



NIDCOM

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

DIASPORA NEWSLETTER



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NIGERIA DIASPORA REMITTANCES

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



Diaspora remittances were forecast by experts to decrease globally in 2020 due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. However, the decline was nowhere near what was predicted. Despite the heat of the pandemic, Nigeria diaspora was seen to respond with numerous supplies to support their communities back home and even organised campaigns to combat misinformation. By the end of the 2020, series of circulars were released in December, by CBN, regarding its new policy on diaspora remittances which were followed by “the new circular” in January, this year, which stated the modalities for the payout of diaspora remittances.

It stated clearly in the new circular that: 1. Only licensed IMTOs are permitted to carry on the business of facilitating diaspora remittances into Nigeria. 2. All diaspora remittances must be received by beneficiaries in foreign currency (by cash and/or transfers to domiciliary accounts or recipients). 3. IMTOs are not permitted, under any circumstances, to disburse diaspora remittances in Naira (either in cash or by electronic transfers), be it through remittance settlement accounts (which had been earlier directed to be closed), third party accounts or via any other payment platforms within and/or around the Nigerian financial

system. A month later, speaking at the CBN/Bankers Committees initiative for economic growth, The Central Bank Governor, Godwin Emefiele disclosed that the weekly remittances have risen from \$5m to \$30m which indicates that the policies introduced by CBN to boost diaspora remittances inflow is yielding results.

He stated that the directive that all IMTOs should provide remitters with an option of sending foreign exchange to beneficiaries in Nigeria has helped reduced diversion of forex by some IMTOs who had thrived from forex arbitrage arrangements rather than on improving transactions volumes in Nigeria.

In his words “Indeed, we have already seen remittances improve from a weekly average of about \$5m to \$30m per week.” The CBN Governor vowed to revoke operation license of operators who violate these rules regarding diaspora remittances into the country and will not tolerate any breach of the directives that remittances should be paid in dollars to all beneficiaries.

This new policy introduced by the CBN had been hailed by all the stakeholders in the sector as one of the best things that had happened to the sector in recent times.

INVESTMENTS: EKITI LAUNCHES DIASPORA BUSINESS REGISTER

Deborah Tochukwu Anaelechi



The Ekiti State Government, Office of Diaspora Affairs has launched its plan for the Ekiti Diaspora Business Register aimed at mobilising Ekiti in the Diaspora for more investment opportunities. Speaking via a virtual meeting, Mr. Femi Odere, the Diaspora Focal Point Officer (DFPO) of Ekiti State, said that the Business Register is intended to put together businesses, products and services that Ekiti indigenes abroad, are inquiring about or have to offer. According to him, with the register, the office on its part will follow strict verification and monitoring measure to authenticate business dealings on the platform.

This will also ease the search for certain products and services, as well as, curb fraudulence within and outside the state. Meanwhile, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), in her goodwill message, promised that talks with Odere will be done in earnest to render assistance towards the projects by the Ekiti State Government Office of Diaspora Affairs. Dabiri-Erewa, who was represented at the webinar by Mrs Funmilayo Braithwaite, assured the Ekiti indigenes in the

Diaspora that the Commission will do everything possible to work with them once they all come together and work as a team.

Mr. Olufemi Boyede, one of the participants at the the virtual meeting, gave commendation to the Ekiti State Diaspora Focal Point Office for the initiative. Boyede, however, suggested that more visibility should be done for individuals to key into the investments opportunities in Ekiti State; emphasising its potentials as an arm for economic development for Ekiti. In addition, he recommended an Ekiti Economic Development Fund should be created as a platform to invest in with an annual report at the end of every fiscal year for monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. Olufemi Falebita, another participant, stressed that a cogent and solid infrastructure should be established for continuity, irrespective of the seating government, to provide a smooth running of activities and plans, for the state and Diaspora, especially. Also, Mr. Kolawole Ayan urged that a strong consolidated assembly for Ekiti people abroad must be actively set up to brainstorm on ways to move Ekiti forward. Responding, Odere explained that the Diaspora State Office can be domesticated into a Commission, like NiDCOM at the state level, which he maintained will boost productivity and churn more ideas for Ekiti Diaspora.

He added that one of his major challenge is obtaining data of the population size of Ekiti indigenes in the Diaspora, to help streamline business services and investment opportunities. Odere stated that more of the onus lies on the Diaspora, as they are at the vantage point to steer the government on how best to harness the appropriate mechanisms for a better Ekiti. At the end of the discussions, members agreed to work on the take-aways, ahead of two proposed regular meetings.

WHY POSITIVITY MATTERS: THE NIGERIA CASE.

By Peter Burdin

Is it time to reimagine Nigeria?

It's Africa's largest economy and hosts some of the world's largest proven oil and gas reserves. It's poised to double its population to 400 million by 2050 and is home to a vibrant culture famed for its music, arts and literature. According to the UK's Department of International Trade the potential of Nigeria's "markets, human capital and natural resources are enormous".

Nigeria also has more than its fair share of social, economic and humanitarian difficulties, and its those challenges that our usually uppermost in our minds when we think of Nigeria.

It's not difficult for international media outlets to produce a catalogue of bad news. The focus on difficulties can, and I would argue has, produced a distorted picture, one that is overly negative and overlooks some of the reasons to feel positive about the country and its development.

The focus on Nigeria's difficulties is hardly a symptom of a cynical 'bad news sells' mindset – far from it. Rather it is because such stories are easy to cover. When it comes to terrorist attacks or natural disasters, they are immediate and newsworthy. Tales of economic difficulties conform to a stereotype, one that is neatly packaged into reports by international institutions.

Counterbalancing the dominant media narrative with success stories of Nigerian entrepreneurship and innovation, or of figures that are leading the country's global cultural success, is simply more difficult. They are often stories of gradual progress, or on a smaller scale. In an era of squeezed revenues and budget constraints for media organisations, more resource-intensive stories can get drowned out.

Telling more positive stories about Nigeria is, however, essential. Perceptions in our world count

for a lot and perceptions of success can stimulate progress. For that reason, positive developments, whether economic, cultural or political, should carry more weight in our media.

In Nigeria, there are so exciting many stories to tell. The country's tech start-up scene is one of the fastest-growing in Africa, led by Lagos which can claim to hosting the closest thing to Silicon Valley in Africa. No wonder Facebook Founder Mark Zuckerberg is investing heavily in Nigerian Tech Incubators.

Nigeria is arguably the beating heart of African culture on the world stage. Nigeria's 'Nollywood' film industry dominates the continent – it is second largest in the world, bested only by its Indian cousin. Meanwhile, Nigerian music has exploded across the world led by international stars like Burna Boy.

You might think that a tendency to cover negative stories doesn't matter. But it has real-world, damaging consequences. When international media outlets fail to see the wood from the trees in countries like Nigeria, so too can international investors, governments and other institutions. In fact, an unflinching spotlight on a country's challenges can have a stifling effect on efforts to solve them.

Take the example of terrorism, with which Nigeria has struggled in the past decade due to the emergence of the Daesh-aligned terrorist group, Boko Haram, and more recently the proliferation of armed bandit groups. The horrendous abduction of schoolchildren in Nigeria received media attention all over the globe in 2014. Yet such mass kidnappings continue to this day, and within the last week nearly 300 girls were

kidnapped from a school in north-western Nigeria, in Zamfara state.

These atrocities are committed by armed bandit groups, and international media focus on terrorist attacks has in many ways made life more difficult for authorities who are under even greater pressure to pay ransoms to the armed groups responsible.

Negative perceptions of a country can also depress foreign direct investment. Even before Covid-19 hit, foreign direct investment into sub-Saharan Africa was on the decline, falling 10% in 2019. In Nigeria, capital in-flows declined by a whopping 91% when the pandemic struck. In a country that desperately needs foreign money to support infrastructure development and to seed capital for its fast-growing start-up community, a relentless drip of news about the security situation without the counterbalance of reports on positive developments is highly damaging.

The bad news cycle also percolates up to the top-level of government. As Dr Nicholas Westcott, Director of the Royal African Society, pointed out in the Financial Times recently, Africa is excluded entirely from UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plan for an expansion of June's G7 to become a 'D10' democracy summit. Mr Johnson saw fit to invite Australia, India and South Korea but not two more of the world's largest democracies – Nigeria and South Africa, both of whom are larger than Australia.

Their exclusion is a diplomatic oversight that undermines the credibility of the initiative from the outset. It is also a missed opportunity to elevate countries that can show a path forward for other nascent democracies in Africa this century. But it also reveals a mindset that media narratives help to sustain: that Africa is a box of problems that is best left to one side.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Dr Ngozi Okonjoleweala is the first woman and the first African to head the World Trade Organization (WTO).
2. The first civilian governor of Lagos State is Alhaji Lateef Kayode Jakande.
3. The first black practicing female pediatrician in Canada is a Nigerian, Dr. Oluwatomilayo Daodu.
4. Dr. Joel Elejo Adam is the first non British to be commissioned as an Aerosystems Specialist Engineer and also the first Nigerian to get to the rank of a Flying Officer in the British Royal Air Force.
5. Cats spend 70% of their lives sleeping, which works out to around 1316 hours a day.
6. Bilateral ties between Federal Republic of Nigeria and People's Republic of China was established in February 10, 1971.

MARYAM KEHINDE ABDULAZEEZ
Sourced Google and Twitter

SAUDI ARABIA-BORN NIGERIANS PLANS BIG INVESTMENT IN AGRI-BUSINESS IN NIGERIA

By Juliannah Erin

Following the facilitation by Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), the duo of Yaro Brothers, Muhammad Umar Yaro and Musa Umar Yaro have decided to return to Nigeria from Saudi Arabia to invest in agriculture. The Yaros were Nigerians both born in Saudi Arabia and doing well in business but decided to hearken the call of the Federal Government to come back home and invest in Nigeria. They both visited the headquarters of NIDCOM in Abuja and were received by the Secretary of the Commission, Dr Sule Yakubu Bassi where they unfolded their mission in Nigeria.

Muhammad Yaro said that Saudi Arabia lacks rain and finds it difficult to produce certain crops or grow feeds because of its desert nature and which affects their agricultural sector. He said they were impressed that there were abundant opportunities in Nigeria especially in agric business to create different projects not in Saudi Arabia but by strategically planning to exhibit more of Nigerian products and creating job opportunities back home.

He said that his company is currently working in Sokoto state where a big Goat Company, Meat Processing Company, Animal Feeds Production were established. In addition, Yaro said that a 60 hectare of land has been arranged to also produce a special grass called AlfaAlfa, which is used in Saudi Arabia to feed most of their livestock. Yaro added that they also intend to build a guest house of 1,000 rooms in Sokoto state, explaining that their interest is not only in agriculture but also in real estate and hotel business in Nigeria. They stressed that they are also looking into running other projects with their coinvestors in Saudi Arabia in different states such as Kano, Zamfara and Katsina.

He said their company, Zaad Alwofood Co.Ltd, is equally planning to host another investment and hajj summit in 2021 similar to the maiden one held in Abuja in 2019 which covid19 pandemic prevented them to host in 2020. Yaro, however, solicited for help from the Commission with respect to bureaucracy encountered in the documentation of business concerns in Nigeria. Receiving the Yaros on behalf of Hon. Abike DabiriErewa, the Chairman/CEO NiDCOM, the Secretary to the Commission Engr. Dr Yakubu Sule Bassi expressed his excitement to partner with the Umar Yaro brothers, considering the success of their maiden Summit in Nigeria.

Bassi said that the programme is already slated in the NIDCOM annual calendar of activities but COVID19 truncated the plans. Bassi implored them to invite the Commission when launching any of their projects and assured them of the Commission's support always. He also encouraged them to also reach out to the new Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Nigeria, Faisal bin Ibrahim AlGhamdi. The NIDCOM scribe who took his time to explain what the Commission stands for, also promised to link the brothers with the Diaspora Focal Point officers of both Kano and Zamfara states to assist the brothers in anyway they can.



NIDCOM VOWS TO BRING ABUDU'S ASSAILANTS TO BOOK

.....Deborah Tochukwu Anaelechi



Late Temitope Abudu

The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) has promised the Abudu family justice over the death of the 40-year-old, Temitope Adedayo Abudu in South Africa by yet to be identified gunman. Speaking on behalf of Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa, the Chairman/CEO, NiDCOM, at an interview on PlusTV Africa Morning Show, Mr. Abdurrahman Balogun, the Head of Media and Public Relations Unit of the Commission, attested that the Commission received the petition over the matter from the deceased's brother.

According to Balogun, the Commission's Legal Unit promptly contacted the Nigerian Mission in South Africa, whom the latter are investigating the case thoroughly with the South African Police Force. Balogun stated that Abudu's murder added to the scores of murder cases of Nigerians living in South Africa in past years.

However, he promised that NiDCOM, alongside the Nigerian Mission in South Africa, are doing all they can to fish out the criminals so as to face prosecution. Earlier on the programme, Mr. Tunde Abudu, the Late Temitope Abudu's brother narrated that the sad event occurred on January 5, 2021. Tunde, who was in close communication with his late brother's friends in South Africa, as eyewitnesses, told him that on that fateful day in the evening, shots were heard but most people assumed they were sounds of firecrackers (popularly known as "knockouts" or "banger"), as it was during the festive period. It was when they saw Temitope on the ground that they realised a foul play. Abudu was rushed to the Hillbrow Community Health Centre, where he was pronounced dead. To confirm it, the Coroner, in the autopsy, stated that two bullets were removed from the body of the deceased.

Mr. Tunde Abudu informed that his brother, Temitope, whom he alleged was a law-abiding individual, has been buried according to Islamic rites, courtesy of his friends in South Africa, who saw to the preparation, while family members in Nigeria, attended the funeral service virtually. The late Temitope Abudu passed away leaving behind three children and five siblings.

“DESPITE COVID-19, NIGERIAN DIASPORA ARE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ECONOMY” - NIDCOM SECRETARY

By Doosughun Abughidyer

Engr. Dr Sule Yakubu Bassi, Secretary, Nigerian in Diaspora Commission, (NIDCOM) says despite COVID-19 pandemic ravaging world economies, the Nigerian Diaspora is still contributing majorly to the growth and development of the Nigerian economy through its remittances, Skills and competences, among others. Bassi, who represented NIDCOM Chairman, Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa, stated this when he received a three- man delegation from 1st October Limited, a private Sector led organisation in Abuja. The NIDCOM scribe stressed that the Commission is willing to work with any organisation with positive intentions and objectives toward accelerating growth and development of the country. Bassi added that the Commission was created to harness the potentials and expertise of the Nigerian Diaspora for National

development. He, therefore, urged Nigerians in Diaspora to be good Ambassadors of the Country, excel in whatever they do by being the best always as well as never to forget home. Earlier, the Leader of the delegation and Chairman, 1st October Limited, Mr Fidelis Anosike was delighted and excited with the quick response by NIDCOM on the proposal for strategic partnership on "NIGERIA OUR HERITAGE Project. Anosike added that the project is a global perception management brand for Nigeria. According to him.. "the project is a public perception movement to Nigeria. It is aimed at changing the perception of the country using people, especially Diaspora icons and culture". 1st October limited is a subsidiary of the Folio Media Group, a positive perception movement for "Nigeria our Heritage Publication". The project, according to him, has been in existence in the last five years.



Engr Dr Sule Yakubu Bassi, Secretary, NIDCOM with Mr Fidelis Anosike, Chairman, 1st October Ltd.

COVID -19 VACCINE IN NIGERIA

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli

For the past one year, Nigeria has recorded over 156,496 total confirmed cases of Covid-19, 134,551 recovered and discharged and 1923 deaths from the pandemic despite different measures put in place to curb the spread of the virus. With the figures going high by the day and the discovery of vaccines around the world, Nigeria in a bid to finding a lasting solution to this pandemic like other countries opt out to adopt Covid-19 vaccine. While awaiting the vaccine, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) rolled out a 5-point strategy for vaccination, developed by the vaccination implementing arm of the Federal Ministry of Health. This 5-point strategy also known as T.E.A.C.H means:

- T: Traditional Vaccination Campaign Roll-out
- E: Electronic Self-Registration by Eligible Nigerians
- A: Assisted Electronic Registration of Eligible Nigerians
- C: Concomitant Vaccination alongside Electronic Registration
- H: House-to-House Electronic Registration.

When revealed, the DG NPHCDA, Dr. Faisal Shuaib, who unveiled the strategy, said it is a

critical activity to ensure that all Nigerians get access to the Vaccines as soon as possible with minimal hitch. He went further to disclose that the vaccines will arrive Nigeria in batches and the vaccination will be carried out in four different phases with the first batch which contained about 4million doses of the vaccine. The roll-out phasing of the vaccine was clearly stated to be as follows:

Phase 1: Health care workers, Strategic Leaders, Frontline workers(the Military, Police, Oil and Gas workers, Nigerians at the Border Posts), etc will be prioritised.

Phase 2: 50 & above (60 & above, then 50-59 - with priority for people with co-morbidities)

Phase 3: 18-49 with co-morbidities

Phase 4: Rest of eligible population (i.e. 18-49 without co-morbidities)The first person to register for the vaccine in Nigeria is Mrs. Osindeinde Ademilayo Abodede, a frontline health care professional, who is among those categories listed for phase 1.The Federal Government gave the assurance that all Vaccines that not approved by NAFDAC will be determined as dangerous, and will be seized by Customs Services and NAFDAC, who are on high alert for illegal vaccine importation. Therefore, the commencement of vaccination is subject to approval by NAFDAC.

NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

T.E.A.C.H STRATEGY: AN INDIGENOUS APPROACH TO COVID-19 VACCINATION IN NIGERIA

Dr. Faisal Shuaib
ED/CEO NPHCDA

T	TRADITIONAL VACCINATION CAMPAIGN APPROACH
E	ELECTRONIC SELF-REGISTRATION BY ELIGIBLE NIGERIANS
A	ASSISTED ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE NIGERIANS
C	CONCOMITANT VACCINATION ALONGSIDE ELECTRONIC-REGISTRATION
H	HOUSE-TO-HOUSE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION

Nigeria Air Force KingAir B350i Crash: A CONDOLENCE

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



The management and entire staff of NiDCOM join the Nigerian Air Force, the military, the Presidency and all Nigerians in mourning the unfortunate loss of our dedicated and courageous personnel, who were lost in the line of duty, especially at a time the country is facing security challenges thereby making it more tasking for the security agencies. We share in their grief and extend our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the departed gallant officers. May their gentle souls rest in perfect peace. Amin.

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GWOTE
By Qunje Aladun

FOOD CORNER

By Doosughun Abughdyer

Gwote is a delicacy of the lovely people of Jos. It is made from Acha and it is very light so can be eaten at anytime of the day. Gwote is made mainly with vegetables hence is very nutritious. In this Era of COVID19 everyone is trying to boost their immune system as such, this recipe will not be a bad idea to try. Moreover; it's very easy to make therefore, my lovely Diaspora brethren, try something different.

INGREDIENTS

1. Acha (fonio)
2. Brisket/Biscuits Bones (Cartilages)
3. Tomatoes
4. Pepper
5. Onions
6. Aleho (green vegetables)
7. Spring onions
8. Maggi
9. Salt
10. Garden eggs
11. Cabbage

1. Acha can be very sandy so make sure you wash it very well to filter out the sand.
2. Wash you brisket bones and put in a pot add ur seasoning cubes, slice half of the onion and add a little salt to taste. Allow to cook until tender.
3. Pound the pepper, onions, tomatoes and Acha together and set aside.
4. Once the brisket is tender remove from the pot, add 2 cups of water to the stock and allow to boil.
5. Add everything to the boiling stock with the Acha and allow to boil till it is thick.
6. Add your sliced cabbage, spring onions, garden eggs and Aleho (green vegetables). Allow to boil for 5 minutes and Gwote is ready to be served!

NB: tastes better when served hot. Enjoy.

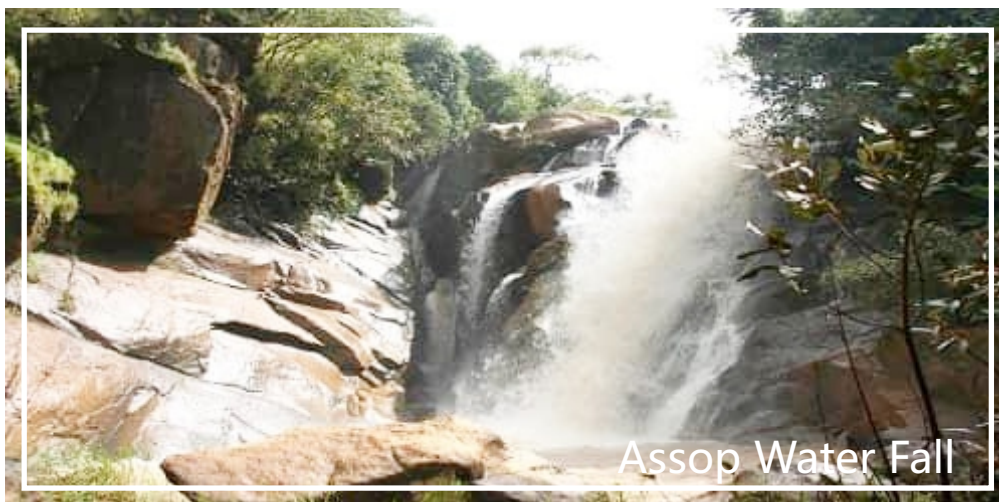
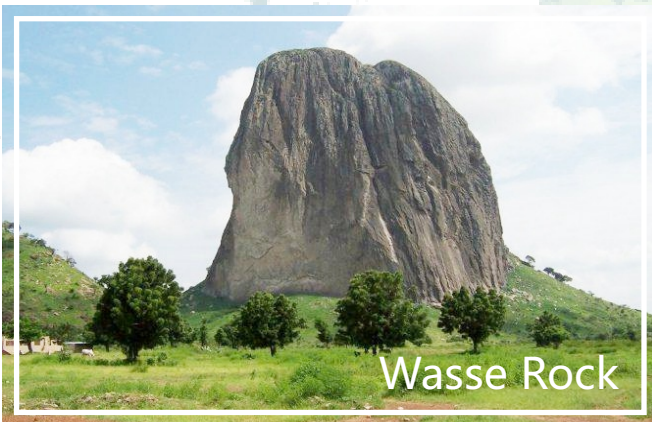
PLATEAU STATE: HOME OF PEACE AND TOURISM

By: Bridget Temtsen

I am pleased to welcome you to the Home of Peace and Tourism, the twelfth largest state in Nigeria. Plateau state is one of the most blessed states in the country; located in the area of the Middle Belt, the state is in fact in the centre of the country and can boast of one of Nigeria's best climates. The most thrilling thing that most people have ever heard about Jos, the state capital, is that once upon a time, snow fell there. However, the state is not recognised as the Home of Peace and Tourism for nothing as it houses many tourist attractions and worthy places that will excite you. **WASSE ROCK** At the top of this rock, the incredible view and serenity makes climbing it worth a while.



The rock rises at approximately 250 metres or 800 feet from the plane ground of Wasse town. **ASSOP WATERFALL** this waterfall is a natural waterfall occurring at the bottom of the famous Hawan Kibo. **RIYOM ROCK FORMATION** This particular rock formation is one of a kind as the structure of the rock formation is rarely seen anywhere. It is located along the Jos Akwanga road, in the heart of Riyom local government of Plateau state. The state also has other beautiful tourist sites like: The Jos wildlife park (one of the largest man made zoological garden in the country)- Shere Hills- Jos Museum - Kura falls- Solomon Lar amusement park- Kerang volcanoes





DIARY OF EVENTS

By: Juliannah Erin



President Muhammadu Buhari congratulates Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on her election as first African DG of WTO. On behalf of the Federal Government and all Nigerians, President Muhammadu Buhari warmly felicitates with former Minister of Finance and Economy, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on her election as Director General of the World Trade Organisation, bringing joy and more honour to the country.

As the Harvard-educated and renowned economist takes up another onerous task of service to the world and humanity, the President believes her track record of integrity, diligence and passion for development will continue to yield positive results and rewards to mankind. President Buhari affirms that Dr Okonjo-Iweala, who over the years set major records of economic reforms in Nigeria as Minister of Finance, and later Minister of Foreign Affairs, will excel in her new position and validate the global mandate of repositioning and strengthening the multilateral institution for the greater good of all.

The President joins family, friends and colleagues in wishing Dr Okonjo-Iweala well in her new endeavour.

Garba Shehu
SSA to the President (Media & Publicity)



The Foreign Affairs Minister of Nigeria, Hon. Geoffrey Onyeama received the visit of Catriona Laing, British High Commissioner to Nigeria.



The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Amb. Gabriel Aduda, on the 10th of February 2021, received in audience UAE Ambassador to Nigeria, H.E. Dr. Fahad AlTaffaq. The meeting was part of continuing collaboration aimed at further consolidating the cordial bilateral relations between Nigeria and UAE.



DIARY OF EVENTS

By: Juliannah Erin



Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa, NIDCOM Chairman/CEO awarded **FRONTLINE DEFENDER AWARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** by Drum Majors for Peace at the Stakeholders Summit of Social Justice and Awards, 2021. NIDCOM Chairman/CEO was ably represented by AISHA A. DANKANO and IDRIS A. MUHAMMAD of Diaspora Relations Department who received the AWARD on behalf of the NIDCOM Boss Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa.



The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Amb. Gabriel Aduda, received in audience the Ambassador of Netherlands to Nigeria, H.E. Amb. Harry Van Dijk, on the 23rd of February 2021. The meeting accorded priority to consolidating on economic cooperation through growth in trade & investment for the mutual benefit of the two countries. Other areas of mutual interest considered include security, environment, agriculture, as well as consular & migration matters.



Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa, NIDCOM Chairman/CEO awarded a **LIFE TIME ACHIEVERS AWARD** "In Lieu of your sterling leadership" by Flex Digest Organizers of Lagos My Pride.



The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Gabriel Aduda, received in audience the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Nigeria, H.E. Faisal Ebraheem Alghamedi, on the 24th of February 2021.



DIARY OF EVENTS

By: Juliannah Erin



The Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Amb. Zubairu Dada, received in audience the new Ambassador of Iran to Nigeria, H.E. Muhammad Alibak, on the 23rd of February, 2021. The meeting while appreciating the subsisting excellent diplomatic relations between Nigeria and Iran, advocated for closer ties and better understanding.



The Foreign Affairs Minister of Nigeria, Hon. Geoffrey Onyeama presented to Dr. Lu'ubatu Umar Aliyu her certificate in Medicine, having been denied for the past four years upon completion of her MBBS at the Ain Sham's University, Cairo, Egypt. Many thanks for the intervention of the Nigerian Embassy in Egypt under the leadership of the Chargé d'Affaires, Bashir Ibrahim Ma'Aji and the Governor of Borno state Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum for his very timely and very generous intervention in helping the Nigerian Embassy to address the situation.



Director, Consular and Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Akinremi Bolaji, granted audience to the Chargé D'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Nigeria, Mr. Zhao Yong, on the 24th of February 2021.



The Foreign Affairs Minister of Nigeria, Hon. Geoffrey Onyeama received Kim Young Chae, the Ambassador Designate of South Korea to Nigeria.

DIARY OF EVENTS

By: Juliannah Erin



President Muhammadu Buhari and Chinese President Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory messages on 10th February, 2021 on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomacies between Nigeria and China.



Amb. Bolaji Akinremi, the Director, Consular and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of FG, handing over Kano State indigenes repatriated from Saudi Arabia to Kano state Diaspora Focal Point Officer, Hajia Hama Aware Muhammad who received them on behalf of Kano State Government.



Hon. Tolulope Akande-Sadipe presenting a Petition on the floor of House of Representatives about the Injustice, victimization, and criminal acts in South Africa against Professor Abiodun Olukoga and his family since 2012 till date February 2021 which led to complications that resulted in the death of his wife, a Nigerian woman in South Africa in 2017.

DIARY OF EVENTS

CELEBRATION OF LIFE OF ALHAJA SADIAT ABEKE EROGBOGBO



By Maryam Kehinde Abdulazeez

Lagos.

Alhaja Sadiat passed on to glory on February 1st, 2021 in her sleep and her life was celebrated by her lovely husband, children, Grand children, great grand children, family and well wishers on February 7, 2021 in Ikorodu, Lagos Nigeria.

The **National Missioner of Ansaruddeen Society of Nigeria, Imam AbdurRahman Ahmad** who was the guest lecturer at the occasion, sympathised with the family, most especially with the husband of the deceased, Alhaji Ashafa Erogbogbo.

He stated how Alhaja Sadiat would always pray for him during her life time. While reminding the audience on death, he quoted some qur'anic verses of Suratul Nuh (Qur'an 71, verses 1012) thus;

" I said (to them): 'Ask forgiveness from your Lord; Verily, He is Oft Forgiving; 'He will send rain to you in abundance; 'And give you increase in wealth and children, and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers."

Alhaja Sadiat Abeke Erogbogbo who died at age 90 is survived by Husband, seven children, twenty one grand children and fourteen great grand children including the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Hon. Abike DabiriErewa A lot of tributes was written for her. Her favourite philosophy was **my life, I will not wish anybody evil or express hatred towards anybody** , a mantra she lived by all through her life on earth. May Almighty Allah forgive the shortcomings of Mama Erogbogbo and reward her with aljanah firdaus. Aameen.

It's no news that Alhaja Sadiat Abeke Erogbogbo (Nee Alamutu) lived a purposeful life.

Her services to various generations of Nigerians whose lives she impacted positively through her teaching expertise earned her the sobriquet "KIND TEACHER" in early part of her professional life.

Alhaja Sadiat Abeke Erogbogbo was born in Kano State on 7th of June 1930 to late Pa Sunmonu Alamutu of Mokola Abeokuta, Ogun State and late Alhaja Hawanatu Aduke Anjorin, Iyalode Adini of Ebutte Metta Central Mosque, Carter Street by Evans Square, Ebutte Metta,



DIARY OF EVENTS

By Deborah Anaelechi

It was a joyous affair when one of our own, Daniel Oloyede of the TTI Department, NiDCOM, walked down the aisle with his beautiful hearthrob, Bridget. NiDCOM wishes them marital bliss.



NIDCOM'S 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli

Visualising the small milestones we are set to achieve this year, in delivering our mandate.

First quarter:

- 3rd Summit of State Diaspora Focal Point Officers
- Passage of National Diaspora Policy by Federal Executive Council

2nd quarter:

- Nigerian Diaspora Investment Trust Fund
- National Diaspora Day Commemoration

3rd quarter:

- Diaspora Housing Fair
- Diaspora Medical Missions

4th quarter:

- Badagary Door of return
- 4th Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit
- 2nd Nigeria-Saudi Arabi Investment Summit

(Some of the major events of each quarter highlighted)

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Everywhere you go, Nigerians are sparkling like diamonds in the park, whether in Academia, Business, Innovation, Music, Movie, Entertainment, Fashion and culture."

President Muhammadu Buhari

"Despite COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the world economies, the Nigerian Diaspora is still contributing majorly to the growth and development of the Nigerian economy through its remittances, Skills and competences, among others. "-

Engr. Dr. Sule Yakubu Bassi Secretary NIDCOM.

DIASPORA ICONS OF THE MONTH

By: Omolabake Omoniyi

FIRST NIGERIANS. Nigerians have been leading globally, making her Country proud. In this month's edition, let's celebrate some who have taken up enviable positions in the Diaspora.



Dr Ngozi Okonjo Iweala Appointed as the Director General of the World Trade Organization. She makes history as the first woman and the first African to lead the organization, Dr Okonjo-Iweala served twice as Nigeria's Finance Minister, and briefly as Foreign Affairs Minister in 2006, making her the first woman to hold both positions. She spent a 25-year career at the World Bank as a development economist. She was listed as one of the 50 Greatest World Leaders and the Top 100 Most Powerful Women in the World, featured in Forbes. Dr Okonjo-Iweala graduated with an A.B. magna cum laude in

Economics from Harvard University, and holds a PhD in Regional Economics and Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has received numerous honours, including Honorary Doctorates. **Proudly Nigerian**



Joel Adams A Nigerian recently commissioned into the British Royal Air Force as a Flying Officer of an Aero-Systems Specialist Engineer, making him the first non British to assume the position. He is a graduate of the Bayelsa State- owned Niger Delta University (NDU). The Kogi State-born Adams also became the first Nigerian to get to the rank of a Flying Officer in the British Royal Air Force. Adams, who obtained his B.Eng. (1st class honors) in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, was the valedictorian of his graduation year at the university and also a recipient of the prestigious Presidential Scholarship for Innovation and Development

(PRESSID). He began his career at Ford Motors in UK as the BOM Lead Project Analyst for Battery Electric Vehicles. With great potential of his research work for military application, he was enlisted and shortly after awarded the Queen's Commission as an Officer in the British Royal Air Force. He was also made a British citizen shortly after.

Proudly Nigerian



Dr Oluwatomilayo Daodu A Paediatric Surgeon at Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary, Canada. She was born in Nigeria and raised in Winnipeg. As a medical student, Daodu co-developed a project in Tanzania with focused on adolescent gender and reproductive health. She spent her summers researching childhood pneumonia in Nigeria, and more recently launched a surgical needs assessment for the country. She is currently the first black paediatrician in Canada.

Proudly Nigerian

My name is Eric Olusegun Thompson Seweje but, my pen name is Eric Thompson.

I studied Pharmacy in Obafemi Awolowo University with the hope of going back to study Medicine, specifically pediatrics, to become a Pediatric doctor because of my love for children. Unfortunately, I did not go back after I started travelling and discover teaching and the love for teaching. I have since 1995 changed my career to become an English teacher, teacher trainer and a life coach. I started as a volunteer teacher, but I went on to study Business Administration and also MA in TESOL etc. to meet up with the necessary standard. I have been teaching English to all levels in Japan since 1998. I established an

English language school in 2008 after working with many institutions as one of my dreams to be part of the movement that gives the Japanese and English learners of all ages the English tool they need to communicate and connect with the rest of the world. English connect 365+ series is the product of my passion and experience combined. They are great resources that have been helping a lot of learners achieve their goals and dreams.

I did not think about it, but I realized that I have eventually connected with my original dream, which is love for children that made me wanted to become a Pediatric doctor. I love teaching, I have taught all levels but I love teaching young learners the most and I look forward to meeting them every single day.

My books are used in various levels in private and public institutions and organizations.

Here are the link to my books;

1. https://www.amazon.com/Eric-Thompson/e/B07T2BS5N8/ref=ntt_dp_epwbk_0

2. <https://www.englishconnect365business.com/>

3. <https://www.facebook.com/englishconnect365>

or contact me possibly for samples and better offer at

4. erico6@hotmail.com

5. +81-9049200576

I plan to go back to Nigeria soon to give back and contribute to rebuilding the country in any way possible. I want to take back all the good things I have learned since I have lived in diaspora especially in Japan for the last 30 years.

Proudly Nigerian

ADVERT RATES FOR DIASPORA NEWSLETTER

The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) has repackaged its Monthly Diaspora Newsletter with juicy and far reaching news for and from our Nigerians in the Diaspora. The Newsletter when produced is distributed far and wide to all our stakeholders both within and outside the country through the E-Copy and in colour printed version.

We are therefore pleased to invite you to be one of our sponsors by showcasing your adverts or products at the minimal subsidised amount by the Commission.

Our advert rates for a full page is N1,000,000 (One Million Naira) for one year subscription while monthly payment attracts only N100,000 (One Hundred thousand naira) per page.

As a stakeholder, NIDCOM is delighted to include you in this project. We truly believe that you would provide valuable support for this initiative.

We look forward to a favourable response of patronage from you .

Yours Sincerely,



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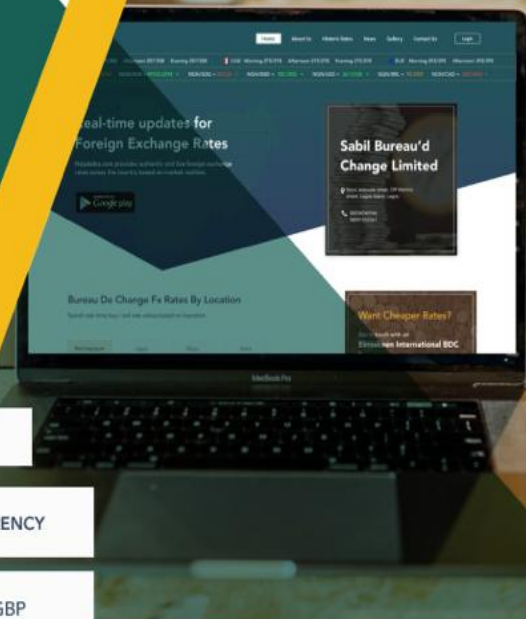
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DATE	MORNING	MIDDAY	EVENING	CURRENCY
17 June 2020	774/400	774/400	774/400	🇬🇧 GBP
17 June 2020	465 /468	466 /468.5	467 /469	🇺🇸 USD
17 June 2020	465 /468	466 /468.5	467 /469	🇪🇺 EURO



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