

# DIASPORA

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**NEWSLETTER**

OCTOBER EDITION VOL. 16. 2021



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# OCTOBER 1: CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY, THE DIASPORA WAY

■ By: By Deborah Anaelechi

October 1, annually is a special day in the life of every Nigerian. It is a day set to remind us of the struggles, dreams and actualisations of our founding fathers in developing the Nigeria of our dreams, by first, securing our freedom from colonialism. Traced to the historical date of October 1, 1960, where Nigeria traded the Union Jack flag of Great Britain, for the iconic green and white flag, as a sign of its sovereignty; the ceremony displays pomp and celebration, alongside a beehive of activities. The holiday would begin with a speech by the President and a colourful march-past display of all military, paramilitary and trade union members, as well as, school children at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

Also, thanksgiving services are customarily held in churches and mosques in appreciation to God for another Independence celebration and offer petitions on behalf of the country. What more to top off the event than the popular National Cake! The cake, typically, is a huge, beautifully decorated cake in our national colours, to mark the day at the Presidential Villa. This ceremony is replicated not just at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) but transcends to the 36 states of the country. All through the day, people would adorn green or white attires or both, to commemorate the day. Even most private and public driven sectors create special packages and events to mark the independence. However, in years past the independence ceremony have been very quiet due to insecurity in Nigeria. Right now, it seems like the nostalgic and colourful independence parade that we were used to, have returned. This year saw to the colourful and rich cultural display amidst other expected Independence Day protocols.



This is just at home but what about those in the Diaspora? Arguments have been said that the Nigerian Diaspora are more excited about Independence Day than the rest of us, at home. The reason is something to be explored in another story. Over 17 million Nigerians reside in parts of Africa, Europe, Asia, Oceania and the Americas, where the Nigerian Independence Day is uniquely celebrated. It is reported that the Nigerian Independence Day celebration in New York, USA is the most popular Nigerian Independence Day celebration held in the Diaspora. The festivity is usually a three-day carnival of food, musical shows, dances and lots more. Another famous fest is the 'Nigerian Independence Day Takeover Event' in London, which promotes Nigerian cuisine and music. There are many other ways Nigerians celebrate October 1, abroad, but these are the popular ones. The year, 2020 was a historical year in which the Coronavirus pandemic halted normal activities and events, globally.

Nevertheless, some countries abroad are opening up progressively. Take for instance; Nigerians in New York celebrate the 61st Independence celebration in the city of Manhattan, where the part flowed with cuisine, cultural display and music. Also in the US, the City of Newark in the State of New Jersey marked the

61st Independence anniversary of Nigeria by hoisting the Nigerian flag at the City Hall. This was organised by the Office of the Mayor in collaboration with Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO), New Jersey chapter. The event was to pay tributes to Nigerians in the US for their exceptional show of professionalism and skills in all walks of life. Another group, the Nigeria-Britain Association (N-BA) held its first Independence Day Celebration in London, UK, with music and art exhibition, as the highlights of

the occasion. The celebration was organised in collaboration with Ade Bakare Couture London, Sonia Nwora-Queen Mercellina, Obaseki Solicitors, Lady Marlene Okolie and Stella King. The event displayed Nigeria's cultural diversity and the fusing power of music to Nigerians and Britons alike and serenading the guests with contemporary music performances Home and abroad, one fact still remains that, no matter the way the celebration is done, October 1st in Nigeria will always be a celebration that binds our unity and freedom.

# LYDIA BALOGUN-WILSON BAGS BME'S LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

■ By: Violet Nwosu



**R**iding on the standpoint of the desire to succeed in a male dominated profession, Engr. Lydia Balogun-Wilson, the first black person to hold the position of Operations Support Team Leader at the North Sea headquarters of BP Plc bags the BME (Black Minority Ethnic) award. In an evening of inspiration, celebration, networking and multi-cultural entertainment, the Association for Black and Minority Ethnic Engineers (AFBE-UK), a non profit organization founded in London celebrated diversity and inclusion successes in the energy and engineering sectors. In an award event, which took place at the prestigious Marlcliffe Hotel and Spa near Aberdeen in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the AFBE-UK Scotland, Engr. Lydia Balogun-Wilson of BP Plc emerged as the BME( Black Minority Ethnic) Leader of the year award. Engr. Lydia Balogun-Wilson, the manager of North Sea Engineering

BP achieved this fit due to her resilient and hunger for success. She is a self driven woman who uses innovation and technology to solve complex problems, a mentor to young people who want to reach their highest potentials. A member of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and a Chartered member of Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE). Lydia is someone that brings creativity, dynamism, innovation and diversity of thoughts and perspectives to situations, a strong advocate of fairness. As an achiever who wants to give back to her home country, she founded Lydia Wilson Foundation, a charitable organization that aims to alleviate sufferings of orphans, windows and the aged without care in UK and Nigeria. Her desire is to get to the top of the Oil and Gas echelon and contribute to the solutions of advanced technology in the industry globally. Dr. Ollie Folayan, the Chairman of AFBE-UK Scotland described the ceremony as a real celebration of achievements, he was delighted to have been able to recognize diversity and inclusion success for under- represented groups in the energy and engineering sectors.

The Association for Black and Minority Ethnic Engineers (AFBE-UK) is a registered non profit organization founded in London to promote higher achievements in Education and Engineering particularly among people from Black and Minority Ethnicity (BME) background.



# FROM THE DIASPORA

■ By Adeniyi Sanusi

### Thrive beyond limitations in the Diaspora

**T**hriving in the Diasporas requires a combination of personal development skills, emotional intelligence as well as some top-notch entrepreneurial skills that can endure uncertain situations and circumstances. Keeping positive energy while transforming and being fully aware you're no longer in your country of origin which can be referred to as your comfort zone. The task now is to transform the newfound home into an Action zone. In this action zone, it may not matter so much the How long (Duration) as much as it matters the How well (Donation) that you have adapted into the realities and make active decision to acclimatize and more importantly feel at home even though you're away from home. Diaspora community Engagement can be categorized under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; SDG17 Partnership for the Goals - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. Historically, the word diaspora was used to describe the mass dispersion of a population from its indigenous territories, specifically the dispersion of Jews. Whilst the word was originally used to describe the forced displacement of certain peoples, "diasporas" is now generally used to describe



people of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union." (African Union) The US state department on the other hand defines diasporas as those migrant groups who share the following feature; dispersion whether voluntarily or involuntarily across socio-cultural boundaries, collective memory, and myth about the homeland a commitment to keeping the homeland alive through symbolic and direct actions, the presence of the topic of return, reverse migration, though not necessarily a commitment to do so and a diaspora consciousness and associated identity expressed in the diaspora community media, creation or organization as well as online participation and engagement. (US state department) To be described as a Diaspora, an individual needs to possess the willingness to contribute towards the development of the Homeland. The absence of the willingness to contribute towards the development of Homeland then automatically makes a necessity of definition to describe such person being an Expatriate which comes from the Latin



terms ex ("out of") and Patria ("native country, fatherland"). An Expatriate simply is a person who is residing in a country other than their native country. In common usage, the term often refers to professionals, skilled workers, or artists taking positions outside their home country, either independently or sent abroad by their employers. A Diaspora Marketing article by Harvard Business Review (Nirmalya and Jan-Benedict Steenkamp) categorized an active Diaspora as Ethnic Affirmers (Those who cling to their homeland cultures as means of retaining their identity) and Biculturals (Those who are able to maintain a sense of belonging to both the Homeland and Host-land without compromising their identity). Many countries today are developing their own unique Diaspora policies that can enable them to manage their Diaspora capital which is categorized into three types of flows: Flows of People, Flows of Knowledge, and Flows of Money. The real challenge for these Homeland Governments most of the time is how to maintain and sustain the ties of Diaspora with Homeland. Strategic efforts need to be made to engage the Diaspora through Capacity-building, rights extension (i.e. Diaspora voting) as well as obligation extension when the need arises. Active Diaspora is increasingly seeking ways in which they can do this through Diaspora Direct Investment (DDI), Foreign Direct Invest (FDI), International and transnational trade, Diaspora remittances, trade start-ups, or business investment,

purchase of real estate and humanitarian support, etc. In the areas of finance and business Diaspora can play a key role and investment goals can also be facilitated by the diaspora. Another area is social capital which refers to transnational networks and social connections (Diaspora soft power). In making all the aforementioned achievable and sustainable, trust is a key aspect of social capital and social currency that can increase confidence and generate opportunities for growth and development..Diasporas are encouraged to consistently find ways to actively contribute towards the pursuit of Homeland development. This can play an important role in the economic development of Homeland. Beyond their well-known role as senders of remittances, diasporas can actively promote trade and foreign direct investment, create businesses and spur entrepreneurship, and transfer new knowledge and skills. There are very few countries that consciously built and implemented a powerful strategy to maximize the leverage on their diaspora while acknowledging the diaspora and finding ways to ensure their happiness concerning their interaction (in the larger sense) with the Homeland. We have a lot of development potential in front of us and the good news is that on top of creativity, we can use as reference selected international best practices, adapting them in a specific way to fit our particularities.

# DIASPORA ICON

■ By Omolabake Omoniyi



Dr. Uchechi Iweala, has broken a medical record in Maryland, United States, as the first and only Black among the first spinal surgeons in Maryland to perform a successful navigated lumbar spinal fusion using a robot. Dr. Uchechi is a trained orthopaedic surgeon that specializes in spine surgery. He grew up at Maryland and attend St. Albans in Washington DC. He had his Bachelors degree with honours at Harvard College, and received his MD/MBA from Harvard Medical School and Harvard Business School. Dr. Iweala completed his residency training on orthopaedic surgery at George Washington University. Dr. Iweala specializes in Robotic Spine

Surgery, Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery, Cervical and Lumbar Disc Replacement, Spinal Fusion/Arthrodesis, Nerve Releases, Spinal Injections, Spinal Deformity, Spinal Stenosis, Degenerative Disc Disease, Spondylolisthesis, Trauma and Fracture Care.





# MEET A DIASPORAN

By: Bridget Temtsen



Age is just a number, they say. Here we meet a young and hardworking Nigerian in the Diaspora who is doing his part to make his country proud particularly in the field of ICT. As seen by Dr David Tyona Aondoakaa's desire to make significant contributions at home (Nigeria) particularly in the area of youth empowerment, shows that many Nigerians have embraced President Muhammadu Buhari's three-point agenda "You are our Ambassadors at large by your behaviour and character in your host country. Whatever legitimate endeavour you choose you must excel and be the best. Do not forget home, Nigeria, by giving back and engaging in its development". Dr Aondoakaa an indigene of Benue state, tells us how passionate he is about his home country and its socio-economic developments. Okay I'll start with the standard introduction. My name is Dr. Tyona David Aondoakaa. I was born and

had both my primary and secondary education in Nigeria. I moved to the UK after my secondary education where I obtained my undergraduate, masters and PhD degrees at Brunel University London. I'm currently a Senior Consultant with Deloitte UK. Outside of the standard things, I'm very passionate about technology and its application to societal problems on the African continent, and also Africa's politics. I left Nigeria in 2010 to the UK for university. My main attraction to the UK was actually to play football ..haha . The UK's premier league football teams are household names in Nigeria and as a young boy, I always dreamt of playing in the premier league. So when I had the opportunity to move abroad, the UK was my first choice. Even though that dream didn't come to pass, I'm very appreciative of the journey I've had so far. I'm currently working as a Senior Consultant within Deloitte's Risk Analytics Service Line. In my role, I'm responsible for helping my team deliver strong analytical value to a number of Fortune 500 companies. I'm also still very active in my academic and research life in areas of 6G and Artificial Intelligence. I've equally been involved in number of European Union multi-million-pound funded projects where the focus is on innovation using the most cutting-edge advancement in wireless communication and artificial intelligence. For example, I'm currently part of a research consortium that is building a case to use satellite data and all to predict and combat wild fires globally. I'm very proud of my African heritage and I take every chance I get in my UK work life to talk of Africa. I remain a die-hard optimist about Nigeria and Africa as a whole even in the face of our enormous challenges. One way I found to contribute in my many visits back home was to provide small funding to young entrepreneurs across the country. I noticed that a lot of young people have ideas that require little funding but can't actualise them because of the lack of funding. I've helped to fund a number of start ups both in technology and agriculture and I'm really pleased to see that some of them are thriving. For





example, I've never been to Minna, Niger State but I have helped to fund a start up restaurant there that was started by two very enterprising young boys, both under 23 years. I also have a number of holdings in Nigeria that collectively employ at least 10 young people. Over the next few years, I'm really keen to help mentor and support many young boys and girls in Nigeria into technology careers. I believe that Africa and indeed Nigeria has a very bright future if we can leverage and maximise our youthful population by equipping them with the right

skills. I believe Governments have a role to play but those of us who have been blessed with opportunities to see the very positive effect of technology in western economies must also give back and play our part. My main advice to young Nigerians who want to explore and learn other cultures is to go for it! Just never forget your roots wherever your path leads. It doesn't matter how many western passports you get; you will always be a Nigerian and as such we all have a duty to contribute in realising the Nigeria of our dreams. One that is peaceful, fair and prosperous.

# DIASPORA: REVIVING THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR IN NIGERIA

By Doosughun Abughidyer



The healthcare sector is the driving force of every country's economy. "Health is wealth", they say. Therefore, how can one develop oneself when one don't have access to healthcare facilities? Over the years, Nigerians have invested so much on medical tourism abroad. This is attributed to most facilities lacking state-of-the-art medical equipment, and the need for some medical procedures which can only be procured abroad. On the other hand, some Nigerians in the Diaspora are scared to invest in the country's socio-economic growth mainly because of insecurity. Interestingly, quite a number have taken the gaint step to give back to the society. Among those are Chief (Dr.) Dame Chetachi Ecton (TirHam), who is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/Founder of the "Kay Medicare Hospital". Dame Ecton is Imo State born from Mbaise and based in New York, USA.

The Kay Medicare Hospital Founder gave free pass to registered patients to receive consultation, hepatitis and blood sugar tests, pro bono. The facility which has the most modern medical theatre (operating room), neo and postnatal units, pharmacy, laboratory, ultrasound, X-ray, consultation room, ambulance services, patient wards in the country, with an executive section and more. Next on the list is the Foxglove Multi-specialty Hospital, located in Abuja. The , medical establishment is specialised in cardiovascular, renal and urological diseases at a discounted rate. Due to concerns about medical trips abroad for surgery, two Nigerians saw the need to give back, thereby saving Nigerians the cost of travelling abroad for surgical procedures. The Capital Health Surgical Centre (CHSC), will change this reality by providing the highest quality surgical care in Nigeria and greater West Africa. CHSC employs nurses and physicians who have trained at world-renowned health institutions and partners with the same institutions to provide specialised care. In all, Nigeria is our home, it's our collective responsibility to join hands together to make it a better place. Therefore I call on all Nigerians in the diaspora to think home and to consider bringing their world class initiative and business ventures home and also to join in the development of our homeland while reaping the fruits of investing in the very promising business environment of Nigeria.

# NIGERIA, TURKEY SIGNS 8 BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

■ By Khadija Shehu Bamalli

The robust and cordial bilateral relationship between Nigeria and Turkey has been further strengthened by the occasion of the official visit of the Turkish President, HE Recep Erdogan, to Nigeria. The two-day visit which was occupied by very useful discussions regarding bilateral issues and memoranda of understanding can be described as a one with a very positive outcome. The 8 major agreements/MoUs as revealed by President Muhammadu Buhari will affect key sectors like Energy, Defense Industry, Mining and Hydro Carbons among others, which will commence implementation immediately. Another issue reviewed is the travel ban list based on revised COVID-19 protocols where Turkey was removed from Nigeria's ban list as Turkey has indeed achieved remarkable success in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. President Erdogan who described the visit as Turkey's determination to improve relations with Nigeria to "higher levels on all fields" noted that the trade volume between both countries reached 2 billion dollars in 2020, making Nigeria its outstanding and the biggest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa. He further expressed optimism that this level of adequate trade



expand up to 5 billion dollars immediately and be further developed on the basis of a win-win structure and mutual respect. The Turkish President announced that Turkey has increased its diplomatic presence in Africa to 43 missions, adding that the third round of the Turkish-African business forum is scheduled to hold in Istanbul this October while the third Turkish-African partnership summit will follow in December. The host, President Muhammadu Buhari who thanked his Turkish counterpart noted that it was the second time he has had the pleasure of

receiving him in Abuja. He also expressed confidence that President Erdogan's meeting with a Joint Session of the Nigeria and Turkish Chambers of Commerce and Industry, before departing Nigeria, would

be another avenue to engage and exchange views on more productive ways to push ahead the socio-economic ties between the two countries. President Buhari equally thanked the Turkish President and the First Lady Emine Erdogan, for commissioning the Turkish Cultural Centre in Abuja as well as opening the newly renovated Government Secondary School in Wuse, Abuja, undertaken by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency.

# DID YOU KNOW?

■ By: Maryam Kehinde Abdulazeez

## THERE ARE 14 BODY PARTS YOU OFTEN DAMAGE BUT IGNORE

1. You damage your STOMACH when you abuse aspirin and over-the-counter pain and fever medicines.
  2. You damage your HEART when you eat too much salt and bad cholesterol.
  3. You damage your KIDNEYS when you don't drink up to 10 glasses of water or 3L in a day.
  4. You damage your GALLBLADDER when you don't sleep until 11 o'clock and don't wake up to the sunrise.
  5. You damage your SMALL INTESTINE when you eat cold and stale food.
  6. You damage your LARGE INTESTINE when you eat mainly fried and spicy food.
  7. You damage your LUNGS when you inhale smoke, cigars, shisha, weed, polluted fumes and bidi.
  8. You damage your LIVER when you eat stale nuts like groundnut, fried food, junk foods and drink heavy alcohol.
  9. You damage your PANCREAS when you eat plenty of sweets and candies.
  10. You damage your EYES when you sit in front of your computer or mobile phone screen with glares for hours every day, especially in the dark.
  11. You damage your BRAIN (psychologically) when you dwell on negative thoughts predominantly.
  12. You damage your SKIN when you bleach or fail to keep it clean and moisturized.
  13. You damage your VAGINA when you douche or insert unsterile materials into it for pleasure.
  14. You damage your TESTIS when you expose it to heat, causing low sperm production and infertility.
- Take care of your body parts like you know you need them to live and function well. Body parts are not easily available. Those available are very expensive and probably can't be adjusted to fit into your system. Keep your body parts healthy. Source:- Facebook (Health is the wealth page)

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E-mail: diasporanewsletter19@gmail.com

Call +234 80 33 19 80 77 +234 81 74 38 39 62

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# LET'S TALK FASHION HAUSA STYLE

■ By Omolabake Olaotan Omoniyi

The Hausas are from the Northern part of Nigeria and the uniqueness of the tribe and culture is second to none. The style of dressing in the Northern part of the country has always stood out amongst others as their dressing mode is still largely dictated by their tradition and not civilisation. These Northern Nigerian occupants, are very modest in their choice of clothing, most especially the women. The woman are required to wear stunning attires that do not reveal a lot of skin. This is because they are predominantly Muslims in that region, and their religion dictates their clothing approach The beautiful Abaya dresses (long flowing gown with veil) saves

the day for the ladies. These dresses can be made in different colours and embroidery designs. One other outstanding fact about the woman is their choice of jewelry and body painting know as 'Henna'. This is usually used to beautify their hands and legs. On the other hand the Hausa men are known with their 'Babban Riga' outfit. This is a large piece of clothe usually made from cotton, and it is richly embroidered in traditional patterns. Also they are identified with their beautiful patterned caps know as 'hula' (which varies from Tangaran, to Damanga, to Zanna Bukar, to bangwal etc according to their design). These caps are made of narrow strip cloth that are hand woven.





# FOOD CORNER



**AKIDI NA JI**  
Photo Credit

■ By Doosughun Abughidyer

**AKIDI NA JI (Pigeon Beans and Yam Porridge)**

Akidi na Ji like the Igbos will call it, is a very delicious and nutritious meal that can be eaten at anytime of the day. This cuisine is typical of the Nsukka people in Enugu state of South Eastern Nigeria.

Some people refer to akidi as the 'magic beans' because it has a lot of nutritional value. Akidi is an antioxidant; rich in vitamins and minerals. Also, it contains protein since its in the legume family.

The challenge with this meal is the long time-consumption in preparing it. However, some people find a way around it by either soaking it overnight to soften it, or use a pressure cooker.

## INGREDIENTS

1. 2 cups pigeon beans (akidi)
2. ¼ yam, peeled and cut
3. ½ teaspoon salt
4. 2 stock cubes
5. 50ml palm oil
6. ½ bunch spinach, cut
7. 1 onion, sliced
8. ½ fresh red pepper
9. 12 small fresh tomatoes, sliced

## METHOD OF PREPARING:

1. After sorting the akidi, wash and soak them in water for at least 5 hours or preferably overnight.
2. In a clean pot, pour the beans and add water. Leave it to cook until it is softened.
3. Add the already washed and peeled, chopped yam when the akidi is softened. Add more water if the beans have absorbed all the water, then leave to cook until the yam has been softened.
4. Bring down the beans and yam from the fire and pour in a sieve to drain out excess water and set aside.
5. Heat up the palm oil for about a minute before adding the onions and saute for two minutes.
6. Add the tomatoes, pepper, stock cubes and salt then continue stirring until the tomatoes are cooked and slightly dried.
7. Pour the sauce over the cooked black beans and yam in a pot then stir properly until well combined.
8. Garnish with some fresh spinach if you like then serve warm immediately. Enjoy.....



# TOUR NIGERIA: ANAMBRA STATE

By: Bridget Temtsen



**HIS EXCELLENCY**  
**Chief Willie Obiano M.**  
Governor of Anambra State of Nigeria

If you are a tourist looking for destination to visit and have fun while also appreciating nature at its best, Anambra State is a must-see.

Welcome to Anambra state. The State with the only famous and unique Virgin Forest known in Nigeria.

Anambra state was constituted in 1976 from the Northern half of East-Central state and has Awka as its capital.

The Igbos are the major occupant of the state and are known for their good entrepreneurial skills.

Presently, the state is being governed by HE. Willie Obiano

I guarantee that a trip to this state will allow you reconnect with nature and even appreciate it more.

**Ikenga Virgin Forest:** As i earlier said, this is the only known virgin forest in Nigeria. It is said that the thick forest reserve has neither been cultivated nor its trees cut till date. The forest houses many species of animals.

**Ogba Waterfalls, Owerre-Ezukala:**The interesting thing about this waterfall is that, the water that gushes out from the spring right in front of a cave and the falls on heaps of rock below, forms a sparkling rainbow colour that will leave you appreciating the wonders of nature.

**Rojenny Tourist Village:** This tourist village is located at Oba along Onitsha /Owerri road. It is a place for relaxation where you can have fun with friends and family. It is said that this tourist village has a mini

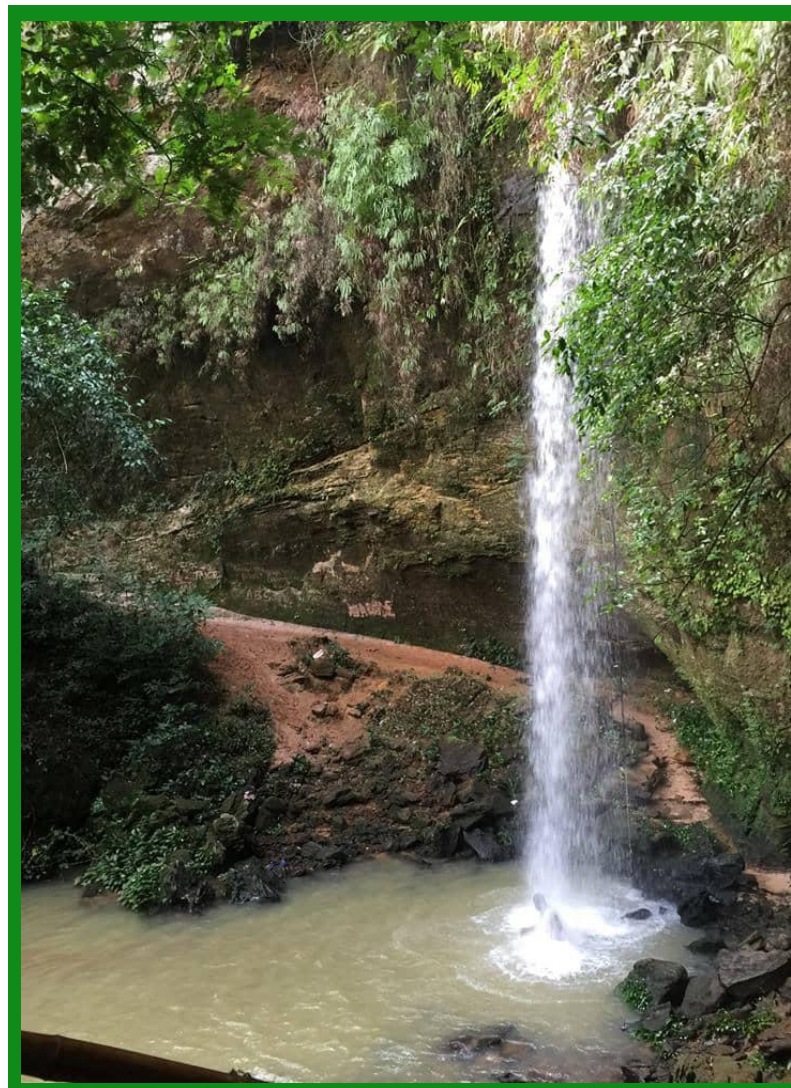
game reserves with different species of animals.

**Okpu Ana Natural Spring :** Just like every other spring, this natural spring will blow your mind with its aesthetic nature. However, what differentiate this spring from others is that, the source of the spring is not known till date.

**Odinani Museum :** It is not news that as Africans especially Nigerians, we dont joke with our heritage. The museum houses lots of sculptural works, war equipment, carvings, paintings of different kind and pottery.

Other places you can also visit in the State are:

- Otuocha Sand beach
- Obutu Lake
- Iyiocha Lake and
- Ajali Cave.







# ABIKE @ 59

## CELEBRATING AN EPITOME OF EXCELLENCE WITH HUMAN KINDNESS

By Abdur-Rahman Balogun



|| The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively" Bob Marley This saying aptly captured the personality of Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa , Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM).

On April 10, 2019, Mr Ray Ekpu, a Veteran Journalist wrote a piece on "Abike and her Traducers" wherein Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa seems to have walked into the trap of tribal jingoists and they want to eat her raw. Abike's offence then was to have echoed the names of some five young Nigerians arrested in Dubai, UAE, for alleged robbery of a Bureau de change and all the names mentioned seems to have come from one ethnic group even though it was Nigerians to the authorities in UAE. Not too long to that time, Abike mentioned

the conviction and eventual killing of a Nigerian lady for drug- related offences in Saudi Arabia whose name sounds like from another ethic group. Though, she condemned the execution in very strong terms but didn't disclose the name of the lady. This was a great sin to some compatriots in some parts of the country who accused Abike of discrimination. The logic of those who are putting Abike in the dock of public opinion seems to go like this; Abike is Yoruba, so she hid the identity of the Yoruba woman killed in Saudi Arabia for drug offence. She probably didn't like the Igbo.

This is far from the truth as this is not the true representative of the personality called Abike Dabiri-Erewa that was born in Jos Plateau on October 11. Right from her television days at NTA spanning over 15 years, she stood up as a detribalised, passionate, kind and excellent Nigerian impacting positively on mankind irrespective of race, gender, ethnic or religious background. Bernard Shaw said that "Progress is impossible without change; and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything" Examples are abound of many great things she did using her broadcasting prowess within that 15 years. This was transmuted to a great performance



she decided to award the best student with an examination result which was conducted for all in which about 30 students amongst them all came out top and which they were all awarded a scholarship for their entire secondary school period. Amongst this few selected scholars were these brilliant triplets tagged as the "wise men" who emerged first, second and third in that order amongst a span of over two thousand students who participated in the free coaching lesson. Due to the crowd the programme attracted and the humongous expenditure, one would have thought that Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa will limit her sponsorship at secondary school level, of which if she did so we all would say she has done exceedingly well, but the human kindness in her continued that she sponsored the triplets through first degrees and second degrees respectively.

Since the year 2004 that Abike Dabiri -Erewa had bonded with the triplets, they have been doing instrumentally well and have been well placed in the society as Anaele Chukwudi who studied Economics now works with an insurance firm, while Anaele Chima, who studied History and International Relations , works with Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) and lastly, Anaele Chiedozie who finished as a Petroleum Engineer is a full time Pastor and General Overseer of a Church. The triplet have showed great signs of modesty, Godliness and productivity which only shows how impactful the Abike Dabiri scholarship has affected their life and given them a good foundation that was never there in the first place. From the names of the triplets , it is clear that they are from the South East Region and Christian by faith.

The same compassion is what Abike is operating with at NIDCOM as she had used her personal funds to evacuate some stranded Nigerians from Kenya, South Africa, Libya, UAE ,Saudi Arabia and Qatar. One can say this, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa is not only an humanitarian but an amazon and God sent to many out there. She is a woman of the people who strives for excellence at all times. Perhaps, this must have informed her winning many laurels and awards both nationally and globally to her credit just as the Photo Journalists Association of Nigeria (PJAN) is honouring her on Oct 21, 2021 in Abuja. In the letter of nomination, PJAN said they are giving Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa the award of " Citizens Advocate Ambassador " in recognition of her remarkable and outstanding performance in promoting the interest of the citizens first and country as a whole.

This recognition is also "as a result of numerous achievements you have accomplished since appointed the Chairman/CEO of NIDCOM. You have made an indelible mark on the sands of time as a "Silent Achiever" and this is worthy of emulation."What else can one say about this unique personality called Abike Dabiri Erewa (ADE) than to pray for her as she adds another year on Oct. 11 and wish her a blissful birthday .

# DIARY OF EVENTS

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



**H**E President Muhammadu Buhari arrives Addis Ababa for the inauguration of the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmad Ali, for a 2nd term.



**H**E President Muhammadu Buhari hosts HE President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey in State House, Abuja.



**H**E Amb. Muhammad Ahmad Makarfi, The Nigerian Ambassador to Brazil presents his letter of Credence to President Jair Bolsonaro of The Federal Republic of Brazil.



**H**E Geoffrey Onyeama, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, receives Clara Pulido Escandell - Cuban Ambassador to Nigeria, in his office in Abuja.



# DIARY OF EVENTS

■ By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



**H**on. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), at the Black Excellence Awards in London.



**H**on. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), participating at the Nigeria Diaspora Direct Investment Summit in London.



**S**ome Nigerians in New York, USA, celebrating the Independence Day



**E**ngr. Lydia Balogun-Wilson receiving the BME (Black Minority Ethnic) leader of the year award from Air Marshall Lan Gale of the Royal Air Force.

# DIARY OF EVENTS

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



**N**igeria's 61<sup>st</sup> independence Day Celebration in New Delhi, India. Hosted by Ambassador Ahmed Sule, Nigerian High Commissioner To India



**A**t the premiere of the film 'Across the Border', a documentary on Irregular Migration at the Zylfon Media Complex, Accra Ghana.



**E**ngr. Dr. Sule Yakubu Bassi, Secretary NiDCOM representing Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO of NiDCOM at the inauguration of Nollywood Ghana Chapter at Miklan Hotel, East Lagon, Accra Ghana.



**H**on. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, one of the four Nigerians to receive the 2021 World Class leadership awards by US based NABNTV awards.



# DIARY OF EVENTS

■ By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



**H**E Geoffrey Onyeama, The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, receives The UAE Ambassador to Nigeria, HE Dr. Fahad Al Taffa in his office



**H**E Geoffrey Onyeama, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs at the 39th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union, in Addis Ababa.

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By Olufunke Oloye and Pam Dung Pam



## BAUCHI STATE OF NIGERIA



**SEN. BALA MUHAMMAD**  
Executive Governor  
Bauchi State, Nigeria



**Prof. Sani Malami**  
Special Adviser on  
Diaspora Affairs.

### BAUCHI STATE

Bauchi State also known as Pearl of Tourism is a North-Eastern state, created 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 1976. Bauchi State occupies a total land area of 49,119 km square with about 55 tribal groups. It has some educational institutions like Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Bauchi State University Gadau, Abubakar Tatari Ali Polytechnic, Federal Polytechnic Bauchi.

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Solid Minerals



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Tourism



Museum/Park



Agriculture



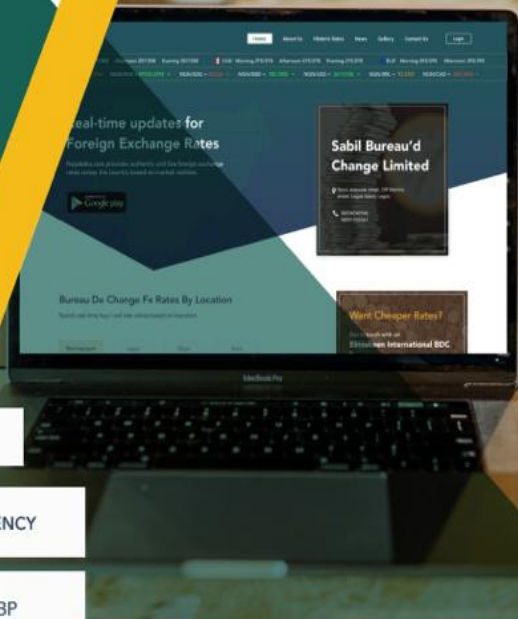
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