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### Christopher Uwagboe, appointed as new judge in Ontario

By N.Ugoh

Ontario's Attorney General Doug Downey has announced the appointments of Christopher Uwagboe, Sarah Tarcza, and Raymond Williams as new judges to the Ontario Court of Justice. Chief Justice Lise Maison-

neuve assigned Uwagboe to Winsor while Tarcza and Williams will be in Barrie. Justice Uwagboe was called to the bar in 2007. He began his legal career with the London Middlesex Crown Attorney's

■ Christopher Uwagboe, see page 25

### Patience Ajao becomes the branch manager of TD bank

By N.Ugoh

Patience Adesuwa Ajao, a Nigerian-Canadian, is excited to have been elevated to Branch Manager at TD Bank.

WHILE expressing her excitement on social media, she recalled being told by people that she would not get promoted because of her race, gender and the fact that she is an immigrant from Nigeria.

She wrote: "Upon relocating to Canada eight years ago, I was told to abandon all thoughts of building a career, and just, survive. A few months later, I accepted the



Customer Service Representative role with one of Canada's top five Banks.

"Talks in my ears sounded like:

you will not get promoted, you will be a teller for life, remember you are black, a woman and an immigrant from Nigeria, three strikes against you. Forging on, I moved through four roles: Financial Services Representative, Financial Advisor, Manager of Customer Experience, and Assistant Branch Manager.

"In addition to having my 3rd

■ Patience, see page 25

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NIG. E-PASSPORT IN CANADA - Pg. 7  
 QUIT WITHOUT RESIGNATION - Pg. 8  
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See page 15

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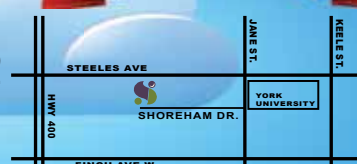
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# Strengthening The Food Supply Chain In The Face Of Yuletide

In the wake of the Yuletide season, the Ontario Government has unveiled plans to build a strong, secure food supply chain and secure the province's position as a food leader in Canada. This was embedded in the Grow Ontario Strategy that outlines the province's plan to strengthen the agri-food sector, ensure an efficient, reliable, and responsive food supply and address ongoing vulnerabilities through new innovations. The Grow Ontario Strategy goal is to increase food and beverage GDP by 10 per cent by 2032.

Recall that in recent years, experts have continued to bemoan the sector's vulnerabilities which include labour shortages, outdated supply chain infrastructure and declining processing capacity.

Harping on the initiative, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural

Affairs, Lisa Thompson, said "The Grow Ontario Strategy is our government's plan to make sure the province's food supply chain remains safe, strong and stable from farm to fork. This plan is a bold vision of pride and trust in the quality and quantity of food produced in Ontario, grown on the foundation of a competitive agri-food industry that serves the needs of Ontarians, Canadians and the world."

According to the government, the plan focuses on three key priorities: (1) Strengthen Agri-food Supply Chain Stability: Increase both the consumption and production of food grown and prepared in Ontario by 30 per cent, increase Ontario's food and beverage manufacturing GDP by 10 per cent and boost Ontario's agri-food exports eight per cent annually by 2032. This includes opening applica-

tions for the \$10 million Food Security and Supply Chain Fund which will provide funding for projects such as updated inventory software, expanded warehousing to allow increased inventory levels or automation equipment to address labour gaps. The province is also strengthening its food processing capacity and food security to position the sector for growth through the \$25 million Strategic Agri-Food Processing Fund.

(2) Increase Agri-food Technology and Adoption: Boost research infrastructure, advance the uptake of new technologies, grow the market for Ontario innovative technologies domestically and globally, and grow the use of data to support efficiencies in the agri-food sector and value chain. The province will also begin consultations on modernizing the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario Act to fuel innovation and support efforts to provide modern, relevant research information to farmers and agri-food businesses.

(3) Attract and Grow Ontario's Agri-food Talent: The province aims to increase total agri-food sector employment by 10 per cent by 2032, as well as increase awareness of modern, high-tech agri-food careers, opportunities for mentorship and hands-on job training, and support efforts to increase veterinary capacity in underserved areas of

the province. This includes launching public consultations to explore opportunities to modernize the Veterinarians Act as part of the plan to increase access to veterinary care in Ontario.

As a people-oriented paper, we share the thoughts of Minister of Red Tape Reduction, Parm Gill on the development: "The Grow Ontario Strategy is an important part of Less Red Tape, Stronger Ontario, our fall red tape reduction package to strengthen provincial supply chains and improve competitiveness. We're stepping up our efforts to work directly with Ontarians to remove red tape and regulatory barriers across government, so people can thrive and businesses can prosper," Gill said.

Remarkably, the Grow Ontario Strategy was informed by the insights of farmers, Indigenous community representatives, food sector leaders and businesses. The government has also revealed that it is working to reduce duplication and unnecessary burden and is encouraging the agri-food sector to submit their best ideas to reduce legislative and regulatory barriers to help enable a stronger supply chain.

Without mincing words, a secure food supply chain is one thing that is critical to the well-being of residents especially in these globally troubled times. Apparently, this move by the government will strengthen the supply

chain while supporting the province's all-important agri-food sector.

More so, it will in turn create more jobs for residents. Currently, Ontario's agri-food sector employs more than 750,000 people, accounting for one-in-ten jobs in the province. 48,346 Ontario farms produce over 200 different commodities.

As an important sector that contributes \$47 billion in GDP to the provincial economy, representing 6.4 per cent of total Ontario GDP, we strongly believe that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' move of expanding international trade markets for agri-food businesses by embarking on a trade mission with businesses to Japan and Vietnam in February 2023, is a welcome development.

We applaud the initiative and we hope that the government will bring it to manifestation. We call on all stakeholders to partner with the government to ensure that this initiative see the light of the day. We are confident that if the goal is achieved, it will positively impact everyone in the province. Food remains one of the basic needs of man and efforts must always be made for its security.

Meanwhile, we urge everyone to celebrate responsibly in this yuletide season. All of us at The Nigerian Canadian Newspaper wish You a Merry Christmas in advance.

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## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### 5 tips for staying safe and healthy during winter

(NC) The colder months can present risks to anyone, but for those living with arthritis, staying safe and healthy can be more challenging.

While winter does present some hazards, you can help protect yourself by following these tips from Arthritis Society Canada.

#### 1. Move your physical activity indoors

Slippery conditions, snow covered trails and fewer daylight hours can pose a risk for outdoor activity, but spending more time indoors shouldn't mean less movement.

Exercising on a regular basis has been shown to reduce the pain of arthritis. Use light weights or resistance bands to work on making muscles stronger while doing low-impact indoor activities such as stationary cycling or swimming to improve your cardiovascular health.

#### 2. Ensure a safe outdoor environment

A well-lit pathway, as well as a salted or sanded walkway will help you avoid slips and falls, especially in the dark.

If you use a mobility aid such as a cane or walker, replace the tips if they are worn out. Consider adding ice-pick-like attachments onto the end of your cane for additional traction when walking in the snow.

#### 3. Safe snow removal

Consider having someone assist with snow removal to guarantee it's done on a regular basis. If you decide to do it yourself, ensure you use proper shoveling techniques or invest in a snow blower. Keep the shovel close to your body and try to push the snow rather than lift. As with any physical activity, don't overdo it and take regular breaks.

#### 4. Dress appropriately

Ensure you're dressed for the weather with the right footwear and layers for warmth. Choose boots that are waterproof, lightweight, comfortable and have good quality lining or insulation to keep the feet warm.

Dressing in multiple layers will help you keep warm and reduce heat loss. As a guideline, wearing two or three thinner layers of loose-fitting clothing is usually warmer than a single thick layer.

#### 5. Stock up on essentials

Be prepared in case of emergency. Keep your fridge, pantry and medication cabinet stocked with at least three to five days' worth of supplies. Stock up on non-perishables and keep flashlights and batteries handy.

*You can find more tips at arthritis.ca.*

### Top tips for last-minute travellers

(NC) After a long couple of years many of us are jumping at the chance to travel across the world. If you're booking a trip on short notice, here are a few tips to remember:

#### BE FLEXIBLE

While you may get a great deal when you book travel last minute, you should also be prepared in case other things are sold out, like the best hotels or tickets to the hottest attraction. Be flexible with your itinerary and simply enjoy being somewhere new, rather than hoping for the perfect trip. If you're looking for a special once in a lifetime holiday, a last-minute booking may not be your best bet.

#### READ THE FINE PRINT

As exciting as it is to jump into a new adventure, make sure you familiarize

yourself with the details so you know what you're getting into. This is the case for any travel expense but especially for promotional rates and add-ons like car rentals. You want to be aware of the cancellation policy and any extra fees like a deposit or extra insurance or a municipal hotel tax. Doing your due diligence means you'll be better able to avoid costly surprises and enjoy your time more.

#### DOUBLE CHECK ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Always review the rules of the country you're going to visit. These might include, how long you can stay on a visitor's visa, whether you need a vaccine passport, or whether you can bring certain items into the country. It's also worth a refresher on rules around returning to Canada. For



example, if you don't declare food and animal products when you arrive here, you could face a hefty fine.

These restrictions are in place for a reason. They protect Canadians from foreign animal diseases which could impact our economy. African swine fever, also known as ASF, is one such contagious virus that, while not dangerous to humans, is highly deadly for pigs. If a single case is found in Canada, it could shut down

the global export of Canadian pork – and have a major impact on our economy. This rule is in place since the virus could arrive here on contaminated clothing, food products and more. So, next time you bring a ham sandwich on your flight home from abroad, be sure to declare it and don't pack pork in your suitcase!

*Find out more at Inspection.gc.ca/protect-pigs.*

### Common winter road hazards and what you need to know

(NC) Driving in the winter comes with an increase in road hazards and poor driving conditions. While many of us know what to expect for the winter season ahead, there are many driving tips that could help you safely navigate the road and feel better behind the wheel in the face of such risks.

#### The dreaded ice and snow

Move with ease in snowy or icy weather. Do not accelerate or brake too quickly. This can cause your vehicle to lose traction with the road and create skidding, which can be extremely difficult to control. It is best to navigate the road slowly and use more time to get to your destination.

tion.

#### Lack of visibility

Winter can bring a number of scenarios that decrease your visibility on the road. There is the potential for heavy snowfall; the glare from the sun reflecting off the snow; or slush spraying from other vehicles onto your windshield. Before you start your next trip, ensure you have a pair of sunglasses, your windshield washer fluid is filled, your headlights are working, and your windshield wipers aren't damaged from freezing.

#### Snowbanks

Although fun to play in, large snowbanks can create a major hazard while driving in the winter. They

can result in blind spots and reduced visibility at intersections, which can put drivers at risk. After you come to a complete stop, it's important to slowly approach the corner until your view of oncoming traffic is no longer blocked.

#### Low temperatures

Colder temperatures in the winter typically result in a decrease in your tire pressure. Low tire pressure can result in damage to your tire and make your vehicle more difficult to control. Be sure to check your tire pressure frequently. Additionally, low temperatures can also make the rubber in your tires more rigid or brittle. Equip your vehicle with a quality winter tire, such as Michelin X-Ice Snow

tires, to ensure long-lasting performance in the winter. They're designed for maximum mobility for seasons to come.

#### Snow on other cars

There's nothing worse than clearing the snow and ice off your vehicle in -15-degree Celsius weather. However, not properly clearing your windshield can result in reduced visibility for others while on the road. Snow blowing off of vehicles can be a distraction or could even cause damage as it flies through the air at high speeds. Keep an eye out for snow-covered vehicles on the roadways and avoid them when possible.

*Find more information at michelin.ca.*

### Ontario consider letting pharmacists prescribe Paxlovid for COVID-19

By Dele Akintilo

A top Doctor in Ontario has said the province is considering giving permission to pharmacists to prescribe the COVID-19 treatment drug, Paxlovid, in a bid to increase access.

While disclosing the development recently, Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr Kieran Moore said that the health system will witness a "triple threat" of COVID-19, a bad flu season and the revival of childhood respiratory virus this fall and winter.

According to him, looking for ways to ensure higher availability of medication to keep people with COVID-19

out of hospital is of great importance for more rural communities.

While talking to The Canadian Press, he said: "I do know the government is reviewing the ability of pharmacists to be able to prescribe this directly after a positive test.

"There was concern in particular in isolated areas. Where you may not have good access to a primary care physician, you may have access to a pharmacist. So that gap was looked at and I do believe they're working aggressively on that."

While talking further, he said many medical officers of health around Ontario have raised the issue.

He said: "I do think it is one solution in increasing the access."

Justin Bates, CEO of the Ontario Pharmacists Association, disclosed that his group has been pushing for pharmacists in Ontario to be able to prescribe Paxlovid, as pharmacists in other provinces can.

He said: "Given our experience in point-of-care testing, our knowledge of medications – particularly complex medications like Paxlovid, where there's a lot of drug-to-drug interactions – and more, I would say, in-depth consultation that's required with patients, pharmacists are well-positioned to provide that as a turnkey

solution."

Paxlovid is an antiviral medication administered orally within five days of commencement of symptom.

The drug is recommended for people at high risk of COVID-19 complications, like people over 70 and certain immune-compromised people, especially those that have not taken at least three vaccine doses. The medication can be prescribed by a primary care provider or at a COVID-19 clinical assessment centre.

Bates said: "Having pharmacies as one more avenue for prescriptions will enable quicker access, and therefore keep more people out of hospital this winter.

"The earlier you started in five days, the better in terms of preventing serious symptoms and illness where by you would then need to go to the hospital or, even worse, into the hospital's ICU.

"Paxlovid is currently

sitting on shelves.

"The amount of volume going through the stores, anecdotally, is very low."

According to Moore, about 3,500 treatments of Paxlovid are currently being prescribed every week as demand appears to go up as COVID-19 activity rises.

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## B.C. Offers Doctors New Pay Model to Target Health Crisis

By N.Ugoh?

Family doctors have been offered significant raise under the province's new compensation model to ameliorate the health-care crisis in British Columbia. The government said that family doctors who work full-time would be paid about \$385,000 a year. The former rate was \$250,000.

At the moment, family doctors are paid through a fee-for-service model and the government said the new plan will also pay them for hours worked, administrative costs, and the number and complexity of patients.

Dr. Ramneek Dosanjh, president of Doctors of BC, said the deal represents a "seismic shift" in the way family medicine is practiced in the province.

"It is a model unique in Canada bringing together the best of a range of payment models. It addresses rising business costs, it recognizes the value physicians provide when delivering longitudinal care and it will compensate us for the time spent on evening and weekend administrative burdens," she said.

"We're listening to the concerns of many of our family doctors who have left practice or have been contemplating leaving."

The new payment re-

gime will cost the B.C. government \$708 million over a period of three years, representing overall increases to the total base budget between three and 5.5 per cent each year.

Health Minister Adrian Dix said the payment model the province's health-care system, even though the government has no specific estimate of what impact it will have in terms of the number of people who will get a family doctor, or the number of doctors recruited as a result.

"It's going to have a very, very positive effect. We can't be exact," he said, adding that it's not a one-step solution but is part of a broader overhaul of health

services.

The roster system will give the government better information about who has care and who needs it, he said.

The new model aims to close the pay gap between family doctors and hospitalists, who are paid close to \$300,000 a year to work in hospitals and have the same training but not the overhead costs.

Full-service family doctors are those who work in communities to provide ongoing primary-care services to their patients.

"Rising costs, pandemic-related pressures and staffing shortages required action for doctors on several fronts."

## Canada Not Welcoming 1.4 Million Nigerians – IRCC

By Stanley Ugagbe

The Canadian Government has refuted the report making waves that the nation has reached an agreement with the Nigerian Government to welcome over one million Nigerian Immigrants.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, (IRCC) an agency of the Canadian Government, while dismissing the report, urged applicants to seek the right information on its website.

In a Twitter post, the agency wrote: "Disinformation is circulating which suggests that Canada is welcoming one million Immigrants from Nigeria.

This is false and the immigration program referenced does not exist".

The Immigration Minister Sean Fraser had reportedly said the Canadian government plans to welcome 1.45 million permanent residents between 2023 and 2025.

It was stated that the plan will ease the shortage of labour facing the country to reduce uncertainties in Canadian business.

Fraser said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government aims to welcome 465,000 permanent residents in 2023, 485,000 in 2024 and 500,000 in 2025.

Reports also have it that the Canadian 2023-2025 Immigration Levels

Plan embraces immigration as a strategy to help businesses find workers and to attract the skills required in key sectors and different regions of the country, including small towns and rural communities to manage the social and economic challenges Canada will face in the decades ahead.

Also, the plan will reportedly place a long-term focus on economic growth, with just over 60 percent of admissions in the economic class by 2025.

In addition, the plan will use new features in the Express Entry system to welcome newcomers with the required skills and qualifications in sectors facing acute labour short-

ages such as health care, manufacturing, building trades and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)

"Increases regional programs to address targeted local labour market needs, through the Provincial Nominee Program, the Atlantic Immigration Program, and the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot," Fraser said.

"Reuniting more families faster; ensuring that at least 4.4 percent of new permanent residents outside Quebec are Francophone and support for global crises by providing a safe haven to those facing persecution, including by expanding the Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot."

president of the university, Brett Fairbairn, posted on the university's website, says the four people that died in the car were international students, either current or alumni.

## 3 Nigerian students killed by hit-and-run driver in Canada



By N.Ugoh

Three Nigerian students/graduates of the Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada, have been killed in a recent car crash.

They are identified as Oluwatosin Adejo, Daniel Okocha, and Femi Adebowale. The students and one other person were embarking on a trip in a car when it was hit by a pickup truck.

After reports of the collision, RCMP were called to 1st

Avenue and Battle Street but Femi and Daniel died at the spot while Tosin later died in the hospital.

The truck owner was arrested but was set free later that day. No charges have been laid.

A statement from the

## Nigerians in New Brunswick mourn Dr Abraham Onuora's demise



By N. Ugoh

The Nigerian community in New Brunswick is mourning the death of Dr Abraham Nonyelum Onuora, who died recently at St. John Regional Hospital at the age of 73.

Onuora was a loving husband to Adanma and father to Obinna and Chidozie. He was born in Obubra, Cross River State, Nigeria on August 5, 1949 to Samson and Christiana (Ilozor) Onuora, Abraham was the fourth of eight siblings.

He completed his undergraduate degree in medicine at the University of Ibadan. After his residency in the United Kingdom, he practised as a psychiatrist in Nigeria before he relocated to Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada with his family in 1991.

Abraham's life was distinguished by his love for God, generosity, kindness and empathy. He was a respected psychiatrist at the Saint John Regional Hospital for almost two decades. Also, he had a private practice where he was known by his patients as attentive, patient, and compassionate.

As a longstanding Nigerian immigrant to New Brunswick, he was involved in helping fellow Nigerians integrate into the community. His home became home to many international students all through the years. He loved gardening, talking about politics and spending time with family. He had a distinctive sense of humour and spirited laughter that filled the room.

He will be buried on November 5, 2022 at St. James the Less Church, 1760 Rothesay Rd.

May his soul rest in peace.

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# NIGERIAN GOV'T LAUNCHES E-PASSPORT PRODUCTION CENTRE IN CANADA



Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola (2nd from left)

By Stanley Ugagbe

The President Muhammadu Buhari-led Federal Government has launched the new enhanced passport and commissioned the central Passport Production Centre in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

In view of this, Nigerians living in Canada will now have access to the highly coveted 64-page 10-year validity passport, said the Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola.

In his words, Nigeria is among the first five countries in the world to have this enhanced passport and the first in Africa.

In a statement by his Special Adviser on Media, Sola Fasura, the minister said "The enhanced version we are presenting is the latest technology in identity documentation. It comes with additional security and in various categories, including the 64-page-10-year validity Passport which is quite convenient for frequent travelers.

"It is a product of the latest technology in passport administration and issuance. Only very few countries in the world can boast of it as of today. Indeed, Nigeria is among the first five countries in the world and the first in Africa to have this enhanced e-passport. The document is of higher grade with additional 25 security features than the one currently in use. It is polycarbonate in design and therefore water-resistant. It cannot be compromised by counterfeiters and identity thieves".

The former Osun State governor lauded the Nigerian High Commissioner to Canada for his commitment to ensuring

that Canada had its own passport production center, stating that with the new enhanced passport, Nigerians will now apply, pay and book appointment online directly from the Nigeria Immigration Service Portal.

Aregbesola said "It is important that all applicants go through the Nigeria Immigration Service portal and follow the protocol laid down, pay the right fee and go for biometric data capture on the stipulated date. The waiting period after data capture for fresh application is six weeks and three weeks for renewal. This timeline is to enable NIS verify and validate the claims of applicants and confer integrity on the passport issued. It is a reasonable provision in passport administration by global standard.

"It is important also that your details with NIN sync with the data on your application. Any discrepancy will stall your application until it is corrected. The order of the appearance of the applicant's name especially has been an albatross for many. We have introduced tracking mechanism in the application process, to enable applicants monitor the progress of their application. We shall continue to introduce necessary and available innovations to passport administration in order to best serve applicants in our quest for establishing citizenship integrity".

In his remarks, the Nigerian High Commissioner to Canada, Adeyinka Asekun, hailed Aregbesola and the Acting Comptroller General of Immigration, Isah Idris Jere, for their commitment to the launch of the enhanced passport in Canada.

Asekun averred that Nigerians in Canada now have access to 64-page 10-year validity passport which is only available in the United Kingdom and United States of America outside of Nigeria.

"I thank the Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, and the Immigration team for accepting to roll-out the enhanced passport in Canada as the third country to be a beneficiary of the enhanced passport outside of Nigeria and ahead of other nations, including in Europe".

He added that "I will advise that Nigerians living in Canada should apply for the 64-page 10-year validity and you can apply at least one year before the expiration of the current passport".

On his part, the Acting Comptroller General of the Nigeria Immigration Service, Idris Isah Jere, while speaking at the event, averred that until all applications on the old platforms are cleared, the Passport Issuing Desk in Canada will continue to issue both documents concurrently.

Jere said "May I mention that the Enhanced e-Passport and the Electronic Passports are both running currently until a convenient time when all our Centres would have been fully migrated to the enhanced e-Passport noting that cases of delays in processing Passports will be taken care of, provided applicants abide strictly with the application guidelines by ensuring that they make use of the online application and payment platform, as well as synchronize the data on their passport application with their information in their National Identity Number (NIN)".

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## AMAZON OPENS OFFICE IN NIGERIA

By N.Ugoh

IT giant, Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS), has revealed it has opened its first office in Lagos, Nigeria.

While announcing the development recently, Amrote Abdella, the firm's regional manager of sub-Saharan Africa, said the office was opened in a bid to reinforce its commitment to Africa.

She said: "We are excited to open our first AWS office in Nigeria. Lagos offers a highly skilled and creative talent pool, and the area is home to many fast-growing startups and notable Nigerian enterprises leading the way in

digital innovation."

Abdella said the new Lagos office was part of Amazon's support for the growing number of partners and customers in Nigeria.

AWS is a subsidiary of Amazon that offers website hosting, backup, digital marketing, analytics, application integration, blockchain, networking, and other related services to clients around the globe.

While talking further, Abdella said: "We look forward to fostering the country's pioneering spirit and helping our customers accelerate their digital transformation as they deliver innovative new products and services to the

Nigerian community."

She also mentioned that AWS Activate offers startups with the resources they need to get started on AWS, including up to \$100,000 in credits, training, support, and contact with incubators, accelerators, and venture capital firms.

She said AWS Academy helps university students and educators develop knowledge and skills about AWS Cloud computing to foster cloud-related learning.

She made it known that AWS Academy member institutions in Nigeria included the University of Benin, the University of Jos, and Igbinedion University, Okada.

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# YOU & the LAW

## Ike Ekweremadu to remain in UK jail as Court adjourns organ harvesting case to May 2023

By Dele Akintilo

According to United Kingdom's Central Criminal Court, the plea and trial hearing of Senator Ike Ekweremadu and his wife for organ trafficking have apparently been adjourned.

Ekweremadu and his wife were accused of conspiring with Dr Obinna Obeta to pay David Nwamini to donate an organ to their daughter, Sonia.

After his arrest on June 23, Ekweremadu was detained in a UK prison over the allegation.

His wife, Beatrice Ekweremadu, who is on bail, had appeared at the Old Bailey for plea and directions hearing.

Ekweremadu and Dr Obinna Obeta, the third accused attended court the session by video link from Wandsworth and Belmarsh prisons.

Many reports say the defendants were not asked to make a plea and only spoke to confirm their names during the hearing.

According to Judge Richard Marks QC, a High Court judge will hear the case.

He picked a temporary trial that will commence on May 2, 2023 and last for three to four weeks.

Also, the court said it would not be sitting due to the unavailability of Sonia, whose case was established.

A court representative insisted that though the calendar of the judge was set when the couple and their co-defendant appeared before him on August 4, Sonia was not included in the hearing at that time, and that "the judge won't be hearing the case because there's no counsel for Sonia."

The former deputy senate president of Nigeria has been in custody in the UK since his detention on June 23.

In order to donate the organ to their daughter who has kidney failure, the pros-

ecution alleged that they planned to remove Nwamini's kidney at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, north-west London.

After he was examined, the man declined to give his assent to the treatment.

He was allegedly maltreated by The Ekweremadus of Willesden Green, north-west London until he "escaped" and reported to Staines police station in Surrey.

Previously, prosecutor Tim Probert-Wood had said that the case involved 'exploitation and the harvesting of an organ.'

He said: "The case began on 5 May 2022 when the complainant presented himself at Staines Police Station and claimed he had been transported to this country for the purpose of his kidney being removed."

"He arrived on 20th February 2022 and was taken to Royal Free Hospital where tests were conducted."

"For the purpose, he was there he did not consent to the taking of his kidney."

"He returned to the house he was staying and his treatment changed dramatically."

"He described being treated effectively as a slave."

Martin Hicks, QC, who is defending Ekweremadu, said: "We deny that there was any exploitation or any intent to do so."

"The argument will be factual denial."

## Can you quit without actually submitting a resignation letter? Yes, rules labour board

Is it possible to quit a job without actually submitting a resignation letter?

The answer is yes, as a recent Nova Scotia Labour Board ruling underscores. In that case, a woman lost her claim for constructive dismissal over a toxic work environment created by the alleged passive-aggressive behaviour by her boss.

While she never submitted her resignation letter, she told the board she planned to quit, asked them to communicate through her lawyer and accepted (and started) a new job while finishing up her vacation entitlement.

The woman worked as a bookkeeper with Cornerstone Cape Breton Association - Strategies for Building Healthier Relationships. She started with Cornerstone in 1998 as an independent contractor working eight hours a week. Her job evolved and she eventually started working full-time hours.

About half of her time was spent as a bookkeeper with the balance spent on programming with the association's clients. Her last day of work at Cornerstone was Sept. 10, 2018, and her last pay day was Oct. 19, 2018. She took a new job with Canada Immigration and Citizenship on Sept. 18, 2018, for an eight-month term at 35 hours per week.

### Constructive dismissal

She argued she was forced to resign, or was constructively dismissed, because of the toxic work environment created by her manager and co-worker that began in March 2018.

While she said the incidents in question may not look serious, cumulatively they were passive-aggressive and an attempt to devalue both her and her work.

Things went south following an incident in March involving TJ, an aggressive client. It was not so much the client's behaviour, but the reaction of her boss, that affected her and the working relationship, she said.

### The employer's position

Cornerstone said the woman resigned in September 2018. She sent emails to the chair of the board of directors stating she intended to quit. It said there was no

evidence she had changed her mind about resigning, and she advised that any further communication would be through her lawyer.

Further, she accepted a full-time job with another employer prior to her resignation emails, and she did not return to work nor make arrangements to do so.

Simply put, it was clear she resigned and therefore could not have been terminated, it said.

### The toxic environment

There were a number of incidents the woman alleged that backed up her claim for constructive dismissal. They included:

#### \* Missing Visa cards:

She gave her boss Visa cards when she went on vacation. When she returned, the cards were gone. She said her boss did not appear concerned the cards were missing, despite Cornerstone's limited funding. The company said the cards went missing, and it decided to cancel and re-issue the cards. Ultimately, they were found. Her boss said she did not hide the cards, and had no reason to do so.

#### \* Locks changed in building:

On Sept. 20, 2018, the woman spoke to the building manager for Cornerstone's office. He told her the locks to the building had been changed on the company's instructions. But Cornerstone explained that the locks had been changed for a simple reason: They discovered the key to the communal bathroom, shared by other tenants, opened all their doors. This was a security breach and new keys would have been provided to the worker once she returned from her sick leave.

\* Missing keys: The woman said, when she returned from vacation at the end of July 2018, the filing cabinets were locked and the keys were in a safe. (Both her boss and a co-worker were on vacation when she returned.) She needed access to the cabinets to do her job. Her boss, though, said to her knowledge the keys were in the same place they always

were. The company said there would be no purpose to hiding these keys to confuse the employee.

#### \* Air conditioning:

She said, during the week of July 23, 2018, she had no access to AC because the doors to the office were shut. That was done to exclude her from conversation, she said, and her co-workers barely spoke to her during this period. The company, though, said it offered her a personal AC unit, which she declined. The door was shut only because they thought she had left the office for the day and were having a meeting and wanted the room to be cooler. Upon hearing of the worker's concerns, a new AC unit was ordered for her.

There were also issues around blocked emails, allegations of recorded conversations and how an agitated woman who entered the office was treated.

### The aggressive client incident

In March 2018 a client, identified as TJ, arrived at Cornerstone without an appointment, the woman said.

She agreed to meet with him, and he started eating food with a knife. A co-worker brought him a fork and left the woman alone with TJ to continue the meeting while he attended another meeting.

TJ ultimately became aggressive and disrespectful with her and used inappropriate language before leaving. She was very upset, and said this client was large and known to be violent. She was within reach of the panic button at all times but did not use it. She was afraid of how he might respond.

Her boss was on vacation at the time, but they discussed what happened on her return. Her boss was aghast at the incident and attended a case management conference with her to address the issue and set a plan for the process moving forward. The boss asked her if she was satisfied with the outcome, and she said yes.

The incident was also addressed by the board of

directors, and it decided to install security cameras and replace the panic buttons to improve response time. It also offered counselling to the woman.

The woman, though, said she was chastised after the board meeting for having met with TJ alone on the grounds it was not consistent with Cornerstone's policies. She was also upset that her boss refused to tell her if the co-worker, who left her alone with TJ, was going to be held accountable for his role in the incident.

She said she did not feel respected during the discussions, and that her boss dismissed her suggestions on how to improve things as being too expensive. She also took issue with a letter, sent by her boss to the board, about all the "good work" she had done. That's because she believed her boss described her co-worker's work as "excellent."

She also took exception to the installation of a camera outside the office with a monitor that allowed workers to see a client before granting them entry. She claimed she had not been told in advance about the camera being installed, even though she knew it had been planned.

### The resignation

She took sick leave from Sept. 10-17, 2018, and then vacation leave from Sept. 17, 2018, to Oct. 19, 2018. She sent an email to the board of directors on Sept. 14 stating that she was going to quit and would be seeking employment elsewhere.

She said she had retained a lawyer, but testified she never actually submitted her resignation letter and changed her mind. But she did not tell anyone at Cornerstone that she had changed her mind and advised that any future correspondence should go through her lawyer.

She admitted, at trial, she gave the company no reason to believe she was coming back.

On Sept. 17, 2018, she emailed the board of directors

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## REFLECTIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS

# I suspect my husband is cheating on me

Dear Agatha,

*There is this particular phone number that keeps flashing my husband's phone.*

*Whenever the user of the number flashes him, he would retire to the toilet to return the call.*

*Last week the user as usual flashed my husband's number. He as usual went into the toilet to return the call. This time, I confronted him on the identity of this strange caller; to my surprise he almost beat me up.*

*Agatha, I am very bothered. What should I do about the situation?*

Worried Wife.

Dear Worried Wife,

Concentrate on making your marriage work. You have no business with who-soever is calling him. Your concern should be your home and diverting the attention of your husband back to the home front with the most minimal fuse or quarrels.

Anybody who is in love is like a hot metal which cannot be grabbed with the bare hands when hot. Patience is required to wait for the metal to cool down. This is precisely what is happening in your home.

You need absolute patience because your husband is waiting for you to give him the slightest of reasons to bring in the other woman. You will be acting foolishly

by fighting or quizzing him on the identity of the stranger caller. The stage he is in now, he is beyond reason, and is like a burning inferno ready to consume whosoever stands in his path.

Presently, there is something about that woman he isn't getting from you; the reason he is determined to battle with you over the existence of the other woman in his life. Sometimes too, these interests aren't natural. Some are being spiritually manipulated; if the woman at home isn't careful, her home would be derailed completely even if temporary.

Because of the danger to your home even if you get to find out her identity, it is best not to bother about the strange caller. It isn't worth the trouble. Even if you know, beyond going to fight her, you cannot stop the two of them dating each other. Therefore, her identity is of no use to you at all.

When situations like yours happen, it is an opportunity for couples, especially the woman at home to sit down to X-ray her marriage.

Definitely, something is wrong. Instead of troubling yourself seeking the identity of this woman, why not put more efforts at finding the problem spot in your marriage?

The first place to start your investigation is to examine with detachment his attitude towards you in the

last couple of months. What has he consistently complained of about you, even in the early stage of your relationship and marriage? What has he wanted you to do that you have persistently refused to do all the years you have known him?

If you were to grade yourself objectively, how would you describe yourself, first as a person, wife and mother? Are you the kind of woman who doesn't care? Lacks respect for him as the head of the home? Do you show interest in his welfare or well-being as his wife and friend? How much of his business do you know? How often do you create time for romance, bonding and growth of your relationship with him? Do you remember to compliment or pray for him? Finally, how much of him do you know?

Other areas to examine in your marriage include your looks, house-keeping, relationship with his family and friends as well as your attitude towards the things that concern him. If honest, the clue to the problem in your marriage will become evident to you. Most times, the difference between happiness and sadness is as tiny as a smile. No man likes coming home to a woman who is forever nagging and is totally lacking in respect for his feelings. If you are the kind of wife who has developed the habit of being unappreciative of his efforts,

change and learn to smile.

His efforts may not be much but the right attitude from you can act as a great incentive for him to go the extra mile. Rather than fight, put your house back on track. Don't even ask him about the mystery caller. Even if he takes the call in your presence pretend you are not bothered about the identity of the person on the other side of the phone.

You have the knowledge the other woman lacks as well as the advantage of being his wife. Use that knowledge to win him back by cooking his favorite meals and looking after him the way you have done in a very long time. Woo him with everything God gave you as a woman; don't hold back; apart from being his wife, you must win this battle of your home and happiness. This is the time to invest cash too. What does he like? Get him gift items you know he will appreciate.

Bear in mind that you are now in the position of his girlfriend, the other woman in his life so you must be ready including using prayers to get him to come back to you. If you are the kind that thinks once a woman marries, sex becomes a duty rather than a tool of recreation, you better rethink your options very well. Create exciting moments, the kind of memories that last forever.

You may not get instant

results, don't even expect it, but if you are tolerant, patient and selfless, you will eventually win the battle of your husband's heart back to you.

Without you first putting the necessary machine into motion, you cannot effectively tackle his feelings for the other woman who is only putting on her best behavior because of what she intends from him. But your husband doesn't know that, because her seemingly good side is painting you in very negative hues. Flashing your husband at odd hours is aimed at getting you annoyed and confrontational. She knows that your husband will definitely fight back if you get angry with him so it is a tactic she is deliberately using to make you fall out of favour with your husband; so resist it.

Reality is, even if you catch him red-handed with another woman, you still have to play it cool with him. Wisdom is what makes the difference in marriages. If you elect to fight him on account of calls he could easily deny as being from a business associate, what will you do when you find out the identity of the other woman?

Sincerely when another woman is involved in the life of one's husband, the wife has the challenge of adopting the patience of a vulture. Be confident that he cannot just ask you to go if you don't fight him and are confidence in the God you serve.



**Agatha Edo**  
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In addition to creating the right atmosphere for him; time to change your look to something sexier, appealing and arresting. Time too, to get those commotion causing nightgowns out of wardrobe for duty.

You must be wise to win this battle for the heart of your husband. Besides, count yourself lucky that he is still coming home to you and is discharging his duties as a husband and man. Not many women are that lucky. Frankly, if you push him too hard, you may at the end of the day find yourself all alone. He may just decide not to come home at all pegging his reasons on you not giving him peace at home.

Remember the other woman's home offers an immediate alternative to his home, so be careful how you handle this matter.

Patience, endurance, prayers and wisdom are the tools you need to win this battle.

Good luck.

again to say she had her resignation letter ready and wanted to ensure he would receive it. She referred to her week of sick leave, and her intention to take five weeks' accrued vacation beginning that day. Further, she asked for a date to be set when she could pick up her personal belongings.

The board responded, confirmed her vacation entitlement and said once she submitted her resignation letter they could arrange a time to pick up her belongings. She never did forward the resignation letter.

On Sept. 19, she wrote to the board and noted that her email access had been blocked and said her lawyer would be in touch the following week.

She was then hired by Citizenship and Immigration Canada for an eight-month term. She applied for the position in September 2018 and was offered the new position around Sept. 10. That was before her first email to the board about her planned resignation.

She did not mention her new job to the board, and instead made comments about having to apply for EI benefits.

### The ruling

The board ruled there was no question she resigned her employment, despite the fact she never forwarded a letter of resignation.

"The Board needs to consider that a valid resignation must have

a subjective and an objective component, showing that (she) had the subjective intention of quitting, and that a reasonable person in the employer's position would believe that she had carried out her subjective intention," it said.

She never returned to work. She gave no reason for Cornerstone to believe she would ever return. During her leave, she applied for and accepted an offer to work for a different employer. She began working at this full-time job during her vacation leave period.

It found no evidence that her boss was acting in a passive-aggressive manner towards her.

"These disagreements, clouded by a perception of bad intentions on (her boss') part, seem to have coloured several of the innocuous interactions between (her) and (her boss) from March to September 2018 with a negative brush," the board said. "As a result, the complaints she raised in support of her position are unfounded or misrepresentative of the situation, and collectively, do not amount to a fundamental change in her employment or the creation of a toxic work environment."

*For more information, see Murray-Farrell v Cornerstone Cape Breton Association- Strategies for Building Healthier Relationships, 2022 NSLB 89 (CanLII)*

Source : hrlawcanada.com

## 6 Ways to Tell when they're Not into You

By N.Ugoh

More often than not, people see the red flags in relationships but for some reasons they still stick with the person and try to force things. Relationship is a two-way thing and when it becomes one-sided, break-up is inevitable.

Among others, below are some ways to know he/she is not into you.

### 1. You Always Initiate Conversation

Someone who is into you will always want to talk to you as much as you want to talk to them. If you find yourself stressing about how much you're texting them or you feel weird because you're always the one to make plans, initiate conversations, make moves, chances are that you aren't just being paranoid: If the person you're with is right for you, there shouldn't be any weirdness about communicating. Don't ignore this red flag.

### 2. They're Distant In Every Way...Except Sexually

This is another major red flag that they are not into you. You might be more than happy to exchange a smooch while you're out and about together, but your

partner seems reserved, cold, and reluctant to engage in any other issue. They never want to take pictures together or post on social media, and they also seem averse to long, emotional talks. Though some persons are reserved about certain things someone who loves you will naturally or sacrificially tag along with you.

### 3. They're "Busy" All The Time

I often tell my friends that no matter how busy a person is, they will always create time for what they value or who they love. So when your partner becomes too busy to give you attention, they are no longer into you. And often than not, when this happens, breakup is inevitable expect they make amends.

### 4. You Don't Know Their Friends/Family

A few days, I was conversing with church member who was telling of how he has been dating a lady for over three years and the lady has never been to his house even though they live in the same city. I was bemused that a lady, who is a graduate, could go that long without wanting to know where he lives or who his families are. It's only natural to want someone you like to meet your friends

and family, and start being more integrated into your social circles. If it's been more than a couple months and you've let him or her meet your friends, but haven't been extended the same courtesy, you might want to have a conversation about where things are going.

### 5. The Physical Intimacy Is Lacking

Intimacy is a way beyond sex. It's easy to deceive yourself into thinking that because you regularly have sex, things are going swell. If your partner no longer seems prone to cuddling and staying around you, these are pretty clear indicators that someone just isn't feeling you. Experts are of the view that little displays of intimacy are extremely important to a healthy relationship, and you're not "needy" for craving these things.

### 6. There's Never Talk Of The Future

It is important to define your relationship even from the onset so that it will be easy to know when things begin to go sour. Someone who's into you and feeling confident that things are heading in a good direction will have no problem discussing and planning for the future.

# COUN. KHADIJAH HALIRU AND COUN. AYO OWODUNNI'S SWEARING IN CEREMONY

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COUN. AYO OWODUNNI'S SWEARING IN CEREMONY

## Toronto Drops COVID Vaccine Mandate, Staff Offered Reinstatement

By Dele Akintilo

The City of Toronto is dropping its COVID-19 vaccine mandate and intends to offer unionized unvaccinated employees or those who didn't disclose their vaccination status reinstatement.

In a memo written by interim city manager Tracey Cook and sent to managers, as of Dec. 1, "the City's COVID-19 vaccination policy will be updated to reflect that mandatory vaccination is no longer required for City staff, volunteers and contractors."

"The City said that it would continually review this policy, led by science and evidence," Cook wrote.

"With more than 90 per cent of the public and 99 per cent of City staff now with at least two doses of vaccine, the science and public health guidance no longer supports the need for a mandatory vaccine policy."

Subsequently, the news was shared with City employees and confirmed publicly. The city manager, however, asked people to still get the vaccines.

Based on arbitration and negotiations with the unions, the around 350 unionized employees who either aren't vaccinated "will be offered re-

instatement into an unpaid leave," Cook said. And those staff who are on unpaid leave will then be able to return to the workplace beginning Dec. 1.

He said the City's "People and Equity" staff will work with different divisions and reinstatements will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to make sure returns to the workplace "are aligned with operational needs."

The People and Equity team will also conduct a vacancy analysis and share that with the various divisions' heads. Of course, there may be situations where vacancies are not available and alternative arrangements will need to be explored," Cook said.

"While unvaccinated staff will be eligible to return December 1, the reintegration of staff into the workplace may not necessarily occur on that exact date."

Reinstating TTC employees 'under consideration' separate statement issued Tuesday after the City's announcement, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) said it was aware of the City's policy change.

"Although the TTC is an agency of the City, we have five different labour partners representing our employees," the statement said.

"We are engaging with all of them as a courtesy to discuss the future of our mandatory vaccination policy going forward. Reinstating employees who were terminated for being non-compliant with the policy is under consideration."

An announcement by the TTC is imminent.

## Canada opens limitless flights to India



By N.Ugoh

The Canadian government has struck a new deal with India permitting authorized airlines to operate unlimited flights between the two countries – a big increase from the initial agreement, which restricted each country to just 35 flights in a week.

Mississauga MPP and Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra announced the development recently Pearson Airport in Mississauga. He said the new agreement will offer more flexibility for airlines to serve the growing market.

Alghabra said: "By making the movement of goods and people faster and easier, this expanded agreement will continue to facilitate trade and investment between Canada and India and help our businesses grow and succeed."

According to the feds, expanding Canada's existing air transport relationships will allow airlines to offer more flight options and routings, which will benefit both passengers and businesses by providing bigger choice.

India is Canada's fourth biggest international air transport market.

The agreement offers Canadian air carriers access to Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai, while Indian air carriers will have access to Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, and two other locations to be selected by India.

Mary Ng, Canada's Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development said: "As we strengthen our trade and investment relationship with India, we will continue building bridges like this that enable our entrepreneurs, workers, and businesses to access new opportunities."

Ng said the reviewed air transport agreement will help transport more professionals, students, business people, and investors between Canada and India.

The new agreement came six months after Brampton MP Ruby Sahota demanded direct flights to the Indian state of Punjab from Pearson Airport.

## Saskatchewan has no plans to relax licence requirements for truckers

By N.Ugoh

The government of Saskatchewan want to reassure the families of those that died or injured in the Humboldt Broncos bus crash that it will not be relaxing rules for truck driving licences.

In a letter written to the families who raised concerns about rule change, Don Morgan, the cabinet minister responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance wrote: "As you noted, concerns have been raised about the shortage of drivers in the trucking industry."

"However, safety is of the utmost importance and no changes are being contemplated that will compromise safety on our roads."

On April 6, 2018, no fewer than sixteen people were killed while 13 others were injured after a transport truck and a bus conveying the junior hockey team collided at a rural intersection.

In a recent letter written to the government of Saskatchewan, 24 of the families made it known they were against the possibility of the province cancelling the need for a Class 5 driver's licence before getting a Class 1 commercial driver's licence.

The letter's authors, Celeste Leray-Leicht and Kurt Leicht, whose son Jacob died in the crash wrote: "The driver of the semi-trailer truck who caused the horrific crash

was grossly underqualified to drive the semi-truck. He is one of an increasing number of untrained and unskilled drivers who are the cause of accidents causing deaths and injuries on Saskatchewan roads and highways."

According to the family, changing driving credentials to make it easier for new drivers to acquire a Class 1 driver's licence is not in the best interests of anybody travelling on Canadian roads.

But Morgan said that is not going to happen in his recent letter to the families.

He wrote: "I assure you there are no plans to remove the requirement for a driver to hold a fully experienced Class 5 driver's licence prior to obtaining a Class 1 licence, or for any other changes that would make it easier for new drivers to obtain a Class 1 licence."

"It is critical drivers have experience with regular passenger vehicles before attempting to operate much larger, more complex vehicles."

Morgan said any new driver trying to obtain a Class 1 license is required to complete the compulsory entry-level training program, which consists of 121.5 hours of instruction.

He commended the Broncos families for their unwavering focus on traffic safety and "your efforts to prevent other families from experiencing the same pain you are enduring."



Those who  
are absent are  
always wrong.

- African Proverb

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## Easy ways to cut food waste at home



(NC) With rising food prices, we're all feeling the pinch. Here are four ways you can cut food waste at home so your grocery dollars can go further.

### MAKE A PLAN

To avoid buying excess perishables, you should always take stock of what you already have at home before you go grocery shopping. In fact, what you already have in your fridge and freezer should be your starting point for menu planning. There are numerous on-line tools that can suggest recipes based on the ingredients you have on hand.

### STOCK UP ON STOCK

Making your own stock is a great way to use up scraps, save mon-

ey and take control over what's in your family's meals. Whenever you're trimming vegetables, from carrot tops to the green part of leeks, toss the scraps into a freezer bag along with any produce that's too wilted to consume fresh. Once you have a full bag, simmer up a pot of stock. For heartier, more flavourful stocks, freeze your roast chicken or turkey carcasses, save beef bones from steaks and ribs and add these to the mix.

### REFRESH AND REPURPOSE

Rather than tossing out bread that's gone stale, you can chop it into bite-sized pieces, toss with some oil and herbs, and then lightly toast in the oven for homemade croutons. Another op-

tion is to make your own breadcrumbs. First, grind the bread in a blender and then toast the fine pieces in the oven to remove any moisture. Store in an air-tight container.


### FREEZE EXTRAS

If you won't be able to finish off all your leftovers within a couple of days of cooking, you should freeze the extras. You can also prevent certain items – such as pizza or pasta sauce – from spoiling after you open a jar by freezing the leftovers once you first use them. Ice cube trays help you create the perfect portions to dole out when needed.

Find more meal prep ideas at [bimbocanada.com](http://bimbocanada.com).

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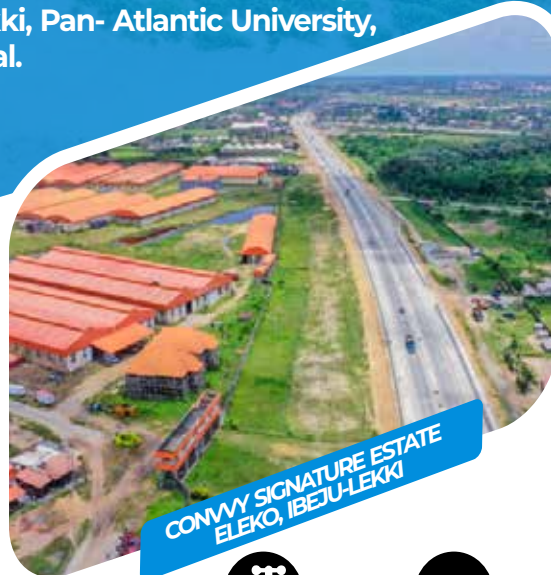
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## START A NEW TRADITION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



(NC) It's that time of the year again: we pick out greeting cards, maybe take a family photo, and open up that box of unique decorations and ornaments.

Other favourite traditions may include putting lights on the house or a fresh tree, or perhaps a reusable one. And, of course, we make plans to visit friends and family to celebrate the holidays and see in the New Year.

This year, why not consider getting to know other traditions, or even creating a new tradition with your family or friends?

Here are three idea starters:

**1. Host a holiday dessert party** – invite colleagues, friends or neighbours to a sweet potluck where they share and describe their favourite traditional desserts that all can enjoy with a cup of egg nog or mulled cider – and be ready to share the recipes digitally, too!

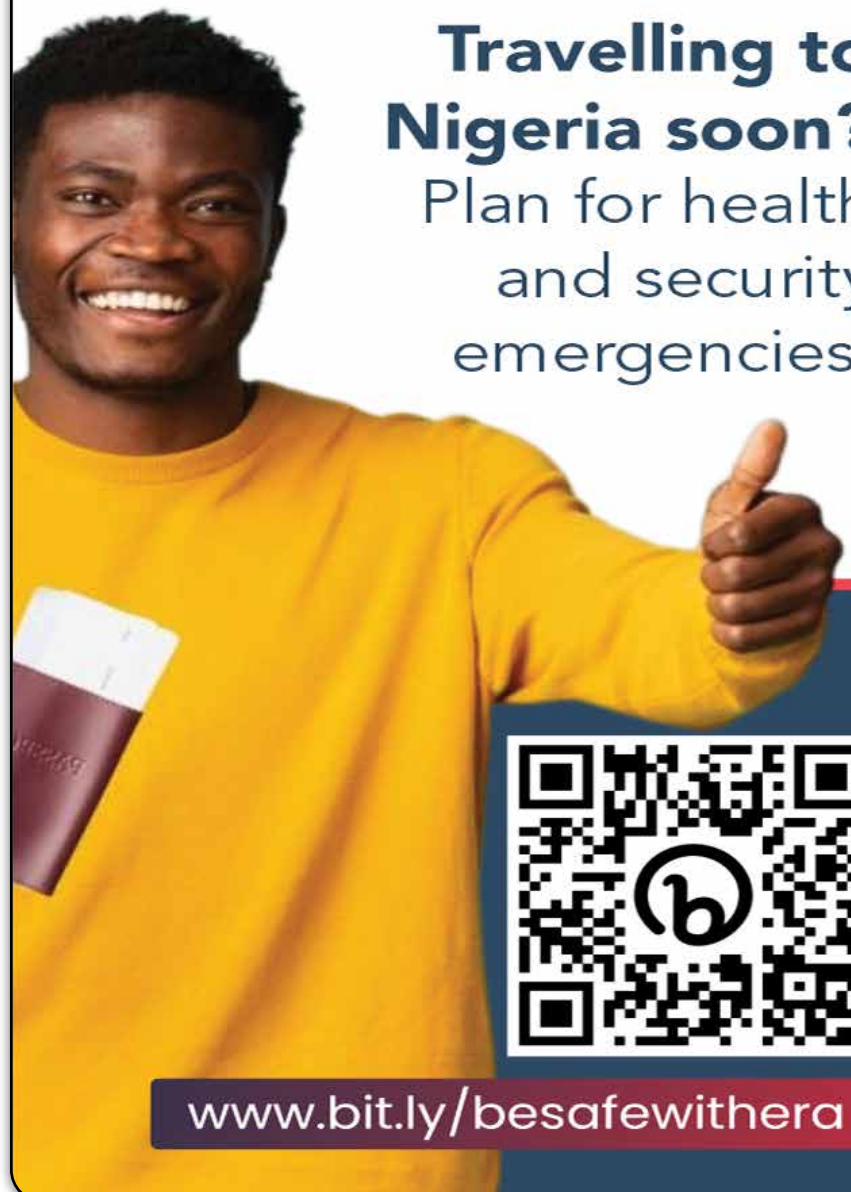
**2. Host a holiday story evening** – guests bring a craft, ornament, decoration or photo if it's too large to bring – and share its story. How did they acquire it, or why did they buy it, and what does it mean to them?

**3. Create a new giving tradition** – charity gift catalogues like World Vision Canada's offer a unique opportunity for children to pick a family gift like goats or chickens, or to gift a teacher or grandparent with a meaningful gift like school essentials, crop seeds for farmers, a scarf or jewellery – or a special angel ornament for the tree! Ask children, or help them, to write in the gift cards why they chose that specific gift.

This time of year is so special for so many reasons. Take time to learn the stories behind treats or traditions, and see the holiday season in a new light.



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| Wednesday                 | Devotional Service         | 7:00pm  |
| Friday                    | Revival\Devotional Service | 7:00pm  |
| Saturday                  | Spiritual Consultation     | 2:00pm  |
| Sunday                    | Glorious Day Service       | 11:00am |
| First Thurs. of the Month | New Moon Service           | 10:00pm |

“Come unto me, all ye that labour... and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28)

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

**WIZKID, TEMS SHINE AT 2022 AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS**

By N.Ugoh

Nigerian music superstar, Ayo Balogun, famously known as Wizkid, was voted the Favourite Afrobeat Artist at the 2022 American Music Awards (AMAs). Also, Tems, another Nigerian, bagged an award for her effort on Future and Drake's track, 'Wait For U' which came tops in the Favourite Hip Hop Song category.



**T**HE American Music Awards took place recently at the Microsoft Theater.

American recording songstress Taylor Swift stole the night as she bagged six awards.

Beyonce, who came into the night with six nominations, won three awards.

Check out the complete list of winners on our website: [www.nigeriancanadiannews.ca](http://www.nigeriancanadiannews.ca)

**Burna Boy bags double nominations for 2023 Grammys**

By N.Ugoh

Nigeria's Grammy award winner, Burna Boy, has bagged nominations in two categories for the 2023 Recording Academy Awards, famously known as the Grammys.

The nomination list was released by the Academy recently for the award ceremony which will take place on February 5, 2023.

The latest album of Burna Boy, Love Damini, was nominated in the Best Global Music Album category while his hit track, 'Last Last' was nominated for Best Global Music Performance for his hit track "Last Last."

**50 Cent to produce TV series about Hushpuppi**

By N.Ugoh

Famous American recording artiste and businessman, Curtis James Jackson III, also known as 50 Cent has revealed he is interested in producing a television series about the life of recently convicted Nigerian-born internet fraudster, Hushpuppi, whose real name is Abbas Ramoni.

50 Cent who is famous for producing hit TV series like Power, Power Book II, Power Book III: Raising Kanan, and so on made the announcement on his Instagram page.

While making the announcement, he wrote: "For my scammers I gotta do this one, Hushpuppy series coming soon! GLG GreenLightGang i don't miss #bransoncognac #lecheminduroi #gunitfilmantv"

50 Cent's announcement came days after Hushpuppi bagged an 11-year and three months jail term which will see him remain in prison for nine more years having spent two years behind bars already.

**Nick Cannon says he may not have more children as he expects his 12th child**

By N.Ugoh

American singer and TV presenter, Nick Cannon, might stop having children.

Cannon, who is expecting his 12th with Abby De Le Rosa, made this known on the red carpet of the R&B/Hip Hop Power Plays event.

While talking further, he said his kids are his "number one priority," and added that they are the "creative force" in everything he does.

He said: "I mean that's my number one priority obviously, I wake up being a father thinking about my kids and everything else that comes after that. My kids are definitely the creative force in all that I do.

"I mean, they're the funniest, most innovative, best questions. You know what I mean? Every project I'm working on now is through their eyes."

When asked if he will have more kids, he replied: "I don't know, man. I have no idea. I think I'm good right now though."

**Netflix Canada launches ad-supported subscription plan for \$5.99**

By N.Ugoh

Popular streaming platform, Netflix, is offering Canadian viewers the option of a cheaper monthly subscription plan — as long as they don't mind sitting through commercial breaks.

While talking about the development, Netflix said it has scheduled November 1 to launch its new ad-supported streaming plan in Canada for \$5.99 per month. The price is less than Netflix's ad-free plans which range between \$9.99 and \$20.99 a month.

Netflix said in exchange for the savings, an average of four to five minutes of ads per hour placed before and during TV shows and films would be seen by subscribers.

Netflix said its existing plans' pricing will not be affected by the launch of the ad tier.

The experience drifts apart from Netflix's insistence over the years that it would never introduce ad breaks during its programs, a choice that has helped the company build its reputation.

However, competition in the streaming world has increased in recent years with newcomer Disney

Plus quickly displacing the company as the most popular streaming service. Wall Street analysts have voiced out concerns that a reduction in Netflix subscribers earlier this year may persist if more people move to alternative platforms.

In a recent conference call with reporters, Greg Peters, Netflix's chief operating officer said: "We want to offer consumers choice and for them to figure out what is the best offering for them.

"And that could mean some of our existing members shift off of a plan that doesn't include ads into this basic with ads plan. But if that's the better experience for them in terms of the price ... then we want to enable them to do that."

Meanwhile, not every programme in the Netflix library will be available on the ad tier plan and subscribers will not have the option of downloading titles for offline viewing.

Peters said these limitations are due to licensing agreements with distributors and would vary between countries. He estimated that between five to 10 per cent of TV and films on the higher-priced plans will be missing from the ad tier.

The commercial breaks will be identical to what viewers see on other streaming platforms.

Before the program starts, a limited run of 15- and 30-second ads will play and during the show, there will be fade-outs to a commercial at normal times in the narrative.

During the press briefing, Netflix executives cited an instance from "Emily in Paris" where the advertisement was placed between the end of dialogue at a restaurant and the shot of a new scene on the streets of Paris.

According to Peters, Netflix movies will employ a slightly different approach which aims to "preserve the cinematic model" for new titles. Instead of streaming commercials during the film, recent releases will only have pre-roll ads, while mid-roll ads will be introduced after the title has been available for a period of time.

Advertising will be targeted by the data available on a user's profile which will require subscribers to provide their date of birth and gender while signing up — with the options of male, female or neither/prefer not to say.

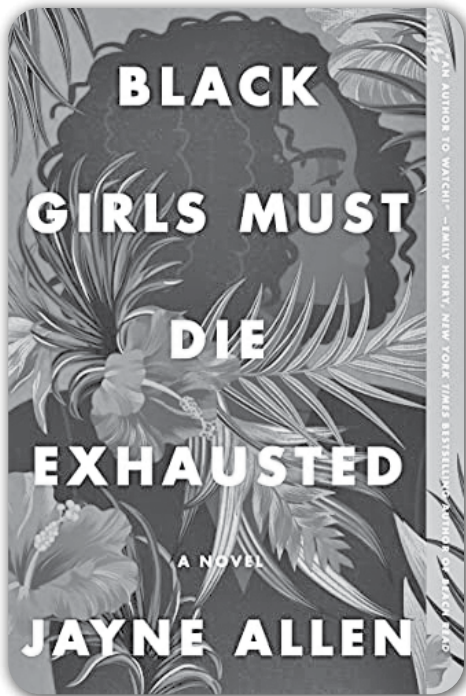
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## BOOKS

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

## Black Girls Must Die Exhausted: A Novel (Black Girls Must Die Exhausted, Book 1)



By Jayne Allen

It centres on modern womanhood, in which a young Black woman must rely on courage, laughter, and love—and the support of her two longtime friends—to overcome an unexpected setback that threatens the most pre-

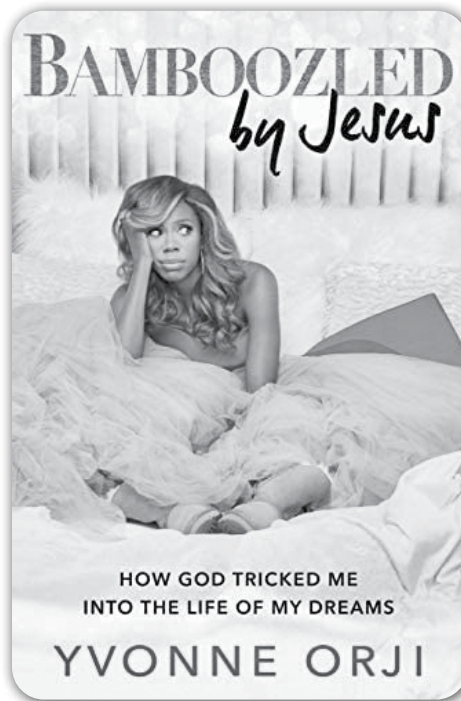
cious thing she's ever wanted.

33-year-old Tabitha Walker is a black woman with a plan to "have it all." She has carefully mapped out the checklist for the life of her dreams – Education, Good job, A nice house, Dating marriage material.

Though everything seems to be falling in place with a "paper-perfect" boyfriend, and even a standing Saturday morning appointment with a reliable hairstylist, drama started when Tabby received an unexpected diagnosis that brings her picture-perfect life crashing down, jeopardizing the keystone she took for granted: having children. With her dreams at risk of falling through the cracks of her checklist, suddenly she is faced with an impossible choice between her career, her dream home, and a family of her own.

With the timely help of a retinue of persons in her life, Tabby explores the reaches of modern medicine and tests the limits of her relationships, hoping to salvage the future she always dreamed of. But the fight is all consuming, demanding a steep price that forces an honest reckoning for nearly everyone in her life. The dramatic end will leave you wondering if .....

## Bamboozled by Jesus: How God Tricked Me into the Life of My Dreams



By Yvonne Orji

Best known for interpreting Biblical stories and metaphors to fit current times, Yvonne Orji has never shied away from being unapologetically herself, and that includes being

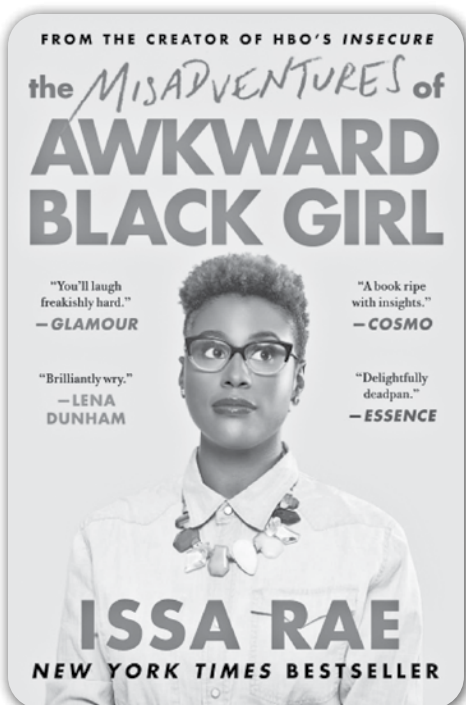
outspoken about her faith.

To Yvonne, God is a sovereign prankster, punking folks long before Ashton Kutcher made it cool. When she ruminates on her life's journey, she realizes it is one big testimony to how God tricked her into living out her wildest dreams.

In this book, the writer takes listeners on a journey through 25 life lessons, gleaned from her own experiences and her favorite source of inspiration: the Bible. However, this is not your mama's Bible study. She infuses wit and heart in sharing pointers like why the way up is sometimes down, and how fear is synonymous to food poisoning. Her joyful, confident approach to God will inspire everyone to catapult themselves out of the mundane and into the magnificent.

Orji's journey through being Bamboozled by Jesus paints a powerful picture of what it means to say "yes" to a life you never could've imagined - if it wasn't your own. There are so many life transforming lessons you will learn.

## The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl



By Issa Rae

It is a collection of humorous essays on what it's like to be unabashedly awkward in a world that regards introverts as hapless misfits and Black as cool.

Ordinarily, being an introvert in a world that glorifies cool isn't easy, but when Issa Rae, the creator of the

Shorty Award-winning hit series The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl, is that introvert--whether she's navigating love, work, friendships, or rapping-- it sure is entertaining.

In this debut collection of essays written in her witty and self-deprecating voice, Rae covers everything from cybersexing in the early days of the Internet to deflecting unsolicited comments on weight gain, from navigating the perils of eating out alone and public displays of affection to learning to accept yourself --natural hair and all.

The collection is a reflection on her own unique experiences as a cyber pioneer yet universally appealing. Whether awkward or cool, Black, White, The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl is a book no one will want to miss.

Everything from cybersexing in the early days of the Internet to deflecting unsolicited comments on weight gain, from navigating the perils of eating out alone and public displays of affection to learning to accept yourself --natural hair and all.

A reflection on her own unique experiences as a cyber pioneer yet universally appealing, The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl is a book no one--awkward or cool, Black, White, or other--will want to miss.

## Crazy Faith: It's Only Crazy Until It Happens



By Michael Todd

≠The Biblical Noah looked crazy when he started building the ark...until it started raining. It was crazy for Moses to lead a nation of people into the desert away from Egypt...until the Red Sea parted. It

was crazy to believe that a 14-year-old virgin would give birth to the Son of God...until Mary held Jesus in her arms.

In this book, Pastor Michael Todd shows us how to step out in faith and dive into the purposeful life of trusting God for the impossible. Even if you have to start with baby faith or maybe faith, you can become empowered to let go of your lazy faith, trust God through your hazy faith, and learn to live a lifestyle of crazy faith.

The writer, drawing inferences from powerful stories of modern-day faith warriors who take their cues from biblical heroes, equips you to: Believe for the impossible, Choose hope over fear, Be alert to the voice of God, Cope with loss and doubt, Develop a deeper level of trust in God, Speak faith-filled declarations, Inspire crazy faith in others.

If you are crazy enough to completely believe in the Almighty-ness of God, you can be sure that His plans for you will come into manifestation

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



# YOUTH CORNER

..... Oluchi Ugoh .....

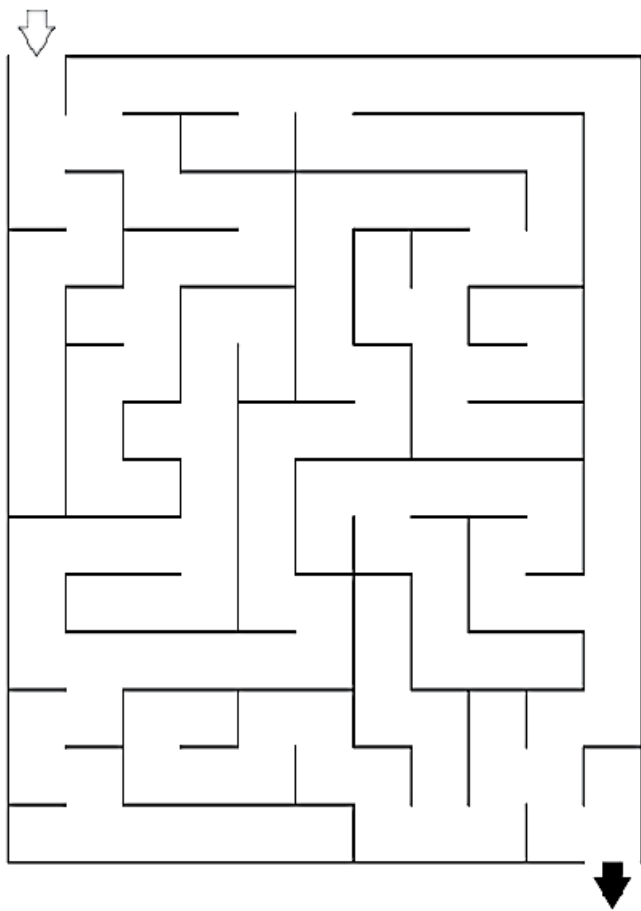
**"YOUR CHILDREN NEED YOUR PRESENCE MORE THAN YOUR PRESENTS". - JESSE JACKSON**



Laugh!  
Live!  
Love!  
Bloom!  
*Thank you for your support of many years.*

## MAZE GAME

**CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY OUT?**



*Solution: Pg. 25*

## A FUNNY STORY - THE WISE MONKEY

Upon the river bank there was crocodile who was about to lay eggs. Like any other lady about to pop out a baby, the crocodile had an odd situation of cravings going on. One day, proving to be the loving husband he was, her husband made the mistake of asking her what she would like to eat.

"A monkey's heart" was her reply.

Her husband was confused, and lost. How on earth was he to get a monkey's heart? But being the great spouse he was, he came up with a plan. First, he destroyed the bridge the monkey usually used to cross the river.

When the monkey arrived at the bank, he stood confused. "Oh banana skins! Where on earth is the bridge?"

That's exactly the kind of question the crocodile had been waiting for. "Hey monkey! I'll help you cross the river!"

The monkey was surprised at the kind request and so he agreed. He climbed onto the crocodile's back and they began to swim across the river but as they reached the middle, the crocodile confessed to the monkey.

"I'm not really helping your cross the river. In reality my wife wants to eat a monkey's heart and I will give you over to her."

The monkey was shocked, but he was a clever man. He knew what to do.

"I am so grateful for your honesty, but even if you give me over to your wife, she still won't get my heart, because we don't keep it in our chest." smiled the

monkey.

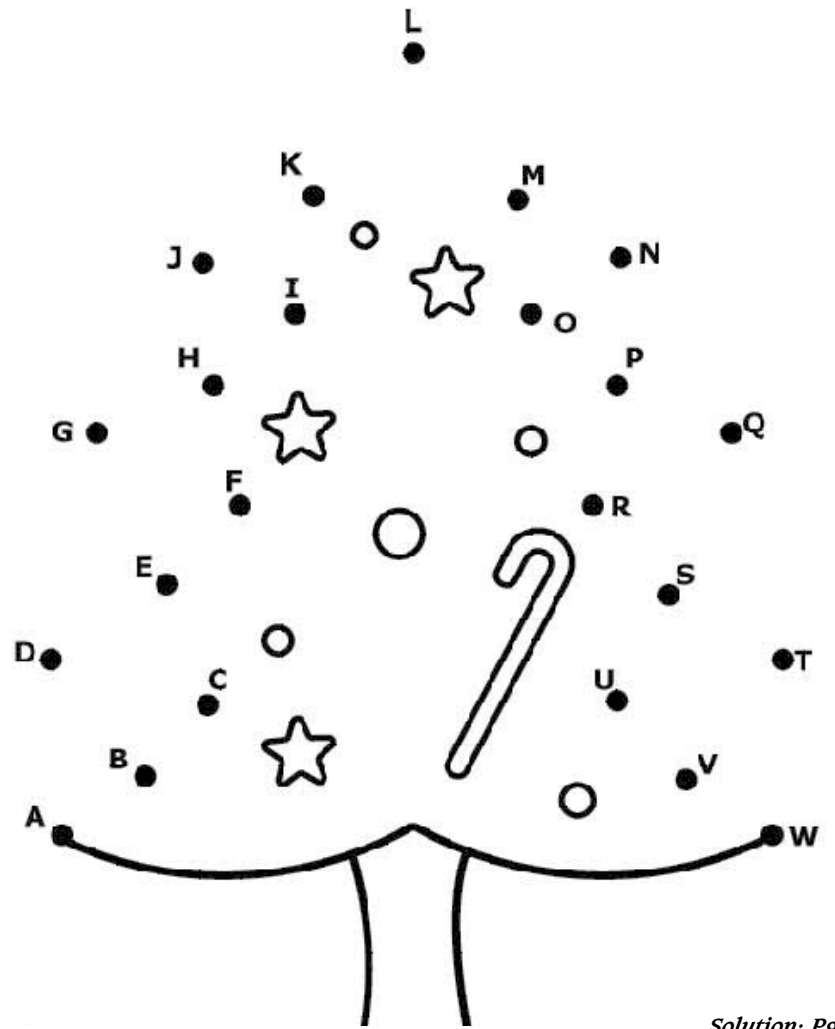
"What? Then where is your heart?" asked the crocodile confused.

"We keep our hearts on the highest tops of the fig trees, safe and sound. Since you have been so honest, if you agree to not hurt me, I will quickly go and fetch my heart and toss it to you" said the monkey. The poor crocodile who was a gullible creature, agreed. "Sounds good" he said and they began to swim back to the bank.

When they reached the bank, the monkey quickly climbed onto a tree and began to laugh. He had fooled the poor crocodile and had escaped.

"Damn it!" snapped the crocodile, and began to swim back to his home, ready to face the wrath of his hungry wife.

## JOIN THE DOTS AND SEE WHAT YOU GET



*Solution: Pg. 25*

## SAMPLES

$$\begin{array}{l} 3 \text{ --- } 5 \\ \quad \quad \quad \diagdown \\ 2 \text{ --- } 30 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} 4 \text{ --- } 6 \\ \quad \quad \quad \diagdown \\ 0 \text{ --- } 0 \end{array}$$

(1)  $\begin{array}{l} 2 \text{ --- } ? \\ \quad \quad \quad \diagdown \\ 4 \text{ --- } 24 \end{array}$

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(5)  $\begin{array}{l} 7 \text{ --- } 7 \\ \quad \quad \quad \diagdown \\ ? \text{ --- } 343 \end{array}$

(6)  $\begin{array}{l} 6 \text{ --- } 3 \\ \quad \quad \quad \diagdown \\ 2 \text{ --- } ? \end{array}$

*Answers: Pg. 25*

## TIME PROBLEMS - CAN YOU HELP?

- Joan started her homework at 5:45p.m. And finished it at 8:30p.m. How much time did she take to finish her homework?
- A fashion show started at 4:15p.m. And ended at 9:30p.m. What the duration of the show?
- Mikel was 5years old when he started school. Today he is 11 years and 4months old. For how long has he been in school?
- King George was crowned in the year 1982, now it is year 2022. How long has he been on the throne?

*Answers: Pg. 25*

## INTERNATIONAL

## Ugandan university dismisses Nigerian in sex-for-grades scandal

By N.Ugoh

Dr Nafiu Abiodun, a Nigerian lecturer with the Kabale University in Uganda, has been dismissed by the university board over involvement in a “sex-for-mark” scandal.

In a statement issued recently, the university said Abiodun who was the Head, Department of Economics and Statistics in the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences, was found guilty of sexual harassment by a probe panel constituted to investigate every allegation levelled against him. Abiodun was exposed when some female students in the department secretly recorded him on phone while demanding sex with a promise to pass them in examinations.

The letter confirming his dismissal and signed by the Chancellor of the University read: “I regret to inform you that the Appointments Board of Kabale University Under Min.598160/AB/21122 found you guilty of sexual harassment, failure to follow examination regulations, and professional negligence.

“The board, therefore, directed you be severely reprimanded and your interdiction be lifted.

“The board further resolved not to renew your contract as a Senior Lecturer of Statistics when it expires on 11 November, 2022. You are, therefore, required to hand over all University property in your possession to the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management Science in the presence of the financial auditor.”



## Miss Puerto Rico and Miss Argentina announce their marriage

By N.Ugoh

Fabiola Valentin and Mariana Varela, who represented their countries as Miss Puerto Rico and Miss Argentina respectively, have announced that they are married to each other, after keeping their love affair secret.

**T**HE couple who met at Miss Grand International (MGI) in 2020 announced their marriage by sharing a video showing snippets of their relationship, engagement, and some lovely moments. Also, they revealed they officially tied the knot recently.

Valentin and Varela met at the beauty pageant Miss Grand International 2020

and were friends till the end of the pageant. Varela represented Argentina in Miss Universe 2019 and finished in the top 10 positions at the Miss Grand International 2020. The couple has also collaborated with many modelling agencies.

Sharing a video of their love life, the couple wrote; “After choosing to keep our relationship private, we open our doors to a special day. 28/10/22.”

## Alex Jones Ordered to Pay \$473 Million More to Sandy Hook Families

By Marcel Chukwuka

Alex Jones, host of Infowars, and his company were ordered to pay an additional sum of \$473 million for peddling false conspiracy theories about the Sandy Hook school massacre, bringing the total judgment against him to a whopping \$1.44 billion.

Barbara Bellis, the presiding judge of Connecticut, imposed punitive damages on Jones and Free Speech Systems. Jones incessantly told his followers the massacre that killed 20 first graders and six educators was staged by “crisis actors” to enact more gun control.

“The record supports the plaintiffs’ argument that the defendant’s conduct was intentional and malicious, and certain to cause harm by their infrastructure, ability to spread content, and massive audience including the infowarriors,” the judge wrote in a 45-page ruling.

Christopher Mattei, a lawyer who represented Sandy Hook, said he hopes the award acts as a deterrence to conspiracy

theorists.

“The Court recognized the ‘intentional, malicious ... and heinous’ conduct of Mr Jones and his business entities,” Mattei said.

On Thursday’s show, Jones called the award “ridiculous” and a “joke” and said he had little money to pay the damages.

“Well, of course I’m laughing at it,” he said. “It’d be like if you sent me a bill for a billion dollars in the mail. Oh man, we got you. It’s all for psychological effect. It’s all the Wizard of Oz ... when they know full well the bankruptcy going on and all the rest of it that it’ll show what I’ve got and that’s it, and I have almost nothing.”

Families of victims of the shooting as well as an FBI Agent testified during a month-long trial about being threatened and harassed for years by people who deny the shooting happened. Strangers showed up at some of their homes and confronted some of them in public. They were threatened with rape and death.

Six jurors ordered Jones to pay \$965 million to compensate



the 15 plaintiffs for defamation, infliction of emotional distress and violations of Connecticut’s Unfair Trade Practices Act.

Jones brandished the trial as an assault on free speech rights. He says he will exercise his right of appeal. He also has said he doesn’t have the money to satisfy the judgment sum because he has less than \$2 million to his name — which was a contradiction to an earlier testimony at a similar trial in Texas. Free Speech Systems, meanwhile, is seeking bankruptcy protection.

He said he only had a “couple hundred thousand dollars” in his savings account.

Bellis found Jones and Infowars’ parent company liable for damages without a trial last year, as a consequence for what she called his repeated failures to turn over many financial documents and other records to the plaintiffs. After the unusual “default” ruling, the jury was tasked only with deciding on the amount of compensatory damages and whether punitive damages were warranted.

Jones said that, though he availed the court with tonnes of documents, the default ruling deprived him of his right to present a defence against the lawsuit.

The Sandy Hook plaintiffs’ lawyers are entitled to get one-third of the \$965 million in compensatory damages under a retainer agreement.

There is no limit on punitive damages for violations of the UTP Act. No specific amount was claimed by the plaintiffs, but under one hypothetical calculation, they said such damages could be around \$2.75 trillion under the unfair trade law.

In a similar trial in Texas, Jones was ordered to pay nearly \$50 million to another child’s parents killed in the Sandy Hook shooting for calling the massacre a hoax. A forensic economist testified during that trial that Jones and Free Speech Systems have a combined net worth as high as \$270 million.

A third and final trial over Jones’ hoax claims is scheduled to begin at the end of the year in Texas. As in Connecticut, Jones was found liable for damages without trials in both Texas cases because he failed to turn over records to the plaintiffs.

INTERNATIONAL

# Recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital reversed by Australia

By Marcel Chukwuka

Australia has said it would longer recognize West Jerusalem as Israel's capital, reversing a decision taken by former Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government in 2018.

**W**HILE making this known, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said: "Today the Government has reaffirmed Australia's previous and longstanding position that Jerusalem is a final status issue that should be resolved as part of any peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian people.

"This reverses the Morrison Government's recognition of West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

Wong stated that Australia's embassy would remain in Tel Aviv and that Canberra has committed to a two-state solution "in which Israel and a future Palestinian state coexist, in peace and security, within internationally recognized borders".

She added: "We will not support an approach that undermines this prospect." Jerusalem's status is one of the highest sticking points in efforts to reach a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians.

The entire city, including the eastern sector it annexed after the 1967



Middle East war, is regarded by Israel as its capital while Palestinian officials want occupied East Jerusalem as the capital of a state they hope to create in the future in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid has criticized Australia's decision.

Lapid labelled the move as a "hasty response" and added: "We can only hope that the Australian government manages other matters more seriously and professionally."

In a statement released by his office, the Prime Minister said: "Jerusalem is the eternal and united capital of Israel

and nothing will ever change that."

The Israeli foreign ministry said it had summoned the Australian ambassador to lodge a formal protest.

Former Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison announced that his government would recognize West Jerusalem as Israel's capital after the United States compromised on decades of policy by recognizing Jerusalem and moving the US embassy there from Tel Aviv.

Australia's decision was widely criticized by pro-Palestinian groups and the Labor party, which was in opposition then and vowed to reverse the move if it was elected.

## Hushpuppi files notice to appeal his sentencing

By Marcel Chukwuka

Convicted internet fraudster and Instagram celebrity, Ramon "Hushpuppi" Abbas, has filed a notice to appeal the 11-year sentence slammed on him for internet fraud and money laundering.

This is contained in court documents that were filed at the United States District Court, Central District Of California.

According to reports, the appeal was filed by Washington-based attorney, John Iweanoge and covers only the sentence given by District Judge Otis D. Wright II.

Hushpuppi was sentenced to 11 years in prison and was ordered by the court to pay \$1,732,841 in restitution to two fraud victims. In April 2021, he pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to engage in money laundering. He was nabbed in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in June 2020 and has been in federal custody since his extradition from the UAE. United States Attorney Martin Estrada said: "Abbas bragged on social media about his lavish lifestyle – a lifestyle funded by his involvement in transnational fraud and money laundering conspiracies targeting victims around the world."

Hushpuppi conspired with 37-year-old Ghaleb Alaumary of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, a convicted money launderer, to launder funds gotten from crimes like bank cyber-heists, business email compromise (BEC) schemes and other online frauds. Also, they laundered funds stolen from a bank in Malta by providing account information for banks in Romania and Bulgaria.

He fraudulently induced a New York-based law firm to transfer approximately \$922,857 to an account controlled by a co-conspirator under the name of another person. Alaumary was charged differently and in November 2020, he pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to perpetrate money laundering. He is currently serving a 140-month prison sentence and was ordered by the court to pay over \$30 million in restitution.

## Ireland Court Reveals Only Condition To Ratify EU-Canada Trade Deal

By Stanley Ugagbe

The Supreme Court of Ireland has ruled that parliament cannot ratify the European Union's free trade deal with Canada unless laws are changed, posing a challenge to the coalition government if it wants to avoid the matter going to a referendum.

Reports have it that the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) sets out the removal of tariffs on 99% of all goods types traded between the EU and Canada, some over a period of up to seven years.

It should be noted that since 2017, it has been provisionally in force and has so far been ratified by 16 of the 27 EU member countries, with Germany's coalition agreeing in June to add its signature.

Reports have it that the Irish government had intended to do so as well through a vote in parliament once it cleared the legal hurdles. Sometime last year, Deputy Prime Minister Leo Varadkar averred that a delay would send out the wrong message on Ireland's commitment to trade.

But, a member of the ruling coalition challenged it in the courts,



arguing that the deal should be put to a referendum because its ratification may affect the ability to introduce regulation, particularly in relation to the environment.

In its ruling, the nation's apex court said the deal is unconstitutional as Irish law now stands and that parliament would have to make amendments to arbitration laws to permit ratification.

It was reported that the lawmaker who took the case, Patrick Costello, is a member of the junior coalition Green Party and the two larger governing parties would need the support of

its smaller partner to pass legislation clearing the block on ratification.

On his part, Varadkar, maintained that the government remained committed to ratifying the deal in full and its initial assessment was that it could do so via legislation without the need for a referendum.

It is germane to note that Irish citizens are entitled to vote on any major changes to EU law and have twice delayed European integration by rejecting referendums before eventually passing them once concessions were offered.

## Google to pay \$391.5m settlement in US breach of privacy case

By N.Ugoh

Google has agreed to pay \$391.5m in settlement to 40 states in the USA after it accepted responsibility for tracking location of users without their consent.

The case which was described as the largest US privacy settlement ever brings victory for consumers after an investigation found the company guilty of charges.

According to the Attorney, citing evidence levelled against Google, the states' investigation was triggered by a 2018 Associated Press story, which discovered that Google continued to track user's location data even after they opted out of tracking by disabling a feature Google called "location history".

The settlement becomes the biggest multi-state settlement in US history dealing with privacy.

According to analysts, the win against Google may lead to reinforced investigations of others.

## SPORTS

# FIFA urges countries participating in 2022 World Cup to 'focus on football, not politics'

By Tunde Ajibode

Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has written to countries that will participate in the 2022 World Cup, to focus on the tournament in Qatar.

**I**N the message, the world football governing body urged them not to be part of talking about morality and dragging football "into every ideological or political battle that exists".

The letter was written by FIFA's president, Gianni Infantino, and the governing body's secretary general, Fatma Samoura.

It was sent amid increasing pressure on players to be activists around the tournament.

It has been a World Cup build-up affected by concerns about the suffering encountered



by low-paid migrant workers who build the infrastructure in the tiny Gulf nation as well as discriminatory laws that criminalize same-sex relations.

Infantino and Samoura wrote: "Please, let's now focus on the football!" "We know football

does not live in a vacuum and we are equally aware that there are many challenges and difficulties of a political nature all around the world.

"But please do not allow football to be dragged into every ideological or political battle

that exists."

The letter however did not address the request by England and Wales and six other European nations that their captains should wear "One Love" multicoloured armbands at the World Cup in response

to concerns raised about Qatar's anti-LGBTQ+ laws. Both British countries have already disclosed they would defy any FIFA ban.

Infantino wrote: "At FIFA, we try to respect all opinions and beliefs, without handing out moral lessons to the rest of the world.

"One of the great strengths of the world is indeed its very diversity, and if inclusion means anything, it means having respect for that diversity. No one people or culture or nation is 'better' than any other.

"This principle is the very foundation stone of mutual respect and non-discrimination. And this is also one of the core values of football. So, please let's all remember that and let football take centre stage."

Infantino reveals everybody will be welcome in Qatar "regardless of origin, background, religion, gender, sexual orientation or nationality".

## Dalic: We were unimpressed by Herdman's pre-match comment

By Tunde Ajibode

After beating Canada 4-1, Croatia's Head Coach, Zlatko Dalic, made it clear that they were unimpressed by John Herdman's comments before the game and the fact that he left the pitch without shaking his hand after the match.

After Canada's undeserved 1-0 loss against Belgium, emotional Herdman said of his team during a TV interview: "I told them they belong here. And we're going to go and 'eff' Croatia."

The match ended 4-1 in favour of Croatia. After the match, Dalic said: "I did not see the other head coach after the match. Whether I lose or win I always congratulate the winner."

"He [Herdman] was not there and that's his way of doing things. He's obviously mad. He's a good coach, he is a high-quality professional, but it will take some time for him to learn some things."

While reacting, Herdman admitted that he may have spoken recklessly.

He said: "I could have been a little bit more composed coming out of the huddle, but that's my learning.

"I'll take that on the chin. But from a mindset point of view, I think we showed in that first 25 minutes, that little old Canada can compete with the best in the world."

## Cristiano Ronaldo: Is The End In Sight?

By Stanley Ugagbe

Since the exodus of Cristiano Ronaldo from Real Madrid after winning the coveted Champions League for a record fifth time in 2018, his career has been full of dramatic moments.

Recall that the Portuguese forward penned a four-year-deal with Juventus after leaving the Spanish Giants. However, the football icon, despite his sensational form in Turin, could not replicate his Madrid form in Italy – the beginning of his many troubles.

In his third season with the old ladies, Juventus were on the verge of missing out on the Champions League spot, forcing Ronaldo to push for a move from Italy and possibly join a Champions League side in the following season.

The five-time World Best Player added fuel to the speculation of his transfer away from Juventus in 2021 when he was spotted moving his cars from his property in Turin in the night. This led to major speculation with regards to his already heavily discussed and reported transfer away from the Bainconeri.

Luckily, the old ladies eventually qualified for the UCL but it did not stop Ronaldo from moving away from the club and signed for Manchester United – a sensational return that broke the Internet.

Ronaldo was instrumental to

United last season but they failed to qualify for Champions League. This forced him to attempt to exit the club as he could not see himself not playing the UCL. Unfortunately, he could not get a club and United had insisted that they were not ready to sell him.

Having failed to leave in January, Ronaldo was reduced to a bit-part player at United and he has a paltry three goals to his name this season.

United coach, Erik Ten Hag had suggested Ronaldo's lack of minutes this season is due to him missing pre-season but is sure he will now contribute more to the team.

"He is getting in better shape now and I am happy with that, so he can contribute more to the squad and I'm sure he will do, it's proven once again no one can miss pre-season," Hag said.

Ronaldo's woes continued during the game against Tottenham as he refused to come on as a substitute late in the game and left the stadium while the game was still on – he was suspended in the next game against Chelsea. However, his woes were compounded following his explosive interview with Piers Morgan.

The Portuguese star accused Manchester United and coach Erik Ten Hag of betrayal and lack of respect.

He said "At United, the progress was zero, in my opinion. To compare with Real Madrid



and even Juventus, that they follow the rest of the world, so the technology, especially in terms of training, nutrition and conditioning, eat properly and to recover better than before – surprised me.

"Manchester right now to compare with that club, I think it's behind in my opinion, which is something that surprised me. A club with this dimension should be the top of the tree in my opinion and they are not, unfortunately. They are not in that level. But I hope the next years they can reach to be in a top level.

"I don't know what's going on but since Sir Alex Ferguson left I saw no evolution in the club, the progress was zero."

On Ten Hag, Ronaldo said "The coach didn't have respect for me. So this is why the relationship, it's in that way".

"He keep saying in the press that he come to me, he like me

blah, blah, blah, but that is only for the press, 100 per cent. If you don't have respect for me, I'm never going to have respect for you." In a swift reaction, United sensationally removed Ronaldo's pictures from Old Trafford and had gone ahead to terminate his contract.

A club statement said "Cristiano Ronaldo is to leave Manchester United by mutual agreement, with immediate effect". "The club thanks him for his immense contribution across two spells at Old Trafford, scoring 145 goals in 346 appearances, and wishes him and his family well for the future. Everyone at Manchester United remains focused on continuing the team's progress under Erik ten Hag and working together to deliver success on the pitch."

On his part, Ronaldo issued a statement saying "Following conversations with Manchester United we have mutually agreed to end our contract early.

"I love Manchester United and I love the fans, that will never ever change. However, it feels like the right time for me to seek a new challenge.

"I wish the team every success for the remainder of the season and for the future."

The former Madrid history maker is currently in Qatar with his national team battling for the World Cup glory. Currently, he is without a club and many are wondering, is the end in sight?

**SPORTS**



**Sunday Dare inaugurates Nigeria Olympic Committee's BOT**

**By Tunde Ajibode**

The Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Mr Sunday Dare has inaugurated the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC).

**D**ARE who was supported at the ceremony held at the Headquarters of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) in Abuja, by the President, Nigeria Olympic Committee, Engr Habu Gumel, congratulated the new Board Members and Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) for working assiduously towards the revitalisation of the BOT after the unfortunate demise of its pioneer members.

The Minister who was represented at the occasion by his Chief of Staff, Alhaji Abba Yola called on them to

take advantage of the National Sports Industry Policy (NSIP) recently approved by the Federal Executive Council, to drive the development of sports in the country.

He commended the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) for its commitment and doggedness that led to the successes recorded at the 2022 Commonwealth Games despite the absence of its Board of Trustees.

Mr. Dare who pledged the Ministry's unflinching support to the Board and NOC, expressed optimism that with the calibre of persons inaugurated today, Nigeria is set to record more podium performances at International Competitions.

Speaking earlier, the President of the Nigeria Olympic Committee, (NOC), Engr. Habu Gumel explained that the delay in the inauguration of the BOT was as a result of necessary documentation and registration of its members at the Corporate Affairs Commission as well as the demise of

five former BOT members.

According to him, "after their passage, we were constrained to fill the vacuum created as a matter of statutory requirement. In the face of this, we made a proposal to the Executive Board which led to the nomination and eventual appointment of the new Trustees we are inaugurating today".

He urged the new appointees to support the objectives and aspirations of the Nigeria Olympic Committee by giving their best service to the nation in order to bring to reality, the dreams and aspirations of sports-loving Nigerians in the field.

Members of the newly inaugurated Board of Trustees are:

- I. Amb Haruna Garba
- Hon. Ayo H. Omidiran
- Dr. Lanre Glover
- Mr. Jackson Bidei
- Hon. Lumumba Dah Adeb
- Mr. Suleyman Mu'azu
- Mr. Obi Asika

**Ryan Reynolds confirms interest in buying Ottawa Senators**

**By Tunde Ajibode**

Canadian actor, Ryan Reynolds has confirmed reports that he wants to buy the Ottawa Senators.

The host of Tonight Show, Jimmy Fallon asked Reynolds directly if he was interested in purchasing the NHL club. Reynolds, who currently co-owns Welsh soccer club Wrexham with fellow actor Rob McElhenney answered by saying: "Yes, that is true. I am trying to do that. It's very expensive.

While talking further, he laughed and said: "I need a partner with really deep pockets."

In December 2021, Forbes magazine valued the Senators at

US\$525 million. That was about four months before former owner Eugene Melnyk died.

Months after Melnyk's death, the Senators were once again the chosen partner for a proposed arena project to build in Ottawa's LeBreton Flats area, thereby increasing the team's value. The Senators initially considered moving to LeBreton Flats, but the plan hit the rocks as Melnyk and his business partners sued each other.

The Melnyk estate has clarified that the team will only be sold if the buyer agrees to keep the team in Ottawa.

Reynolds addressed both the cost of acquiring an NHL team and keeping the team in Ottawa during his

interview with Fallon.

Reynolds said he would have to be the face of a consortium that buys the Senators, which according to him is "a fancy way of saying I need a sugar mommy or a sugar daddy." Though he is from Vancouver, Reynolds talked about his love for the National Capital Region.

He said: "I love Ottawa. I grew up in Vancouver, which has my heart always, but I also grew up in Ottawa. I spent a long time in Vanier which is a little town right inside Ottawa."

Melnyk bought the Senators in 2003 for US\$92 million at a time when the franchise encountered bankruptcy and a shaky future in Ottawa.



**U.S. Based Michael Nsien Named Head Coach Of U.S. U-16 Men's Youth National Team**

**By Tunde Ajibode**

The U.S. Soccer Federation has appointed US based Nigerian tactician, Michael Nsien as the new head Coach of the U.S. U-16 Men's Youth National team on a 3-year deal.

Nsien, with over 23 years of experience as a player and coach for clubs in the United States, becomes the first Nigerian to take the reign of the U.S. U-16 Boys team.

Coach Nsien, born in Oklahoma of Nigerian roots, holds all the UEFA Pro Coaching licenses and is seen by his peers in the U.S. as a "trail blazer" for black coaches in a sector with very few black coaches.

"I feel really good about getting this role and opportunity as a first generation Nigerian American, it is really important to me that we show that my family name, the people of Nigeria are exposed and representing in a positive way not just the U.S. but across the world.

I think this opportunity will bring life upon my name, my family and my country Nigeria as well and also as an American, i have a great sense of pride to represent our country and to help get the next generation of American players to the forefront", Nsien said.

The 41-year-old who before now managed USL Championship side FC Tulsa for four seasons, leading the side to the MLS Cup playoffs.

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The 41-year-old who before now managed USL Championship side FC Tulsa for four seasons, leading the side to the MLS Cup playoffs.

It will be recalled Coach Nsien showed interest in working with the NFF but was not successful.

## RELIGION

## PFN: Vote competence and not religion



By N.Ugoh

President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), Bishop Wale Oke has urged Nigerians to vote political candidates in the 2023 general election based on competence and not religion or ethnicity.

Oke warned Nigerians against selling their future to wealthy politicians and stated that every voter should identify one of the 18 contestants in the presidential race that can take Nigeria to the promised land.

Speaking recently, the PFN President said: "If a Muslim can solve Nigeria's problem, I will vote for him so far he will treat Muslims and Christians as equal stakeholders in Nigeria, and he will not favor one religion

above another.

"For me, if a Hausa man emerges, okay, if it is Fulani man, good, if it is Igbo, Kanuri, Edo, Ibibio, or Yoruba man, okay, provided he stands for justice, equity, fairness, and one Nigeria. He must also be a man that can deal with the problem of Nigeria decisively.

"Vote for whoever has the capacity to turn around Nigeria, use your votes to change the fortune of the nation to give Nigerians the nation we want

"Let's decide and go beyond religion sentiment, ethnicity, and party so that Nigeria can get to its destination.

"Nigeria shall be beautiful and great, let us all cooperate with God so that we can get to the promised land."

## US: Thieves stole \$1.5m from churches in 14 states

By N.Ugoh

It is not uncommon for Christians to feel that an attack on the church means a spiritual attack.

A criminal organization based out of Houston, Texas, decided to attack the church in a different way: financially.

Fayette County's Sheriff's office in Georgia has announced the arrest of three members of a bigger crime group that has over 17 members. According to Sheriff Barry Babb, churches in Fayette County alone had \$154,000 stolen from their mailboxes and drop-box locations.

Investigators that have been monitoring the crime spree since the COVID lockdowns have revealed that \$1.5 million has been taken from many tithing drop-boxes across 14 states.

The thieves would open fake bank accounts and then deposit the checks through ATMs.

Sheriff Babb made this known during an interview with Fox 5 Atlanta. He said: "Probably some of these churches might not have even been open during that time and these checks were piling up. So, they knew that when they hit a mailbox, which most of these cases these mailboxes were not secure mailboxes, they were able to take the mail."

Authorities have witnessed an increase in this

style of stealing with many elderly congregants unable to drop their tithes or offerings in person, they resort to sending their checks through mail.

Sheriff Babb urged churches and other religious organizations to encourage their congregations to move toward online giving as it is safer than mailing in tithes.

Earlier this year, Huntsville's Willowbrook Baptist Church in Alabama, encountered the same problem of having their mailbox raided by thieves.

Pastor Mark McClelland talked about the matter to WBRC 6. He said: "They are not just robbing from the church, they are robbing from God. Our prayer is that the thieves not only get caught, but they get captured by Christ and they trust Him."

According to U.S. Postal Inspector Tony Robinson, the perpetrators could face up to five years in federal prison I caught.

He said: "Additional charges can be levied against the criminals based on what they do with the mail. They can steal the mail and never do anything with it but still be charged and sentenced to jail time."

This increase in mailbox crime has made many churches put locks over their mailbox, or install a letter-sized slot that allows mail to be delivered to the church directly.

## GOODBYE

## Months After Adultery Scandal, Sammie Okposo Dies



By Stanley Ugagbe

Months after he was embroiled in an adultery scandal, Nigerian Gospel Singer, Sammie Okposo has died.

According to reports, the 51-year-old slumped and died in his house. His project manager, Hillary Vincent, confirmed the news to newsmen. Responding to inquiries, he said, "Yes it's true. It happened this morning."

The Wellu Wellu master, as he was fondly called, was an internationally-recognized music producer, psalmist, and CEO of Zamar Entertainment.

Okposo started his music career as a soundtrack producer for Nollywood in 1992. He was well-known at that time in the small circle of Nollywood actors and producers.

The ace singer later began to get more career flashpoints when he started the Sammie Okposo Praise Party, a platform that brought many up-and-coming Nigerian gospel artistes into the scene.

The Niger Delta-born music star was known for emboldening the gospel music scene by taking his music away from the quiet confines of the church. Okposo released his first album Unconditional Love in 2000.

It could be recalled that earlier this year, he admitted cheating on his wife when he travelled to the US in late 2021.

In view of the development, he suspended himself from all ministry work until full restoration as he sought forgiveness from God.

Okposo had openly

tendered an apology to his wife: "I need to bring a very unfortunate incident to your attention as I am not proud of it but know that this is the right thing to do.

In view of the development, he suspended himself from all ministry work until full restoration as he sought forgiveness from God.

Okposo had openly tendered an apology to his wife: "I need to bring a very unfortunate incident to your attention as I am not proud of it but know that this is the right thing to do.

"I want to this moment and apologize to all fathers and mothers of faith and ministers of gospel for my misbehavior and moral failure. I won't be here if not for your investment and belief in what God has called me to do. I sincerely apologize for the embarrassing situation."

On her part, the US-based lady allegedly impregnated by Okposo, had said she will keep the baby because she doesn't believe in abortion.

She had called out the singer, saying she didn't require him to bow to her but turning his back on her is wrong.

In an interview, she had said "We both know that we didn't use protection. We both know that we were wrong. There is still a way to handle things. He didn't handle it right. I am not saying he has to bow to me but there is a way you do things.

"Turning your back on me is wrong. Any woman on earth won't feel okay about it. It doesn't feel good to be abandoned or to be thrown to the side. I cannot be walking around thinking about it, life goes on".

## Ontario Agog As Ibusa Community Holds Second Cultural Day Event

By N. Ugoh

For the Ibusa Community Development Union, promoting culture is one of their core values irrespective of where they are. This was again evident in the Canada branch of the Association during their recently held Cultural Day Celebration.

The event which was held at Viceroy Banquet Hall in Vaughan and started by 4pm on 17th September 2022, was laced with cultural display, traditional dance, and food exhibition. This is even as lots of mouth-watering prizes were won by individuals.

It was a moment of

glamour as they showcased their rich cultural heritage through their elegant attires, thrilling dance steps as well as different sweet delicacies.

Speaking to our correspondent after the event, the President of the Association in Canada, Oza Chiazor Agokei, shared reverberating insights about the Association.

Oza noted that the "Ibusa Community Development Union, Canada (ICDU CANADA) is a chapter of ICDU WORLD-WIDE, an association set up in 1952, as the umbrella body for all Ibusa sons and daughters."

According to him, the

goals and objectives of the union are to collectively work towards Ibusa progress and development, in all spheres of life. "The ICDU Canada chapter, have passionately worked towards achieving the set goals and objectives," he said.

While noting that the 2022 Ibusa Cultural Day Celebration was the second of such in Canada, the leader said the "significance of promoting our root's culture in a foreign land, is quite clear, we are not only exposing to the world our rich cultural heritage, but also reminding our children of their original background".

He added that "This year's cultural was a huge

success, the children were actively involved in showcasing a very important part of our Ibusa history and community government structure. More so, this year's event marked our first New Yam Festival (IWAJI Celebration) in Canada."

When asked on the challenges they are facing in organizing the event, Oza said "There are not much challenges, because we are always determined and passionate in showcasing our rich cultural heritage."

For enquiries, kindly email - [canadaicdu@gmail.com](mailto:canadaicdu@gmail.com)

see photos of the event on p(26)

# Canadian government to permanently eliminate student loan interest

By N.Ugoh

The Canadian government plans to make its pandemic-era pause on student loan interest permanent in an effort to offset some of the present financial pressures on young Canadians as the cost of living increases.

As part of its fall fiscal update tabled recently, the federal government stated plans to permanently remove interest on all federal student loans and apprentice loans including loans that are being repaid currently.

Meanwhile, interest rates will still apply to the provincial portion of a student's loan.

Rebekah Young, Director of fiscal and provincial economics at Scotiabank said though this move is helpful for graduating students, it is the ultimate relief for interest payments on debt rather than money toward tuition or other post-secondary school expenses.

She said: "In the bigger picture, they're still confronting elevated expenditures across the board."

According to 2019 data from the Government of Canada website, over 1.8 million Canadian students are owing the federal government a total of \$20.5 billion with the average loan balance at about

\$13,367 at the time of graduating.

The average undergraduate tuition fee is \$6,482 for an academic year as of 2022, according to Statistics Canada, while the average graduate tuition fee is \$7,053 as of 2022.

The accrued interest on student loans was suspended by the Liberal government in 2021 due to the effects of the pandemic on graduating students as they set foot in a unique job market. The measure will expire in March.

The fiscal update said the elimination of interest will start on April 1, 2023.

In the fiscal update, the government said an average student loan borrower would save \$410 every year as a result of their loan being interest-free.

The federal government said the elimination of interest on these loans will cost \$2.7 billion over five years and \$556.3 million ongoing.

Young said some may fear the decision could fuel inflation, but that has not been a particularly strong argument as the measure is a relatively small one.

The government said graduating students will still be able to use its repayment assistance plan, allowing them to halt student loan repayment till they are making at least \$40,000 per year, and reducing payments for citizens.

# How to find the right winter tires



(NC) To buy or not to buy winter tires – that's a question many Canadians ponder as winter approaches. Here are a few tips on how to choose your winter tires and maintain them:

### QUALITY IS THE PRIORITY

When choosing your winter tires, start by identifying a reliable brand with online research and reviews. Depending on the province, you may be eligible for a discount. Many insurance providers like Belairdirect offer their customers savings on car insurance for using winter tires. Make sure you let them know once your winter tires are installed.

### BETTER TIRE TREADS

The rubber on winter tires is designed with deeper treads compared to those of all-season tires. This gives you much-needed grip on

ice and snow in sub-zero temperatures. The tread on winter tires also allows for better traction and maneuverability, improving movement on wet or icy roads.

### LONGER LASTING TIRE PRESSURE

Air pressure decreases in cold weather, but did you know winter tires are less likely to lose air than all-season or summer tires? This will save you more time and energy in the long run. Check your tire pressure at least once a month as the temperature starts to drop.

Find more information at [belairdirect.com](http://belairdirect.com).

# COVER STORY

## Christopher Uwagboe, appointed ....

Office. He opened a private practice representing clients in real estate, criminal defence, small claims, and immigration cases in 2011.

He served as a per diem prosecutor for the Crown Attorney's Office and the Ministry of Transportation in London while in private practice and was appointed to Legal Aid Ontario's board of directors and chaired the operations committee in 2021.

He has passion for career development, networking, and mentorship. Also, he has spoken on panels and mentored paralegal candidates from triOS College and Fanshawe College, law students and Black students at Western University, and professionals at the Ontario Association of Black Paralegals. He was the president of the National Executive of the Black Law Students' Association of Canada when he was in law school

Justice Williams was admitted to the bar in 2002. He has been an assistant Crown attorney and has worked in Crown Attorney's Offices in Simcoe County, Kitchener, and Hamilton since then. He has prosecuted coroner's inquests, dangerous offender and long-term offender hearings, and murder trials. Also, he served

as an assistant Crown attorney in all satellite courts in Simcoe County.

Tarcza was called to the bar in 2005. She worked as an assistant Crown attorney in Barrie and became the deputy Crown attorney in 2019. She has collaborated with other justice partners to develop and improve processes to change the Ontario Court of Justice to a virtual platform in Simcoe County.

# COVER STORY

## Patience Ajao becomes the branch ....

child, pregnancy and maternity did not prevent my climb up the ladder. Needless to say, I have since distanced myself from those that never believed in me.

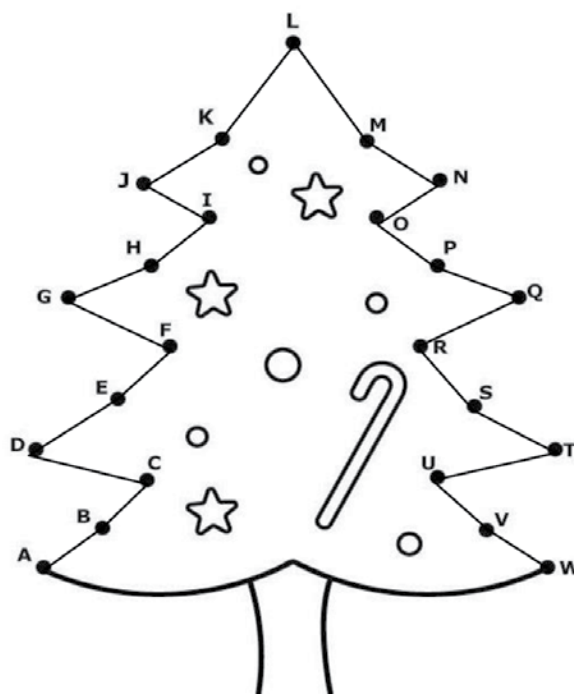
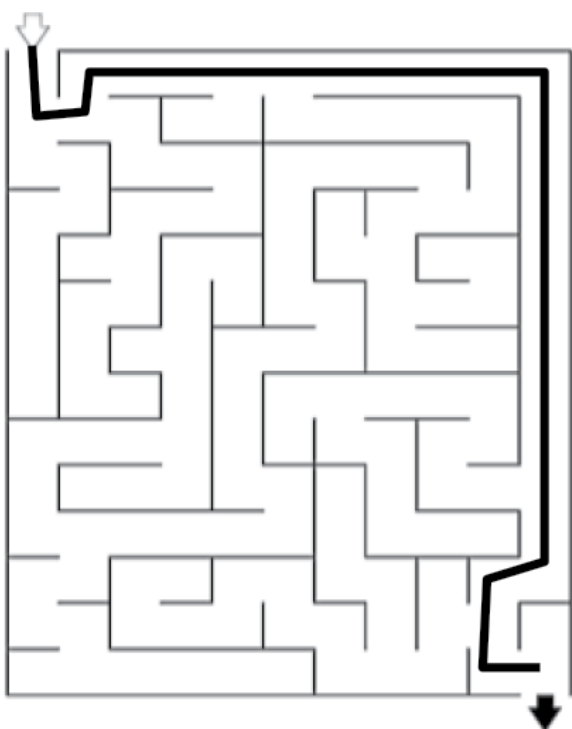
"I am blessed to be a part of an organization that has provided a level playing field for everyone. In this month of November 2022, I accepted the promotion to the role of

Branch Manager, thank you TD!!"

She advised immigrants not to give up on their dreams and find an organization that will accept their potential.

She wrote: "Finally, Dear Immigrants: seek an organization that will accept your potential and believe in yourself that you can attain whatever height you aim for."

## ANSWERS OF YOUTH CORNER – PAGE 19



- (1) = 3 i.e.  $2 \times 3 = 6 \times 4 = 24$
- (2) = 90 i.e.  $15 \times 2 = 30 \times 3 = 90$
- (3) = 4 i.e.  $1.5 \times 3 = 4.5 \times 4 = 18$
- (4) = 0 i.e.  $40 \times 12 = 120 \times 0 = 0$
- (5) = 7 i.e.  $7 \times 7 = 49 \times 7 = 53$
- (6) = 36 i.e.  $6 \times 3 = 18 \times 2 = 36$

- 1) 2hours, 45minutes;
- 2) 5 hours 15minutes;
- 3) 6years, 4months;
- 4) 40 years

# ONTARIO AGOG AS IBUSA COMMUNITY HOLDS SECOND CULTURAL DAY EVENT

Photos by NCNC

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