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TRUDEAU URGES CANADIANS TO CANCEL TRAVEL PLANS AFTER DATA REVEALS 1M TRAVELLED OVER HOLIDAYS

By NCNC Staff

Despite the continued advise of the federal government against all non-essential travel abroad, and as many provinces remain under strict lockdown orders that limit or outright ban gatherings, data analysis by marketing research firm Environics Analytics for The Globe and Mail suggests that more than a million Canadians travelled away from their home postal code over the Christmas break.

It also disclosed that young people and wealthy, white Canadians were more likely to travel overnight over the holidays despite provincial lockdown measures.

Following this revelation, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has in strong terms urged anyone planning a trip abroad to cancel it.

"My message to Canadians remains clear, no one should be taking a vacation abroad right now," Trudeau said.

With March break around the corner, the prime minister emphasized: "Don't book a trip for spring break."

According to the Environics

Analytics findings, approximately 1.2 million people in Canada spent at least one night away from home between Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.

Compared to travel rates in the week before Christmas, young people living in urban areas and Canadians from wealthy, predominantly white areas both increased their overnight travel over the holidays by around 20 per cent.

While it was noted that seniors also helped drive the surge, Vito De Filippis, director of business development at Environics Analytics, said rates of travel among seniors were already "really high compared to everybody else."

"Maybe there was some of that Christmas travel going on, but I think this is just a group that tends to, for whatever reason, need to stay with friends or family on a regular basis," De Filippis said, citing potential childcare or health concerns among seniors.

Analysis revealed that overall, holiday travels were 58 per cent lower than the same week in 2019, before the pandemic.

"So for the most part, people are listening to the recommen-



Justin Trudeau

dations and staying home," the director said.

Meanwhile, data revealed that Ontario and Quebec saw the highest number of overnight travellers, but that can likely be attributed to the fact that they're the most populous provinces, De

ysis was based on a database of location data comprising 20 million mobile phones, which analysts then cross-referenced with census demographics and postal codes to build a profile of who was travelling. No identifying details, such as names, were part of the analysis.

"All we know is a device and we know locations, which is an opt-in measure on any cellular phone. So people can opt out of providing their signal," De Filippis said. "We know nothing about the device other than it exists."

Remarking on the development, Minister of Public Safety Bill Blair said "To be very clear, it is not the time to travel".

"Temporary restrictions remain on optional and discretionary travel ... we will continue to strongly advise Canadians against travel abroad, unless it's absolutely necessary," he said, adding that the government has scaled up the presence of border patrol and public health officers to ensure travellers follow quarantine protocols.

"Quarantine has been, and continues to be, our most effective measure," Blair reiterated.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH: REFLECTING ON THE LABOUR OF OUR HEROES PAST

By N. Ugoh

As we mark this year's Black History Month in February, we want to acknowledge the sacrifices of our black heroes who struggled with adversity to pave the way for us to thrive.

Remarkably, that we are standing tall today is unarguably due to their sacrifices. As we reflect on the efforts of these heroes, we urge all Blacks to take it as a point of duty to build on the successes of our heroes past.

We urge everyone to continue to be a shoulder for others to lean on when necessary. Let's continue to speak

with one voice, seek to empower one another, support one another and contribute our quota to the society.

Also, as we have always emphasized, we are first humans before we are anything else – and so let's continue to preach human-

ity because ideally, there is only one race – the human race.

Similarly, Valentine is a symbol of love and we urge the general public to continue to let love lead. While it's true that February 14 is a day earmarked to celebrate love, we want to urge everyone to lead a lifestyle of love on daily basis. This is because love conquers all things.

All of us at The Nigerian Canadian Newspaper are wishing you a Happy Valentine.

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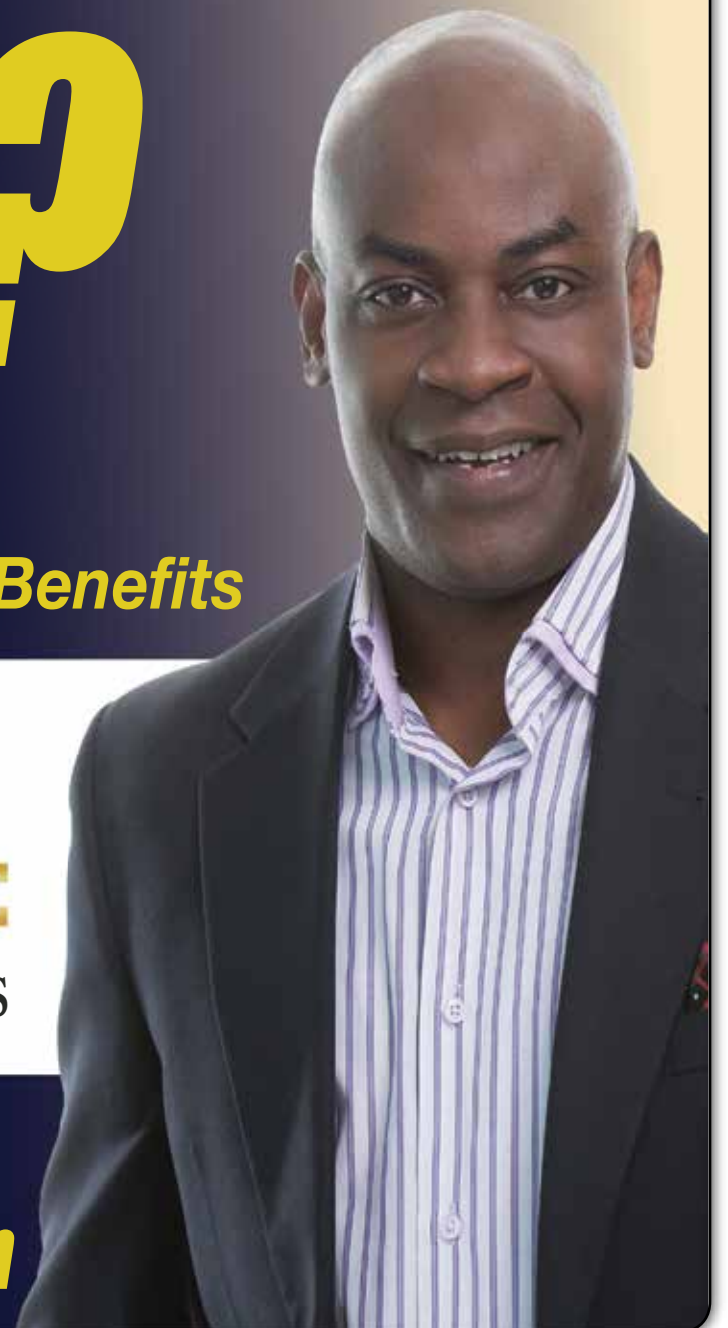


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When Will The War Against Systemic Racism Be Won?

The report that some Black organizations were outrightly denied federal funding through a program designed to help such groups build capacity — after Employment and Social Development Canada told them their leadership was not sufficiently Black, is another clear indication that the war against racism is far from being won.

The program, called the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative, provides funding to Canadian Black-led non-profit and charitable organizations to help them build capacity. The applications guidelines say at least two-thirds of the leadership and the governance structure must be people who self-identify as Black. The mandate of

the organization must also be focused on serving Black communities.

Operation Black Vote, a not-for-profit, multi-partisan organization that aims to get more Black people elected at all levels of government, is one of at least five Black organizations that were not approved for funding on the ground that its application did not show "the organization is led and governed by people who self-identify as Black". That even the Ontario Black History Society, a registered charity dedicated to study, preservation and promotion of Black history and heritage, was denied of the funding is perhaps a conundrum that defies human comprehension. Without mincing words, this is a major setback for

the war against racism.

While we acknowledge that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has always frowned against system racism, this continued discrimination under his administration is a clear testament that there is more to be done to make people more humane.

It is even more worrisome that this ill development emanated from the centre that ought to set the pace for the state and local levels. As a family oriented paper, we have always emphasized that irrespective of culture or background, there is only one race – the human race.

Discrimination against Blacks or people of any culture or background ought to be a thing of the past in this modern time. We are calling on the governance to do more to curtail the monster of racism.

And again, the remark by former MP Celine Caesar-Chavannes, who left the Liberal caucus several months before the 2019 election to sit as an Independent that many of the organizations she knows did not receive funding do not want to say anything publicly because they are worried speaking out will lead to the government denying them other funding chances is a disturbing development. If the people can be silenced even after being robbed, it's an indication that the government has not provided a level ground for the people to thrive.

We call on relevant authorities to checkmate this ill development and exert more concerted efforts to tame the growing systemic racism.

Meanwhile, we want to acknowledge the efforts of the Ca-

nadian Government in helping businesses in the face of the ravaging virus. The government has done incredibly well in helping businesses and this is a strong indication that the administration is committed to the welfare of the citizens. We wish to remind the populace that the war against the COVID-19 is not over. Everyone is urged to continue to strictly adhere to the precautions. We are confident that the battle will be won soon.

Without mincing words, we want to thank the community for your continued support and patronage. As a family oriented paper, we will continue to serve as a voice and project the interest of the community.

IN another government, the plan of the President Muhamaduled government to borrow N895bn from unclaimed dividends and funds in dormant accounts, the government should move swiftly to cut the cost of governance, ensure review of jumbo salaries and allowances of all high-ranking political office holders, and address the systemic corruption in MDAs, as well as improve transparency and accountability in public spending.

We share the thoughts of the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) "The right

to property is a sacred and fundamental right. Borrowing unclaimed dividends and funds in dormant accounts to an illegal expropriation, and would hurt poor and vulnerable Nigerians who continue to suffer under reduced public services, and ultimately lead to unsustainable levels of public debt."

We are concerned that the government has also repeatedly failed and/or refused to ensure transparency and accountability in the spending of recovered stolen assets, and the loans so far obtained, which according to the Debt Management Office, currently stands at \$31.98 billion.

We strongly recommend that rather than pushing to borrow unclaimed dividends and funds in dormant accounts, the government should move swiftly to cut the cost of governance, ensure review of jumbo salaries and allowances of all high-ranking political office holders, and address the systemic corruption in MDAs, as well as improve transparency and accountability in public spending.

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TO ALL.**

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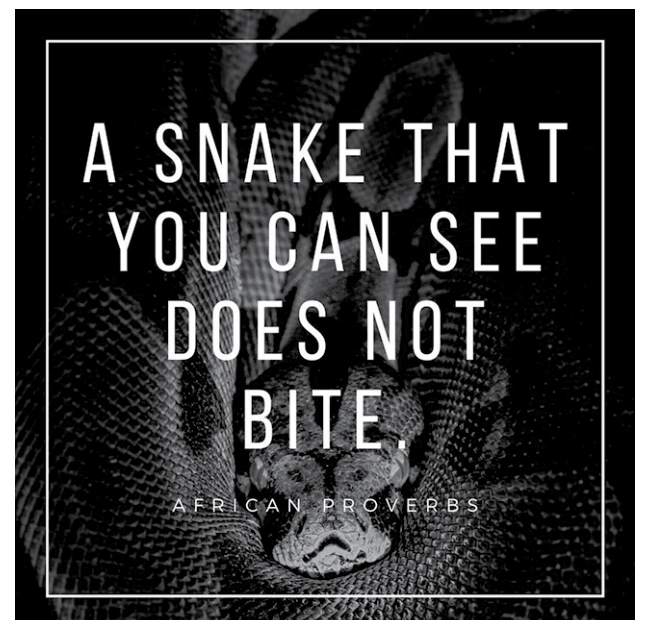
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Why keeping kids active during winter Covid lockdowns is essential

(NC) With cabin fever setting in and kids struggling with changing safety rules, spending time outdoors is a great way to help them stay happy and active. Fortunately, there are plenty of things you can do when you bundle up – from skating and tobogganing to neighbourhood walks.

Wondering if it's worth the effort? Science shows that time outdoors is important for a healthy lifestyle for children and contributes to their development.

Here, The Genius of Play, a nonprofit initiative that works to educate parents and caregivers about the benefits of play and to inspire families to play more, shares five reasons we should be making outdoor play a priority:

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Research has shown that physically active kids

tend to be leaner and healthier, while an inactive childhood can lead to a sedentary (and likely unhealthy) lifestyle in adulthood. Physical play builds motor skills that can contribute to success in school and beyond.

EXPERIENCE NEW THINGS

Outdoor play gives children the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and try new things. While taking risks won't always lead to success on the first try, moments like skating without a chair support are helpful for building the confidence and resilience needed to pursue a future career or handle life's many challenges.

BUILD SOCIAL SKILLS

Childhood games played outdoors can build social skills and teach kids to follow directions. Games



as simple as tag or hide-and-seek build communication, teamwork and other important social skills.

Use their imaginations Being outside can encourage kids to tap into their creativity and come up with solutions to challenges. For example, a leisurely afternoon in the park spent doing an activity such as learning how to build a snowman can accomplish this in a fun way.

MENTAL WELL-BEING

Much of outdoor play involves physical activity, thrilling moments and a sense of freedom, all of which can boost endorphins, lower stress levels, and reduce anxiety and depression. Simply touching dirt when creating mud pies or digging for worms can be beneficial. So, don't be afraid to let your kids get a bit dirty out there.

Find play ideas, expert advice and other play resources at thegeniusofplay.org.

4 ways for retirees to get involved in the community

(NC) COVID-19 has had a significant impact on retirement homes across the province, leaving many seniors thinking about how they can give back to those around them. While it may seem difficult to get involved right now, there are ways you can make a positive difference in your retirement community.



to local organizations in your community to ask how you and your fellow residents can get involved. If your home has a residents' council, this is another great way to get together to plan activities, share ideas, talents and wisdom and develop helpful suggestions for the home.

SHARE YOUR PASSION

Your unique skills and interests can bring joy and support to others. Why not spread your musical talents through video or audio, start a virtual film club, or share your travelogues in a digital album? Sharing your passion can help keep your community engaged, fight feelings of loneliness and create lasting friendships.

SPREAD THE POSITIVITY

If you've had the opportunity to give back, share the news with friends, family and your retirement community. Your efforts may inspire others to think about how they can make a difference and prompt them to get involved where they are.

CREATE A CONNECTION

Many seniors in your home may feel lonely or isolated by physical distancing measures. To help maintain social connections, reach out to a friend in another home by picking up the phone or having a video call to check in on how they're feeling.

Find more information about how to get involved in your retirement community and learn about residents' councils from the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority.

GET INVOLVED

Consider reaching out

Help improve services in your community

(NC) With the COVID-19 pandemic changing the way we live, work and play, many of us are not just realizing the importance of key services such as health-care, education, and child care, but also finding out which ones have room for improvement.

A great opportunity to make our voices heard is the upcoming census in spring 2021. The census gathers im-

portant information that can be used for community decision-making and self-governance around key topics such as education, labour and infrastructure.

Participation in the census directly contributes to its success, which can help communities transform for the better. To ensure we get a representative picture, it's especially important for people living in First

Nations, Inuit and Métis communities to participate.

For example, population data that show community growth may make a difference in allocated funding to help plan more training, create more jobs and strengthen the local economy, just like some programs are based on age data to help plan for the future and facilities for seniors.

Statistics Canada ensures that census and survey data are kept confidential and protected at all times. It has also adapted to the reality of COVID-19 and is implementing precautions to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to be heard in the best and safest way possible.

Find more information at census.gc.ca.

Minister Decries Govt's rejection letter sent to Black organizations, says it's 'completely unacceptable'

By Stanley Ugagbe

In a development that has birthed uproar in the public domain, several Black organizations were denied federal funding through a program designed to help such groups build capacity — after Employment and Social Development Canada told them their leadership was not sufficiently Black.

The program, called the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative, provides funding to Canadian Black-led non-profit and charitable organizations to help them build capacity. The applications guidelines say at least two-thirds of the leadership and the governance structure must be

people who self-identify as Black. The mandate of the organization must also be focused on serving Black communities.

Testifying about the development, Velma Morgan, the chair of Operation Black Vote, said her group received an email from the department saying their application did not show "the organization is led and governed by people who self-identify as Black."

She also noted that the department sent a second email the next day, saying their applications were not approved because it did not receive "the information required to move forward".

Speaking with newsmen, Morgan averred that

"As if we're incompetent or foolish and we're going to believe the second email over the original email".

According to her, Operation Black Vote, a not-for-profit, multi-partisan organization that aims to get more Black people elected at all levels of government, is one of at least five Black organizations that were not approved for funding.

It was gathered that The Ontario Black History Society, a registered charity dedicated to study, preservation and promotion of Black history and heritage, is one of the groups that received both letters and had its application rejected. In an emailed statement, the organization said ESDC did

not provide any reasons for why they were declined outside the two letters.

Remarking on the development, Former MP Celina Caesar-Chavannes, who left the Liberal caucus several months before

the 2019 election to sit as an Independent, said many of the organizations she knows did not receive funding do not want to say anything publicly. She said they are worried speaking out will lead to the government denying them other funding chances.

"Why should these organizations be afraid of trying to speak up when something goes wrong?" said Caesar-Chavannes, who posted copies of the ESDC letters to Twitter after receiving them from the organizations that had received them.

"That's the problem with how the government operates," she said.

Meanwhile, Social

Development Minister Ahmed Hussen said the initial letter his department sent to unsuccessful applicants was "completely unacceptable" and that he demanded a retraction as soon as he saw it.

In a thread on Twitter, Hussen said he discussed with his department's officials how such a mistake could have happened and implemented measures to make sure it does not happen again.

"I will continue to work with Black Canadian organizations to improve our systems," said Hussen, who also mentioned the systemic barriers he has faced as Black person.

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Peel police board ordered to pay \$35K after six-year-old Black girl handcuffed at school



By Stanley Ugagbe

Ontario Court of Human Rights has ordered Peel Regional Police Council to pay \$35,000 in damages after a six-year-old black girl was chained by staff at her school in Mississauga more than four years ago.

It was gathered that Judge Brenda Bowlby had in the judgment on December 31, 2020, wrote "While the applicant was handcuffed and held on his stomach with an ankle brace for at least 28 minutes, the staff sec. Paragraph 1 of the Human Rights Code states that he should be treated equally in the service by treating a white child in an inhumane manner".

According to reports, on September 30, 2016, two Peel District Police officers responded to a call from Peel District School Board Elementary School No. 911. Official records have it that it was the fourth time that month; police were called by the school to help the child.

Reports disclosed that after much hearing that day about a meeting between a 48-pound girl and two police officers who were six feet tall and 190-200 pounds tall, Bowlby called the officers' actions found "Shocking" and "Punishing".

The judge also averred that the boy was afraid of the police, started making fun of them, broke up with his friends and felt insulted, ashamed and guilty as a result of the incident.

In his decision, the judge said "The applicant was afraid of how he would treat the officers during the incident"

"I think this incident has led the applicant to view the police as a source of punishment and he is now afraid of the police."

"This is very important because all children need to make sure there

are police to protect them, not punish them."

He added that it was "scary" that the child experienced black racism at a "very young age."

"Because of this incident, he realized that as a black man, he could be treated differently than a white child."

"There is a risk of future effects that are unknown due to the age of the applicant".

It's imperative to note that the application to the Human Rights Tribunal was filed on September 27, 2017 in Ontario by a child and his mother, represented by the Center for Legal Support of Human Rights, a service that provides free legal assistance to people who have experienced discrimination.

It was gathered that the defendant in the complaint alleged that Peel was discriminated against by the Regional Police Department for services on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, or origin that violated the Human Rights Code.

Official sources have it that the applicant requested \$ 150,000 in monetary compensation for damage to dignity, emotion, and self-esteem, as well as approximately \$ 20,000 for two years of psychological and trauma counseling.

In view of the development, the court awarded the applicant \$ 30,000 and \$ 5,000 in monetary compensation to be used to pay for the costs of consulting an accredited psychotherapist.

The Center for Human Rights Legal Support in a recent statement made available to newsmen, disclosed that only the mother of a child named DB said she was "delighted that this very long and difficult chapter has ended" and now "what is waiting, this is healing my daughter."

"This decision gives

Public Health Agency President Berates Employee Over Trip To Jamaica, Says It's 'Unacceptable'

By Stanley Ugagbe

In a development that has started up public controversies, Dominique Baker, a public servant by day and travel influencer by night has come under fire for taking a vacation to Jamaica, paid for by Air Canada.

Baker is the manager of the office of border and travel health, a Public Health Agency of Canada program whose purpose is to keep communicable diseases out of Canada and reduce public health risks to travelers.

Speaking on the development, the president of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Iain Stewart stated that it is "unacceptable" that one of the agency's managers ignored advice and went on vacation in Jamaica last fall.

The agency's boss averred that although the trip taken by Dominique Baker in November was not related to her work for the federal agency, its employees are expected to heed the public health advice not to travel.

It was gathered that Baker has now removed a blog post from her personal style blog and videos from

her Instagram account about an all-expenses paid trip she took to an expensive resort in Montego Bay in November.

Unfortunately, this came after her bosses were alerted to the trip, amid a slew of stories about politicians and health officials ignoring the warning not to travel while the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage.

It was disclosed that her trip was paid for by Air Canada Vacations as part of its work hiring social media "influencers" to promote their tours but the November 24 blog post she published about the trip is no

longer online. In strong terms, Stewart stated that the federal public health agency "takes these matters very seriously". He continued that "PHAC has consistently told Canadians they should avoid travel during the pandemic". "To have employees disregard this travel advice is unacceptable. As a general principle, we expect PHAC employees to encourage Canadians to follow public health advice, not to engage in non-essential travel."

According to him, the agency became aware of the trip after photos were posted on



Dominique Baker

social media as part of a campaign to promote international vacations.

"When the situation was brought to PHAC's attention, the matter was acted upon immediately and a review was initiated. We will not comment further to respect the employee's privacy."

Reports stipulated that Baker's videos included a description about what it was like to fly during the pandemic, and the precautions taken by the airline and the hotel to try to keep people safe.

When quizzed about whether there was an ethical issue with an employee accepting a free trip, Stewart succinctly noted that there is a Values and Ethics Code which requires any "real, potential or apparent" conflict of interest to be declared.

Meanwhile, Stewart did not say if Baker is being disciplined for the trip or if she declared any conflict related to it.

This development is coming after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently expressed frustration about Canadian politicians who were failing to lead by example, and ignore the request not to travel internationally.

Ontario's Finance Minister resigns after outrage over Caribbean trip

By N.Ugoh

Ontario's Finance Minister, Rod Phillips, has resigned after public outrage over a recent holiday trip he embarked on to Caribbean in violation of his government's coronavirus travel guidelines.

The Minister who is a member of the ruling Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario recently admitted that he travelled to the French island of St. Barts on December 13, after the legislative session ended.

While talking about the Minister's resignation, Ontario Premier Doug Ford said: "Today, following my conversation with Rod Phillips, I have accepted his resignation as Ontario's Minister of Finance."

"At a time when the people of Ontario have sacrificed so much, today's resignation is a demonstration that our government takes seriously our obligation to hold ourselves to a higher standard."

Ford disclosed Peter

Bethlenfalvy has been asked by him to take up the Finance Minister's role and deliver the 2021 budget of the government in addition to his current role as the president of the Ontario's Treasury Board.

Phillips worked as Ontario's Minister of Environment before he became Minister of Finance when the cabinet was reshuffled in 2019.

He has however returned to Canada and apologized for his wrongdoing.

New Policy Mandates WhatsApp Users To Share Personal Data With Facebook's Empire Or Stop Using The Chat App

By Stanley Ugagbe

According to the App's new terms and conditions, UPDATED WhatsApp users must agree to share their personal information with Facebook and its wider empire if they want to continue using the messaging service.

A recent privacy policy stipulates that "As part of the Facebook Companies, WhatsApp receives information from, and shares information with, the other Facebook Companies".

"We may use the information we receive from them, and they may use the information we share with them, to help operate, provide, improve, understand, customize, support, and market our Services and their offerings, including the Facebook Company Products."

Following this development, WhatsApp users who want to keep using the software must agree to allow their personal info to be shared with not only Facebook but also its subsidiaries as and when decided by

the tech giant.

It was gathered that Users will be presented with the following choice in the app: accept this arrangement by February 8, or be blocked from using the end-to-end encrypted chat app.

It would be recalled that when WhatsApp was acquired by Facebook in 2014, it promised netizens that its instant-messaging app would not collect names, addresses, internet searches, or location data.

In a blog post, CEO Jan Koum wrote: "Above all else, I want to make sure you understand how deeply I value the principle of private communication. For me, this is very personal. I was born in Ukraine, and grew up in the USSR during the 1980s.

"One of my strongest memories from that time is a phrase I'd frequently hear when my mother was talking on the phone: 'This is not a phone conversation; I'll tell you in person.' The fact that we couldn't speak freely without the fear that our communications would be monitored

by KGB is in part why we moved to the United States when I was a teenager."

But two years later, however, that vow was destroyed by, well, capitalism, and WhatsApp revealed it would be "coordinating more with Facebook," and gave people the opportunity to opt out of any data sharing. But this time around, there is no opt-out for the sharing of data with Facebook and its tentacles. Koum left in 2018.

In view of this, users who wish to keep using WhatsApp must be prepared to give up personal info such as their names, profile pictures, status updates, phone numbers, contacts lists, and IP addresses, as well as data about their mobile devices, such as model numbers, operating system versions, and network carrier, to the mothership.

It was also disclosed that if users engage with businesses via the app, details such as shipping addresses and the amount of money spent on orders may be passed to Facebook, too.

History as Uzoma Emenike emerges Nigeria's first female ambassador to the US

By Stanley Ugagbe

In a development that has become a historic feat, President Muhammadu Buhari has named Dr Uzoma Emenike as Nigeria's ambassador to the United States.

In view of this, Emenike, who was Nigeria's last envoy to Ireland, becomes the first Nigerian female ambassador to the US. She replaced Sylvanus Nsofor.

Official records have it that Emenike joined the Nigeria Foreign Service over 30 years ago, serving in the Protocol and the Af-



Uzoma Emenike

rica Departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Subsequently, she was posted to the Nigerian Embassy in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire in 1992, where she served for six years. Upon her return to Nigeria, she was variously deployed

to other departments of the Ministry, during which she represented Nigeria in numerous bilateral and multilateral missions both at home and abroad.

Emenike had in 2002 left the Foreign Service for the private

Canadian business group backs MP bill in favour of cross-border shipping of alcohol

By N.Ugoh

In what has become a debacle in the public domain, a national business federation has joined Dan Albas in advocating in favour of the cross-border shipment of alcohol.

It would be recalled that the Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola MP introduced a Private Members Bill, C-260, which would amend the Canada Post Act and make it legal for producers of Canadian wines, spirits and craft beers to ship their product within Canada by Canada Post.

In a recent de-

velopment, Albas received a letter of support from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.

The letter said "Like many sectors of the economy since the beginning of the pandemic, many small brewers, vintners, and distillers have had to make considerable efforts to sell more of their products online in order to generate revenues. As a result, being able to access a wider range of customers across the country is now vital to their survival".

"Allowing small producers to ship across the country would enable Cana-

dians to safely access their products while directly supporting local businesses and jobs."

In his reaction, Albas said he was pleased the business federation shared his view that the bill will help small businesses across the country open up new markets.

Albas said "I look forward to seeing similar support coming from local and provincial governments, as well as chambers of commerce".

Meanwhile, reports have it that Summerland winery owner Ron Kubek has started a House of Commons e-petition in support of the bill.

sector where, amongst others, she worked as a management consultant.

The ambassador holds two bachelor's degrees—in Sociology & Anthropology, and in Law from the University of Maiduguri and the University of Reading, UK respectively;

two master's degrees—in International Law and Diplomacy, and in International Management from the University of Lagos and the University of Reading respectively; and a doctorate—in International Relations from the University of Reading.

"The AFRICA We

Envisage in 50 Years Time," "Europe Needs Africa" and "Africa: The Centre-Piece of Nigeria's Foreign Policy" are some of her published works.

The history maker is married to Chief Ikechi Emenike, a long-standing ally of President Buhari.

YOU & the LAW

Finally! BlackBerry, Facebook resolve patent fight in private deal

By N.Ugoh

After about two years of battle, BlackBerry has announced that it has resolved its disputes with Facebook, after both companies had taken aim at each other's patents.

It would be recalled that in 2018, BlackBerry alleged in California court that Facebook and its WhatsApp and Instagram platforms were infringing on seven of its inventions.

Reports had it that BlackBerry accused Facebook and its subsidiaries of using BlackBerry's tech-

nology in messaging apps, methods for photo-tagging, and a tool that enables use of a device's contact list while a game is being played, in order to exchange messages and game data.

In a striking move later that year, Facebook filed a suit of its own over six patents, claiming BlackBerry was infringing on its patented voice instant messaging and use of global positioning systems.

But now, a BlackBerry spokeswoman has averred that the company and Facebook reached a confi-

Parental Authority: Rights and Responsibilities of Parents

Parental authority refers to parents' rights and responsibilities toward their children from the minute they are born until they turn 18. Under their parental authority, parents make decisions that affect their children's well-being.

What is parental authority, and what happens if the parents break up?

Parental Authority: Rights and Responsibilities

Under parental authority, parents have these rights and responsibilities toward their children:

- custody
- supervision
- physical and psychological protection
- health and safety
- education
- providing food
- caring for them

Parental authority gives parents the right to make all decisions necessary to their children's well-being. For example, parents can make these decisions:

- where the children will live
- agree to or refuse health care (there are limits to this right for children 14 or older)
- pass on their religious beliefs

Parents can also temporarily give to someone else certain parts of their parental authority, such as custody, supervi-

sion or education. For example, this happens when a babysitter looks after the children.

Who makes decisions about the children after the parents break up?

While they are living together, parents use their parental authority together, whether or not they are married.

If the parents don't live together anymore and only one of them has custody of the children, the other parent still keeps parental authority.

The parent who does not have custody only loses the right to custody. The parent who has custody decides where the children will live.

The parent who does not have custody still has all the other rights and responsibilities of parental authority (e.g., education, providing food, decisions about health care).

Being with the children means the parent who has custody exercises parental authority every day, while the other parent does this from a distance. But the parent who does not have custody must be consulted on all major decisions concerning the children.

What is a major decision? Here are a few examples:

- choice of school



• health care necessary for a child's state of health

• some medical treatments, such as braces

• long-term activities and hobbies

Also, as a general rule, the parent who does not have custody of the children has these rights:

• see report cards

• go to parent-teacher meetings

• receive information about the children's medical care

• One parent is making all the decisions about the children without consulting the other parent.

• One parent refuses to give the other parent important information about the children.

The judge will make a decision based on the children's best interests.

New Partners of Parents and Decisions Concerning Children

New partners of a parent, such as boyfriends or girlfriends, do not have parental authority, even if they are acting like a parent.

Losing Parental Authority

In rare cases, a parent can lose all or part of parental authority and the right to make decisions concerning the children.

Only a judge can take away parental authority.

Source: educaloi.qc.ca

BEAUTY

5 Tips to Create an At-Home Spa Experience

(NC) A visit to the spa might not be an option for many of us, so here are five quick tips to create a spa-like experience in the comfort and safety of your own home.

Atmosphere

Lighting, scent and calming music are all key elements associated with a visit to the spa. Candles are quick and easy mood-enhancing items that not only add softness to lighting, but can also be used to introduce aromatherapy. Lavender is a great aromatherapy option because it promotes a sense of wellness and calm.

Get steamy

While a warm bath is a go-to ritual for many,

you can also dial up your in-home spa game by converting your shower into a mini steam room. Turn your shower on with high heat to steam up your bathroom, grab an exfoliating scrub or loofah to remove dead skin cells and finish with a shower.

DIY facial

Consider turning your bedroom into a treatment room. When trying a new or trusted facial mask, remember to choose one that targets your skin-care concerns — such as dry skin, clogged pores, or anti aging. You can also add a foot mask, hand mask, under-eye mask or lip mask for an extra-targeted boost of hydration.

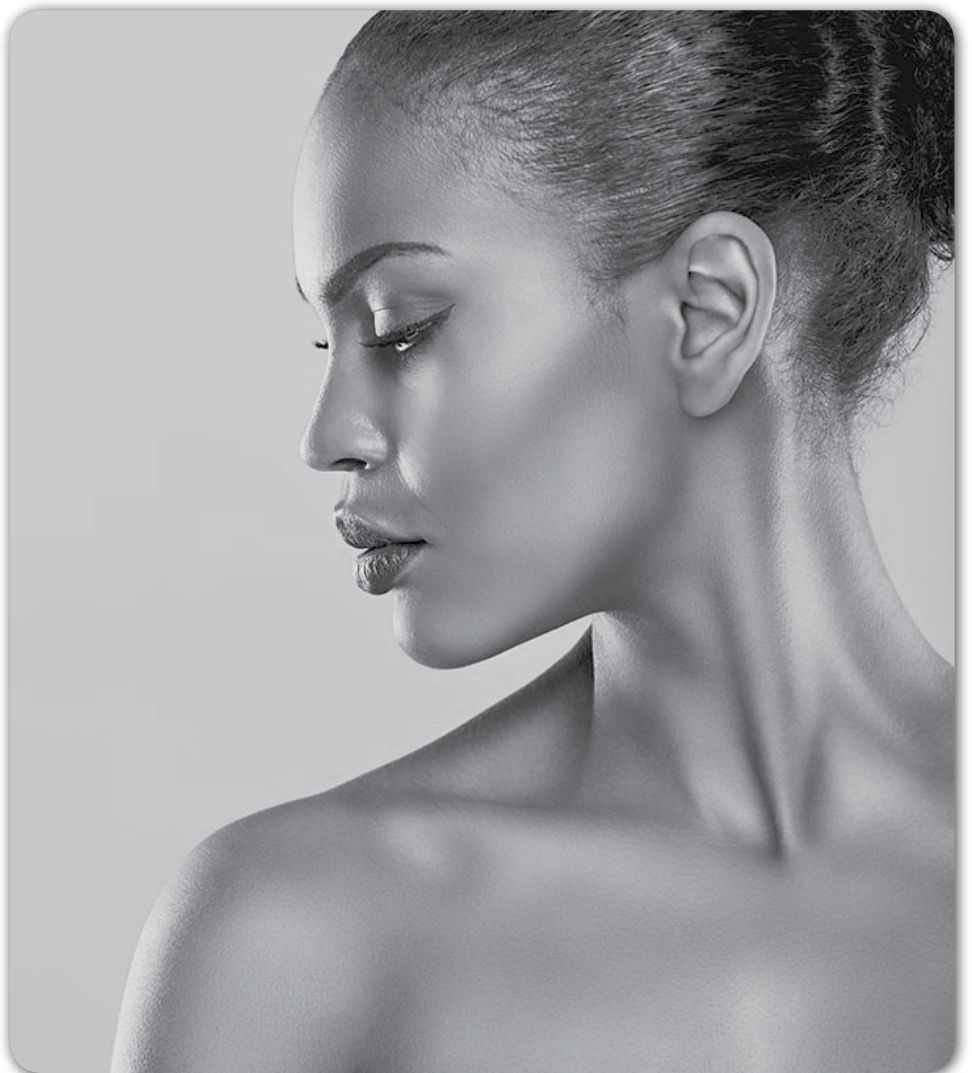
Try new tools

Explore adding a new and affordable skin tool to your at-home spa. Depending on your skin's needs, choose from a variety of devices such as sonic cleansers to remove impurities and minimize pores, or microdermabrasion tools to reduce the appearance of acne scars and age spots.

You can also try an online skin analysis tool, which uses new technology to provide a customized summary of your skin health. "The virtual skin tool from Shoppers Drug Mart is the next step in learning more about your skin and having personalized products recommended," said Chanel Cruz, a Shoppers beauty pro.

Mani/pedi time

Complete your spa experience with a manicure or pedicure. After your skin is prepped and hydrated, finish by trimming and shaping your nails and pushing down your cuticles. Top with nail colour and topcoat if desired.



REFLECTIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS

Don't Despise Elderly People

(By: Pastor Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi)
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God commands younger people to treat elders with respect.

You shall stand up before the grey head and honour the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I

am the Lord. (Leviticus 19:32)

If you are seated in a bus and you see an elderly person standing, especially the aged, you should give up your seat for them.

Respect them because of their age, and involve them in what



Pastor Taiwo Odubiyi

you're doing as necessary.

Don't think that they are useless, and don't forget that you will become one, one day if Jesus tarries in His coming.

If your elder misbehaves, commits sins, or grieves your spirit, seek godly counsel and God's face about it, so you can know how to handle the person without

committing sin yourself.

In 1Peter 5:5-6, Peter linked respect for elders to godly humility by saying "Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for 'God opposes the

proud but gives grace to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you."

Job 32:4 ESV /

Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were older than he.

How to Remain Positive in Life

By N.Ugoh

SELF LOVE

It is important that you should love yourself before you love others.

Say YES to Yourself According to Courtney Putnam, you should always remind yourself that you are valuable. Even when self-loathing has the louder voice, you should give yourself a chance through self-empathy.

IT'S OKAY TO FAIL

You need to stop judging yourself too harshly if you want to achieve self love. This allows you to be a normal human being and not a machine; you should forgive yourself when you've given it your best shot but you didn't get the desired result. Ac-

ording to Laura Simms, this means that you have weaknesses like other mortals, but in a good way.

ENJOY PHYSICAL SELF-LOVE

Love should be felt and you should therefore pamper yourself. Treat yourself to a nice massage, you can also go for a deep conditioning treatment, manicure, pedicure and a facial.

Take a hot bath with epsom salts to remove toxins from your body as you admire and thank every body part for its work. Absorb the goodness or self love and release the stress, you are worth extraordinary care.

Do things that give you Energy You should avoid

things that drain you and instead concentrate on those that bring ease and energy; this allows you to cater for your most important needs and desires.

FITNESS AND SLEEP

When your thoughts are pessimistic, it is advisable to hit the gym or your favorite pitch. A good hobby like basketball will help distract your mind from negative ideas and release all tension on the inside, giving you a chance to have a fresh perspective and of course, positive thoughts.

Don't forget to drink water, eat a balanced meal and enjoy a good night's sleep. It is advisable that you should add these aspects into your schedule so that you can

become a wholesome being.

MENTAL HEALTH

As much as you might want to solve every problem around you, it is advisable that you should avoid stressful situations as much as possible.

According to psychologist Nicole Martinez, Psy.D, LCPC, it is important to have positive outlook about life in order to avoid stress. She says that stress causes at least 77 percent of sickness and disease.

As Daffnee Cohen advises, your mental health is as important as your physical health. Your thoughts and emotional state of mind reflect the lifestyle you live each day; you should therefore take care of

your actions.

SELF ACTUALIZATION

This is when an individual reaches his or her full potential; it's the final and most important stage in Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

As hard as it may be to achieve self actualization, it's the ambition that keeps us going. In order to achieve the goals we set in life, we have to have a great character, believe in ourselves and respect others. All these are recipes for a positive attitude in life; it is therefore important to have a passion that you pursue honestly and relentlessly.

HAPPINESS

It is important to find something that that

you enjoy doing; parents should therefore not force their children into doing unwanted courses. When an individual enjoys doing his job, even his productivity will increase.

It is important to stay happy because people are attracted to happy people and will help you build your relationships with others.

Travel to new destinations, go to the movies, fall in love, follow your passion and you will surely be happy.

Conclusion

To reap the benefits of self love, then you have to resolve to love yourself every day; it takes practice, dedication and devotion, you might need to make some lifestyle changes. Self-love is an exponential force.

HEDONIC ADAPTATION

By Ibukun Ogunsina

A couple of years ago, I lost one of my younger brothers, at that moment I was so sure I would never be able to laugh again, my heart was broken, I knew a part of my life was ripped off by the sudden loss of my brother, and I thought that was it. Fast forward to a couple of years later, I am happy again, I have smiled since then, I have adjusted to his absence not because I don't miss him but simply because according to Psychologist Sasha Heinz, I have adapted to the reality of not having him in my life anymore. Sasha defined the well-known psychological phenomenon as 'hedonic adaptation' sometimes called the 'hedonic treadmill', she shared that humans tend to have a 'set' level of happiness, or



Ibukun Ogunsina

unhappiness, which they return to regardless of major life events, good or bad.

I also remember when we were building our new house, I just could not wait for us to move in, the house felt like a hotel, I was always mesmerized each time I visited the site and when we eventually moved in I simply enjoyed every single feeling of living in it but fast forward to five years after living in it,

the house is still beautiful, but the magic is gone and now thinking of hedonic adaptation. I sincerely believe that it does happen. It is not a matter of not being grateful or taking things for granted; it is the human nature of us, confirming that the thrill of events does not last. Dr Heidi Halvorson – another Psychologist also confirmed that no matter how good something makes us feel (or, for the record, how bad), most of the time we drift back to where we started, emotionally-speaking. So, whether it is that sad news or the very joyful news that took our breath away..we will surely go back to our normal eventually.

However, I am happy that after recently visiting a country and seeing the hard living conditions

of the place, as soon as I stepped my feet back into our house. I fell totally in love again with it. I appreciated the fact that I have a place to call mine.

So, ask yourself, are there things in your life, that you need to resuscitate your love for? You may need to take a gratitude journey somewhere and let that brighten your level of appreciation again, or possibly you may need to check the influence of others on you, and probably you are beginning to find yourself in the rat race of competition, e.g. through social media, or maybe, just maybe you are in the attitude of rushing your happiness euphoria... you can actually spread it out, when you buy that blouse... don't rush to wear it this week...wait until

next week perhaps.)

I am glad that my deep pain for the loss of my brother has lessened; however, I know that on his birthday or at special family occasions, I do miss him, but I also know that he is up there looking down and cheering me on to keep smiling and living for him.

Wherever you are on the journey of life, and you need someone to walk

through life with you, then call on us at New Beginnings Barrie Psychotherapy & Counselling.

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CAREER HEIGHT

Overcoming Causes of Work Place Burnout

A few years ago, a former colleague of mine told me he had quit his job. Naturally, I assumed he had secured another job and asked him about it. His answer blew my mind. He had no other job lined up but was quitting to save his life. Literally.

I paused. Sensing my confusion, he explained that he needed time away from work to rest. He was exhausted because, over the past 2 years, he had worked extremely long hours, including at weekends.

During that time, he was married with children and was facing pressures at home. He was effectively an absentee father. He had held on for this long because he needed the job to provide for his family since his wife was a stay-at-home mom. Both his and his wife's extended families were back home in India so there was no social network that he could depend on.

He had felt trapped and couldn't even find the time to look for another job.

To make things worse, he had become seriously Vitamin-D deficient because he wasn't getting enough sun. He usually

arrived at the office before sun-up and left very late in the evening every day.

It sounded exaggerated to me and I hinted that he may be the problem. After all, his boss would have noticed the long hours and had a work-life balance chat with him.

He said his boss didn't really care about his work-life balance and was actually the problem.

His boss was a bully who micromanaged his work, created a lot of churn and could not decide on the final version of any deliverable, undermined him, and was subtly bigoted.

He said he didn't complain to HR because he did not trust them after observing how they stood by and allowed his boss to arbitrarily terminate his other colleague in the same department.

Luckily, he landed another, much better paying and less stressful job in a very short time frame.

My former colleague was suffering from burnout from working in a toxic environment.

This is an extremely unhealthy situation that negatively affects your health in every way including mentally, emotionally, psychologically and

even manifests physically. This is made worse when management turns a blind eye to the negative actions of the people leaders creating the toxic environment or, worse, leads by bad example.

In the longer term, this may lead to serious stress-related illnesses like heart disease, insomnia, and diabetes.

While burnout affects pretty much anyone that encounters the necessary condition that triggers it, people of colour, especially immigrants, are more likely to experience burnout more frequently due to the structural and institutional barriers that makes work life harder.

The contributory factors that make burnout more frequent and severe for people of colour include tokenism, perception deficit, compensation disparity, employer biases, workplace discrimination and racism.

According to data from the 2016 General Social Survey conducted by Statistics Canada, "Black employees aged 15 or over, were more likely than their counterparts in the rest of the population to report having experienced unfair treatment or discrimination at work in the 12 months

prior to the survey."

This means that for Black persons of colour it is harder for their contributions to be recognized. I had earlier written about another former colleague who was asked if she first thought in "Indian" language before translating to English on reports she prepared. Promotions are harder for people of colour and "tokenism" is an insidious device used to hold back people of colour from advancing in their careers.

The negative economic impact of Covid-19 has made people of colour even more vulnerable and increased the pressure to do "more" to hold on to their jobs that are already precarious in nature.

Corporations sometimes hire to fill a diversity quota and do not create the enabling environment where the contributions of the person of colour is taken seriously. It soon becomes apparent to any discerning person of colour that they are just there to make up the numbers thus invalidating their competence.

The perception deficit also makes people of colour work harder and longer hours to demonstrate their value and are usually

underpaid relative to their white counterparts.

Lack of representation of people of colour at the leadership level is a problem that enables their continued marginalization that eventually leads to burnout.

Some large corporation made public commitments in favor of diversity and inclusion in the aftermath of the Black Lives Matter protests, however it remains to be seen if this translates to practical follow up actions.

More needs to be done in ensuring that the diverse talents and skills that people of colour are harnessed which, ironically, would be in the best interest of these corporations.

Here are a few tools that people of colour can deploy to change the narrative:

Endeavour to join or create employee resource groups for people of colour in your workplace. They are support groups that can provide a safe environment where you can share experiences and receive guidance workplace related concerns.

Find out about organizations that push for equity and diversity and join or work with them to



Ernest Nnamdi Onuorah

push for more inclusion of people of colour through pressure groups, awareness campaigns and more engagement with government and corporations.

It would be helpful if people of colour practicing in the employment law and human resource management sectors can create affordable options so that people of colour can access counselling and guidance. That would ensure that the advice received is reflective of a shared reality and enable the employee fully understand their employment rights and have the tools to address the discriminatory employment practises that ultimately lead to burnout.

Sign petitions and share widely among your network to help push for legislation that protects and advances the employment rights and careers of people of colour.

continued on p(22)

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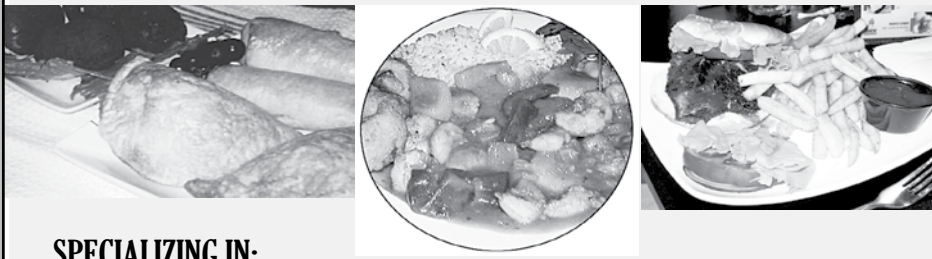
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Grocery hacks: 4 sustainable swaps for your weekly grocery shopping

(NC) Limiting climate change is a global effort that requires many actions, large and small. Making sustainable food choices when shopping, cooking and eating is more important than ever, and more and more Canadians are looking for sustainable food choices.

Here are some tips to get started:

Shop seasonal produce.

There's a reason why we hear about products like "winter squash." Buying seasonal produce is a simple way to know your food is being grown and sold in an environmentally friendly way. Buying seasonal items helps reduce carbon emissions produced from transporting food long distances, supports local farmers and ensures you enjoy fresher food. What's not to

love?

Prevent food waste.

Weekly meal prepping is a good practice that will guarantee you only buy what you need and use up all the ingredients in your fridge. This simple habit goes a long way to ensuring the food you purchase and prepare can be thoroughly enjoyed and doesn't end up in the trash. If you happen to buy extra, freeze what you don't use and save and use your leftovers.

Buy foods in recyclable packaging.

Read food labels for ingredients and nutrition, but also for their recyclability. Think protein packaging can't be recycled? Think again - companies like Maple Leaf Foods have introduced recyclable packaging for many of their products

so you can shop sustainably.

Look for a carbon-zero logo.

Eighty-four percent of Canadians would like to know if the foods they purchase are produced in an environmentally friendly way, but 68 per cent find it difficult to identify sustainably made food products. To simplify shopping, Maple Leaf Foods has introduced a new carbon-zero logo on the packaging of many of their brands to make shopping sustainably easier than ever.

"We hope consumers will appreciate our products for their sustainability in addition to their great taste, safety and nutrition," says Dr. Randy Huffman, the company's Chief Food Safety and Sustainability Officer.

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Why You Should Patronize Gilgal Food Market



By N.Ugoh

Customer satisfaction is the top goal of every serious minded business and providing a better alternative in the face of hindrances is another thing that stands a business out from the crowd. In this interview with our correspondent, the Chief Executive Officer of Gilgal Food Market, Jude Chinyeluba shared insight on the featured product, why the market was opened and the juicy packages they have.

NCNC: Tell us about yourself

Jude: I've been in the world of business for over 30 years now, and during those years I have had my fair amount of up and downs. Starting off as an apprentice to where I am now, I've experienced the in's and out's of this trade and by the grace of the God of Abraham, have been able to see success.

NCNC: Tell us about your featured product

Jude: Our Gilgal Smart wheat fufu is a great alternative to the common favorites like Gari, Pounded-yam, and Cassava. It provides an eating experience better than your favorite fufu without the added carbs and additives. Our smart fufu is

also made of 100% stone-ground whole wheat, giving a great taste and texture leaving you light yet satisfied after your meal.

NCNC: Where can people find you?

Jude: We are located at **5601 Steeles Ave W**, close to exit 401. To reach us, please call: **647-693-7534/647-693-7536**

NCNC: Why Gilgal Food Market?

Jude: With the ongoing pandemic still keeping the majority of us inside, many of us Nigerians will not get the opportunity to go back home and enjoy the tasty and natural ingredients our homeland has to offer. However, those same natural ingredients can be found here at Gilgal Food Market for great prices. We have your Nigerian staples like Ede, Achi, Uda, Suya, Akpalata, Osu, Okpei, Nri oka(corn- meal), Fio Fio and much more. We also have foods from countries all throughout Africa like Senegal, Cameron, Libya, and others. With our varied selection of foods, ingredients, and spices, we can cater to your every needs. Come to 5601 Steeles Ave W to get a glimpse of what we have to offer. If our store location is too far away, we can ship our fresh products straight to you.

Advert on Page 26

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MEET OUR NEW AUTHORS

"You will be the same person in five years as you are today except for the people you meet and the books you read" – Charlie Jones

'Heal The Hood' by Adaeze Nkechi Nwosu

Parrésia Publishers; 464 pages. ISBN 9789785720

"Heal The Hood" has just been announced. Initially planned for April / May 2020, it was delayed due to the Covid pandemic.

It is the story of Hatima Parker, an African-American teenage girl living on the mean streets of South Central Los Angeles, set in the early 90s. Life in the hood is always tough but produces more obstacles when an African-American man named Rodney King is beaten by the LAPD. Soon after, an African-American teenage girl named Latasha Harlins is murdered by a Korean woman – both complicating race relation in the area.

Hatima has dreams of becoming a Marine and an Africanist and her goals cause her to question the world she lives in. She's not sure if she wants to pursue a career with the US Armed Forces as that could easily lead to a career in law enforcement. She also finds herself connecting the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, the Black Panthers, Marcus Garvey, Frederick Douglass, Nelson Mandela, and other black leaders to the incidents of racism she witnesses in her world. She seeks to see if there are ways to change the status quo.

Hatima also starts a relationship with a Korean teenage boy named Joshua Yang. But since racial tensions are high between African-Americans and Korean-Americans, there are many people against the biracial couple being together. Hatima learns the world is far from perfect and throughout 1991 and 1992 she learns how to take a stand against a world that often chooses hatred over love.

This book relays a lot of inspirational black history, sometimes relayed through Hatima's grandmother, other times through the commentary of Hatima herself. It



About the Author

Adaeze Nkechi Nwosu was born in New Jersey (USA) and spent her early years in Switzerland. The family moved to Canada where she actually grew up in Mississauga, Ontario.

She attended Rick Hansen Secondary School in Mississauga and thereafter studied English, History and African Studies at Carleton University - earning her Bachelor's degree in May 2019.

Heal the Hood is her first book.



Hatima Parker is the mean street hood is always to a man named R Korean woman named Latasha H

Hatima has dream and her goals ca She's not sure if Armed Forces as enforcement.

She also starts named Joshua between African are many people

Hatima learns th 1991 and 1992, she that often choose

origami
is an imprint of
Parrésia Publishers L

draws in interesting characters that are recent immigrants from Africa, and there is a bite of Toronto as well.

It is her first book, completed at just 23 years of age, shortly after graduating from Carleton University where she studied English, History and African Studies. In the ensuing review and waiting period, she has written another novel, and is advanced on a sequel to *Heal The Hood*.

Though born in NJ, and spent her early years in Switzerland, Adaeze is a long-running, proud native of Mississauga.

'Idia of the Benin Kingdom' by Ekiuwa Aire

"**I**dia of the Benin Kingdom" is an awarding winning and bestselling empowering picture book that takes readers on a beautifully illustrated journey to the 1500s in ancient Africa. Readers are captivated as they watch Idia



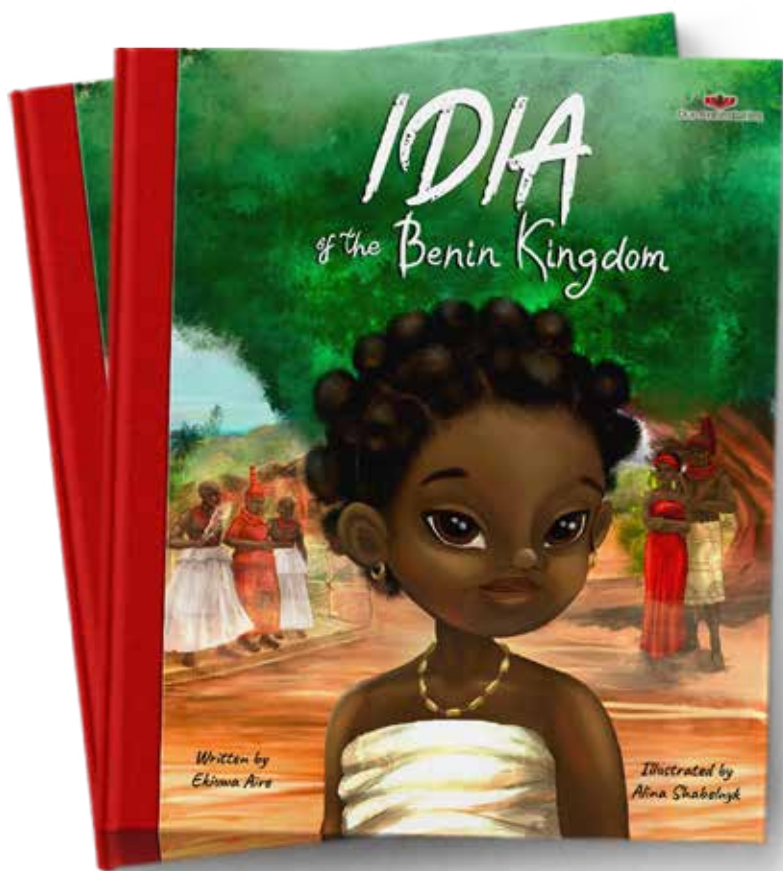
transform herself from the young and curious daughter of a village warrior to becoming the Queen of the Kingdom of Benin.

Idia was a queen who helped rule the ancient kingdom of Benin with her wisdom, charisma, and prowess. Much has been written about her bravery, and artifacts in her image are treasured in museums all over the world.

This book imagines what her childhood may have been like, and shares the story of this well-loved and successful African queen in a way that is relatable to young readers.

About the Author

Ekiuwa Aire was born and raised in Benin City, Edo, Nigeria. She is passionate about African history and incorporates the richness of many cultures into her books. Now a mother living in Canada, Ekiuwa hopes that her books will help kids develop an appreciation for African history, and to value the wisdom and pride that will come from this knowledge.



Her debut children's book titled **Idia of the Benin Kingdom** imagines what the childhood of Queen Idia may have been like, and shares the story of this well-loved and successful African queen in a way that is relatable to young readers.

February 14th

Happy Valentine

to all our readers. Stay safe

COVID-19 pandemic dey serious for Canada.

No stop to dey do the things wey fit keep you safe:



Make you dey follow guidelines when you wan gather.



Make you maintain social distancing.



Wash your hands well well.



Always wear nose mask when you comot for house.



No comot for house if you no get any essential errands to run.

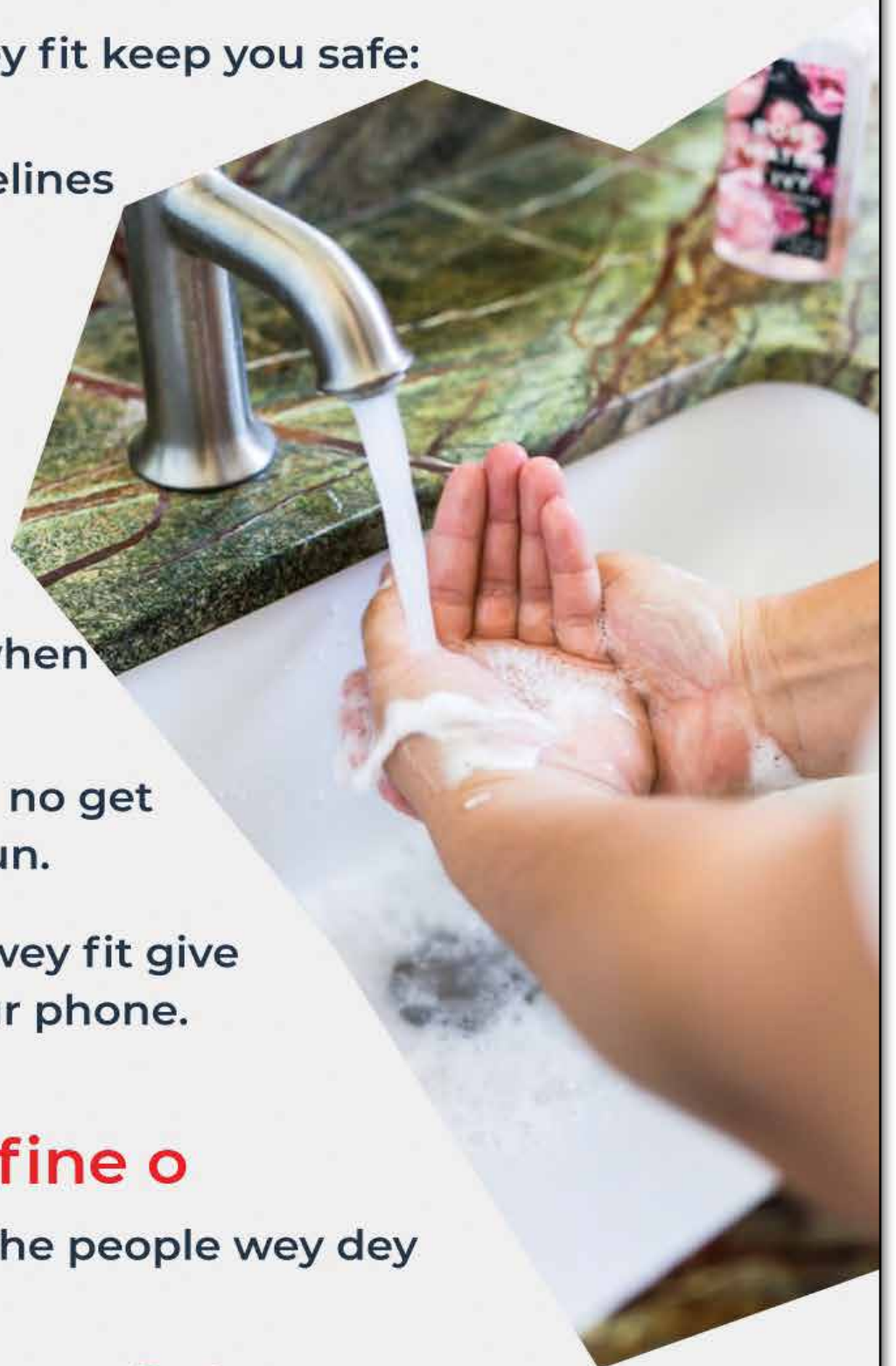


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YOUTH CORNER

Oluchi Ugoh

"YOUR CHILDREN NEED YOUR PRESENCE MORE THAN YOUR PRESENTS". – JESSE JACKSON

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Thank you very much for your support of this page. We wish you a **Happy and Prosperous New Year**. Take care. Be safe.

For comments, email: publisher@nigeriancanadiannews.ca

Verbal Reasoning

Each of the following items consists of five words letter A to E. One of the words is a general term which describes what the others are. Choose the words with the general meaning.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|------------|-------------|------------|
| (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) |
| 1. Male | Gender | Father | Boy | Bull |
| 2. Water | Kerosene | Liquid | Petrol | Engine Oil |
| 3. Christianity | Islam | Buddhism | Religion | Hinduism |
| 4. Tortoise | Lizard | Snake | Reptile | Crocodile |
| 5. Ingredients | Water | Flour | Butter | Raisins |
| 6. Duplex | Flat | Dwelling | Bungalow | Maisonette |
| 7. Buck | King | Bull | Masculine | Drone |
| 8. Drey | Lodge | Habitation | Byre | Pen |
| 9. Sport | Swimming | Hurling | Tennis Ball | Jumping |
| 10. Major | Rank | Lieutenant | Brigadier | Captain |

ANSWERS ON PG. 24

The Maasai people

The Maasai people are an ethnic group inhabiting northern, central and southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. They are among the best known local populations internationally due to their residence near the many game parks of the African Great Lakes, and their distinctive customs and dress. The Maasai speak the Maa language.

Except for some elders living in rural areas, most Maasai people speak the official languages of Kenya and Tanzania, Swahili and The Maasai population has been reported as numbering 1,189,522 in Kenya in the 2019 census, compared to 377,089 in the 1989 census.

Maasai culture centres on the belief that God (called Engai, or Enkai, in the tribe's Maa language) created cattle especially for them, and they are the custodians of all the world's cattle. For Maasai, life revolves around amassing and grazing large herds of cows (and to a lesser extent, goats). As well as being



Maasai

the tribe's primary income source (livestock are traded for other products or cash), cows also play an important role in Maasai communal life. Families and clans establish alliances through the exchange of cattle; and consuming the meat and milk of cows is considered a sacred act, one that binds them to their creator.

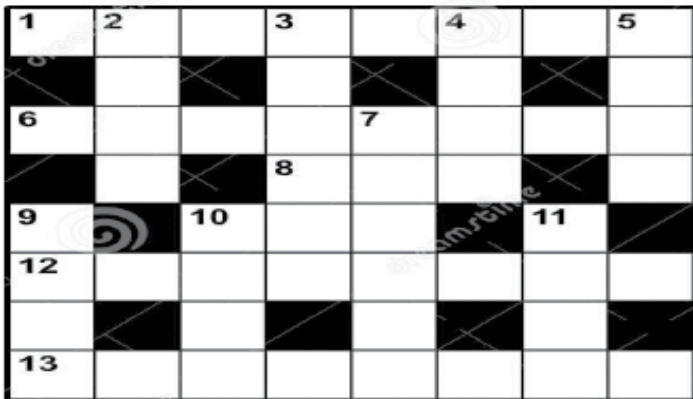
Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/>; www.micato.com Blog

Just for laughs

A Christian priest is being chased by a lion and is running for his life...

While he is running full speed, thinking how to get away from this situation, he starts praying asking God to please turn the lion into a good Christian. He hears a voice from the sky that says: "Your prayer has been answered." Suddenly the lion catches up to him and jumps on him, trapping him, and miraculously the lion stops put his two front paws together, and starts talking: "Thank you father for this delicious meal I am about to eat, amen".

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Digit used for detecting errors
- 6 Abroad
- 8 Trophy
- 10 Bottom line
- 12 Solid with trapezoidal sides
- 13 Become settled

Down

- 2 Busy place
- 3 Tent show
- 4 Aerobic bit
- 5 Zorro wear
- 7 Picnic days
- 9 Smudge
- 10 Scarf material
- 11 Japanese soup

The French Corner – Bonjour

By Farida Audu

Match The Correct Months In French

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| April | juin |
| December | septembre |
| July | avril |
| January | août |
| September | mai |
| February | décembre |
| October | juillet |
| June | octobre |
| November | mars |
| March | novembre |
| May | février |
| August | janvier |

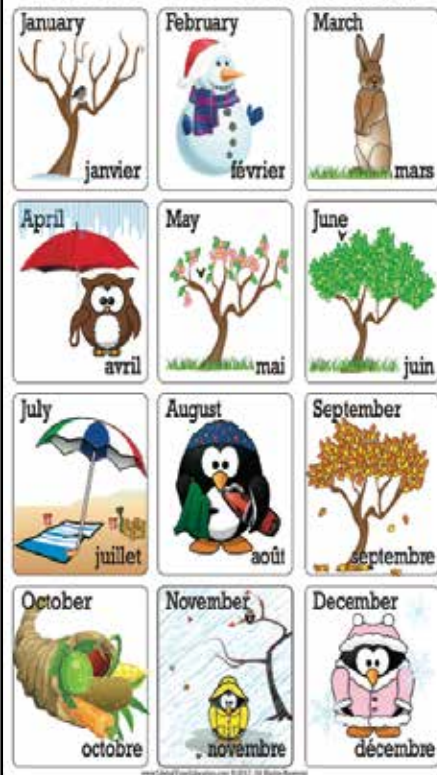
NOTE: Months in French always starts with lower case except when used in starting a sentence.

ANSWERS ON PG. 24

FRENCH VOCABULARY ON NEW YEAR

Happy New Year	Bonne Année
January first	Première janvier
January 1st	Le jour de l'an
A Year resolution	Une resolution d'année
Wish a Happy New Year	Souhaiter une bonne année
The fireworks	Les feux d'artifice

Months / les mois



Reminder tips on learning or improving your French

- * Watch French programs (News) at least 20-30 minutes daily.
- * Read French books/newspapers/journals daily.
- * Listen to French music daily.
- * Make effort communicating in French language

Quotable Quote

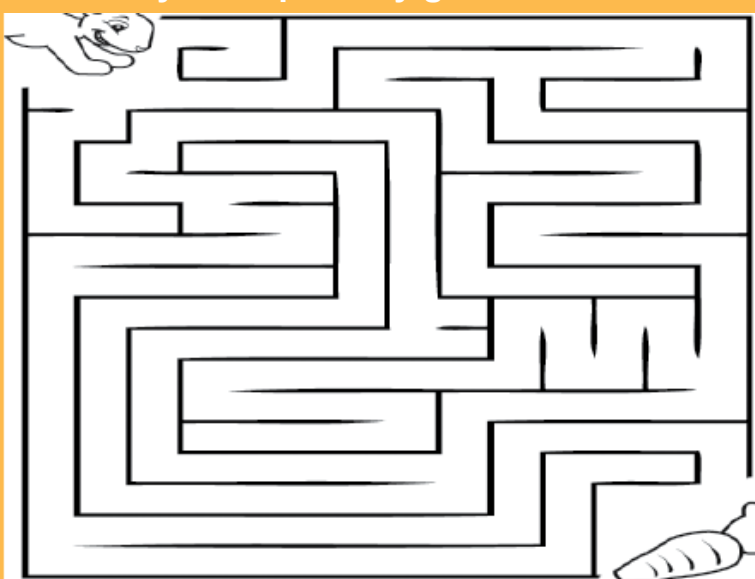
"Victory attained by violence is tantamount to a defeat, for it is momentary."

- Mahatma Gandhi

FRENCH IDIOM

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Bon comme le pain.

Can you help bunny get to his carrot?



ANSWERS ON PG. 24

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WhatsApp Abbreviations

- 2day – Today
- 2mro – Tomorrow
- 2nite – Tonight
- 4ever – For ever
- Ppl – People
- TTYL – Talk to you later
- U2 – You too
- Cu – See you!
- Cm – Call me
- g2g – Got to go

ENTERTAINMENT by N. Ugoh

Minaj, Chapman settle



Minaj



Chapman

Stories by N.Ugoh

Nicki Minaj has agreed to pay up to settle a copyright dispute over her use of a Tracy Chapman sample.

The rapper will hand over \$450,000 to end the two-year spat linked to Chapman's claim Minaj used portions of Baby, Can I Hold You Tonight in her song Sorry.

Although the song Minaj wrote with Nas was never released, a leaked version went viral.

Chapman accused Minaj of sharing the song with DJ Funkmaster Flex, who played it on his radio show.

The track featured a sample of the dancehall track Sorry by Jamaican artist Shelly Thunder, which was based on Baby, Can I Hold You Tonight. Chapman refused Minaj permission to use her

song. In an earlier judgment it was ruled Minaj's sample constituted "fair use", but allowed Chapman's complaint to go to trial.

The proceedings will now not be necessary after Chapman accepted Minaj's settlement offer, which reportedly covers the Fast Car singer's costs and legal fees.

Kardashian cashes out

Kim Kardashian has kicked off 2021 with a \$200 million windfall after selling off 20 per cent of her KKW Beauty brand to Coty executives.

The move comes a year after her sister Kylie Jenner sold 51 per cent of her Kylie Cosmetics and Kylie Skin brands to the company for \$600 million, becoming the highest paid celebrity of 2020 in the process.

Announcing the big sale on Tuesday (05Jan21), Kim said: "I'm so proud of how the KKW brand has grown over the past four years, and I look forward to working with Coty for the next phase of innovation, advancement, and the ability to bring new launches to customers all around the world.

"This relationship will allow me to lead the development of the creative elements that I specialize in, while benefiting from the incredible resources of an established company like Coty."

Coty CEO Sue Y. Nabi added: "Kim



Kim

shares our true passion for beauty products, and this acquisition allows us to leverage our respective strengths for mutual benefit and value creation... Kim brings a huge global following and unparalleled influence over consumer choice."

Kim, Kanye getting divorced



It looks like Kim Kardashian and Kanye West might be calling it quits after over six years of marriage.

According to Page Six, a "divorce is imminent" for the Hollywood power couple.

Kim, 40, hasn't been seen wearing her wedding ring, and Kanye, 43, remained at his \$14 million Wyoming ranch during the holidays instead of spending it with the Kardashian family.

This isn't the first time rumours of 'Kimye' breaking-up have emerged.

The rapper tweeted back in July, "I been trying to get divorced since Kim met with Meek at the Worldolf [sic] for 'prison reform,'" seemingly referring to a criminal justice summit attended by Kim and rapper Meek Mill in November 2018.

This would be Kim's third divorce. The pair wed in 2014 in Italy and have four children: daughter North, 7, son Saint, 5, daughter Chicago, who turns 3 next week, and son Psalm, 19 months.

Both West and Kardashian have not confirmed the reports.

Legendary Actress, Cicely Tyson, dies at 96

Cicely Tyson, a legendary film, television and stage actress renowned for her role in "Sounder" and other films has died at the age of 96.

While announcing her death, her manager, Larry Thompson said: "With heavy heart, the family of Miss Cicely Tyson announces her peaceful transition this afternoon.

"At this time, please allow the family their privacy."

The cause of death was not instantly given.

Tyson was born and bred in Harlem and she was first identified as a model for Ebony Magazine. She started her screen journey with bit parts but became in the early 70s when Black women were began to get starring roles.

In 1972, she starred as Rebecca Morgan, a sharecropper in "Sounder" and was nominated for best actress at the Academy Awards in 1973.

Also, Tyson won two Emmy awards for "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," and she won a Tony Award for "The Trip to Bountiful" in 2013.

She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor by President Barack Obama in 2016, and in 2015,



she received the Kennedy Center Honors lifetime achievement award.

She appeared in 1991's "Fried Green Tomatoes," 2005's "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" and 2011's "The Help."

Tyson appeared in the series "Roots," where she played the role of Binta, Kunta Kinte's mother. Also, she played Coretta Scott King in the 1978 series "King" and Harriet Tubman in the series "A Woman Called Moses."

She won an Emmy for the role she played in "Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All" in 1994.

May her gentle soul rest in peace.

ER actor dead at 55

Actor Deezer D, most famous for starring in ER, has died aged 55. The screen star, real name Dearon Thompson, was found unresponsive at his Los Angeles home on Thursday.

While an official cause of death has yet to be revealed, his brother Marshawn told TMZ that his family believe Deezer died of a heart attack.

He had a string of heart problems during his life and had major surgery back in 2009 to replace his aorta and fix a heart valve that was leaking.

As well as starring as nurse Malik McGrath on the popular medical drama from 1994 to 2009, Deezer also had roles in Romy and Michele's High School Reunion and Fear of a Black Hat.

In addition to his acting career, the star was also a motivational speaker and a performer in the Christian hip-hop community.

Actress Jennifer Gimenez was among those paying tribute to Deezer, writing on Twitter: "My heart hurts so bad right now. I just found out about the passing @

DearonThompson.

"I knew him since I was a kid. He grew up w my family members, as an adult he was a spiritual brother to me. May you Rest In Peace my friend. I will always (love) U & think of ur bright beautiful soul."



BOOKS

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers." – Charles W. Eliot

Hair love

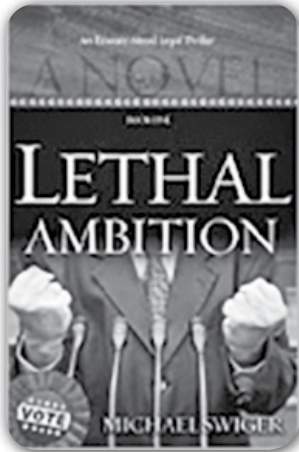
by Matthew A. Cherry



It is absolutely a master class from the author with a clear and riveting message. Seven-year-old Zuri attempts to style her thick, natural hair while watching an instructional video narrated by her mother (Issa Rae). Her father, Stephen, attempts to help her and, after much effort, styles her hair. An excited Zuri then shows her dad the video of her mom styling her hair, where he was able to do the same. They enter a hospital room where her mother is wearing a scarf and sitting in a wheelchair. Her mother removes her scarf to reveal that her head is

Lethal Ambition A court room suspense

by Michael Swiger



The main character, Marcus Blanchard has worked for years to get to this night to the eve of the Eleventh District Congressional race in Cleveland. He's determined to oust long-reigning, crooked politicians Julius McGee and William McLaughlin, and has asked his favorite law-school professor, Edward Mead, to witness the victory.

Shockingly, just as the results are about to be announced, Marcus disappears...and a woman is murdered. Worse, Alontay Johnson is his old girlfriend, and he's caught crouching over her body. Questions that easily come to mind are; did he strangle her, or

completely bald, the result of chemotherapy for cancer. The family members hug each other and return home together. As

was he framed? And who will believe him?

Now, the ball is on the quirky, arthritic Ed Mead, who hasn't been in a courtroom in years, to defend his friend and client...while the State of Ohio seeks the death penalty. It is a thriller that will surely grip your heart.

shown in the credits, the mother's hair starts growing back over time. You need to explore it.

It's Ok that you're not OK

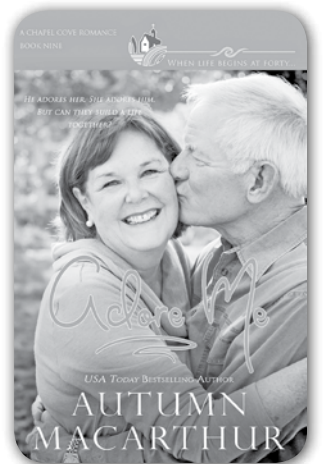
by Megan Devine



It is a riveting book provides a path to re-think our relationship with grief. The author encourages readers to see their grief as a natural response to death and loss, rather than an aberrant condition needing transformation. By shifting the focus from grief as a problem to be solved to an experience to be tended, we give the reader what we most want for ourselves: understanding, compas-

Adore Me: A small town later-life second chances romance....

by Autumn Macarthur



It is a beautiful, heartwarming romance with an older couple falling in love. These characters are so well delineated that they feel like family. There is no doubt that every romance has its ups and downs but, when you trust the Lord, obstacles can be overcome.

Richard, who had been estranged from his son Mark for many years, was invited to spend Christmas with his new family. When he arrived he met Mark's wife Melanie, her precious daughter Alia and her mother in law Paula. Richard enjoyed his time with the family, especially Paula. Now they had

to wait and see what God planned for their future.

It is a wonderful story that will make you laugh and cry, highly recommended for anyone looking for a clean romance.

sion, validation, and a way through the pain.

The book shows readers how to live with skill and compassion during their grief, but it isn't just a book for people in pain: this book is about making

things better for everyone. It's admissible that all of us are going to experience deep grief or loss at some point in our lives and this book is a thought out way to respond to those ugly situations of life.

TO THE RESCUE

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

- By Pastor Dele Dada

Continued from the last issue

"Agreed!!!" All of them echoed.

Luke got up. "Well thank you gentlemen. The next big question I want to ask and this is to Mr. Anthony. "How much money do you really have? Because I have heard that you need a minimum of one billion naira for you to think of contesting a governorship position and minimum of five billion naira for presidency."

"Luke, that projected amount is for ten years ago. It is pretty much more than that now. What I will say is—please go and form a team and give me a budget."

Looking at Timothy and Alphonso "I do not know if any of you will like to be my fundraising manager. No politician can come up with

all the money needed to get to position. I sure know I will raise half of whatever budget you will come up with but I need one of you guys to raise the balance. We can use the American style where we get little money from everybody with a peg or limit on what they can give or we can do it the Africa way where it is unlimited, although I will prefer the former to the latter. I do not want people that will put in much money and later tell me "they will nominate ten commissioners out of twelve for my cabinet."

God fatherism is a major thing in Nigerian politics. There are some old people who have been in politics for years and have made themselves kingmakers. They are political veterans. They either have the experience as a result of the years or have the money and hijack the political landscape. They

take delight in financing politicians directly or indirectly and dictate what goes on. They are the people who ruin the nation. These are the main corrupters; they are the category of people who see the nation as a big



market rather than a big nation. They see people as raw materials rather than human beings. They trade lives as if they are trading stocks. They buy people at low prices and

sell them at high prices like stock market shares.

"Gentlemen I think we have had a fruitful meeting I will suggest we go to the restaurant down the road and let me treat you to a buffet" concluded Anthony. Entering their exotic and expensive SUV cars they drove in a convoy to one of the most expensive restaurant around.

The campaign was rough. Luke hired thugs to do the rough work. They never call them thugs, not that it would have bothered the youth what they are called. There are so many unemployed undergraduates and having any job is good enough, in a country where university graduates are recruited by government as mass transit drivers and other ridiculous unskilled jobs any name for any job is not the issue. The youth themselves have a sense of satisfaction that they

are not left to roam the street. Times of elections are times when money flows in Nigeria. It is a time when area boys are created. When these youth are being recruited they are given special names. They do not tell them that they are thugs. The youth are given special functions, security, campaigners, defender of truth, governors' vanguard, protocol officers, special aides, distribution managers, polling agents and other mouth watering names so the youth feel elated. The politicians in their rank and file promise to pay them at the end of the month. They rarely do. The youth are told to wait till after election. Those who cannot wait will leave in annoyance. That does not mean anything to the politicians they know they can easily replace them; as far as the politicians are concerned "what do you do with the

dead in heaven."

The amazing thing is that these youth with little or no payment are so brainwashed that they are prepared to die along party lines. They defend politicians as if they are gods. Some of them are given weapons, some locally made and others highly sophisticated. These weapons are what come back to haunt the nation. From North to South East to South-South and South West all manner of miscreants and pressure groups have surfaced, OPC, MEND, MAT, WAS-SOB and recently Boko Haram. This is because when the election is over and there are no more jobs, some of them who were paid well and suddenly became bread winners in their homes when there is no more income become armed robbers. Oh, it is a vicious circle that blows no good wind.

TO BE CONTINUED.

SOURCE: AMAZON.COM
BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE TORONTO & MISSISSAUGA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

I don't like my Mother-in-law

Dear Agatha,

I have been married to my husband for close to five years. My marriage is blessed with two boys. My husband is the only surviving son of his mother. He however has two elder sisters and a younger one who is as annoying as his mother is.

The mother became widowed two years ago and my husband; despite my reservations, still brought his mother and sister to live with us.

In fairness to her she hasn't done or said anything against me; just that for some reasons I cannot tolerate her and her daughter in my house.

I have never liked the idea of having a mother-in-law but couldn't help it when the man I fell in love with still has his mother alive. Since it was impossible for me to do away with her, I decided to endure her presence in his life. I also couldn't say anything against his mother for fear he might not push ahead with our wedding plans.

Being her only son, my husband is very close to his mother and would do anything to ensure she is happy. Even before his father's death, he took her interest into consideration when he was building our home. He created a two bedroom flat within the house for his mother.

It was because of this, his eldest sisters agreed to his request for their mother to stay with us.

Like I said, she hasn't done anything wrong to me just that I hate the idea of anyone, including his mother and sister sharing my husband with me. The money he would have used on us, he spends also on his mother and sister.

Every month he gives her an allowance she doesn't need because he provides her with everything. I cook her meals while the driver takes her anywhere she wants.

I have tried arguing with my husband to add the money he gives her to my housekeeping allowances because I need it more but he insists on his mother having her own money.

About four weeks ago, he announced his intentions to give one of our shops to his mother who claims to be fed up staying at home all day. She intends selling provisions to keep busy. I find it very irritating because early last year, I asked my husband for a shop for my mother but he declined on the grounds that there wasn't



Agatha Edo
gataedo@yahoo.com
agatha.edo@gmail.com

a vacant shop. How come there is now a vacant one for his mother?

When I raised the matter with him, rather than apologize for what he did, he said, he gave the shop when it became available to his mother to lessen the period of time she and I spend together because he is aware I don't like his mother and not blind to the way I treat her.

When I asked him to explain, he refused urging me to allow sleeping dog be for the sake of peace.

I don't know what his mother and sister have been feeding him with but I want them out of my house before it is too late for me. I know he is going to spend money equipping the shop for her. I find it unacceptable because I and my husband worked for the money he is now spending on his family. If I didn't support him, would he be the success he is now? I love my husband and don't want his meddling family to destroy my home. How do I go about it without complicating the situation between us?

Ndi.

Dear Ndi,

From your letter, your mother-in-law hasn't done anything wrong to deserve your attitude towards her. From every indication you declared a war against her and her children for no just cause.

The only felony she appears to have committed against you is to be the mother of the man you claim to love and through whom you have two boys. Isn't it ironic that you love a man whose mother you hate so much?

How is it possible to love someone your perceived enemy gave birth to? It simply doesn't add up because when you love someone, you love everything that makes him happy. In this instance, what gives him happiness is his mother, the first woman in his life, who in addition to being the channel of his existence; fashioned him into being the man you

happen to love so much.

If for nothing else, shouldn't you be thankful to her for the kind of breeding she gave to him? Some men would think nothing of beating their wives for maltreating their mothers. Your hostility towards his mother must have obvious for him to have decided to open a shop for her to escape your disgust.

And what are you talking about you being responsible solely for his success? You have only had him for five years or a little more. This woman you want out of his life has clearly invested so much more in him. By the time you met him, he was already a finished work else you wouldn't have looked at him twice. That he is able to build a house and shops in such a short time is a testimonial of how hard his mother worked to ensure he succeeds in life.

His mother, and not you should take this credit. Besides, in your cocooned world of jealousy and hatred, have you ever considered the fact that you have two sons and that one day, you will find yourself in the seat of your mother-in-law? How would you react to any of your daughters-in-law, maltreating you in your son's house and wanting him to drive you away? Hope you will remember you also did it to your own mother-in-law when such happens.

For the sake of your children, whose real family this woman and her daughters are, you must learn to mend your ways to avoid creating unnecessary foundational problems for them now and in the future.

Don't alienate your children from their root even before they are old enough to make their mistakes and decisions. Don't ignore the fact that this woman is their grandmother and that she is a widow who needs all the love and affection of her family.

If she had any other family she won't be in your house. She is there because her other children are women, whose children carry the names of their fathers. Yours are the only set of grandchildren who have the same surname as her late husband. She sees her late husband in her son and his children. They are her comfort; you as well if you open your heart to her.

Her daughters no longer have her surname, you are the only one who will bear that name at least until your sons marry. So you have become her daughter. Her decision to

PASSION

With this Ring

By: Pastor Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi

(Available on Amazon)
WhatsApp: +14108187482
Continued



Pastor Taiwo Odubiyi

Should he ask Grace to marry him? Albert wondered. He took his cell phone and called her.

"We need to talk, Grace. There are things we need to discuss. This week is going to be a little busy for me but can we meet on Wednesday, please?"

She agreed and asked, "Will you come to my house?"

"No. I don't think your mother will want to see me now."

"It's okay. You can come. She has forgiven us."

"No, let's meet somewhere else."

"Okay. Let's meet at Chumsey Restaurant. I'll pay this time."

"No, no." He said and suggested another restaurant. "We won't be going to Chumsey for some time to come. I'll tell you the reason when I see you."

Femi was woken up by a phone call at a little after five on Wednesday morning. Sleepily, he picked the handset. It showed 'Deacon Ola'.

Why would Deacon Ola be calling him at this time – he wondered as he picked it.

"Good morning, Deacon Ola."

"Pastor!"

It was a female voice and it was obvious she was troubled.

"This is Deacon Ola's wife! Armed robbers came to our house and shot my husband!"

Femi was immediately wide awake. "Armed robbers?!"

"Yes! I took him to a hospital near our house but they couldn't treat him. We're on the way to another hospital! Please pray!"

"I will! Which hospital?"

"I don't know! We're trying to -"

The line went off.

"Hello? Hello?"

Femi tried to call the num-

stay out of your way, not confront you accentuates her peaceful and congenial nature. A wicked mother-in-law would have since used the advantage of her son's love to kick you out.

Rather than put your marriage and home in jeopardy, change your ways. Be nicer to her and your sisters-in-law. You will be surprised at how your husband too would be more accommodating of your own family. In addition

ber back but couldn't get through. He got up and sat on the bed. What should he do?

He decided to call a pastor in the church. As he searched for his number, he spoke in tongues and prayed for divine intervention.

He finally got through to Ola's wife about an hour later. He asked for the name of the hospital where they were, and thereafter, he drove down to the hospital.

On Wednesday evening, Grace met Albert at the agreed place.

She asked him if he had started reading the book of Hosea in the Bible as Pastor Femi had asked them to.

"I've started on it." He said. "What about you?"

"I've finished reading it. What about the mini book he gave you?"

"I've started on it as well. I haven't finished though."

"He may ask you about it at the next counselling session on Saturday."

"I'll create time to finish reading them. The book is small. That won't take much time to read through. I put it on my bed so I won't forget. I have been busy. Today was hectic for me. Tomorrow, I'm going to a High School. I've been invited to come and give a talk on journalism as a career."

"WHICH SCHOOL IS THAT?"

"It's a school in Surulere. From there, I will be going to Banana Island to see

someone. I also have a media function to attend."

He told her he had enrolled for New Believer's Class programme in his church. After some seconds of silence, she asked, "So, why did you want to see me?"

He leaned forward. "Grace, er ... we have not discussed about this baby, about us and the direction in which we are going. We need to talk about the future."

"Okay. What's on your mind?"

"I've been doing some thinking. I think it will be better if we get married."

Silence greeted his suggestion.

Marriage! This was the word Grace had been hoping to hear from him but now, she didn't think it would help them.

"Why?" She eventually asked.

"Because of our child." She shook her head slowly.

"Let me hear your opinion." He said and sat back.

"One, you're so unromantic."

He laughed. "Unromantic?"

"And so annoying."

"Annoying? I thought you wanted us to get married!"

"Men can be so annoying?" She muttered under her breath, shaking her head.

"And women can be so complicated." He said.

"You haven't met a complicated woman, trust me." She told him.

To be continued
This story is from the novel - With This Ring by Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi

To read this novel and other books by the same author, please visit:

Amazon Kindle or okada-books

Website: www.pastortaiwoodubiyi.org

For counselling or more info: WhatsApp: +14108187482

nul his relationship with his mother especially one as close as your husband enjoys with his mother.

So, be careful you don't lose your husband in the process of you wanting to keep him away from his family.

Also how would you feel, if you have a brother whose wife treats your mother the way you treat your Mother-in-law?

Good luck.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Estonian PM resigns over corruption scandal



Juri Ratas

By D. Forrester

The Prime Minister of Estonia, Juri Ratas has resigned his position over a corruption scandal involving a key official of his Center Party suspected of accepting a private donation for the party in exchange for a political favour on a real estate deal, prompting new talks on forming a new ruling coalition.

According to local reports, the resignation of Ratas who is also the Center Party leader automatically triggered the resignation of Estonia's three-party coalition government but does not automatically mean a new election.

In a post on his Facebook page, Ratas announced that he would step down as "the suspicion expressed by the Public Prosecutor's Office does not mean that someone is definitely guilty but they will inevitably cast a serious shadow over all those involved."

"In such a situation, it seems only right that, by resigning myself, I will give the opportunity to shed light on all the facts and come to clarity," Ratas wrote.

He, however, noted that he personally has not done anything wrong.

"Despite taking political responsibility, I can say with all my heart that, as prime minister, I have not made any malicious or deliberately wrong

decisions," he wrote on Facebook.

Following his announcement, reports said parties immediately started talks on cobbling together a new government.

In a swift reaction, Estonian President, Kersti Kaljulaid said she would propose that Kaja Kallas, chairwoman of the main opposition Reform Party, form the new Cabinet.

Records have it that Ratas has led a majority coalition of his left-leaning Center Party, the nationalist EKRE party and the conservative Fatherland party since April 2019. He has held the post of prime minister of the Baltic country of 1.3 million since November 2016.

Meanwhile, Estonia's security police has disclosed that it was investigating the offices of state credit agency KredEx over suspicions of corruption regarding a 39 million-euro (\$48 million) loan granted to the Porto Franco real estate complex in harbour district of the capital, Tallinn.

Delineating on the development, the Public Prosecutor's Office said separately it suspected the Center Party and five people of criminal involvement in the Porto Franco real estate case including party secretary Mihhail Korb, real estate businessman Hillar Teder and Kersti Kraht, an advisor to the country's finance minister.

Ghislaine Maxwell appeals bail rejection in sex abuse case



Ghislaine Maxwell

By D. Forrester

Ghislaine Maxwell, the British socialite awaiting trial on charges that she recruited girls in the 1990s for Jeffrey Epstein to sexually abuse is appealing a judge's order that she remains incarcerated.

According to local reports, the socialite's lawyers notified a trial judge of plans to appeal her decision to reject a \$28.5 million bail package for Maxwell.

It was disclosed that the notice of appeal was posted publicly in the Manhattan federal court record.

It would be recalled that in late December, a federal judge in Manhattan said the bail package proposed by defence lawyers only strengthened her confidence that her decision over the summer to keep Maxwell incarcerated until the July trial was correct.

Reports said the bail package included \$22.5

million that lawyers said amounted to all of Maxwell and her husband's assets, adding that she would be under 24-hour guard and restricted to a New York City apartment where she would wear an electronic bracelet.

Meanwhile, prosecutors opposed bail, noting that Maxwell remained a threat to flee in part because she had access to considerable wealth and connections abroad. Also, they averred that she is a citizen of the United States, the United Kingdom and France.

The report stated that Maxwell, housed at a federal lockup in Brooklyn, pleaded not guilty after her July arrest to charges that she recruited and groomed girls for Epstein, including one who was 14 years old.

Official records have it that Epstein killed himself in a Manhattan federal jail in August 2019 as he awaited trial on sex trafficking charges.

Central African Republic refugees escape to Cameroon

By R.Njeru

Cameroon has welcomed many refugees who were forced to flee from Central African Republic in order to avoid violence. Most of the refugees were received at the Gado Refugee camp.

In recent few weeks, approximately 60,000 refugees have been forced migrate to neighboring countries. This migration is a reaction to violence caused by six rebel groups that have been fighting against the re-election of Faustin-Archange Touadera as president of the country.

The number of refugees has risen two-fold in just seven days, this is according to a statement made by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Recently, security forc-

es were engaged in intense fighting and succeeded in expelling rebels who wanted to capture the capital Bangui. The shootout happened in the outskirts of the city.

According to reports by the United Nations, at least one Rwandan peacekeeper has been killed and another injured.

The UN mission in CAR also reported that two peacekeepers were injured while at least one was killed when rebels decided to attack UN soldiers. The attack happened 200km from the capital in a city known as Grimari.

The UN has registered approximately 3,000 people who have escaped the Central African Republic into Cameroon. Most of these people seeking refuge are women below the age of 50 and they

Libya on the verge of a new temporary government



Stephanie Williams

By R.Njeru

Libya is on the verge of forming a new temporary government following a breakthrough in dialogue organized by the United Nations. These talks were held to bring together the main factions that have been fighting each other in the war-torn country.

The talks which were held in Geneva intend to create a transitional government that will run the country and organize elections in December.

The meeting was held by a forum that consists of 75 members who come from the main regions in Libya. This forum is then broken down into a committee of 18 people. The committee has recommended that a three-member presidential council should be formed with representatives from each region's electoral body. The 75-member forum will choose a prime minister who has to score 70 percent of the total votes.

Stephanie Williams; the UN envoy for Libya, was full of praise for the advisory committee. She stated that the committee had done its job with a lot of cooperation, constructive spirit and patriotism.

According to Ms. Williams, a temporary unified executive would form the basis of the transitional government. The staff will be patriot-

have also brought their children with them.

Many of the fleeing refugees have suffered from serious malnutrition and have endured distressing scenes of violence, this is according to the UN refugee agency.

Combined military forces succeeded in subduing the rebels. These combined force included United Nations peacekeepers, Russian mercenaries and the Central African Republic military.

Residents of the PK12 and PK9 areas ran for their

ic Libyans who are concerned about sharing responsibility instead of dividing the cake.

The United States embassy has released a statement congratulating the forum for the breakthrough. The US officials have urged all Libyan parties to ignore their differences so that they can work towards creating a temporary government quickly and in good faith.

The North African nation has been engulfed in chaos since longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown and killed in 2011. The UN is using the current forum as a way of ending the bloodshed in the country. The forum agreed to conduct a parliamentary and presidential vote on December 24, 2021.

Since 2014, the oil-rich country has been divided between rival groups in Benghazi in the east and Tripoli in the west.

Eastern-based rebel commander Khalifa Haftar is the leader of the Libyan National Army which enjoys support from Egypt, Russia and the United Arab Emirates. On the other hand, Tripoli is the capital of the Government of National Accord which is recognized internationally and backed by Turkey.

These two sides stand for sometimes unstable alliances of diverse political, armed and regional factions.

lives to avoid the scattered shots in their area.

President Touadera's government has accused former president François Bozizé of attempting a coup d'etat.

Cameroon welcomed 92,000 refugees who escaped from the Central African Republic between 2004 and 2013. Additionally, 44,000 Nigerian refugees were hosted by Cameroon in 2014. The refugees were running from bandits and rebel groups in the northern part of CAR.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Tunisian cities protest over economic hardships



By R.Njeru

Tunisian cities have been marred by violent protests who are angry about the poor state of the nation's economy. Some of the cities which experienced the protests include the coastal city of Sousse and the capital Tunis.

Interestingly, the violent protests have come at a time when the country is marking the tenth anniversary of the Arab Spring revolution that brought down the government of late president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The demonstrations began as a reaction to a video that was widely shared on social media platforms. In the video, a police officer is seen mistreating a shepherd for allowing his sheep to roam into local government headquarters. The protests started in Siliana and other cities.

Protesters could be seen lighting fires, building barricades and blocking roads that lead to Tunis.

According to witnesses in Sousse, hundreds of protesters were stopped from burning tyres and blocking roads after they were dispersed using teargas from security officers. Clashes were reported in the city of Kalaa Kebira near Sousse. Authorities revealed that youthful protesters broke into shops in Sousse.

This insurrection of violence is a new challenge for Hicham Mechichi and his government. He recently introduced new ministers into his cabinet including the ministries of interior, justice and energy.

It has been a decade since Tunisia's great revolution against injustice, poverty, unemployment and corruption. Although the country has greatly improved as a democracy, it is currently on the brink of bankruptcy thanks to its poor public services and a shrinking economy.

Some parts of Tunis also experienced violent protests. They include Sijoumi,

Fouchana, Fouchana, Mallassin and Ettadamen. Areas like Kef and Bizerte also experienced night protests.

There were no festivities to commemorate the revolution in the North African nation. In fact, the government ordered citizens to remain at home, imposing a four-day lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Many citizens saw this lockdown as way of stopping demonstrations planned for those four days.

On December 17, 2010, the revolution was unconsciously started by 26-year-old Mohammed Bouazizi; a desperate fruit seller who set himself on fire to protest humiliation by police. He was from Sidi Bouzid, an interior town that has been neglected by the government.

The death of Bouazizi sparked anger towards the government and it was followed by mass demonstrations against repression, joblessness and poverty.

African Union Obtains Coronavirus Vaccines worth 270 Million

By R.Njeru

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, the current head of the African Union (AU) has said that the continent has received Coronavirus Vaccines worth 270 Million. He said that the bloc of 15 nations has obtained the vaccines independently despite having limited resources.

According to official records, Africa has recorded more than 74,000 deaths from a total of over 3 million cases of Covid 19 infections. These figures are relatively low compared to the United States and several European countries.

Despite Africa's low numbers, most African countries are still battling to control the spread of this disease. Several nations like South Africa are already dealing with a second wave of infections. South Africa remains the most affected country in Africa with 35,000 deaths from a total of 1.2 million

cases — this accounts for most of Africa's cases.

This new initiative by the AU is different from private partners, the Covax scheme and the World Health Organisation (WHO) which all seek to secure equitable access to vaccines.

According to president Ramaphosa, the African Union created an African Vaccine Acquisition Task force to provide the continent with vaccine doses. They will be ordered in bulk and member countries will be allowed to order doses from this pool.

By the end of the year, WHO aims to provide 20% of the population of participating countries with doses of the vaccines. There is enough funding to provide vaccines to the 92 most economically challenged nations; however, this initiative will also help certain others in better conditions.

The WHO recently revealed that these countries would be provided with the first doses between January

and mid-February. The organization said in a statement, "While the Covax initiative is essential for Africa, the African Union fears that the volume that will be available between February and June will not exceed the needs of health workers and therefore will not be sufficient to contain the growing numbers of the pandemic in Africa."

According to scientists at the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the spread of the Covid 19 can only be significantly controlled by reaching at least 60% of the people. This means that the target of immunize 20% of the population will be helpful but will certainly not enough to curb the virus.

The AU's website reveals that the organization is talking to more manufacturers in a bid to secure more vaccines for its member countries. The official statement of the AU is that, "there is a lot we have to do to eliminate the virus."

President Xi asks Starbucks' Schultz to help repair US-China ties

By Marcel Chukwuka

Alarmed by the duos deteriorating bond, President Xi Jinping has asked former CEO Howard Schultz of Starbucks to help repair U.S.-Chinese relations that have plunged to their lowest level in decades amid a tariff war and tension over technology and security.

According to reports, a letter from Xi to Schultz by the official Xinhua News Agency was a rare direct communication from China's paramount leader to a foreign business figure. Schultz opened Starbucks' first China outlet in 1999 and is a frequent visitor.

In the letter, the President asked Schultz "to encourage him and Starbucks to continue to play an active role in promoting Chinese-U.S. economic and trade co-

operation and the development of bilateral relations," Xinhua reported. No text of the letter was released.

The News Agency did not give indication whether the letter reflected an initiative to ask American corporate leaders to help change policy after President-elect Joe Biden takes office.

Reports have it that economists and political analysts said Biden is likely to try to revive cooperation with Beijing over North Korea and other political issues, adding that few changes on trade are expected due to widespread frustration in Washington over China's human rights record and accusations of technology theft.

It would be recalled that Schultz, who was Starbucks CEO until 2017 and chairman until 2018, led



Xi Jinping

an aggressive expansion that made China its biggest market outside the United States. Starbucks stated that it has more than 4,700 stores and 58,000 employees in almost 190 Chinese cities.

It would also be recalled that Schultz had in 2019 said he was considering running for president

Mexico clears ex-defence minister linked with US drugs allegations

By R.Njeru

Mexican authorities have revealed that they have dropped all charges against Gen Salvador Cienfuegos; a former minister of defense in the Mexican government. Gen Cienfuegos was facing accusations of working with a drugs cartel.

According to the attorney general, the Mexican government found no evidence showing a link between the general and any criminal organization.

Gen Cienfuegos was arrested at Los Angeles airport in 2020 but the U.S. dropped charges and returned him back to Mexico. There was a serious diplomatic rift between Mexico and the U.S. after he was detained.

Gen Cienfuegos has maintained that he is an innocent person throughout

his ordeal.

According to officials from the Mexican government, their latest move to exonerate Gen Cienfuegos will help to restore strained ties.

Mexico's attorney general released a statement saying that there is no evidence linking the former minister with any form of illegal payment from a criminal group. Also, he did not do any acts aimed at protecting any criminals.

Speaking to Mexican broadcaster, Mike Vigil, a former US DEA chief, expressed his displeasure at the decision to drop charges on an individual he considers to have been involved in crime. He described the situation as a very big stain on the Mexican justice system.

According to the charges of the Drug Enforcement Administration

(DEA), the former minister is accused of facilitating the activities of the H-2 cartel. Detectives established that he launched military operations to fight rival cartels in addition to shielding members of his cartel.

Reports claim that senior military figures reacted angrily after learning of the arrest in Los Angeles. The Mexican government reacted by threatening to revise how it relates with the DEA because it had not been informed of the investigation against Gen Cienfuegos

The US Department of Justice (DoJ) recommended that Gen Cienfuegos should be investigated back in Mexico. This decision was made under intense diplomatic pressure.

A US federal judge later granted the DoJ's request to drop the charges and return him to Mexico.

Mali prepares to return to civilian government

By R.Njeru

Mali officials are preparing to return the country back to civilian rule. This is according to the Economic Community of West African States which believes that the civilians will receive power from the post-coup interim administration within the next 18 months.

Goodluck Jonathan; Nigeria's former president recently arrived in Bamako to hold talks with civil-soci-

ety figures and political leaders. Jonathan is the mediator of ECOWAS. His visit has come at a time when many people are questioning the ability of the post-coup government to stage elections and reform the constitution within roughly a year. He expressed his confidence that the transitional government will conclude its mandate within the required time frame.

The situation in Mali led to the intervention of

some US special forces, thousands of French forces, the UN peacekeepers and regional armies.

On August 18, president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was ousted by army officials who grew frustrated over his failure to stop corruption in government and his inability to produce a solution through eight years of conflict. These frustrations had resulted in weeks of protests by frustrated citizens.

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SPORTS

Newly Crowned WBF Champion gifted 6 Million Naira Car



By Tunde Ajibode

A boxing enthusiast, Abdul Wahab Adekunle has rewarded the new World Boxing Federations (WBF) Super Featherweight champion Ridwan 'Scorpion' Oyekola with a jaguar car, worth over six million naira.

The donor, while presenting the more than six million naira car said his action is in fulfilment of the promise he made to the boxer before his bout last month.

Adekunle said he could have given the boxing champion something more precious than the jaguar car if he could afford it, saying that nothing is too much for him to appreciate the wonderful feat the boxer achieved for Nigeria.

"Sports has become a big time money spinning venture globally. All over the world we can see the financial landmark all of them are bringing from Africa to Europe, but it seems we're yet to come to terms with this fact, but I believe we can easily get there if we keep encouraging our athletes this way and hope they will keep doing better", the donor said.

"I want to use this medium to advise the Federal Government to identify sports as another income earner. It is unbelievable that the United Kingdom posted the whopping one billion pounds as foreign exchange income from football alone. We can imagine

if what we will get in return if we develop and encourage our sports men and women by building facilities to enhance their preparations", the founder and CEO of Hamex Group remarked.

The President of Nigeria Boxing Board of Control (NBB of C) Dr. Rafiu Ladipo who witnessed the presentation thanked the donor, who also supported the organization of the boxing event held at Ilaji Sports Resort with 10 million naira, for his valuable contributions to the success of the boxing project.

"Boxing can only get better if we see good people like Mr Adekunle and Engr. Sanusi of Ilaji Resorts coming into this game. Definitely this gesture will go a long way in motivating our other boxers and making them feel that there is hope for boxing in Nigeria, and they need not travel abroad before they can make it", Dr. Rafiu Ladipo stated.

The presentation, which was done in Ibadan on Saturday 2nd of January 2021 at the premises of Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), was also witnessed by the Secretary of Nigeria Boxing Board of Control (N.B.B of C) Remi Aboderin, Chairman Oyo State N.B.B. of C. Hon Gbenga Opaleye, the CEO of Core Afrique Promotions and promoter of the fight Olusola Ayodele as well as Edna and Faith Ayegbeni, both daughters of late Ibadan based boxing promoter Francis Ayegbeni.

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OVERCOMING CAUSES ...

Right now, you have the opportunity to sign up for a petition that specifically targets discrimination against Black people of colour. It opened for signatures on February 2, 2021 and will be closed for signature on April 3, 2021, at 11:48 a.m.

Click the following link to help get the petition to the Minister of Labour, The Honourable

Filomena Tassi to consider the Black population as a separate designated group in the Employment Equity Act: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3147>

The Act was passed in 1986 to achieve equality in the workplace and to correct the conditions of disadvantage experienced by designated groups, identified as women, Aboriginal

Grassroots Football: NLO signs MOU with Berackiah Football Coaching Clinic

By Tunde Ajibode

The Nigeria Nationwide League One has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a football coaching clinic organisation, Berackiah/ABIGOL Grassroots Coaching Clinic to help develop the skills of its league coaches which in turn will assure the broad development of the game as well as the talents spread across the nation.

Present at the occasion which held at the NFF Secretariat in Abuja were NFF President, Amaju Melvin Pinnick, who was represented by the Chairman, NFF Technical and Development Committee, Alhaji Ahmed Yusuf Fresh; Chairman, Nationwide League One, Alhaji Mohammed Alkali; NFF General Secretary Dr. Mohammed Sanusi, President, Nigeria Coaches Association, Coach Isah Ladan Bosso; NFF Technical Director and former Nigeria captain, Austin Eguavoen; Chief Operating Officer of the NLO, Shola Ogunnowo; Representatives of Berackiah Football Coaching Clinic; Representatives of Association of Local Government of Nigeria and; Representatives of Foreign Technical partners, ABIGOL.

In the full glare of the Nigeria Football Federation which approved the clinic, all parties involved put pen to paper to activate the project which is expected to

kickoff from the 25th January through to the 31st of March 2021 across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria.

Speaking at the event, General Secretary of the NFF, Dr. Mohammed Sanusi stated that the development is a welcome idea, which prompted the Executive Committee of the NFF to approve the clinic even as he charged the organisers to ensure best practices are maintained during the exercise.

"We have so many clubs in the Nationwide League One whose coaches need to be trained and retrained from time to time and this will go a long way to help us. The NFF, which is charged to monitor, direct and organise the affairs of football in the country, met at the board level and consented to this agreement. We however charge the organisers to ensure due process is followed and avoid anything unethical during the exercise," the foremost football administrator stated.

Sanusi further charged the organisers to be diligent whilst warning that they avoid cutting corners which may force the NFF to cancel the entire exercise.

Earlier, Chief Executive Officer of Berackiah Football Coaching Clinic, Wonders Nwigwe, thanked the NFF for its support and promised that the organisation will do its best with the help of its technical partners and all involved to have a successful coaching clinic. The clinic is expected to have eminent football coaches such as former Super Eagles Coaches and CAF Instructors, High Chief Adegboye Onigbinde, Coach Kashimawo Laloko, Coach Franko Granangali, Sansiano Daniale and Matthew Olorunleke from Italy, as instructors during the event.

Arsenal take out £120m loan from Bank of England

By Bunmi Akintilo

Arsenal Football Club of England have been compelled to take £120m short-term loan to help augment its working capital requirement amid COVID-19 pandemic.

The £120m government loan was gotten through a scheme provided to support important businesses encountering financial issues during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Arsenal, the loan will be repaid in May and the loan necessary to help in coping with the impact of the revenue losses that occurred during the coronavirus pandemic.

In a statement, Arsenal said: "This is a similar approach to that taken by a wide variety of major organisations across many industries including sport, and is repayable in May 2021.

"The CCFF is designed to provide short-term finance at commercial rates during the pandemic to companies that have strong investment ratings and which make significant contributions to the British economy.

"The CCFF is in addition to the loan provided by our owners Kroenke, Sports & Entertainment that enabled us to refinance the debt on Emirates Stadium in August last year."

Odion Ighalo bids Man Utd farewell



By Bunmi Akintilo

Nigerian forward, Odion Ighalo has written an emotional farewell post to Manchester United as his loan contract with the football club nears its end.

The 32-year-old former Super Eagles striker joined Manchester United on loan in January 2020 from Chinese Super League club, Shanghai Shenhua, and he will leave the club at the end of this month.

In a recent Instagram post, Ighalo expressed happiness over the realization of his childhood dream to play for the club and added that it was hard to see the come to an end.

He wrote: "It's so hard to see this dream come to an end.

"But I give God the glory for helping me fulfill this lifelong dream of

putting on a Manchester United shirt as a player and represent this great club, it was indeed an honor I will forever cherish and be grateful for."

He thanked the manager of Manchester United for the belief shown in him, his teammates as well as the fans of the club, and he prays the club win the League and F. A. Cup double this season.

He added: "To the manager I say thank you for trusting and believing in me when many did not, to my amazing team-mates I will miss you guys.

"And I pray we win the LEAGUE and FA Cup this year.

"I'm still and would remain a MANCHESTER UNITED FAN forever. Once a Red, always a Red. Thank you Manchester United and God bless."

Ottawa preparing new rules on the use of French in key sectors of the Quebec economy

By Stanley Ugagbe

Sources have disclosed that the federal government is planning to use an upcoming reform of the Official Languages Act to draft new rules on the use of French in federally regulated companies in Quebec.

According to reports, the measures would form Ottawa's response to growing pressure from the Quebec government to protect the rights of French-speaking workers in federally regulated sectors such as banking and telecommunications.

It should be noted that as it stands, companies in these sectors do not fall under the federal Official Languages Act or Quebec's Charter of the French Language.

Radio-Canada reported that Federal sources insisted that Ottawa has no plans to cede any new powers to the Quebec government over these companies. According to the

sources, the federal government is moving toward enshrining new protections for French-speaking workers in federally regulated companies as part of a long-awaited reform of the Official Languages Act.

A federal official said "We won't let the provincial government do this for us".

It was gathered that Liberal officials and caucus sources noted that while there is a need for a new approach to language issues in Ottawa, no one wants to provide broader powers over language to the Quebec government or change the overall approach to minority language rights.

Multiple reports have it that sources said plans to reform the Official Languages Act are circulating in the upper echelons of government but have yet to be adopted by cabinet. Formal proposals are expected to be released to the public in early 2021 in the form of a white paper that

would form the basis for subsequent legal changes.

It would be recalled that in a speech September, the Trudeau government described defending the rights of francophones outside Quebec, and of Quebec's anglophone minority, as a "priority." It also stated for the first time that the federal government has a responsibility to "protect and promote" French across Canada — including in Quebec.

It should be noted that the key issue for the Quebec government is the status of the roughly 135,000 employees working in federally regulated sectors in the province. It is also imperative to state that while many companies in these industries voluntarily adhere to the province's rules on the use of French in the workplace, they're not under any legal obligation to do so.

Recall that in recent weeks, Quebec's National Assembly and six former

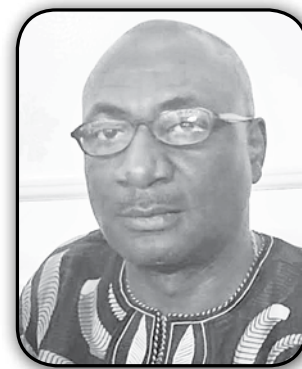
premiers have called on these federally regulated companies to abide by the same requirements imposed by the Charter of the French Language — more widely known as Bill 101 — on provincially regulated companies. Among other things, the charter calls on companies with more than 50 employees to obtain a certificate stating that French is their normal language of business.

Federal officials noted that in addition to changing the Official Languages Act, the government also intends to take action on immigration policy and regulation of large internet companies to fulfil its promise to protect the French language in all provinces.

Analysts are of the view that any attempt by the Quebec government to impose its language law in areas of federal jurisdiction likely would lead to a legal battle with the federal government.

POEM

THE BLACK HISTORY



Kolapo (Kola) Abdul

Deep in the woods, the chains of African clamped, Stretched years in Atlantic and unknown land troubled. Despair in slavery and thralldom wriggled for freedom, Negros and Colored, Quakers and Methodists in seam.

Midnight to dawn, the underground railroad, the compass, Secrecy required, the success of borders and barriers. Testament of bravery and determination of black men, Journeyed to freedom to home of a new beginning.

The courage of the forefathers is remembered. You, Harriet Tubman, James Douglas and William Hall, You, Elijah McCoy and Mufflin Gibbs, we remember. History would not forget, Frederick Douglass and Anne Greenup.

Today celebrates our history spoken loudly in our icons In military and business, a great pride. In journalism, sports and innovation, a great success, We celebrate our black heritage in the land.

The beauty and grandeur in all antiquities, Kings and queens, princes and princesses in centuries. Suppressed segregation and intimidation, The black, the white share and sheer equality.

Celebrate black history with me, jubilate, Celebrate the contribution for development. Celebrate in great hope and anticipation, We celebrate renaissance Africa.

Celebrate black history with me, Let's clap our hands and drain our fears. The rainbow's shone in the sky, We celebrate our black heritage.

Written by: Kolapo Abdul, kolapoems@gmail.com

Quebec Releases 25 Recommendations to tackle racism, First Nations kick

By Stanley Ugagbe

The Quebec Government has unveiled a tabled anti-racism action plan, a development First Nations leaders have faulted, adding that it won't have a lasting effect.

In a statement to address the 25 recommendations, Assembly of First Nations Quebec and Labrador Regional Chief Ghislain Picard said "Until now, the Legault government (Premier Francois Legault) has taken a piecemeal approach, without taking the time to get to the root of the social issues we are facing".

"This is the case today, with a series of measures that may not have a lasting effect if we do not address the root

causes of racism and discrimination."

Premier Francois Legault had in creating an anti-racism task force promised that his government would take more concrete action to fight racism than any previous provincial government.

However, with only 25 recommendations — and no formal recognition of systemic racism — First Nations leaders stated that Quebec's Racism: Zero Tolerance plan, tabled recently, falls short of what is needed.

It was gathered that Deputy Health Minister Lionel Carmant and Immigration Minister Nadine Girault, members of the task force created by Legault in June, admitted that despite years of

reports and recommendations on fighting racism, there have been few results.

Speaking to newsmen in Montreal, Girault said "What we are presenting today, are finally, concrete and coherent actions".

She added that "Watch what's going to be happening. You're going to see real results. Because you're going to see real actions in place".

It should be noted that First Nations and Inuit in Quebec have waited six months — and some hundred years before that — for the Quebec government to take tangible action against the racism affecting its public services.

It would be recalled that the Viens Commission final report, released over a year

ago, made 142 recommendations in this area.

But Legault and his cabinet maintain, however, that although racism exists in Quebec, systemic racism does not.

Legault said "Quebec is one of the places in the world where we have the least racism," adding that "But still we have to continue to work against racism, but we have to be proud of our situation".

In their reaction, the Atikamekw Nation, however, expressed high expectations for the report.

In a statement, Atikamekw Grand Chief Constant Awashish said "We received the report- we weren't invited to help create it"

"For now, after reading

the recommendations, we're wondering how this is all going to take form, how the work will unfold in this sense, and how can we solidify this nation-to-nation dialogue?"

It should be noted that in its 25 "practical" recommendations, the task force concluded random police stops should be banned for all of Quebec's police forces.

For example, a study of "street checks" conducted by Montreal municipal police found Indigenous women are 11 times more likely to be questioned at random than anyone else.

Carmant said policies introduced by the province's Public Security Ministry back in August, to ensure police stops are not "random unfounded or discriminatory," didn't have the force of law.

"The task force also recommends that social workers be incorporated into police forces," Carmant said. "This will allow the de-escalation of many situations that are based on perceptions or on prejudices."

The recommendations also include ensuring more minority representation in Quebec's civil service.

Anti-racism task force calls for end to racial profiling in all Quebec police forces

By Stanley Ugagbe

Quebec's anti-racism task force has proposed that random police stops should be banned for all of province's police forces and patrol units should include social workers who can de-escalate tensions during interventions.

Delineating on the development, Junior health minister Lionel Carmant and Immigration Minister Nadine Girault, members of the task force created by Premier Francois Legault in June, admitted that despite years

of reports and recommendations on fighting racism, there have been few results.

Speaking to reporters, Girault said "What we are presenting today, are finally, concrete and coherent actions"

"Never has there been such a firm will to act and, above all, to do all the necessary monitoring so that we can measure the effects of these actions."

Legault while creating the task force promised his government would take more concrete

action to fight racism than any previous provincial government. He and his cabinet maintained, however, that although racism exists in Quebec, systemic racism does not.

Carmant and Girault, who are Black, disclosed that they have both been victims of racism but they also said Quebec is one of the most welcoming and tolerant places in the world.

Carmant said expressed optimism that all his task force's recommendations will be taken up by the Quebec gov-

ernment within the next two years. And in order to ensure that happens, the task force recommended Quebec create the position of an anti-racism minister, who will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the recommendations and to evaluate their results.

Girault said "It will be their job to tap on the fingers of those who do not do their job and to make sure to recognize those who do it well".

While stating that it should be enshrined into law that police cannot stop

people on the street or in a car without a clear motive, Carmant said "For the arrest to take place, it will take a clear reason on the part of the police and they must inform the citizen at the time of the arrest".

According to him, this measure will "considerably reduce" racial profiling by police. Montreal's police force announced a similar policy over the summer, but it didn't cover traffic stops.

It would be recalled that in August, the Public Security Department released guidelines on police

stops to ensure they are not random, unfounded, or discriminatory.

Carmant said those policies didn't have the force of law, and he recommended the police code of conduct be amended to require that officers adhere to his task force's recommendations on stops.

He said "The task force also recommends that social workers be incorporated into police forces," adding that "This will allow the de-escalation of many situations that are based on perceptions or on prejudices."

Canadian Governor General Resigns

By Marcel Chukwuka

In an iconic development that has immediately sparked public debate, the embattled governor general of Canada, Julie Payette has resigned after an external report found that the Queen's representative had overseen a toxic work environment in which staff were bullied to tears.

In a statement, the 57-year-old apologized for "tensions" that she said had arisen "over the past few months" at Rideau Hall, the official residence of the governor general, but not explicitly for the allegations that prompted the review.

It would be recalled that Trudeau announced Payette's appointment in 2017, describing her at the time as a "truly exceptional Canadian" who would serve as a "trailblazer and an inspiration for all of us" and until her abrupt exit, no governor general in Canada had ever been forced to resign.

Reports have it that Payette's unprecedented departure from the job follows previous allegations that she bullied staff at her official residence at Rideau Hall and on foreign trips.

Announcing her resignation, Payette, in the statement, said "Everyone has a right to a healthy and safe work environment, at all times and under all circumstances. It appears this was not always the case at the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General. Tensions have arisen at Rideau Hall over the past few months and for that, I am sorry."

"While no formal complaints or official



Julie Payette

grievances were made during my tenure, which would have immediately triggered a detailed investigation as prescribed by law and the collective agreements in place, I still take these allegations very seriously. Not only did I welcome a review of the work climate at the OSGG, but I have repeatedly encouraged employees to participate in the review in large numbers. We all experience things differently, but we should always strive to do better, and be attentive to one another's perceptions.

"I am a strong believer in the principles of natural justice, due process and the rule of law, and that these principles apply to all equally. Notwithstanding, in respect for the integrity of my vice-regal Office and for the good of our country and of our democratic institutions, I have come to the conclusion that a new Governor General should be appointed. Canadians deserve stability in these uncertain times.

"From a personal side, this decision comes at an opportune time, as my father's health has seriously worsened in the last few weeks and my family needs my help.

"So it is with sure-

ness and humility, but also with pride over what was accomplished during my tenure as Governor General and in my service to the country for the past 28 years, that I have submitted my resignation. I have informed the Prime Minister of Canada of my decision. I wish him the best as he seeks an individual to recommend to Her Majesty as the next Governor General of Canada and I wish the best to my successor. I will remain at his or her disposal.

"It has been an immense privilege to serve my country and to fulfill the constitutional duties of my Office on behalf of all Canadians. I wish to extend my thanks to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for his trust and for offering me this incredible opportunity. I would also like to thank the personnel of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General for their work, especially under the difficult circumstances that we have known over the past months. All my gratitude also goes to the members of the RCMP who are

willing to put their lives on the line to assure our protection; and to the members of the Canadian Armed Forces who have always shown tremendous respect, friendship and support. Being their Commander in chief for the last few years has been a tremendous honour. I hold them in great esteem.

"For so many Canadians, the past few months have been extremely difficult. As our country, and indeed the world, faced the reality of a pandemic, we all have had to make sacrifice and do our part to limit the spread of the virus, and to protect others, especially the most vulnerable. One cannot choose when hardship comes, but one can choose how to respond to it in times of crisis, and Canadians all over the country have answered the call. At the forefront are the health and medical personnel, essential workers, military personnel, public health officials, leaders and scientists, who have been working tirelessly to provide care, support, leadership and solutions. We owe them an immense debt of gratitude".

A former chief astronaut of the Canadian Space Agency, she flew on two space shuttle missions and was the first Canadian to board the International Space Station. An engineer by training, with degrees from the University of Toronto and McGill University, the Montreal native speaks a half-dozen languages and has performed in the choir of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

Alghabra Named Canada's New Transport Minister



Omar Alghabra
Source: Transport Canada

By Marcel Chukwuka

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a recent cabinet shuffle has named Omar Alghabra as the new federal minister of transport.

The new appointee, Alghabra, succeeds Marc Garneau, who remains in the federal cabinet as minister of foreign affairs.

It was gathered that the cabinet shuffle was largely initiated by the cabinet departure of Navdeep Bains, minister of innovation, science and industry, who announced his decision to not run in the next election.

It would be recalled that Alghabra was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Mississauga Centre in 2015, and also served as the Member of Parliament for Mississauga Erindale from 2006 to 2008.

According to the Federal Government, Alghabra served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Consular Affairs) and to the Minister of International Trade Diversification, before becoming Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister

(Public Service Renewal) and to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs in 2019.

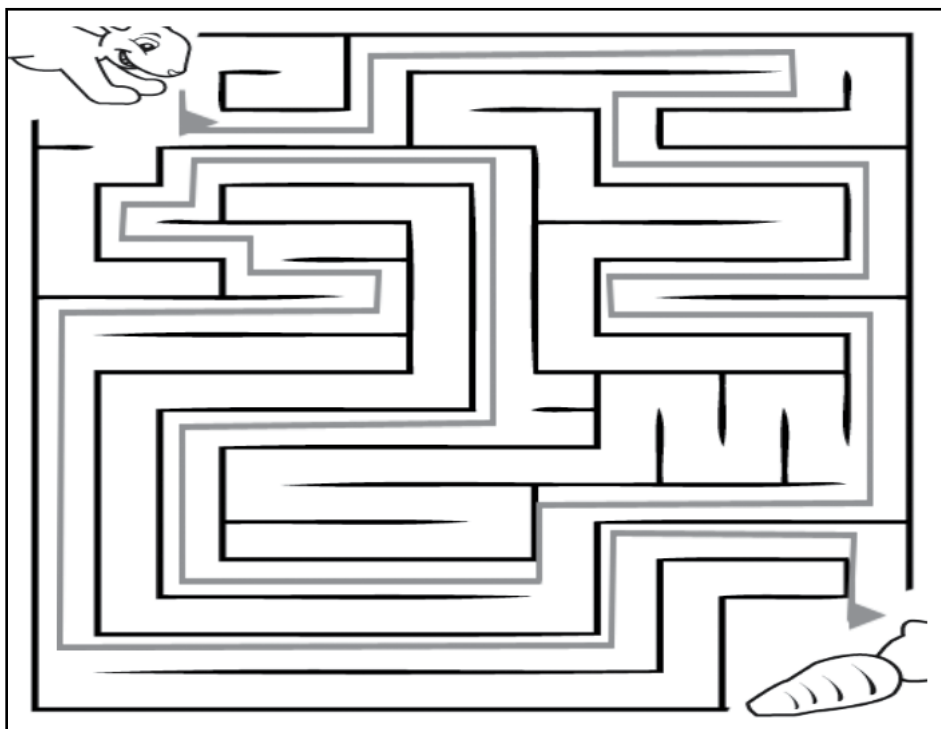
It was stated that in his new role with Transport Canada, Alghabra will also continue to play a leadership role in the investigation into the Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 tragedy, which Garneau will also be involved with in his new role.

The Canadian Government describes Alghabra as a long-time community activist, pointing to his involvement with local organizations like Mississauga Summit and Youth Troopers for Global Awareness. He has also supported a range of initiatives designed to empower new Canadians.

Alghabra, who is a mechanical engineer by trade, holds a Master of Business Administration and was a Distinguished Visiting Fellow with the Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science at Ryerson University.

Official records show that the Minister has worked in various roles with General Electric Canada, Enbala Power, and the Ontario Energy Board.

continued from p(16) SOLUTION TO MAZE



continued from p(16) VERBAL REASONING FROM PG. 16

Answer:

- (1) b
- (2) c,
- (3) d,
- (4) d,
- (5) a, (
- 6) c,
- (7) d,
- (8) c,
- (9) a,
- (10) b.

continued from p(16) CROSSWORD PUZZLE

C	H	E	C	K	S	U	M
I	I	T	A				
O	V	E	R	S	E	A	S
E	C	U	P				K
S	S	U	M				M
P	R	I	S	M	O	I	D
O	L	E	S				
T	A	K	E	R	O	O	T

RELIGION

30 Areas to Ask for The Anointing

By Pastor Amos Dele Dada
PhD; P.Eng

“ If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it”. “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever:” ” But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:14,16 &26 But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of a unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil. Psalm 92:10.

The Holy Spirit will want you to ask for the anointing for the journey of this year. Prayer format and example. I receive anointing to succeed. I receive anoint to excel. I receive anointing to live a holy life. Anointing to be a good wife & mother. Anointing to be a good and godly husband, father & professional etc

Below are some areas you can ask for the anointing. Pray it meaningfully and seriously and expect answers.

1. Before you go out in the morning and when you want to go to bed at night – Ask for the anointing.
2. Before you check your WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, Twitter, social media platforms – Ask for the anointing.
3. In the office, before settling down for the days business, during your meetings – Ask for the anointing- It is called The Nehemiah Principle

– At every stage of his re-building the falling walls of Jerusalem he prayed for the anointing!

4. In the exam hall – Ask for the anointing.
5. When you need promotion, elevation, breakthrough, advancement, progress, favour and glory – Ask for the anointing.

6. When you want to choose whom to marry, when you want to choose a career, when



Pastor Amos Dada
amos.dada@gmail.com

you are choosing the nation where you want to live in - Ask for the anointing

7. When you are faced with temptation, when someone wants to seduce you or when you want to seduce somebody, commit adultery, fornication, steal, tell a lie or do something stupid – Ask for the anointing

8. When you are full of evil thoughts, depressed and tempted to commit suicide – Ask for the anointing

9. When you need to make a crucial business decision, choose business partners -Ask for the anointing.

10. When tempted to beat your spouse, call police on your spouse, separate from your spouse or divorce your spouse – Ask for the anointing.

11. When you want

to preach, teach, witness and do exploits for the Lord – Ask for the anointing.

12. When you want to write a book, that will make its mark on earth – Ask for the anointing.

13. When you want to be intimate with your spouse for recreational or pro-creational purposes – Ask for the anointing.

14. When you are provoked, tempted to curse your children, spouse, church members, relations or pastor – Ask for the anointing.

15. When you are sick, afflicted, rejected, oppressed, and need divine healing – Ask for the anointing.

16. When you need financial, marital, physical, mental, academic, business or ministerial breakthrough – Ask for the anointing.

17. When you are searching for job, starting your own business, seeking a political office – Ask for the anointing.

18. When tempted to abuse, gossip, disrespect, murmur about someone be it your spouse, church members, colleagues, leaders, superiors, peers, subordinates, pastors or your parents – Ask for the anointing.

19. When going for that job interview or seeking a contract – Ask for the anointing.

20. When you desire to conceive, when you are pregnant and you don't want to lose the pregnancy and you are in the labour room and desire safe delivery – Ask for the anointing.

21. When you find it difficult to pray, fast, evangelize, win souls, give to the gospel – Ask for the anointing

22. When you are happy, healthy, prosperous, living good, excited and everything is going well – Ask for the anointing.

23. When you are weak, lazy, indolent, insolent unable or unwilling to do the necessary- Ask for the anointing.

24. When you are, married, single or divorced and raising the children – Ask for the anointing.

25. When you find it difficult to come to church, bible study, prayer meeting, live holy, pay your tithe, pay yours vows or help your neighbours – Ask for the anointing.

26. When you have food and you want to eat – Ask for the anointing.

27. Before taking that crucial, life determining decision – Ask for the anointing.

28. When suffering from addiction- cocaine, pornography, masturbation, alcoholism mental challenge, depression and need deliverance -ask for the anointing.

29. When you are confused and do not know what to do in life – Ask for the anointing.

30. At the point of death to ensure you make heaven- Ask for the anointing

You can add areas you need the anointing .

Conclusion: God did not plan for His children to keep struggling in the matters of life. He made the provision of anointing for you; all you need is to tap into it through prayers and daily confession. Don't ignore your responsibilities!

Shalom.

The Humble See His Glory

By Stan Chu Ilo



Fr. Stan Chu Ilo

God guides the humble rightly and teaches the humble the way. All the paths of the Lord are faithful love toward those who honor the covenant demands. Psalm 25:9-10.

Jesus is presented to the Church—the new temple of God, the dwelling place of the Word—as a poor and humble servant.

Jesus is presented to us in his simplicity and vulnerability as a sign of contradiction which topples our normal human way of seeing greatness, power, and success.

Jesus is presented to us as Incarnate Love who invites admiration, imitation, and reciprocal response in return for love.

Jesus is presented to us as the foundation, source, and ultimate meaning of what it means to be truly human and truly divine in his total availability to suffer for our sake.

As St Bonaventure writes, the ultimate meaning of the mystery of the Incarnation is the humble love of a God who bends down to us. To bend down in this regard is the clearest sign that the love of God and the reign of God in our hearts will not be enacted through acts of violence, conquest or suasions of a temporal claim or promise, but rather through self-emptying and a humble descent from the glory and realms of heaven into the very dumps and dungeons of human history and our fragile human nature.

Jesus is presented to us in the words of Ilia Delio as “a God who shows himself to us in poor and humble fragile human flesh. This is a God who loves us so much as to be reckless in love; a God who throws it all away out of love and never tires of loving.”

The Gospel account reveals some important things that take place during the ceremony. First of all, Jesus is circumcised on the very day that the law appoints (v. 21). Secondly, it is a painful operation, yet Christ would undergo it for us, as Hebrews 2: 10-11 shows: “It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many sons and daughters to glory, should make the source of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” Jesus is obedient to the Law of Moses from the beginning, to show his connection with the descendants of Abraham, and to show his true humanity.

At his Presentation, according to custom, he re-

ceives his name: he is called Jesus or Joshua, for he is “so named of the angel” to his mother Mary “before he was conceived in the womb” (Luke. 1:31), and to his foster father Joseph. It is a common name among the Jews, as is John, and in this, he would be made like unto his brethren. Even in the choice of name for Jesus, the Gospel shows his location in time, continuity with the history of Israel, and the beginning of a new history beyond Israel and the nations.

Even in the poverty of the offering of Jesus' family in the temple, Simeon and Anna attest to the wonder of God in this child and give testimony to his divinity. It is only in contemplating on the poverty and humility of God can we truly see God and enter into union with God. This is why only the humble can see the glory of God. The God who humbles Godself in this way can only be encountered by created human beings who come to God in humility and total surrender. God's glory shines in our lives when, with a humble and simple heart, we present ourselves in total surrender to God in loving worship and obedience.

Questions for Meditation

Am I, like Jesus, presenting myself to God in total surrender? Can I humble myself to see God's glory?

Prayer

Lord, I come before you on this Feast professing my faith in you.

I need you, Lord

My heart longs for you

My whole being thirsts for your spring of salvation

Melt my proud heart and selfish desires with your grace

May I come to you with a humble heart, and a broken spirit

This way, you can fill me with grace as you did once to the Blessed Mother, Amen.

Fr. Stan Chu Ilo is a Catholic priest and research professor of African studies and world Christianity at DePaul University, Chicago, U.S.A, and a native of Adu Achi in Oji River LGA, Enugu-Nigeria.

continued from p(21)

MALI PREPARES TO RETURN ...

Mali then received sanctions from ECOWAS. These sanctions hurt the economy of the poor country which is home to approximately 19 million people. In October, ECOWAS lifted these sanctions after the military passed over power

to a caretaker government that is led by civilians. This caretaker government is meant to be run government for 18 months before organizing democratic elections.

However, it is a little worrying that some leaders with influence

over the coalition still have links with the army. For instance, Bah Ndaw is serving as the interim president but he is also a retired army officer and on the other hand, the interim vice president is Assimi Goita was the coup leader.

Ndaw nonetheless pledged on December 31 to return Mali to civilian rule on schedule.

According to a report published by ECOWAS, former president Jonathan is expected to meet with Goita and Ndaw during his visit to Mali.

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