an enzyme capable of breaking down dead skin cells allowing you to achieve a healthier and ageless skin.



Indeed, for a more radiant and softer skin, create a do-it-yourself mask using papaya, bananas, oats and eggs. Banana contains antioxidant components; oats soothes and exfoliates ageing skin while egg nourishes you with protein.

To make a naturally-hydrating mask, fol-

low these steps:

1. Mix ¼ cup of papaya, cut in cubes, with 1 tablespoon mashed banana. Add ¼ cup of oats then 1 teaspoon beaten eggs.

2. Apply the mixture all over your face and neck. Let it sit for 10 minutes before rinsing.

### Nigerian Canadian News

Supports

## Sickle Cell Awareness

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## BUHARI LAUNCHES 10-YEAR VALIDITY PASSPORT

President Muhammad Buhari has recently launched a newly enhanced Nigerian security passport with 10 years validity. It was launched at a meeting of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) at the presidential villa, Abuja.

The President was immediately issued his own 10 – year validity passport by the Comptroller General of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) Mr. Mohammad Babandede.

Babandede said that the new passport has enhanced features which will make it easier for security management.

The old passport will work concurrently with the new one.

He said the new passport with 32 pages will cost N25, 000 and \$130 abroad; the 64 pages with five years expiration time will cost N35, 000 and \$150 abroad while the 64 pages with 10 years validity will cost N70, 000 in Nigeria and \$230 abroad.

He said: “The new passport reform programme is weather friendly, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) compliant, it has polycarbonate technology that eliminates damage, enhanced security features and save Nigerians in the Diaspora time of frequent visit to Nigerian Embassy among others.”

The Minister of Interior, Abdulrahman Dambazau said Nigerians in Diaspora demanded the 10-year validity passport, which the government has obliged them.

He said the e-passport database is the most reliable source of data for criminal investigation.

The minister however regretted that the passport was being produced outside the country and therefore stressed the need to



domesticate production. Adekunle Ajayi awarded World's number one Angiologist

A Nigerian doctor and Chief Medical Director (CMD) at the Federal Teaching Hospital, Ido-Ekiti (FETHI), Ebenezer Adekunle Ajayi, has been announced as the winner of the world championship in Angiology out of 86 countries that participated.

Angiology (more frequently referred to as vascular medicine in the United States) is the medical specialty which studies the diseases of the circulatory system and of the lymphatic system, i.e., arteries, veins and lymphatic vessels, and its diseases.

The field of vascular medicine or Angiology is the field that deals with preventing, diagnosing and treating vascular and blood vessel-related diseases.

‘Medicine is a calling; be sure you’re ready before going...

Dr. Ebenezer Adekunle Ajayi is now recognized as Father of Modern Macular Hole in Angiology. The purpose of the award is to identify brilliant scientists and academics around the world through world championship.

The World Championship is organised by the International Agency for Standards and Ratings, and Dr. Ajayi, a Fellow, Directorate of Angiology at the International Agency for Standards and Ratings (IASR), is considered to play a vital role

in advancement of scientific knowledge in Angiology (Diabetics).

Ajayi’s research article was adjudged the best among 5,238 nominations from 86 countries across the world screened for the championship for 2018 in Angiology (Diabetics); and the Nigerian doctor is now recognized by IASR among world’s 500 most influential experts in Angiology.

Dr. Ajayi, from Igogo-Ekiti in Moba Local Government Area of Ekiti State, is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, and the Chief Medical Director of the Federal Teaching Hospital, Ido-Ekiti.

He studied Medicine and Surgery at the University of Ilorin where he obtained his Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery in 1998.

He began his career as a House Officer between 1999 and 2000 at Federal Medical Centre, Owo in Ondo State, before proceeding to Ekiti Anglican Diocese Hospital (Ile Abiye Hospital) in Ado-Ekiti as a Senior House Officer in 2000.

Ajayi observed his national youth service at the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited in Kogi State between 2000 and 2001. He was retained by the company as a Medical Officer due to his brilliance and dedication to duty after completion of his national service in 2001, and served in that capacity till 2003.

He was at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife (OAUTH) from 2003 to 2005 as a Registrar, and rose become a Senior Registrar in the same hospital between 2005 and 2007, after which he proceeded to the then Federal Medical Centre, Ido-Ekiti (now Federal Teaching Hospital, Ido-Ekiti) as a Consultant Phy-

sician/Cardiologist in 2008.

He moved on to join a team of vibrant young clinicians to pioneer the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti in late 2008 and held various administrative and programme positions, including the headship of the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Ajayi pioneered the practice and training of cardiovascular medicine at the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti.

He was awarded the Fellowship of the West African College of Physicians (FWACP) and the American College of Physicians (FACP) in 2007 and 2015 respectively. He diversified from medicine into Business Administration in 2017 when he bagged a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti.

Dr. Ebenezer Adekunle Ajayi is a member of some professional bodies, including the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), West Africa College of Physicians, (WACP), American College of Physicians (ACP), Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN), Nigerian Cardiac Society, Nigerian Hypertension Society, Life Member Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), among others.

In his scholarly adventures, he has written and published in several local and international peer-reviewed academic journals in the field of medicine.

He was appointed the Chief Medical Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Teaching Hospital Ido Ekiti by the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria in January 2018.

## MASSOB, PRO-BIAFRA GROUP DISAGREES OVER 2019 ELECTIONS

In a statement issued in Enugu by BGIE and BSG and jointly signed by Yahgozie Immanuel, communication officer for BGIE, and Godspet Uhagi, head of information directorate for BSG. said, “No government of Nigeria or administration of any arm of Nigeria’s government within Nigeria’s current geopolitical space supports Biafra in any form or configuration, beginning in 1966.”

The Biafra Government in Exile (BGIE) and the Biafra Shadow Government (BSG) had instructed their members to distance themselves from the 2019 general elections in Nigeria and called on “all Biafran citizens to adopt this stance and boycott the elections.”

But in a quick reaction, the Uchenna Madu-led Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) said it was not in support of any call for the boycott of the polls.

MASSOB’s spokesman, Samuel Edeson, told Newsmen: “We said that any group who feels that they want to boycott the elections is free to do so but we are advising people to go and vote because whether they vote or not, the elections will hold.

“If they fail to vote for their representatives, the federal government will impose an administrative measure on them,” he said.

“We as MASSOB, we are not going to ask anybody to boycott or to vote in the elections.

“MASSOB may decide to vote or not to vote; but we are not asking people to boycott the elections. We are still consulting as at now.”

According to Immanuel and Uhagi, “If we vote, we are supporting our own perpetual slavery by endorsing and consenting to our own eternal enslavement: we are helping kill your own souls.

“If we don’t vote, we are exercising the only freedom we have in this matter, which is to say, no, to unconscionable subjugation. We are in effect saying ‘I know you will kill us, and we do not have the power to stop you at this time, but we will never submit to you and make it easier by offering you our unprotected neck.’

“Finally, whether Biafrans vote or not, the status quo will remain the same, hence our position to encourage Biafrans to boycott the exercise and focus on gaining their freedom and extricating themselves from Nigeria.”

## 7-STEP ELECTION PROCEDURE RELEASED BY INEC

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has listed the steps as follows and they are not substantially different from those used in recently conducted elections. The steps as stated by INEC are:

**Step 1:** Upon arrival at the polling unit, join the queue and present yourself to the INEC official (APO111) at the polling unit who will determine whether you are

at the correct polling unit and check if the photograph on the Permanent Voter Card (PVC) matches your face. If satisfied, he/she will direct you to the next INEC official (APO1).

**Step 2:** The official (APO1) will request for your PVC to confirm that your card is genuine and your details, using the smart card reader. He/she will ask you to place your finger on the card reader to confirm

that the PVC belongs to you by ascertaining, the card reader will contain the name, photograph and finger prints of all those registered in their polling unit.

**Step 3:** You will then meet the next official (APO11) who will request for your PVC to confirm that your name and details are in the voters register. Your name will be ticked and your PVC returned to you. He/ she will then

apply indelible ink to the cuticle of your appropriate finger for that election to show you have been accredited to vote. (If your name is not found on the register, you will not be allowed to vote).

**Step 4:** The presiding officer (PO) stamps, signs and endorses the date at the back of the Ballot Paper. The PO will roll the ballot paper inwardly with the printed side inwards and give to

you. He /she will then direct you to the voting cubicle where you vote in secret.

**Step 5:** You will stain your appropriate finger for the election with the ink provided then use your stained finger to mark the space or box provided on the ballot paper for your preferred candidate/party. Roll the marked ballot paper (in the manner the PO gave to you).

**Step 6:** Then leave

the voting cubicle and drop the ballot paper in the ballot box in full view of people at the polling unit.

**Step 7:** You will then leave the polling unit or wait if you so choose in an orderly and peaceful manner to work the process up to declaration of result. N.B. The result of each polling unit shall be pasted at the unit and for everyone to see.

Source: INEC.

## INEC CLEARS 72 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, 28 WOMEN LISTED

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), last month released the final list of 72 presidential candidates and thousands of National Assembly candidates fielded by various political parties ahead of the February 16 elections.

The final list released by INEC has 72 presidential candidates and 72 running mates.

28 women made the list as presidential candidates or running mates. President Muhammadu Buhari of the APC is set to be the oldest contender while 30-year-old Johnson Omede is the youngest as vice-presidential candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP).

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) was excluded from the list of parties with presidential candidate due to the court battle between ex-Governor Donald Duke and a former Minister of Information, Prof. Jerry Gana over the ticket.

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) does not also have candidates for the national and state assembly elections in Imo and Zamfara states because of internal wrangling that took different factions of the party to courts.

INEC Chairman Prof. Mahmood Yakubu said yesterday that the 2019 general elections would involve the highest number of registered voters and a

record number of political parties.

Prof. Yakubu who stated this during a meeting between the commission and Committee of Vice Chancellors (CVC), said while the final register of voters stood at 84,004,084 some 91 political parties had fielded candidates for different elections.

He said 1,904 candidates would slug it out for 109 senatorial slots and 4,680 for the 360 House of Representatives elections seats.

Many governors rounding off their second term in office had made the list for senatorial contest while some serving senators could not secure the tickets of their parties.

### CAREER

## HELP YOUR KIDS TRANSLATE THEIR SKILLS INTO A CAREER PATH



(NC) Work is changing. We hear about technological advancements like automation every day. So how do we know what skills we need for jobs now?

A recent study indicates that employers look most for strong foundational skills. These include:

**Critical thinking.** Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or

approaches to problems.

**Coordination.** Adjusting actions in relation to other people's actions to achieve a goal.

**Social perceptiveness.** Being aware of other people's reactions and understanding why they react the way they do.

**Active listening.** Giving full attention to what others are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not

interrupting at inappropriate times.

**Complex problem solving.** Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.

These are the current must-have skills that can be developed through part-time employment, volunteer work, extracurricular activities and even team sports. Understanding the skills developed through all of life's activities that may apply to the workplace is important, especially for young job seekers.

For example, by working as a barista, students are not just serving coffee – they're practicing critical thinking to determine the most efficient sequence of actions that will keep patrons happy. They're also actively listening when orders are given

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What about playing a team sport? It's not just playing hockey, it's also practicing coordination as actions

are adjusted on the ice based on teammates' actions.

Although it can seem tricky to identify skills learned through past experiences, there are tools that can help.

RBC Upskill, a new online tool designed for young people, helps identify skills and then provides career possibilities that would fit with those skills. Try the tool at [rbcupskill.ca](http://rbcupskill.ca).

# JUSTIN TRUDEAU SHUFFLES CABINET



By N.Ugoh

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently added two people to his cabinet by naming Bernadette Jordan of Nova Scotia as Minister of Rural Economic Development and Montreal MP David Lametti as Canada's new Justice Minister.

While speaking outside Rideau Hall, Trudeau revealed that the changes were needed in his cabinet to replace the departed

Nova Scotia MP Scott Brison.

Brison had earlier announced that he would step down from the cabinet and would not contest in the next election.

Jody Wilson-Raybould of Vancouver moved from Justice to Veterans Affairs, a portfolio which is generally regarded as lesser. Trudeau revealed veterans matters need the same dexterity that Wilson-Raybould applied to

the justice portfolio.

Wilson-Raybould on her part said the move is not seen by her as a demotion. She said her post is a highly important role and she is proud to be Minister of veterans' affairs.

Jane Philpott moved from Indigenous Services to Treasury Board where she is expected to oversee much of government spending which includes proper management of federal

public service as well as its unions.

While talking about Philpott's transfer to Treasury Board, Trudeau said Philpott is the best choice for the position owing to her involvement in a similar cabinet committee which translates to the fact that she is already well-versed in financial issues.

Meanwhile, Seamus O'Regan moved to Indigenous Services from Veterans Affairs.

# ETS SINGLE CASH FARE INCREASES BY 25 CENTS ON FEBRUARY 1

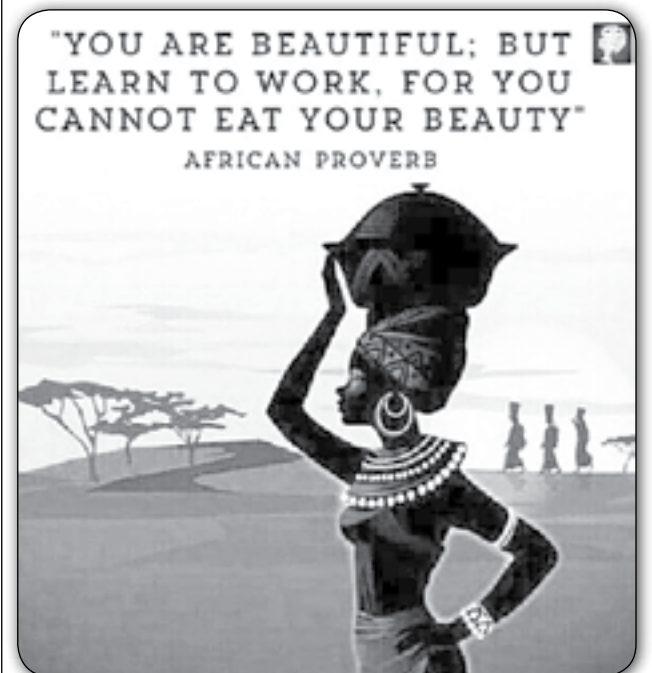
January 9, 2019 monthly and annual passes.

Effective February 1, Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) is adjusting the single cash fare by 25 cents (from \$3.25 to \$3.50). This fare adjustment is part of the Operating budget approved by City Council in December 2018.

Prices remain the same for all other fare products, including ticket booklets and

“ETS encourages passengers to save money by purchasing a booklet of 10 tickets or a monthly or annual pass. The savings can be upwards of \$1 per trip,” says Eddie Robar, Branch Manager, ETS.

ETS fares remain competitive with those in other Canadian municipalities of a similar size.



# PARKING RATES GO UP AT GREEN P LOTS IN TORONTO

By N.Ugoh

Toronto Parking Authority has changed the way it lets out spaces, scrapped daily maximums at numerous downtown locations and increased rates by up to 50 cents per thirty minutes.

However, this does not come as a shock neither is it bad news for Green P users who use the lots periodically.

The new rates

took effect at many uncontrolled facilities across Toronto on January 14. Spots that are close to Adelaide and Spadina, for example, has risen from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per thirty minutes, while the parking lot at 110 Dovercourt has gone from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Lots, where daily maximums are scrapped have had their half-hourly rates reduce.

The lot at Dan-

forth and Chester and Danforth, for instance, dropped to \$1.50 from \$2.00 per half hour but drivers will not be able to receive a flat rate of \$10 daily. According to the city-owned parking corporation, this in the interim will "deter all-day parkers" in lots that have a high-level occupancy, thereby freeing up more space for short-stay customers.

A minimum of 25



lots has been affected by the eradication of daily maximums. The lots include those at Richmond and Walnut, Queen and Augusta, Yonge and St. Clair and Bloor and Clinton.

As from Febru-

ary 11, daily maximum rates in most "controlled" facilities like the parking lots in Yorkville and St. Lawrence Market will increase by \$2 or \$3.

Rates for people that have monthly parking passes will

increase across the board as from February 1. Monthly parking cost at Yonge-Dundas Square will increase from \$400 to \$425 but many lots in the city will only witness prices increase by \$10 or \$15 per month.

## FINANCE

## FINANCIAL NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

By Ajay Oberoi

We are about to start a New Year and it is the high time to focus on the New Year's resolutions. When it comes to New Year's resolutions, you are encouraged to pay more attention towards the financial resolutions. Then you can make sure that you don't run into any financial issues in the long run. Here is a list of some of the most prominent New Year's financial resolutions that are available for you to consider in the upcoming year.

**1. Take a look at your credit score quarterly**

It is important for you to take a look at your credit score on a quarterly basis. Failing to do it can lead you towards some negative complications in the long run. This becomes extremely important with the Equifax information leak, which took place in the recent past. Therefore, now you are provided with the ability to try credit monitoring services or freeze your credit. Or else, you can even monitor your credit on your own. Then you will be able to notice all the changes that take place in the credit activities. You will not have to spend any money out of your pocket to take a look at the credit score as well.

**2. Save at least 15% of the gross income**

If you are a person who didn't have the habit of saving money, it is the high time to do it. It is recommended for you to start saving at least 15% of your gross income. Then you will be provided with the opportunity to overcome a large number of financial issues in the future. Most



of the people in today's world have the need to save money, but they don't have a clear understanding on how to do it. That's where you can start saving 15% of your gross income. In other words, if you are a person who is making \$3,000 per month, you need to make sure that you save at least \$450. When you continue this habit, you will be able to save a considerable amount of money in the long run. It would be more than enough to help you overcome financial difficulties that you will come across.

If you find it as a difficult task to stick to this habit, you can open up another savings account and configure a standing order, so that you will be able to transfer 15% of your funds to the new account. Then you will not have to put any extra effort to save money.

**3. Craft a debt plan**

If debt has been troubling you in the past, it is important for you to craft a debt plan as well. It can provide a great assistance to you with overcoming the debt related issues that you are dealing with. When you pay your own debt, you will be climbing a mountain. It will take strategy and time to get to the top.

As the very first step, you need to take a moment and see how

much debt you have. Then you need to take a look at the interest rates associated with your debt. To make your life easy with managing the debts, you can note down all the information in a spreadsheet. Then you can craft a plan on how to settle your debts. When you follow this kind of an approach, you can make sure that you don't miss out anything.

Some of the options available for you to consider when you are crafting the debt consolidation plan include, personal loans, 9% balance transfer credit cards and student loans. You need to compare all available options and discover the best repayment strategy available out there to consider. Then you will be able to overcome the pain points with debt consolidation.

**4. Invest on a monthly basis**

It is recommended for you to make your investments on a monthly basis. It is another excellent method available for you to save a considerable amount of money. This is applicable for all the investment methods that you can try as well.

However, some of the investment methods are not in a position to deliver the best possible results to you. For example, if you keep your money in a bank account, you will not be able to get an interest to

cover up even the inflation. As a result, you will be losing the value of money that you have in your bank account in the long run. To overcome this issue, you need to look for the other investment opportunities.

Since a large number of investment opportunities are available to consider, you need to make sure that you select the best investment out of them. No matter with what investment opportunity you decide to go ahead with, you should do it on a monthly basis.

**5. Track all your expenses on a daily basis**

You are spending a considerable amount of money on a daily basis. However, most of the people find it as a difficult task to survive during the last few days before they get the paycheck. That's because they tend to spend their money unnecessarily during the other days of the year. To overcome this issue, you need to start tracking your expenses on a daily basis. Then you will be able to see how much money you have spent at the end of the day. These details will also help you to manage your money in an effective manner. Hence, you will not come across any financial issues at the end of the month.

You don't have to write down all your expenses when tracking money. You just need to download one of the smartphone apps available and get the job done. This is one of the most convenient methods available for you to track your daily expenses as well. In case of you have credit or debt issues visit [www.gtacredit.com](http://www.gtacredit.com) or call 416-650-1100.

## AFFORDING THE RETIREMENT YOU WANT

(NC) Whether retiring is part of your five-year plan or something of a longer-term dream, it's never too early or late to start thinking about how to pay for the lifestyle you want. In fact, the number one financial concern that Canadians have is saving for retirement.

According to a recent survey by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, 59 per cent of Canadians believe they are either not on track or don't know if they are on track to retire. To steer yourself in the right direction, check out these helpful tips:

Map your finances. Many people believe retirement income should be based on your pre-retirement income. But really the only thing you need to gauge your retirement need more. But don't forget you'll have fewer of certain other expenses in retirement, too. Things like day care, commuting and saving for retirement won't eat up your income like they do now.

Trim the luxuries. Some expenses are essential, like your mortgage, food and even your kids' education. But look for little luxuries you can eliminate, like your daily latte or pricey gym membership you don't

use enough anyway. Bigger treats can also have a big impact — the same survey found that of those who hadn't set aside enough funds for retirement, 73 per cent cut down on travel and 62 per cent cut down on entertainment.

Work with a pro.

Over 60 per cent of Canadians have not spoken to a financial advisor about saving for retirement in the last five years. But a financial advisor can help you guide your investments to make the most of your savings. They'll even help you determine the right level of risk for you, depending on how far away your retirement is on the horizon. A chartered professional accountant can look at your spending and find areas for improvement. "Income taxes are a major expense in our lives, so figuring out how to legitimately minimize them is an important goal in planning for retirement," says Blair East, a CPA. "I have worked with many individuals and families over a number of years, often with their investment advisors, and we have been successful in achieving lower income taxes and greater savings for retirement."

*Find more information and resources to get on a path of long-term financial health at [cpa-canada.ca/financial-wellness](http://cpa-canada.ca/financial-wellness).*

where they would have the hardest time cutting back if they had to. Respondents said that eating out, car expenses and travel are the top three expenses that would be difficult to cut back on.

Those in Atlantic Canada are most likely to say they would have a hard time cutting out their car. Those in urban areas and younger Canadians (18 to 24) are more likely to say that cutting back on eating out would be difficult. Younger Canadians were also most likely to say that cutting back on Netflix would be difficult.

Sadly, the research also revealed that only 42 per cent know their current credit score. Those between

the ages of 25 and 44 were the most likely to know their credit score.

"Whether you're negotiating rates on car payments or trying to secure the best mortgage rate, you should know your credit standing before sitting across from the lender," adds Kuzmic. "If you want to pay less interest for a car or a home loan, then keep a good handle on your credit."

The main factors involved in calculating a credit score are your payment history, used credit versus available credit, the length of your credit history, public records and number of inquiries into your credit file.

*Learn more at [equifax.ca/education](http://equifax.ca/education).*

## HOW NETFLIX CAN HELP YOUR CREDIT SCORE

(NC) Calculating your credit score requires advanced algorithms. Thankfully, we don't have to do that math.

We do, however, need to understand why maintaining a good credit history is important. Credit scores are intended to help financial risk managers and oth-

ers make fair decisions on whether or not to take a risk on someone. The risk might involve giving that person a loan, offering a credit card or approving their apartment rental application. Credit scores are designed to predict the likelihood that individuals will pay their bills.

"Small monthly pay-

ments on a credit card for Netflix or Spotify can help someone build up a good history, which leads to a good credit score," explains Julie Kuzmic, director of consumer advocacy at Equifax Canada. "Set up an automatic transfer from your bank to pay off your credit card regularly and

you'll be building a consistent payment history with no effort."

It's good advice, especially when taking into account daily expenses that can add up.

Equifax Canada recently did a pulse check, a generational study of 1500 Canadians, asking people

# Can I ever forgive my late wife who deceived me?



By ANGELA DAVIES

May the soul of Judy my late wife rest in peace despite the shocking revelation that came to the open at her graveside. But I don't know if I can ever forgive her for this great deception for over 20 years. Judy was a woman I loved so much even in death but I don't know if I can truly forgive her for this great deception for the 22 years we were married before the wicked hands of death snatched her away from us after about two months of being sick.

Even if she had confessed to me on her sick bed, I would have forgiven her but she hid this secret from me and took it to her grave, leaving me to wonder the kind of woman she truly was. "Hmmm, I thought we were open to each other," I murmured.

I am still so pained and confused. I didn't just deserve what Judy did to me. How would you feel if you were to find out at the graveside of your wife that the person you had lived with for 22 years was not who she had claimed to be? More painful, the two children who she brought into your home when they were just kids and introduced as her nephew and niece are actually her children? What other secrets could she have taken to her grave that will

affect me and my three sons in future?

The first time I met Judy was at my friend's traditional wedding several years ago. What attracted me to her was her personality. I watched her as she served guests with so much passion and dedication. I couldn't help but introduce myself to her.

"Hello, gorgeous, I just love the way you serve the guests. By the way, my name is Blaze. What is yours?" She answered, "My name is Judy and I am at your service." We became friends from that day. Judy is so caring and she has a heart of gold. However, about a year later we got married. I loved her so much, she was my world and my family adored her as well.

About four months after we got married, Judy pleaded with me to allow her bring into our home her late sister's children which I felt was too early since our marriage was only four months old yet I gladly accepted because I didn't want her to feel bad.

"Darling please I need to discuss something serious with you and I want you to listen," she pleaded. "What is the matter sweetheart?" I asked. "I am thinking of bringing my late elder sister's children to come and live with us. We actually met about nine months after her death," she disclosed.

"What about their father?" I questioned. "Well, he too is dead. My late sister and I were very close and she made me promise on her dying bed that I will take care of my nephew, David, and niece, Rose, if anything happened to her. Please honey, help me fulfil my promise to her. I love them so much as if they were my own children," Judy pleaded. Just because I loved her so much, I told her to bring them home so that we could live as a family. At that time, David was seven years old while Rose was five and they both called Judy 'aunty'. I accepted and treated them as if they were my own children. I trained them through school along with our three sons. Whatever I do for my sons who are like their younger ones, I also do for them. In fact, they grew up as siblings without any form of discrimination. Even when Judy's family visited us, they always thanked me for taking good care of their late sister's children but I didn't know I was being deceived. However, I simply told them to thank my wife, Judy, because of the love she had for them as if they were her biological children. We were so happy together until Judy died and I felt my whole life had crumbled before me. Our first child was 21 years old while the last son just clocked 15 years when she died.

*continued on p(47)*



## With This Ring

To be continued

By Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi

When Richard left, Albert pressed his back into his brown leather chair, rested his head and muttered, "I'm finished! Grace has killed me!"

Then, counselling himself to calm down and think, he closed his eyes.

This was his life and the matter on hand was his business. Whatever he would do must be his decision, he should not allow anyone to influence him to do what he didn't want to do. Why must he listen to Richard? This matter was none of Richard's business, he thought.

He must do something while he was still ahead. Sitting up, he took his cell phone to call Grace to fix a meeting for the evening. He pressed a button but before it could ring, he stopped it. Would Grace even listen to him? She seemed to have made up her mind. Thanks to Richard.

But they were in a relationship and he should be able to prevail on her, he thought. He dialled again. And again, he stopped it. What was he trying to do, force Grace to abort the pregnancy?

His eyes went to the framed photo on his table that Richard mentioned. The man was right. If his mother had aborted the pregnancy, he would not be alive today. If Grace kept the pregnancy, he would have a baby in about nine months. He would prefer a girl, and in his mind, he could see a beautiful baby girl with chubby cheeks and curly hair.

He suddenly realised where his thoughts were taking him. Have a baby? Oh my God! He exclaimed. What did he know about being a father?

He couldn't think properly, and definitely couldn't make a major decision now. He would have to give it some more serious thought later on and also talk to Donald at the hospital in the evening.

He turned to the computer to continue with the article he was working on but found that he could not concentrate. Various thoughts crept to his mind. When about ten minutes had passed and he hadn't typed a word, he abandoned the computer, got up and left the room. He needed to cool off his head.

Half an hour later, he returned to his office only to find a memo on the table. A quick look at it made him know that he was to see a Senator on Sunday afternoon.

He went back to his

article to continue. Fortunately for him, he was able to get his thoughts together. He knew what to write and the right words to use to make it interesting. When he eventually finished, he e-mailed it to his editor, and left, closing for the day.

He drove to the hospital where his brother's wife was. His mother and sister were there with some other people. He didn't see Donald. Disappointed, he asked his mother about Donald and was told he had gone to church.

As he looked down at the newborn baby where he slept, his tiny hands clenched, he thought that he might be the next father in the family. The boy was cute. Having a baby was a thing of joy. It was a problem to him because he did not wait for the right time, Albert realised.

When he left the hospital half an hour later, he stopped at a restaurant to eat.

While eating, Chike phoned him.

"I'd planned to come over to see you this evening but I don't think it will be possible. I'm still at work." Chike said.

"That's fine."

"Have you talked to her?"

"No. I haven't seen her."

"Well, I've told you what to do and how to handle her."

Deep in Albert's heart, he didn't think he should press Grace to have an abortion. If he did, he would be killing a baby as wonderful as Donald's son.

He told Chike of Richard's visit and their discussion.

"Well, that guy should not decide for you. It's your decision. If it won't disrupt your plans, Grace can have the baby. And even then, you don't have to marry her. Girls don't get pregnant by accident these days. They do it all the time to hook men. Don't fall for it. It's a calculated gamble."

That's what I feel, Albert thought as he sipped his drink. But somehow, Grace didn't seem to be the kind who would do that which was probably why she got angry yesterday when he suggested that her pregnancy was planned to trap him.

"Hello?"

"Yes, I'm listening."

They talked for a few minutes more before saying goodnight.

Albert stepped into his apartment at about eight-fifty and flipped on the light. After a shower, he came to the living room and turned on the TV before he laid down on the sofa with a can of malt on a table be-

side him. He had had a long



Pastor Taiwo Odubiyi

day and was very tired now but he had to call Donald.

He scrolled to Donald's name on his phone and selected. It was picked on the fourth ring.

After greeting Donald, he said, "I thought I would see you at the hospital."

"I had to go to church."

"I need to discuss an issue with you."

"Okay, go ahead."

"When can we see?"

"I'm travelling to Abuja tomorrow. Can it wait till Sunday?"

Albert felt disappointed. "Sunday?"

"That's when I'm coming back. Is it something we can discuss on phone?"

"I'd like for us to sit down and talk but ... well, the issue is that my girlfriend is er - pregnant."

"Pregnant? Albert! But I discussed all these things with you!" Donald scolded.

"I know. What should I do? I - I didn't expect this to happen."

"You didn't expect this to happen? So, what did you expect? You expected to continue to have sex without anyone knowing about it? I thought you told me she was a Christian?"

"Look, it has already happened!" Albert said with impatience and a little irritation. "What should I do - that's my question."

"What can you do? You will have to accept it." Donald said.

Albert took a deep breath which Donald heard.

"Is it er - Grace?" Donald asked. Albert had brought Grace to his house once.

"Yes."

"Well, I will be back by noon on Sunday. Come to my house and we will talk more about it." Donald told him.

Albert inhaled deeply again before he said, "Alright. I will."

After the call, he opened the can of malt, drank direct from it and put it down.

He was watching the TV but his mind was far from it. He soon found himself thinking again about Richard's visit. The

*continued on p(38)*

# FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING HANDGUN BAN

After all the gun deaths Toronto, and other cities in Canada, suffered in 2018, there was plenty of call for action including a full-blown handgun ban in this country. It appears the Liberal government might be considering that idea.

Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction Bill Blair has spent months talking to Canadians and recently during a Sherbrooke, Que., cabinet retreat, he said, "We've completed that study and we're compiling the results and I'll be going before the cabinet in the coming weeks with results of that review and some recommendations."

But before the debate takes place, some are decrying the spread of false information that has inflamed Canadians. "There is simply no evidence that there is a worsening problem among lawful Canadian handgun owners, the people targeted by the proposed ban — in effect, held up as partially responsible for tragic deaths and senseless crimes," writes Matt Gurney on Global News.

Gurney cited a Canadian Press report that said the gun problem was increasingly traced back to Canada and not the U.S., which was commonly thought in the past. Eventually the wire service corrected their error, said Gurney, but not in the most transparent way.

"Canadians have spent four months having a debate, in-

cluding public consultations, based in part on bad information. Information that was known to be bad months ago, but that went uncorrected until two days after Christmas, when news readership is typically way, way below usual levels."

Gun owners argue that a handgun ban is not supported by most Canadians. "Canadians recognize it isn't your local IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) shooter or duck hunter shooting up the streets of Toronto or Surrey. If you're trying to gauge the flavour for a ban with everyday Canadians, the gig is up. Sensible Canadians want credible work on crime, something you just aren't willing to suggest," writes Tracey Wilson of the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights.

Wilson cites a recent petition against the ban that quickly garnered 35,000 signatures, more than another one calling for the ban, which amassed only 13,000 names despite "a fresh new website and the adoption of a hashtag #TriggerChange has been added to this campaign, but has since been completely hijacked by gun own-

ers, sick of the constant collective blame assigned to them by the aggressive anti-gun lobby groups."

The anti- or pro-gun debate is a lot more nuanced than many Canadians might think, argues John Geddes in a recent article in Maclean's. "Blair has been assigned by Trudeau to examine ways to curb gun violence. (Liberal MP Marc) Serré says his caucus of more than 50 rural and partly rural Liberal MPs recognizes the difficult balancing act Blair must execute. In Toronto and Vancouver, an outright handgun ban might sound sensible; in Timmins, Ont., or Campbell River, B.C., not so much."

If a full ban was implemented, critics say it is not the magic bullet to solve all Canada's ills, especially with our close proximity to the U.S.

"Canada shares a very long and very porous border with the most gun-saturated country in the history of human civilization," said Tristin Hopper in the National Post, speculating what the ban might look like.

Existing owners would be grandfathered in, most Canadian-origin gun

crimes would be prevented but crime would not drop, said Hopper about the potential new handgun-free landscape.

For his part, Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders is not concerned about the debate, however, as he mentioned in a year-end speech to media.

When asked about the handgun ban Mayor John Tory has been supportive of, Saunders said, "I'm interested in people who are the motivated to shoot other people. If anyone wants to put any tools to reduce that, I'm supportive of that." But he added, "diminishing gun violence and the motivation behind it, has to be intelligence-led."

That intelligence might come from another task force, led by Regina Chief Evan Bray, that will hopefully "find solid data on what's happening with firearms across the country, and to dig into solutions with academics and gun experts."

The group was formed by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, who are on the front lines in the battle against crime. In Regina, according to Bray, handguns are not the big issue, but instead it is long-guns and sawed-off shotguns that are most seized by police.

The debate, for better or worse, is on and the issue of a full ban might become a ballot-box point in the 2019 federal election, set for Oct. 21.

Source: [legalblogs.findlaw.ca](http://legalblogs.findlaw.ca)



## CHILD SUPPORT REDUCTION

*My husband has a daughter from a previous marriage. she is now 15 years old. She has dropped out of high school against all our efforts to keep her in school. She has seen a psychologist and been cleared of any issues. She just chooses not to go. She says she would rather work and we can't force to go to school. She resides with her mother. Do we have grounds to reduce or stop payments if she gets a job to support herself or reduce them?*

Answer:

Under section 31(1) of the Family Law Act, every parent has an obligation to support an unmarried child who is a minor or enrolled in a full-time program of education. However, subsection 31(2) provides that this obligation does not extend to a child who is 16 years of age and has voluntarily withdrawn from parental control. Although your husband's daughter may have dropped out of school, the fact that she continues to reside with her mother suggests to me that she is not self-supporting, but rather is still financially dependent on her mother, and thus has not fully withdrawn from parental control as contemplated by the Act. The outcomes of these kinds of cases are very fact specific, and I would recommend that your husband consult with a lawyer to discuss the situation in greater detail.

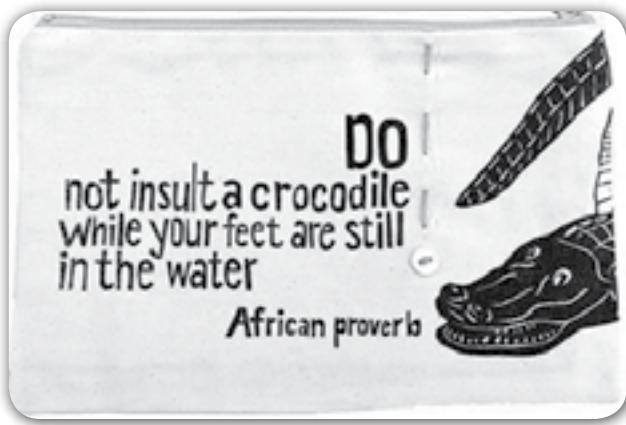
Matrimonial home visitation  
*My husband and I*

*have recently separated. He volunteered to leave. I live in the home with our 17 year old son. Because it is the matrimonial home my ex wants me to leave the house for half a day a week so he can come in and spend time with our son. My husband has enough money to rent a place until we sell our house next year but is living in his brother's basement about an hour away. While I understand this is the matrimonial home I feel that asking me to leave regularly is not appropriate. I would rather see him take our son out our better still get his own place nearby. He is verbally abusive and I feel too uncomfortable being in the house with him. This may be why or son is avoiding him too. I never reported the abuse and I feel physically safe around him.*

Answer:

Although your husband has voluntarily left the home, you both have an equal right to live in the home. Since he has moved out though, he should give you reasonable notice as to when he intends to attend at the home, but you cannot bar him from entering unless you obtain an order for exclusive possession. If your husband attends at the home to visit with your son, you do not need to leave the home while he is there, although you may wish to give the feelings of discomfort you mentioned. I suggest that you consult with a lawyer who may be able to assist you in negotiating an alternative interim access location with your husband.

Source: [divorce-canada.ca](http://divorce-canada.ca)



## FAMILY

## NO INCOME TO REPORT? FILE YOUR TAXES ANYWAY OR YOU COULD MISS OUT

(NC) Doing your taxes can seem like a difficult task, but it's the key to getting the benefits and credits to which you're entitled. Even if you don't have any income to report for 2018 or your income is tax exempt, you can still claim helpful tax credits and benefit payments. Just remember to do your taxes by April 30, 2019.

The Canada Revenue

Agency uses the information from your income tax and benefit return to calculate the benefit and credits to which you may be entitled. Some common payments include the Canada child benefit, child disability benefit, the GST/HST credit, Guaranteed Income Supplement, the working income tax benefit, and related provincial and territorial payments.

You only need to apply once for benefits and credits, but to continue getting your payments you need to do your taxes on time every year and keep your personal information, like your address and marital status, up to date. Make sure to keep your supporting documents for at least six years in case the CRA asks for them. Need help doing your taxes? If you have

modest income and a simple tax situation, volunteers from the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program may be able to do your taxes for free.

There are also free tax preparation clinics all over Canada. If you live in Quebec, you can get help through the Income Tax Assistance Volunteer Program, offered in partnership with Revenu Quebec.

## 3 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR SMART HOME SMARTER

(NC) Smart technology is about so much more than convenience or novelty. It lets you interact with your home in ways you never could otherwise, freeing you to focus on what really matters to you. Make your smart home truly work for you with these easy, impactful upgrades.

**Smarter driving.** Why limit smart living to the confines of home? Take your savvy on the road for your day-to-day, or even just exploring. When you drive a Cadillac XT4, there are many features to make your trip smoother and ride more enjoyable. Warm your car up on a chilly winter day before you head outside by starting it with Amazon Alexa or through the vehicle's app. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto allow you to use some of your device's apps in your vehicle, including maps, messages, music and your phone. No need to stop and ask directions, just speak it out loud and hear a new route to your destination as you enjoy the drive.

**Smarter planning.** Whether you're working late at the office or on vacation, it's always helpful to know what's going on at home and have some control over it. For example, you can use Amazon Alexa to turn on your driveway lights if get darks before you're home from work. Or take advantage of your smart fridge to find out if you'll need to pick up eggs and milk on your way home from the airport after a trip.

**Smarter feeding.** Our pets are creatures of habit, even when our lives take us off schedule. With a smart feeder, you can set feeding times and

portions from your smartphone to make sure dinner is always on time. An app can keep track of feeding history and portions, and you can remotely serve supper at any time from the app.

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**Smarter feeding.** Our pets are creatures of habit, even when our lives take us off schedule. With a smart feeder, you can set feeding times and

*Find more vehicles at [cadillac.ca](http://cadillac.ca).*

## 3 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN LOOKING FOR A DOG-SITTER



(NC) While we wish we could take our pets everywhere with us, sometimes that isn't the case. Between work trips, family obligations and vacations, there are times that we must leave our fur babies in the care of someone else. To help ensure your dog is treated like family while you're away, here are three things to think about when looking for a dog-sitter:

1. Ease your pet

into it. If your dog isn't used to being away from you, staying with an unfamiliar face could be a big adjustment for them. Leaving your pet home alone for trial runs can help ease separation anxiety and make the transition easier for your dog. Introducing your pet to the sitter ahead of time will also help them get more comfortable with their new companion.

2. Be honest about your furry

friend's needs. As much as we love our pets, just like humans, they aren't perfect. Some pets need much more attention than others or require significant exercise. If your dog is very energetic and vocal, a condo or apartment setting might not be the best place for them to stay while you're away. Similarly, if your pet prefers the company of humans, it's best for them to stay with someone who doesn't have other animals in the household. Always think about your pet's needs and find accommodations that make the most sense for them, making the ex-

perience as effortless as possible.

3. Use a pet-sitter you trust: Look for sitters who are experienced and comfortable with dogs like yours. While friends and family who already know your pet might be the best choice to dog sit, that might not always be an option. You can also consider using a service like Rover.com to find a local pet sitter. The company helps you find safe, five-star pet sitters and dog walkers in your area. You can even have them come to your house to dog sit, keeping your pup as comfortable as possible while you're away.

## PREPARING YOUR CHILD TO BE ON THEIR OWN

(NC) As much as we love our children, many of us are looking forward to becoming empty-nesters one day. But as high student loans and unaffordable housing stifle many young people, it's important to give your kids the right tools and education for the current climate so they don't mature to be an

"adult child."

Parents today are trying to teach their children about good financial habits, with 61 per cent of Canadian parents saying they have taught their children about money, according to a recent survey by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

To help give your kids a strong foundation, check out these helpful tips.

**Choose age-appropriate lessons.** You don't have to wait until they're teenagers to teach them money life lessons. As early as age three, you can teach your kids they may have to wait to buy

something they want. For example, when you're at the grocery store you can talk about deciding between this cookie or that cracker, but not both, or explaining to them they can't have that chocolate bar at the checkout lane.

**Look for opportunities.** With the right mindset, you'll see many

chances to teach your kids about money and finances in your everyday lives. Do they want an expensive toy? Teach them about long-term savings goals and encourage them to set aside some allowance money to make the bigger purchase in a few months. Is your 14-year-old excited about post-secondary already? You can also talk about setting aside money for university or college or perhaps a trip once they finish their post-secondary education.

**Stick with it.** Parents who teach their kids

early find that it pays off. According to the same survey, 44 per cent of parents graded their success in teaching their children about money at eight out of 10 or higher. And 48 per cent of participants with adult children gave their child an eight or higher in how successful they are at managing their money.

*Find more information and resources to get on a path of long-term financial health by reading CPA Canada's Parent's Guide to Money-Smart Living.*

## REAL ESTATE

## BUYING YOUR FIRST HOME IN CANADA



By Ajay Oberoi

Buying a home is a joy for everyone, especially when it's the first time. This is where you can settle with your family, build a family or set new goals and see new dreams. The pleasure of being able to buy your first home and the security your home brings is something that is more valuable than anything else.

However, buying a home requires a big investment and lots of smart planning in Canada. Since the cost of home ownership in Canada is very high, every first-timer needs a mortgage. Mortgage in Canada is simply a long-term loan that banks provide and keep your home as security.

To help you buy your first home in Canada, we have come up with some steps and tips that you need to follow.

### 1. ESTABLISH HOW MUCH YOU CAN AFFORD

First and foremost, you need to be able to know and understand how much you will have to pay for mortgage in Canada and how much you can actually afford. You certainly must look to set a price range that is realistic in order to manage your home ownership and lifestyle needs together. You should consider all the extra costs while budgeting such as property taxes, closing costs, property insurance, mortgage insurance and home maintenance.

### 2. SAVE FOR DOWN PAYMENT

You will be required to make some down payment, maybe up to 5%, when purchasing a home. However, if you can manage to make a large down payment, it will be better for you as you will then have to make lower regular payments of mortgage in Canada. So, it's important that you start saving.

You may also choose to set up a savings plan or a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA).

### 3. GAIN PROPER KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR MORTGAGE OPTIONS

You must understand all the various mortgage solutions and their rates to be able to come up with a plan that suits your goals and circumstances. When selecting a mortgage in Canada, there are other characteristics as well that you need to consider. This will give you a complete idea of how much you will have to pay every month. Check if your mortgage has a fixed or variable rate, and if an open mortgage is better for you or a closed one.

### 4. GET PRE-APPROVED

This is a very crucial step. You should seek a mortgage pre-approval just when you start looking for a home. This comes with no costs or obligations. The advantage of this is that you will know how bigger a loan you can afford and on what interest rate. Also, you will be sure that there are no problems with your credit. After getting a pre-approval on mortgage in Canada, you will be able to place a better offer on the house you want to buy.

### 5. IT'S TIME TO BUY THE HOME

Finally, all that will be left to do is you making the purchase. You can either use your savings to make the initial down payment or look for funds from a bank or other lender and then use them to make mortgage payments regularly.

Getting a mortgage in Canada and buying your first home requires you to be patient and persistent. The things mentioned above should be able to make you fulfill your dream of a home.

Please visit [www.gtacredit.com](http://www.gtacredit.com) or call 416-650-5800

## 2019 GTA REAL ESTATE MARKET FORWARD LOOKING

By Steve Ezeude,  
MBA

"76-per-cent of Canada's National wealth is Wrapped up in Real Estate" - Statistics Canada

To all readers, welcome to 2019 and thank you for reading from us. From forward looking perspective, we (the Nigerian Canadian News family) think the year will be a very good and positive looking year.

As we take a forward look at 2019, it will be worthwhile to review the events that shaped the proceeding year. In 2018, generally we saw moderate market activities as opposed to the roller coaster ride of 2017 as well as the low inventory with its attendant, beyond imagination and unsustainable rise in home prices.

The year 2018 was a cooling off and recovery period. It was a time to really sit on the fence and watch the steam of the prior year cool off especially with the stress test which took effect on January 1. The cooling effect was evident on the sales volume as the sales number dropped significantly when compared to the preceding years based on the stats of November on which this article is based. There was a total of 74,130 sales in 2018. It was 87,513 (2017), 107,840 (2016), 96,401 (2015) and 88,462 (2014). Although sales volume dropped in 2018, prices

went up on a monthly basis in the first six months. According to Royal LePage Signature's stats, "home prices continued to rise with the average monthly sale price up from \$736,763 in January to \$782,129 in July." Overall, the year had an average sale price of about \$777,000 and average monthly listing of 13,774.

Major activities were recorded in the Condominium housing type (a relatively 'cursed' market) as it turned around to become a great investment stream to the disappointment of many. Affordability drove consumers into this category of housing due to the higher prices recorded in the low rise housing types (detached, semis and townhouses). Beyond the affordability, those who invested must be happy now knowing how much their investments are worth today. Condominium prices got higher and even closed and are still closing the gap between its prices and those of the low housing types. That was the Real Estate market in 2018 and those activities in the Condominium market kept afloat the real estate market.

So, what does 2019 have in stock? Inventory, global events and Government's policies will continue to shape the 2019 real estate market. As most people did not get into the market, expectation is that there will be lots

of activities in the 2019 market. A market shift towards low rise homes is anticipated. From the first quarter of 2019, prices will start to rise especially in the low rise homes since condo prices are catching up with low rise homes prices.

The Bank of Canada (BoC)'s position on interest rates, stress test, jobs, immigration and vacancy rates will play key roles. A change in the monetary-policy direction as announced by BoC's Governor, Poloz, early December 2018 will see a halt for now on the interest rate hike after the hike of October 2018 that saw a raise to 1.75% since Summer of 2017. This policy change will drive the market activities. The change may not be unconnected with the falling oil prices, slowing local economic growth, moderating inflationary pressure, and increased policy-rate caution as noted by David Larock in his article, "Canada mortgage rates aren't headed higher after all." If the caution on rate hike will be headed, then those consumers sitting on the fence will jump into the market and take advantage of the 'would be' stabilized rates and we will see further sales growth in the months to come. This mindset is in sync with Canada Real Estate Association (CREA)'s forecast that "in 2019, sales are expected to hit 193,000, up 1.4% from the 2018



Steve Ezeude

forecast. However, it's still down 12.77% from the 2017 sales numbers."

Other market indicators will contribute in shaping the real estate market. Unemployment was 5.6% at the end of 2018, a record low in the last 40 years and manufacturing is still very strong despite General Motor's anticipated plant closure later this year as well as population growth. The United States Mexico Canada (USMCA) Trade Agreement and the China Canada relations will have their impact as well.

Regardless, certain circumstances may take place and alter the forecast and different result will be seen. We will be watching and our readers will be kept informed and updated. All the best of 2019!

Steve Ezeude is a Realtor with Royal LePage Signature Realty and a Real Estate Investment Syndicator. For questions and/or feedback, please send email to [steveezeude@yahoo.ca](mailto:steveezeude@yahoo.ca) or call 6478608304. [www.mitorontohomes.com](http://www.mitorontohomes.com)

## HOME IMPROVEMENT GADGETS TO GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

(NC) Wondering what to get your friends and family this holiday season? Make the smart decision and choose from one of the many new smart home gadgets on the market.

Ron Cleary, senior merchant of electrical and smart home at the Home Depot Canada, covers the best options for the new homeowner, eco-conscious friend or security-minded individual in your life.

Smart lighting. For the one in your life who is

looking to be more energy efficient or who tends to be forgetful when leaving their home, smart lighting is the perfect fit. With the touch of a button on your smartphone, smart lights can turn on as you approach your home, change colour or adjust to a certain mood based on the time of day or year.

Smart doorbells. For the person who is always ordering products online or who has children staying home alone, a smart doorbell can provide peace

of mind. Motion sensors alert you when anyone approaches your door, allowing you to see and speak to visitors through your mobile app.

Smart air filters. One of the newer smart home products available, the Filtrete Smart Air Filters can make any homeowner's life easier. Through an app, these filters monitor air flow, time and usage and will even notify you when it's ready to make a change. Not only can the smart app

provide information about your filter's life, it can give active tips about how to help improve the air quality in your home.

Smart door locks. Give the gift of protection this holiday season with a smartphone-enabled door lock. Grant access to visitors from afar or unlock the door from your car when hauling groceries. Some even come with built-in alarms that can alert homeowners audibly when someone enters their home.

## FOOD

## 3 HEALTHY HABITS FOR THE NEW YEAR



(NC) Kicking off a new year with a resolution to be healthier and to eat more balanced meals is a goal shared by millions of people. But all too often, we make overambitious commitments that are hard to fulfill and easy to drop when day-to-day life takes over after the rush of the holidays.

Registered dietitian Sue Mah recommends opting for sensible and sustainable changes to your eating habits.

“Set yourself up for success by focusing on small, realistic changes that will add up to big benefits over time,” she suggests.

Here are some easy breakfast tips and tricks to start the day on a strong note and keep you on track for a new you in the new year:

- Think protein at breakfast. Protein helps you feel full for longer. Have a bowl of hot oatmeal made with milk or a fortified soy beverage. Sprinkle on some nuts,

seeds and hemp hearts for added protein power. Then, team it all up with a glass of Florida orange juice – the vitamin C boosts iron absorption from the oatmeal.

- Get enough greens. Why wait until lunch and dinner to eat your veggies? Throw a handful of spinach or diced peppers in a quick breakfast omelette that’s delicious and packed with vitamins and minerals.

- Make it and take it. If your mornings are rushed, try a fruit smoothie made with Greek yogurt, fruit and OJ. Make it the night before so that it’s grab-and-go. Even a small breakfast is better than no breakfast.

Find more information at [floridacitrus.ca](http://floridacitrus.ca).

## CLEAN OUT THE CRISPER WITH THIS CREAMY PESTO PASTA SALAD

(NC) Looking to balance your budget? The answer is closer to home – or, more specifically, your kitchen.

The average Canadian home wastes nearly \$1,500 each

swap out basil for another herb in your crisper, add leftover chicken or turkey, or mix up the vegetables based on what you have at home.

mL) olive oil  
 • ¼ tsp (1 mL) salt

### Pasta salad

- ½ cup (125 mL) pasta
- 1 can (120 g) tuna or leftover cooked chicken/turkey

- 1/3 cup (75 mL) Hellmann’s with Olive Oil

- 2 cups (500 mL) diced or shredded vegetables (broccoli, celery, zucchini, peppers, peas)

- ¼ tsp (1 mL) salt

- ¼ tsp (1 mL) pepper

### Directions:

1. In a food processor, blend garlic, parmesan, croutons and chilis. End with the herbs and pour the olive oil as it is still running. Blend a shorter time for crunchier texture or longer for a smoother texture. Season to taste.

2. In a large pot of boiling and salted water, cook pasta as recommended by the package. Strain and let cool.

3. In a large bowl, mix pasta, pesto and other ingredients together. Serve immediately or keep refrigerated.

### Creamy Pesto Leftover Pasta Salad

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Makes: 8 servings

### Ingredients:

#### Pesto

- 1 garlic clove
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) grated parmesan

- ½ cup (125 mL) garlic croutons

- ¼ tsp (1 mL) chili flakes

- ½ cup (125 mL) basil leaves

- 1/3 cup (80



year throwing out food. That’s \$31 million in food going to landfills, while four million Canadians go hungry each year.

Hellmann’s believes real food is too precious to waste, so they’ve teamed up with food waste expert Jean-Francois Archambault to share tips and recipes to help reduce food waste at home.

This creamy pasta salad is not only delicious but incredibly versatile. Enjoy it as-is or customize to use up the ingredients in your fridge. For example,

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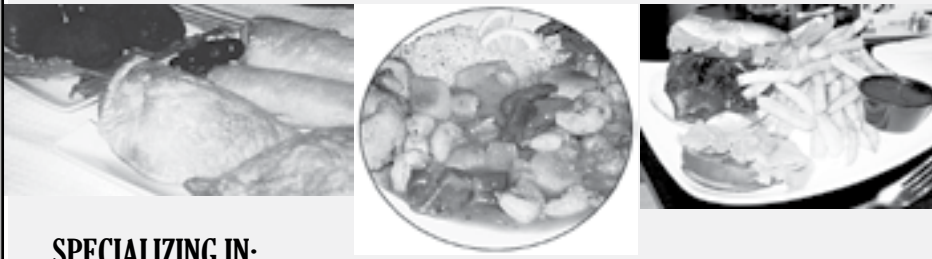
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# NOODLE RECALL EXPANDS AFTER CFIA INVESTIGATION

By N.Ugoh

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) recently expanded its recall of noodle dishes that most likely contains egg and could consequently lead to life-threatening allergic reactions.

According to the agency, certain Ottogi brand noodle products has been updated because of the egg not listed on the label. Individuals who react to egg are advised not to eat the products, which include several instant ramen and noodle dishes under the Ottogi name.

A recent food safety investigation by the CFIA, which says it is making sure that industry removes the recalled products from the marketplace, prompted the recall.

Although, there have never been reported reactions linked to the products, which has been sold in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec. There's a high probability that it may have been distributed to other territories.

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## TECHNOLOGY

## APPLE TO LAUNCH 3 NEW IPHONE MODELS

By Julius Oyekunle

Apple plans to introduce three new iPhone models before the end of the year with LCD screens that will come with new camera features.

The iPhones will succeed the iPhone XR, which has seen sluggish demand. In early January, Apple blamed slowing sales in China as the reason it cut its sales forecast.

Some of the next iPhones will have more

cameras as well, it seems. A new report in the Wall Street Journal reports that there will be a phone to replace the iPhone XR, despite the belief that it is underperforming this year, sales-wise. Though, it could be a big performer in the long run.

The phones are expected to mimic the screen sizes currently available, 5.8in and 6.5in respectively with the XR successor in between with a 6.1in display.

## FACEBOOK TIGHTENS CAMPAIGN RULES IN NIGERIA, OTHERS



By Julius Oyekunle

Facebook says it will tighten rules for political ads in countries with elections scheduled in the first half of the year, building on transparency efforts already underway in the United States, Britain and Brazil after a series of scandals from the US 2016 elections and Brexit. The social networking giant was accused of leaking tens of millions of data to third party.

For upcoming elections in Nigeria and Ukraine no foreign electoral ads will be accepted, Facebook said.

Elections in Nigeria will hold in February this year.

"As we prepare for major elections around the world this year, we're continuing our focus on prevent-

ing foreign interference and giving people more information about the ads they see across our platforms," the social media giant said in a post on its Business page.

In the US, Britain and Brazil political advertisers must confirm their identity and location before they can run Facebook ads, which are also housed in a public, searchable library for up to seven years.

"By shining a light on political ads, news organizations, regulators, watchdog groups and people anywhere in the world can hold advertisers and us more accountable," it said.

In India, the network will launch an Ad Library and enforce authorisations before spring elections, it said.

In the EU, it is to roll out "transparency tools" in the runup to European Parliament elections in May.

By the end of June, Facebook said it would provide a set of these tools to advertisers around the world.

## GERMANY TO BLOCK HUAWEI FROM 5G

By Julius Oyekunle

Huawei is having a dig from countries around the world, from Canada to the US and now it's Germany. The European country is considering ways to block Huawei from its next generation mobile phone network, according to reports.

Berlin seeks to explore stricter security requirements which may prevent Huawei products being used in its 5G network.

Many countries have pushed against the involvement of the Chinese technology firm in their 5G networks over security

concerns.

The Chinese company, one of the world's biggest producers of telecoms equipment, has faced resistance from foreign governments over the risk that its technology could be used for espionage.

In a statement, the firm said it sees "no rational reason why it should be excluded from building 5G infrastructure in Germany, or indeed in any country in the world."

Germany's interior ministry had previously said it opposes banning any suppliers from its 5G network.

But it may consider

stricter security requirements and other ways to exclude Huawei, according to reports.

Such a move would bring it in line with other Western countries.

The US, Australia and New Zealand have all blocked local firms from using Huawei in order to provide the technology for next-generation 5G mobile networks.

The UK has raised concerns with Huawei, and Canada is also reviewing its relationship with the firm.

Meanwhile, China's ambassador to Canada warned of "repercussions" if the

country banned the company from its 5G network.

The two countries are embroiled in a diplomatic row.

A court in China this month sentenced a Canadian to death for drug smuggling in a ruling that comes after Canada arrested Meng Wanzhou, a top official at Huawei and its founder's daughter, on a request from the US.

The US is also reportedly investigating Huawei for "stealing trade secrets" from US businesses, and has accused it of contravening sanctions by lying about its business in Iran.

## 21-YEAR-OLD IDDRIS SANDU IS THE GURU BEHIND UBER, INSTAGRAM AND SNAPCHAT

By Dele Akintilo

Apart from the world famous actor Idris Elba, another Iddris is making headway and he has been a leader in the tech industry since his teenage years. The person is Iddris Sandu. The 21-year-old guru is on the verge of being a household name

owing to his rising roster of applications that employ the use of his mobile software technology.

Besides being an innovator, the Los Angeles based guru is an activist. His love for tech was discovered he was taken to a Ghanaian village from California as a child by his father. His father abandoned him in

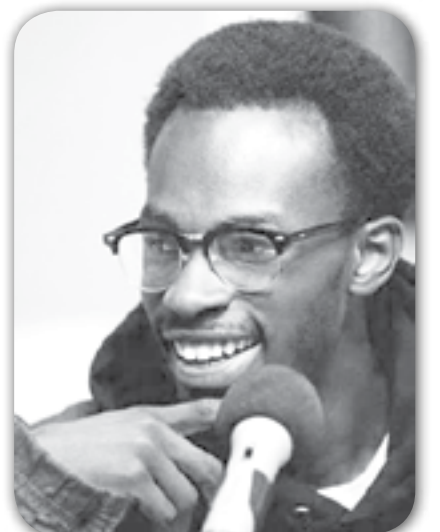


Image source: [www.temmybalogun.com](http://www.temmybalogun.com)

that village and Sandu devised a means of getting back to the United States through the use of iPhone. The discovery motivated him to start a career in technology.

Sandu was discovered by one Google designer when he was 10 years old and the Google designer offered him an internship. At the age of 13, Sandu started programming for Google Blogger and Google Plus.

While writing for Face2FaceAfrica.com, Mildred Europa Taylor featured Sandu and he writes thus:

"He was only 16 years old. Now 21, the Los Angeles-based young man is the unconventional tech guru who has accomplished many incredible feats, including being responsible for algorithms that have made Uber, Instagram, and Snapchat what they are today. The software engineer considers himself a 'cultural architect' and said he aims to 'level the playing field' between Silicon Valley and young communities of colour."

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## REFLECTIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS

# RAISING GODLY CHILDREN IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

By: Pastor Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi

This is to remind parents of their responsibilities in raising their children. Our children are leaders of tomorrow, and our future.

I said 'our future' because a time will come when parents will depend on their children to take care of them, to get some things done, and to move around. Where would your children take you, and how would they treat you when that time comes - when old age sets in?

Jesus said to Peter, "Feed My sheep. Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you

do not wish."

John 21:17-18 NKJV

What Jesus said to Peter, He is saying to every parent now "Feed My sheep! Raise your child in a godly way, feed your child with the word of God!" That is, if you wouldn't want your child to carry you to where you do not wish in future.

The seeds you sow into their lives, what you say, what you expose them to, and how you live, etc, will determine what they become in future. And so, it's important that parents do their part, and do it right.

Moses

He turned out right, in the Bible. He was taught by his mother, and his life and character were formed.



Pastor Taiwo Odubiyi

Daniel

He manifested an excellent spirit even in a strange land, and did not allow himself to be defiled.

Joseph

He was also different. And even though his parents, siblings, and boss were not present when Potiphar's wife offered him free sex, he refused and said, "How could I do this great evil and sin against

God [and your husband]?" GENESIS 39:9 AMP

A godly character and the fear of God had been formed in him.

How did their parents achieve this success?

The following are some of the things that parents should know and do.

1) Ask God for wisdom, to handle your children, and deal with different situations that may come up. To know what to do.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (James 1:5)

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; (Proverbs 2:6) *continued on p(38)*



Chief and Mrs. F. Idemudia

## "THAT NIGHT IN ROOM 401" PART 1

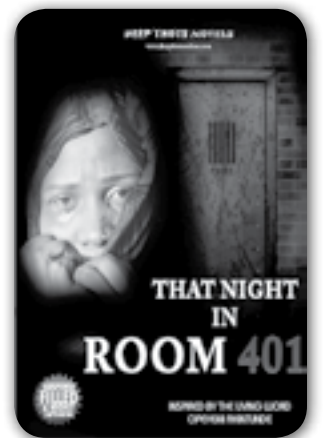
Opeyemi Ojerinde Akintunde ©

I was at that point in my music career when my voice was the hit... I was a Gospel Musician but with a very unique voice and style of music. Larry was my keyboardist, He was divinely anointed to play the Keyboard. He was married and I was too....

He just knew how to play the right tune.... He gave my music its style... Our families knew each other well, my husband never saw him as a threat, and neither did his wife have a problem with us travelling around for sold out shows.... He was the instrument, I was the voice... A match ordained by God to bless lives....

Emotions started getting in the way, I started seeing ways in which he was better than my husband. He started seeing how we fit each other perfectly....

We couldn't help each other as sometimes we would shed tears of wishing we were married to each other. Our thought was if we were married, we would be a couple doing great exploits for the LORD... Sometimes I felt like hugging him so tight and it took strong will not to touch his soft lips... He sometimes would give me a big hug after our show, onlookers thought it was



just a professional hug, but he would whisper "I love you more than anything in this world, I wish you were mine"

It was genuine, I loved him and He loved me... But we were married to other people!

Before I go on in my tale, what do you think I should have done?... if you were in my shoes, What would you have done???? I need your genuine answers....

DEEP THOTS NOVELS  
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TO BE CONTINUED

## JEWISH PERSPECTIVES

# NOT TAKING REVENGE AFTER DIVORCE

When my ex-husband told me that he wanted to ask me a favor, right after we divorced, my first inclination was to just say no, without even hearing what he had to say. This man had chosen gambling over me and our baby. This man had stolen money set aside for diapers and childcare. This man had put me in the position where I must choose to buy either bread or milk, because there wasn't enough money for both. He lied and deceived me again and again.

This man wanted to ask me a favor? I listened. He asked of me that we agree to always do what is in the best interest of our son, and not to let our personal feelings get in the way. He asked that we raise our son with as much cooperation as possible, given the circumstances. For my beloved son, I agreed. I never regretted that decision, but only twelve years later do I fully see the implications of it.

When my son was old enough to ask why I had divorced his dad, I had to be creative. He idolized his mostly ab-

sent and sometimes awesome father. I didn't want to be the one to tell him. I knew that eventually he would find out. There are enough other people who know my ex, and his lifestyle, and I love my son too much to damage his image of his super-dad.

I had promised, so I tried to answer creatively. A rabbi told us that we should divorce. His father had other priorities that made family life difficult. It was a decision that we had to make, but we both love him dearly, and are glad to have brought him to the world. All true—but he knew that I hadn't really answered his question.

Last week he surprised me. Big time. We had gone to get my son, now almost as tall as me, a new passport. In order to do so, both parents must be present. It was the first time in years that I had been in the same room as my ex. We didn't really talk; we just went in and did what we needed to do. It was pretty quick and painless.

We had gone early in the morning to beat the crowd, and so that my son wouldn't miss too much school. When

we finished earlier than expected, we decided to go to a bagel shop for breakfast. Once we had settled down with our meal, my son said to me, "Mom, it was so strange being in the same room with both of you."

"Yeah, that never happens."

"I'm used to being a certain way when I'm with him, and different with you."

"With both of us there, you weren't sure where to put yourself."

"Yeah . . ."

A few more bites of bagel, then the bomb.

"I know why you got divorced—the gambling and all."

"Huh?" I almost gagged on a bite of tomato. "Who told you?"

"Dad."

"He did?"

"Yeah, I asked him."

"You did?"

"Yeah, I asked him and he told me. A few months ago, but I wasn't ready to say anything yet . . ."

Whatever feelings I had towards my ex, in that moment I was filled with respect. He had owned up to the mistakes that he made. After all of the dishonesty that

had marked our marriage, in the crucial moment he made the right decision and was honest with our son. I was filled with respect for my son. There are other people in his life whom he could have asked, but he was strong enough to ask his father and to get the answer he needed to hear in the most direct way. He got an answer that didn't diminish their relationship, or my son's self-image as the son of his father.

I was glad that I had listened twelve years earlier to my ex's request, and glad that I had agreed. I was grateful for the strength to hold my tongue at the times that I did. There are still many questions in my mind, but that moment was the parenting equivalent of peeking into the oven and seeing the cake turn out beautifully, only much, much greater.

I understand the desire for revenge. I was hurt and disappointed. But I had a choice to make. In the end, by doing a favor for one who I felt deserved it least, I helped myself most.

www.chabad.org



## AFRICAN NEWS

### MASSOB, PRO-BIAFRA GROUP DISAGREES OVER 2019 ELECTIONS

By Julius Oyekunle

In a statement issued in Enugu by BGIE and BSG and jointly signed by Yahgozie Immanuel, communication officer for BGIE, and Godspet Uhagi, head of information directorate for BSG, said, "No government of Nigeria or administration of any arm of Nigeria's government within Nigeria's current geopolitical space supports Biafra in any form or configuration, beginning in 1966."

The Biafra Government in Exile (BGIE) and the Biafra Shadow Government (BSG) had instructed their members to distance themselves from the 2019 general elections in Nigeria and called on "all Biafran citizens to adopt this stance and boycott the elections."

But in a quick reaction, the Uchenna Madu-led Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) said it was not in support of any call for the boycott of the polls.

MASSOB's spokesman, Samuel Edeson, told Newsmen: "We said that any group who feels that they want to boycott the elections is free to do so but we are advising people to go and vote because whether they vote or not, the

elections will hold.

"If they fail to vote for their representatives, the federal government will impose an administrative measure on them," he said.

"We as MASSOB, we are not going to ask anybody to boycott or to vote in the elections.

"MASSOB may decide to vote or not to vote; but we are not asking people to boycott the elections. We are still consulting as at now."

According to Immanuel and Uhagi, "If we vote, we are supporting our own perpetual slavery by endorsing and consenting to our own eternal enslavement: we are helping kill your own souls.

"If we don't vote, we are exercising the only freedom we have in this matter, which is to say, no, to unconscionable subjugation. We are in effect saying 'I know you will kill us, and we do not have the power to stop you at this time, but we will never submit to you and make it easier by offering you our unprotected neck.'

"Finally, whether Biafrans vote or not, the status quo will remain the same, hence our position to encourage Biafrans to boycott the exercise and focus on gaining their freedom and extricating themselves from Nigeria."

### ADEKUNLE AJAYI AWARDED WORLD'S NUMBER ONE ANGIOLOGIST

By Julius Oyekunle

A Nigerian doctor and Chief Medical Director (CMD) at the Federal Teaching Hospital, Ido-Ekiti (FETHI), Ebenezer Adekunle Ajayi, has been announced as the winner of the world championship in Angiology out of 86 countries that participated.

Angiology (more frequently referred to as vascular medicine in the United States) is the medical specialty which studies the diseases of the circulatory system and of the lymphatic system, i.e., arteries, veins and lymphatic vessels, and its diseases.

The field of vascular medicine or Angiology is the field that deals with preventing, diagnosing and treating vascular and blood vessel-related diseases.

'Medicine is a calling; be sure you're ready before going...

Dr. Ebenezer Adekunle Ajayi is now recognized as Father of Modern Macular Hole in Angiology. The purpose of the award is to identify brilliant scientists and academics around the world through world championship.

The World Championship is organised by the International Agency for Standards and Ratings, and Dr. Ajayi, a Fellow, Directorate of Angiology at the International Agency for Standards and Ratings (IASR), is considered to play a vital role in advancement of scientific knowledge in Angiology (Diabetics).

Ajayi's research ar-



pic: ivotesng.com

ticle was adjudged the best among 5,238 nominations from 86 countries across the world screened for the championship for 2018 in Angiology (Diabetics); and the Nigerian doctor is now recognized by IASR among world's 500 most influential experts in Angiology.

Dr. Ajayi, from Igogo-Ekiti in Moba Local Government Area of Ekiti State, is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, and the Chief Medical Director of the Federal Teaching Hospital, Ido-Ekiti.

He studied Medicine and Surgery at the University of Ilorin where he obtained his Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery in 1998.

He began his career as a House Officer between 1999 and 2000 at Federal Medical Centre, Owo in Ondo State, before proceeding to Ekiti Anglican Diocese Hospital (Ile Abiye Hospital) in Ado-Ekiti as a Senior House Officer in 2000.

Ajayi observed his national youth service at the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited in Kogi State between 2000 and 2001. He was retained by the company as a Medical Officer due to his brilliance and dedication to duty after completion of his national service in 2001, and served in that capacity till 2003.

He was at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife (OAUTH) from 2003 to 2005 as a Registrar, and rose become a Senior Registrar in the same hospital between 2005 and 2007, after which he proceeded to the then Federal Medical Centre, Ido-Ekiti (now Federal Teaching Hospital, Ido-Ekiti) as a Consultant Physician/Cardiologist in 2008.

He moved on to join a team of vibrant young clinicians to pioneer the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti in late 2008 and held various administrative and programme positions, including the

headship of the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Ajayi pioneered the practice and training of cardiovascular medicine at the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti.

He was awarded the Fellowship of the West African College of Physicians (FWACP) and the American College of Physicians (FACP) in 2007 and 2015 respectively. He diversified from medicine into Business Administration in 2017 when he bagged a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti.

Dr. Ebenezer Adekunle Ajayi is a member of some professional bodies, including the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), West Africa College of Physicians, (WACP), American College of Physicians (ACP), Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN), Nigerian Cardiac Society, Nigerian Hypertension Society, Life Member Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), among others.

In his scholarly adventures, he has written and published in several local and international peer-reviewed academic journals in the field of medicine.

He was appointed the Chief Medical Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Teaching Hospital Ido Ekiti by the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria in January 2018.

## CANADIAN KIDNAPPED, KILLED IN BURKINA FASO

By N.Ugoh

Burkina Faso's security ministry has confirmed the death of Kirk Woodman who was abducted at night in a recent jihadist onslaught. He was taken away by

a dozen gunmen at a mining site owned by the Vancouver-based Progress Minerals in the country's north-east near the border with Niger.

"It's the Canadian who was found last night in the prov-

ince of Oudalan," said the spokesman.

Adam Spencer, the chief executive of Progress Minerals, while reacting to the news said: "Kirk was an incredibly accomplished and highly respected geologist

with a career spanning over 30 years, with 20 years spent in west Africa. More importantly, Kirk was a kind person, a dedicated father and husband and considered a friend by all who knew him."

Islamist extremist groups are increasing in areas linking Burkina Faso to Mali and Niger.

The government has issued a state of emergency in several northern provinces since 31 December.

Commenting, the Canadian foreign minister, Chrystia Freeland, said the government was aware that a Canadian was missing in Burkina Faso and that it was working with local authorities.

# JOURNALIST WHO LEAKED FOOTBALL CORRUPT PRACTICE KILLED IN GHANA

By NCNC Staff

The Ghanaian journalist who exposed corruption in African football has been killed in Accra, Ghana.

The journalist, Ahmed Husein, was part of a squad led by famous journalist Anas Aremeyaw Anas, whose research led to the resignation of Ghana Football Association's Chairman.

Many football officials and referees in numerous countries were also sanctioned as a result of the findings from the investigation. The affected people include Coach Salisu Yusuf of Nigeria who received cash from

undercover journalists who posed as agents.

While expressing his shock about Hussein's death, the Director of Criminal Investigations Department, Maame Yaa Tiwaa Addo-Danquah, said, "Our men are on the ground currently gathering information. Everyone connected to this murder will be invited for questioning."

Information reaching us has it that Husein had earlier lodged a complaint to police after his photograph was shown by a Ghanaian politician, Kennedy Agyapong, on a private television channel.

Agyapong as at that



Image Credit: www.thenewslib.com

time promised to pay supporters who were willing to punish Husein. While pointing to Husein's image on TV, he said, "That boy that's very dangerous, he lives here in Madina. If he comes here,

beat him."

Agyapong has however rejected claims that he facilitated Husein's death. While rejecting the claims on Neat FM, he said: "He has never offended me. So, they should go and investigate those he has offended not me. He and his boss [Anas] have offended so many people in this country. The evil they have been doing will follow them."

The Committee to Protect Journalists has ordered for a prompt investigation and has called on authorities in Ghana to "ensure that threats against the press are taken seriously".

# CHINA WAIVES \$78M DEBT OWED BY CAMEROON

By Sandra Beagan

China has announced it is forgiving about \$78 million in debt that Cameroon was supposed to have repaid in 2018.

Though that is a small drop in the bucket of Cameroon's overall external debt burden of approximately \$5.7 billion, China says this is part of its overall efforts to help ease economic hardship in Cameroon.

The announcement came after a mid-January meeting in the central African country's capital, Yaounde, between Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi and Cameroon's President Paul Biya.

However, some analysts are suspicious of China's motives.

Cameroonian economist Dr. Ariel Gnitedem told the BBC, "China wants to control the sub-regional market and Cameroon is the gateway... It is possible they also want a greater share in the enormous natural resources in Cameroon which are essential to feed its home industries."

Apparently, President Biya asked China's President Xi to waive the repayment when they met during the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit held in Beijing in September.

Like most other African countries, Cameroon relies heavily on loans from China, mostly to finance major infrastructure projects.

Experts have long expressed concern that these loans are unsustainability.

Claiming that the relationship between China and their countries is based on mutual respect, governments routinely reject these concerns. They also cite China's wide-ranging support of the African Union, a continental union of 55 member countries.

The US recently had a diplomatic tiff with China regarding China's financial dealings in Africa – claiming that Africa is being shackled with Chinese money.

China used to be a relatively minor investor in Africa. But over the past 20 years it has become the continent's largest economic partner. According to the consultant firm McKinsey Global Institute, bilateral trade between China and African countries is growing at about 20% per year.

The program is part of Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the ambitious \$120-billion-plus project that aims to link 65 countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe through trade and infrastructure projects.

Many analysts see the BRI, also known as the Silk Road Economic Belt, as an aggressive push by China to dominate global affairs with a China-centered trading network.

And critics say that China is luring needy countries into "debt traps" with many of its infrastructure projects.

# AFRICA'S SILICON VALLEY CONSTRUCTION HAS COMMENCED IN RWANDA

By NCNC Staff

Rwanda is fast establishing itself as one of the African countries that have an unmatched infrastructural development ambition by commencing the construction of Africa's own Silicon Valley. This development according to economic experts will establish Rwanda as one of the fastest developing economies in Africa.

The construction of Kigali Innovation City (KIC) will impact positively on the transformation agenda of Africa's transformation agenda driven by a Pan-African unwavering desire for both human and economic development. The construction project is an agreement between Rwanda and Africa50 (a Pan-African platform which invests on infrastructure). This profitable deal was signed by Rwanda's Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Uzziel Ndagijimana, and Africa50's Chief Execu-



Image Credit: www.lalalnews.com

tive Officer, Alain Ebobisse.

This was revealed at Africa Investment Forum which occurred recently in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Kigali Innovation City aims to serve as Africa's own Silicon Valley. The Silicon Valley is situated in the heart of Kigali's Special Economic Zone and its valuation is around \$2 billion. Under the plan, Africa50 will finance and develop a "Digital Innovation Precinct" which includes retail and commercial complexes as part of Kigali Innovation City.

Also, the Innovation City will host world-class technology companies, universities, biotech firms, commercial and retail real estate. Few universities have commenced setting up of campuses in the area and the universities include African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Carnegie Mellon University and African Leadership University.

While talking about the project during Africa Investment Forum, the Prime Minister of Rwanda, Edouard Ngirente Said: "This is an innovative effort, the first of its kind on the con-

tinental. It will have Pan-African development impact both in terms of economic and human capital. For instance, Kigali Innovation City is expected to create over 50,000 jobs annually. Our aim is to build a critical mass of talent, research and innovative ideas that will transform Africa. Kigali Innovation City forms part of the Government of Rwanda's Vision 2020 development program and National Strategy for Transformation 2017-2024. It is one of the projects that aim at establishing Rwanda as a globally competitive knowledge-based economy."

A lot of zeal is being invested into this project and as such, the project is expected to generate over 50,000 jobs and create around \$150 million in ICT exports every year. It is also expected to attract above \$300 million in Foreign Direct Investment. Furthermore, more than 2,600 graduates are expected from its universities in 30 years.

# UNILEVER ENDORSED AS TOP EMPLOYER IN AFRICA

By NCNC Staff

Unilever has been certified as the number one Employer in Africa for the 4th time.

Unilever got the award at the Top Employer Institute award ceremony which took place at Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The highly ranked Fast Moving Consumers Goods Company has also been endorsed as number

one employer of labor in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

While speaking on the achievements, Unilever's Vice President of Human Resources in Africa, Mechell Chetty remarked that the recognition ascertained the ability of the company to deliver world-class employment experience constantly across Africa.

He said: "The Top Employer brand signals to talents that we are com-

mitted to staff development and helping our employees reach their personal ambitions. The certification also provides us with important feedback about how we can improve our HR practices."

The countries were rated in an extremely keenly contested HR best practices survey that was carried out by the Top Employers Institute.

Criteria that were examined include Onboarding, talent strategy,



Image Credit: www.thisdaylive.com

Performance management, learning and development, career and succession management, culture, compensation and benefits.

# AFRICA'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE OPENS TO TRAFFIC IN MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

By NCNC Staff

The longest suspension bridge in Africa was opened to traffic recently in Mozambique's capital city of Maputo.

The bridge cost \$750m, was financed by China and was built by China Road and Bridge Corporation. It was gathered that the construction of the bridge began in June 2014.

As reported by Global Times of China, the bridge which comprises a kilometer-long ramp on either side of a 680-meter is about 3 meters long and it spans over Maputo Bay, which opens onto the Indian Ocean.

Now that the bridge has opened, people can

now move from Maputo to Katembe without driving many kilometers around the bay or taking ferries.

The President of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi opened the bridge. While opening the bridge, Nyusi said it fulfilled the dream of ex-President Samora Machel, and would aid the promotion of tourism in Mozambique. He added that "many Mozambicans" used to complain about the \$3 toll.

The BBC reported that the bridge is part of a project of linking Maputo with South Africa time by road for the first time.

According to Deutsche Welle, the bridge's road sections were constructed in China in 12-m-long sections and transported to Maputo.

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## OPINION

### FROM THE DOCTOR'S DESK

# JUSTICE IN THE MARKET PLACE

By Dr. Ignatius Odianosen Okosun (PhD)  
From: Toronto-Canada  
Email: odyseries@gmail.com

The Code of Conduct Bureau, acting on a petition by an anti-corruption organization, charged the Chief Justice of Nigeria CJN, Justice Walter Samuel Onnoghen to the Code of Conduct Tribunal for non-declaration of assets and many other offenses, which contravene the country's law guiding public officials. Onnoghen has advanced a reply to the CCB charge and he pleaded forgetfulness in declaring a huge chunk of his assets. The CJN has been arraigned in the tribunal though he evaded appearance, presumably on the advice of some senior lawyers, politicians especially of the PDP stock and tribal groups that have seen the trial as a witch-hunt of their son. He and his cronies have filed multiple cases against his arraignment; the Code of Conduct Tribunal still insists on sitting over his case, he has even challenged the jurisdiction of the tribunal. However, President Mohammed Buhari acting on the orders of the Code of Conduct Tribunal, suspended Onnoghen after he dithered from doing the needful; which is resigning after he had admitted to breaching the law. The government proceeded to appoint and swear in an Acting CJN to head the judiciary pending the time Onnoghen would unambiguously clear his name of the multiple charges against him.

Ironically those who want Justice Walter Onnoghen booted out have offered a lot of prosecutorial folklore to punish him for assumed infractions or to replace him with a friendlier Chief Justice. But they have bungled fairness by demonstrated what seems to be habitual and sequential ineptitude, so much that the government now finds itself in an absurd situation whereby lawyers are calling to question the aptitude of all the reported lawyers in the government. It all looks shoddy because of the acuity that judges are being hounded and that this particular government has no regard whatsoever for the doctrine of the separation of powers.

However it is incredulous that a ruling government that seeks a second term in office and about which doubts have been articulated with regard to its performance, the competence of its officials and the quality of its service deliv-

ery would ever sojourn in a series of self-immolating adventures that can only further alienate it from the people it seeks to serve. The manner in which the current administration has been tumbling in the public realm scarcely weeks to the general election is an act of desperado. It is a wrong time to launch an attack on key institutions of state and the psyche of the average Nigerian. Except there is something else that the advisers of this government know that we do not know, what we know is that election season is the best time, and perhaps the busiest period when Nigerian politicians try to be decent. It is that season when they make an effort to mend fences.

The suspension and trial of Walter Onnoghen, the Chief Justice of Nigeria over cloudy matters of assets declaration has raised a lot of discourse in the political equation of the Nigerian populace. There have been many permutations and points of analysis: exploratory, asserting, legal and ethical. We need not to revise the various details other than to remind us that issues have been raised about the government's abuse of due process, and violation of the Constitution and the legal order, all after a characteristic fashion. There are those who argue that nobody is above the law, not even the Justice of the Supreme Court, but while that may be true, it is important also that the government is seen to be fair and sincere and that its dedication to law and justice is without blotch. The sloppy handling of Walter Onnoghen's makes no impression on legal purists and positivists who aver that the law cannot be bent to serve the purposes of pragmatism, otherwise the law is advertised as an ass and every institution in the administration of justice system is put to mockery. Having pressed the National Assembly to a point where it is even terrified to call an extraordinary session without reading the mood of the Executive arm carefully, the Federal Government has also since gone after the judicial arm of government. The character of many judges has been soiled, and even if some judges are not above board like Caesar's wife as they should be, even if there is a shorter supply of that judge in that once famous phrase of Olu Olagoke, of the In-corrupible Judge, (can you imagine today's judges selling eggs and running broth-

els?), the general trend is that the Buhari administration has no contemplation for the rule of law.

Nevertheless, a compromised judiciary rooms its own grave. It opens itself to abuse by other players within the state. A decent judiciary stands on a higher pedestal that enables it to discharge its duties without fear or favour. We can recall with savour the golden era of the Nigerian Supreme Court: the days of Ayo Irikefe, Chukwudifu Oputa, Kayode Eso, judges who stood up to tyranny and used the law and the court as a stabilizing force and watchdog. A lot has changed since that golden epoch. In those days, the judiciary stood firm and many of the judges could be counted upon to defend the law. Today, judges themselves encourage procedural infractions and assault on the Constitution.

Furthermore, there are other questions: why Chief Justice Onnoghen did not promptly summon the National Judicial Council (NJC) to a meeting to tackle the issues? Should he have tarried awhile? And why did the Acting CJN, Tanko Muhammed agree to aid illegality and Constitutional contravention by making himself available to be sworn in against all known norms and procedures; thus making himself a part of the problem? Shouldn't he know what is right in the eyes of the law? Times like this call for courage from the Bar and the Bench. Cowardly silence or acquiescence after a few days of righteous noise-making, the type that I think is building up and spreading right now, could further damage the integrity of these two key institutions.

Interestingly, when a similar situation arose in 2007 in Pakistan under General Pervez Musharraf, the Bar and the Bench boycotted the courts and took to the streets until the assault on the office of the Chief Justice was reversed. Moreover, the current administration has been consecutively and severally accused of cronyism and favouritism. Two key opportunities presented itself recently to correct this intuition. Even if there is a seniority rule in terms of succession to the seat of the Chief Justice, the fact that the immediate beneficiary of the suspension of CJN Onnoghen is a Northerner merely promotes the charge of partiality. Many commentators believe that Onnoghen had to be sus-

ended to allow a Northerner preside over the Supreme Court during an election season. The acting CJN may be innocent on this score, but the Federal Government does him much harm. All of a sudden, he has become a victim of malevolent half-truths, perceptibly orchestrated by Onnoghen's sympathizers. About the same period, a Northerner and a Muslim was also selected the Inspector General of Police to succeed another Northerner and a Muslim. Similarly, every other premeditated position in government is occupied by a Northerner. In the face of all this, the evasive rejoinder of the government is to argue that preceding governments also did ethnicization of power. Also, if the local public judgment is discounted, international public opinion is also dismissed as meddlesomeness and unwelcome interference. It is absolutely ludicrous nobody can talk to "them" anymore and a healthy national conversation has become impossible. Our only consolation is that it is most unlikely that the international agencies in our midst will choose to be intimidated by the barking dogs and the hawks and the vultures of Nigerian democracy. It should be clear that Nigeria is not an island unto itself. It is not the other room. It is part of the larger room of global humanity. Under the international order, the country and its leaders are accountable to the people they lead and the rules of international engagement on the rule of law, fundamental human rights and good governance.

Sadly for the forestalling of any doubt, the bare minimum that everyone is asking, before the issues disappear into a maze of arguments and counter-arguments, Nigerians and the international community expect Nigeria to conduct free, fair and credible elections, and that the authorities will not act in any manner that will aggravate tension and throw the country into anarchy. Political gladiators must put Nigeria first and ensure political stability. The people's vote must count. The battle for power must not be conducted to the detriment of institutions. This means that the independence and neutrality of state institutions must be sure-fire and protected. All the heads of strategic institutions who because of the allure of the moment, may have forgotten that tomorrow will come, should learn from the

## WHY ATIKU IS EVIL?

By Timi Olagunju



Atiku Abubakar

Without a mention of name, you might have an idea of who is being referred to as 'evil' of all the candidates. So I proceed to ask, 'why evil, why is Atiku considered 'evil' (or corrupt), whatever nomenclature has been slammed on the man, as a major contender in the race.

"Conversations enrich the understanding, but solitude is the school of geniuses".

These days, I have developed a habit of asking random questions from known and unknown persons. Questions mainly around the political frame of the public mind on those running for the highest office; the Presidency. And one of such questions involved knowing the thought of random persons about different political candidates. Interestingly, I heard words such as 'slow', 'integrity', 'jobs creator', 'alternative', 'jokers', 'humane', 'corrupt', 'evil', 'genius', 'incompetent', 'star boy'. I am sure, you have ideas of who and who these words might refer to. But one of those words struck with me, and it is the word 'evil'. Why would a Presidential candidate, a human being, be termed 'evil'? Finding an answer to this, informed this article. I decided to be the angel's ad-

vocate – nothing personal.

Without a mention of name, you might have an idea of who is being referred to as 'evil' of all the candidates. So I proceed to ask, 'why evil, why is Atiku considered 'evil' (or corrupt), whatever nomenclature has been slammed on the man, as a major contender in the race. To my surprise, 99.99% of the persons using the word on him, do not even know why. That shocked me, so I decided, as a neurolinguistic programmer particular about how words shape the mindset and self concept of people about themselves and about others as they interact with the world, to explore Atiku. Please, let's do this devil's advocacy work together.

Firstly, let's open up his career and business frame a bit. Atiku worked in government, but I did some digging and I realized Atiku, though an only child of his parents, has always being an entrepreneurial minded

*continued on p(39)*

experience of yesterday's men and women. There is always a yesterday and a tomorrow in the natural order of things. There is also a tendency to reduce everything in Nigeria to a battle of egos, and that has proven to be counter-productive, because many egos get deflated, no man kisses the stars forever. Vengeance as a state policy or political strategy is deplorable.

On the contrary, it is sad that the Nigerian judiciary is a den for black market racketeering where justice is sold and bought off the shelf like tissue paper. It is horrifying that the judicial system in Nigeria suffers from the dearth of quality, spotless and autonomous minds that could be trusted to give objective judgments on issues. It is painful that the judiciary is crammed full with low minds and men of straw who trade on justice and see the judiciary as an avenue to make extravagant wealth. Perversion of justice has given rise to a total shredding of assurance in the judiciary and where this odious order is challenged there has always been a hoopla raised about interference in the judiciary

and at such moments, senior lawyers who got their seniority by hawking and trading on justice, acting as shameless middlemen between unethical judges and damned patrons, have always formed illicit cahoots with judges to ensure the rotten status quo is kept from harm's way.

Finally, the Nigerian judiciary is infected with multifarious avarice that has worsened justice delivery in Nigeria. The kind of illicit alliance that is formed to prevent Onnoghen from doing the right thing and quitting after admitting wrongdoings stands to wreck the confidence and integrity of the Nigerian judiciary. If the system is prevented by such gang-up from cleansing, what remains is a voodoo system that survives on similar gang-up of its leading lights. But it can suffice to state that such sordid cases as the Onnoghen case, debilitates and reduces the judiciary in the eyes of the citizens that should look up to it to show the way in moral forthrightness.

Dr. Ignatius Okosun is a researcher, prolific writer and a social commentator.



Femi receiving the third prize, a cooking pot set



Cynthia receiving first prize gift, a deep freezer



Kingsley receiving an apperception award from Andrew



Deaconess Doris won Google Home



Give away Items



Irene and Andrew



L-R: Patience, Andrew, and Barbara



Clients having dinner



Andrew and Rohan



Andrew and Adewale



Pastor Joseph receiving an appreciation Award from Andrew

# MORE FAMILIES BECOMING ANDREW ENOFE HOSTS DEC. 15 DAVE AND BUSTEN

*continued from page (1)*

It was a party of some sort, and rewarding in every respect.

Clients were rewarded for making referrals, while the Chrystal Awards were also presented to outstanding clients over the course of the year.

The high rising sales representative for Right At Home, a real estate firm in Canada, observed that success in real estate depends largely on people; having confidence in what you do and showing a sense of appreciation as co-workers.

Clients at the event gave their testimonials and promised to break new grounds in 2019.

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Josephine won the second prize



Appriciation award



L-R: Sunday, Andrew, and Meredith

# HOME OWNERS AS APPRECIATION DINNER

7TH, 2018  
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success recorded last year. Highlights of the event include raffle draw, where four lucky winners went home with Google Home, Refrigerator, 50 inch TV and a set of a cooking pot. This is the second time such an event is being held. Individuals can also take advantage of the ample business opportunities and leverage on the trust earned by Andrew by becoming part of the team.

For further inquiries, Andrew Enofe's office address is situated at 9311, Weston Road, Unit 6, Vaughan, Ontario, L48, 3GB. Andrew can also be reached on Phone @ 416 833 8909 and email address: osasandrew@hotmail.com



second prize, 50 inch TV



Awards



L-R: Joseph, Andrew, and Olubunmi



Julius



Children with Santa Claus



Doris, Martinas , Andrew , Pst Joseph and Lucky



Andrew and The Grant Family



Ede and Barbara



Perly



L-R: A client, Andrew, Omoye, Deaconess Doris



Andrew



Omoye



Panyin, Andrew, and Juliana

## CANADIAN SENTENCED TO DEATH IN CHINA FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

By N.Ugoh

A Canadian citizen that was convicted of drug smuggling in the People's Republic of China has been sentenced to death by a Chinese court in Dalian. The current death sentence overturns the previous 15-year sentence which prosecutors considered too lenient.

Following the detention of Huawei Technologies Executive, Meng Wanzhou's detention in Vancouver last year, some people have tagged Schellenberg's death sentence as a retaliatory move by China.

Robert Schellenberg was apprehended in 2014, tried in 2016 and was sentenced to a 15-year jail term in November 2018. His appeal was turned down in December 2018 with prosecu-



Image Credit: www.scmp.com

tors presenting new evidence to prove that Schellenberg played an important role in a failed attempt to smuggle methamphetamine to Australia.

The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau has expressed his concern and told Ottawa based reporters that the death sentence slammed on Schellenberg was "arbitrary".

He said, "It is of extreme concern to us as a government, as it should be to all of our international friends and allies, that China has chosen to begin to arbitrarily apply the death penalty."

Trudeau disclosed further that the Canadian government mediated on behalf of Canadians facing death sentence "anywhere in the world" and would not cease

to intercede in Mr. Schellenberg's case.

Canada also circulated an update to its travel advisory. The update is meant for Canadian citizens and it recommends that they "exercise a high degree of caution in China due to the risk of arbitrary enforcement of local laws".

Though Ms. Meng was held in Canada as a result of a US extradition request, China announced that Canada should anticipate "serious consequences" over Meng's detention.

Since Meng's detention, China has detained two other Canadians besides Schellenberg. They are Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor and they were detained on the ground that they took part in "activities harmful to national security".

## I'LL FIGHT FOR WOMEN FLEEING PERSECUTION - SAUDI TEEN

By D.Forrester

Rahaf Mohammed, the Saudi teen who hid in a hotel room in Thailand, says she's willing to fight for women fleeing persecution after she successfully escaped abuse and the fear of death in her home country.

"Today and for years to come, I will work in support of freedom for women around the world – the same freedom I experienced on the first day I arrived in Canada," she stated while speaking to journalists.

UNHCR intervened and granted her refugee status after her asylum request was denied by Australia. She's now settled in Canada.

Mohammed, who was previously known as Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun, has foregone her last name after her family disowned the 18-year old in a statement on social media.

"I hope my story encourages women to be bold and free"

"I was not treated respectfully by my family and I was not allowed to be myself and who I want to be," said Mohammed.

She was taken in by Costi, a Canadian refugee resettlement agency. The agency also got her private security for Mohammed, following a number of threats the young woman has received online.

Canada's minister

of foreign affairs, Chrystia Freeland, escorted her through the arrival gate of Toronto's airport.

Freeland's presence has been widely seen as a jab at Saudi Arabia for its treatment of female dissidents. Last year, a tweet by Freeland which sharply criticized the Saudi government's detention of female activists, prompted officials in the kingdom to expel Canadian diplomats.

In the meantime, an American-based Saudi lobby group cautioned Canada over its policies—and its overt support of Mohammed.

"The provocative and immature policies of [Freeland] and Justin Trudeau against the biggest Middle Eastern

country and the heart of the Arab and Muslim world, Saudi Arabia, might lead major Arab-Muslim nations to re-view their relations with Canada," tweeted Salman al-Ansari, a spokesman for the Saudi American Public Relations Affairs Committee.

She will now spend her time learning English and adjusting to life in a new city and country.

"I want to be independent, travel, make my own decisions on education, a career, or who and when I should marry. I had no say in any of this," she said. "Today I can proudly say that I am capable of making all of those decisions."

## PEEL POLICE BOARD APPOINTS INTERIM CHIEF



Image Credit: www.southasiandaily.com

By N.Ugoh

The Peel Police Services Board has notified the public that Deputy Chief, Chris McCord has been chosen to be the interim police chief, pending the duration of the hiring process that will produce the candidate that will replace the retired Chief Jennifer Evans.

Chris McCord has served as a Peel police officer for around 40 years. Also, he has served as part of the service's deputy chiefs for over 6 years.

Evans' contract as Chief was supposed to end in October 2019, but she notified the general public about her retirement in November 2018

and her last day in office was January 11, 2019. McCord's appointment became effective from January 12, 2019.

The police board has not revealed much about the procedure for appointing a new chief. However, McCord was one of the numerous leading candidates for the post, but his recent appointment as the interim chief translates to the fact that he will not vie for the permanent seat.

Deputy Chiefs Dave Jarvis, Marc Andrews and Ingrid Berkeley-Brown are other strong contenders for the post but the Peel Police Services Board is open to external candidates.

The board has pledged via a release that it would provide an update for residents as events unfold during the selection process and that it would create "engagement opportunities for citizens, employees and community partners to share their thoughts."

## HONOUR KILLING PAIR EXTRADITED TO INDIA AFTER 18 YEARS

By Sandra Beagan

*Two British Columbia residents accused of hiring assassins to murder a young relative and her new husband in India have finally been extradited to India – after fighting extradition for 18 years.*

The murder victim was Jaswinder "Jassi" Kaur Sidhu.

Years ago, India charged Malkit Kaur Sidhu (Jassi's mother) and Surjit Singh Badesha (her mother's brother) with conspiracy to commit murder in Jassi's death and the near-death of her new husband Mithu Sidhu.

Jassi and Mithu met years earlier when Jassi's family was on a visit to India. The two kept in touch. The year before the murder, Jassi traveled to India to marry Mithu and then went back home to Canada.

She kept her marriage a secret because Mithu, a kabaddi player and rickshaw driver, was not of an appropriate socio-economic background to marry into her affluent family. The marriage was also considered taboo because Mithu was of the same clan and from the same village as Jassi's mother.

In the meantime, Jassi's family arranged for her to marry a rich man in his 60s. Jassi fled to India, was brought back to Canada, and fled a second time with the help of the RCMP.

There, another brother of Jassi's mother – Darshan Singh Badesha – hired hitmen to kidnap and kill the couple. They beat Mithu almost to death. Jassi, aged 25, was found in an irrigation canal with her throat slit.

Phone records between India and Canada led Punjab police to change the mother and uncle back in Canada as part of the conspiracy.

After fighting extradition for years, Malkit Kaur Sidhu and Surjit Singh Badesha were on their way to India in 2017 to face the charges when a last-minute application for a judicial review of their extradition was approved.

However, in December of 2018, their requests for a judicial review and stay of proceedings were denied by the BC Court of Appeal.

Their lawyers argued to the Court of Appeal that they were denied access to counsel and they were not given an opportunity to review the federal justice minister's decision to extradite them.

On behalf of a three-judge panel, Chief Justice Robert Bauman and Justice Sunni Stromberg-Stein wrote, "This is a close case but we conclude the balance favours denying the stay."

"The charges these applicants face are the most serious in our criminal justice system and the

interests of India, and of our own community, in seeing them heard in court on their merits is very substantial."

Noting that their case has been considered by two justice ministers, the provincial appeal court, and the Supreme Court of Canada, the judges added that the two have enjoyed a very "long and full day in court."

Sidhu and Badesha have long argued that they would face torture and violence in Indian prisons.

The two, accompanied by RCMP officers, arrived in Delhi on Jan. 24 (India time) and met with official from the Canadian Consulate before they were handed over to Punjab police.

According to The New Indian Express, they had their first court appearance

the next day, after which they were sent to four-day police remand.

The four hired assassins were sent to prison for life after being convicted of Jassi's murder. Jassi's uncle in India, Darshan Singh Badesha, was convicted of conspiracy to have Jassi and Mithu killed.

However, India's Supreme Court acquitted Darshan Badesha in 2018 and he reportedly lives in Canada now.

Fabian Dawson, co-author of the book Justice for Jassi, citing the acquittal of Darshan Badesha, said, "I feel the trajectory of the case may end up resulting in the acquittal of the two..." (Malkit Kaur Sidhu and Surjit Singh Badesha).

Dawson also called Canada's extradition treaties "quite the laughing-stock of the world."

# JANUARY 12, 2019

## TRACK & FIELD - 2019 SHARON MEMORIAL MEET, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO NAIJA YOUTHS REPRESENTING VARIOUS LEARNING INSTITUTIONS



L-R: Damilare, Oluchi, Femi, Eloha, Ike and Jimisola



L-R: Chike and Emmanuel



L-R: Marvellous, Christy and Oluchi

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## YOUTH CORNER

Your Children need your PRESENCE more than your PRESENTS” – Jesse Jackson

Happy New Year to all our readers. We promise you an exciting and informative year. Enjoy our page.  
Oluchi Darlington & Divine Chimsomaga Ugoh



### DRAW A LINE BETWEEN EACH CLUE AND THE MATCHING NOUN

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Works On Your Teeth  | Truth     |
| City Of Saskatchewan | Library   |
| Stringed Instrument  | Anger     |
| Found In A Book      | Radio     |
| Correct Fact         | Saskatoon |
| Displeasure          | Dentist   |
| Music, News Source   | Guitar    |
| Information Centre   | Page      |

answers on page (39)

### CONTRACTIONS

Draw lines to connect the long forms with their contractions.

- E.g.
- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| I have -         | I've                |
| <b>LONG FORM</b> | <b>CONTRACTIONS</b> |
| She is           | can't               |
| They are         | I'd                 |
| We will          | they're             |
| Cannot           | won't               |
| I would          | we'll               |
| Will not         | She's               |

answers on page (39)

## MATH

### TRUE OR FALSE

- $44 + 44 = 88$
- $121 \div 11 = 11$
- $87 - 27 = 42$
- A convex shape curves outwards
- $3 \times 9 = 27$
- $29 + 35 + 3 = 66$
- A six-sided shape is a hexagon

answers on page (39)

## WORD SEARCH

JANUARY

```

P G M R F Y V M Q F Q H R K P L N Q
X W K P A P N P U N O S N O W I K K
C K N Z Q A R W Y N J R O D Q C G O
H W I N T E R S T O R M E G S Y B W
I W I N D C H I L L P Y G C F Y W S
L N Q S L U S H G Y A R M A A I M R
L E L E I C E S T O R M O A I S F G
Y F O G G Y B L I Z Z A R D W L T Y
Y I O W O T U K M I B T H C K T C T
C O L D G U X R W I N D Y Z M S H R
Y D T E M P E R A T U R E D X B L L
X Z F S K F R O S T S B M L I O W C
    
```

- ICE STORM
- CHILLY
- SNOW
- WINDY
- BLIZZARD
- FROST
- FORECAST
- ICY
- SLUSH
- COLD
- TEMPERATURE
- WIND CHILL
- FROST
- TEMPERATURE

answers on page (39)

## TELEPHONE SCRAMBLE

BY DIVINE CHIMSOM UGOH

- a) 7 8 6 7 7 2 9 4 6 4 4 9 4 7 4
- 7 8 2 7 8 7 2 9 4 6 4 4 9 4 5 5
- b) 6 4 7 8 2 5 3 7 2 7 3 7 7 6 6 3
- 8 4 2 8 9 8 6 7 3 8 7 9 4 6

answers on page (39)



## SCIENCE

### TRUE OR FALSE

- The human body has 4 lungs
- The study of plants is known as botany.
- Herbivores eat meat.
- The human skeleton is made up of less than 206 bones.
- The Pacific Ocean is the biggest ocean on Earth.
- Mount Kilimanjaro is the tallest mountain in the world.

answers on page (39)

## WORDS OF THE MONTH

- Wet behind the Ears – Inexperience
- Stiff-Necked – Stubborn
- Flat broke- Having no money at all
- See Eye to Eye - Agree

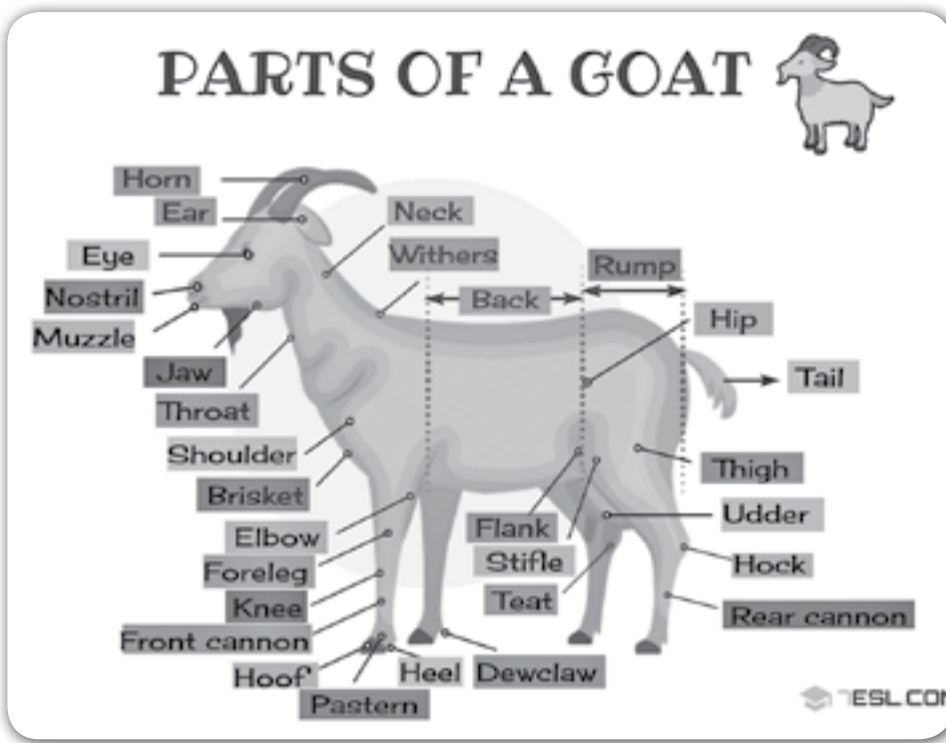
**PLACE THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT BOX**

Child/ Spoon / Love / Sadness / Regina  
 Julia / Joy / Table / Manitoba / Town  
 Girl/ Michael / Peace / Car / Toronto / Hat

PERSON	PLACE	THING	FEELING

answers on page (39)

**PARTS OF A GOAT**



**FILL IN WORDS TO COMPLETE THE QUOTES**

- a) When you \_\_\_\_\_ find \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ be the \_\_\_\_\_.
- sunshine, can't, sunshine, the
- b) I never \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_
- I \_\_\_\_\_ for it.
- success, worked, dreamed

answers on page (39)

**THESE WORDS ARE MISSING SOME LETTERS.**

**FILL IN THE MISSING LETTERS TO COMPLETE THEM**

- a) p \_ \_ n \_ \_ d
- b) \_ oi \_ \_ n
- c) \_ \_ i t
- d) \_ \_ oi\_e
- e) so\_ \_
- f) n\_i\_e
- g) \_ \_ \_ l
- h) br\_ \_ \_
- i) s\_ \_ \_ l
- j) \_o\_ \_e
- k) \_ \_ \_ \_ s

answers on page (39)

**UNSCRAMBLE WORDS**

- honeeltep
- pahyrmac
- hppgrahoto
- etbahalp

answers on page (39)

**SUDOKU**

BY MYLES MELLOR AND SUSAN FLANAGAN

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

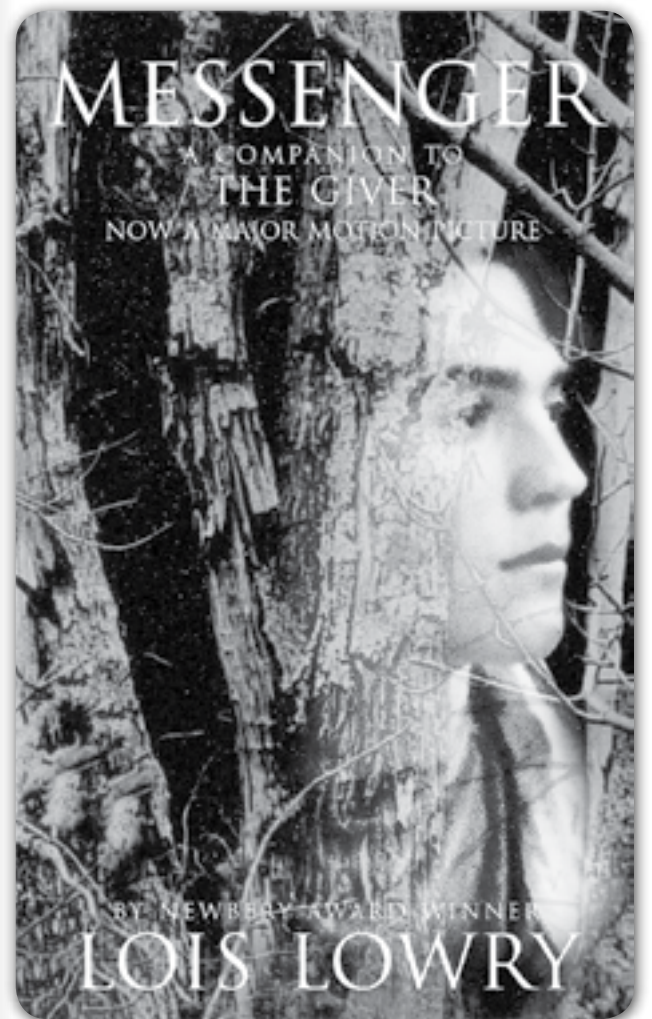
	3				8	5	7	
		7		4	5	2		
			7	1				6
		4			6	7	5	
7								9
	6	5	1			8		
3				8	7			
		1	5	3		6		
	7	6	9				8	

answers on page (39)

**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

Readers are leaders. Happy reading.

**MESSENGER**  
 BY LOIS LOWRY



At a time when societies which once pride themselves as open to all regardless of race is becoming increasingly weary of immigrants, we are reminded of the adventure, the risks and the power to overcome all obstacles on the way. There's a power always within us to take us out.

Village will soon be closed to 'strangers'. Only a few people are able to travel through the dangerous Forest, Matty must deliver the message of Village's closing and try to convince Seer's daughter to return with him before it's too late. The hostility in Forest has become unbearable to Matty as well, and he must risk everything to fight his way through it, if only he's possessed some extraordinary power – within.

## BUSINESS

# PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CEO RESIGNS AMID POTENTIAL BANKRUPTCY FILING

Apart from dealing with bankruptcy filing possibility, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Board of Directors is shopping for a new Chief Executive Officer following Geisha Williams's recent resignation.

Williams spent less than two years as the CEO of PG&E and resigned as the company was purportedly notifying employees about an imminent Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.

John Simons, the General Counsel of PG&E has been named as the company's interim CEO while the board searches for Williams's permanent successor.

Simons joined PG&E in 2007 and became the company's General Counsel in 2017. He has also held several leadership roles in both the Human Resources and Corporate Services Departments of the company.

The Chairman of the Board of PG&E, Richard Kelly to the resignation of Williams by saying "On behalf of the Board,



I want to thank Geisha for her service and her tireless commitment to our employees and the 16 million Californians we serve. While we are making progress as a company in safety and other areas, the board recognizes the tremendous challenges PG&E continues to face.

"We believe John is the right interim leader for the company while we work to identify a new CEO. Our search is focused on extensive operational and safety expertise, and the board is committed to further change at PG&E."

In January 301, the United States attorney's office in San Francisco declared that state

investigations faulted Pacific Gas & Electric power lines for the fire outbreak that occurred in October 2017. Investigators also discovered evidence which shows that state law was violated.

Prosecutors said "these facts, specifically, if PG&E started a wildfire by reckless operation or maintenance of its power lines, may serve as a basis for the court to find that the defendant corporation violated" terms of its probation.

A judge in the United States put PG&E on five years probation in 2017 after its conviction on pipeline safety charges arising from the

blast of one of its pipelines located in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2010.

The filing by prosecutors surfaced after the judge presiding over the pipeline case requested PG&E to provide an explanation concerning the role it played in December 2018's massive wildfire that leveled the Northern California town of Paradise and made no fewer than 86 people lose their lives.

Investigators have not found out what caused the wildfire that started on November 8, 2018, but every speculation has centered on PG&E.

The judge could enforce new requirements on the company if it is eventually found to have profaned its probation in the pipeline case. The company has been directed to pay a fine of \$3,000,000, run television adverts to publicize its convictions and have an independent monitor run the safety of its gas pipeline system.

# AMAZON TO OPEN NEW HQ IN NYC AND VIRGINIA

By R.Njeru

Amazon recently said that it will open new headquarters in Arlington, Virginia and New York City. The company will create more than 50,000 jobs and invest \$5 billion in the new locations. This plan will benefit more than 25,000 employees.

This means that Amazon has three headquarters in North America. Why? Well, this is because there is another one in Seattle. In addition to this, the company will have a new Center of Excellence in Nashville; this location will be responsible for its Operation businesses like transportation, supply chain, customer fulfillment, and other similar activities. More than 5,000 jobs will be created in the Operations Center of Excellence in Nashville.

The new New York City headquarters will be located in the Long Island City neighborhood in Queens while the Washington, D.C. metro headquarters in Arlington will be located in National Landing. The surrounding communities will benefit from tens of thousands of additional jobs when the company opens the new headquarters. The

Operations Center of Excellence will be located in downtown Nashville. The new headquarters will start hiring people in 2019.

Jeff Bezos, the founder, and CEO of Amazon said that they are happy to add the two new headquarters in Northern Virginia and New York City. He said that the new headquarters would help the company improve its services. He expressed optimism that they were in a better position to attract world-class employees. Bezos congratulated his team for selecting the sites, adding that Amazon hoped to impact the neighboring communities in a positive way.

According to a statement by Amazon, the company is set to get tax incentives that are worth more than \$2 billion. If Amazon creates 40,000 jobs, it will receive incentives worth \$1.7 billion from New York. On the other hand, Virginia could offer up to \$550 million in cash incentives depending on the number of jobs that Amazon creates.

Amazon is one of the wealthiest companies in the world and many residents in Virginia and New York will be hoping that they will get a share of this fortune.

# FG SETTLES OUT OF COURT WITH MTN, FOUR BANKS INDICTED

The Nigerian government and mobile telecommunications giant, MTN, recently reached an out-court-settlement in a suit filed by government lawyers accusing the company of illegally repatriating \$8.1 billion out of the country, lawyers told a federal court.

The CBN had accused the South African company of illegally moving the funds in contravention of foreign exchange regulations.

The bank demanded that the company return the \$8.1 billion "to the coffers of the CBN."

MTN denied any wrongdoings and immediately challenged the claim by filing a suit.

However, a Federal High Court entered the

settlement terms as its judgment.

Details of the settlement are not immediately known as they were not disclosed by the parties in open court.

In December, parties in the suit informed the court they were exploring an out-of-court settlement.

Counsel to MTN, Wole Olanipekun, who led other Senior Advocates of Nigeria — Damian Dodo, Fabian Ajokwu and Adeniyi Adegbonmire — told Saliu Saidu, the judge, that parties had resolved the dispute amicably.

He said the terms of the settlement were filed on December 28 last year.

CBN's counsel, Henry Ejiofor, confirmed that

parties had settled out of court.

He urged the court to enter the terms of settlement as judgment.

The Attorney General of the Federation, represented by Olanike Idenu, did not oppose the settlement proposal.

He asked that his client's name be struck out from the suit.

Mr Saidu thanked the parties for not wasting judicial time by going through the rigour of a trial.

He adopted the terms of settlement terms as the judgment of the court and struck out the AGF's name from the suit.

In November last year, the Nigerian Senate had said it would demand

an explanation from the federal government on claims that it wants to reduce the fine from \$8.1 billion to \$800 million.

According to the CBN, MTN and four banks — Standard Chartered Bank, Citi Bank, Stanbic IBTC Bank and Diamond Bank — deliberately flouted the "laws and regulations...including the Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1995 and the Foreign Exchange Manual, 2006."

The banks allegedly colluded with MTN, using irregular Certificates of Capital Importation (CCI), to illegally remit foreign exchange abroad.

The four banks were slammed a total fine of N5.87 billion.

# COMPANY OFFERS \$100,000 BY DOING AWAY WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE

By N.Ugoh

Could you go an entire year without your smartphone? Vitaminwater has a challenge to smartphone addicts. If a contestant goes a full 365 days without using any smartphone, they can claim a \$100,000 prize.

To qualify, you must share a post on Twitter or Instagram explaining what you'd do with time you'd usually spend playing on your smart phone. All legal U.S. residents who are 18 or older and own and use a smartphone are eligible to enter.

Vitaminwater says criteria to judge applications include originality, brand relevance, humor and other factors.

According to official

rules, "People required to use a smartphone for work or other commitments need not apply."

To block against cheating, Vitaminwater will administer a lie detector test to help ensure the chosen contestant is honest and follows to the rules.

"The seemingly simple challenge includes reverting to a 1996-era mobile phone for an entire year. No smartphone or tablet use is permitted, even if the device belongs to a friend," Laptops and desktop computers are OK to use, as are voice-activated devices like Google Home or Amazon Echo."

If a contestant lasts nine out of 12 months without a smartphone, they will receive \$10,000.

# CRA DEPLOYS NEW WEAPONS AGAINST TAX EVASION: FREEZING ASSETS, SEIZING PROPERTY

## CANADA REVENUE AGENCY VOWS IT 'WON'T BE THE LAST TIME' THE AGENCY USES THIS TACTIC

The Canada Revenue Agency is using a new tool in its battle against tax evasion — one that experts say could radically change the way it pursues tax cheats.

For the first time, the agency has used proceeds-of-crime provisions in the law to freeze the assets of individuals charged with tax evasion.

Up to now, those provisions have been used only in cases involving suspected terrorist financing or money laundering.

"That is a tool that we have not used in the past," said Stéphane Bonin of CRA's criminal investigations division.

"I can say that this is indeed the first time, but I can promise you that this is not the last time that we [will use] those provisions of the Criminal Code to restrain or seize assets that tax evaders have acquired through their illegal behaviours."

### Sending a message

Marc Tassé, a professor with the University of Ottawa's Telfer School of Management, said CRA's decision to use proceeds-of-crime powers to go after tax dodgers will send a message.

"People who might have done some tax eva-

sion already will see it as a game-changer," he said.

Tassé said the proceeds-of-crime provisions can also be used to seize property outside of Canada. For example, if the CRA believes that someone has engaged in offshore tax evasion and used the proceeds to buy a vacation home or a yacht, the CRA could freeze or seize those assets.

Using the proceeds-of-crime provisions also can block tactics used by some tax evaders, such as declaring corporate bankruptcy to avoid paying the taxes, said Tassé.

"If they were to file for bankruptcy, the government wouldn't be able to recover anything," he said.

"But on the other hand, if they're using proceeds-of-crime provisions of the Criminal Code, then at that point they are able to seize it immediately so it protects the assets."

Tassé said the move may prompt some tax scofflaws to quickly take advantage of the CRA's voluntary disclosure program. A taxpayer who comes forward to CRA and makes a voluntary disclosure about tax evasion still has to pay the taxes owed, but can usually avoid prosecution and penalties.

The case at the heart

of the CRA's initiative pits the agency against an Ottawa couple — Chi Van Ho, 52, and Thanh Ha Thi Nguyen, 49 — who own a number of rental properties.

### Case involving rental property income

They are accused of under-reporting their income between January 2008 and December 2013 by \$3.1 million, evading \$523,532 in taxes.

The CRA said that Ho and Nguyen are "the listed shareholders, directors and/or corporate officers in multiple corporations in the business of residential and commercial real estate rentals and property renovation and development."

"The criminal charges against Ho and Nguyen allege that, from 2008 to 2013, multiple schemes were utilized to under-report their taxable income," said the CRA. "The schemes included appropriating funds from multiple corporations under their control for personal purposes, appropriating corporate rental income and manipulation of supplier invoices."

The agency described the investigation that led to the charges as "serious and complex."

Ho and Nguyen were charged in late October. The

CRA has seized or restrained six rental properties and an automobile belonging to the couple.

The CRA has been crossing swords with Ho and Nguyen and three of their companies, which operate under the name Golden Dragon Ho, in the Tax Court of Canada since 2015.

Golden Dragon Ho Properties made headlines in June 2017 when tenants in some of its properties complained that the natural gas that heated their homes and powered their hot water tanks had been cut off because the landlord hadn't paid the bills.

Leonard Shore, the lawyer representing the couple in the criminal tax evasion case, said he recently received "voluminous" disclosure materials from the prosecution and is now reviewing them.

Shore said the charges came after a lengthy investigation.

"This has been going on for at least a couple of years ... A couple of years ago they conducted several searches into their companies, into their home, into their place of business."

The case returns to court in January.

Source: CBC.CA

# DODGE RAM 1500 WINS NORTH AMERICAN TRUCK OF THE YEAR AWARD



Image Source: www.msn.com

The Dodge Ram 1500 won some big awards at the North American International Auto Show which took place in Detroit.

The most honored full-size truck in America bagged MotorTrend Truck of the Year, Truck of Texas and recently, North American Truck of the Year.

While reacting to the recently won North American Truck of the Year award, Vice President of Ram Trucks of North America, Jim Morrison, said that winning the award was particularly sweet.

Morrison said, "It's nice to be able to win that here at home. These trucks are made right here in Detroit and to celebrate that award in Detroit is something special."

One of the numerous reasons why Ram 1500 won a lot of awards is because of its interior. Ram 1500's central console has several alternatives. Also, the truck features a 12-inch

touch screen which possesses every imaginable option.

Ram labels the 1500 a "no compromise truck" owing to the fact that the truck is just as good at hauling a load the way it is good at hauling a family. While butressing this fact, Morrison said, "Whether you're three big dudes, you can fit across the backseat, or whether you're putting in three kids across the back, you've got the best in class leg-room, 43 inches. It's got great connectivity. You can plug in all of your phones. You can plug in everything to keep it charged."

Morrison said the truck's level of sales is a reflection of the fact that the truck is the best at doing everything.

He said: "We've had 20 percent growth for the last three, four months since the new Ram 1500 has been on the marketplace and up to full speed. And last month our sales were up 47 percent."

# WALGREENS AGREED TO PAY \$269M TO SETTLE LAWSUITS

### By Julius Oyekunle

Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. is set to cough out a whopping \$269 million to settle two separate healthcare fraud lawsuits with the US government.

In the first settlement, the government said Deerfield, Illinois-based Walgreens (Nasdaq: WBA), which has about 100 retail stores in the St. Louis area, will pay \$209.2 million to resolve allegations that it deliberately billed Medicare, Medicaid, and other federal health-care programs for hundreds of thousands of insulin pens it "knowingly dispensed to program beneficiaries who did not need them."

Walgreens will also pay \$60 million to resolve allegations that it over-billed Medicaid by "failing to disclose to and charge Medicaid the lower drug prices that Walgreens offered the public through a discount program."

It's basically about improper billing.

U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman in Manhattan said in a recent statement, "the financial integrity of these programs depends on truthful and accurate billing by pharmacies like Walgreens. Over-billing and improper billing of Medicare and Medicaid unduly burden taxpayers and put the solvency of these vital healthcare programs at risk."

Walgreens is paying \$209.2 million settlement due to allegations that, "Walgreens configure pharmacy management system to prevent its pharmacists from dispensing less than a full box of five insulin pens, even when patients did not need that much insulin. ... as a result, federal healthcare programs paid Walgreens millions of dollars for insulin that many beneficiaries did not actually need, and substantial quantities of valuable medication were wasted."

As part of the \$209.2 million settlement, Walgreens agreed to pay

\$168 million to the United States, and \$41.2 million to state governments.

In the \$60 million settlement, the government alleged that Walgreens didn't disclose to Medicaid the discount drug prices it offered customers through its Prescription Saving Club program, and as a result, "Medicaid programs paid Walgreens more in reimbursements than they would have paid had Walgreens disclosed the lower PSC prices."

Walgreens didn't admit any wrongdoing after the settlement was announced.

"Walgreens is pleased to have resolved these matters with the Department of Justice. The company fully cooperated with the government and has admitted no wrongdoing. ... We are resolving these matters because we believe it is in the best interest of our customers, patients and other stakeholders to move forward," the company said.

# HYUNDAI KONA & KONA EV WIN 2019 NORTH AMERICAN UTILITY VEHICLE OF THE YEAR

The 2019 Hyundai Kona and Kona Electric CUV models both emerged as the winner of the 2019 North American Utility Vehicle of the Year. The utility vehicles were declared the winner by the North American Car, Utility and Truck of the Year automotive media jury.

This is the first time ever that a Hyundai CUV model will win the Utility Vehicle of the Year category. The CUV category winner is proclaimed every year during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

The 2019 edition of

North American Utility Vehicle of the Year jury consisted of an independent panel of top analysts and journalists that are based in Canada and the United States. The organization has been recognizing trucks, top cars, and utility vehicles since 1994. 2019's jury of fifty-four media outlets includes freelance media, legacy newspapers, digital columnists, magazine experts, and broadcast veterans.

Both the Kona Electric and Kona are built on every new CUV platform. This offers versatility to buyers with no-

table lifestyles of every kind. Kona was built with a focus on upgraded dynamics of driving and performance that is responsive for all form of urban and multi-surface driving situations.

Kona Electric has an estimated range of 258 miles and the vehicle provides a standard quick-charging feature. The platform of Kona Electric has been produced to offer customers with CUV-like ground clearance and a higher, command seating position to aid better visibility and long journey comfort.

*Thank you for reading*

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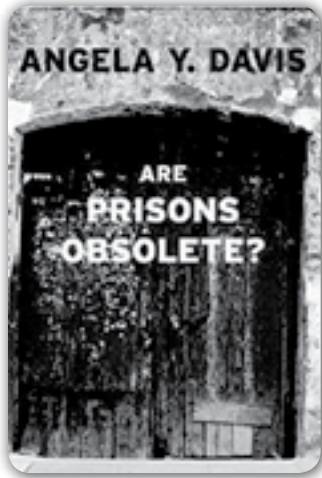
# BOOKS - EDITOR'S PICK

## FICTION & NON FICTION BOOKS

Dear Readers, the year may be new, but its not static. Never take solace in past knowledge, read, learn, love and receive insights into everyday hacks for successful living. In this section of our books stand, there's something new just for you. Read and be delighted.

### ARE PRISONS OBSOLETE?

BY ANGELA Y. DAVIS



Imagine a world without prison walls! Yes, its possible according to Angela Davis. If our hearts are set on the abolition of perceived injustice, persistent is key.

The prison system in America has been unfair to tens of thousands of people over the century, just as the slavery era. Davis expertly argues how social movements transformed these social, political and cultural institutions, and made such practices untenable. The prison system is lucrative and segregative, but it could end especially now that it's 'obsolete'.

### TURNED OUT BY MY HUSBAND'S BEST MAN

BY MZ. BIGGS



When love isn't the bird of roses you had craved, either you ammend the bed and get the roses laid, or get another bed. Ultimately, there's a consequence for every action. An epic thriller.

Savonna wanted more from her marriage. Now she'll have to bottle her feelings or else she might be involved in a mess. She didn't love Shooter, she had to be looking at someone else. Harlee is cute and sophisticated, Vonna seems to lust after him and showed he meant business.

### MARRIED ON MONDAYS

BY HONEYB

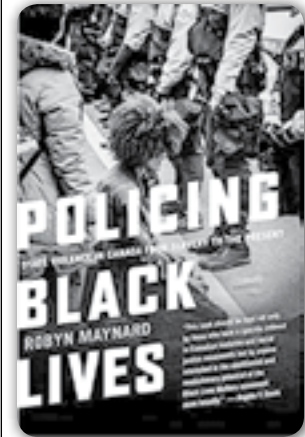


Vanilla Cream, Cherry Cream, and Sugar Cream are hot dudes helping their husband's law firm to grow. They run an upscale swingers club called Creamé. Most professionals form part of their

clientele from judges, lawyers, politicians, and police officers, to soccer moms and housewives. Business is making sense at the hottest club in town. Until the police chief extends an indecent proposal to Foxy: sleep with him, or go to jail. With the whole town standing behind Creamé. Now they have to fight together to survive in business.

### POLICING BLACK LIVES: STATE VIOLENCE IN CANADA FROM SLAVERY TO THE PRESENT

BY ROBYN MAYNARD



Canada has come of age, yet unpurified from the stains of its dark past. Overcoming structural racism is a task that has to be pursued with vigor, we can start from eradicating social labels that associate

blacks with violence.

Over one hundred and fifty years of near multiculturalism, the book reminds us of call to action. We are not oblivious to racial profiling, unemployment, and Police brutality that threatens the gains of a modern liberal society. Policing black lives sheds more light on black women, immigration and deportation, while making note worthy lessons for a just society.

### TO THE RESCUE

#### SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

By Pastor Dele Dada

Continued from the last issue.

Page 84

Pastor Charles :“Please be seated. I believe I have a word for this generation tonight. I want you to be excited but I don't want you to miss my point. You are the Daniels of today and tomorrow.” Pastor Charles continued “Daniel was a Jew, a Hebrew young man. But he was brought to Babylon as a slave to live in exile. He was a very fortunate man amidst those people in exile. He came to exile because of the misrule of his fathers. His fathers were corrupt. They rejected God. Jeremiah, a major prophet was raised to warn the nation of Israel ‘if you continue the way you are doing, you will be slaves for seventy years in a foreign land.’ Instead of the leadership to direct the people to live lives of obedience to the Almighty God, they were living reckless lives worshipping idols and Baal. God allowed them to be taken to exile. The state of poverty in our nation is not because God has not endowed us, He has, this nation has all it takes to be great. Vast land for agricultural purposes. We do not need fertilizer to grow cash and food crops. Large human resources, unimaginable large deposit of mineral resources from one state to the other, huge reserve of Crude oil, gas and bitumen. But our nation is in ruins. Our sons and daughters are all over the world, scattered around the nations doing menial jobs for survival. Many in attempt to cross the Sahara die daily. Many are refugee claimants and asylum seekers in the developed and undeveloped world. Statistic has it that Nigeria is the 6th largest producer of crude oil world wide and yet the 13th poorest nation in the world. Young



men and women, we need Daniels that will turn our nation around for good. May God make you one tonight in Jesus name.”

“Ameen” chorused the congregation.

Pastor Charles continued “Turn to your neighbour, look at him or her, eye-ball-to eye-ball and say “may God make you a Daniel from tonight.”

Pastor Charles continued “I have limited time but I want to give you some Characteristics of Daniel to ponder over. How Daniels are made?”

1. He had a good purpose. He was fortunate to have a good job, He was working in the presidency. Food was surplus. Wine was surplus. But he was not attracted or carried away by those mundane things. “But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way” (NIV) “But Daniel determined in his heart that he would not defile himself. (AMP) “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion.” KJV. Friend you must have a purpose in your heart not to be part of the evil system. You must have guts not to be part of the rot.

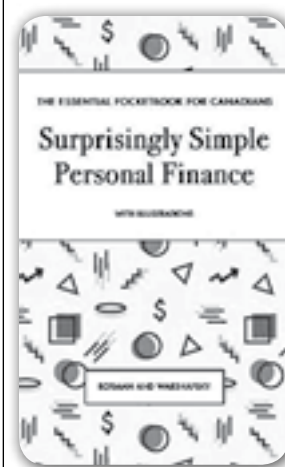
He had peer pressure like you have. But he determined, he purposed to be peculiar. He had drive, desire and motivation to do what was right. He desired to see things from God's perspective. He went against the tide of the society of His time. He refused to be defiled by the corrupt system. He was not prepared to go the way of Babylon. It was a personal desire for an excellent spirit. It is the path to greatness; he chose it and lived it. You have to do same or even better.

2. He was disciplined. If you cannot discipline your self you cannot have an excellent spirit. It is not just enough to have a good purpose you must be disciplined to carry it out. Some of you here are dating one another, courting one another. The scripture warns about pre-marital sex. You all know it is not healthy for your life and future marriage. You know it leads to unwanted pregnancy, which can lead to forced marriages, or committing abortion which is murder. Many know these consequences and therefore have purposed not to do it. But friend, you will be tempted. Your body dynamics will crave for the opposite sex. When you are alone in the room you want to kiss, you want to hug, you want to romance, you want to do it right now and then. All your sexual organs are querying you about what you are waiting for. It is even more difficult when you have set a date for marriage and all parties have consented to the marriage. But premarital sex will send wrong signals. You can only win that battle with a principled disciplined mind set. Every young man would do well to remember that all successful business stand on the foundation of sound morality.

Discipline should affect every area of our lives, financial, physical, spiritual, mental, and matrimonial. The problem that we have with leadership is not just recklessness but lack of discipline. It is not lack of knowledge to do good; it is lack of muscle for discipline. When they see an opportunity to be greedy or covetous or to

### SURPRISINGLY SIMPLE PERSONAL FINANCE: THE ESSENTIAL POCKETBOOK FOR CANADIANS

BY JUSTIN ROTMAN AND MICHAEL WARSHAFSKY



This is Canada and there are bills to pay. Being confident of your personal finance is key to break away from the burden of 'just-enough' to more-than-enough. Canadians must be knowledgeable about their personal finance, CRA, TFSA. RRSP.

RESP. ETF. NSF. How do they work? Personal Finance to is about the future. far easier to wrap your This 4.5" x 7.5" pocketbook with matte finish is 132 pages covering basic banking, spending and borrowing, investing, real estate, taxes, and budgeting.

be a good example of a good leader, they take the low level. It takes discipline not to abuse your office, molest young girls as a lecturer or embezzle government funds as a civil servant or politician or business man. You must be disciplined. “Tell your neighbour learn the art of discipline it is the ladder to success. Somebody say “Amen.”

TO BE CONTINUED

# BRAMPTON COUNCIL VOTES TO SUPPORT OPT IN ON POT SHOPS



Image Credit: www.globalnews.ca

By N.Ugoh

Brampton city council recently voted for legalized cannabis outlets in the metropolis as of April 1. According to the result of the poll, Brampton city councilors voted eight to three in support of opting in.

The vote took place after a long meeting that generated heated argument among the councilors as they debated whether or not to allow bricks and mortar cannabis outlets within the boundaries of the city.

It was gathered that a minimum of one person left the council chambers in anger while many people stood and shouted for joy when the result of the

vote was announced.

The Mayor of Brampton, Patrick Brown, who was part of those that supported opting in said he was happy that the councilors displayed a high level of maturity.

He said, "This was a difficult debate for our city but I am proud of our city council for showing the maturity to look at all angles of this. I believe the made the best decision for the city of Brampton."

The eleventh-hour vote took place a day before Ontario municipalities can decide to opt out of the exclusive cannabis business.

Ontario's Progressive Conservative government revealed last year that local governments must de-

cide whether to play host to pot shops or not before the end of January 2019.

Mississauga, Oakville and Markham have decided via votes to opt out so far.

Top level bureaucrats in Brampton had thrown their weight behind the city's allowance of the stores.

A recent online poll and phone survey carried out by the city discovered that 54 percent of total residents support the launching of cannabis stores while sixty-two percent of cannabis buyers revealed that they would prefer shopping at a physical outlet over the online Ontario Cannabis Store.

"As such, staff is recommending that Council

support the City allowing private cannabis retail stores to operate in Brampton," the report says.

Though the deadline has passed for municipalities to opt out, the local governments will be allowed by the province to reverse the decision later. Nevertheless, municipalities that voted in support of cannabis stores will not be allowed to opt out later.

Last month, the PC government revealed the first 25 companies that can apply for a retail license of cannabis in the province through a lottery and 6 companies out of the winners are based in 905 region.

The first stores will open officially on April 1, 2019.

# ONTARIO CHANGES OSAP PROGRAM, CUTS OVERALL TUITION BY 10%

By Sandra Beagan

As Ontario tries to control its massive deficit, it has eliminated free post-secondary tuition for low-income students. Even though it is also cutting tuition by 10%, critics say the move is harmful to those it's supposedly intended to help.

Merrilee Fullerton, the province's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, says the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) has become unsustainable and that it must be retooled so it can better help the students with the most financial need.

On Jan. 17, the Fullerton said, "The previous government believed in handing out OSAP funding to some of Ontario's highest income earners rather than focus student grants to those individuals who needed it the most."

Kathleen Wynne's Liberal government, which lost to Rob Ford's Conservatives in June of 2018, had revamped OSAP to make it possible for low-income students to attend university or college free of tuition. They also increased the amount of assistance available in the form of grants.

The new program was implemented for the 2017-2018 school year.

Under the Liberal program, families with an income of less than \$50,000 could qualify for free tuition. And families earning up to \$175,000 could qualify for some funding.

But in December of 2018, the province's auditor general found that the costs of the program had gone up by 25% and warned that they could get as high as \$2 billion per year by the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

And this is while Ford's Conservative government is trying to cut back on the province's deficit, which they say is \$14.5 billion – though, according to the financial accountability officer, it is closer to \$12 billion.

Under the new program, the threshold for families to qualify for some funding is \$140,000 rather than \$175,000. And a portion of the funding for low-income students will be in the form of loans, rather than full grants, though most of the available grant money will go to students whose families earn less than \$50,000.

The government also announced it is cutting tu-

ition fees by 10%.

The Conservatives say that all of these changes will ensure that the most help will go to the students who need it most. Critics don't agree.

Nour Alideeb, chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario said, "The recent changes that we saw in September 2017 related to OSAP actually ensured that one in four students could access enough grants to cover all of their tuition fees."

"By restoring the OSAP program back to the 2016-17 model it actually makes students take out more loans, meaning that when they graduate they have to pay it back with interest," she said.

Mitzie Hunter, the minister who was in charge of post-secondary education under the Liberals, said, "Needy students will see next to no benefits because under the previous program they were already being provided for."

"Wealthy students, who never qualified for OSAP in the first place, are being given a 10 per cent tuition cut even though they can afford it the most."

The current tuition fee structure expires at the end of the current school year. The new tuition framework, which decreases tuition by 10%, will be in place for the 2019-2020 academic year and then be frozen for the 2020-2021 school year.

Fullerton said that universities and colleges will have to absorb the loss in revenue.

"They will make choices in terms of what they need to do," she said. "They will be able to determine what they need to do to change, to adapt, and innovate."

The 10% cut is expected to reduce the revenue of colleges by \$80 million and by \$360 million for universities.

Fullerton said that post-secondary institutions will have to comply with the tuition cut in order to keep receiving the core operating grants from the government that are another important source of funding for them. She said those grants will not be reduced.

According to The Council of Ontario Universities, the amount that schools get (per student) in government operating grants has gone down by more than 10% in 16 years, so universities have been forced to use tuition fees to

*continued on p(38)*

# DOLLARAMA ANNOUNCES COMMENCEMENT OF ONLINE STORE

By N.Ugoh

Dollarama has announced the launch of its online store. The online store offers a variety of some of its highly famous consumable and general products that are available in Canada. The launching took place after a successful 5-week pilot in Québec.

The newly launched online store was set up to offer extra convenience to Dollarama customers that want to purchase goods in large quantities that may be unavailable in-store. About 1,000 products that were chosen from the wider merchandise offering and consumable are now available for sale via the online store by the full case. Categories



Image Credit: www.mtlblog.com

of the product include clothing, cleaning, food, electronics, health and beauty, hardware, home, Office, kitchen, party, toys and pets.

One good thing about

the online store is the prices of goods online are the same as prices of goods in-store. Products can't be bought online in individual or select quantities but shipping fees apply to all orders.

Customers are advised to keep on visiting the Dollarama store nearest to them in a bid to get a full selection of consumable and general merchandise products that Dollarama offers.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## TRUMP, LATIN AMERICA RECOGNIZES VENEZUELAN OPPOSITION LEADER

By Julius Oyekunle

The United States and its Latin American neighbours say they will only recognize Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido as interim leader. The UN urged dialogue in Caracas to avoid "disaster", leaving President Nicolas Maduro increasingly isolated as his government is tagged illegitimate.

Major regional players Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Peru and Argentina all gave their backing to Guaido's self-proclamation as acting president, which he made in front of a crowd of tens of thousands of supporters in the capital Caracas.

The European Union called for free elections to restore democracy.

Russia, however, criticized Western countries and Cuba and Turkey expressed "solidarity" with Maduro while Mexico extended lukewarm support to him.

In Moscow, foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova criticised the international community saying events in Venezuela "show clearly the attitude of the progressive international community towards international law, sovereignty, and non-interference in the internal affairs of a country where it seeks a change in power."

Venezuela, an oil-rich nation has become deeply impoverished under Maduro.

Maduro has clung to power through the support of the Venezuelan military and is a socialist ally of Russia, which last month sent two nuclear-capable bombers to the country to participate in a military drill.

Just minutes after Guaido's declaration, US President Donald Trump recognised him as interim leader, and declared his National Assembly was "the only legitimate branch of government duly elected by the Venezuelan people".

"The people of Venezuela have courageously spoken out against Maduro and his regime and demanded freedom and the rule of law," Trump said.

The US said it stood ready to use "all options" if Maduro tries to quash the opposition, in an implied threat of military force.

Maduro responded saying he was cutting off diplomatic ties with Washington, as his riot police clashed with opposition supporters in Caracas.

"Get Out! Leave Venezuela. Here we have dignity, damn it," Maduro said, giving US diplomats 72 hours to depart.

But Guaido tweeted in response that, under him, Venezuela wants countries "to maintain their diplomatic presence in our country".

And the US State Department said "former president Maduro" did not have the authority to sever relations.

# CHINA GROWS PLANTS ON THE MOON

Seeds that were taken up to the Moon by China's Chang'e-4 mission have sprouted, says China National Space Administration, marking the first time any biological matter has grown on the Moon, and is being seen as a significant step towards long-term space exploration.

The Chang'e 4 is the first mission to land on and explore the Moon's far side, facing away from Earth.

It touched down on 3 January, carrying instruments to analyse the region's geology.

Plants have been grown on the International Space Station before but never on the Moon.

The ability to grow plants on the Moon will be integral for long-term space missions, like a trip to Mars which would take about two-and-a-half years.

It would mean that astronauts could potentially harvest their own food in space, reducing the need to come back down to Earth to resupply.

The Chinese Moon lander was carrying among its cargo soil containing cotton and potato seeds, yeast and fruit fly eggs.

The plants are in a sealed container on board the lander. The crops will try to form a mini biosphere - an artificial, self-sustaining

environment.

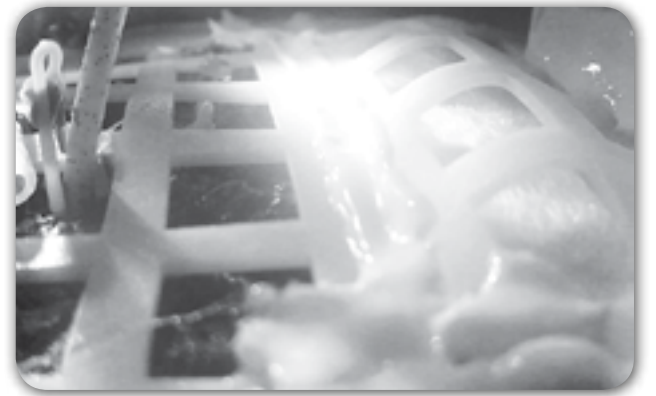
The lunar mini biosphere experiment on the Chang'e-4 lander is designed to test photosynthesis and respiration - processes in living organisms that result in the production of energy. The whole experiment is contained within an 18cm tall, 3kg canister that was designed by 28 Chinese universities.

The organisms inside have a supply of air, water and nutrients to help them grow. But one of the challenges, say Chinese scientists, is to keep the temperature favourable for growth when conditions on the Moon swing wildly between -173C and 100C or more.

They also have to control the humidity and nutrients. Some have raised the question of whether the experiment risks "contaminating" the Moon, but scientists generally think this is of little concern. And it's worth reiterating that there are already nearly 100 bags of human waste on the Moon left behind by the Apollo astronauts.

Chinese state media said the cotton seeds had now grown buds.

The ruling Communist Party's official mouthpiece the People's Daily tweeted an image of the sprouted seed, saying it marked "the completion of humankind's



Cotton plants seen sprouting on the left hand side of the picture are the first seeds to germinate on the Moon (AFP/Getty)

first biological experiment on the Moon".

Fred Watson, Australian Astronomical Observatory's astronomer-at-large, told the BBC the development was "good news".

"It suggests that there might not be insurmountable problems for astronauts in future trying to grow their own crops on the moon in a controlled environment."

"I think there's certainly a great deal of interest in using the Moon as staging post, particularly for flights to Mars, because it's relatively near the Earth," Mr Watson said.

Prof Xie Gengxin, the experiment's chief designer, was quoted as saying in the South China Morning Post: "We have given consideration to future survival in space."

"Learning about these

plants' growth in a low-gravity environment would allow us to lay the foundation for our future establishment of space base."

He said cotton could eventually be used for clothing while the potatoes could be a food source for astronauts and the rapeseed for oil.

China's Xinhua news agency said that the seeds were rendered dormant using "biological technology" during the 20-day journey from Earth to the Moon.

They only began growing once ground control centre sent a command to the probe to water the seeds.

Xinhua said the probe had taken about 170 pictures so far which have been sent back to Earth.

Xinhua News Agency

## MAN CELEBRATES AFTER WINNING \$1 LOTTERY PRICE



pic: (Facebook/Tyler Heep)

He won \$1 and he's having a dig like it's a jackpot. An Iowa man who won \$1 through the lottery seemingly wanted to be treated like a big winner — and state officials obliged.

Tyler Heep, of Urbandale, wrote on Facebook

earlier this month that he won the money through a state lottery scratch-off ticket.

How much can you win to make you celebrate? Well, to Heep, it's about having a sense of humor.

"I told them I'd like one of those big ceremonial checks as payment," Heep said. "I figured it would be worth a shot and they all thought it was really funny."

Heep, whose check is dated Jan. 4 but whose story began to circulate in recent days, added he was "surprised nobody else has done this before."

## LABOUR'S KATE OSAMOR RESIGNS AS SHADOW MINISTER

Labour frontbencher Kate Osamor has quit her role to support her family, after allegedly throwing a bucket of water at a newspaper journalist.

It comes weeks after she was reported to Parliament's standards watchdog.

Earlier in the year, the Edmonton MP's son, the Edmonton MP's son, Ishmael - then a Haringey councillor - was convicted of having £2,500-worth of drugs at a festival.

The Times newspaper says its reporter was visiting her home to ask questions about the case.

Her resignation fol-

lows allegations of misconduct made by the newspaper, which says she verbally abused its reporter on Friday night before throwing water over him, then calling the police.

The reporter had visited the MP's home seeking a response to ongoing questions surrounding Ms Osamor's son's conviction for drug offences, the newspaper said.

In a statement on Twitter, the Edmonton MP said it had been a "difficult time".

Ishmael Osamor pleaded guilty in Septem-

ber to four charges of drug possession at the Bestival festival in Dorset, but prosecutors accepted he wasn't planning to sell the drugs.

According to The Times, Ms Osamor, who was Labour's shadow secretary of state for international development, said she did not know about the case until after sentencing in October.

But the newspaper reports that the MP wrote a letter to the trial judge asking for leniency and stressing her son's remorse.

The BBC has approached Ms Osamor for

comment on the allegations made by the newspaper.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn thanked Ms Osamor, who was elected in 2015, for bringing "a new dimension" to her role as a shadow minister "by committing Labour to tackling global inequality as well as poverty".

Dan Carden, MP for Liverpool Walton, has been appointed acting shadow secretary of state for international development.

Ms Osamor's "integrity" was questioned when she continued to employ her son as a communications

# FIONA ONASANYA TO TRY TO STAY ON AS MP DESPITE JAIL SENTENCE

## FORMER LABOUR MP GIVEN THREE-MONTH SENTENCE FOR LYING TO AVOID SPEEDING TICKET

An MP has been given a three-month jail sentence for lying to avoid a speeding ticket, and is expected to try to remain in office despite calls to stand down.

Fiona Onasanya, the MP for Peterborough and a former Labour whip, was sentenced for perverting the course of justice following a retrial.

Sources close to Onasanya, the first serving MP to be jailed in 28 years, said she was believed to be planning to return to work as an MP once she leaves prison. She will continue to be paid while in prison, parliamentary sources confirmed.

Labour and the Conservatives have called for her to "do the decent thing" and resign immediately.

Onasanya appeared at the Old Bailey in London to be sentenced alongside her brother Festus Onasanya, who pleaded guilty to three similar charges and was sentenced to 10 months.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith said: "It's a tragedy

that you have found yourselves here and in this predicament but it's a tragedy that you have brought on yourselves."

Onasanya did not react to the verdict but was taken away to begin her sentence.

Under laws introduced in 2015, any prison term, even a suspended sentence, leads to a recall petition, which will be open for six weeks and can force a byelection if signed by 10% of voters in a constituency.

Because Onasanya, 35, has appealed against her conviction, this may not happen for several months. The recall petition cannot be opened until any appeal process has concluded.

Staff in her constituency office said they would continue to work through her sentence. "Nobody who has issues on immigration, housing local services etc should be punished for what happened," Matt Turner, her press officer, wrote on Twitter.

A former councillor, Onasanya was selected by Labour in 2017, shortly before the general election. Her victory over the Tory incumbent Stewart Jackson by 607 votes was unexpected. When she was interviewed shortly afterwards, Onasanya said she would like to become Britain's first black female prime minister.

The jury was told the MP's Nissan Micra was caught speeding at 41mph in a 30 mph zone in July last year.

The prosecution alleged she went on to collude with her brother Festus to avoid a speeding ticket in a series of exchanges with the police.

The court was told she was sent a notice of intended prosecution to fill out, but it was sent back naming the driver as Aleks Antipow, an acquaintance of her brother who was away visiting his parents in Russia.

In remarks at sentencing, the judge said her de-

cision to remain as an MP was beyond the powers of the court.

"As things stand, it is not right to say that you have lost everything. You have decided to remain as a member of parliament despite your expulsion. It is well beyond the remit of this court to speculate on what the future holds for you as member of parliament for Peterborough."

Referring to the fact she has multiple sclerosis, Stuart-Smith said her health and her previous good character had been taken in to accounts during sentencing.

"I also take into account your illness though there is no medical evidence to suggest that your unfortunate condition would make a significant difference to your ability to sustain a period of imprisonment," he said.

He said he had to give her a custodial sentence on the basis that she had taken a series of "disastrous" deci-

sions from November 2017 until her trial that were designed to pervert the course of justice.

"There cannot be one law for those in positions of power, privilege and responsibility and another for those who are not," he said.

Christine Agnew QC, counsel for Onasanya, said the case had had a disastrous impact upon her client's life. "She continues to stand as an independent MP and her only reason for that is because it is her only source of income," she said.

Major political parties have been campaigning in Peterborough in expectation of a byelection since Onasanya was found guilty in December. A spokesman for the Labour party said the sentence gave the MP an opportunity to act honourably and resign from parliament. "If Fiona does not resign, Labour will support local residents in their efforts to trigger a byelection through a recall petition," he said.



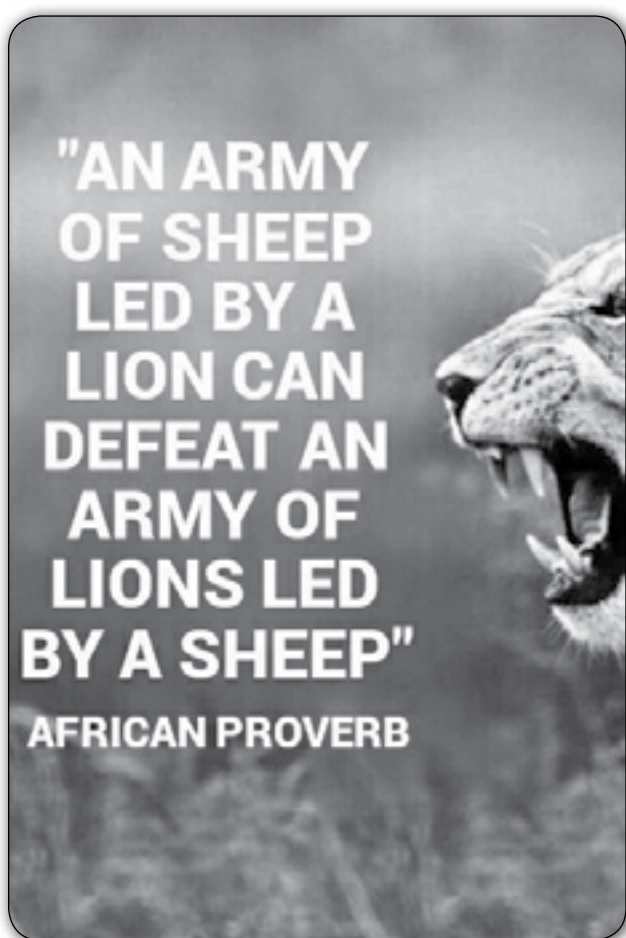
Pic Credit: PA

The Conservatives also called for Onasanya to resign. "She cannot possibly represent her constituents from prison and should do the decent thing and immediately step down," a spokesman said.

Onasanya is the first sitting MP to be jailed since Terry Fields was sentenced to 60 days for failing to pay his poll tax bill in 1991.

Festus Onasanya, 34, from Cambridge, pleaded guilty to three counts of perverting the course of justice over speeding, including for the 24 July incident.

Source: [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)



officer after he resigned as a local councillor.

Last month a Tory MP reported her to Parliament's standards watchdog over her son's continued employment in her Westminster office as a researcher.

Ishmael Osamor was caught trying to take ecstasy, cocaine, ketamine and

cannabis into the festival in August 2017 - nine months before he was elected as a councillor for Haringey.

Following his conviction he resigned from his cabinet post on the council, and later resigned as a councillor following pressure from opposition groups.

Source: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com)

## SHOPPERS DRUG MART SELLING MEDICAL CANNABIS ONLINE

By Sandra Beagan

On Jan. 8, Shoppers Drug Mart launched its online platform for selling medical pot. A month earlier, Health Canada licensed the company to sell medical cannabis via the internet.

Initially, they can sell pot only to residents of Ontario.

This is not recreational cannabis. To begin the process, patients will need a document from their doctor, similar to a prescription, which they drop off at pharmacy in Ontario.

Then an advisor will get in touch with them to go over their medical history and help them with product

selection and registering with the e-commerce platform.

Shoppers' president, Jeff Leger, said, "Medical cannabis, like any prescribed medication, requires the same level of counsel from a healthcare professional."

"As medical cannabis is increasingly prescribed to Canadians for its therapeutic benefits, our goal is to enhance the service and support that patients receive through this process," he said.

Shoppers will provide cannabis oil, dried cannabis, and medical accessories. The company says it has supply agreements with ten licensed medical pot producers.

## VENEZUELA TO RECEIVE 2,000 CUBAN DOCTORS FROM BRAZIL

By Julius Oyekunle

Venezuela, bedeviled by its own economic woes and political instability is set to receive 2,000 Cuban doctors who left Brazil following a dispute between the Communist-run island and the government of far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who ordered an end to their stay after being sworn in last month.

According to Bolsonaro, about 11,000 doctors were being used as "slave labor" and immediately called on the Cuban government, which took 75 percent of their salaries, to allow them to be paid in full and have their families join them.

A demand that eventually made Cuba pull out its Doctors.

"Next week, we're going to have a special event that celebrates the arrival of 2,000 new com-

munity doctors that Cuba is sending us. They are coming from Brazil," President Nicolas Maduro said in a televised broadcast.

"Brazilian fascism ended the health plan, and the 2,000 doctors are coming to Venezuela," he said.

Clinics run by Cuban doctors were a signature program of late socialist leader Hugo Chavez, who enjoyed an oil windfall during his 14-year rule that ended with his 2013 death from cancer. Venezuela paid for the medical services with shipments of oil.

Venezuela's economy has worsened under Maduro and has faced growing complaints of decay in the health system and steady abandonment of the facilities once run by Cuban doctors. He did not give details about how Venezuela would pay for the doctors' services.

continued from p(14)  
**WITH THIS RING**

things he said about an aborted baby who was not allowed to see the light of day surprised him. Was that really in the Bible? He went inside his bedroom, took his Bible from the table beside his bed and returned to the living room.

He couldn't remember the book of the Bible that Richard quoted. Putting the Bible down, he carried his laptop and went online to search. He soon found the Scripture: Job chapter three verse sixteen. He read the New Living Translation.

Why wasn't I buried like a stillborn child, like a baby who never lives to see the light?

Richard had also told him that the Bible referred to a pregnant woman as being with child. He typed 'Being with child' and found several scriptures. He drank a little malt before he began to read the scriptures one after the other.

Hmm. What should I do?

He felt like calling Grace but what did he have to tell her? He had not decided on the line of action. He was no longer certain that abortion was the right thing to do but neither did he think keeping the pregnancy was what Grace should do. How would they take care of the child? Besides, having a baby now would drastically alter their lives.

He finished drinking the malt and put the empty can down.

Feeling a need to hear Grace's voice, he dialled her number. It rang several times until it cut off. Grace did not pick it.

Sighing, he sent a message to her BB.

Let's talk pls.

He held the handset in his hand and was checking it. Soon, there was an indication that she had read the message. He expected a reply but there was none.

Nigerian Idol which was being shown on TV helped take his mind off his concerns for a while. When it ended, he switched off the TV.

As he went to bed, he still had not made up his mind on what to do or tell Grace but somehow, he had the feeling that he would follow Richard and Donald's advice. He told himself that he would be able to think more clearly in the morning though. Now it was late and he was tired. Few minutes later, he slid under the cool cotton sheet, turned off the light and closed his eyes.

The next morning, he had a quick bite and left the house at seven-thirty. He had a media function to attend but he planned to stop at Grace's office. He got here but didn't meet her. He

left.

On the way, his phone began to ring. Using his right hand to take the handset, he glanced at the number. It was unknown. He picked it anyway.

"Hey, it's me, Patience." The female voice called out cheerily.

"Patience?"

"Yes. I attended to you when you came to Chumsey Restaurant."

"Oh, Patience. How are you?"

"I'm fine, thank you. I will be bringing my CV to your office today."

"Er, I'm not in the office -"

"You're not in the office?"

"No but that's not a problem. Give it to the receptionist, I'll get it."

"Er, well, I'm thinking ... I could bring it to your house if you like." She suggested and giggled.

Albert was surprised. "My house?"

"Yes."

Hmm.

He heard her voice again as she said, "Or ... are you married?"

He giggled. "No no, I'm not. Do I seem like a married man?"

She laughed. "I just wanted to be sure. So, will you text your address to me?"

Greatly tempted, he said, "Look Patience, let me call you back. I'm actually driving."

"Okay. I'll expect your call."

He dropped his handset on the passenger seat and smiled. He could still remember the way Patience was smiling at him that day. He knew her type. And he knew what she wanted.

His mind went to Chike. What would he do? He would oblige her. Well, he would do the same thing. He would text his address to her later, he decided.

When he reached the venue of the event, he parked and took his cell phone. Within a minute, he had sent his address to Patience.

He got down and on his way inside the white building; his handset alerted him of a text message. He opened it.

Received. Will be there in the evening. See ya - Patience.

Albert smiled.

(to be continued)

This story is from the novel - *With This Ring* by Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi

To read the novel, pls visit: <https://www.amazon.com/Taiwo-Odubiyi/e/B00G6MU03I>

Or: <https://m.okadabooks.com/search?term=Taiwo+Iredele+Odubiyi>

Website: [www.pas-tortaiwoodubiyi.org](http://www.pas-tortaiwoodubiyi.org)

# 20,000 KIDNAPPED NIGERIAN GIRLS FOUND IN MALI

By D.Forrester

NAPTIP, an anti-trafficking agency has confirmed that thousands of young girls and women have been found in Southern Mali, having been kidnapped in Nigeria as sex slaves.

NAPTIP says between 20,000 and 45,000 kidnapped Nigerian women in Mali it intends to return to back home.

General Julie Okah-Donli, NAPTIP Director, said most of the women were from rural communities in Nigeria and that they all came from six states of the federation.

The NAPTIP Director said, "They were tricked into going to Mali by giving them the impression they were going to



pic: dailynigerian.com

get jobs in hotels, for example."

"Some were actually abducted while going to school.

"There are over one million Nigerian residents in Mali, out of which about 20,000 are trapped into forced prostitution. The conditions are horrible. They are kept in the thick of the forest where

they cannot escape and with the 'madames' watching over them."

Insurgencies in the troubled North-east have wrecked havoc on the region by killing tens of thousands of people over the last ten years.

In 2014, extremist group Boko Haram abducted more

than 276 schoolgirls from the town of Chibok, Nigeria.

The kidnapping captured the world's attention, with celebrities and prominent personalities such as former US First Lady Michelle Obama joining a "Bring Back Our Girls" campaign to free them.

Around 2,000 girls and boys have

continued from p(35)

## ONTARIO CHANGES OSAP PROGRAM...

fund a bigger proportion of their operating costs.

In a Jan. 17 statement, David Lindsay, President and CEO of the Council of Ontario Universities, said this change will "negatively affect their ability to provide the best possible learning experience for students, partner with their communities and help deliver economic and social benefits to the people of Ontario."

The NDP's Chris

Glover, Official Opposition Critic for Colleges and Universities, called the OSAP changes and the tuition fee cut "sugar-coated poison pill."

"The universities are already cash strapped and they're going to have to find ways to make up for the loss of revenue and it's going to come out of the students," he said. "It's going to come out of the quality of education that they receive, through their

class sizes, and through the number of professors that are on the campus to help them."

According to Minister Fullerton's announcement, post-secondary schools will now have to let students decide what additional fees they want to pay, such as the ones that fund student news organizations, and campus clubs and organizations.

CFS-Ontario's Alideeb alleges this change may

be targeted toward certain campus organizations. "What's really scary is that I feel like this is a direct attack on the groups that actually try to hold the government accountable when it comes to student issues," she said.

Fullerton said that some fees will continue to be mandatory, such as those for academic support, sports and recreation, health counselling, and WalkSafe programs.

continued from p(21)

## RAISING GODLY CHILDREN IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

2) Parents must be an example of godliness to the children. You can't be a bad example to them, living in sin and immorality, and expect them to be good.

Children usually imitate their parents.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

In everything set them an example by doing what is

good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness. (Titus 2:7)

3) Pray for them, and with them, regularly. And teach them how to pray.

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work,

and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Colossians 1:9-11 KJV

4) Create time to teach them God's words, will, and ways.

Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the

Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 KJV

For counselling or enquiries, contact Pastor Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi

WhatsApp + 234-8023000773

been abducted by Boko Haram since 2014, many used as sex slaves, fighters and even suicide bombers, according to Amnesty International.

The US State Department in 2018 reported that human trafficking is a major problem in Africa's most populous country.

Trafficked persons from Nigeria are found in about 40 different countries, the report stated, adding that "80 percent of all female Nigerian migrants in Italy are or will become sex trafficking victims".

**continued from p(30)**  
**CONTRACTIONS**

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| She is   | She's   |
| They are | they're |
| We will  | We'll   |
| Cannot   | can't   |
| I would  | I'd     |
| Will not | we'll   |

**continued from p(30)**  
**DRAW A LINE...**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Works On Your Teeth  | Dentist   |
| City Of Saskatchewan | Saskatoon |
| Stringed Instrument  | Guitar    |
| Found In A Book      | Page      |
| Correct Fact         | Truth     |
| Displeasure          | Anger     |
| Music, News Source   | Radio     |
| Information Centre   | Library   |

**continued from p(25)**  
**WHY ATIKU IS EVIL?**

individual. Interestingly, his first business was within a year of working and in his early 20s. At that time, he went to the dealer of trucks and acquired two or three trucks on instalment credit for the business of carrying agricultural produce from the Northern region to the South (especially Lagos), with hopes to pay back as delivery comes in. Surprisingly, the main driver in charge of the trucks ran away with the trucks, after some deliveries.

Secondly, let's look through his political trajectory. He came into political frame after emerging as top three out of a large number of Presidential aspirant in the SDP Presidential primaries with my legend M.K.O. Abiola - M.K.O. being first, Baba Gana Kingibe emerging second, and Atiku Abubakar as third. Since margins were close, they ran for the second voting option to decide the 'clear' winner. However, if he had teamed up with Baba Gana Kingibe from the same North East with him, Kingibe would have had over 2,000 votes above M.K.O in the second primaries (since politics is a game of numbers), but Atiku decided to team up with M.K.O Abiola. After M.K.O emerged, he chose Kingibe as his running mate. The permutation was that Atiku's time would come, after M.K.O's Presidency.

Thirdly, as Vice President, he led the Economic team under President Olusegun Obasanjo. Despite allegations and accusations of corruption on the entire Presidency, the economy looked bright - during this time was the birth of GSM and the internet revolution emerged in Nigeria, albeit late compared to the other parts of the world. I re-

searched and gathered that Atiku recommended a lot of technocrats to Government. As much as I feel the three Presidents under the PDP could have done better than they did, I must admit fairly that compared to the APC, the PDP has consistently appointed technocrats in Ministries, Department, and Agencies (square pegs in square hole) in government across the geopolitical frame of Nigeria. Some of the leading Presidential candidates such as 'very competent' Professor Kingsley Moghalu and 'truly committed' Dr. Oby Ezekwesili were appointees of the PDP government, except for the 'down-to-earth' Omoyele Sowore and 'humane' Fela Durotoye. Even Governor Nasir Elrufai served in PDP for 14 years out of the 16 years of PDP's reigns.

Now back to Atiku, after serving as Vice President, his name was mentioned with the Halliburton scandal, but most people I ask, don't even know about this. So where did the tags of 'evil' or 'corrupt' come from, when they never heard of Halliburton? But also, in the same Halliburton scandal, Atiku was never indicted. And it is improper to shave the man's head without trial convicting him as being deserving of it. But still, even if Atiku is guilty by some public opinion, not by 'court-pinion', then, would that qualify him as 'evil'? On privatization of national assets, wasn't Governor Nasir Elrufai, the Chairman of the Bureau in charge of privatization?

Lastly, Atiku fought his boss, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, against the third term agenda. I gathered he sponsored parts of the move financially for his personal

interest in becoming President. Ambitious, he is, but was that cause a worthy one? Frankly, Yes! Was that enough to tag him as 'evil'?

Where did this 'evil' tag on Atiku come from? Perhaps, President Olusegun Obasanjo helped shape the narrative our 'subconscious' perception of Atiku as 'evil', as 'corrupt' by constantly picking him up and tearing him apart on national and international platforms, and before the press? Perhaps, not!

Or is this a case of history repeating itself! I remember in the narrative the military gave us in 1966, they stated corruption as a reason for overthrowing the first republic's political leaders, but evidence on ground now, showed those leaders built institutional legacies. Most of which the military could not surpass in over 30 decades of ruling Nigeria. So, where did the allegation of corruption that the military sold to us, and we believed in, come from, at that time, and what has it lead us to?

In this elections, let's check, 'are we following the same narrative that the military gave us?' Or is Atiku by evidence 'evil'?

P.S: My idea behind writing this piece from research, is to probe the subconscious national mind and debate within ourselves whether some of our assumptions are consistent with evidence or rumors. Thank you for reading and sharing.

*Timi Olagunju's Nigeria's foremost technology lawyer and design thinking/policy consultant; Twitter: @timithelaw - please drop your feedback and let's dialogue dialectically.*

**continued from p(30)**  
**MATH**

- $44 + 44 = 88$ . True
- $121 \div 11 = 11$ . True
- $87 - 27 = 42$ . False
- A convex shape curves outwards. True
- $3 \times 9 = 27$ . True
- $29 + 35 + 3 = 66$ . False
- A six-sided shape is a hexagon. True

**continued from p(30)**  
**TELEPHONE SCRAMBLE..**

- Stop saying I wish, start saying I will.
- Mistakes are proof that you're trying.

**continued from p(31)**  
**PLACE THE WORDS...**

PERSON	PLACE	THING	FEELING

**continued from p(31)**  
**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS**

4	3	9	2	6	8	5	7	1
6	1	7	3	4	5	2	9	8
2	5	8	7	1	9	4	3	6
1	2	4	8	9	6	7	5	3
7	8	3	4	5	2	1	6	9
9	6	5	1	7	3	8	4	2
3	4	2	6	8	7	9	1	5
8	9	1	5	3	4	6	2	7
5	7	6	9	2	1	3	8	4

**continued from p(30)**  
**WORD SEARCH SOLUTIONS**

.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	F	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
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C	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	R	.	.	.	C	.	.	.	.	.
H	W	I	N	T	E	R	S	T	O	R	M	E	.	.	Y	.	.	.	.
I	W	I	N	D	C	H	I	L	L	.	.	.	C	.	.	.	.	.	.
L	.	S	L	U	S	H	.	.	.	.	.	.	A	.	.	.	.	.	.
L	.	.	I	C	E	S	T	O	R	M	.	.	S	.	.	.	.	.	.
Y	F	O	G	G	Y	B	L	I	Z	Z	A	R	D	.	.	T	.	.	.
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C	O	L	D	.	.	.	.	W	I	N	D	Y	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	T	E	M	P	E	R	A	T	U	R	E	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	F	R	O	S	T	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

**continued from p(31)**  
**FILL IN....**

- When you can't find the sunshine be the sunshine.
- I never dreamed about success I worked for it.

**continued from p(30)**  
**SCIENCE**

- False - 2
- True
- False
- True
- True
- False

**continued from p(31)**  
**SCRAMBLE WORDS**

- Telephone
- Pharmacy
- Photograph
- Alphabet

**continued from p(31)**  
**MISSING OF THE LETTERS..**

- pointed
- poison
- moist
- choice
- soil
- noise
- boil
- broil
- spoil
- voice
- coins

## SPORTS

## SEARCH FOR EMILIANO SALA & MISSING AIRPLANE CALLED OFF

By Julius Oyekunle

It was a sad moment across the football world, especially in France and England as the search for the missing plane carrying footballer Emiliano Sala and his pilot was called off as there was no chances of survival, Guernsey harbourmaster, Capt David Barker has said.

In an update posted on Twitter by Guernsey police, Barker said the active search for the missing plane had ended.

He said: "My team has just met to review the search and rescue operation which has been underway since the plane disappeared on Monday night.

"Despite the best efforts of air and search assets from the Channel Islands, UK and France, which has covered an area of approximately 1,700 sq miles – with a significant amount of this searched more than

once – and having examined mobile phone data and satellite imagery, we have been unable to find any trace of the aircraft, the pilot or the passenger.

"There has been over 24 hours of continuous searching, with 80 hours combined flying time across three planes and five helicopters. Two lifeboats have also been involved, as well as assistance from various passing ships and fishing boats."

Cardiff City striker Sala, 28, and pilot Dave Ibbotson, 59, have been missing since their plane disappeared from radar over the Channel as the footballer was being flown to Cardiff having been sold to the Welsh club by Nantes for £13m.

Barker added: "We reviewed all the information available to us, as well as knowing what emergency equipment was on board, and have taken the difficult decision to end the search."

## SERENA DEFEATED BY PLISKOVA AT AUSTRALIAN OPEN



L-R : Karolina Pliskova shakes hand with Serena Williams. (REUTERS)

Serena Williams squandered four match points and blew a 5-1 lead in the decider as seventh seed Karolina Pliskova produced a stunning fightback to claim a 6-4 4-6 7-5 quarter-final victory over the American at the Australian Open.

Williams, chasing a milestone 24th Grand Slam triumph, also saved two match points in the last game but netted on the third as the big-serving Czech shocked a packed Rod Laver Arena with her remarkable rally from the brink of defeat.

The loss denied Williams the chance to avenge her contro-

versial U.S. Open title match defeat to the Japanese fourth seed, Osaka.

"She improved her game in the second set. She was playing very well, went for her shots. I was a bit passive," an elated Pliskova said in a post-match interview.

"My mind wasn't in the locker room, I was still here. I was a bit passive. But I said 'let's try this game'. I took my chances and I won.

"I am happy I get to play two days in a row. Osaka's dangerous but I don't think anyone is more dangerous than Serena. So I will enjoy this one."

## USAIN BOLT DONATES US\$1M TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONTINGENTS

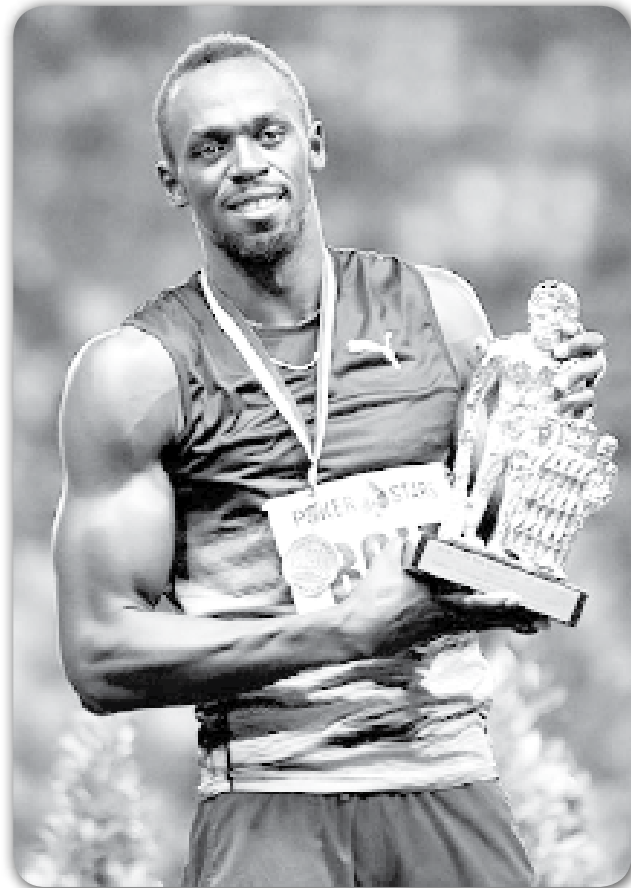


Image Source: www.thehimalayantimes.com

By Dele Akintilo

Games in March.

Usain Bolt has taken a big step to boost the morale of Jamaica's Special Olympic delegates that will compete in next month's World Games by offering them US\$1m financial aid.

Despite the fact that the 32-year-old Jamaican has announced his retirement from sporting activities following a sequence of unsuccessful football trials, he exhibited another level of generosity by bringing in his long-term kit sponsors Puma to assist the Special Olympics team of Jamaica financially.

The US\$1m that was doled out through Usain Bolt Foundation and Puma will help Jamaica contend at the Abu Dhabi 2019 World

The financial aid will equip the 98-strong delegation with the necessary tools needed as they prepare for the competition.

The team consists of 73 athletes that will be vying for medals in eight competitions (bocce, football, swimming, athletics, badminton, roller skating, basketball and volleyball), two officials, twenty two coaches and one medical representative.

While advising the delegates, Bolt said: "My advice to them is to understand that it will be a big stage.

"Don't get stage fright, just go out there and try to have as much fun as possible to represent themselves and Jamaica."

## EFE BROTHERS JAILED IN THE UK

By Julius Oyekunle

Former Super Eagles defender, Efe Sodje and two of his brothers are facing different jail terms for turning tens of thousands of pounds from a charity organized to lift poor African children.

Efe, 46, Stephen Sodje, 43, and ex-rugby player, Bright Sodje, 52, were chided by the Judge for bringing "shame on their family" for siphoning fundraising campaign, the Sodje Sports Foundation (SSF). "You have brought shame upon yourselves and your

family." Judge Michael Topolski said.

The charity was established in 2009 to help provide sporting facilities to young talents in Nigeria, but the brothers are believed to have used the funds realized for personal gains.

Ashley Carson, a businessman and director of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, and one of the city's MPs, Clive Betts, were recruited to give credibility to the project but inability to provide bank statement made them log out.

Both men resigned



in 2013, "the amount of money being transferred to the Sodje family increased dramatically", prosecutor Julian Christopher QC told the Old Bailey.

The SSF held a charity football match at Sheffield Wednesday's grounds in 2009, and arranged a fundraising dinner at Charlton Football Club in September 2010.

In 2011, there was a gala dinner at the Lowry Hotel in Man-

chester for the SSF and the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital – a charity supported by England women's football coach Phil Neville.

Efe gave out Easter eggs provided by the hospital to child cancer patients, while five Sodje brothers attended a £150-a-head black tie dinner. The event raised almost £11,500, but Mr Christopher said: "Not a penny went to the Royal Manchester Chil-

dren's Hospital."

Stephen, of Bexley, was sentenced to two years and six months in prison. The judge said he lied repeatedly to the jury and was a "self-regarding and arrogant man

with a strong sense of self-entitlement".

One of the Efes bagged 18 months in jail, after receiving around £7,500 plus an unknown amount of cash from a clay pigeon shoot.

## WE MUST GET PAST NORWAY TO GET INTO THE KNOCKOUT ROUNDS – DENNERBY

By Tunde Ajibode

Super Falcons Coach Thomas Dennerby reflected that his African champions must scoop all three points against Norway in their first match of the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup finals, to stand on a good pedestal of reaching the knockout stages.

The Swedish tactician made this observation as he inspected, alongside other members of the Nigeria delegation, the facilities for the Super Falcons' first match of the finals, including the 21,000-capacity Stade Auguste Delaune in Reims.

"In the early editions of the FIFA Women's World Cup, Norway used to have outstanding teams. I am not saying they no longer have a strong team. But I believe that if we are able to use our power and pace to maximum effect, and we improve our marksmanship, we can get a good result against them.

"Certainly, we would need a fitness coach to put the Super Falcons in great shape so that we can have that power and great pace to work for us. We would also need to play friendly matches and invitational tournaments to try various formations and combinations."

The inspection of the Stade Auguste Delaune was done alongside the delegations of Norway, United States of America and Thailand, who would also make use of the venue for matches during next summer's World Cup.

The stadium was

opened as Stade Municipal in 1934, but brought down entirely and rebuilt in 2008. It is named after a former Sports Minister of France who died in a concentration camp during World War II.

Nigeria and Norway go at each other's jugular in the second match of Group A on 8th June 2019, a day after hosts France and Korea Republic would have opened the tournament at the Parc des Princes in Paris.

Incidentally, Norway's coach, youthful Martin Sjogren, is also Swedish and is a friend of Dennerby.

"Our objective would be to get three points off Norway. We would then go hard against Korea Republic and then take our chances against France. For me, coming to the World Cup next summer should not be about Nigeria just making up the number.

"We should have the mission to come here and make an impact at the World Cup. Nigeria is ripe for that, but adequate preparation will be key."

The delegation, which included NFF Director of Communications Ademola Olajire and Team Administrator, Mary Oboduku, also inspected the Mercure Hotel Reims where the Super Falcons will stay, as well as the training pitch.

After playing Norway on 8th June, the Super Falcons will move to Grenoble to play Korea Republic on 12th June before heading to Rennes to take on France on 17th June.

## FRANCE EXTRADITES AFRICAN FOOTBALL CHIEF TO WAR CRIMES COURT

By Julius Oyekunle

France has transferred Patrice-Edouard Ngaissona, a member of Africa's top footballing body, to the International Criminal Court in The Hague to face war crimes charges, the ICC said.

Ngaissona, from the Central African Republic, "followed the completion of necessary national proceedings in France, where

he was arrested on 12 December", the tribunal said in a statement.

The former CAR sports minister was arrested in France on December 12 on an ICC warrant, and a court in Paris ruled on December 31 that he could be transferred to the tribunal in the Netherlands.

Ngaissona denied the charges.

The court said Ngais-

sona was extradited by France "pursuant to an ICC arrest warrant for crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in the Central African Republic."

"This transfer followed the completion of necessary national proceedings in France", it said.

A date for Ngaissona's first appearance at the ICC would be announced

"soon", the court said. The hearing would verify his identity and preferred language for legal proceedings, and he would be officially "informed of the charges against him", it added.

Ngaissona, who is head of the Central African Republic's football association, was controversially elected to the executive board of the CAF general assembly this month.

## FUTURE EAGLES TO PARTICIPATE IN EIGHT-NATION TOURNEY IN JAPAN

By Tunde Ajibode

The U15 National Boys Team, known as the Future Eagles, has been invited to take part in an Eight-Nation Tournament in Japan in June this year.

Known as the U16 International Dream Cup, the tournament started in 2015 and has welcomed teams from a number of the world's leading football nations, including France, Spain and The

Netherlands. Senegal, Mali and Guinea are among the African nations to have participated in previous editions.

Team Administrator of the U15 National Boys Team, Adewale Adeyinka said that the NFF has already responded positively to the invitation.

Players for the U15 National Boys Team are selected during the annual NFF/Zenith Bank Future Eagles Championship.

Last year, the Future Eagles won the silver medal of the football event at the 3rd African Youth Games held in Algiers. A good number of the players made the U17 National Team that won the WAFU Cup Tournament in Niger Republic in September last year, to qualify for this year's Africa U17 Cup of Nations taking place in Tanzania.

At the U16 International Dream Cup

Tournament, host Japan, Chile and France finished in that order at the inaugural edition in 2015, while Mali, Japan and Hungary were the top teams in 2016. Host Japan, The Netherlands and Guinea were top of the pile in 2017, and last year, Spain, Paraguay and Senegal finished in that order.

This year's tournament will hold 12th – 16th June in the city of Sendai.

## UTIN, YAHAYA, EFFIOM TOP AIGBOGUN'S LIST FOR U20 AFCON

By Tunde Ajibode

Team Captain Ikouwem Udo Utin and forwards Yahaya Nazifi and Effiom Maxwell are in the list of 21 players of Nigeria's U20 squad that will battle for honours at Africa U20 Cup of Nations in Niger Republic.

Enyimba FC wing-back Utin won a silver medal at the African Nations Championship in Morocco last year, while youth sensation Nazifi recently signed contract with a Danish club and Maxwell was Man-of-the-Match in the 4-2 defeat of Ghana's Black Satellites at the WAFU U20 Cup Tournament in Togo last month.

Aigbogun has also

included goalkeepers Detan Ogundare, Akpan Udoh and Olawale Oremade, as well as defender Mike Zaruma, midfielders Peter Eletu, Quadri Liameed and Aniekeme Okon, and forwards Adeshina Gata and Ibrahim Abubakar.

Defender Valentine Ozornwafor, who plays for Enyimba International FC of Aba, midfielder Jamil Muhammad of Kano Pillars and Oasis FC forward Ibrahim Aliyu have also been included in the Nigeria squad.

The seven-time African champions will be buoyed by three foreign-based professionals, Igoh Ogbu of Rosenburg FC of Norway, Afeez Aremu

of IK Stat FC, also in Norway and Denmark-based Nazifi.

The list has been submitted to the Confederation of African Football.

### FLYING EAGLES FOR 2019 U20 AFCON

**Goalkeepers:** Akpan Udoh (Unattached); Olawale Oremade (Oasis FC); Detan Ogundare (Kogi United)

**Defenders:** Mike Zaruma (Plateau United); Ikouwem Utin (Enyimba International); Igoh Ogbu (Rosenburg FC, Norway); Solomon Ogberahwe (El-Kanemi Warriors); Valentine Ozornwafor (Eny-

imba International); Olasunkanmi Aliyu (Emmanuel Amuneke Academy)

**Midfielders:** Peter Eletu (Prince Kazeem Academy); Quadri Liameed (36 Lions); Aniekeme Okon (Akwa United); Jamil Muhammad (Kano Pillars); Afeez Aremu (IK Stat, Norway)

**Forwards:** Adamu Alhassan (Kano Pillars); Yahaya Nazifi (Sonderjyske FC, Denmark); Ibrahim Aliyu (Oasis FC); Adeshina Gata (Wikki Tourists); Ibrahim Abubakar (Plateau United); Okoh Victor (Real Sapphire FC); Maxwell Effiom (Enyimba International)

## RELIGION

### WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE IN PRAYER?

(What readest your Attitudometer?)

By Pastor Amos Dada PhD;P.Eng



Pastor Amos Dada  
amos.dada@gmail.com

“Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer : ‘I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don’t cheat, I don’t sin, and I don’t commit adultery. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ 14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Lk 18:10-14

Prayer ! Prayer!! Prayer! Everybody talks about prayer, every one prays, even those who are not Christians pray, even atheists ! But prayer is not just about verbalizing some words or wishful thinking, prayer has a purpose and if that purpose is not achieved what is the use! And I can tell you scripturally, experientially and experimentally that many prayer are just a waste of mental and verbal disposition.

James gives us one reason why we don’t fulfil purpose of prayer, why the prayers remain unanswered :

“And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong--you want only what

will give you pleasure.” James 4:3.

So we see here that we donot get results because of wrong motives.

Another reason is that we don’t believe . You recall that I said even Atheist prays. I cannot recall vividly the story shared by Ravi’s Zachariah about an atheist that accused Christians of not remembering the titles of the synoptic gospel , and they asked him about the title of the book of his mentor . When he forgot he said “ Oh my God”. You may laugh but that is one of the reasons our prayers are not answered the fact that you have God in your mouth does not mean you are a believer . The fact that you go to to church , you talk like a Christian, sing Christian songs does not make you a Christian, so if you don’t even have the God of heaven as your father and you are praying to him guess what you are preying on Him and you are walking in self delusion .

So today what we are looking at is our attitude to prayer . The bible gave us two scenarios . One - the Pharisees who had an attitude that he had not “committed sin” according to his own records, he had also done some services for God and so he OWN’S God! God must be brought to his level to run errands for him. He must answer him by “force and by fire”.

Because he ‘has paid his tithe’ and carried out some spiritual exercises, God must be “compelled” to do his bidding. Jesus says you are wrong . I still have mental picture of Bro Emeka Nwakpa one of our leaders in Intercessor for Africa in the 90s in Warri , demonstrating how we hold God by the neck : he made a brother to stand and held him by his tie . Demonstrating how we treat God , he must give us a hundredfold return because we gave our tithe and offering - how wrong that attitude could be!

So what is the right attitude? The right attitude is simply, humility! The publican would not even look up, - Lord have mercy on me a sinner.

Your parents pay your school’s fees not because you did your chores , cleared the snow in the drive way, but because they are your parents, they love you, they want the best for you now and in the future, they have a responsibility to give you the best. You don’t threaten your spouse to give you something because you had intimate relationship in the night, that is not why she/he should give you your request , it is because he/ she loves you and married you in the first place .

This is why God answers our prayer ;

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you”John 15:16.

What the Holy Spirit Taught me this

morning is that our approach to God in issues of prayer will go a long way to whether your prayer will be answered or not. If you are praying and your prayers are not answered check your “ Attitudometer” ( my coinage)

Check whether you are arrogant in heart

Check whether you are really a child of God?

Check whether you are abiding in him

Check whether you are asking rightly or wrongly.

Check whether you have a repentant heart.

Check whether you have a humble heart.

Check whether you really know God or you just know about him.

Check whether you have a relationship with him or you are just in the crowd?

Do you really love God? Or you love what is in God’s hands!

Check whether you want to use God as a means to achieve a purpose.

God says check these 7 things :

“These six things the Lord hates,

Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

A proud look,A lying tongue,Hands that shed innocent blood,A heart that devises wicked plans,Feet that are swift in running to evil,A false witness who speaks lies,And one who sows discord among brethren.” Prov 6:16-17

I pray that God will help us to develop the right attitude towards him and then he shall answer your prayers speedily in Jesus name.

Shalom

### SOUTH KOREAN PASTOR JAILED FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT



Image Credit: www.z6mag.com

By NCNC

Lee Jae-rock, the controversial South Korean pastor who leads Manmin Central Church has been sentenced to 15 years in prison after he was found guilty of numerous counts of sexual assault and harassment.

According to a report by CNN, Lee Jae-rock was indicted for forty-two counts of sexual assault and sexual harassment against eight women. Also, a press release from the Seoul Central District Court stated that the 75-year-old pastor had “maliciously taken advantage of the victims who had absolute faith in his religious authority, and sexually harassed or assaulted the victims who were in their 20s repeatedly and even sexually assaulting multiple victims at the same time.”

The document revealed further that Lee’s victims had been attending his church since they were born or when they were young.

The release revealed that: “The victims were in the psychological status

where they absolutely could not resist or at least the resistance was substantially difficult. Judging from the circumstances, though the accused did not call himself the ‘holy spirit’ or ‘god’ in an official place, in the smaller gathering or personal education sessions, he had been teaching the followers directly, and indirectly, that he is the holy spirit or God.”

The court discovered that it was “sufficiently reasoned” that the influence of Lee over the victims stemmed out of the fact that his victims have him as their pastor, as such, having “consistently listened to his sermons and attended the church diligently,” would have thought that “served God’s will.”

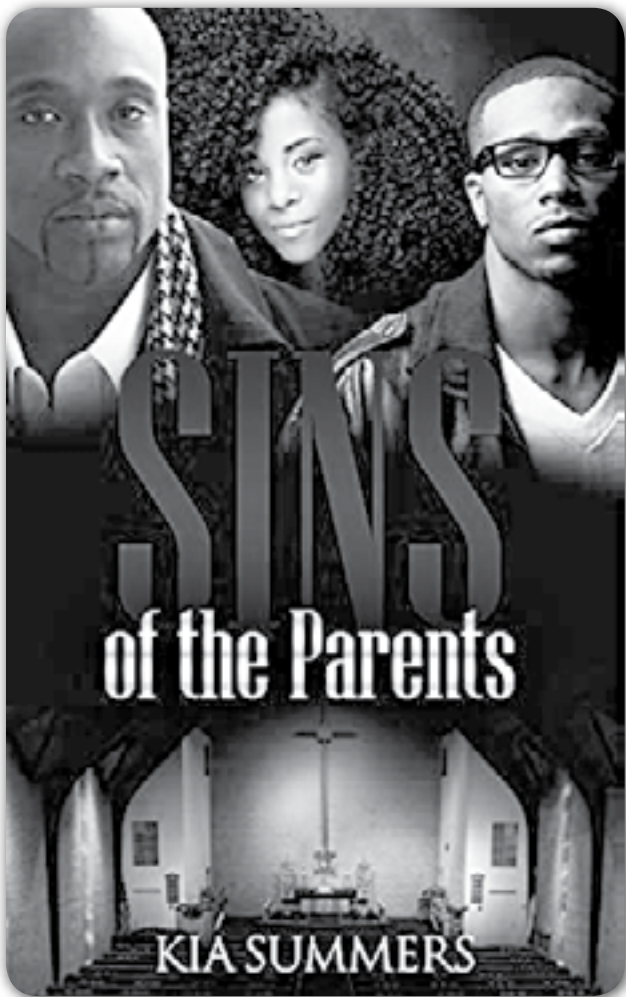
Funnily, Lee denied all allegations and argued that it is possible the victims have been motivated “by money” to bear false witness.

Apart from the prison sentence, Lee was restricted from working with children for a period of ten years and was also directed to undergo a program on sexual violence therapy.

**RELIGIOUS BOOKS  
EDITOR'S PICK  
FICTION & NON FICTION BOOKS**

*Dear all, the year has set sail and you can't afford to be held back by weaknesses of the past. Knowledge is power and in our quest to add value to you this year, pick up one or two books from the bookstore and get inspired, rekindle hope, believe, let go, and learn. Happy reading.*

**SINS OF THE PARENTS  
(THE LUCAS FAMILY  
SCANDAL BOOK 1)  
BY KIA SUMMERS**



No secret can be kept forever, if it doesn't chase it's culprits, it's obviously lies in wait for posterity. At some point, those who knows nothing pays the biggest price. It doesn't have to be, Summers believe in this intriguing masterpiece.

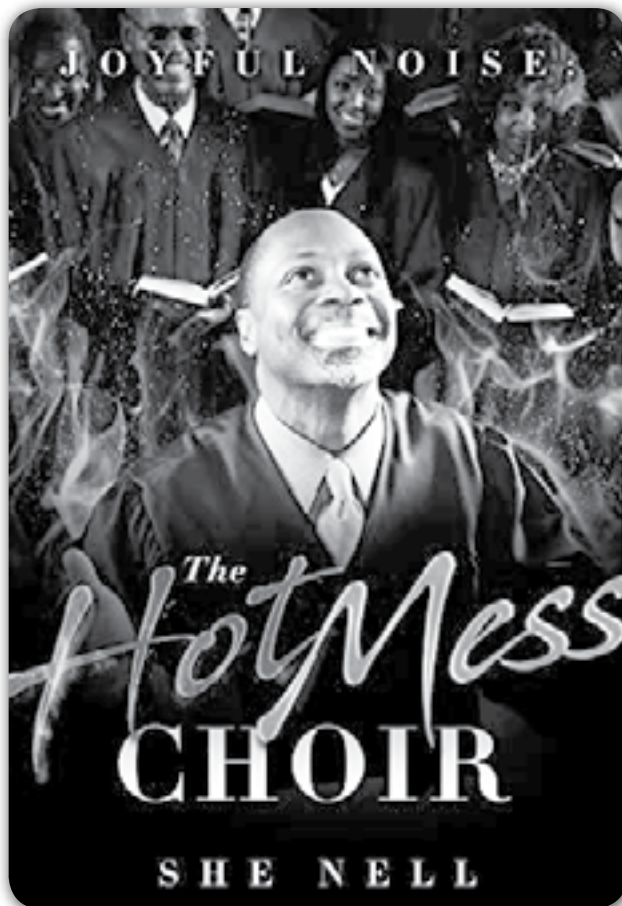
Someone out there knows about Olivia's late mother and is ready to expose the dark secrets kept from her two sons. Tyrone isn't a saint either. If God does not intervene, what could happen?

**THE SPONTANEOUS  
FULFILLMENT OF  
DESIRE: HARNESSING  
THE INFINITE POWER  
OF COINCIDENCE  
BY DEEPAK CHOPRA**

Maximize the power of coincidence and understand how this gift can shape destinies. If you're connected to spontaneous events in your life and able to understand the 'why', you'll never take things for granted anymore.

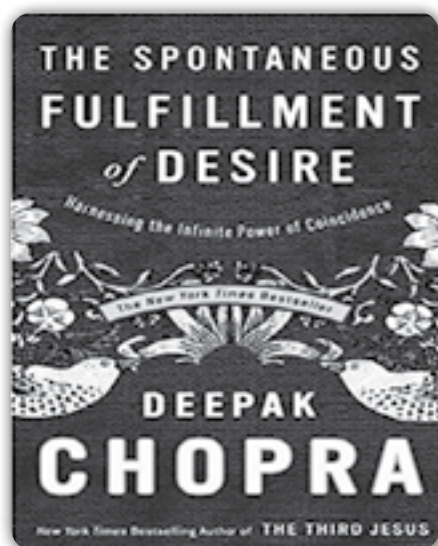
As Chopra puts it more vividly, "Coincidences" can be recognized as containing precious clues about particular facets of

**JOYFUL NOISE:  
THE HOT MESS CHOIR  
BY SHE NELL**



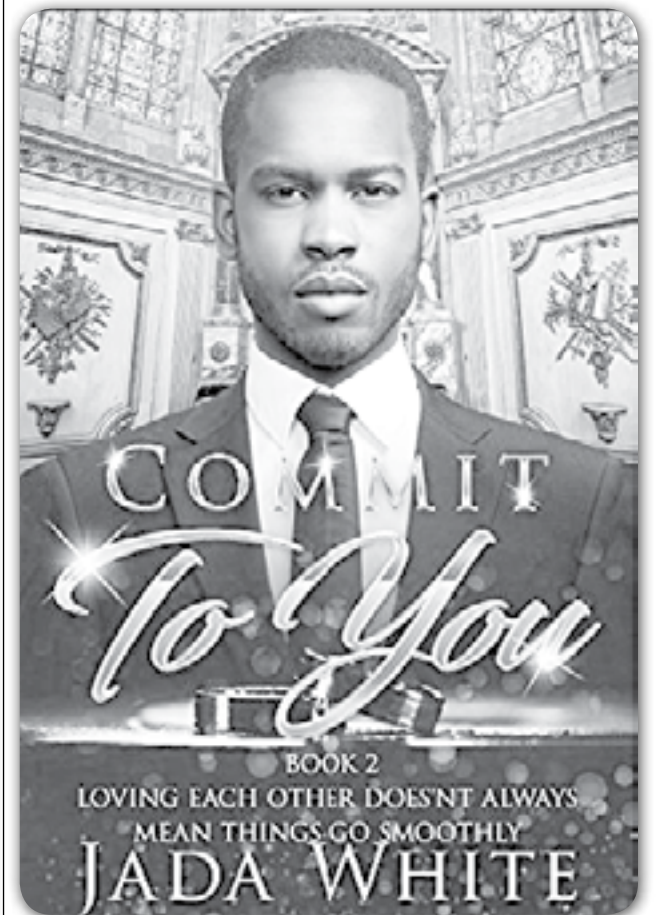
Deities, infidelity, impossible characters all plugged into a choir group which is supposed to give glory to God, except the Lord builds the house..."

Pastor Myron's Jones Pastor's anniversary celebration is about to commence and First Lady, Deidra Jones is torn in between leading a choir group that is divisive and outrightly corrupt. There's a playboy, Shonda a single mother of six, and Willie Mae Odell who wants to take down the whole choir and become the First Lady. Only God can save Pastor Jones now.



our lives that require our attention. As you become more aware of coincidences and their meanings, you begin to connect more and more with the underlying field of infinite possibilities. This is when the magic begins. This is when you achieve the spontaneous fulfillment of desire."

**COMMIT TO YOU  
BY JADA WHITE**



It's not just about 'falling' in love, more importantly its about staying and sacrifice is the key. Cutting out the obstacles to communication can be the lifeline for a healthy union.

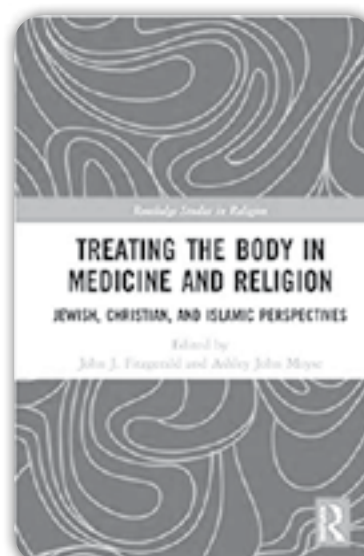
Ava and Lamonte started their relationship on a fairy tale. A blissful union soon becomes a burden, losing its delight and glamour after just 10 months.

Lamonte is a self-made billionaire of his Christian online dating company, and more often than not he spends more time at work, and not with his loved ones.

Lamonte will have to choose between work and marriage if he intends to bring back the first love.

**TREATING THE BODY IN MEDICINE  
AND RELIGION: JEWISH, CHRISTIAN,  
AND ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVES  
HARDCOVER**

**BY JOHN J. FITZGERALD AND ASHLEY JOHN MOYSE**



This is an interdisciplinary appraisal on modern medicine, understanding its trend, with a multi religious dimension. It takes a deeper look into the body and soul.

It details specific aspects from Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the book is divided into three parts: "Understanding the Body," "Respecting the Body," and "The Body at the End of Life." A panel of expert contributors including philosophers, physicians, and theologians and scholars of religion answer key questions such as: What is the relationship between body and soul? What are our obligations toward human bodies? How should medicine respond to suffering and death? The resulting text is an interdisciplinary treatise on how medicine can best function in our societies.

SOURCE: AMAZON.COM  
BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE TORONTO & MISSISSAUGA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## GWYNETH PALTROW SUED OVER UTAH SKI CRASH



pic: www.looppng.com

By Julius Oyekunle

A middle-aged man in Utah has filed a lawsuit against actress Gwyneth Paltrow for the injuries he sustained during a crash at a Park City ski resort in 2016.

Terry Sanderson says in a lawsuit filed in Utah state court that Paltrow was skiing out of control which made him knock out leaving him with a brain injury and four broken ribs.

The incident occurred two years ago on a beginner run at Deer Valley Resort.

Deer Valley Resort spokeswoman Emily Summers said the resort can't comment on pending legal matters. The resort is also being sued.

Sanderson says Paltrow left him injured on the mountain and didn't send help. He says a Deer Valley ski instructor filed a false incident report saying Paltrow didn't cause the crash.

A spokeswoman for Paltrow says the lawsuit is "without merit."

Paltrow expects will hope to be vindicated in the court.

## KIM KARDASHIAN USING A DIFFERENT SURROGATE FOR HER FOURTH CHILD

*The baby is reportedly due in May*

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West are reportedly expecting a fourth child via surrogate, but they aren't using the same woman who carried their youngest addition, Chicago, E! News reports.

## KATIE PRICE READY TO ADOPT BABY FROM NIGERIA



pic: www.celebsnow.co.uk

By Julius Oyekunle

Katie Price, 40 says she has begun the process of adopting a child from the West African country after meeting with a woman who works at an orphanage by chance. She said:

"Well basically, I've always said I've always wanted to adopt a child. I don't care if they've got disabilities – just because I feel I can offer a place. Funny enough, I was getting my nails done and there was a lady sitting next to me and I don't know why, I'm a bit weird like this, but I said to her, 'Sorry, but are you a nurse?'"

Cut a long story

According to the outlet, the couple's last surrogate, whose identity remains private, became pregnant with her own child. Kim reportedly chose a new surrogate over the summer, who also remains anonymous.

However, in August, Kim denied rumors that she was planning for baby number four. "None of that was true," she told E! at the time, "But I've been really open about it and talked about it on our show, so I don't know."

Kim's last surro-

gate made an appearance on Keeping Up with the Kardashians last year, but her identity wasn't completely revealed. The episode saw the woman meeting members of the Kardashian and Jenner family for the first time when she was in town for a doctor's appointment.

short, she wasn't a nurse but she was telling me how she looks after this orphanage in Nigeria and we got talking and stuff. I said to her I've always wanted to adopt but the thing is, it's easy to adopt abroad but it's not easy to bring them back to this country. So she knows all these people. And Katie – who has Harvey, 16, with her ex Dwight Yorke, Junior, 13, and Princess, 11, with her ex-spouse Peter Andre and Jett, five, and Bunny, four, with former husband Kieran Hayler – has steered away from adopting a British child because it's "so hard to adopt over here".

"My surrogate is such a nice person, my family absolutely loves her and I'm so grateful," Kim said at the time. Kim's surrogate gave birth to Chicago on January 15, 2018.

## "LEAVE ME ALONE": CELINE DION TELLS THIN-SHAMERS



Celine Dion in a suit / Instagram

By N.Ugoh

Celine Dion has lashed out at fans for her recent weight loss, telling haters to back off.

"If I like it, I don't want to talk about it," the 50-year-old said in a recent interview. She continued: "Don't bother. Don't take a picture. If you like it, I'll be there. If you don't, leave me alone."

The five-time Grammy winner also

said she wants to look sexy even at 50. "I'm doing this for me," she said of the bold looks. "I want to feel strong, beautiful, feminine and sexy."

"To be honest with you, I think I'm at the best of my life right now, and I really want to enjoy and embrace every moment of it," she said. "It's all new. It's like I'm having a second wind — 50 has been great for me." She concluded.

The reality star and beauty mogul announced the news with an emotional blog post, where she said she and Kanye "are incredibly grateful to our surrogate who made our dreams come true with the greatest gift one could give."

Kardashian opted for surrogacy after previously suffering from pregnancy complications, including placenta accreta, a

condition where the placenta grows too deeply in the uterine wall. Doctors advised that it would be unsafe for her to get pregnant again naturally.

Now, with a surrogate's help, Kim's fourth child is reportedly due in May and is expected to be a boy, as it was previously reported that her remaining embryo is male

Source: www.harpersbazaar.com

## TRAVEL

# 5 TIPS FOR CONQUERING YOUR NEXT LONG FLIGHT

(NC) Long haul flights and lengthy travels don't have to wreak havoc on your body. Use these five travel tips to ensure your next vacation starts and ends with a relaxing journey.

**1. Pack healthy snacks.** Don't depend on inflight catering to get you through marathon travel days. Most airlines offer a limited a-la-carte menu filled with stale sandwiches and sugary snacks. Before you begin your journey, visit your local grocery or bulk food store to ensure you have high protein and fibre snacks that leave you feeling nourished and energized. Nuts, dried fruits, hummus and organic granola bars are a few items to

consider.

**2. Get up and move.** Stop judging pacers, they're on to something. Stretch in your seat and take regular walks down the aisle to avoid unwanted feelings of numbness or stiffness. Don't let a long flight stop you from reaching your daily step count goals.

**3. Conquer dry eye.** You don't have to suffer from dry eyes onboard, or ever. Airplanes are pressure-controlled environments, and the lack of moisture can lead to blurry vision and irritated eyes. The discomfort may continue if you're staying in a hotel, which is often stuffy and dry. The travel destination itself can also lead to irritation, as dry climates

or bright environments can trigger dry eye symptoms too.

Before you lift off, pick up Systane Complete lubricant eye drops – the first all-in-one drop for all types of dry eye. The drops provide hydration and lasting protection so you can binge on your favourite TV show or dive deep into your latest ebook in comfort. Remember that your eyes need at least 50 per cent moisture content in the air for optimal comfort. But on a plane, humidity levels often are below 20 per cent, which is lower than the Sahara Desert.

**4. Pick your seat carefully.** Be self-aware and pick your seat accordingly. If you're planning to sleep for the bulk of the

flight, sit toward the back of the plane where it's usually quieter and less crowded. If turbulence leaves you ridden with anxiety, seats near the aircraft's wing are usually steadier. If frequent trips to the bathroom are your thing, select an aisle seat — your neighbours will thank you.

**5. Wearayeres.** There will be plenty of chances to get an Instagram-worthy shot on your vacation, but the flight doesn't need to be one of them. Prioritize comfort over fashion while in transit and wear several layers to prepare yourself for a range of unpredictable temperatures. When your seatmate blasts the overhead air conditioning, you'll be happy you did.

# ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO SCRAP LAW FOR 325,000 CUSTOMERS

By N.Ugoh

Ontario government will scrap legislation that aims to regulate the price of electricity for more than 325,000 hydro customers in Ontario.

Low-income advocates, tenants and condo owners are anxious about the new law. They fear that electricity costs could rise for anyone who pays for their hydro through a sub-metering company.

"We don't have any control," said Angie Toussaint, a low-income tenant who lives in Toronto's Jane and Finch neighbourhood.

"For someone who

is single you feel like you're going out of your mind because you have other bills to pay as well," she said.

Many low income earners are also worried about increasing rents, rising electricity costs and stagnant wages.

The changes proposed by the Ford government were announced last December as part of its Restoring Ontario's Competitive Act — or Bill 66 — and have all but killed a year-long process started by the previous Liberal government and the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to regulate prices in this sector.

# HOW TO FOCUS ON STUDYING: 7 TOP TECHNIQUES

We've all struggled with poorly-timed distractions. You're sitting at a desk, studying intently, and then:wham! Unrelated thoughts—breakfast this morning, the funny movie you saw last week, or that upcoming presentation you're nervous about—invade your mind. Or maybe you're totally immersed in your work, but your roommates, friends, or family members barge into your study space at an inopportune moment.

Internal and external distractions, like the ones described above, cause us to lose focus. But by honing your concentration skills, you can defend against these disruptive forces. The techniques outlined below will help you maximize your focused study time, as well as regain your focus if you become distracted.

## 2. Choose Your Study Environment Wisely

Unless your friends happen to be good study partners, study alone. Post a sign on your door telling roommates or family members to stay away. If you have kids, seek an hour or two of child-

care if possible. If your home environment is distracting, gather your study supplies and head over to a comfortable study spot.

If you're studying at home, choose a quiet room with limited clutter. If distracting background noises bother you, pick up some noise-cancelling headphones and turn on a study playlist (preferably instrumental) or white noise. Create the best possible environment for studying before you open your books, so that you don't have to pause mid-session to make a change.

## 3. Anticipate Your Physical Needs

If you're studying intently, you're going to get thirsty. Grab a beverage before you open the book. You may even need a power snack while you're working, so grab some brain food, too. Use the bathroom, put on comfortable clothes (but not too cozy), and set the air/heat to the temperature that best suits you. If you anticipate your physical needs before you start studying, you'll be less likely to get out of your seat and lose the focus you

worked so hard to gain.

## 4. Study During Your Peak Brain Times

Schedule your most challenging study sessions during peak energy periods, when you anticipate feeling most energized and focused. If you're a morning person, that means you should be studying as early as possible. If you're a night owl, choose an evening time slot. If you aren't sure what time works best for you, reflect on your most successful studying experiences. What time of day did they take place? When does your brain feel most effective in general? Pencil in study sessions during these periods, and stick with them.

## 5. Answer Your Internal Worry Questions

Sometimes the distractions aren't coming from the external world—they're invading from within! If you're worried about a particular issue—"When am I going to get a raise?" or "What will happen if I fail this test?"—you might find yourself struggling to stay focused.

Luckily, there's a

solution. It might feel a little silly, but actually answering those internal questions will help you redirect your mind back to wherever it needs to go. If you catch yourself worrying, identify your key worry question and answer that question in a simple, logical manner, like so:

- "When am I going to get a raise?" Answer: "I will speak to my boss about it tomorrow."

- "Why can't I understand this material?" Answer: "I am studying like I'm supposed to be, so I'm confident that I will figure it out. But if I am still struggling with this material by the end of the week, I will speak to my teacher about getting extra help."

You can even write out the question and the answer on paper, then fold it up and pack it away for later. The goal here is to acknowledge the worry, accept that it's there (don't judge yourself for it!), then return your attention to the task at hand.

## 6. Get Physical

Some people frequently feel the need to be doing something

physically. They might feel antsy and energetic, or simply struggle to focus in sedentary settings. Sound familiar? You're probably a kinesthetic learner, which means that you learn best when your body is engaged along with your mind. Improve your focus during study sessions with the following techniques:

1. Pen: Underline words when you read. Cross off incorrect answers when you're taking a practice test. Moving just your hand may be enough to shake off the jitters. If it's not, move to step #2.

2. Rubber band. Stretch it. Wrap it around your pen. Play with the rubber band while you're answering questions. Still feeling jumpy?

3. Ball. Read a question sitting down, then stand up and bounce the ball against the floor as you think of an answer. Still can't focus?

4. Jump. Sit down and read a question, then stand and do 10 jumping jacks. Sit back down and answer the question.

7. Reframe Negative Thoughts

Negative thoughts make studying all but impossible. If you find yourself frequently repeating self-defeating thoughts, try reframing them into more positive statements:

- Negative: "This concept is too hard for me to learn."

- Positive: "This concept is tough, but I can figure it out."

- Negative: "I hate this class. Studying for it is so boring."

- Positive: "This class isn't my favorite, but I want to study the material so that I can succeed."

- Negative: "I can't study. I get so distracted."

- Positive: "I know I lost focus earlier, but I'm going to try again."

The next time a negative thought invades your brain, acknowledge it and try to turn it into a positive statement. Over time, studying will feel less like a burden and more like an intentional choice you're making in order to achieve your goals. This mindful approach will make you feel more empowered and motivated, and subsequently will increase your focus.

Source: [thoughtco.com](http://thoughtco.com)

# CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN LAWYERS ANNUAL GALA AND AWARD NIGHT

DECEMBER 7, 2019  
RED ROSE CONVENTION CENTRE, BRAMPTON

A splendid evening of events including saxophone and spoken word renditions and an award ceremony recognizing the achievements of Professor Obiora Okafor with a presentation of the CANL award of recognition.



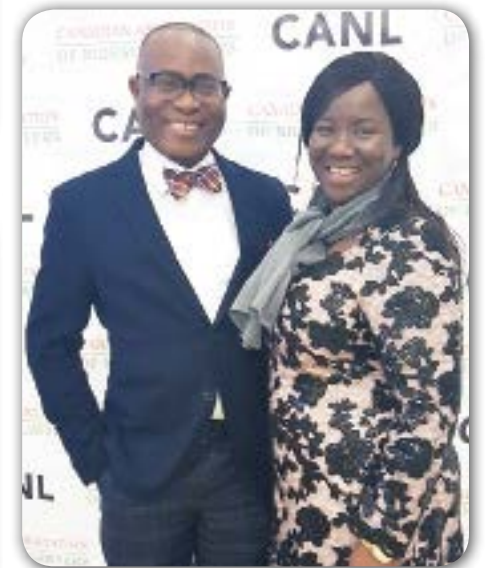
MICHAEL OWOH - Secretary General CANL



KINGSLEY JESUOROBO President CANL



Guest, Akin Reju, Johnson Babalola, Kingsley Jesuorobo, Guest, Mike Owoh and Jide Oladejo



Akin and Anu Reju



Ngozi Ugoh and Osaretin Jesuorobo



L-R: Ekpemi Onaré Ekhabafe, LLM representative of Hon. Justice Maryann Anenih, Eyitayo Dada, Prof. Obiora Okafor with Kingsley and Osaretin Jesuorobo



Kingsley Jesuorobo and Michael Owoh



Hon Justice Irving W. André and Hon Justice Antonio Di Zio



L-R: Hon Justice Antonio Di Zio, Ekpemi Onaré Ekhabafe, Prof. Obiora Okafor, Hon Justice Irving W. André, Mr. Mark Persaud



Dara Ayoola with Iyanuoluwa



Hon. Justice Irving André presenting CANL 2018 Award of Recognition to Professor Obiora Okafor



Topmarke staff



L-R: Guests and Bola Adetunji



L-R: Mr. Muiywa Olorunfemi, Guest, Simeon Oyelade and Lanre Oyenubi (Vice Chair of CANL Board)



L-R: Johnson Babalola, Guest and Kingsley Jesuorobo



L-R: Lanre Oyenubi (Vice Chair of CANL Board), Prof. Obiora Okafor (Chair of CANL Board of Directors) and Franklin Omoruna



Eyitayo Dada, PRO CANL recognizing Professor Obiora Okafor's achievements during his award ceremony



Stella Iriah (CANL Board Member) and family

PICTURES BY: NCNC

# Can I ever forgive my late wife who deceived me?

*continued from p(14)*

Her family members and I didn't waste time making arrangements for her burial as soon as possible. Two weeks later, a date was set for the wake and burial and I wished that it was all a dream as I still refused to accept that the love of my life was truly dead. As expected, my three sons and I as well as David and Rose wore the same outfit since I considered them my children after all these years. However, I got the most shocking and embarrassing moment of my life at Judy's graveside. After all the normal ceremony, the pastor asked me and my sons to pay our last respects to her, as her husband and children. I took sand with the shovel and poured it into her grave with a grieving heart. Slowly, I passed the shovel to Junior, our first son, when Judy's immediate younger brother, Joe, who was standing close by whispered into my ears, "No, Junior is not next. David should pay his last respects to Judy before Junior."

I looked at him and said gently, "David is not my first son even though he lived with us. I am sorry." Then her uncle Ben also whispered into my ears, "You are wrong in-law, David is Judy's first born and son so he has to pay his last respects to his mother first before her other children." Shocked, I asked, "How can that be? David is her late sister's son." At this point, people were beginning to wonder what the matter was and even though I couldn't believe my ears, I also didn't want to cause a scene, so I allowed David first, followed by my sons.

"God, please if this is a dream, I want to wake up," I murmured.

I was restless from that point because I couldn't believe that David was actually Judy's child. I couldn't think straight any longer as all I wanted was to know the whole truth. My sons were also as shocked as I was but they kept quiet. By the time all was said and done at the graveside, I walked straight to meet Judy's uncle, Ben, and brother, Joe and demanded that they told me the truth; at least they owed me that.

"Good afternoon, what kind of pranks did you people play on me and my children? Please, I need to know the whole truth if it is really true," I stressed. "Blaze my in-law, I promise to come over to your house this evening so that we could talk," Uncle Ben promised. When we got home, I called David into my bedroom and asked him who their parents were.

"David, I have always regarded and loved you and Rose as my children. But I want you to tell me if you ever knew Judy was your mother," I asked. "Uncle, the truth is that we know. Rose and I are your wife's biological children. But mummy ordered us right from when we were kids never to call her mummy. She said we should call her aunty when we come to live with you and we simply obeyed," David revealed.

"Alright, so do you know who your father is?" I questioned.

"Mummy told us that he died in a car accident," he disclosed. A few hours later, Uncle Ben came to see me as promised. Then he narrated what happened and why Judy had to deceive me.

"Blaze, Judy didn't mean to deceive you; in fact, she regretted deceiving you, that I know. When Judy was in the village, she got

married and had David but her husband died mysteriously. When he was two years old, she had a boyfriend who got her pregnant but denied her and left the village without telling anybody, and we have not seen or heard from him since then. She gave birth to Rose and then I decided that she come to Lagos and start her life afresh. Later, she met Leo who loved and adored her. He wanted to marry her but when she told him that she already had two children; he dumped her with the excuse that he could not marry a woman who had a child much less two children. That disappointment made her vow never to tell any other man that she had children. Instead, she passed them off as her late sister's children.

You may want to ask why we all kept quiet in the family despite how nice you had been to the family right? She made us promise that we would not divulge her deepest secret. However, I expected that she would have told you after all these years, after all, we all know how much you love David and Rose. I am sorry that you had to find out like that and at her graveside," he revealed.

I wept because I was really pained and deceived. "How could she have kept something like this from me? I don't deserve it. I truly loved Judy, for this reason, if she had told me she had children, that would not have stopped me from marrying her. See how my first son, Junior, was humiliated. The children who I thought were her nephew and niece are actually her children," I said.

No doubt, I loved Judy even though she is dead and buried, can I ever forgive her for deceiving me and our three sons? It is so hurting I must confess.

## ARRESTS MADE IN HUGE FRAUD RING INVOLVING TAXI DRIVERS

By Sandra Beagan

Toronto police have announced arrests in an identity theft and fraud operation that targeted taxi customers and stole millions of dollars from hundreds of people.

Det. Const. Kristin Thomas said that police have arrested and charged a 16-year-old boy, a 48-year-old woman, and four men in their 20s. She said the alleged scam has been defrauding people for over a year and the current charges are only the beginning of resolving the case.

Throughout 2018, police received reports of the alleged frauds but it took a few months for a pattern to emerge, according to Thomas. "We're in the millions of a loss when you put them all together," she said.

Thomas said the alleged frauds do not involve riders of ride-hailing services such as Lyft or Uber, but rather customers who used several of Toronto's licensed taxi companies.

Thomas explained how the alleged scam worked.

Customers try to pay with debit or credit cards on a point-of-sale terminal that records their PIN. They get an error message and the driver takes the terminal back to "fix" the error.

At that point, allegedly, the driver swaps out the customer's card for another one that looks the same and the customer leaves the car without noticing their card has been swapped.

Then the drivers or accomplices can use the stolen card and the PIN to access the rider's accounts.

The six people arrested between mid-November and early January are facing 262 charges between them, Thomas said, including possession of property obtained by crime, unauthorized use of debit or credit cards, identity theft, and multiple counts of fraud over \$5,000.

According to Det. Chris Beattie, the financial crimes unit's lead investigator on the case, the fraudster takes your real card "to the nearest ATM and liquidates your accounts."

The thefts weren't confined to a single cab

company, but Beattie wouldn't specify which companies are implicated.

"We were talking to a bunch of the cab companies and basically saying, 'How do we track these guys down?'" he said. "They said, 'Well, the easiest way for us to do that is to get the cab number.'"

But most of the frauds occurred early in the morning or late at night, Beattie said, usually in the city's downtown core. When "you're coming home from work, you're coming home from a bar, you're not really noticing what's going on."

Beattie said riders should make sure debit/credit machines are branded by the taxi company and to be wary of generic receipts that say "Toronto Cabs" or "GTA Taxi" or instead of the cab company's name.

A Windsor, Ont. Cab driver was sentenced to house arrest in 2014 after admitting to ripping off intoxicated passengers.

In a 2015 scam similar to the Toronto one, two cabbies in Montreal stole \$450,000 over a period of several months.

## WOMAN IN VEGETATIVE STATE GIVES BIRTH IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY

By Sandra Beagan

A 29-year-old woman who has been in a near-vegetative state since the age of three gave birth to a baby boy in an Arizona long-term care facility on Dec. 29.

On Jan. 23, Nathan Sutherland, 36, a licensed nurse at the Hacienda HealthCare facility and the victim's primary caregiver, was arrested and jailed on one charge of vulnerable adult abuse and one charge of sexual assault.

Facility employees said they had no idea the victim was pregnant. According to court records, her last known medical checkup was in April.

Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams told reporters at a press conference that "we have worked virtually non-stop every day, every night to resolve this case."

Police used DNA testing and "good old-fashioned police work" to find the perpetrator.

Thelda Williams, the mayor of Phoenix, said that police spent "endless hours" investigating the "hideous crime."

"I know our officers took this crime to heart,"

she said. "This is a facility you should be safe in, and someone wasn't."

Neighbours describe Sutherland as a quiet, churchgoing, family man with a wife and four children.

Hacienda HealthCare said in a statement that they are "troubled beyond words" that someone who passed their extensive background check could harm a patient and that Sutherland was fired upon his arrest.

Tommy Thompson, a Phoenix Police spokesperson, told the press, "We may not know how many times this occurred."

"This was an employee, rather than a stranger who made his way into the facility," he added.

Thompson told reporters that the baby is doing well and added, "We can't choose how we come into this world."

Sutherland is now out on bail, wearing an electronic monitoring device.

David Gregan, Sutherland's lawyer, said his client has no prior criminal record. He also said that Sutherland has the right to consult his

own DNA expert.

Early news reports described the victim as "comatose" – a characterization that her family disputes, according to Associated Press.

Through their lawyer, the family described the victim as intellectually disabled because of seizures suffered in early childhood – she can make facial gestures, responds to sound (though she does not speak), and has some mobility in her head, neck, and limbs.

Shortly after the victim gave birth, Bill Timmons, Hacienda's CEO, resigned.

The day before Sutherland's arrest, Hacienda HealthCare disclosed that two doctors who cared for the victim had left the facility.

A Hacienda spokesperson told Fox news, "The two physicians who were responsible for the care of the sexual assault victim are no longer providing medical services to Hacienda patients. One has resigned. The other one has been suspended."

According to the Medicare website, Hacienda received a "below average" health inspection rating in 2017.



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