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## CANADIAN NEWSPAPER CANADA

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# NIGERIA'S DAODU EMERGES FIRST BLACK FEMALE PEDIATRIC SURGEON IN CANADA

By Stanley Ugagbe

Again, the evolving list of Africans making reverberating impact across the globe has appreciated as a Nigerian medical doctor; Tito Daodu has engraved her name in the history books by becoming the first black woman pediatric surgeon practicing in Canada.

This development was disclosed by the American Pediatric Surgical Association, APSA. The association in a

post via Twitter said Dr. Daodu renders service to persons with least access.

"Dr. @TitoDaodu was born in Nigeria. She is the 1st black woman #pedsurg practicing in Canada @ACHFKids. She believes that by helping the worst off or those with the least access, she does a service to the entire system. #BlackHistoryMonth #BeLikeBenjy #ILookLikeaSurgeon," the association tweeted.

Reacting to the development, Dr Daodu's husband

who quoted APSA's tweet expressed how proud he is of her. "That's my wife right there! She is amazing!" he tweeted.

The history maker, Dr. Daodu was born in Nigeria and immigrated to Canada permanently at the age of eight after first being deported, Avenue Calgary said.

It was also reported that she grew up in a rough neighborhood located in Winnipeg's inner city but found early mentors at West Broadway Youth Outreach, a local drop-in center for kids that

she says changed her life.

Today, she is inspired to offer the same mentorship to kids coming up behind her, reports say. She said "Kids need to believe that it doesn't matter where they come from or what they look like".

Records have it that as a medical student, she co-developed a project in Tanzania that focused on adolescent gender and reproductive health.



Daodu

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## HOW NIGERIAN & CANADIAN BUSINESS NETWORK IS PROMOTING NIGERIA-CANADA BILATERAL TRADE – KING WALE ADESANYA

By Bunmi Akintilo

It was John Maxwell who said "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way". The capacity and the will to rally men and women to a common purpose and the character which inspires confidence are but crucial ingredients of a true leader. This is because leadership comes with different shades and if a leader is not acquainted with the intricacies of leadership, shipwreck is inevitable.

In this mind-blowing interview, **King Wale Adesanya**, National Chairman of Nigerian & Canadian Business Network (NCBN) talked about the organization and how the network has brought businesses into Nigeria. He also talked about his recent online petition against the unacceptable surcharge by the Nigerian High Commission in Ottawa.

**NC Newspaper:** Congratulations on your recent recognition by the African Canadian Association with their Black Legacy Business Award.

**KWA:** Thank you very much. It was an honor to be recognized during the Black History Month.

**NC Newspaper:** You are the National Chairman of the Nigerian & Canadian Business Network (NCBN). What is NCBN?

**KWA:** Well, the Nigerian & Canadian Business Network is an organi-

zation of business minded people in both countries. NCBN was initiated during the tenure of Ambassador OjoMaduekwe, who encouraged us to get together and form a business organization that will represent the interest and promote trade among Nigerians.

We wanted to try and move Nigerians worldwide and especially in Canada from job seekers to job creators. We knew it was not easy but when we come together, we can assist and promote each other. That was the beginning of NCBN but NCBN actually evolved from NI-DO-Canada that we had at one point but we lost the use of the name. So basically, we needed to change the name via a legal suit.

**NC Newspaper:** What is the mission of NCBN?

**KWA:** The mission is to promote bilateral trade between Nigeria and Canada and to encourage more people to start their own business and take their destinies into their hands.

**NC Newspaper:** Sir, what is the membership strength of NCBN?

**KWA:** We have over 300 members and the number keeps growing.

**NC Newspaper:** As the National Chairman of the NCBN, you have mobilized over \$200 million for businesses in Nigeria. What motivated you to mobilize these funds?

**KWA:** Majority of the members

of the network have their roots traceable to Nigeria as Nigeria gave us all beginnings. We figured out we needed to give back to the country in one way or the other. We remember back in the days when ITT started. Late Moshood Kashimawo Abiola brought ITT into Nigeria because we needed a functional Telecom industry in the country and he was able to add value to the country. So we figured that we could do the same thing by attracting established businesses from Canada to come and invest in Nigeria and create jobs in the country because job creation is what the people need and Nigeria's asset is in its youth. The government cannot do it alone so we figured we needed to be able to assist in any way we can do.

So we were frantically looking out for Canadian businesses that

would like to expand to Nigeria. What we were able to do was to attract Ariel Foods. You know, the owner is Dhiren Chandaria. We were able to attract the company to come and establish at Lekki Free Trade Zone. They will be manufacturing fortified foods to service the West African community from Lekki-Ajah axis.

**NC Newspaper:** You recently started an online petition against the unacceptable surcharge by the Nigerian High Commission in Ottawa, why the petition?

**KWA:** We have been in Canada for over 40 years so we have seen a lot of changes within the Nigerian High Commission. The present High Commissioner has done a good job until recently that he introduced the surcharges that we all feel is quite unfair because I imag-

ine if you are trying to renew your passport and you have to pay the \$100 to Nigeria through the portal, and then, when you get to go and get captured, you are now being asked to pay some surcharges like \$50 to get in and if you want your passport the same day, it's gonna cost you additional \$200.

We feel this is unacceptable, extra charge on Nigerians in Canada because now you have to pay almost \$350 to get a passport that normally should not cost more than \$100. And that is not taking into account people that have to fly in from Vancouver or Halifax or even drive in from a distant place that have to stay overnight to be able to be at the mission early enough to be captured.

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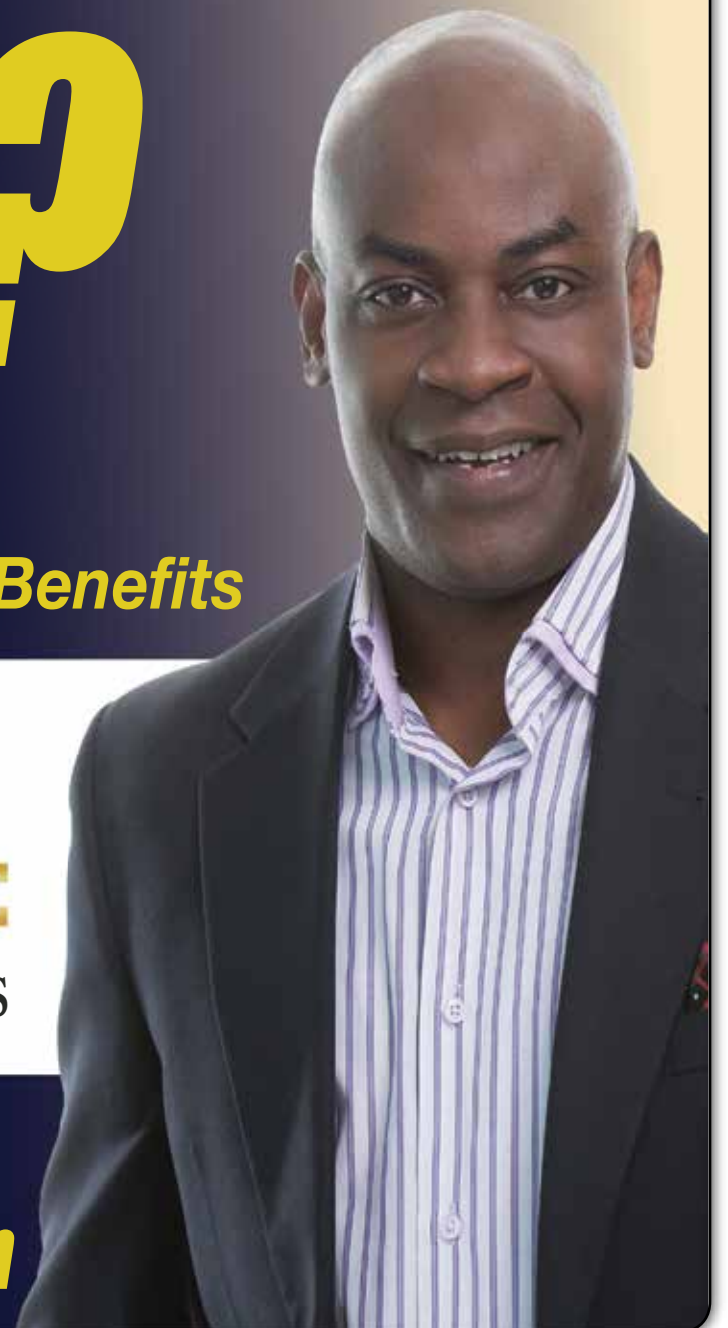


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# Appraising The 2021 Ontario Budget

Without mincing words, the 2021 Ontario's budget which focuses on protecting people's health and the economy is but a commendable right step in the right direction. With total investments of \$16.3 billion to protect people's health and \$23.3 billion to protect the economy, the government has shown that it prioritizes the citizens' welfare as well the stability of the economy.

With clear cut measures outlined to defeat COVID 19, fix long-term care and make sure people can access the health care they need, as a paper that commends good initiatives, we are full of encomiums for the government for these thoughtful and pragmatic developments.

The disclosure that the government's urgent priority as

clearly spelt out in the budget is vaccinating the people of Ontario and that it is investing more than \$1 billion in its robust province-wide vaccination plan is but a commendable move. It is even more laudable that the government is also providing additional funding to increase access to testing, create more hospital beds and purchase additional.

As highlighted in the budget, to address decades of neglect and underinvestment, and help those waiting to get into long-term care, Ontario is investing \$2.6 billion to support building 30,000 long-term care beds and upgrading nearly 16,000 spaces. Ontario is also moving forward with its plan to provide the best long-term care in Canada by investing \$4.9 billion over four years to increase the

average daily direct care for long-term care residents from 2.75 hours to four hours.

And again, the revelation that it is committed to supporting hospitals so that people can access high quality care at any hospital across the province when they need it is a feat we find encouraging. That it recognizes the sacrifices people and employers have made to protect each other and thereby introduced additional measures that provide direct support for families, workers and small businesses is but an applauding move.

The plan to help workers recover from the impacts of COVID 19 and gain the skills needed for a good-paying job, which includes proposing a new Ontario Jobs Training Tax Credit for 2021, which would provide up to \$2,000 per recipient toward 50 per cent of eligible expenses, for a total estimated \$260 million in support to about 230,000 people in 2021, among other measures is but a kudos to the government.

We commend the plans to protect jobs by providing an additional round of support through the Ontario Small Business Support Grant, totalling

an estimated \$1.7 billion, to help eligible employers impacted by necessary public health restrictions.

Efforts to support communities, build a modern government as highlighted in the budget are moves we find commendable.

**I**N another development, the failure of the Nigerian government to provide a standard working health system for the citizens is but a gross insult on the African giants. That Nigerian leaders have made it a norm to travel abroad for medical check-ups and treatments, show that they are not ready to salvage the deteriorating situations.

We had expected that the lingering COVID-19 pandemic that exposed the rot in the Nigerian Health System will be an eye opener for the leaders to fix the system but unfortunately, reality proves otherwise. It is even more disturbing that President Muhammadu Buhari, despite budgeting billions to fix the sector has continued to be a medical tourist.

We are alarmed that at a time that developing nations are making conscious moves to tackle every loophole, the Nigerian government is still character-

ized by looting irregularities. The report of 'missing N3.8bn health funds' is but another execrable development. It is worrisome that Buhari has failed to probe the 'allegations that N3,836,685,213.13 of public funds meant for the Federal Ministry of Health, teaching hospitals, medical centres, and National Food Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) are missing, mismanaged, diverted or stolen, as documented in the recently released 2018 audited report by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation."

Need we remind the President that corruption in the health sector exacerbates inequality in already unequal and unfair political, social, and economic environments, and produces a 'cash and carry' health care system based on one's ability to pay for care or one's political position.

Buhari needs to know that transparency and accountability in the management of health funds is essential for promoting access of people living in poverty to physical and mental healthcare, satisfactory health conditions, equality and non-discrimination, development, as well as good governance and the rule of law.

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**- African Proverb**

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### Experts say knowing six neighbours can reduce loneliness

(NC) Can you remember the days when you knew everyone on your street? Or when you would turn to a neighbour to borrow a cup of sugar or to water your plants?

According to a new study, knowing as few as six neighbours reduces loneliness and is linked to lowering depression, social anxiety, and financial concerns related to COVID-19.

The study, which was conducted in partnership with a team of leading mental health experts, also found that performing small acts of

kindness for neighbours reduced the likelihood of feeling lonely.

Looking for ways to safely get involved in your neighbourhood? Here are a few ways to get started:

**1.INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS, DIGITALLY.**

Join a neighbourhood platform like Nextdoor, the neighbourhood app, to connect with the people and places near you. Start with a simple introduction or join a group to build connections

with neighbours who share similar interests.

**2.CHECK IN WITH NEIGHBOURS, FROM A DISTANCE OR VIRTUALLY.**

See if your neighbours, particularly the vulnerable or elderly, need any help. Consider picking up groceries for them next time you head to the store or helping them with work in the yard.

**3.CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR LOCAL CULTURE AND BUSINESSES**

Whether you're ordering in from your

local pizza place or writing a positive review for a nearby business -- support the businesses in your community that may be suffering during this difficult time.

"As we commute less and stay home more, the role of the neighbourhood has never been more important," explains Christopher Doyle, managing director of Nextdoor Canada. "While for some getting to know your neighbours can be daunting, building meaningful connections with those in your neighbourhood really

### Disability? Get tax relief



(NC) If you or someone you care for has a disability, you know that the extra costs of medical care and living expenses add up. But did you know that you can get tax relief through the disability tax credit?

The credit was designed to reduce the amount of income tax people with disabilities or their supporting family members may have to pay.

This year, when filing a 2020 tax return, the disability tax credit that can be claimed for an adult is \$8,576. If the person with the disability is a child under 18, they or their supporting family member can claim an additional supplement of up to \$5,003.

This can do a lot to offset the extra costs related to having a disability or caring for someone who does.

Being eligible

for the credit can also open doors to other government programs, such as the child disability benefit, the disability supplement of the Canada workers benefit, and the registered disability savings plan.

To claim the credit, just complete Part A of the T2201 Disability Tax Credit Certificate and have your medical practitioner complete and certify Part B of the form. You can submit a completed form to the Canada Revenue Agency any time during the year.

If approved, you can claim the credit for the years you are deemed eligible. An eligible person may even be able to claim the tax credit going back as far as ten years.

Find information on eligibility or download the application form at [canada.ca/tax-credit-disability](http://canada.ca/tax-credit-disability).

### 5 ideas for families to make the most of staying home this March Break

(NC) Due to current travel restrictions, families will be spending March Break at home. One way to keep your kids busy is by making personal finance a group activity.

Research shows that young people who discuss money matters with their parents have higher financial knowledge and skills, which leads to stronger financial well-being in the future.

Here are five ideas for simple things you can do with your kids to help them develop good money habits early:

1. Involve your children in age-appropriate conversations about news related to economics or budgeting, and discuss how the family is responding to the unprecedented circumstances caused by the pandemic.



2. Use the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada's online interactive budget Planner to teach your children about the importance of a financial plan. Try making a budget for your next family vacation.

3. Encourage your child to set up a savings account. Forming good savings habits early can help kids learn how to be financially independent and avoid relying on credit cards and loans in the future. Help your child to make a plan to save

for something they really want, like a new toy or video game.

4. Show your child how to set up an automatic payment for either a subscription or their cellphone. This is an opportunity to teach them about the importance of never missing a payment, which could have a negative impact on their credit report in the future.

5. Review your child's bank account agreement with them and make sure they understand their responsibilities, such as keeping their PIN se-

cret, even from their parents. Sharing their PIN means they may not be protected from a fraudulent transaction on their account.

Understanding personal finances can have a big impact on the present and future well-being of young people. No matter what life stages your child is at, you can find unbiased and fact-based information from the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada at [canada.ca/money](http://canada.ca/money).

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## Ontario to change child-welfare system to prevent teens from aging out of care unprepared

Abdoulaye Diakhaby unlike his counterparts was highly ossified when he turned 18. The previous four years had been spent in the child-welfare system where he first lived in a foster home and later moved to a group home. He was however forced to be independent when he clocked 18.

He is now 21 years old and he said he never felt ready as he was still trying to fine tune his English, didn't know how to cook and needed someone to help with his homework.

While talking to CBC Toronto, he said: "I was thinking, 'How am I going to be able to do my groceries? How to cook? How to go to school? How to pay my rent? How to get a job?'"

Few days after he moved into his own place, Diakhaby returned to the group home to sleep for a couple of

nights as he was lonely and felt isolated.

Diakhaby said if he had his way, he'd still be living there, rather than making the transition away.

He said: "Everything was tough for me."

Ontario has placed a moratorium on youth aging out of care due to COVID-19 and has extended it to September 30, 2022.

According to CBC News, the government of Ontario will deploy the time to redesign the process by which young people exit the system by not factoring in the current age cut-off. Instead, officials of the province said their plan was to ensure that youths feel confident and are well prepared.

The province made it known that just below 12,000 children and youth are in the child-welfare system. Around half of youths that experience home-

lessness in Ontario were part of that system, over half dropped out of high school while 57 percent depend on social assistance.

Associate Minister of Children and Women's issues, Jill Dunlop said the government wanted the children to meet major milestones before they leave care.

During an interview, Dunlop said: "We're building a model that's going to work for them. Young people take different paths, but we want to ensure that the supports are there."

Under the present system, some youth who leave care qualify for financial assistance till they turn 21 and other supports till they turn 24. Yet, advocates that have been requesting for a readiness-based model have made it known that these supports have not been close to enough.

Irwin Elman, On-

tario's former child and youth advocate said: "The system itself was traumatizing and it re-traumatized them."

"When they left the system, they felt dumped out and as one young person said, 'shoved off the edge of a cliff, alone, with nothing and expected to do well.'"

The government of Ford scrapped Elman's position and shut down the office in 2018 and transferred his responsibilities to Ombudsman's office.

What the new system will be and how the new system will work is under determination but the Ministry said it was liaising with former children in care, advocates and others to work out the program.

According to Dunlop, over 2,500 young people that are expected to age out by 2022 will be guarded by the moratorium.

## Canadian Army short thousands of troops as virus affects training

By N.Ugoh

The Canadian Armed Forces is encountering shortfall of troops as the Coronavirus pandemic compels the military to stop the training of new recruits.

As expected, Canadian Army should have 68,000 full-time members and 29,000 part-time reservists any time to carry out the various missions assigned to in Canada and overseas.

Figures released by the Canadian Armed Forces revealed the military was short of around 2,000 regular force members and 5,000 reservists at the end of December 2020.

While giving reason for the shortfall, the military said only about 25 percent

of the expected member of new recruits was trained as the pandemic induced the closure and made them make other changes to training camps.

The spokesman of Canadian Army, Major Travis Smyth said that despite the shortfall, the military was able to meet its present obligations at home and abroad and that it was too early to predict what the potential medium- and long-term impacts could be.

Defence Analyst, David Perry of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute disclosed that the effect of the shortage will depend on how long the pandemic lasts and that it does not warrant the need for the military to jerk up its diversity in recruitment.

## Celebration Day Turns Death Day, Co-Workers Demand Justice For Murdered Ashiru Sarafa Awoyemi

By Stanley Ugagbe

If anyone, be it a prophet had told the wife and children of Ashiru Sarafa Awoyemi that their dream of joining him in Canada will not materialize, they would have probably rebuked such statement.

Awoyemi emigrated from Africa, where he operated a business, with hopes his wife and young children could follow.

Upon arriving Canada, the 50-year-old father of four began working for an agency as a support worker making \$15 an hour. He was thrilled when he landed a job with New Leaf, an organization supporting adults with intellectual disabilities and complex needs, where he could secure benefits and increased pay to help bring his family to Canada.

It was gathered that Awoyemi quickly grew a reputation as a hard worker, humble and respectful, eager to help. After years of working around the clock as a group home support worker, saving his money and sending it back to his wife and children in Nigeria, he was hoping to finally get word they could join him in Canada.

Unfortunately, just as his lawyer was trying to call him to tell him the good news — that his application to sponsor his family was approved — Awoyemi was lying lifeless in a pool near the group home where he worked.

Everything changed on February 12. Awoyemi took

one of New Leaf's most violent residents to the home's indoor pool, which had been closed due to COVID-19.

Reports have it that Awoyemi had been assaulted by the man the day before and the client had broken windows and kicked doors, but no one else was willing to take the "out of control" resident off the premises to keep him occupied, believing it was too dangerous, co-workers said.

Sources said Awoyemi agreed to do it.

This job was important to him; he was afraid of losing it, co-worker Kevin Chukwuma said.

No one accompanied Awoyemi as support and there was no lifeguard, according to co-workers, who did not want to be identified for fear of losing their job.

Another co-worker also told newsmen that Awoyemi did not know how to swim.

It was disclosed that when Awoyemi and the client did not return for lunch and did not answer phone calls, support worker Jack Johnson went looking. The father of four was found lifeless in the pool.

The death is now under investigation by the Ministry of Labour and his friends and colleagues, stricken with grief, are demanding justice for a man whose dreams were abruptly cut short.

Reports also indicated that friends and co-workers have set up a GoFundMe fundraiser to raise money to memorialize Ashiru and support his family.

## UK University to return stolen Benin Bronze to Nigeria



By N.Ugoh

A United Kingdom University, University of Aberdeen, has disclosed it would be returning a Benin Bronze to Nigeria many years after it was looted by British authorities.

The University made the disclosure in a statement issued recently. Also, the school disclosed that the previously repatriated items remains Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

The bronze sculpture depicting Oba of

Benin was acquired by the University in 1957 during an auction and the British forces looted thousands of metal, carvings and ivory sculptures during the invasion of Benin City in 1897. The artifacts were sold to museums, given away as gift items to museums or offered for sale at auctions/art dealers.

It was further discovered that the University of Aberdeen began a move to return the stolen bronze through Professor Bankole Sodipo, Professor of Law in Babcock

University, Nigeria with the National Commission for Museums and Monuments of Nigeria via its Legal Adviser, Babatunde Adebisi, the Edo State Government through the then Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Professor Yinka Omorogbe and the Royal Court of the Oba of Benin through Prince Professor Gregory Akenzua in 2020.

A statement issued by the university read: The University of Aberdeen is to return a Benin bronze, the first-ever

fully repatriated to Nigeria by a museum. The University announced it would return the sculpture more than 125 years after it was looted by British forces.

"An ongoing review of the collections identified the Head of an Oba as having been acquired in a way that we now consider to have been extremely immoral, so we took a proactive approach to identify the appropriate people to discuss what to do," the school said as it became the first institution to agree to the full repatriation from a museum of a Benin bronze.

"It would not have been right to have retained an item of such great cultural importance that was acquired in such reprehensible circumstances.

"We, therefore, decided that an unconditional return is the most appropriate action we can take, and are grateful for the close collaboration with our partners."

## Why we spent \$2.5 million on bracelets that beep if users get too close - Ford

By Stanley Ugagbe

Following the criticism that trailed the Ontario government's decision to invest \$2.5 million in wearable contact tracing technology that will beep or buzz to notify users if they are too close to another person, Premier Doug Ford has come out to defend the initiative, noting that the deal should yield a "good return on investment."

It would be recalled that the Progressive Conservative government issued a news release saying that it will be providing money from the Ontario Together Fund to a technology company in order to create wearable tracing technology for people who work or spend time in facilities where the COVID Alert app can't be accessed.

It was gathered that the bracelet, called Trac-eSCAN, would be used in places such as airlines, schools, construction sites and long-term care homes.

According to the province, the technology will be able to track COVID-19 ex-

posure without using GPS.

The statement said "If anyone in the working premises reports COVID-19 positive, HR or health and safety officials can log in to the online reporting dashboard and see who they have been in contact with and their risk level, then send an exposure notification".

It was also disclosed that the device will also either beep or vibrate at users who are less than six feet apart.

In view of the development, a number of people took to social media to question whether investing in wearable technology was the best use for the government's money. Some of the users mentioned that most people already know they should be staying six feet away from one another, and have downloaded the COVID Alert App to aide in contact tracing and notification of potential exposure.

According to individuals who identified themselves as educators on Twitter, it would be impossible to use the technology

in schools as kids are either constantly walking past other students in the hallway or some classrooms may not be able to keep desks exactly six-feet away from one another.

Reacting to the criticisms in defence of his government's decision to invest money into the technology, Ford said "We look deep into anything that we invest in attracting jobs and I think so far, over the last two years two and a half years, anything that was invested has created a tremendous amount of jobs".

"We always look at risk on any investment that we do and the return on investment, and they came back and said 'here's a good return on investment.' You just don't look you know where you are in a couple of weeks, you have to look at the long-term investment and we felt like it was a good investment, so we moved forward on it."

Similarly to the COVID Alert App, the government will not be mandating that people use the technology.

## Lagos, Ogun, Others Snub Beef Boycott

By Stanley Ugagbe

The ongoing ethnic war rocking the three major tribes of Nigeria recently unveiled a sizzling episode that may plunge the nation into serious crisis if not curbed. The northern region had announced that they will no longer supply food to the southern part of the nation.

In retaliation, the pan-Yoruba socio-cultural group, Afenifere, Aare Onakankonfo, Iba Gani Adams, Yoruba Summit Group and Sunday Igboho, called for beef boycott in the major markets in the southern-western region, according to an advertorial published on the plan.

However, according to Daily Trust, the exercise flopped in Lagos, Ogun, Oyo and other states.

The one-day boycott, came a day after the Amalgamated Union of Food and Cattle Dealers of Nigeria (AUFCDN) terminated the blockade of foodstuff and cattle from the North to southern Nigeria, which lasted six days, resorting in the



scarcity of beef and other food items in southern markets.

According to the paper, which monitored compliance, residents were seen buying beef, while sellers said there was nothing like boycott in Lagos.

Speaking on the development, the chairman, United Butchers of Lagos, Lagos State Abattoir Complex, Oko-Oba, Agege, Abdullahi Ahmed, said the number of people patronising the abattoir increased.

At Ile Epo, Abule-Egba, Mushin markets, among others, cow traders said they didn't see the effect of any beef boycott.

Speaking with Daily Trust, a resident of the state, Mrs Ayodele Aje said "Why should I not buy beef? For what? I don't think that is a way to go in resolving what-

ever issues we have with our brothers. I have come to buy beef and I am happy normalcy is returning to the market after the blockade of food items and cattle, which has now been called off".

It was gathered that in Ogun State, residents also snubbed the call to boycott beef by the leaders of the Afenifere group.

However, the spokesman of Afenifere, Mr Yinka Odumakin, in a chat with Daily Trust described the beef boycott as a success.

In his words, the Yoruba had made it clear that they would no longer tolerate maiming and killing of their people in the name of cattle rearing.

H said "We have made it clear to them that we cannot continue to tolerate this. Our people are tired of the mindless destruction by the Fulani".

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## Vaughan school renamed after Somali-Canadian journalist Hodan Nalayeh

By Stanley Ugagbe

Plans have been perfected to rename a school in Vaughan, Ont., after late Somali-Canadian journalist Hodan Nalayeh, known for her courageous storytelling and passion for education.

This development was reached after Trustees with the York Region District School Board voted to change the name of Vaughan Secondary School, which originally honoured Benjamin Vaughan, a slaveholder in the 18th century.

It was gathered that ten out of 12 trustees voted in favour of the motion, which was initially put forward due to a push from the Black community in the region.

Reacting to the development, the late journalist's family in a statement said "It is with a heavy-heart and with a deep sense of gratitude that the Nalayeh Family accepts the ... decision to rename the school in question with Hodan's name".

"With it, comes a tremendous responsibility to uplift and support all students, their families and the communities ... whether local to the school or across our great region."



Hodan Nalayeh

During the meeting, the trustees reportedly averred that Nalayeh was known for her passion for education, as well as telling stories. She had a TV show and led advocacy work for the Somali community in Canada. It would be recalled that she died in an attack on a hotel in Somalia in 2019.

In the meeting, Trustee Bob McRoberts said "[She] was a journalist and inspirational storyteller whose message to youth was that achievement depends on perseverance and education".

"She has family who still live in Vaughan ... I found it to be a special connection that Hodan's nephew is currently a student at the school."

He continued that

it is thanks to the efforts of the Black community in York Region that the "historical" wrong is being corrected in some way.

He said "If it weren't for the lobbying efforts and the persistence and concern initiated and expressed to us by the Black community, the name of the school would still be Vaughan Secondary School".

"We had no reason or awareness of the need for a change."

It should be noted that Hodan Nalayeh Secondary School will be the first secondary school with the York Region District School Board to be named after a person of colour. It will be the second named after a woman.

# Derek Chauvin Trial Jury Selection Explained

Former police officer Derek Chauvin currently stands trial facing second-degree unintentional murder, second-degree manslaughter, and third-degree murder charges for George Floyd's death. Floyd's death last May sparked protests with thousands calling for change in the nation's criminal justice system.

The jury selection process for this trial was finalized after eleven days of questioning by the prosecution and defense attorneys. The jury process was highly scrutinized due to the high publicity associated with the trial.

In the end, 15 jurors were chosen to serve on the jury. Among those seated there are three black men, one black woman, two multiracial women, two white men, and six white women. But how were these jurors selected?

## JURY SELECTION

### AND "VOIR DIRE"

The Sixth Amendment of the Constitution guarantees the right to trial by jury in criminal cases. States have a list of citizens they compile from different sources including voter registration and the DMV. From this list, potential jurors are randomly selected.

Both the defense attorney and the prosecutor will question potential jurors to determine whether they are suitable to serve in the case. This process is known as "voir dire," or "to speak the truth".

This process may vary from state to state. But in general, the attorneys and the judge will question the potential juror about multiple issues including the juror's:

- Background
- Views and stances on certain matters
- Biases
- Pre-existing knowledge about the case

The prosecutors and the defense sent a questionnaire to see whether potential jurors could serve without being influenced. The questions addressed multiple issues including whether the jurors trust the police and whether they thought the criminal justice system treats black people unfairly.

### REMOVING JURORS

Attorneys can remove potential jurors from serving after questioning them. They can remove them either for cause or through peremptory challenges.

### REMOVING FOR CAUSE

If either the defense lawyer or the prosecution believes a prospective juror is prejudiced about a case, they may ask the juror to be removed for cause. A juror can be removed for cause in many sce-

narios. Some of them include whether the juror:

- Is a close relative of the parties
- Already formed an opinion about the particular case
- Has any financial interest in the outcome of the case
- Is biased or prejudiced against one party or another

In most cases, both lawyers can an unlimited number of jurors for cause.

In the Chauvin trial, a number of jurors were excused for cause. A notable example was when the judge excused two jurors who said they couldn't be impartial after hearing about the 27 million dollar settlement the city reached with Floyd's family.

### PEREMPTORY CHALLENGES

Peremptory challenges allow a lawyer to excuse a juror without cause if they believe a potential juror will not serve the best interest



of their client. Lawyers have a fixed number of peremptory challenges they can use. In general, defense attorneys have more peremptory challenges than prosecution in felony cases.

In this particular trial, the judge gave the defense attorneys fifteen peremptory strikes and the prosecutors nine.

In a peremptory challenge, neither side is required to give a reason to strike a juror. This right, however, has one big exception. Attorneys can't strike a juror based on their race. In *Batson v. Kentucky*, the Supreme Court ruled that "peremptory challenges can't be used to systematically strike jurors based on their race."

*Flowers Vs. Mississippi* is a notable example where the Supreme Court struck down a conviction based on racially bi-

ased jury selection. In this case, the defendant Curtis Flowers was prosecuted six times for the same crime. In the first four trials, the state tried to peremptorily strike all the 36 prospective black jurors.

### WHY IS JURY SELECTION IMPORTANT?

People who serve in a jury come with their own thoughts, values, and life experiences. So, selecting jurors with the ability to keep an open mind and be unbiased is crucial to ensure a fair trial.

Thus, jury selection becomes important for different reasons. It ensures the legitimacy of the trial, that a juror is unbiased, and that potential jurors will not be discriminated against based on race, gender, or ethnicity.

Source: <https://blogs.findlaw.com>

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## REFLECTIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS

# Signs of a cheating spouse

By: NCNC

Infidelity is one of the main problems in many relationships. It can cause a lot of trauma if not handled correctly. You may have a hunch that your spouse is cheating but you cannot be sure until you find concrete evidence. Below, we have listed some of the odd occurrences, curious actions and behavioral changes that are associated with a cheating spouse.

### CHANGES IN YOUR SEX LIFE

It's common for the regularity of sex to reduce in a marriage. However, it is possible that your spouse is having an affair if the following things happen:

- There is a significant reduction in connection or intimacy between you and your partner.
- You have a non-existent sex life.
- You discover that you've contracted an STD but you haven't strayed.
- Your partner starts to introduce many things that were not there in

your sex life. This means that he or she might be learning these things from another person.

### MONEY PROBLEMS

Most couples will have disagreements related to money at some point in their relationship. But it's advisable to investigate the root of the problem if you keep having money arguments in your marriage. You should investigate if you notice the following habits:

- Money becomes one of the main reasons for problems between you and your spouse.
- Your spouse uses your credit card for reasons that don't make sense. Keep a close eye on credit card statements.
- Your spouse is no longer interested in your long-term projects like starting a business, buying a house, going for a trip and starting a renovation.

### APPEARANCE AND HOBBIES

There is nothing

wrong with a spouse devoting more time to his career, passions or new hobbies but these changes can be concerning if combined with suspicious behaviors. Below are some of the changes that might get you worried:

- Your spouse spends longer hours at work.
- Change in dress code. Your mate might start looking nicer, dressing nicer or an abrupt interest in appearance.
- Your mate suddenly enjoys a hobby that takes of his day but doesn't want you to do it with him or her. They brush off your interest or respond vaguely.

### INDIFFERENCE

It is important to communicate with your mate if he shows lack of interest or apathy in some of the things you enjoyed doing together. Communication will help you know if there is a genuine reason for the indifference. However, this might be a sign of infidelity.

- Your mate is bored

with you, work, hobbies, your children, or life in general.

- Your mate rarely shows signs of jealousy about you. It might mean he or she is not afraid to lose you.
- Your mate suddenly becomes lazy, doesn't take care of your living environment.
- Indifference towards holidays, birthdays and other family events.

### CHANGES IN COMMUNICATION

There is an underlying issue if you and your spouse have difficulties speaking to each other. They don't say "I love you", don't talk or fight with you, or don't share time with you.

One sign of infidelity is your partner refusing to accept your suggestions, refusing to respond and not listening to you:

- Ignores your questions
- Rushes out without a word
- Closes or rolls eyes in a dismissive way.
- Postpones impor-

tant conversations.

- Avoids uncomfortable topics by changing the subject
- Many excuses on why they can't talk
- Ignores the current problem and makes accusations

### DRASTIC CHANGE IN HOW THEY USE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVICES

An unfaithful spouse will often change the way he or she sends phone messages and how they communicate on social media. Its concerning if your spouse does the following:

- Refuses to share passwords and even changes the ones they had told you before.
- You can't reach your spouse at specific times in a day
- He or she keeps walking off to receive mysterious phone calls.
- He or she stops or decreases their use of social media.
- Stops using any devices.
- Switches off cloud

sharing in your device

- Clears the history of your browser in devices that you share
- His or her fitness tracker shows that she has been exercising during odd hours.

### ATTITUDE CHANGES

Poor attitude towards life can be one sign of a cheating spouse. This is especially concerning if your partner used to have a good attitude. Below are some of the signs you should look out for:

- Your spouse keeps picking fights with you.
- Your mate is very defensive when you bring up the issue of infidelity.
- Your mate has low self-esteem and a sense of confusion.
- Your spouse doesn't give you a satisfactory answer when you ask for reassurance.
- He or she criticizes you more often
- He or she has a very negative outlook of things
- Your spouse shows a craving for thrills and danger.

# What Is a Toxic Relationship?

Six signs you may be in one.

- Toxic relationships are based on conflict, competition, and the need to control.
- Signs of a toxic relationship include jealousy, blame, and gaslighting.
- Therapy, as well as self-care and connecting with others, can help you heal and move forward.

Relationships fall into one of two categories. Positive or healthy relationships are those where the couple supports each other, shows empathy and compassion to the other person, and where both parties are willing to give and take. Positive relationships are not always perfect, but when the couple has disagreements, they are able to work it out in a way that is mutually satisfactory and does not result in one person imposing their will or desires on the other.

The other type of relationship is unhealthy.

These relationships are often considered toxic as they are actually emotionally and sometimes physically harmful to one person. The term was first used by Lillian Glass in her 1995 book Toxic People and was used to indicate a relationship that is built on conflict, competition, and the need for one person to control the other.

### SIGNS OF A TOXIC RELATIONSHIP

Toxic people do not show their negative side early in the relationship. They are often extremely charismatic and seem to be the ideal or perfect partner. Then, over time, they start to show their true colors and become controlling, demanding, and emotionally abusive to their partner.

Signs of a toxic relationship may take months or even years to evolve. Typical signs of these damaging relationships include:

- Isolation — the toxic person attempts to

isolate the partner from family and friends to limit support and to increase dependence on the relationship.

- Ongoing disagreements and arguments — it is common for people dating and in relationships to have minor disagreements, but toxic relationships are primarily based on arguments and negativity. The controlling partner is always berating, belittling, and putting down the other person or criticizing their attempts to do anything positive or independent.
- Blaming — a toxic person has no sense of personal responsibility for negative things and events in a relationship. If your partner is willing to take full responsibility for all the good but none of the responsibility for anything bad or unpleasant, this is a critical sign of a toxic relationship.
- Jealousy and dishonesty — a toxic relationship is often one of accusing a partner of flirting, dating, or even

having a sexual relationship with someone outside of the relationship. At the same time, the controlling or toxic person may actively and openly engage in these same behaviors.

- Denial and gaslighting — a toxic person is unable or unwilling to see his or her impact on the other person. They deny issues, attempt to gaslight the other person, manipulate events, or attempt to recreate history to put themselves in the best light.
- Giving in on everything — while it is important to be willing to give and take, compromise, or even do what the other partner wants in a healthy relationship, this is expected behavior in a toxic relationship. If you find you are giving into everything, even things you find morally, personally, or ethically objectionable just to keep the other person happy, you are in a toxic relationship.

### RECOVERING FROM A TOXIC RELATIONSHIP

It is possible to get out of a toxic relationship and move forward to find a positive, supportive and healthy relationship. The following tips can help to break free from toxicity:

- Self-care — finding time to care for yourself and to learn to care about yourself again is a critical step in healing and re-balancing your priorities.
- Reconnect — rebuilding or reconnecting with friends and family who love and care about you helps to align your emotional healing with positive relationships

with trusted people.

- Therapy — therapy and counseling are instrumental in understanding the destructive relationship dynamics of a toxic partner. Therapy also helps to establish self-assurance and self-esteem, which is necessary to prepare for a healthy relationship.

It is possible for a toxic partner to make changes and rebuild the relationship. However, he or she must be willing to do the work to make these changes and to learn new ways to communicate and interact as a healthy, supportive partner.

[www.psychologytoday.com/](http://www.psychologytoday.com/)



## CAREER HEIGHT

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

By Ernest Nnamdi Onuorah  
MBA, FRM, CRISC

A 2019 Canadian survey conducted on behalf of Robert Half, a recruitment agency, revealed that 2 out of 5 employees leave their workplace because of their managers.

A toxic manager ruins the party for everyone and leads to low employee morale and engagement. It comes at a steep cost, too. Productivity and profits nose-dive. Over the long run, if left unchecked, it is a direct threat to the survival and success of the organization.

In fact, according to the 2019 Gallup's State of the Global Workplace report, low employee engagement costs companies about \$500 billion every year in the US alone. This statistic underscores the gravity of the situation and is indicative of the losing battle employers wage against employee disengagement.

Some studies indicate that only about 1 out of 10 employees is engaged in their work across the globe so it is no wonder that almost 90% of employers struggle to maintain and improve employee engage-

ment.

This is why companies are always looking for ways to keep employees motivated so that they could increase engagement levels and thereby drive higher productivity.

Companies deploy multiple tools to rev up employee motivation. One of the tools is the ubiquitous employee engagement survey. It is ostensibly designed to provide early warning indicators of pockets of toxic work environment within the organization and the underlying root causes.

During my lengthy career journey across multiple organizations, I have found that the general consensus among my colleagues is that the employee engagement survey is a waste of time. Some find it particularly annoying because no matter how honest they are in the survey; the organization cherry picks feedback and so miss out on gauging the true pulse of the workforce.

Another likely reason is that the decision makers focus on the aggregate and summary numbers of engagement levels and never dive down into the details to review and understand the rich, contextual underlying

employee feedback.

It's as if once the engagement level meets a certain range or threshold, Management congratulates itself for a job well done and continues labouring in the mistaken belief that the employees are engaged and motivated to be productive. And so, the cycle continues.

This adverse selection mindset creates a blind spot that causes severe havoc as reflected in the painful experience of a former colleague who had worked at one of the Big 5 Canadian banks.

They had a toxic boss who had become increasingly emboldened by the lack of action from senior management over the course of some years despite the team's consistent negative feedback about this leader.

Each year they expected that senior management will address the issues that they raised in the survey but nothing ever happened.

Needless to say, the work place became a living hell for my former colleague and the rest of the team.

The company eventually took action against the toxic leader but you will be amazed to know what triggered this corrective action.

In frustration, the team

members decided as a group to do the exact opposite: they each gave their manager the highest ratings in every category of the survey. They felt that they may as well try to mend fences with their boss that way since the leaders of the company did not really care enough to address the issues they had been raising consistently.

This had the perverse effect of raising alarm bells within the organizations' senior leadership. The result for this toxic manager was an extremely positive outlier, an abnormality which cast doubt on the veracity of the survey responses.

My former colleague and his team members were summoned to explain why.

They told the senior leaders that it was a team decision to perversely give their boss the best ratings in all categories as a survival strategy. They felt that it was in their own best interest to do so since their manager seemed to be a sacred cow.

Ironically, their manager got fired after the meeting. Yes, I know it's surreal. A clear case of looking only at headlines and not the news below it.

It doesn't matter

whether Management conducts the survey anonymously or outsources it to a third party who would ostensibly protect your identity. The general belief is that Management still has a way of finding out the identities of respondents. And woe betide you, if you were too honest in your feedback about your direct boss. They always had a way of finding out.

And this happened at yet another of the Big 5 banks. One of my previous bosses told me about the time when the bank sent out emails requesting employees to participate in the survey in which the employees were told that the survey was going to be conducted by a third-party contractor to ensure that the results and identities of the respondents remained anonymous. Somehow the file sent by the contractor contained clear metadata about the identities of every employee who responded to the survey.

Imagine the panic amongst staff who bared their soul in that survey!

While these incidents do not mean that all employee engagement surveys are not taken seriously by Management, it definitely



Ernest Nnamdi Onuorah

shows that employee distrust makes it an ineffective means of gauging pulse and engagement levels.

It often has the unintended opposite effect because, to employees, it resembles a tone-deaf and ham-fisted approach that invariably ends being a sheer waste of time and reinforces the perception that Management is not really interested in employee feedback.

The question then arises: what can companies do better to improve employee engagement?

An extension of that question is, "What if there is a better way to motivate employees and raise their engagement and productivity levels?"

We will explore the answer to this question in the next article. Stay tuned.

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### Household savings skyrocket during pandemic – how yours can too



(NC) Many of us have read the news reports that some families are saving more than ever during COVID-19. But lockdown has also triggered its own set of financial pressures (hello, online shopping therapy) and it can be easy to lose track of

spending when we're stressed. So how do the "savers" do it? While everyone's situation is different and it's certainly easier to save when you've been able to keep your work hours, there are always some things you can do to stay on

budget. The key to getting through these financial challenges is to return to three money management basics. Ryan Weiss, vice president, group customer product and experience at Canada Life, tells how:

**1. IDENTIFY SPENDING.**  
Take a hard look at your credit card and bank statements for the last six months. Do you see stress spending? Over-indulging? Too much take out? We each have our own triggers.  
Weiss suggests downloading a money management app to help monitor in real-time. Canada Life of-

fers a free, third-party money management platform companies can add to their employee benefits packages. It gives employees access to a no-fee spending account to auto-deposit paycheques, a cash-back reloadable spending card and a money management app designed to simplify their personal finances.

**2. MAKE A BUDGET.**  
The next step is tougher. You have to budget for sensible spending targets and stick to them. Keep tabs

every time you open your wallet. If your purchase will put you over budget, lock it down.

**3. CREATE AN EMERGENCY FUND.**  
Weiss recognizes emergency expenses come up for all of us but cautions it's easy to get in trouble with high interest credit cash advances or payday loans, so it's best to plan ahead.  
The insurer's money management app benefit enables users to track their spending and round up pur-

chases to transfer extra amounts to either their Canada Life tax-free savings account or registered retirement savings plan, or to a sub-account (a painless way to help build an emergency fund). They can even borrow up to \$500 interest-free from themselves, with no additional charges, in the form of a three-day payday advance.  
Life can't always wait for payday, so be sure your short-term solution doesn't create long-term problems down the road.

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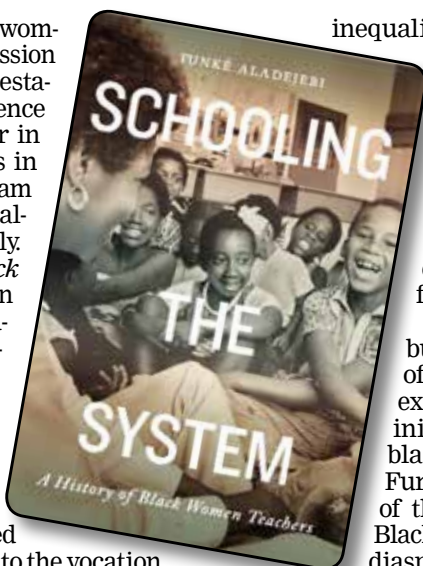
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## Schooling the System: A History of Black Women Teachers by Funke Aladejebi

In post-World War II Canada, Black women's experiences in the teaching profession served as sites of struggle and contestation in a myriad of ways. Their presence as racialized educators, though smaller in number, represented the various ways in which Black women disrupted mainstream notions of education in Ontario and challenged Canadian nationhood more broadly. *Schooling the System: A History of Black Women Teachers* argues that Black women teachers' engagement with Ontario's education system comprised of a set of difficult, messy and complex processes; beginning with access to education, their ability to get into teachers' college, the constant questioning of their professional status and the material realities that shaped their choices inside Ontario schools, Black women teachers worked to prove their legitimacy and dedication to the vocation.

In an attempt to contribute to historical analysis on Black identity, citizenship and racial difference in Canada, this book investigates the ways in which Black Canadian women navigated socially constructed boundaries of racial alienation, limited institutional support and



inequality within Ontario school systems. Expanding on the frameworks of educational history, *Schooling the System* foregrounds a transnational approach to viewing Black women's experiences and activism. Its contributions lie in the exploration of Black women's distinct consciousness as a way of understanding their entrance into the professional workforce.

This book makes significant contributions to an under-researched area of Canadian scholarship through its examination of community and school initiatives where education centered Black women's activism and agency. Furthermore, a distinguishing marker of this work is in the way it establishes Black feminist theory in Canada alongside diasporic and transnational understandings of personal and cultural survival.

Seeking to address the silences of Black professional women in feminist scholarship, this work's distinctive features are in the way it utilizes oral testimonies as an important way of allowing Black women to tell their own

stories. Dr. Funke Aladejebi uses oral history practice to illuminate the ways Black women teachers (re)casted themselves through their diverse narratives. The use of oral herstories in this book highlights the tones, silences, pauses, laughter, and body language of interview participants to reveal the diverse possibilities of Black women teachers' memories, narratives and identities.

By bringing attention to their oral narratives, *Schooling the System* also highlights Black women's knowledge production and power vis-à-vis by analyzing the myriad of ways they used their positionality to change and adopt categories of identity. In essence, this manuscript demonstrates that the diverse experiences Black women teachers had while working in Ontario schools were all legitimate and valid frameworks considering the institutional and systemic barriers they faced.





# YOUTH CORNER

Oluchi Ugeh

“YOUR CHILDREN NEED YOUR PRESENCE MORE THAN YOUR PRESENTS”. – JESSE JACKSON

## Welcome to March

Thank you again for supporting this page. We appreciate all your ideas and suggestions.

Please, enjoy this month's activities. **Stay safe and healthy.**

**Happy Easter**

For comments, email: [publisher@nigeriancanadiannews.ca](mailto:publisher@nigeriancanadiannews.ca)

## 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 about how to get away from this situation, he starts praying to ask 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 puts his two front paws together and starts talking: “Thank you father for this delicious meal am about to eat, amen”.

### Match the definitions

Vocabulary is the body of words used in a particular language.

Directions: Match each word in the left column with the definition in the right

Abandon	vigilant
Postpone	support
To have let off steam	forsake
Where laws are made	impediment
To have a handicap is to have an	fluent
Advocate	adjourn
To make a statement	help
To speak well is to be	parliament
To stop something would be to	comment
Very watchful is being	vent
Aid	prevent

ANSWERS ON PG. 24

## RIDDLES

What's the largest ant in the world?

What can you swallow that can also swallow you

What has teeth, but cannot eat?

What's never used until it's broken?

How many months have 28 days.?

When is your uncle's sister not your aunt?

What kind of dog never bites?

What has eye but cannot see?

What has hands but cannot clap?

ANSWERS ON PG. 24

### WORDS TO USE INSTEAD OF 'VERY'

Very serious	grave
Very shy	timid
Very quick	rapid
Very perfect	flawless
Very rainy	pouring

## English Idioms

Idiom	Definition
Draw a line	set a limit
Carry weight	be important
Break the ice	overcome shyness
Black sheep	a good-for-nothing member of the family
Castles in the air	day dreaming about success
Kick the bucket	die

## Do you know these facts about Canada?

- ★ Montreal, Canada's second largest city is the second largest city in the world that has a French-speaking population - after Paris in France.
- ★ The Bay of Fundy in eastern Canada has the highest tides in the world. The waves there are more than 13 m/ 42 ft high.
- ★ Canada's biggest bay is Hudson Bay which was discovered in 1610 by English explorer Henry Hudson. Hudson Bay is located in Eastern Canada and is frozen from about mid December and mid June every year.
- ★ Canada is the world leader in uranium mining. Uranium is used in nuclear power plants for producing electricity. The largest uranium mine of the world is located at Cigar Lake in northern Saskatchewan/Canada. Canada is also the largest supplier of energy, also including oil and gas, to the USA
- ★ Canada is the third largest oil reserve holder in the world after Venezuela and Saudi Arabia and is also the seventh largest producer of oil.
- ★ Canada is fourth biggest producer of hydro electric power - after China, Brazil and the USA.
- ★ About half of Canada's landmass is covered by forest. There are about 180 tree species in Canada. Timber is among the main exports of the country. Canada is the third most forested country in the world.
- ★ The longest highway in the world is the Trans-Canada Highway which is over 7,604 kilometres (4,725 miles) in length.
- ★ The world's most northerly sand dunes are in Athabasca Provincial Park in northwest Saskatchewan. They are 30 metres high.

## The French Corner – Bonjour

By Farida Audu

### MATCH THE CORRECT FEELINGS IN FRENCH

Proud	Joyeux(se)
Shy	Désolé(e)
Happy	Effrayé(e)
Funny	Fier
Sad	Embarrassé(e)
Angry	Drôle
Surprised	Timide
Embarrassed	Fâché(e)
Jealous	Triste
Sorry	Content(e)
Joyful	Surpris(e)
Afraid	Jaloux(se)

ANSWERS ON PG. 24

### FRENCH VOCABULARIES

She is joyful	Elle est joyeuse (F)
He is joyful	Il est joyeux. (M)
I am sorry	Je suis désolé (M)
I am sorry	Je suis désolé (M)
She is afraid	Elle est effrayée
He is afraid	Il est effrayé
She is happy	Elle est contente
He is angry	Il est fâché
I am surprised	Je suis surpris. (F)
He is surprised	Il est surpris (M)

### Feelings / Les Sentiments

I am . . . / Je suis . . .

Happy Content(e)	Angry Fâché(e)
Surprised Surpris(e)	Sad Triste
Sorry Désolé(e)	Joyful Joyeux(se)
Embarrassed Embarrassé(e)	Jealous Jaloux(se)
Afraid Effrayé(e)	Proud Fier
Shy Timide	Funny Drôle

### FRENCH IDIOM

To be happy, to have a smile on one's face.  
Avoir la banane.

### 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 has a thousand fathers, but defeat is an orphan."  
– Anonymous

"You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself to be defeated."  
– Maya Angelou

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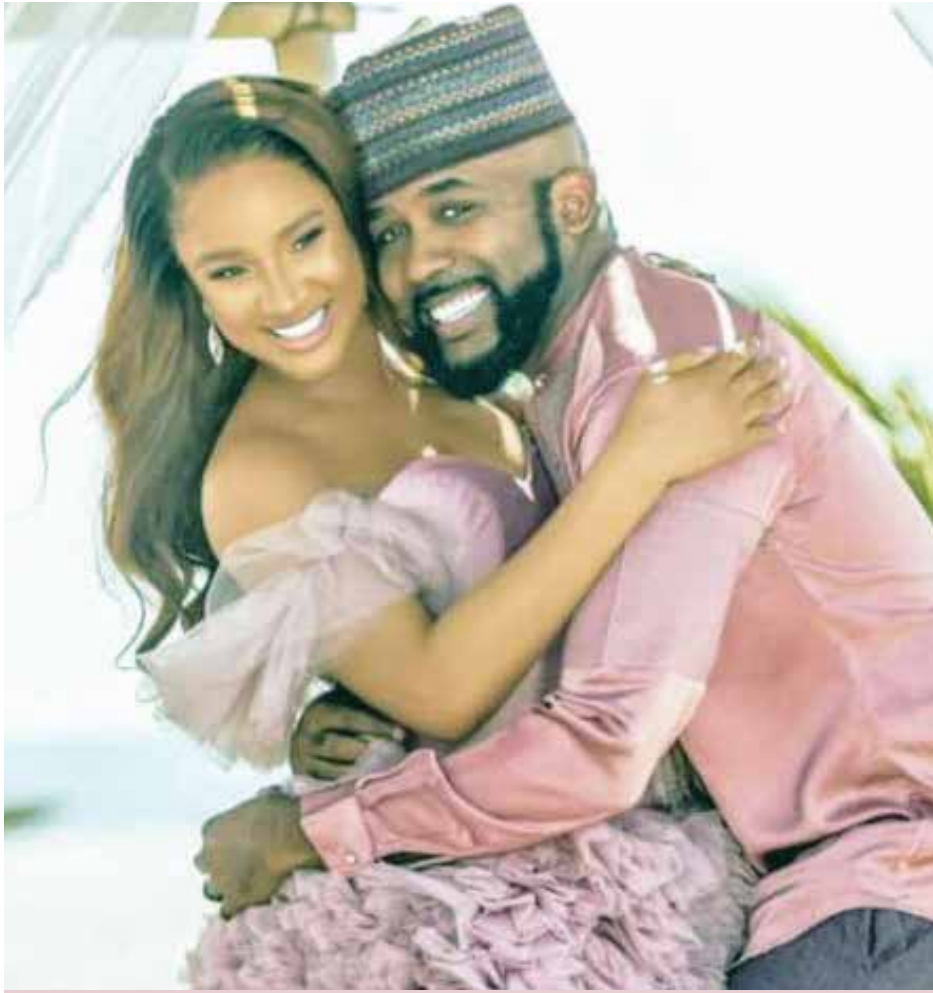
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ENTERTAINMENT



After four years, Banky W and Adesua Etomi welcome baby boy

By Stanley Ugagbe

Four years after signing the dotted lines, Nigerian music icon, Banky W and his wife Adesua Etomi have welcomed a baby boy. It would be recalled that the couple got married in 2017.

The singer disclosed the development in an Instagram post on February 22, 2021, while eulogizing his wife on her birthday.

He wrote: "Happy birthday to my lady, my love and Purpose Partner; My world, my wife and Baby Mama. I didn't think it was possible for you to be more beautiful than you already were... but I was wrong. Because you're not just beautiful, you're strong. You're grace and favour personified, and you're so much more," he wrote.

"Words cannot properly express how grateful I am for you, how much I love you, or what we've been through. I'm thankful that you're mine And that God made everything beautiful in His time He turned our tears into triumph, and our loss into laughter."

"He's changed our lives forever; here's to the next (and best) chapter Nothing I can say or do can top what He gave us. My baby had a baby and he's everything we prayed for @adesuaetomi Happy birthday "Mama Zaiiah" I love you SCATTER."

On her part, Adesua in post shared via her Instagram page, wrote "You have a track record of keeping your word. Olorun agbaye o, you are mighty". 4 weeks ago I received the best birthday gift ever. Our Son. 1+1=3 #Godisforeverthegreatest #mamaZ".

Jahmil French, 'Degrassi' and 'Soundtrack' actor, dies

By Bunmi Akintilo

Jahmil French, an actor famously known for his appearance in four seasons of the Canadian teen drama "Degrassi: The Next Generation," has died. He died at the age of 29.

Apart from "Degrassi," French co-starred on the Netflix musical series "Soundtrack" and the brief Pop TV series "Let's Get Physical." "Soundtrack" creator Joshua Safran confirmed his death on Twitter. The cause of his death has not been made public.

While confirming his death, Safran tweeted: "I can confirm my good friend, co-worker, and all around inspiration, Jahmil French, passed away yesterday."

"Only posting because I see the story getting out there. I will have more to say about him later. Right now we're all just processing this devastating news."

French teamed up with the cast of "Degrassi" as a series regular in Season 9 and played the role of Dave Turner. He remained on top of the young-adult soap till its penultimate season in 2014.

Degrassi" actress Melina Shankar, who was on-screen relationship with French, tweeted: "So grateful for memories and deep convos with you, beautiful angel."

"Blessed that we got to be part of a big dysfunctional family together. Thank you for

sharing your gift with the world. I just hope you knew how loved you were."

Also, another former co-star, Annie Clark, took to his Instagram page and paid tribute to French. She wrote: "We started on Degrassi the same year and I'll never forget the day I met him."

"Jahmil was so full of energy and absolute joy to be around. The video on the last slide is how I always think of him. He was such a special person and I'm so grateful for the memories we made. I still can't believe it. Gone way too soon. He will be so missed by us all."



Jahmil

Reggae legend Bunny Wailer, last Wailers member, dies at 73

By Bunmi Akintilo

Bunny Wailer, the iconic Jamaican reggae singer that established the Wailers band with Bob Marley and Peter Tosh and happened to be the last surviving founding member, has died at a hospital after he suffered stroke. He died at the age of 73.

While reacting to his death, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Andrew Holness called Bunny "a respected elder statesman of the Jamaican music scene" and said "This is a great loss for Jamaica and for Reggae."

Bunny Wailer was christened Neville O'Riley Livingston but he was popularly known as Bunny Wailer, Bunny Livingston or Jah B. He hailed from Trench Town, a poor down town community of Kingston that later inspired one of the Wailers' hits.

The Grammy-award winning artist met Marley and Tosh at a very young age and the trio founded the Wailers in 1963. Around a decade later, the group was signed by producer Chris Blackwell's Island Records, which earned them their fifth album, "Catch a Fire" and international fame.

They were credited with making reggae music famous and they toured the world and produced many hit songs in the ska and rocksteady styles. Their hit songs include "Simmer Down," "Lonesome Feeling," and "Thank You Lord."

Bunny eventually left the group with



Wailer

Tosh and became a solo artist, while Marley started tour with new band members as Bob Marley and the Wailers.

Bunny Wailer delivered 10 albums and won Grammys for Best Reggae Album for "Time Will Tell: A Tribute to Bob Marley" in 1991, "Crucial! Roots Classic" in 1995, and a tribute to Bob Marley in 1997. Bunny's hit songs as a solo artist included "Cool Runnings" and "Bald Head Jesus."

He bagged many Jamaica's highest honors like the Order of Merit and the Order of Jamaica.

He suffered several strokes recently and died after being hospitalized since December for the stroke encounter he had last, according to the Ministry of Culture.

James Bond Villain and 'Alien' Star, Yaphet Kotto Is Dead

By Stanley Ugagbe

One of the versatile actors who carved a niche for himself in world's movie industry, Yaphet Kotto is dead. He was 81.

The late actor's many reverberating roles include the wisecracking engineer in the hit science-fiction film "Alien," the villainous adversary in the James Bond movie "Live and Let Die" and a police lieutenant on the long-running television series "Homicide: Life on the Street".

Kotto's agent, Ryan Goldhar, who confirmed the death, said he did not know the cause. Kotto had lived in the Philippines for some years, reports said.

Local reports have it that the late icon worked mostly in the theater for the first decade or so of his career. Analysts are of the view that his bodily size made him a dom-

inating figure in any sort of role, though it tended to bring him parts as a heavy.

Yaphet Frederick Kotto was born on Nov. 15, 1939, in Harlem and grew up in the Bronx. According to him, his father was from Cameroon and jumped ship as a merchant seaman, ending up in New York; his mother, he said, was of Panamanian and West Indian descent. His father had adopted Judaism, and his mother was Roman Catholic. The couple separated when Kotto was a child, and he was raised by his maternal grandparents, reports said.

In one of his remarks, Kotto averred that his career path was set by a fateful trip to the movies.

Speaking to The Orange County Register of California in 1994, he said "One day, when I was about 16, I walked into this theater showing 'On the Waterfront' and I saw Marlon Brando for the first time".

Burna boy set to collaborate with Justin Bieber

By N.Ugoh

Nigeria's sensational singer, Damini Eburnoluwa Ogulu, also known as Burna Boy is set to collaborate with Canada's superstar, Justin Bieber to produce a hit song.

Burna boy gained popularity in 2012 after releasing "Like to Party", the lead single from his first studio album L.I.F.E.

Justin Bieber was signed to RBMG Records in 2008 and was the first artist to have seven songs from a debut record chart on the Billboard Hot 100.

The two music icons are set to work together on a hit track but the title of the track and when will it be released has not been disclosed to the public.

Three Nigerians enlisted by Disney for movie on Nigerian-Greek NBA wonder, Antetokounmpo

Three Nigerians will star in the Disney Plus movie, Greek Freak. The movie tells the life story of Giannis Antetokounmpo, the Nigerian-born Greek superstar whose lives transformed from hawking to a basketball icon.

Debutant, Uche Agada will star as Giannis Antetokounmpo in the film. Also, Yekide Badaki will star as Vera, Antetokounmpo's mother while Dayo Okeniyi will act as Charles, Giannis' father.

The film is being developed by the Walt Disney Studios for streamer Disney Plus. In 2019, the film was first announced as being in development. United Kingdom's Arash

Amel and Nigeria's Akin Omotoso are writing and directing the film respectively. Antetokounmpo is the executive-producer while the American Bernie Goldmann will produce the film. Production will commence later this year in both Greece and the United States.

This role will mark Agada's onscreen debut. According to Variety, Agada auditioned after watching a screengrab on Instagram of an announcement about the open casting call from Antetokounmpo's official Twitter handle.

Badaki's recent roles include acting as Bilquis in all three seasons of the Starz adaptation of Neil Gaiman's American Gods and a role on NBC's hit drama series This Is Us. Also, she has starred in features like The Long Shadow, What We Found, and Chasing the Rain.

Okeniyi is an NBC alum that has previously starred in the network's cop drama series Shades of Blue. On TV, he appeared in the first season of the Apple drama See opposite Jason Momoa. He has played starring roles in a lot of features like The Hunger Games, Terminator Genisys, Runner Runner, and The Spectacular Now. He is repped by UTA, Cultivate Entertainment, and McKuin Frankel Whitehead LLP.

As a child of Nigerian immigrants in Greece, Antetokounmpo started playing basketball in Europe before he moved to the United States in 2013 to play for the Milwaukee Bucks. He established himself quickly as a major star in the team.

## BOOKS

*“Reading changes your life. Reading unlocks worlds unknown or forgotten, taking travellers around the world and through time. Reading helps you escape the confines of school and pursue your own education” – Donalyn Miller*

## The Black Knight's Tune: Ruby's Story

by Rose Fresquez

By Naomi Finley

Racism is as old as man and those who find themselves in such ugly situations live with the stigma. The main character, Ruby Stewart is a slave living under the false pretenses of a freed black woman in New York in 1853. The beleaguered slave longs to know where she came from. This unrest has caused her to be plagued by dreams and visions of a man she calls the Black Knight and a woman with haunting green eyes. Ruby's only recollection of her past is the name Mag, until she receives a letter from friend Willow Hendricks in the South describing a slave girl that passed through her family's plantation over twenty years ago. Question that easily come to mind is, does Ruby dare hope this slave child might be her?

And then, her job as a journalist has Ruby



fighting feelings for boss and friend Kipling Reed. She struggles with the impossibility of a relationship between a woman of color and a white man. But her skin color isn't the only hindrance standing in the way of this romance. The unavailable Willow Hendricks has won the eye of Kipling. Apparently ripped apart by her feelings of a love that can never be, will Ruby be able to put the questions of her past to rest? We urge you to explore this blockbuster.

## She's Strong, but She's Tired

by Rose Fresquez



By r.h. Sin

It is a poetic documentation of pain, loneliness, courage, and triumph. It underscores emotional issues that often lead many to take decisions that they may later regret. It offers didactic lessons that can help one overcome those dark moments.

More remarkably, it shows that even in the darkest moment, there is hope and chances of triumph. Many testimonies abound from people who have been helped by the roadmap in this book. We urge you to take advantage of the lessons therein.

## Math Riddles For Smart Kids: Math Riddles and Brain Teasers that Kids and Families will Love (Books for Smart Kids Book 2)

by Rose Fresquez

By Prefontaine

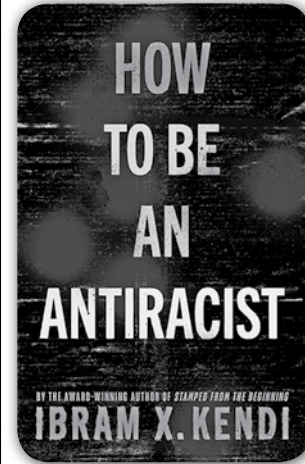
The book is a collection of 150 brain teasing math riddles and puzzles. Their purpose is to make children think and stretch the mind. They are designed to test logic, lateral thinking as well as memory and to engage the brain in seeing patterns and connections between different things and circumstances.

The three chapters get more difficult as you go through the book, in the author's opinion at least. The answers are at the back of the book if all else fails.

This is not to scare readers but these are more difficult riddles and are designed to be attempted by children from 10 years onwards, as well as participation from the rest of the family. You've got to test your logical and lateral thinking.

## How to Be an Antiracist

by Rose Fresquez



by Ibram X Kendi

The book underscores an approach to understanding and uprooting racism and inequality in our society—and in ourselves. It delineates a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other.

The author takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.

Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. Without mincing words, this is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society. You need to read this book.

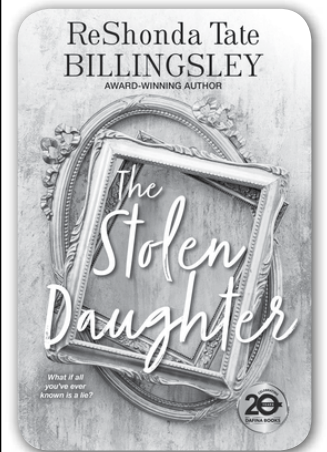
person will still go ahead and vote for such a candidate. When you try to educate the people that they are mortgaging their future by taking such tokens, they will argue with you that whether they win, will win. And you cannot really blame them that is what the situation usually is. The rich play upon the intelligence of the masses.

Paola's manifesto slogan is "Vote me to power and no one will go hungry."

"Vote Paola and you will become rich" African politics is unlike that of the advanced nations, where

## The Stolen Daughter

by ReShonda Tate Billingsley



by ReShonda Tate Billingsley

Jill Reed, who was raised by a widowed mother, has come a long way from her difficult youth. But while she may not have had money, Jill never doubted she was rich in love. Her mother, Connie, made Jill the center of her world. Now, even though she has a young family of her own, it's Jill's turn to care for her ailing mother.

Trouble started when early dementia begins to set in and Connie starts talking about Jill's "other life." Jill erroneously concludes it's just rambling confusion. Yet, Connie's stories about Jill's childhood, and her father's early death, never quite added up. And when a strange man shows up to Jill's job bearing news that turns Jill's life upside down, there's no denying Connie's devastating secret.

Real drama started when Jill sets out to learn more about her past, and gets stunned by what she learns and what it will mean for her future. In view of this revelation, she must decide what price she's willing to pay to claim the life that's rightfully hers. What would you have her do? Explore this riveting read!

prospective office holders will debate with colleagues, hold town meetings, explaining their manifestos knowing fully well that they will be accountable to their electorates when they get to office. African politics is far from that. Manifestos are not important. Those who have manifestos will tell you the same things the people know which the politicians never implement. Employment for the youth, free education, and free health care for everybody. Nobody talks about taxes in Nigerian politics because the office seekers never pay tax. Nobody talks about housing.

TO BE CONTINUED

## TO THE RESCUE

### SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

- By Pastor Dele Dada

CHAPTER 9  
PG. 145

"You are sounding like Job and making me sound like Job's wife who said Job should curse God and die. And I am not like that. I only need you to be reasonable to yourself and do not forget us, but if you insist I will not tell you to curse God and die." Stella said dejectedly.

For one strange reason, Paola who has said repeatedly in many fora that he will not go into elective office decided that he was going into core politics. He was quoted as saying "money is good but money must be spent to buy something. You do not eat money. I have bought all money can buy in terms of material, and property I need to have a taste of power; I need to have some influence. I am tired of being a local industrial champion; people who head the G8 nations, the G20 nations started somewhere. I want to be internationally relevant. I will contest Governorship and I am

positive I will win and I will ultimately one day become the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Commander in-chief of the Armed forces sounds good. The truth is those who get to those positions were not born with two heads. Secondly they are not richer than me, he boasted like all those in his Category."

Paola joined Make People Rich Party (MPRP). The party stalwarts of the MPRP were more than delighted to have Paola join their party. It had been rumored for months that he was joining party politics, but he did not until this point. Even though there were over thirty-five registered political parties in the nation only four of them were really serious. They are the ones that have offices in the thirty-six states of the federation and the federal capital, Abuja. Because of the stupendous wealth that Paola controls he is the bride of any party. There were seven people contesting for governorship primaries in his party.



He bought five of them over. One night all of them announced they were no more contesting. It was wise decision for them if they went ahead and contest with him he will eventually win and they would have wasted their money. To them it is double blessing, you save your money and someone pays you for not spending your money. Only one of the candidates refused. According to him—Mr Kofi "I will not step down for Paola, I have grassroots followership." He seems to have forgotten these are delegate matters. Anyway Paola had a land slide victory and became his party's flag bearer for the governorship election. He contested against Anthony and other party flag bearers.

Anthony was totally demoralized when he heard he was contesting against Paola. Not that he has not raised his funds but he knew he was spending borrowed money against a political juggernaut, borrowing the vocabularies of Mbadiwe one of the political grammarians of the 80s. The other parties in the state were just watchers of events. They had no money compared to Anthony and Paola. It was a war of posters and billboards. You would think a bill board that cost almost half a million naira to make, cost only two hundred naira. Everywhere in the state was full of billboards. During the campaign days you see several rallies. During the night it is time to carry and distribute bags of rice, beans, garri, vegetable oil; and even cash to market women and electorates. Paola even distributed fertilizers in bags, promising the state that he would make agriculture his main priority. Anthony was distributing water tankers promising them they will have water the moment he gets to power. One thing in Nigerian politics, you cannot understand is why a person will be given two hundred and fifty naira that cannot buy a loaf of bread and the

SOURCE: AMAZON.COM  
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# My best friend is pregnant for my boyfriend

Dear Agatha,

Please help me with this problem. It is very urgent. My wedding date has been fixed for the first week of May. The church has been informed and preparations are already on. The family of my fiancé has even met mine for the introduction ceremony.

But it appears the wedding ceremony may never hold as I just discovered my best friend, my chief bride's maid is pregnant for my husband-to-be. I didn't even know they were having an affair until I chanced on them when I went to his house unexpectedly to pick an item I forget. For some inexplicable reasons, I decided to use the back door, something I have never done in our four years of dating.

They were in the kitchen discussing the issue: he wanted her to have an abortion while she apparently didn't want one. I heard her asking him why she would do such a stupid thing when it was what she had always wanted; that he should be man enough to let me know the situation of things between them.

I didn't have the patience to wait any longer as I opened the door on them. From their attire, she slept over at his place since they knew I would be away to Ogbomoso for the weekend to see my parents. I actually came back earlier than expected because of the document I forgot at his place in addition to the fact that I was missing him.

My facial expression told them I heard their conversation. My friend ran away from the kitchen while my boyfriend prevented me from committing murder as he wrestled to take the kitchen knife I grabbed from the table to stab her.

The commotion I caused drew the attention of his neighbors, all who condemned both he and my friend for betraying me. An elderly woman from the next compound offered to drive me home for fear I might do something stupid.

She it was, who explained to my elder sister what took place at my boyfriend's. This happened last weekend and until now, he hasn't come to see me though his friends, especially his best friend, have been to my house severally to see how I was coping.

His parents and siblings have also come to visit me and pledge their support for me. They assured my parents that they were ready to go ahead with all the arrangements but I'm



**Agatha Edo**  
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scared for the future. I'm so confused, hurt and bitter right now. I'm angry that I cannot erase from my heart the love I have for him.

Angel.

Dear Angel,

Your confusion, anger and pain are all affiliated to the kind of experience you went through. Nobody in your shoes would feel otherwise given what you just discovered between your best friend and husband-to-be.

But in all these maze of confusion, give God all the glory that you discovered this truth before your wedding ceremony. At least you have the right of choice-whether to continue with the ceremony or terminate the arrangement.

It would have been more devastating if your discovery came after the ceremony. How would you have coped with the knowledge that not only have you been betrayed by your best friend and husband; but that they are going to have a baby together as well?

Whether you like it or not, that child will always be a constant reminder of their betrayal. It is one thing to be cheated on but, another cup of tea when it involves someone as close as one's best friend, the pains never go away because of the memories of what you once shared as friends and confidants.

Honestly, it is a very difficult situation to find oneself; battling with the knowledge that you have been played for a fool by the two people you trusted the most. No matter how much you love this man, trusting him or any friend for that matter will always be an issue for you.

Yes, his family has come to do the needful, empathize with you, which is very decent and commendable of them but this matter has very little to do with them. They may desire you for their son but the truth is, their son's mind is with someone else. The fact that he had unprotected sex with your best friend re-

moves his relationship with her from being casual. If it was just an affair, a distraction, he would have insisted on wearing a condom knowing the consequences of sleeping with a woman without a protection.

Doubtless he feels something for you but obviously not enough to stop him from developing strong feelings for your best friend and damning the consequences. That he allowed her to share the privacy of the place you have come to treat as your home, speaks volume of his feelings for her.

He may not even know it yet, but from all that have happened between those two, it's best you take a long walk away from them. A broken relationship is better than a broken marriage. As it is now, you are the victim hence have the sympathy of everyone so, don't be ashamed of facing the world with your head held high. You may have been betrayed by your best friend and the man you love but, God has not let you down: the reason He allowed their secret to be exposed before it became too late for you to do anything about your situation.

No matter his reasons, accept the fact that he isn't and has never been yours to keep. He came into your life to teach you the lesson of trust and for a period of time. His time in your life is obviously up so let go so you can move on to the place God really wants you to be. Your greatest undoing would be your inability to learn from this experience. X-ray the things you did wrong, those things, signs you took for granted or ignored. The fact that you and someone have been together for a long time isn't the same thing as knowing that person well enough, hence the need to be careful whom to trust. You may have known your best friend for a long time but there are aspects of her you didn't bother to decipher or read correctly.

You may also have been tolerant of some of her excesses you knew were wrong in the past because of friendship. Being friends with someone doesn't mean turning a blind eye to the person's faults. The place of a friend is to always correct with love and support irrespective of whether the friend wants to hear the truth or not.

If you care to look back, yours wouldn't be the first time your friend is betraying another woman. Trust works wonderfully



## PASSION

### With this Ring

**By: Pastor Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi**

Grace and Albert were silent for about a minute.

Then Grace asked him, "You said you would tell me why we won't be going to Chumsey Restaurant again."

He didn't talk immediately. He finally said, "I'm not certain this is the right time to talk about that."

"Why not? What happened?"

"I don't want to talk about it. At least not now. I'm not in the right frame of mind."

She laughed.

"You've upset me."

Smiling, she asked, "Because I won't marry you?"

He sipped the juice in his cup.

"Why will you want to marry someone you don't love?" She finally said.

He looked at her. "What do you mean?"

"When Pastor Femi asked if you loved me, you said you weren't sure. Remember?"

He frowned. "Yes. And I also remember that I said I don't hate you. I like you."

Well, to her, the important thing was that he didn't say he loved her. She shook her head.

"What?"

She shrugged. "Nothing."

"I don't want to hear that word again, Grace!" He said firmly.

She smiled and looked away.

"I have feelings for you. I care about you and I care about our baby." He told her. The frown was still in place.

"Let's keep on praying. Can we change the subject back to Chumsey Restaurant?"

He hesitated a little before he spoke. "Well, there's not much to be said. Er... I hope it won't upset you."

"Like you, I'm upset, so go ahead."

"What upset you?"

"Don't worry about it. I'm listening."

"Well, it's about the girl who attended to us the last time we went there."

"I knew it!"

"Let me land, will you?"

"Okay, I'm sorry." She said. "Go on."

"She suggested bringing her CV to my house."



**Pastor Taiwo Odubiyi**

"To your house?"

"Grace!"

"Alright, I'm listening."

"Well, she came -"

"You allowed her to come to your house?"

He went on. "Well, I have to admit that you were right; she wanted me."

"So what happened? Were you intimate with her?"

"Let me talk, Grace. She came that day. When she came two days after, I asked her to leave, and told her I didn't want to see her again."

"Were you intimate with her? Did you sleep with her?"

"Only on the first day. I realised it was wrong and sinful, and I stopped."

"Interesting." She said and smiled in a sad way. "And you were asking me to marry you just some minutes ago?"

"I've stopped. I'm not seeing her again. I had not made a serious commitment to the Lord then. When she called me some days ago, I told her to desist from contacting me. I decided to tell you about her because I wanted to be honest with you. I didn't have to tell you, you know."

"Look Albert, I'm not sure I want a man like you in my life or my child's life for that matter."

"Please stop!" He told her firmly.

She didn't. "What kind of a life is that? You didn't know her from Adam! When she invited herself to your house, you were supposed to tell her off. But no, you gave her your address and asked her to come. And as if that was not terrible enough, you had to sleep with her! Just like that?! The first time she came to your house! You might as well have gone in to a prostitute! It's unbelievable!" She said angrily, her eyes blazing. "And you call yourself a Christian!"

"Look Grace, I won't do such a thing again. You

have to believe that. I'm a changed person now. That was why I didn't want to go to Chumsey. I don't want to see her again and I told her to stop calling me. What if I didn't tell you, you wouldn't have known, would you?"

"Look, you can do whatever you like! I'm not your wife."

"You're not helping me, Grace. I told you that I walked her out of my house the second time, shouldn't that tell you something? I told you about her because I wanted to be transparent. I also wanted you to advise me on what to do. I wanted to be held responsible. But now, you're making me regret telling you."

"You're regretting telling me?"

"Yes."

She calmed herself down and tried to explain, "Well, I don't know about that but I'll tell you this, you should not regret doing the right thing -"

"I'm regretting it."

"What did you expect me to say about such a thing? You thought I would smile and applaud you? No way! If you know a woman who would do that, I'll suggest you go to her."

"I know what I did was wrong but I expected us to discuss it. I also wanted you to protect me from such ladies but maybe I expected too much."

"Albert, don't make me feel guilty about this. I -"

He downed his drink and as he signaled at the waiter who stood close by, he told her, "Get the money out."

He took his phone and began to press some buttons.

The bill was brought which Grace settled promptly and they left.

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 okadabooks.com

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Available on Amazon / Kindle)

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well when you help people around you become trustworthy in everything they do. That is the only time you can expect them to treasure your trust.

As for your boyfriend, painful as this experience is, let go of him. There is a

better man around the corner waiting for your attention. God never does anything without a better plan in the offering. Trust me, one day you will look back at this experience and offer prayer of gratitude to God.

To help you forget,

if you can, go away for a while to be in the presence of God. Believe me, His are the only hands that can strengthen you through this period.

Good luck.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Benin First Female Presidential Candidate Accused of Terrorism, Jailed

By Stanley Ugagbe

A government spokesperson has revealed that the leader of Benin's largest opposition party and first female presidential candidate has been arrested and accused of "planning to assassinate several political figures".

Local reports have it that Reckya Madougou's candidacy for the presidential election on April 11 was rejected by the electoral commission for failing to garner signatures of support from 16 mayors or MPs.

Reports have it that many opposition figures are already in exile or barred from office in Benin, a West African state which critics say has veered into authoritarianism under President Patrice Talon.

"Compatriots who



Reckya Madougou

were preparing to commit crimes have designated Reckya Madougou as their sponsor," Alain Orounla, spokesperson for the government of Benin, said.

46-year-old Madougou, who is the head of the Les Démocrates party was

"planning to assassinate several political figures," he added, stressing that it was a "very serious offense of terrorism".

Lawyer Renaud Agbodjo said Madougou was "indicted for financing terrorism", adding that an in-

vestigation was open, but that no trial was "in sight for now".

Reports have it that a total of 20 would-be candidates officially handed in their documents to run for the presidency, but the electoral commission said only the three chosen had met the requirements.

It's important to note that Talon, a cotton magnate, who was elected into office in 2016 said at the time he wanted to serve a single term only, before changing his mind and announcing his candidacy in mid-January for the April vote.

He will battle former minister Alassane Soumano and Corentin Kohoue, a dissident opposition figure.

## Pamela Smith named by US Park Police as its 1st Black Female Chief

The U.S. Park Police has named Pamela Smith as its new Chief. That makes her the first Black woman to lead the 230-year-old law enforcement agency.

Smith, who has spent 23 years in the force, revealed she would commence her term by creating body-worn cameras for every Park Police officer.

In a statement, she said: "This is one of the many steps we must take to continue to build trust and credibility with the public we have been entrusted to serve."



Pamela Smith

Smith added that body-worn cameras are "good for the public and good for our officers."

The statement said the camera program would commence in San Francisco between 90 days

and spread to other parts of the country by the end of the year.

Smith will oversee an extensive law enforcement agency that always finds itself under a spotlight at important historical moments. The U.S. Park Police supervises national parks and federal property like the National Mall.

During the tensed protests over police brutality and racial inequity that occurred last summer, Park Police was responsible for violently clearing peaceful protestors from Lafayette Park close to White House

and spread to other parts of the country by the end of the year. The agency later got embroiled in controversy over the tactics and ammunitions deployed against peaceful demonstrators.

Smith's appointment came at a time when Yogananda Pittman became the first Black person and first woman to become Acting Chief of the U.S. Capitol Police. She took over an agency encountering turmoil after it was overwhelmed during the January 6 attack on the Capitol by supporters of Donald Trump.

## Finally, Sudan's ousted president to face ICC over war crimes charges

By Stanley Ugagbe

Finally, members of Sudan's ruling council have revealed that they will hand ousted president Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court in The Hague where he is wanted for war crimes and genocide.

Local reports have it that the former number one citizen of the nation was indicted by the ICC on charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and committing genocide in Sudan's war-torn region of Darfur. Recall that two arrest warrants were issued

in 2009 and 2010.

But he has repeatedly denied the allegations.

It would be recalled that Bashir was forced from office in April last year by the military after nationwide protests against his 30-year rule.

The ousted leader stood trial in Sudan on corruption charges and was sentenced to two years in jail in December, a ruling many said was too lenient.

It was gathered that the country's joint military and civilian council were reluctant to send the leader to the Hague.

But in a recent de-

velopment, the country's information minister Faisal Saleh and Mohammed Hassan al-Taishi, a member of the Sovereign Council and a government negotiator, said the government and rebel groups in Darfur agreed that those wanted by the ICC would be presented to the tribunal.

Though, they did not mention Bashir by name and did not say when the former president, or the others wanted by the ICC, would be transferred.

In his words, Taishi averred that the two sides agreed to create a Darfur special court to investigate

and hear cases including those investigated by the ICC.

The embattled former leader's lawyers said he has refused to deal with the ICC dismissing it as a "political court". He has repeatedly insisted Sudan's judiciary is able to deal with any case.

It should be noted that Darfur, located on Sudan's most western edge, has witnessed horrific violence since a civil war erupted in 2003 when rebel groups took up arms against Bashir's government that they accused of oppressing Sudan's non-Arab population.

## Biden Administration Kicks as Turkey moves to ban Kurdish-linked political party

By Stanley Ugagbe

In what has formed a major debacle in the public domain, Turkey's efforts to shut down one of the country's largest opposition parties drew a sharp rebuke from the President Joe Biden administration, which warned that the actions by Turkish authorities could "unduly subvert the will of Turkish voters" reports said.

According to the reports, the warning came after a top Turkish prosecutor filed a case with the Constitutional Court seeking to dissolve the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party, or HDP, after accusing it of links to a Kurdish militant group. In another striking move, Turkey's parliament in a recent development stripped Omer Faruk Gergerlioglu, a prominent HDP lawmaker and human rights advocate, of his seat.

Reports said the moves sharply accelerated a year-long government crackdown on Kurdish politicians while undermining recent pledges by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to strengthen human rights in Turkey, including freedom of expression, as his government seeks to mend tattered relations with the United States and other Western allies.

State Department in a statement by its spokesman, Ned Price called the move against Gergerlioglu "troubling" and said the United States was "monitoring" the push to dissolve the HDP — a move he said would "further undermine democracy in Turkey, and deny millions of Turkish citizens their chosen representation."

According to multiple reports, President Erdogan's government has long accused the HDP of links to the insurgent Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which is classified as a terrorist entity by Turkey as well as the United States.

Records have it that since 2016, Turkish authorities have jailed leaders of the HDP and removed or arrested dozens of party members who were elected to mayoral seats. Ultranationalist allies of Erdogan's ruling party have recently stepped up calls to ban the HDP.

A recent Twitter post by Erdogan's spokesman, Fahrettin Altun, said the "HDP's senior leaders and

spokespeople, through their words and deeds, have repeatedly and consistently proved that they are the PKK's political wing."

Meanwhile, the HDP has denied acting on behalf of the PKK and tied the government crackdown to the party's repeated success during recent elections, after decades in which a string of Kurdish parties struggled to gain political traction.

It was gathered that the party, the third largest in parliament, has peeled away voters from Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party by advocating for greater political and cultural rights for Kurds, who make up roughly a fifth of Turkey's population but struggle for recognition in a country that privileges Turkish ethnicity.

The party, in a statement said "Not having been able to overpower HDP ideologically, politically or at the ballot box, they are now aiming to eliminate HDP from democratic politics by means of the judiciary. Their aggressiveness originates from their deep fear".

Several human rights groups quipped that the threatened ban posed significant peril to Turkey's already battered democratic institutions. It also escalated tensions with the United States, a NATO ally, which has chastised Ankara over human rights issues several times since President Biden took office.

Reacting to the criticisms, in a statement, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said "We invite those who are unbalanced and attempt to interfere with internal affairs to respect the judicial processes carried out by independent courts," the statement said.

It was gathered that in the recent case filed against the HDP, Supreme Court Chief Public Prosecutor Bekir Sahin accused the party of "aiming to destroy and abolish the indivisible integrity of the State with its country and nation".

In addition to seeking to dissolve the party, the indictment asked for a permanent political ban on more than 600 of the party's members, in an apparent attempt to prevent the HDP from reconstituting itself under a different name.

## Samia Emerges as First Female President of Tanzania

By Stanley Ugagbe

History has been made in Tanzania as Samia Suluhu Hassan has been sworn in as the nation's President, making her the first female leader of the East African country.

The 61-year-old was sworn into office following the sudden and controversial death of his predecessor John Pombe Magufuli.

While taking the oath, she said "I Samia Suluhu Hassan, swear and solemnly affirm that I will be faithful to the United Republic of Tanzania, and serve it with all my heart, and that I will preserve and defend the constitution of the union of Tanzania in accordance with the law laid down, so help me God".

"I swear that I will undertake my presidential duties for Tanzania faithfully and conscientiously fulfill those responsibilities," she told the ceremony attended by military and government officials.

Making her first statement as the president of Tanzania, Suluhu said:



Samia Suluhu Hassan

"The oath I took today of office is different and unlike any other I have ever taken in comfort, excitement and joy. I took this oath with sorrow and all across the country there is great sadness, I took this oath on a day of mourning."

"For this I am sorry."

The history maker announced 21-day mourning for Magufuli, adding that all flags of Tanzania will fly at half-mast for the period.

Magufuli reportedly died of a heart condition at the age of 61. His death came after two weeks of speculation about his health on suspicion of contracting COVID-19.

It is imperative to

note that before taking the office of the president, Suluhu served as the vice president for six years. The Muslim woman became the first Tanzanian vice president when she took the office in 2015.

Suluhu, a mother of four also served as a member of the Zanzibar House of Representatives in 2000-2005. It was also during this time that she was elected as the minister of labour by then President Amani Karume.

She served as the Zanzibar minister of tourism in 2005-2010. The history maker was the parliamentary member of Makunduchi area of Tanzania in 2010-2015.

## BUSINESS

### Twitter founder, Jack Dorsey auctions first tweet for \$2.9 million

By N.Ugoh

The founder of Twitter, Jack Dorsey, recently sold his first tweet in an auction to a Malaysia-based CEO for \$2.9 million.

The tweet is in a type of a Non-Fungible Token (NFT) – a unique digital asset whose popularity has increased this year.

According to Valuables by Cent, the digital platform where the tweet was digitally auctioned, Dorsey auctioned his first

tweet, which read: "just setting up my Twitter," that was tweeted on March 21, 2006, to Sina Estavi, the Chief Executive Officer of a technology firm, Bridge Oracle.

The digital platform will get five percent of the sale.

The tweet was bought with Ether, a famous cryptocurrency that is similar to Bitcoin.

While talking about the development, Estavi

tweeted: "This is not just a tweet. I think years later, people will realise the true value of this tweet; like the Mona Lisa painting."

NFT certificate, an uncommon digital certificate that detects the owner of a photo, video, or any kind of online media will be issued to the buyer. The certificate will be digitally signed and verified by Dorsey.

The Twitter founder confirmed that the sale proceeds would go to charity.

### United States tells China to 'immediately release' 2 detained Canadians

By Bunmi Akintilo

The United States has again called publicly for the immediate release of two Canadians detained in China.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken released a message recently after Michael Kovrig's trial in China came to an end without a judgement. Also, Michael Spavor's trial, which took place few days before Kovrig's trial had the same outcome as they were both promised a decision from the judicial system of China at a later date.

While calling for their immediate release, Blinken tweeted: "We join our partners in calling on Beijing to immediately release the two arbitrarily detained Canadians, Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig."

"Human beings are not bargaining chips."

China justified the opaque nature of the proceedings by insisting that the "state secrets" that had to be discussed in both cases made it impossible to open the courtroom doors.

Spavor and Kovrig were accused of espionage, a crime punishable in China

by life in prison with a minimum sentence of 10 years. The courts in China bragged about 99.7 per cent conviction rate, which implies that once a trial has commenced, conviction is certain.

This is not the first time the present administration of United States has publicly talked against the detention of the two Canadians. After a meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau last month, U.S. President Joe Biden said both countries are working together to try to get the release of the two detained Canadians.

## FBI Reportedly asked White Arkansas Teacher to flee after humiliating Black Boy

By Stanley Ugagbe

Facebook user, Mark Cannon has alleged that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) warned Karla Lasiter to "leave town" due to death threats.

According to Black Enterprise, Lasiter, a white elementary school teacher in North Little Rock, Arkansas was placed on administrative leave after making a 5-year-old Black student unclog a stopped-up toilet with his bare hands.

Delineating on the development, Cannon took to Facebook to update his followers to tell them that someone associated with Lassiter had contacted him and informed him that, due to death threats and bad reviews, the FBI advised her to leave town until things

died down.

He wrote: "They've been forced to shut it down because of all the death threats and the phone calls. And the FBI has gotten involved and told her it's best to just go ahead and shut the business down and leave town."

The report also noted that a petition has been started on Change.org calling the "firing and loss of license to teach" for the white teacher, Lasiter, who made the 5-year-old Black boy remove feces from a school toilet.

"Karla Lasiter, a teacher at Crystal Hill elementary in North Little Rock Arkansas, forced a child to clean out a toilet containing feces with his bare hands. Whether racially motivated or not it is clear this was

done to humiliate the child, something a teacher should never aim for. Further she has put this child's health at risk, as this act is extremely unsanitary. She is currently under investigation while on administrative leave. What is being investigated is not known as she admitted to the act both to the family of the child and the principal. This cannot go unpunished. This petition is to call for the firing of Karla Lasiter and further the loss of license to teach in the state of Arkansas. Please feel free to research further before signing but I implore you please sign. If she is to go unpunished it will set back the fight against teachers and their abuse of power in schools against students, especially POC students. Thank you."

## Dutch PM Claims Fourth Term

By Stanley Ugagbe

Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Mark Rutte has claimed a fourth term in office after an "overwhelming" victory in the recent elections.

The PM vowed to use his fourth term in office to rebuild the country after the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking to newsmen in parliament, Rutte said "The voters of the Netherlands have given my party an overwhelming vote of confidence".

He conceded that "not everything has gone well in the last 10 years" but said the main challenge was to rebuild the country after the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I have the energy for



Mark Rutte

and a ban on public gatherings during the day, the campaign was conducted mostly through television debates.

The Netherlands is currently under its most stringent health measures yet including the curfew and closure of bars and restaurants.

Millions of masked voters cast their ballots in pandemic conditions at museums, churches and bike-through polling stations on the third and final day of the elections, which have been dominated by the government's response to the pandemic.

Reports said roughly 13 million voters were eligible to pick from dozens of parties contesting spots.

## Queen Elizabeth to be removed as the Head of State of Barbados in November 2021

By N.Ugoh

The Government of Barbados has announced that plans are underway to remove Queen Elizabeth II as its Head of State.

The process of removing Queen Elizabeth's would be complete in November 21, 2021 when Barbados celebrates 55th anniversary of independence from Britain.

The decision was taken in 2020 when a government statement said, "The time has come to fully leave our colonial past behind."

Prime Minister Mia Mottley revealed Barba-



dians wanted a Barbadian Head of State.

In a speech, he said: "This is the ultimate statement of confidence in who we are and what we are capable of achieving."

While reacting to the announcement, Bucking-

ham Palace said that it was a matter of the government and the great people of Barbados.

BBC quoted a palace source and reported that the idea "was not out of the blue" and "has been mooted and publicly talked about many times."

## SPORTS

# No Messi, Ronaldo in UCL Quarter-Finals for the first time since 2005



By Stanley Ugagbe

For the first time since the 2004-2005 season, neither five-time Ballon D'Or winner, Lionel Messi nor his major rival, Cristiano Ronaldo will play in the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals.

For many football fans, eliminating Juventus and Barcelona from the Champions League

Round of 16, means the 'end of an era' in European football.

Both Messi and Ronaldo had been sensational over the last decade in their clubs by winning a combination of nine Champions League titles, Messi (4), Ronaldo (5). But with the latest development, it seems like that their dominance of over ten years came to an end.

Ronaldo's Juventus were surprisingly kicked out of

Champions League by Porto on away goals, while Barcelona was eliminated by PSG 5-2 on aggregate.

It is imperative to note that Messi made his Champions League debut in the 2004-2005 season against Shakhtar Donetsk when his team lost to the Ukrainian side 2-0.

He netted his first Champions League goal in Barcelona's 5-0 win over Panathinaikos and

lifted his first European Cup at the end of the 2005-2006 season.

The 33-year-old won his last Champions League title in 2015 and he led his team to victory by scoring ten goals in 13 matches.

Meanwhile, Barcelona failed to reach the UEFA Champions League quarters for the first time since the 06/07 season, snapping a 13-year-run.

On the other hand, a five-

time Champions League winner Cristiano Ronaldo, bagged his first Champions League trophy in 2008.

Ajax eliminated Juventus in the quarter-final in Cristiano's first season with the club. Last season, his team was knocked out in the round of 16 by Olympique Lyon.

Ronaldo is the current top scorer in the history of the Champions League.

## Nigerian basketball player who is 7' 9" goes viral and would be tallest player ever in NBA history

By Bunmi Akintilo

Talks about a Nigerian basketball player has emerged as one of the most discussed topics in basketball as many iconic basketball players are talking about him. The Nigerian basketballer became a topical issue after a video of him popped off on social media.

18-year-old Abiodun Adegoke is 7ft 9in and possesses the unique ability to slam dunk with his two feet well on the ground.

As things stand, the lanky Nigerian is set to become the tallest ever player in the NBA history after going viral. A recently shared clip shows the Nigerian working in the gym with trainers in Dubai during a youth talent development camp, where he has been playing recently.

The video shows Adegoke can dunk while standing with both feet on the ground, move with unbelievable agility and show close control while dribbling.

The clip was shared by NBA icon Shaquille O'Neal, who played at the centre during his time and leveraged on his 7ft 1in frame to destroy teams.

Adegoke currently stands seven inches above any player that has played in the biggest stage in basketball.

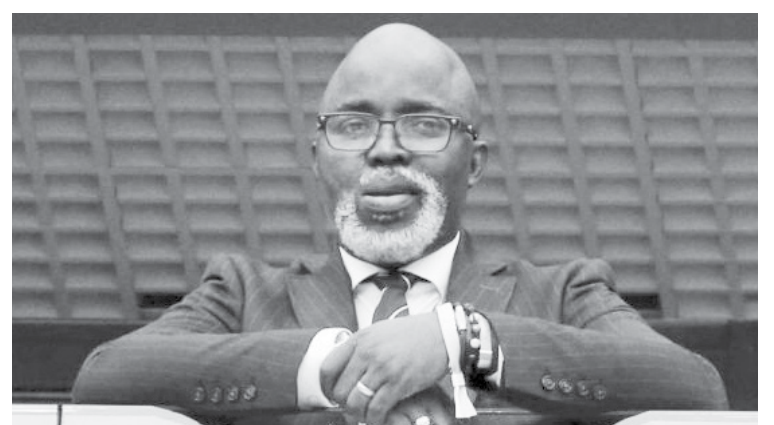
He is known as "bignaija" on Instagram and he has already

amassed tens of thousands of followers after he went viral.

He currently trains with the MPAC Sports UAE system as he considers the next stage of his career.



Adegoke



## NWF Felicitates With Pinnick On FIFA Council Election

By Tunde Ajibode

The Nigeria Wrestling Federation (NWF) has congratulated the President of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Amaju Pinnick on his historic election into the FIFA Council.

The NFF boss recorded a landslide 43-8 votes against incumbent challenger Walter Nyamilandu of Malawi at the CAF Ordinary and Elective General Congress in Rabat, Morocco to emerge only the third Nigerian to secure a seat on FIFA's highest decision-making body.

In a letter signed by its General Secretary, Abodi Patrick, the NWF hailed Pinnick for his outstanding leadership quali-

ties, which ultimately led to his latest victory.

"Your victory is not a surprise considering your leadership quality and your contribution to the development of football in Nigeria, Africa and the world at large," the letter read in part.

The NWF also charged Pinnick, who is a Member of the Organizing Committee for FIFA Competitions, to use his new office to attract success and glory to Nigeria and Africa at large.

"While we pray for your success in your new office, I also want to appeal to you to use your good office to bring back deserved glory of the continent at the highest body you are serving today," the letter added.

SPORTS

Ex-Toronto Raptor, Vince Gives back To Canada

By Stanley Ugagbe

The list of people giving back to society has again increased as Basketball legend Vince Carter, who got his start in the NBA with the Toronto Raptors, is showing his appreciation for Canada with a new scholarship opportunity.

It would be recalled that put the Raptors on the basketball map in 1998. It would also be recalled that Carter finished his professional basketball career with the Atlanta Hawks last year, retiring after a record 22 seasons. Although he's played for eight teams during his career, he's never forgotten where it began.

According to reports, applications are currently open for a new scholarship created by Carter in partnership with the Paris Media Group, which will send five kids who can't afford a private education to J. Addison School in Markham, north of Toronto.

Delineating on why Carter, who is an American decided to launch the program in Canada, Paris Dryden of Paris Media Group, told CTV News "That's where his NBA career began"

"He loved the atmosphere of Toronto and in Canada. He thrived here."

Reports said the scholarship is \$25,000 per student, and to apply, you need to be between 16 and 18 years old and headed into Grade 11 or 12 this fall.

A release said "While the

programs are open to all, Vince Carter strongly encourages the Black community, Indigenous community, people of colour and young women to apply"

"Statistics show that there are lower numbers of minorities and women within the named employment sectors, executive positions associated with the noted program fields but more noticeably in the STEM sector."

While stating that the deadline for applications is March 28, it was said that applicants must be passionate about a subject, but it could be anything from sports or music to science or math. They need to provide evidence of community service and a 500-word essay.

While students don't need to be athletes, J. Addison does have an elite girls basketball team, with some students already there on scholarship.

"Scholarships are very important because it gives them an opportunity to get into the school, get a great education, and also get access to a good university," Lee Venditti, principal of J. Addison School, told CTV News.

Remarking on the development, Chris Francis, who coaches the girls' basketball team, averred that it is "life-changing" for some of the students to receive scholarships.

"A lot of these kids are coming from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. These kids need a scholarship to ascend."

Carter said students from anywhere in the world can apply for the scholarships.



Thierry Henry to leave every social media platform until online abuse is tackled

By Bunmi Akintilo

Arsenal FC legend, Thierry Henry has announced he would disable all his social media accounts until racist users are probed for their posts by the platforms.

Henry made the announcement on his social media platforms recently after a lot of black footballers including Marcus Rashford, Tyrone Mings and Raheem Sterling complained about racist abuse they get on social media.

Henry said social media platforms like Twitter and Instagram are not doing enough to prevent racism on their platforms, as such, he would not return to social media until a change has been effected.

While making the announcement, Henry wrote: "Hi Guys,

"From tomorrow morning I will be removing myself from social media until the people in power

are able to regulate their platforms with the same vigour and ferocity that they currently do when you infringe copyright.

"The sheer volume of racism, bullying and resulting mental torture to individuals is too toxic to ignore. There HAS to be some accountability.

"It is far too easy to create an account, use it to bully and harass without consequence and still remain anonymous.

"Until this changes, I will be disabling my accounts across all social platforms. I'm hoping this happens soon."

Henry made a statement last July by taking a knee for eight minutes and 46 seconds when a match against New England Revolution started.

Also, he showed solidarity after the death of George Floyd, who passed on early 2020 after a Minnesota police officer stomped his knee

on his neck for the same amount of time that Henry knelt.

Furthermore, he explained the abuse he got after moving to the New York Red Bulls during an interview last year.

Henry said: "At one point, I said people didn't see my colour any more because I played football, because I was, in brackets, famous.

"When I came to play in the US, my colour came back because no one could recognise me, depending on which state we were in. My colour came back. It was the first time again that I felt like I left my neighbourhood."

"When I arrived in New York, some people could recognise me and some couldn't."

"When you ask for a cab, he looks and sees you are a certain colour and puts the light on and suddenly he isn't free any more. You're left like, 'Hang on I'm alone here'. It hit me again."



Canadian UFC fighter Aiemann Zahabi (left)

Canadian bantamweight Aiemann Zahabi defeats Rodriguez to end losing streak

By Stanley Ugagbe

In a recent show of skills, Canadian bantamweight Aiemann Zahabi knocked out Drako (The Great Drakolini) Rodriguez in the first round on the undercard of a UFC Fight Night show.

According to reporters who monitored the duel, Rodriguez had been pushing the early pace but Zahabi felled him with a right to the jaw and then finished him off with a couple of blows on the ground.

It was stated that the fight was stopped after three minutes five seconds with Rodriguez still receiving treatment on his stool when Zahabi's arm was raised. Official records have it that the knockout earned Zahabi a US\$50,000 performance bonus from the UFC.

It would be recalled that the two were originally slated to meet in December. But Zahabi,

a 33-year-old from Laval, Que., who is the younger brother of renowned trainer Firas Zahabi, had to pull out after testing positive for COVID-19. Speaking after the fight, Zabai said "I feel fantastic. I used to think winning in the UFC was great. But you know what feels even better? Breaking a two-fight losing streak, winning in the UFC with a knockout."

It would be recalled that the bantamweight talisman (8-2-0) had lost two straight since defeated Reginaldo Vieira by decision in February 2017. He dropped a decision to Vince (Vandetta) Morales in May 2019 and was knocked out by Ricardo (Carcacinha) Ramos at UFC 217 in November 2017.

On the other hand, Rodriguez, 24, (7-2-0) was making his UFC debut after earning a contract with a win over Leomana Martinez in Dana White's Contender Series last September.

Tiger Woods speaks five days after fatal car crash

By N.Ugoh

Tiger Woods has finally spoken out after his fatal car crash that left him with severe injuries.

In his first public talk after the accident, the professional golfer thanked his fans for their support after his surgery was

successful.

While thanking his fans, Woods tweeted: "It is hard to explain how touching today was when I turned on the tv and saw all the red shirts.

"To every golfer and every fan, you are truly helping me get through this tough time."

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department revealed that the crash

took place just after 7 a.m. on that fateful day in Rancho Palos Verdes, southwest Los Angeles.

Tiger was reported to have been driving at a "relatively greater speed than normal" at the time of the accident. He has however undergone a lot of procedures in a bid to treat the injuries he sustained on his lower right leg and ankle.



continued from p(1)

**HOW NIGERIAN & CANADIAN BUSINESS ..**

So I kind of figured that would be inconveniencing to all Nigerians in Canada. So we felt it was necessary to petition the High Commissioner in good faith to reconsider the charges and make it easier for Nigerians living in Canada.

NC Newspaper: Based on the number of signatures the petition has got and the responses of Nigerians globally, will you say that Nigerians are happy with the surcharges?

KWA: Nigerians are absolutely not happy. I will tell you this. Nigerians are kicking back. We are now in 2021. We are not in the nineteen seventy-something anymore. Nigerians are aware of their rights. They know what is right from what is wrong and they have the medium to speak out peacefully when they are being oppressed. That is why I think it is a good thing for them to have an avenue to express themselves in a civilized way and it is showing now.

NC Newspaper: Ghanaian High Commission charges \$117 and has more than one embassy in Canada. Do you think the Nigerian High Commission increased its charges in a bid to generate funds to open more embassies in Canada?

KWA: Well, I mean what you are referring to are consulates. Most of the countries have consulates all over Canada. We had approached the High Commission to look into that (opening of more consulates) and the feeling has always been that Nigeria cannot afford

to have consulates all over Canada.

So my guess will be that this fund is not for that. If Nigeria wanted to increase the fee for the passport, they can easily just raise the passport fee from \$90 to \$120 or something and then, everybody pays the same price and get their passport.

When Ojo Maduekwe was here, we as Nigerians in Canada were very proud of the service the embassy was rendering. When Bashir Shafiuwas the Immigration Officer, he pride himself that so long as people get in there before 5 O'clock, he would get the passports for them the same day and it was all free. So the new charges we find is very very unfair.

NC Newspaper: As a person that has spent over four decades in Canada, you have witnessed many Ambassadors in Canada. What can you say about the current Ambassador of Nigeria in Canada?

KWA: Well, Ambassador Adeyinka Asekun is a friend. We all welcomed him when he came to Canada to resume his duty. We wished him well. We have no problem against him personally.

We have problems with the fee that is being charged. We have problem with the fact that we were not consulted ahead of time. We were only given eight days as the communication came out on February 2 and was implemented on February 10. We didn't figure out that was a right approach to



**Wale Adesanya**  
National Chairman of Nigerian & Canadian Business Network (NCBN)

making that drastic change. We kind of figure that was a draconian style and we have the need to push back on that.

But as an Ambassador, he has been very good to us so we have no issue with him personally, we have problem with the fee that is being charged.

NC Newspaper: Speaking the minds of Nigerians, what advice will you offer the current Ambassador?

KWA: We had the pleasure of having an audience, a Zoom conference with the Ambassador and his deputy before and we had expressed our wish which is basically to suspend the fee for a while and maybe have a consultation with Nigerians in Canada as to why the fee was necessary and what value we are gonna be getting in return for the fee.

We feel that the fee should be reasonable. You cannot be charging \$250 on an \$100 passport fee that we already paid to Nigeria. So if it is a fraction of the real cost of the passport, then it may be acceptable. Like 15% of the \$100 rather than 250% on top of the \$100. I think that is not acceptable in any part of the world except Nigeria and I don't think Nigeria should continue to be unfair to its citizens. I think we should start taking better charge of our citizens.

NC Newspaper: Apart from being the National Chairman of the NCBN, you have many other commitments. How are you striking the balance such that one commitment does not affect other commitments?

KYA: It has to do with prioritizing my tasks when I wake up every morning. The network is a way to give back to Nigeria. I am also on

the board of African Canadian Political Action Committee. The committee pushes Canadian politicians to be respectful and support initiatives that benefit Africa. It is similar to what Israelis will do in Canada and what other countries are doing to push the Canadian government to look favorably to happenings in their countries, their motherland.

Also, personally,

I am the President of ADE Financial Group which is an insurance and investment group. But I have been doing that for over 30 years so that's natural for me. That is my business.

NC Newspaper: What effort are you putting in place to increase the membership strength of NCBN?

KWA: We are doing a lot of events. We have quarterly business forums that allow people to see what we are doing, ask questions and probably join the network.

We are a network of

business minded people that have something to offer one another. We bring them together to network and our events are usually well attended. We also have the Bridge Builder Series which is a way of introducing people that are creating jobs for other people in Nigeria.

We do a lot of activities and we have huge social media presence. We have our website, www.ncbn.ca as well as a Facebook and Twitter accounts and we do a lot of sponsorship.

NC Newspaper: On behalf of the Publisher, and other members of staff of Nigerian Canadian Newspaper, I say a big thank you for having this session with us. We hope you grant our request when next we request to have another session with you.

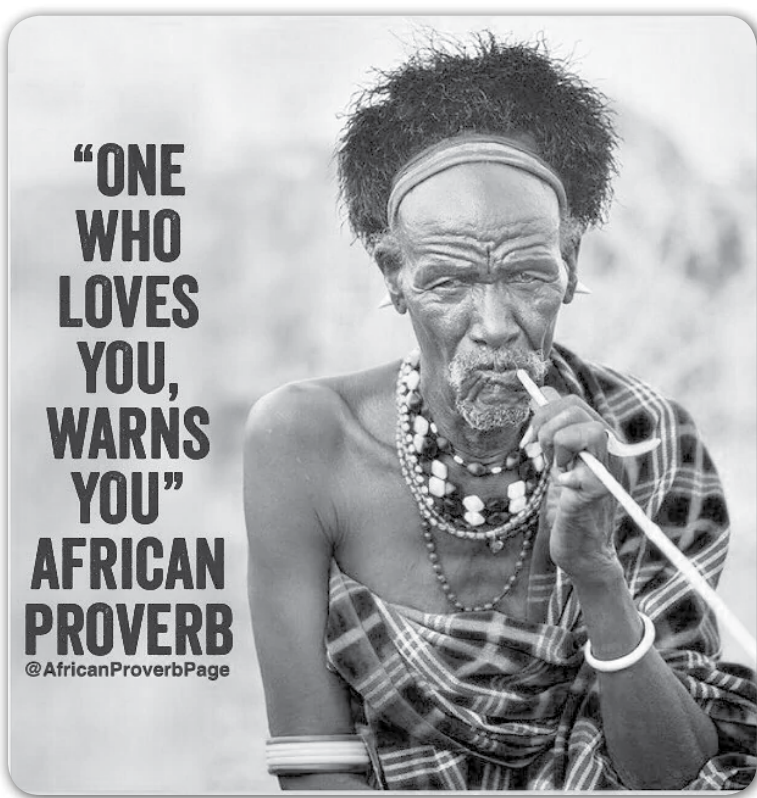
KWA: Thank you very much. I appreciate your time, my doors are very open to engage with you. Nigerian Canadian Newspaper that we all love is doing a great job. I wish you all the best and hopefully, we will keep the engagement going.

### answers from p(16) RIDDLES

- What's the largest ant in the world? - Elephant  
 What can you swallow that can also swallow you? - Water  
 What has teeth, but cannot eat? - comb  
 What's never used until it's broken? - egg  
 How many months have 28 days.? - All  
 When is your uncle's sister not your aunt? - When she's your mother  
 What kind of dog never bites? - Hot dog  
 What has eye but cannot see? - Hurricane  
 What has hands but cannot clap? - Clock

### answers from p(16) MATCH THE DEFINITIONS

- Postpone \_\_\_\_\_ adjourn  
 To have let off steam \_\_\_\_\_ Vent  
 Where laws are made \_\_\_\_\_ Parliament  
 To have a handicap is to have an \_\_\_\_\_ impediment  
 Advocate \_\_\_\_\_ support  
 To make a statement \_\_\_\_\_ Comment  
 To speak well is to be \_\_\_\_\_ Fluent  
 To stop something would be to \_\_\_\_\_ Prevent  
 Very watchful is being \_\_\_\_\_ Vigilant  
 Aid \_\_\_\_\_ help



RELIGION

Unity of purpose

Pastor Amos Dele Dada PhD; P. Eng

“John said to Jesus, “Master, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he isn’t in our group.” 50 But Jesus said, “Don’t stop him! Anyone who is not against you is for you”. Lk 9:49-50

God help the bride of Christ, the church and the body of Christ today is my sincere prayer. Can you imagine the fragmentation, cacophony, disunity that the church today is engulfed in? Imagine the disunity among the Pentecostals, evangelicals, mainline churches. Imagine the fragmentation within the Anglicans alone. Everyone proposes and alludes to their doctrines and believes they have the monopoly of God. We criticize one another as if that is the criterial for making heaven.

The Holy Spirit through the scripture above reminds me that it’s important that we stop majoring in minors and we should focus on

the major part of this gospel. The name of Jesus!

I want to remind us of two scriptures: “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” Eph 4:3-6

Here’s another one: “For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man. 1 Cor 3:3-5.

Whereas it is practically impossible for us to have one denomination, it is important that we stop drumming the drum of division amongst ourselves.

The major effect of disunity in the church

is that we turn potential believers away. Scarcely can you hear a sermon without the minister condemning, disparaging the other church. Can you imagine the confusion of a young believer when he sees 4 - 5 if not more churches in one building ? Are there not enough churches that young upcoming minister of God can team up with ! Must we continue with this independent churches that are built to fan and finance individuals empires?

Jesus says stop criticizing one another . Have the same goal, pursue one purpose .

This is what I believe the Holy Spirit is saying to the church today with respect to unity of purpose . Some ways to achieve this noble objective.

1. Develop the mind-set of one purpose - exalting Jesus. Wining souls for Jesus, promoting Jesus and lifting up Jesus. The scripture says “when I am lifted up I will draw all men to myself” Jn 12:32

2. Stop believing you have the monopoly of God. God can use any-



Pastor Amos Dada amos.dada@gmail.com

one. Drop the idea that you or your denomination have ideal way of serving God.

3. Focus on preaching Christ instead of criticizing other churches and ministers. That does not mean I endorse people who are outrightly evil. Rather if you don’t believe in tithing and the other minister believes in tithing, stop wasting your energy criticizing one another . There is no ministry that does not need money or use money it only means the way God supplies your need is different from the other one. As long as they are not using evil means to generate funds, let them be. Thank God for the way He is providing for your ministry. 1 Thes 5:18

4. Procedures and

Processes differ. That you are shouting and the other is quiet does not mean there are no scriptures for each approach. That you have slow music and others have fast tempo is immaterial . What matters is the lyrics. Are the lyrics propagating the gospel or exalting the flesh. God loves worship, use worship to magnify Christ and souls will be set free and many will be delivered. Don’t preach another gospel. Jesus never used the same method for healing all the time he was on earth. Don’t put Jesus in your denominational box! Gal 1:8, 2 Cor 11:4.

5. Use the name of Jesus. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Let us be united in using the name of Jesus. Acts 4:12. Jesus “ I am the Way, The Truth and The-Life” Period!

6. Use the power of the Holy Ghost . “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye

shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8. There is sufficient power in Christ to accomplish His agenda on earth. We don’t need occultic or voodoo power. Let us be united in depending on the Holy Ghost.

7. Use the Word. The bible is the Word. Jesus is the Word. There is power in the Word. There is healing, deliverance, prosperity and life in the Word. That is our common denominator. Heb. 4:12. You don’t need extrajudicial books and powers to proclaim Christ!

Conclusion: We have more to unite us in Christ than to divide us. Divided we will fall united we will stand. Let us be united in using the name of Jesus to propagate and proclaim the gospel. When you see another man not in your denomination or using your method to preach the gospel Jesus says: Don’t stop him! Anyone who is not against you is for you”. Lk 9:49-50. Shalom!

Archdiocese of São Paulo establishes chaplaincy for Nigerian Catholics in Brazil

By Bunmi Akintilo

Catholic news outlet, Crux has reported that the Archdiocese of São Paulo has created a personal chaplaincy for Nigerians, who constitute one of the biggest African communities in Brazil’s largest city.

The chaplaincy is named after Saint Josephine Bakhita and it will serve both immigrants and refugees that have felt estranged from a Church where according to them, they couldn’t feel at home.

While talking about the chaplaincy’s creation, Ikenna Kingsley Ojukwu, a Catholic layman that was key in the formation of the chaplaincy said: “Most Nigerians don’t speak Portuguese and can’t understand anything



during Mass. So, many of them end up joining a Neo-Pentecostal church in which services are held in English.”

Ojukwu saw the need to establish a Catholic community for Nigerians living in São Paulo when he journeyed to Nigeria in 2019 to visit his relatives. During the visit, he met Father Modestus Oguchi Alozie in Anambra state and asked him to visit Brazil during his next vacation.

Alozie said: “When I came to São Paulo, I didn’t have any plan to work with the Nigerians here. But I heard them continually complaining about the linguistic barriers they faced in church. Many people asked me to celebrate.”

That was when they decided to meet with Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo Vieira.

Not long after the meeting, Cardinal Odilo Scherer, the Archbishop of São Paulo, approved

the establishment of a chaplaincy.

Majority of the 3,300 Nigerians residing in São Paulo are Catholic men who travelled out of Nigeria to search for better life in Brazil and they are mostly from Southeast Nigeria. Also, there are some Northern Muslims and Yorubas. Eventually, some of them brought their families, but most of them live in São Paulo alone and send money home.

Father Paolo Parise, coordinator of Mission Peace, a Scalabrinian center that offers short-term shelter for immigrants and refugees in São Paulo, said a lot of Nigerians in Brazil had come running away from Islamist terror. He added that Nigerians encoun-

ter police profiling in Brazil due to the activities of one Nigerian drug mafia in the country.

Ojukwu said many of them are observant churchgoers and noted regretfully that Brazil, a predominantly Catholic nation, has citizens who hardly observe the sacraments.

Father Alozie said: “During confession, some Nigerians told me they hadn’t received the sacraments for five, 10, or even 13 years. And they thanked me for bringing God back to them.”

Festus Ogbogu Okoye migrated from Nigeria to São Paulo in 2001. As a Catholic, he was studying to be a priest in his home country but he never ceased to go to church

in Brazil, in spite of the linguistic differences.

While talking to Crux, Okoye said: “The blessings are the same, but it’s a different experience. When the Mass is your language, you feel at home.”

According to Alozie, the celebration of the creation of the chaplaincy united dozens of people not only from Nigeria, but also from other Anglophone African countries, like Ghana and South Africa.

He said: “Even people from French-speaking Burkina Faso attended our Mass. They felt close to their African brothers and joined us. The growing number of attendants will probably require a larger church in the future.”

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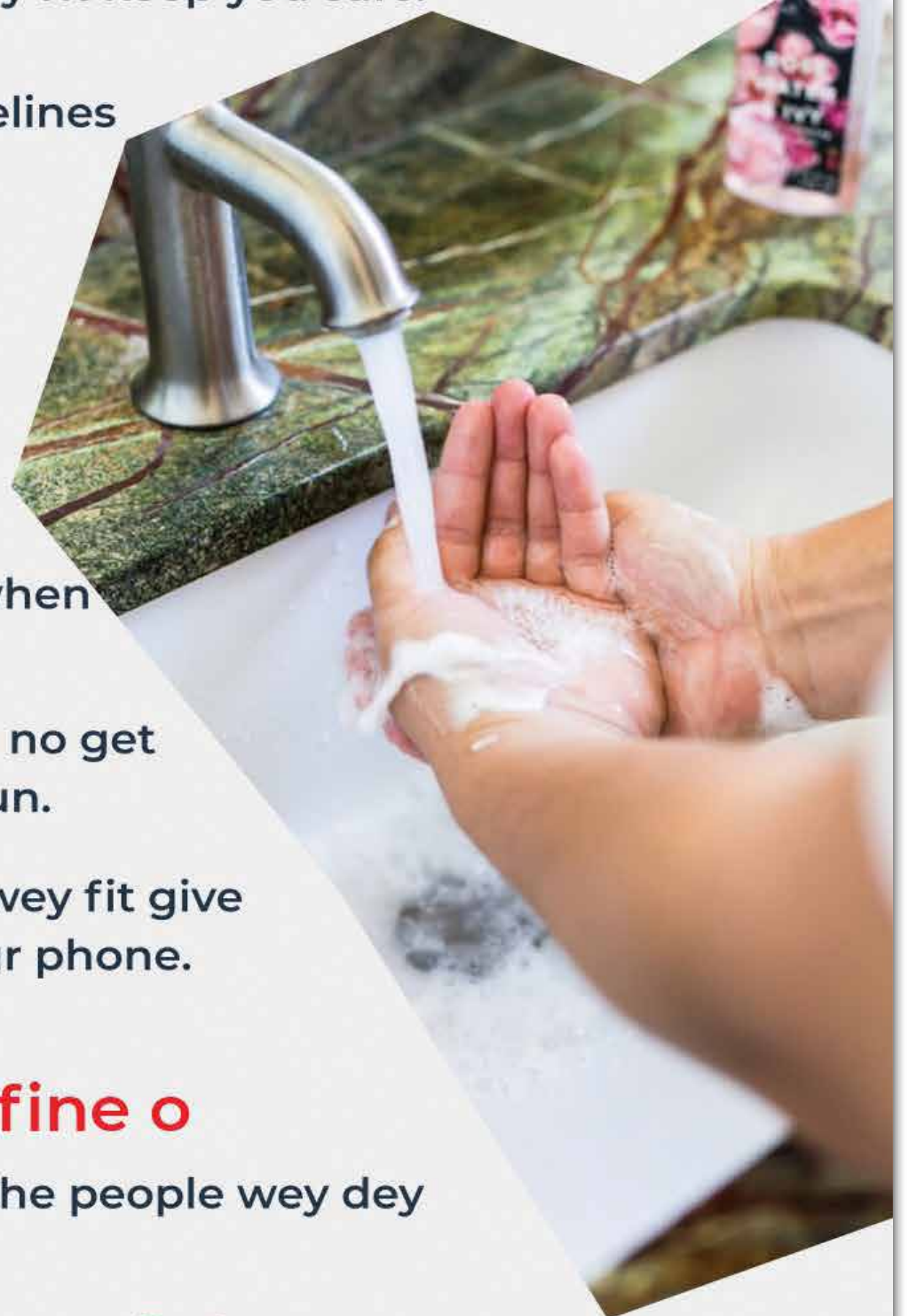


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