



NiDCOM

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

DIASPORA NEWSLETTER



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DIASPORA INVESTMENT: NiDCOM, NIPC SYNERGISE

By Rosemary Moribirin



Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) has appealed to the Nigerian Investment Commission (NIPC) to link their I-Guide Nigeria website with the NiDCOM website to serve as a guide on potential investment portfolios in

various State across the country. Dabiri-Erewa dropped this hint during a closed door meeting with Ms Yewande Sadiku, the Executive Secretary, NIPC on Diaspora incentives for National Development.

The NiDCOM boss stated further that the Commission is launching her mobile application to provide easy access to information and petitions. The meeting gave detailed analysis of a finding carried out by the Department for International Development (DFID), 2017-2018 on a study to better understand the importance of Diaspora investment to Nigeria. This study reveals that “70 per cent of inflows of diaspora investment are for family support while the 30 per cent bulk goes to real estate development”. Ms. Sadiku added that Nigeria receives more money from its diaspora as much as it does from crude oil, saying the diaspora remittances are a global booming business if converted to diaspora investment as it will enhance the gross domestic product. The NIPC Executive Secretary urged NiDCOM to collaborate with State Governors to encourage their diasporans in investing to enhance national development. It was agreed that NiDCOM will be accommodated on NIPC One Stop Investment Centre (E-OSIC) for easy access by investors especially from the Diaspora.



OPINION

By Segun Gbadegesin

Mobility is a natural feature that human beings share with animals. Our hunting and food-gathering ancestors didn't have a settled living experience and, therefore, no attachment to a particular place. Home was wherever they found tools for survival, including food and shelter. With the discovery of farming, a semi-permanent living experience began and settled family life and the joy of community overcame the travails of solitude. With language and culture in the mix, a genuine sense of place developed.

Generational memories of common history, common struggles and achievements, and particularly, a sense of common identity, soon facilitated the transmission of communal values to younger members. With the success of cultural immersion and value transmission, individuals feel a sense of attachment that make it impossible to abandon their homeland even when they feel comfortable in a new place. This explains why diaspora communities in modern nations severally and collectively have a sense of obligation to their homeland and to the wellbeing of the family members left behind. Think of Jewish exiles in Babylon as recorded in Psalm 137. And Prophet Nehemiah's clarion call to his people, "Come, let us build the walls of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer disgrace", typifies the anguish of diaspora communities about the embarrassment of a homeland in ruins. The Jewish Diaspora has been particularly unique and effective. With the horrific history of antisemitism that led to one of the outrageous horrors in human history, Jewish people everywhere, especially in the Anglo-American orbit, use their influence and access to benefit the state of Israel.

And the Israeli government and people understand and appreciate the passion and consequential help of its diaspora. The Middle Passage is just as terribly horrendous. The mindset of the perpetrators in both is hateful and the effect continues to be felt. With a common background of community, there is good reason for the African Diaspora to be as nostalgic and therefore as

passionate and as effective on behalf of the African homeland. However, despite the laudable efforts of Pan-African pioneers like W. E. B. Du Bois, it is not until very recently that Africa has made the necessary effort to embrace her diaspora community. On the national level, Ghana has been a trail blazer in attracting African-American brothers and sisters back to the homeland, with Stevie Wonder as the latest to announce the move.

With the establishment of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), Nigeria appeared to come on board in recognition of her diaspora community. The Act provides "for the engagement of Nigerians in Diaspora in the policies, projects and participation in the development of Nigeria and for the purpose of utilizing human capital and material resources of Nigerians in Diaspora towards the overall socio-economic, cultural and political development of Nigeria and for related matters." The purpose of the Commission couldn't be clearer. The government has finally recognized the importance of harnessing the patriotic zeal of fellow Nigerians living outside the borders. They will be engaged in policies and projects and they will be encouraged to participate in the development of the country. No limit is indicated on the purpose of the Commission. It is inclusive of individuals, groups, professionals, and communities.

To its credit, the Commission has been a tireless promoter of Diaspora communities around the world. The Chairperson, Hon. Abike Dabiri, has been effective in leading the charge for the mobilization of the energy of Nigerians in the Diaspora, and channeling the resources of the Commission in cases that need attention. Beside the government initiative, political parties of different orientations also acknowledge the potentials of the diaspora by establishing their branches in major foreign countries. Key members of the ruling party have made promises of electoral participation by the Nigerian diaspora. On its part, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has paid close attention to the indispensability of diaspora



remittances to the financial health of the nation. As PwC observes in a recent release, Nigeria accounts for more than one-third of remittances that flow into sub-Saharan Africa, with more than \$23 billion in 2018 alone, accounting for 83% of the Federal Government budget that year, and 11 times over the amount of Foreign Direct Investment into the country. These remittances flow from individuals and groups to families and communities they left behind but don't forget. Diaspora Nigerians also don't forget the trauma of failed policies and insecurities that they experienced before they relocated, and from time to time they make their voices heard through messages, opinion articles, rallies and protests in their various locations, and direct contact with foreign governments and, yes, the United Nations. The Nigerian Diaspora played a vital role in the dark days of military dictatorship and their contribution to the return of civil rule cannot be wished away. This aspect of the relationship of the Nigerian Diaspora to the homeland, this unrelenting engagement with policies and projects which NIDCOM Act so unambiguously invites, this incessant pursuit of good governance, this unabashed commitment to struggling for government's respect for the humanity of citizens, is not always appreciated by the powers at the helm of national affairs. But Nigerians in Diaspora, having a sense of obligation to their kith and kin, have no apology for raising these issues and demanding accountability from government.

if they can contribute financially, they must contribute ideas. And clash of ideals and conflict of practices are inevitable. The latest such clash just occurred in an embarrassing videotaped encounter between an honorable member of the House of Representatives and the Deputy Speaker of the House. Hon. Mark Gbillah representing Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency of Benue State had sought permission to present a petition by Mzough U Tiv Amerika (MUTA). The petitioners are a Nigerian group based in the United States and are concerned about the security situation in their homeland. As soon as Hon. Gbillah mentioned America along with MUTA, the organization's name, the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase went on the

attack. "Did you say Tivs in America? What do they know about Nigeria? What is their business? They can't sit in their comfort zones and know what is happening in Nigeria?" as reported by People's Gazette on March 14, 2021. These statements are also captured in the video image that accompanied the report. Really? How does one even begin to comment on this position of a highly placed officer of the People's House? Even when Hon. Gbillah tried to explain why Nigerians in Diaspora have good reasons to be concerned about the homeland and "should be able to file complaints because they have families residing in the state", noting the government's investment in the NIDCOM, Deputy Speaker Wase won't budge. For him the functions of the Commission are "nothing relevant" to the petition and therefore can't be taken.

This is despite the clear relevance of the petition to the purpose spelled out in the Act establishing NIDCOM as stated above. Perhaps, it is a partisan matter or a personality issue between Hon. Gbillah and Hon. Wase. Whatever it is does not justify this incomprehensible position on the part of the Deputy Speaker. More troubling, however, was that not a single member of the House rose in defence of the rights of Nigerian Diaspora community. Not one uttered a word on behalf of reason. Yet, many members, including NASS leadership, moved back from their diaspora locations to vie for the positions they now hold. Do they forget so soon? Many of the House members are also aware of the role that Diaspora Nigerians played and continue to play in the political development of the country, since the days of the nationalist struggles for independence. Whatever the urge is for partisan bickering and mutual disrespect, some issues are more important and must be kept outside partisan rancor. Foremost among this is the commitment to security which is the basic function of government. Next is respect for the right and obligation of citizens wherever they reside to express their views about the functioning of government and its agencies. Diaspora Nigerian communities are equal stakeholders in Project Nigeria. Canceling them portends a grave danger to that project.



FACTS OF THE MATTER: NIGERIAN WRONGFULLY INCARCERATED IN COTE D'IVOIRE'S PRISON, ITUNU BABALOLA

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli

The welfare of Nigerians both home and abroad has continued to gain precedence from the government of the day.

This led to a painstaking investigation by The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission and the Nigeria Mission in Abidjan, Cote D'ivoire, who made it known after confirmation, that Itunu Babalola, a Nigerian living in Abidjan was wrongfully charged and incarcerated for a crime she did not commit.

The duo of the Chairman/CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa and the Charge D'Affaires of the Nigerian Mission in Côte D'Ivoire ,Mr Mohammed Gana , sent officials of the mission to Bondoukou, a city eight hours outside Abidjan when the case was brought to their attention.

Plans are underway to engage the services of a legal Luninary to prove the innocence of Itunu Babalola at the Court of Appeal after the accused had spent two years out of a ten year jail term for an offence she did not commit.

Reports indicate that the new Prosecutor assigned to the case has given assurances of a fair and unbiased review and retrial of the case to secure the release of Itunu Babalola.

Reports also allegedly indicated that the former prosecutor in collaboration with the police twisted the case and accused Itunu Babalola of human trafficking hence her conviction for 20 years although the sentence was reduced to 10 years from which she has served 2 years so far.

Itunu Babalola, whose family is from Oyo State, Nigeria has been living in Bondoukou, Cote d'ivoire for a long time but got entangled in any legal battle.

when she reported the burglary of her house to the Police, on efforts made to secure her bail, the prosecutor said it is only the Court that can grant her bail as she has already been convicted.

The Federal Government through the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all Nigerians and will not relent until this issue is resolved.

Quotable Quote

“The role and contributions of the Nigerians in diaspora home and abroad is most appreciated and can never be ignored.”

Hon. Abike Dabir-Erewa
Chairman/CEO NiDCOM

MEET A DIASPORAN

By Bridget Temtsen

It is no longer news that we have many Nigerians in Diaspora doing great things and making their father land proud.

Even in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, we have Nigerians all over the world excelling and taking the world by storm in various fields. From sports to movies, fashion, ICT, science, agriculture, food industry and many more.

Cecelia Lizotte, a Plateau state indigene and owner of Suya Joint Restaurant, happens to be amongst those feeding frontline workers during Covid-19 pandemic, shares her experience being an entrepreneur and in the Diaspora.

Suya Joint is not just a restaurant, but it is also a place where our customers can connect to Africa's continent. During the Coronavirus pandemic, we have partnered and dedicated ourselves to ensuring that our community impact goes beyond our restaurant by working in collaboration with organisations to ensure food security. Being in Nubian Square in Boston ensures we find innovative ways to function as a business and support the community we serve beyond our Roxbury location. We have learned that food has a local, national, and global economy, and people are looking for ways to connect with the cuisine. Connecting means understanding your own story and how it can impact change.

- My story is that of a grandmother's wisdom bestowed on me through the eyes of Nigerian comfort cuisine and tradition.

What I learned in the small village restaurant with



my grandmother guided me to open Suya Joint in the USA, this trajectory has taught me, we must support the village farmer to corporate enterprise in a wide lens that encompasses everyone.

The world of cuisine has allowed me to bring home to the world and provide an impact that provides economic sustainability through food.

Through my own memories and traditions, the Suya Joint brand is transforming Nigeria's global investment to the next generation who will transform our cuisine even more.

Suya Joint is the story of Nigerian's export marketplace and how it can support not only its citizens but also the diaspora.

The Coronavirus Pandemic economic hit was an unknown, and we understood that we must transform our dining experience.

Changing our dining cuisine meant providing the local markets in the USA with some of our signature stews, spices, and specialties and attract our old and new customers to this new global norm. This transformation brought us to the supermarkets keeping Suya Joint alive as well as providing us the ability to still invest in Nigerian's food products to the USA. The transformative change now provides a new tradition to customers and a new ability to purchase even more products from Nigeria, in turn, this provides a sustainable economy that supports the village, town, city, capital to the USA. We are excited to keep moving in the direction as it provides an interactive economy. We are here not just to provide an authentic dining experience but also a global impact. Join the Suya Joint experience.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: NAPTIP, NiDCOM PARTNER TO CURB THE MENACE

By Deborah Anaelechi

Organ harvesting, prostitution, labour exploitation and domestic slavery are some of the issues discussed by the two Chief Executive Officers (CEOs): Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa and Director-General, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Mrs Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, as they brainstormed in Abuja to curb modern-day slavery, human trafficking. According to the NAPTIP DG, human trafficking is a modern-day cankerworm and the second-largest illegal market churning out about \$150 billion dollars annually, thus poses a serious threat to national security. She stated that the Agency is the forerunner in the fight against human trafficking in Africa, emphasising that NAPTIP and NiDCOM have been joined together like Siamese twins in the fight against all forms of human trafficking, especially in the Diaspora.

"I thank you, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa for your giant strides and for sometimes utilising your personal resources, as well as, your office to rescue Nigerians stranded abroad", Mrs Sulaiman-Ibrahim remarked.

The NAPTIP boss stated further that after 17 years of NAPTIP's establishment, the move for rebranding was needed for the agency, which will lease fresh ideas to catalyse the vision of NAPTIP and seek partnership among strategic partners like NiDCOM.

Also, Sulaiman-Ibrahim announced plans to incorporate all States Diaspora Focal Persons into the NAPTIP task force in all states of the federation. She highlighted her vision for the organisation to include: engagement with State Diaspora Focal Point Officers, re-strategise preventive mechanisms towards discouraging human trafficking, enforcement of the child rights act and the 'name-and-shame policy and the actualisation of a Trafficking Trust Fund, among others.

The NiDCOM Boss, Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa commended her for her plans to incorporate State Diaspora Focal Point Officers into the NAPTIP task force in the various states. Dabiri-Erewa commended her for the various initiatives and vision for NAPTIP, and promised to enhanced further collaboration with her in every possible way. She noted the imperative of arresting traffickers and ensuring they face penalties for their crimes.

NIDCOM BOSS STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli.

Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), has stressed on the importance of communication as the key thing in sustaining relationships with the Diaspora.

She stated this at the public hearing of the joint committees of the House of Representatives on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora where she stated that the agency is setting up a NIDCOM App which can be downloaded by all Nigerians in diaspora for their complaints and other related issues.

She also said, the diaspora Commission will soon launch an Internet radio, where they are

going to have communication all the time with our Nigerians in the diaspora.

According to her, the Diaspora radio, an online radio is under test transmission and will soon be made available to the general public for proper dissemination of factual news, information sharing, transparency and one-on-one relations with Nigerians all over the world.

This will be in addition to other news outlets of the Commission such as the monthly Diaspora Newsletter, weekly Diaspora programme on NTA as well as regular Press Releases to the Media.

DID YOU KNOW?

NIGERIA IS THE ;

Largest producer of Yam in the world.

Largest producer of Cassava in the world.

4th Largest producer of Palm Fruit in the world.

2nd in Africa and 11th largest Tomatoes producer in the world.

2nd largest producer of Sorghum in the world.

3rd largest producer of groundnuts with shell in the world.

3rd largest producer of Ginger in the world. The best ginger so far.

Largest producer of pineapples in Africa and 7th in the world.

MARYAM KEHINDE ABDULAZEEZ

Source: StatiSense

Nigeria is blessed with many qualified women for leadership positions- Dabiri-Erewa

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) has said that Nigeria is blessed with too many qualified women across all sectors fit for leadership roles. She said this during a meeting with a delegation of Women In Business, Management and Public Service (WIMBIZ) led by the Executive Director,

Hansatu Adegbite in Abuja. Dabiri-Erewa said that by mentoring one another and with necessary support, women are helping themselves and lifting up the society. The NiDCOM boss stressed on the need for women to have confidence in themselves as the major tool to succeed. She reiterated the need for women to succeed in whatever they do and stressed for the urgent need for skilled and experienced women to mentor other women. The NiDCOM Chairman urged women to always add value wherever they find themselves and also called on women not to make demands because they are women but because they are capable.

To her, there is no alternative to hardwork. "In my own perception, women should demand for equity rather than equality" as she encouraged women to demand for fairness and justice rather than see being a woman as an advantage. The duo focused on a possible Public Private Partnership aimed at addressing the need to engage more women in public and private sectors through mentorship and capacity building.

The discussion also addressed the need for women to get involved in politics and other sectors. By so doing, women are getting empowered and also contributing to the development of the Nation at large. Earlier, Ms. Adegbite, gave the assurance that the 20 year old WIMBIZ is fully capable, willing and ready to kickstart engagements like mentorship and capacity building that will be of mutual benefit to both organisations.

NIDCOM: Most Outstanding Female-led Federal Commission 2021

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), under the leadership of Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa was recognized as the "Most Outstanding Female-led Federal Commission" at the The Guardian's Award ceremony held on March 27, 2021 at Harbour By Khadija Shehu Bamalli Engr Dr Sule Yakubu Bassi, Secretary, NIDCOM with Mr

Fidelis Anosike, Chairman, 1st October Ltd. DIASPORA NEWSLETTER 08 Point, Victoria Island, Lagos. The occasion themed: #choose to challenge lived up to expectations as Abike Dabiri-Erewa broke the glass ceiling of gender limitation. Among the pool of nominations were highly cerebral and respected class of women CEO, nevertheless, at the end of the selection process, the Chairman/CEO emerged as top overall. Due to an impromptu national engagement, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa was represented at the August occasion by several staff of NIDCOM Lagos. Mr. Dipo Odebowale and Ms. Shalewa Ajila received the award on behalf of Hon. Dabiri-Erewa. Babatunde Seriki, NIDCOM Lagos was in standby for photographs. Also in attendance were the NAPTIP DG, First Ladies of Kebbi and Ekiti states, UN Women Country representative for Nigeria/ECOWAS; Ms. Comfort Lamptey, while Mrs. Ibukun Awosika, Chairman, First Bank Plc. presided.

FG RECEIVES ANOTHER BATCH OF 1,071 RETURNEES FROM SAUDI ARABIA

By Deborah Anaelechi and Juliannah Erin



Fresh batch of 1,071 Nigeria returnees from Saudi Arabia arrived Abuja in three batches in the month of March. Leading the inter-governmental agencies to receive the returnees, Amb. Bolaji Akinremi, Director, Consular and Legal Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said 255,398 and 418 returnees had arrived Nigeria in the same month. Akinremi said that the

reintegration exercise was made possible through the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha, to create a smooth rehabilitation process for the returnees. He commended all other agencies like NAPTIP, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), NIMC, FCT Pilgrims Board and Public Health for their wonderful coordination alongside with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to him, the rapid testing method for Covid-19 detection was carried out while the returnees were profiled into states and gender. As against previous arrangement where each of them will stay in the camp for seven to 14 days, he said the maximum number on camp is three days before they are released to go and meet their family members. He assured the returnees that the accommodation at the camp has the basic amenities which include a 24-hour medical service to look into the welfare of the returnees before they are joined with their families. The Ambassador said that a token amount of N20,000 was given to each of the returnees for their transportation while free meals and toiletries were supplied to all of them. Representing Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, the Chairman NIDCOM, Abdur-Rahman Balogun, Head of Media welcomed the returnees and promised that everything will be done to make them comfortable in Nigeria. He reiterated NIDCOM appeals to those still wishing to leave the country due to one challenge or the other to have a rethink especially if they do not have any job to do abroad to remain at home and think of what to do for themselves.

Speaking in the same vein, the DG NAPTIP, Mrs Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, appreciated the efforts of the Saudi Arabia Government to liaise with its counterparts in Nigeria to enable a thorough operation of bringing Nigerians, in Saudi Arabia, home. She said the Agency is equally profiling all the returnees and counselling them as part of the rehabilitation process. It will be recalled that more than 1000 Nigerian returnees from Saudi Arabia were evacuated back to the country in January 2021.

NiDCOM LAGOS: From Potential to Reality

By Shalewa Ajila



It all started as a potential, a potential for expansion, a potential to create more opportunities, a potential to re-engineer human development, a potential to expand the commission's reach and contribute to the overall goal of the mission statement. The office which is located in the capital city of Lagos has created a reputation for steady progression and many successful pursuits with intensified plans modeled towards forging advanced alliances to propagate the ideologies of NiDCOM. So far this year, some of the staff have undergone four sessions of virtual capacity building engagements under the Lagos Chamber of

Commerce Industry (LCCI) online scheme, in a bid to ensure productivity and high intellectual turnover of staff. The in-house Online Diaspora Radio Station, tagged: The Global Nigerian (TGN), located in the office, has attained 98% completion status. This will serve as the gateway for dissemination of information while taking Nigeria to the world and bringing the world to Nigeria with value creation and promotion. This singular strategic move initiated by Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa the Chairman/CEO has exposed NiDCOM to multiple possibilities. NiDCOM Lagos is truly a confirmation that strategic actions transform potential into reality.

SMOKING CESSATION

By Jummai Musa Usman

A healthy lifestyle not only includes eating right and staying active, but also making the healthy choices. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and diseases in our society. By quitting smoking, you can greatly reduce your chances of developing many chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke and cancer.

TIPS TO HELP YOU QUIT SMOKING

Clinical research has provided the following tips to help you quit:

- Consider using medication to help you quit. There are prescriptions and over the counter medications that can help you deal with withdrawal syndromes or even help to reduce the urge to smoke.
- Many states, communities and healthcare organizations have free or low cost counselling available to help you quit.
- Get help or ask for help from your healthcare provider.
- Avoid places where smokers gather. Instead, go to movies, museum and other places where smoking is not allowed.
- Clear the places where you usually smoke of anything that reminds you, cigarettes, like lighters, ashtrays, or matches. Clean your house thoroughly to remove the smell of cigarettes.
- When the urge to smoke strikes, do something else like light exercises. Keep oral substitutes such as Apple, carrots, nuts or gum.
- Don't keep your intention to quit a secret. Involve people around you, they can offer needed support.
- Always try to calm the nervous energy you may feel with physical and mental activities.

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UKWA PORRIDGE

FOOD CORNER

By Doosughun Abughidyer

Ukwa porridge is a simple but yet nourishing meal eaten popularly among the South Eastern part of Nigeria. Though Ukwa is an Igbo name, the English term is "Breadfruit seeds", which is a tropical fruit found in some parts of the Carribean, African and Asian parts of the world. Ukwa is versatile which can be served as a snack, when roasted; a simple comfort home-made food or a top of the menu list at very important events. Little wonder it's nicknamed, the "dish of the wealthy" at parties.

INGREDIENTS

1. 2 medium-size cups of Ukwa seeds (raw, stone-free, de-coated, dirt-free and thoroughly washed)

(N.B: quantity differs. This can serve about 4 persons).

2. Meat or fish stock
3. Seasoning
4. Salt
5. ground pepper
6. chopped red onions
7. akanwu (potash)-optional
8. palm oil
9. crayfish

Method

1. In a pot of water add the clean Ukwa and a bit of akanwu, or potash. (N.B The potash speeds up the boiling process as it takes a while to soften. But if you are cooking with a pressure cooker, then no need to use akanwu)
2. Add chopped onions blended pepper, crayfish, a bit of the stock, and let it all come together. Adding the above is according to your preferred taste
3. By now, the texture of the Ukwa is almost mushy, that is very soft. 4. Add a bit of palm oil for colour but not lots of it. You can add a bit more salt, seasoning or pepper, if you are not getting the desired taste. 5. Stir and let it simmer for 2 minutes before you put off the burner. Ukwa can be dish alongside steamed chopped ugu (fluted pumpkin) leaves, sliced onions and sliced tomatoes; or steamed African spinach or Spinach leaves with grilled, fried, or boiled protein such as turkey, fish, beef or goat meat. Enjoy..

TOUR NIGERIA: RIVERS STATE

By: Bridget Temtsen



River state pleasure park

Welcome to Rivers state and one of the largest oil producing states in Nigeria. Rivers state has many interesting places to visit, especially in Port Harcourt, the state capital, also known as PH. There are so many great places to see in Port Harcourt. You will not be disappointed, if you are a tourist looking for adventure and relaxation. There are numerous tourist attractions in the state such as: Port Harcourt Golf club : here, there are other amenities to enjoy for those who do not play golf such as, swimming pool, squash court, foot ball pitch etc. Rivers state museum: This is the right place for you to visit if you are interested in culture and history. The state museum displays exhibits of cultural artifacts that shows the rich heritage of the Niger Delta. Port Harcourt Zoo: If you are a lover of animals, then, this is one place you should stop by. Port Harcourt pleasure Park



H.E Ezenwo Nyesom Wike,
Governor of Rivers State.



Port harcourt golf club

: The park is packed with delightful activities that suits both children and adults. Apart from the above mentioned, there are other tourist attractions in Rivers state such as:

- Biseni forest located north-west of Ahoada.
- Okrika aquatic stadium
- Rivers state cultural centre and many more



DIARY OF EVENTS

By: Juliannah Erin



N IDCOM Boss receives the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) Boss, DG, Imaan Sulaiman Ibrahim in her Office in Abuja.



The Executive Secretary (ES) Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) Ms. Yewande Sadiku receives the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians In Diaspora Commission, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa in her office in Abuja.



The Foreign Affairs Minister of Nigeria, Geoffrey Onyeama receives Amb. Mohammad Alibak, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Nigeria.



Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission on a courtesy visit to the Minister of Defense, Maj. Gen. Bashir Magashi (RTD) in his office in Abuja.

DIARY OF EVENTS

By: Juliannah Erin



The Foreign Affairs Minister of Nigeria, Hon. Geoffrey Onyeama receives Amb. Carl Michael Gräns, Ambassador of Sweden to Nigeria.



Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission on a courtesy visit to the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Lucky Irabor in his office in Abuja.



COURTESY VISIT TO LEADERSHIP L R: Senior Vice Chairman/Editor-in-chief, LEADERSHIP Group Ltd, Mr. Azu Ishiekwene, presenting copies of LEADERSHIP Newspaper to the Chairman, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), Mrs Abike Dabiri-Erewa, during a courtesy visit to LEADERSHIP Head office in Abuja.



The Foreign Affairs Minister of Nigeria, Hon. Geoffrey Onyeama met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Nigeria, Joanna Tarnawska.



DIARY OF EVENTS

By: Juliannah Erin



The Foreign Affairs Minister of Nigeria, Hon. Geoffrey Onyeama receives letter of Commission from Bankole Olorunfoba, Honorary Consul of Finland to Nigeria. He was accompanied by Dr. Jyrki Pulkkinen, Ambassador of Finland to Nigeria.



The Chairman/ CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa received the Guardian's Award of the "Most Outstanding Female-Led Head of Federal Commission, a recognition of Excellence for Women in Public Service at the International Women's Day Summit 2021.



The Director (Admin & Finance) representing the Chairman/CEO of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) at the UN WOMEN (CSW65) at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre, Manilla Barracks, Asokoro, Abuja.

DIARY OF EVENTS

By: Juliannah Erin



Executive Director, Women in Business, Management and Public Service (WIMBIZ) Hansatu Adegbite, paid a courtesy visit to the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Hon. Abike Dabiri - Erewa at NIDCOM office in Abuja.



Navy Commander Kelechi Ndukwe, makes history as the First Nigerian and Nigerian-American to take command of a U.S. Navy Guided Missile Destroyer, USS HALSEY (DDG-97). This great milestone and key event in our history sets a center stage for the younger generations of Nigerian - Americans and other African countries in diaspora.



Gabriel Odu of NIDCOM Media presents Copies of Diaspora News Letter to Mr Yakubu Ibn Mohammed, Director General, Nigerian Television Authority, NTA Headquarters Abuja.



GABRIEL ODU, NIDCOM MEDIA (DEPUTY EDITOR IN - CHIEF) PRESENTS DIASPORA NEWS LETTER TO MR MOHAMMED LABBO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS, NTA, IN ABUJA.

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,



Abdur-Rahman Balogun
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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021

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of excellence, #NiDCOMMediaLadies**

ABCON will support any FG's measure to rid Nigeria of Terrorism

Editor April 4, 2021 3:05 Am

By Thisday

Nigerians were jolted with the revelation by the federal government, last week, that some of the sponsors of the terrorism that has thrown Nigeria into a theatre of killing and kidnapping for almost six years included some members of the Bureaux de Change community. As it stands, the Association of Bureaux de Change Operators of Nigeria (ABCON), being the recognised body of licensed BDCs in the country has been brought to the centre of the issue. The ABCON President, Alhaji Aminu Gwadabe, speaks with the THISDAY team, comprising Kunle Aderinokun, Chris Paul and Oyinlola Sale, to put the matter in its proper perspective. Among other issues, Gwadabe also dwells on diaspora remittances and sheds light on BDC operations, drawing the demarcation between its members and unlicensed forex dealers as well as addresses other pertinent issues in the foreign exchange market and digital space. Excerpts:

Recently, the Central Bank of Nigeria came hard on patrons of cryptocurrency, asking banks to close accounts of their customers linked to cryptocurrency transactions and exchanges. This decision by the banking regulatory authority has attracted diverse reactions from different quarters. What's your view on this development?

Advanced countries are in the fourth revolution in terms of development, while Nigeria is yet to have a grasp of even the first revolution, which is the agricultural to industrial then digital revolution, which is the apex of all revolutions, today.

Digital currency is a global phenomenon and without a doubt, it is the future of global currency, considering the challenges of paper money.

So, it has its own benefits and its own vulnerability.

Other countries that have perfected the art of tracking transactions on the digital platform still exercise some level of caution, even though the central banks still find ways to monitor its trends.

The main purpose of digital currency is to break the monopoly of central banks because the central banks monitor, control, coordinate and trace transactions.

However, for now, the cryptocurrency world is so anonymous by its operation that it is a challenge to trace parties to a transaction.

This is where the conflict lies; between the advocacy of digital currency and the regulators. But I believe, over time, it is going to be a welcome idea.

On our part as Bureaux de Change (BDCs) with over 6,000 members, we have been advocating our transactions to be digital. While we acknowledge that the country may still be moving within the orbit of the first revolution, transactions in the country, especially with today's generation have been taken to the digital realm. So, people have to key in and transform their transactions to digital windows of money exchange.

Now, the leadership of our association has succeeded in digitising ABCON's operations.

See concluding part on www.thisdaylive.com



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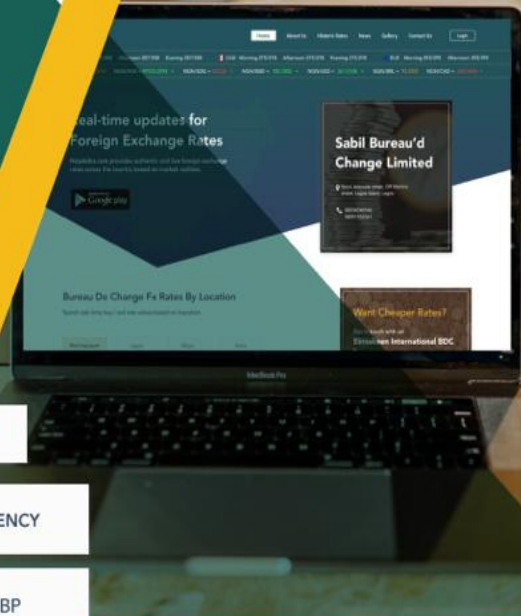
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| DATE | MORNING | MIDDAY | EVENING | CURRENCY |
|--------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| 17 June 2020 | 774/400 | 774/400 | 774/400 | GBP |
| 17 June 2020 | 465 /468 | 466 /468.5 | 467 /469 | USD |
| 17 June 2020 | 465 /468 | 466 /468.5 | 467 /469 | EURO |



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