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Telling today's stories with dignity and courage.

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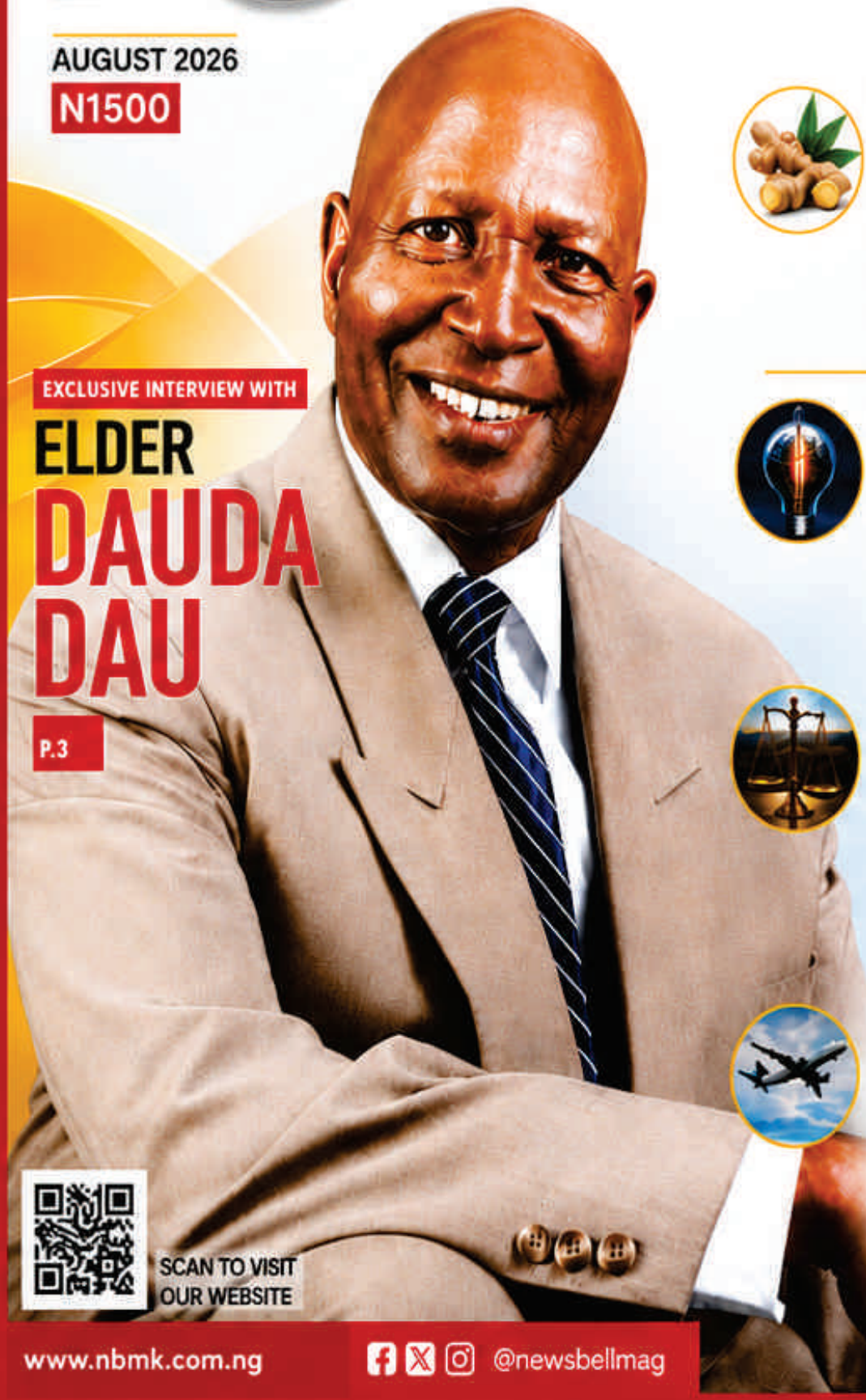

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NEWS BELL
Telling today's stories with dignity, and courage.

EDITORIAL

VOL. 1 | ISSUE 1 | AUGUST 2026

MARY HABILA CASE: QUEST FOR TRUTH AMID CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS

The death of Mary Habila has sparked widespread concern and conflicting accounts.

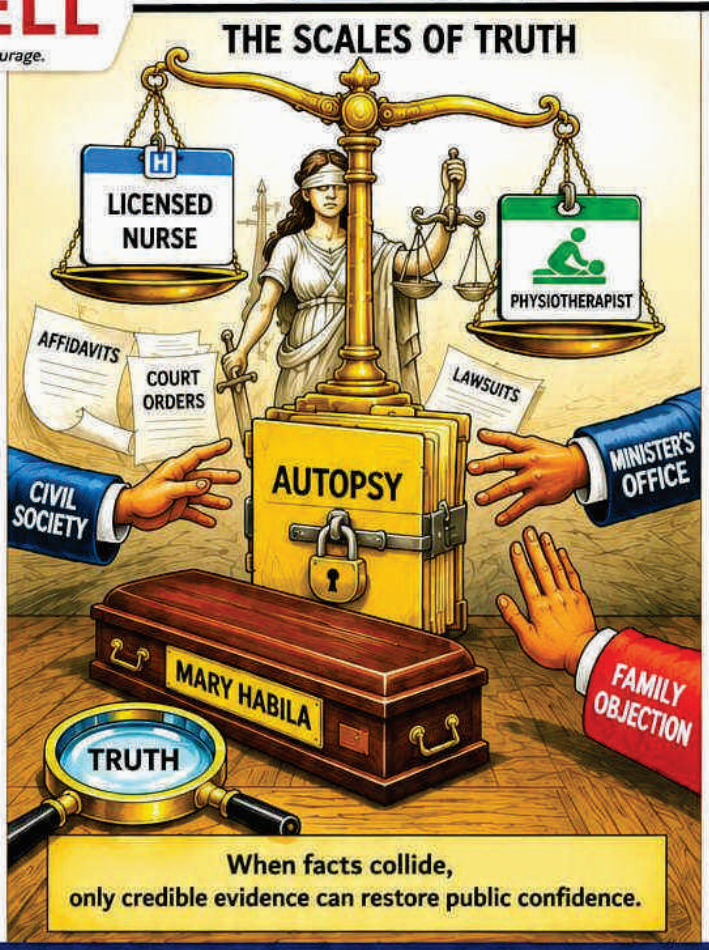
Sahara Reporters described her as a Licensed Nurse, while the office of Senator David Umahi, Hon. Minister of Works, refers to her as a Physiotherapist.

The Minister and many civil society organisations have called for an autopsy to unravel the circumstances surrounding her death. However, her father, Mr Habila Wisdom, has objected.

The matter has since led to numerous affidavits, lawsuits, and alleged electronic (cyber) threats to individuals.

Only credible evidence and due process can deliver answers that the public can trust.

THE SCALES OF TRUTH



When facts collide, only credible evidence can restore public confidence.

OTHER CARTOON CONCEPTS (AT A GLANCE)

PUZZLE OF THE TRUTH
Questions remain. The courts and evidence must complete the picture.

THE CLOSED FILE
The search for answers belongs in evidence—not speculation.

CROSSROADS
Every claim deserves scrutiny. Every person deserves fairness.

EDITOR'S NOTE
News Bell Magazine supports transparency, respect for due process, and the pursuit of verifiable facts. Where conflicting accounts exist, independent evidence and lawful judicial processes remain the most credible path to public accountability.

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EDITORIAL INTERVIEW with ELDER DAUDA BARNABAS DAU

So, Daddy, what is your name and where did you come from?

My name is Dauda Barnabas Dau.
I came from Kwai Jaba Local Government Area, Kaduna State.

How old have you lived on earth?
By the grace of God, I've lived for 85 years on this planet Earth.

So far, what has God done for you, can you mention to us?
God has done a lot of thins for me, but I will mention a few.
Alright, go ahead.
God has been gracious to me from birth to now.
Honestly, I cannot say how much God has done for me, because it's a lot, a lot, and a lot more than what people can imagine.
I was privileged to be born in a family that were among those who earlier accepted Christ in the Nok region when the missionaries came to Kwoi in 1910. My father was persecuted because of his acceptance of Christ.
Gradually he became the pillar of the church in southern Kaduna.
And I was privileged also to attend the mission school at that time, it was called SIM, that is the Sudan Interior Mission in Kwoi from 1949.
When I graduated from my primary school, I went to a very popular hospital in the north at that time called United Mission Christian Hospital.
There I got trained as a nurse and I qualified and actually registered as a registered nurse. From there I went on to the United Kingdom and I studied also in psychiatric nursing.
Having completed my training, I worked there for another 10 years before I returned to Nigeria. When I came back to Nigeria, I started work with the then Kaduna State, which had Katsina as one state at that time. I worked in the Ministry of Health. Later on as a lecturer at the Kaduna Polytechnic.

I later joined politics in the late 70s where I worked with Alhaji Balarabe Abdulkadir Musa who was elected Governor of the then Kaduna State in 1979 and he appointed me as one of the commissioners in his government.
And later on, of course, Balarabe was removed by the State House of Assembly as a governor. But we continue with his deputy Rimi, who took over from him as Governor.
At the return of military rule, I then decided that I was going to be on my own, establish this farm called Dala Farm, which by the grace of God has grown to be a well known farm not only in Kaduna State, but over Nigeria, because we have received students from various agricultural colleges for training here.
So the journey has been really, you know, tough, but very much enjoyable.

Sir, where you involved in any form national or regional movement?



Yes, I participated quite a lot also. Like in the days of Joseph Tarka, we participated actively in the Middle-Belt Movement. I Supported him and we believe in the Middle-Belt Movement. And I was very active in the movement actually, you know, until, a few years back.
Now because of age, you know, I still support the movement but at a limited level because of age.
But I believe in the Middle-Belt Movement.
Okay.

Looking at the nature of agriculture being the, the loveware of the Nigerian economy and your long time engagement in that same industry, what can you say about the Nigerian economy vis a vis the agriculture?
As in, as a driver of our economy.
It may interest you to know that actually I was never a trained agriculturalist.
I just picked interest, natural interest in agriculture. And I come to believe that agriculture is the backbone of every country.
I remember countries like Great Britain, you know, the industrial revolution was based on agriculture.
Yes, yes.
And see how they have gone far.
No country that wishes to be, to grow economically strong

without, you know, imbibing agriculture at its base.
People must live, people will live, people must eat.
You cannot run away from it.
Agriculture is the oldest occupation on earth, you know, so you cannot afford to play with agriculture the way unfortunately Nigeria government is playing with, you know, because that is the basic of everything.
When your people are well fed, you know, when people can have something to eat, thenyou have solved one of your basic problems in economy.
So I believe in agriculture and I don't know, I grew up learning so many things, but agriculture came to be my focus and remains my focus till I leave this earth.

It is interesting to note, sir.
So beyond the crude way of agriculture that we knew Nigeria to have been in the time past, to the days of Gen. Gowon, where we began to have the days of industrialization, nationalization and indigenization policies, have we made any progress so far?
Well, I will not say we have not, but we have not. We could have done better than this, a lot better.
We start each program and we abandon it.
When you start this program, you will take it to its logical conclusion.
You do not abandon it.
Government will come today. One government will pay attention to agriculture, another government will not. And even the inputs.
The government is spending a lot on agriculture, but we do not see the result because actually politics has come into it and has spoiled the basis of everything agriculture should be.
So it's very unfortunate, very sad. But Nigeria is blessd with land and if we concentrate on agriculture alone, we will make it.
You were part of the Balarabe Musa cabinet, right? And as a commissioner, Balarabe Musa is one of the Governors in Kaduna State that has Ruled with a sense of unity, and equity?
Yeah. With a driven and a great concern for industrialization.To the extent that he took industrialization to the south as to the north and to the center.
What happened after that industralization effort by Alh. Musa, unfortunately, all went down. Unfortunately. Balarabe Musa as a leader was really a great leader. He had the vision. He was incorruptible.
It's unfortunate that Nigerians don't like somebody who is sincere, somebody who is focused, so somebody who can pull us out of our predicament of poverty.
The power that be, what we used to call, the cabal in the north actually saw him as a threat, a big threat, and they did everything to bring him down.
When they noticed that Belarabe was actually going to transform not only Kaduna State, but Nigeria, they blocked him and removed him, you know, and since then, obviously we have not got a governor that has ruled this, you know, state like Musa. He had industrialization as a focus. Agriculture was number one, you know, but unfortunately, being the type of people we are, you know, as always.
Nigeria is held by the jugular vein, by the so called cabal who don't want things to change, you know, they want us to remain the same all the time, you know, unfortunately. But he played his own part.

We could see around the effort you put in in building Dala farm to what it is today. How easy or how difficult was it for you to have attended this?
It was rough, really rough.
We came here in 1979.
This area was completely, you know, a virgin land, forest if you like.
And because of the keen interest and the belief myself and my wife had at that time that agriculture is our base, having learned from UK because when we were living in the United Kingdom, we took time to visit so many farms. And that spurred me now say, well, when I return to Nigeria, this is what I want to do, you know.
So we bought this land. And of course, being in the bush at that time in Nigeria, there was this problem of armed robbery.
You know, during Anini's very common practice. We were attacked here about four times. We were seriously attacked and were left at one time as dead.
But we kept on, we kept on. And God, of course, with the help of God, the farm kept growing, kept growing. And we became more or less one of those training centers in agriculture. And we were receiving students from University of Nigeria Nsukka, from all over Nigeria. We train them, you know, and many of them are happy to say after they went back. Some are on their own today and they have made it and many of them have invited us to go and see what, you know, they are doing.
So that brings a lot of joy to me. That is our contribution to the growth of Nigeria and our belief in agriculture as the backbone of our own growth.

You were privileged to serve as the president of KADCCIMAyears back. How were your days compared to today's day of Idris?
Well, those were the great days, you know, again, my belief in commerce and agriculture was so powerful before I even became the president, I was the vice president in charge of agriculture in the chamber. So, when I became the president, obviously so many things happened during my period. It was during my period of being the president of Kaduna Chamber of Commerce Industry Manufacturing and Agriculture (KADCCIMA) that the trade fare complex standing today, if you know Kaduna or you have been there it is a big complex. It was during my time that that complex was built.
And I know that General Ibrahim Babangida, who is still alive today, did a lot.I remember visiting him twice. The complex was supposed to host the whole of Organisation of African Unity, that is all African Chambers of Commerce (ACC). And it was scheduled actually to hold in Lagos. All those structures were to be put in Lagos.
I reasoned within me and said, well, what are we doing? We don't have anything like that. Lagos already saturated. Why don't you bring it here? When the idea came, we made an appointment with President Babagida. And to the glory of God, honestly, he consented.
They have started there, but they move it up down to Kaduna here, you know. So it is. I would say it's one of those achievements that I can always count that I brought to Kaduna Chamber of Commerce, you know, and we had leaders then that were helping to build the chambers.
For example, we have people like ABG, you know, and so many leaders like the late Isaiah Ballat and so on, you know,

because Isaiah Ballat was the first person from southern Kaduna to be the president and I was the second. But of course, Kaduna Chamber of Commerce has turned to be something else. Religion has creeped in and it's not what it was years ago.
However, we thank God it's still existing. And my prayers is that it will still grow to be strong, you know. But at that time, things were really easy and countries had confidence in Nigeria and trade fare was actually very popular too, you know, and very famous people all over the world brought their products to exhibit and so on.
That is not the case today.You know, technology also has taken its toll. What we used to do is no longer the trend, it has been taken over by technologies.

So what would be your advice to the Surv. Ishaya Idi led KADCCIMA? It Is the third a southern Kaduna becoming the president of Kaduna Chamber of Commerce. And I'm elated about it. My advice to him is that do your best to do something that you will be remembered for good. I know there are obstacles and they are bound to be obstacles. If there are no obstacles, then there's no need for leadership. So my prayer for him is that, he would also succeed as the president of Kaduna Chamber of Commerce. Because we from southern Kaduna would like to make a mark, right. It must be different, you know, the difference must be visible and felt.

For the younger ones who aspire to be entrepreneurs, what would be your advice to them? Haven't gone through Dala Farms and, and have come this far?
Well, you know, I always make reference to southern Kaduna because actually particularly the middle belt, let me say the middle belt in general, the present generation, I would encourage to imbibe commerce, industry, because that is the only way to move forward. Without money today, you can do very little.We have been too dependent on government work, of course. Where are the jobs today?
The government cannot absorb everybody.Therefore we must have creative mind to be independent. It's not an easy road, but definitely when you persevere by the grace of God, at the end you will make it, you know. So I would encourage every young Nigerian, every young northerner, every young middle belter to imbibe commerce and especially agriculture.

We could see that you had the privilege of having to raise your children and you believe that you are proud of where they are. How did you come about that?
So many factors, our background.
We were lucky to be brought up by the missionaries we imbibed. The principle of being sincere, working hard, hard work has no substitute. For my children, I want to thank God for them.We have four children, three boys, one daughter. And we thank God they are all graduates.
And God also has helped them to be on their own, set up their own families.They are doing very well and they are following the footsteps, knowing God, having the fear of God. And you know, integrity is the main word, you know, character.
And whatever you are doing, you know, you must make sure that you have a good character. People can associate with you. So our young people, it's unfortunate today they want things to be done now, it doesn't work that way.
Even if you see one person or two that have met it early, well, that is their own luck, fate has favoured them. But it's not always the case that you get it easy. So persevere in everything you are doing. Have a focus, don't shift.You know, you experience, you are taking a good road, it looks narrow at the beginning, but in the end it widens.

We must appreciate your sense of sincerity. And I must say that you have had your ups and downs.
Sure!

Haven't mentioned the cases of robberies you've had. As it stands today, given the withdrawal of oil subsidy leading to skyrocketing inflation, as an operator in the agriculture sector, how do you survive?
It's a big challenge because, you know, diesel prices have gone up. A liter of Diesel today is N 2000 , what we used to buy for may be N 200 or even less than that. Diesel used to be the cheapest source of energy, but today diesel is the most expensive. So operating costs have increased astronomically. But, you know, it's something we hold on and hope for the best. We can't go back, because people must feed well, a population, the hungry population, is a troublesome population. So whatever it is in agriculture, whatever it is in life, agriculture must be a priority.
So we are struggling, but we still have hope.You know, the present economic situation to me, should be seen as a challenge and not a deterrent. Okay, should be seen as a challenge.

What can we do?
But I thank God because many people, many young people today too are, you know, answering the challenge by doing something, creating something.
So let us have hope.

You know, sincerely, looking at your age and your sense of determination and the conviction to still keep hope alive is a great challenge and an inspiration to the younger generation.
Let us our hope alive.

With how you came about, how you have trained and mentored others to success, and you are still determined. What is drive?
Impacting on lives, for shared growth and prosperity should be our priority as a people. Buildings and properties could be good, but without noble minds to maintain them they are but liabilities. The human person is of principal concern in any development agenda, training and inculcating it with the right character sets the tune for both growth and development.

I feel indeed it is a development we need to share around, let people know that if a person of 85 years is still being determined, what of a person of 15, 20, 30, 40?
We need to stay both focus and determine, soaring against the tide, no matter how and what it appears to be.
So thank you so much, except you have any other thing to add.
Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to express myself and my views on various topics.
Yes, I am a great believer in this country.You see, you will not appreciate what God has done for us as a country until you live abroad. But again, living abroad, you must bring something back, practice it here too, for people to see.
You know, it's not just living abroad. We had the opportunity to stay, but we said no. We have a duty, and a responsibility.
Thank you very much, indeed for this interview.

Most welcome, sir.

GLP-1 Medications: Beyond Weight Loss

Promise, Cost, and Sociocultural Implications

By Donald Olaniyan



GLP-1 medications are widely used in diabetes and weight management.

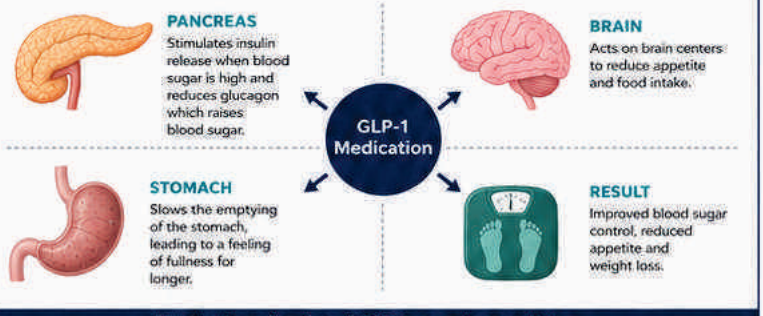
INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years, GLP-1 receptor agonists have transformed from specialised diabetes medicines into one of the most influential innovations in modern medicine. Their remarkable effectiveness in treating obesity has generated worldwide attention and sparked discussions about healthy ageing.

WHAT ARE GLP-1 MEDICINES?

GLP-1 (glucagon-like peptide-1) is a natural hormone produced in intestines after eating that helps regulate blood sugar, appetite, and stomach emptying. Medicines such as semaqlutide (Ozempic), liraglutide (Saxenda), and tirzepatide mimic these effects, helping patients lose weight while improving metabolic health.

HOW GLP-1 MEDICATIONS WORK IN THE BODY



Mechanism of action of GLP-1 receptor agonists.

HOW DOES GLP-1 WORK?

They work by stimulating the pancreas to release insulin when blood sugar is high. They also work by reducing the amount of glucagon. Glucagon is a hormone that raises blood sugar. Additionally, GLP-1 slows the emptying of the stomach, this result to a feeling of fullness for a longer time. It also acts on the brain to reduce appetite and food intake.

Because of these effects, GLP-1 receptor agonists have become important medicines for Type 2 diabetes, and obesity and weight management.

ARE THEY ANTI-AGEING DRUGS?

Although many people describe GLP-1 medicines as anti-ageing therapies, they are not approved for this purpose. Their reputation comes from reducing obesity, improving cardiovascular health and lowering the risk of chronic diseases associated with ageing.

Researchers continue to study whether they have direct effects on biological ageing.



High costs remain a major barrier to access.

THE COST

These medicines remain expensive in many countries, often costing hundreds of dollars monthly. Limited insurance coverage and supply shortages restrict access, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Wider availability of generic products may eventually reduce costs.

In Nigeria, these medications range from **₦250,000 to ₦1,000,000,** depending on the type, source or supplier and strength. For many individuals, the cost places these medications beyond reach, regardless of medical need.

SOCIO CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

GLP-1 medicines are changing how society views obesity—from a matter of willpower to a complex chronic disease. Historically, excess weight was frequently viewed as a consequence of poor self-discipline or unhealthy lifestyle choices. The effectiveness of GLP-1 therapy has reinforced scientific understanding that obesity is a complex chronic disease involving genetics, hormones, brain signaling, metabolism, and environmental influences. This shift has helped reduce dome of the stigma traditionally associated with obesity.

At the same time, these medications have intensified discussions surrounding beauty standards and body image. Social media platforms are filled with dramatic before-and-after photographs, celebrity endorsements, and discussions about rapid weight loss. These visibilities have increased demand for cosmetic weight loss, raising ethical questions about equity, access and appropriate prescribing. Another sociocultural consideration involves healthcare inequality as wealthier populations often enjoy greater access (through private healthcare or out-of-pocket payment) than those with the greatest medical need.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, GLP-1 receptor agonists are associated with potential adverse effects. The most common include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, and reduced appetite, particularly during treatment initiation.

More serious but less common risks include gallbladder disease and pancreatitis. Appropriate patient selection, gradual dose escalation, and ongoing medical supervision remain essential to maximize benefits while minimizing harm.



Serious but less common: Gallbladder disease, Pancreatitis


Medical supervision is essential during treatment.

CONCLUSION

GLP-1 medicines are among the most important pharmaceutical breakthroughs of this century. Their greatest strength lies not in reversing ageing but in improving health, preventing disease and enhancing quality of life.

Ensuring fair access while encouraging responsible use will determine their long-term impact on society.



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH

ENGR (DR) SIMON N. YASHIM:

AN ACCOMPLISHED PERSONALITY.



Sir, Could you give a brief profile about yourself?

I am Engr Simon Nuhu Yashim, I am an aeronautic engineer by profession. I was born into the family of Pa Nuhu Yashim Bari. I was born and brought up at Kurmin Masara, Zango Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

How were your childhood days?

They were beautiful moments, and I often recall those days with gratitude. I have a twin brother; his name is Dr Andrew N. Yashim. He is a medical practitioner (Haematologist). I attended primary school at Zaman Dabo in Zango Kataf LGA. I also attended Technical School where I learnt plumbing. I had my tertiary education at Kaduna Polytechnic where I studied Mechanical Engineering, later on the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria.

Marital life?

I am happily married with three children.

Could you share with us how you got into the Aviation industry and some of your achievements in the industry so far?

I started working with All Trade Air Services in the Catering department. My appointment was confirmed in June, 1991. My profession is mechanical engineering. I was not satisfied working in the catering department. So I decided to pray and fast for seven days to seek for divine intervention in my working place. On the seventh day, I was almost unconscious and ended up on admission at the hospital. The next day I was offered a letter of transfer of service from catering to Mechanical workshop.

What was the invitation for?

On reaching the workshop, I met my boss, Engr Vincent Fomen a Ghanaian and other two colleagues, Engr Tunde Okunbode and Engr Thomas Eguin.

There was an assessment test conducted by our Boss Engr Vincent. At the end of the assessment, I emerged the best among the three of us despite the fact that I had the least experience. The secret behind my success that very day was God and my talent. I started learning technical skills right from home; my father was a bicycle repairer. So, my twin brother and I learnt how to repair bicycles in his workshop. In fact, in the course of learning I became more skillful than my father who taught me.

After the assessment test in the workshop, our boss called us together. He said, if I had appointed Simon as head over you without assessment you might think I showed him favouritism. Consequently, our boss recommended me to the management of the Air Line, that I could act effectively in his capacity whenever he is not around.

> "The secret behind my success that very day was **God and my talent.**"

In 1992, our aircraft went on what is technically called C-check. It is a mandatory operation that is usually carried out on aircraft after flying for a period of 12 months. The body and engine of the aircraft will be split so as to examine whether it is safe to keep flying it. This routine maintenance exercise helps to check destructive effect of corrosion on the body of the aircraft which is made up of aluminum alloy.

After the C-check, the aircraft is normally returned to its position. The see check is usually carried out by an approved workshop maintenance organization. Our aircraft was taken to Air Link in overseas.

The engine of an aircraft reads in hours while its body reads in calendar. After the C- check, the air frame (body) is said to be at zero hour. In addition, when the aircraft manufacturer produces an aircraft, the manufacturer usually programmes the number of hours (usually in thousands) over which the engine of the aircraft can work. Once the engine has covered

those hours, it will stop automatically until the engine is removed and taken back to the manufacturer to overhaul it.

When our aircraft went on see check my boss was away and my other two colleagues were not around. I was the only person left to work in the workshop with only few months of experience in the workshop. The need for four (4) brake units arose at the place where our aircraft was taken to. So our Managing Director, Engr Zakari Haruna called me and asked if I could assemble the brake units that were needed to fly our aircraft back to the country. He realized that obtaining the brake units overseas was quite expensive. I told him that I will try my best.

Engr Haruna then sent his driver the following day to pick me from home to the workshop to start the work. I started the work on Saturday. That very day I produced two brake units. By 7:30 AM Nigerian time of Monday I had finished the remaining two brake units. They were taken on board to Air Link.

On reaching Air Link, my Boss saw the brake units, he was very impressed by the work I had done. The white man who was to examine the brake units before fixing them on our aircraft was also impressed. He could not believe that a Nigerian trained Engineer could do such work. My boss told him that the gentleman who repaired those brake units is the one in charge of the workshop in All Trade Air Services. He was employed recently, and he had never attended Aviation College.

In the aviation industry any maintenance service carried out on an aircraft must be thoroughly examined by an approved engineer. Then a certificate will be issued to the engineer or the technician who does the work. If any accident occurs as a result of the work done by the engineer or the technician, he will be summoned by the regulatory Authority that is, Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to account.

Engineering Services in the aviation industry is just like the services of a physician in the medical profession. In fact, the ethics guiding the repairs and maintenance of aircraft require that nothing should distract the engineer or technician who is working in the aircraft maintenance workshop.

When the white man visited All Trade Air Services to conduct a manufacturer course for the staff of the Airline, he asked about me as soon as he landed in Kaduna. He was received at the office of the director of technical services. While he was at the office with the Director of Technical Services, Engr Vincent, my boss along with the station Engineer, I was called in to the office. On getting there, the white man congratulated me and we shook hands. He interviewed me to confirm what he was told about me. By the grace of God, I was issued a certificate instantly with a cash award of one thousand dollars. That was my first certificate on maintenance in the aviation industry.

What is your assessment of the participation of Southern Kaduna people in the Aviation industry?

The participation of the our people in the aviation sector is quite insignificant. This is not because we lack the human resources, but the capital. When you possess a strategic talent or skills without the necessary capital resources to finance the dream you will not be able to actualize the dream especially if your family cannot afford to sponsor you. The our people from southern Kaduna have few individuals that I know who were actively involved in the aviation sector. Unfortunately, we lost a number of them in the last few years. They include Engr Austin Lucas, Engr Habila Kure, Engr Avong. Engr Shekari, Mr Yakubu Lucas (Pilot). There are others, some retired after years of productive contributions to the industry.

How many Technicians or Engineers from the North specialized in Wheel and brake?

In the entire northern Nigeria, there are only few persons who specialize on wheels and brakes: I, Engr Simon N. Yashim from Kaduna, then Engr Nda Yashim who is from Kwara State. In the whole of Southern Kaduna, we do not have a single person who is willing to invest in airline. I have made effort by approaching some prominent sons of Southern Kaduna to persuade them to invest in airline, they turned down the invitation. In fact I was willing to partner with them in the operations of the proposed Airline, but they were unwilling to invest in the Aviation industry despite the great prospect such business holds.

When I graduated from the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), I decided that I will not work for any private company in the aviation sector. Instead, I registered my company (Zemiyanshe Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Services (ZAMS) International. Shortly after it started operations I encountered some challenges, when our country witnessed series of plane crashes. The then President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo ordered that all privately owned companies registered under Aircraft Maintenance Services be closed. So, my workshop was close temporarily until the year 2010.

I once bought two aircrafts (BAC 111) from Kabo Air. I intended to fly the aircraft in Ghana, but the age of the aircraft had passed the stipulated age allowed by the Aviation Authority of Ghana. In Ghana, any aircraft that is above 30 years from the date of manufacture will not be allowed to fly, while in Nigeria an aircraft must not exceed 22 years. I received a call from a friend, Captain Mentra a Ghanaian who once flew on Nigerian Airways. He told me that my aircraft is needed in Liberia.

At that time, late Brig. Gen. Luka Yusuf was in charge of Nigerian contingent and the UN Soldiers who were on peace keeping operation in Liberia. Though, I did not know him, I was referred to him by a written note from a friend, Maj. Gen. T. Goar.

On reaching Liberia I went straight to the base of the Nigerian military contingent where I met Late Gen. Luka Yusuf. He led me to the office of the Director General of Civil Aviation Authority of Liberia in the Monrovia International Airport. I was advised at the office to go and register my airline as a company in Liberia so that I could obtain a certificate. Then I should proceed to receive approval that is 'Aircraft operational certificate'. After I followed all the necessary procedures and obtained the required documents, what was left was the phase II which was the inspection of the aircraft that I intended to fly.

I returned back to Nigeria and bought Air tickets for the members of the inspection team who were to come over to Nigeria to carry out their oversight function. At that time, National Elections in Liberia were about to take place. So, the inspection team decided to wait until after the elections before it could embark on the trip to Nigeria.

Unfortunately, Her Excellency Mrs Ellen Johnson Sir-leaf stated in the course of delivering her inaugural speech after winning, that all foreign companies registered under the previous government have to review their registration because they were registered by corrupt government. Then I had spent almost all my assets to secure the registration of my airline under the previous government; I had no business partner supporting me. Therefore, I could not go back to Liberia to continue from where I stopped neither could the inspection team come to Nigeria due to the policy of the new government in Liberia.

It was a painful moment. However, I thank God Almighty who has made me what I am today. I never knew that one day I will fly an aircraft left to talk of repairing or servicing it. I had to encourage myself and put the unfortunate incident behind me. I strongly believe that at the appointed time God will restore the company (the airline) and make me actualize my dream. Thank God my Aircraft maintenance workshop is now operational after a long while.

The average man on the street has this notion that the southern Kaduna man is lazy. What is your opinion about that notion?

The Southern Kaduna Man is never a lazy person. I am a good example. Whoever walks into this workshop will perceive that it is not a place for idle or lazy men. The person will not see executive cushions, carpet, curtains and other furniture items. He or she will only find equipment, engines, spare parts, etc. The Southern Kaduna man is diligent, intelligent and dynamic. All that the people of Southern Kaduna need is to reason and assist one another wherever they find themselves so as to make progress in all spheres of life.

From the experience and the challenges that you encountered while struggling to develop your own career, what advise do you have for the average youth?

They should never lose hope in life, no matter the situation they should not give up. Whoever gives up in the struggle of this life is a dead person already. Therefore, one should keep struggling until he or she achieves breakthrough in whatever he or she aspires to become in life.

In fact, I want you to struggle even more than I did so as to attain greater success in your endeavors. Whatever you aspire and confess with determination and perseverance you will surely have it.

I pray that God grants the noble aspirations of our youth who are standing up and are shiny light in their respective callings.

May we know how did you come about your participation in politics?

Well, I have been in politics. But I have not shown myself for long.

Because I have passion for those that are interested to move forward in order to be something.

Where I find such type of people I sponsor them. For a long time, even before formation of the APC I have been supporting people that are interesting in moving forward and to be something tomorrow.There are persons within the apc so many people, that I sponsored them to emerge public office holders today.

Meanwhile, I suddenly found myself in active politics largely for the sake of the youth.

So what do you have for the youth?

I pity where some of the youth found themselves. You can see so many of them doing Okada Riding and other menial jobs, a good number of whom are graduates. Yet, that is the best career they could afford. I only pray for God to give me the position where I can be able to fix a lot of things that could help in getting more lucrative, yet dignifying jobs for our graduates.

But presently I have my own company that employes skilled persons with good salary and they are happy about it. Especially those that have stayed long working with me. Some of them are about 20 to 25 years.

So some are of the belief that there are no jobs in government. So how do you create the jobs.

How will you say there is job since you don't have the mind to help? That is what you will say. But if you have the mind to help, even if there is no job, you will create jobs and give to the people in need. There is so much job opportunities in government, so much. Anybody who want to help, even if there is no job, you make

sure that you initiate policies and programmes that create job opportunities for citizens.
However, if you have already put it in mind, you don't want to assist anybody to move forward. The usual language is 'no jobs'. You will always be saying there is no job. There is no job.
If there is no job, you yourself got there? Why didn't they say there's no job for you? Why are you saying there's no job for another person? If you do not help one another, how can we move forward? How are we expecting the future to look like?

But then there seems to be people who by reason of the way they have maneuvered and manipulated their minds, of the youth are even ignorantly supporting them and backing them. Why?

It is frustration. The youth are tired. They have tried their best, and they have no option. As the popular saying, 'if you cannot beat them, you join them'.
They decided to join them. That is what is happening. They have been frustrated for long.
They try all means to be out of their mesiries, yet no help on sight. Some of them hardly can afford medication when seek. So at this point, anything they say, you support them. That is what is happening with the youth now. The frustration is too much.That is why sometimes when they get tired, they can create crisis, and disrupt business activities.

But if you find something good for the youth, you fix them. Keep them busy. They will be getting one thing or the other to solve their problem and those of their families.

But then don't you feel you are too big to be close to the youths? Or you feel like you are shy?

You mean me?

Yes, sir.

To be closer to the youth?

Yes, sir.

Even me. I'm youthful. Even me. As I'm talking to you, I am youth. I am among them.
In our community, I registered with our youth. Anything good they are doing, I'm with them I sponsor alot of youth activities, as my way of engaging them positively.

You see why I said. What I said is that the youth are the. The rugged, the strongest, even the toughest. How do you blend?

I'll follow them to be rugged. You see, the Bible says God considers the little children. If you want to inherit the kingdom I have, you must bring yourself down like the little children. Because you love them. So if I go to the youth, I'll behave like them. I'll wear jeans, and shirt.

Do you know, you are a unique politician in the sense that these things that you mentioned are the things that are making most of the politicians to shy away from the youth?

No, no, no, no. You see, sometime stubbornness is not good. We have different type of stubbornness. Some stubbornness will give you what you want. Some stubbornness will destroy so many things, you understand? So you weigh this kind of stubbornness that you will do. Will you achieve what you are looking for? If I will do this and I will not get anything. There's no need, leave it.
So it depends on the kind of stubbornness that you apply in the situation which you find yourself, for you to move forward.
That is it. So in every angle of life, I find myself there, every aspect. If you talk of the youth, I am there. If you talk of the elders, I am there.
If you talk of all the less privileged, I am there. If you talk of the widow, widowers, I am there.r
Even when we came here, we met people, the youth, the elders, women, widows, less privileged, vulnerable, and the weak. They all troop in here.

Don't you think that this, your closeness to the people, especially at the grassroots, is causing the other people in politics to be worried of you?

Because people are tripling into my house because I care for them, because I pay attention to them, because I live with them, because God gave me the grace to meet up with their needs. Whether they are happy with me or not. That is what God created me to do for them. Everybody with his own destiny, everybody with his own own way of life with other people. This is my own way of life with them. And if I cannot, if I did not do it, I will not be happy.
That is why every morning I must have to come out and welcome those that are coming to see me. A lot of people come and give me advice. A lot of people come with trouble, problems, situations. For God to help me, let me help another person. If I want God to favor me, let me favor another person. Is it not so?
If I'm looking everything that I'm looking for, I put God first. God will touch anybody he feel has to touch his mind. And God will direct me to go and meet the person already. God have already discussed with that person.

Recently you had the privilege of participating in the APC State State Congress. And it turned out that somebody was announced as party state Party chairman. How did you take that outcome?

I took it in good fate. That is how God wanted it to be.The very day he was announced, I went on my knee and I raised my hand up unto God in appreciated for not allowing me to be there. Anything God will give to me that will not benefit another person, let God not give it to me.

Sir, some people are thinking the way you do and

the way you are generous even in politics they have this perception that somebody is sponsoring you. Is that correct?

Who is that person? Who is that person? Let the person sponsor himself first. Who is that person? Let them mention the name of the person sponsoring me. Nobody. Yes, if I do, that person is my God. If you say God is sponsoring me, I accept it. But I've one kobo from anybody human being.

That is so if you have the opportunity to advise the state party leadership and the national party leadership of the apc what will you tell them?

Well, you see, to me, you know, everybody have his own idea, and way they see things. The advice that I can give is, in politics, don't stand at the top calling the shorts. If you want to succeed, reach out to the grassroots. You capture the communities, you capture the whole people from the grassroots before you come to the top.

We know that no matter what you do, you can't satisfy every human being. But try your best. For example, like now we are in the rainy season.

I advise if there's fertilizer, let them bring the fertilizer directly to the grassroots through the Ward by polling units. Sometimes they'll bring the fertilizer, the grassroots they will not see anything. Even a measure or a kilogramme of fertilizer. The real farmers will not see. Yet they are expected to go and vote you. How will they?

If we are going to help the party, if we have something to help the people, the people at the grassroots, especially fertilizer for farmers, let us make sure that we escort that fertilizer to the point that needed to be distributed. I plead with the government to make sure that if they are going to share fertilizer, let them make sure that this fertilizer reach the grassroots. Because we want to deliver our esteemed Governor Mall. Uba Sani CON, and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR in 2027.

Sir, some people see your closeness to Gov Uba Sani family's, you're seen as a twin brother to Uba Sani sani. But then recently he nominated somebody from your region to serve as his running mate for the 2027 Gubernatorial election in the person of Mr Jerry Adams. What is your take on the development?

Honestly speaking, I am happy for Jerry Adams for him to be nominated. The Governor , His Excellency, Sen Uba Sani pick him out from the millions of people in southern Kaduna for me, it is a great honour to our brother, and a noble gesture by His Excellency.

My activities as State Chairman of Uba Salama Mobilization Forum for the Forum for All Progressives Congress. Giving amls to a lot of group of people. The people, the disabled, the beggars at the junction. Widows, widowers, orphans and others. But I thank God for what God used me to do. Because God used me to advertise APC. God used me for people to pray for APC success. God used me to lift APC in zone 3.

I know in Southern Kaduna, now I am telling you for what I have done and what they have had and what they have seen me doing.

Your words for your in zone 3?

So I am asking and I'm advising Southern Kaduna people to come back and hold APC for 2027. Because APC to be, frankly speaking, APC has done us well, much more should be expected when we deliver block votes. So what is there is I want to believe in 2027, the vote which they have never gotten. His Excellency, Gov Uba Sani CON has demonstrated lofty trajectories in deepening mutual coexistence, rejuvenated the economy, and built trust through inclusive governance.

You have your big brother as the Minister of Defense, why are attacks on communities resurfacing?

I had course to meet him on a number accasions. He has the country at heart, and I assured of my commitment to peace, and development of our region, and Kaduna State, but that southern Kaduna must to deliver Tinubu and Uba Sani sani come, 2027. That is why I've already created structure under Obasalama Mobilization Forum to campaign for President Tinubu and Gov Uba Sani.

So what is your next plan for the Uber Salama mobilization forum across the 23 local governments?

I want to tour all the local government. I want to reach out to the leadership of USM Forum across the 23 LGAs. Some of the offices' are due, more support groups are affiliating with Uba Salama Mobilization Forum. So, we need to strengthen our network, and chart strategies for the future. For each local Government already Zone 1 and 2 their innuaguration is at the corrner. Already we have all the local government coordinators, ward coordinators and other postfolios for inauguration soonest.

Okay, sir.

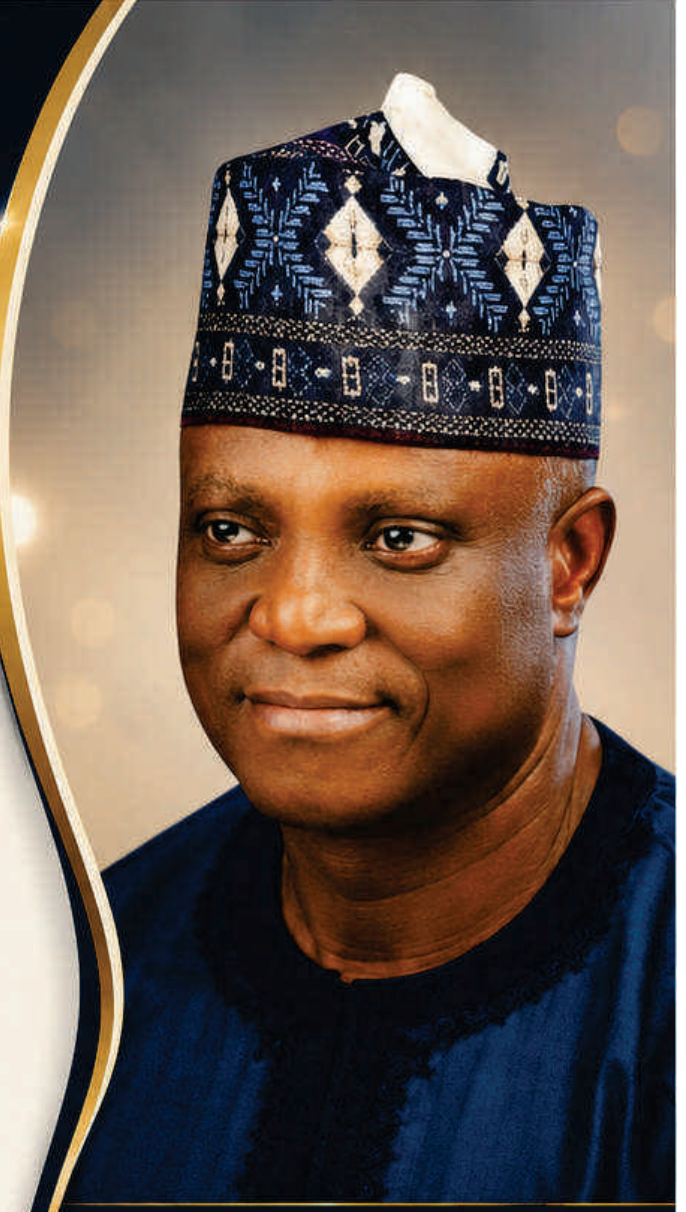
Broadcasting organization all over the region.

Thank you very much.

AWARD CITATION

ENGR MUSA TANKO

DISTINGUISHED ENGINEER • VISIONARY LEADER • NATION BUILDER



It is with great honour and profound admiration that we celebrate **Engr Musa Tanko**, an accomplished civil engineer, project management expert, and distinguished development professional whose career has been defined by excellence, innovation, and selfless service to humanity.

Born in Kafanchan, Jema'a Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Engr Musa Tanko is a devoted family man, happily married and blessed with five children. His remarkable journey reflects an unwavering committment to professional excellence, national development, and capacity building.

He began his academic pursuit at Federal Government College, Malali, Kaduna, before earning a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1995. He later obtained a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the same institution in 2003.

He further enhanced his expertise through specialised international and professional training in procurement, road maintenance, financial management, construction management, project management, contract management (FIDIC), leadership, strategic management, and monitoring and evaluation.

A Corporate Member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) and a Registered Engineer with COREN, Engr Tanko has built an outstanding reputation in civil engineering, project management, procurement, contract administration, water resources, irrigation, transportation systems, and highway infrastructure.

As Project Coordinater of the Kaduna State Rural Access and Mobility Project (RAMP), a World Bank (IDA)-funded programme, he supervised the construction of approximately 458 kilometres of rural roads and over 150 bridges and culverts, transforming rural connectivity across Kaduna State.

He has also served as consultant on several World Bank-supported initiatives, including the Multi-Sectoral Crisis Recovery Project (MCRP), Ibadan Urban Flood Management Project (IUFMP), and Adamawa Rural Access and Mobility Project. He currently provides consultancy services on multidisciplinary projects nationwide.

"As the Pioneer Chairman of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Kafanchan Branch, the Crown Prince of the Nikyop nation has demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to professional development.

Today, we proudly honour Engr Musa Tanko for his exceptional contributions to engineering, infrastructure development, project management, and national service. His legacy of excellence, integrity, and innovation continues to inspire generations.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honour.

EXCELLENCE INTEGRITY SERVICE IMPACT

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS with

MR ALEXANDER MUSA IYA



A former Lecturer of Economics, former Local Government Chairman and now MD/CEO, Zit Consult Ltd.



ON THE TOPIC: Fuel Subsidy Removal: Implications for MSMEs, Product Prices, and Enterprise Growth in Nigeria

GENERAL OVERVIEW

News Bell, May we meet you sir?

I am Alexander Musa Iya, a former Lecturer of Economics, former Local Government Chairman and now MD/CEO, Zit Consult Ltd.

How has the removal of fuel subsidy reshaped Nigeria's business environment?

It has indeed reshaped businesses but in the adverse manner – especially the Medium, Small and Micro businesses.

What have been the most immediate effects of the policy on MSMEs?

Inflation: largely seen in rise in costs of doing business.

Do you believe the policy has achieved its intended economic objectives? Why or why not?

I don't believe so. Good Economic policies are usually aimed at improving production and of course consumption. In a situation where the main drivers of the economy are strangled by high costs and other tough survival conditions, what do you expect?

IMPACT ON MSMEs

How has the increase in fuel prices affected the operating costs of small businesses?

Negatively!

Which sectors of the MSME ecosystem have been the hardest hit, and why?

Manufacturers, Farmers, Food, Transport etc. These enterprises spend so much on transportation and sometimes end up with without any profit. Those who operate machines that consume fuel (petrol/diesel) also have their hit.

How has the policy affected business profitability and cash flow?

Negatively – High Costs, leading to high prices with consequential low demand and declined profits.

Have you observed an increase in business closures or downsizing since the subsidy removal?

Certainly. In fact, I am a victim of such.

What coping strategies are MSMEs adopting to remain operational?

Drastically reducing their scales of production and/or reducing the quality of their products to be able to keep on producing to make profits.

PRODUCT PRICES AND INFLATION

To what extent has the removal of fuel subsidy contributed to rising prices of goods and services?

You will agree with me that transportation is key in production. From the sourcing of raw materials to processing and eventual distribution, monies are spent on transportation often high due to high fuel price. Therefore, the pricing policies have to reflect the increased costs. So, subsidy removal has greatly triggered rising prices.

How has the increase in transportation and logistics costs influenced market prices?

Greatly, like I mentioned above.

Are consumers changing their purchasing habits because of higher prices?

Sure! Most of them have cut down their demand and in some cases, others have opt for cheaper substitutes.

What impact has inflation had on production, distribution, and retail businesses?

It has only succeeded in making the prices to rise (further inflation) by those who can afford to remain in business. Others have been compelled to close down.

ENTERPRISE GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

How has the policy affected business expansion plans and investment decisions?

Business expansion has been difficult by many firms on the one hand while others have taken the advantage of exploiting the few customers/consumers that can afford them on the other. Hand

> **"Sustainable economic policies should empower businesses, not burden them. For MSMEs to thrive, the cost of doing business must be reduced, not increased."**

Are entrepreneurs still encouraged to establish new businesses under the current economic conditions?
Well, survival is necessary. Some entrepreneurs have been compelled to automatically change their lines of business to meet their costs and profit motives, others are discouraged for fear of greatly losing.

What challenges are young entrepreneurs facing in accessing capital and sustaining growth?
There is the issue of not being able to save much due to inflationary pressures and rising demands to make a living and there is the issue of high lending rates by financial organizations.
Has the policy created any new business opportunities despite the challenges?
Yes...especially on the internet. Many young unemployed youths are exploiting opportunities on the internet like content creation, e-trading, crypto, and increased Ponzi schemes.

Government Intervention:
What support measures should government introduce to cushion the effects on MSMEs?
Grow national investment in alternative sources of energy and provide improved agricultural inputs will make a lot of sense. If not, immediate review the subsidy removal policy is necessary.
What fiscal or monetary policies would help stimulate enterprise growth?
Lower interest rates to stimulate borrowing and business expansion as well as lower, and centralized tax system to increase purchasing power.

Way Forward:
What practical steps can MSMEs take to remain resilient in the face of rising operational costs?
Practically, they should innovate, recruit creative talents, priotise their most efficient areas of operations for better returns.
What role should financial institutions play in supporting businesses during this transition?
Partnership is key, that is one, but conducive and favourable interest rates attract more investments.
What is your outlook for Nigeria's MSME sector over the next three to five years?
We have a brighter future so long as the government take deliberate actions to support the MSMEs - tackle insecurity, this is very necessary for farmers, support farmers with access to funds, improve and subsidize electricity etc
If you could advise policymakers on one priority action, what would it be?
Go back to the drawing board and readdress the issue of fuel subsidy and the floating of the Naira, and reviving the comatose industries like the textiles that have been locked and keys for years, sustained investment in agriculture technology, improvement in national security, and divisification of the economy from monoproduct for export.

What message would you like to share with entrepreneurs?
They are the main drivers of the economy, they should not give up.
Thanks sir, for your honest responses.
You are most welcome.



TECH SKILLS QUEST:

Where Does Africa Stand?

By Ann Tanko
Facilitator at J Best Tech Training and Gen. Services



The world is experiencing an unprecedented technological revolution. Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, cybersecurity, software development, robotics, data science, digital marketing, and automation are rapidly reshaping industries and creating new opportunities. Nations investing heavily in digital skills are positioning themselves to dominate the global economy.

> *The question is:*
> ***Where does Africa stand in this global tech skills race?***

AFRICA: A CONTINENT RICH IN TALENT

Africa is home to the world's youngest population, with millions of energetic, innovative, and ambitious young people. This demographic advantage gives the continent enormous potential to become a global technology powerhouse.

Over the last decade, Africa has witnessed remarkable growth in technology ecosystems. Countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda, Egypt, and Ghana have produced thriving startup communities, fintech innovations, software developers, and AI researchers who are solving real-world problems.

African developers are increasingly working remotely for international companies, while local startups continue attracting global investment. The continent is proving that talent is not lacking—it only needs the right opportunities.

THE REALITY BEHIND THE PROGRESS

Despite these encouraging developments, Africa still faces significant challenges.

- A large percentage of young people graduate from universities without practical digital skills demanded by today's employers.
- Many educational institutions continue to emphasize theory while industries require practical experience with modern technologies.
- Limited internet access, unreliable electricity, inadequate digital infrastructure, and insufficient access to quality training remain major barriers across many African countries.
- Reports from international organizations consistently show that demand for digital skills is growing much faster than the supply of qualified professionals.

THE RISE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial Intelligence is transforming nearly every profession.

HEALTHCARE · AGRICULTURE · EDUCATION · FINANCE · TRANSPORTATION · MEDIA

From healthcare to agriculture, education, finance, manufacturing, transportation, and media, AI is becoming an essential workplace tool. Professionals who understand how to work alongside AI will have a significant competitive advantage.

> **Businesses across African markets increasingly consider AI skills essential, yet many employers struggle to find qualified talent.**

NIGERIA'S POSITION



Nigeria remains one of Africa's leading technology hubs.

Lagos has earned international recognition as a startup ecosystem, producing innovative companies in fintech, e-commerce, logistics, health technology, and education technology.

Nigerian software developers, UI/UX designers, digital marketers, content creators, and cybersecurity professionals are serving clients around the world.

However, the country's youth population far exceeds the number of available skilled professionals.

THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR:

Learning AI is no longer optional—it is becoming a career necessity.

- Invest in practical digital education.
- Build mentorship and innovation ecosystems.
- Empower Africa's youth to compete globally.
- Unlock the continent's true potential.

> Bridging this gap requires *greater investment in practical training, mentorship, innovation hubs, and affordable* technology education.

SKILLS THAT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE

Young Africans should prioritize acquiring high-demand digital skills, including:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Prompt Engineering
- Data Analytics
- Software Development
- Cybersecurity
- Cloud Computing
- UI/UX Design
- Digital Marketing
- Graphics Design
- Video Editing
- Web Development
- Product Management
- Digital Entrepreneurship
- Automation and No-Code Development



These skills are increasingly valuable because they can be applied locally while also opening access to remote global employment.

BEYOND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Success in technology requires more than coding.

Employers increasingly value communication, teamwork, creativity, critical thinking, leadership, adaptability, and continuous learning.

Professionals who combine technical expertise with strong interpersonal skills often achieve greater career success.

Technology changes rapidly. Lifelong learning is becoming one of the most valuable skills anyone can possess.

THE ROLE OF TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

Technology education should not stop at certification.

Training institutions must focus on **practical projects, mentorship, internships, problem-solving, portfolio development, and career readiness.**

Learners should graduate with **demonstrable skills** rather than certificates alone.

Communities, governments, private organizations, and educational institutions all have important roles to play in preparing Africa's workforce for the digital economy.

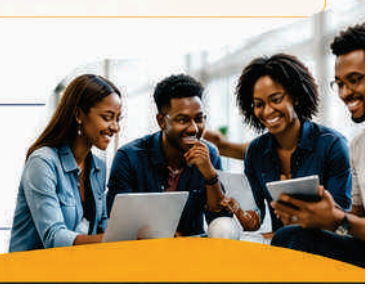


THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

Africa's youth are talented, ambitious, and capable of solving the continent's challenges through technology. With the right skills, support, and opportunities, Africa can not only participate in the global tech revolution—but lead it.

INVEST IN SKILLS. EMPOWER FUTURES.

A skilled Africa is a prosperous Africa.





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Where Hope Finds a Home:

How ASHIA Community Foundation Is Transforming Southern Kaduna

By **Michael Musa Gandu** | Special Report

Southern Kaduna is often associated with conflict and displacement, but beyond those headlines, a different story is unfolding—one of resilience, empowerment and sustainable community development.

For more than five years, ASHIA Community Foundation has been investing in people through education, entrepreneurship, peacebuilding and social inclusion.

Rather than providing short-term relief, the Foundation equips communities with practical skills and opportunities that enable them to build lasting solutions.



A Story of Change

One inspiring example is Ophar Makama, who acquired bead-making skills through the Foundation's entrepreneurship programme. He later trained his parents, and together they now produce and sell handcrafted beads, earrings and necklaces, creating a steady source of family income.

> *"I thank God for ASHIA Community Foundation for training me. I also trained my parents, and together we produce and sell our products. I am happy that I can now support my family."*

Education That Opens Doors

Education remains one of the Foundation's flagship programmes. Currently, 49 students receive full scholarships, while over 450 learners benefit from partial scholarship support across five partner schools in Southern Kaduna.

Skills for Life, Beyond the Classroom

Beyond formal education, students are equipped with vocational skills such as soap making, bead production and other small-scale enterprises, preparing them for life beyond the classroom.

Empowering Women, Strengthening Communities

The Foundation has also empowered women and youths across 10 Local Government Areas through training in soap making, disinfectant production, catering, tie-and-dye, weaving and other income-generating skills. Many beneficiaries have established small businesses that support their families and strengthen local economies.

Through the Women Empowerment and Peace Network (WEPEN), women receive entrepreneurship training, participate in savings groups and engage in dialogue that promotes peaceful coexistence within their communities.

ASHIA's commitment to inclusion is reflected in its People with Disability Network (VAP), which supports persons with disabilities through advocacy, cooperative farming, savings initiatives and leadership development, ensuring they actively participate in community growth.

Building Peace, Fostering Trust

Peacebuilding remains another key focus. The Foundation facilitates dialogue between farming and pastoral communities in areas such as Ramai-Daji and Maro, fostering trust, reducing conflict and strengthening peaceful coexistence.

Sustainable Livelihoods for a Better Tomorrow

Its agricultural initiatives further support women and young farmers with training in improved rice processing, organic manure production and climate-smart farming, alongside community tree-planting campaigns that promote environmental sustainability.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

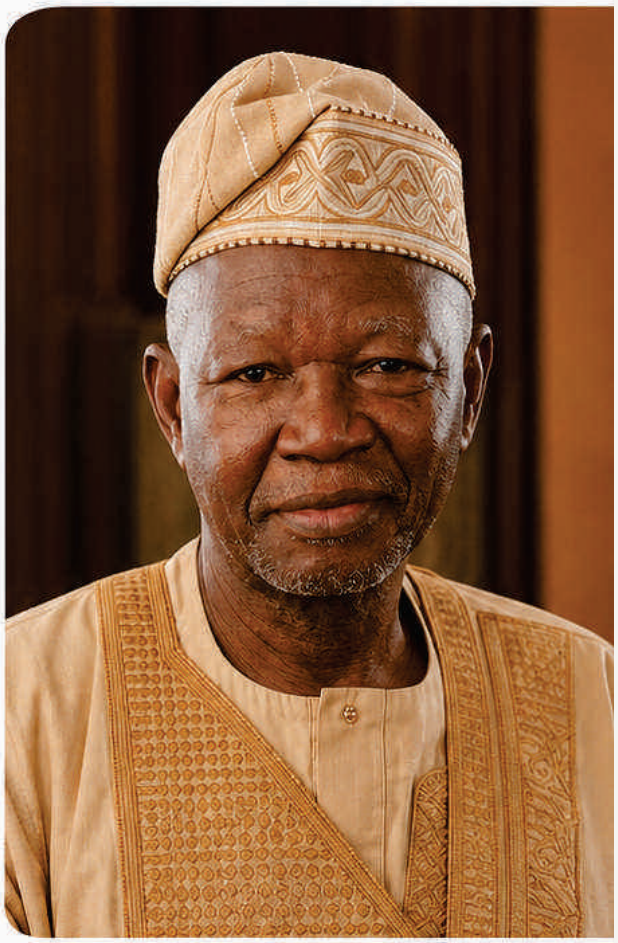
10	5	49	450+
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS REACHED	PARTNER SCHOOLS	STUDENTS ON FULL SCHOLARSHIP	LEARNERS RECEIVING PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

> *At ASHIA Community Foundation, we believe that when people are equipped with skills, included in opportunities and empowered to lead, communities thrive.*

AWARD CITATION

Professor Enoch Oyedele, FHSN

Recipient of the News Bell Magazine Lifetime Excellence Award in Education, Scholarship and National Development.



It is with profound honour and great admiration that we celebrate an exceptional scholar, historian, educator, researcher and mentor whose remarkable contributions have enriched higher education, historical scholarship and national development in Nigeria in person of Professor Enoch Oyedele, FHSN.

Born on 7th May 1950 in Jos, Plateau State, Professor Oyedele's academic journey is a shining testament to discipline, excellence and lifelong learning. He attended Government Secondary School, Ganye, Government Secondary School, Bauchi, and later Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where he earned a B.A. (Hons) History (Second Class Upper Division), a Graduate Certificate in Education, and subsequently a Ph.D. in History in 1987. His doctoral thesis, Colonial Urbanisation in Nigeria: Kaduna, *1913–1960*, remains an important scholarly reference.

His teaching career began at Teachers College, Mubi, followed by service during the NYSC at Holy Ghost Juniorate, Ihiala. In August 1978, he joined Ahmadu Bello University, where he served with distinction until his voluntary retirement in December 2015.

Nearly over four decades, Professor Oyedele taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Nigerian, African, European and World History, Historiography, Industrialisation, Urbanisation, Research Methodology and History Writing. His research has made significant contributions in governance, corruption, communal conflicts, urbanisation and the history of the Gbagyi people.

A distinguished mentor, he supervised more than 70 undergraduate projects, 22 Master's dissertations and 19 Ph.D. theses. He also served as external examiner to several Nigerian universities and held key leadership positions including Head of the Department of History and Acting Director of the Institute for Development Research (IDR).

Professor Oyedele has presented scholarly papers at numerous national and international conferences, authored and edited influential books and journal publications, and was honoured as Fellow of the Historical Society of Nigeria (FHSN) in 2008.

He is happily married to Dr (Mrs) Rebecca Oyedele (née Farayola), and they are blessed with five children.

Today, News Bell Magazine proudly honours Professor Enoch Oyedele, FHSN, for his lifetime of outstanding contributions to education, historical scholarship, mentorship and national development. His legacy continues to inspire generations of scholars and leaders.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honour, sir.

AGRICULTURE | EXPORT | INVESTMENT

Nigeria's Ginger Gold:

Unlocking the Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity in the Global Spice Market



From Kaduna's fertile fields to international markets, Nigeria's ginger is earning global recognition. Yet, the nation is only scratching the surface of its enormous economic potential.

By Oyewole, Abigail Abimbola

Ginger is far more than a kitchen spice. Across the world, it is a prized agricultural commodity, valued for its medicinal properties, industrial applications, and growing international demand. For Nigeria, ginger represents one of the country's most promising non-oil export opportunities capable of generating foreign exchange, creating jobs, and strengthening rural livelihoods.

Scientifically known as Zingiber officinale, ginger is the underground rhizome of a perennial tropical plant originally native to Southeast Asia. Over the centuries, its cultivation spread to Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas.

Nigeria has earned a solid reputation in the global market for producing premium-quality ginger. Buyers value Nigerian ginger for its rich aroma, strong pungency, high oil and oleoresin content, and exceptional medicinal qualities.

Nigeria remains one of the world's leading ginger producers and exporters. Industry statistics indicate that the country ranks among the top three exporters globally and accounts for about 16 percent of global production. Annual production averages over 400,000 metric tonnes.

The global ginger market is valued at approximately $3 billion, presenting Nigerian farmers, processors, exporters, and investors with enormous opportunities to increase foreign exchange earnings.



Major challenges include poor access to improved planting materials, low adoption of modern farming technologies, inadequate processing facilities, post-harvest losses, and limited value addition. Addressing these constraints through targeted interventions will unlock significant growth and improve competitiveness in the global market.

Ginger is widely used in food seasoning, bakeries, beverages, cosmetics, herbal medicine, and pharmaceuticals. Its active compound, gingerol, is associated with several health benefits including anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, digestive, and immune-boosting properties. These versatile uses continue to drive demand in both traditional and emerging markets.

The leading producing states are Kaduna, Bauchi, Benue, Gombe, and Nasarawa, with Kaduna remaining the country's leading commercial producer. The favorable climate, fertile soils, and farming experience in these regions give Nigeria a strong comparative advantage.

Nigeria's average yield ranges between 13 and 27 metric tonnes per hectare, compared with the global average of 35 to 40 metric tonnes. Improved seeds, mechanisation, irrigation, and investment in research and extension services can significantly boost productivity and ensure quality consistency.

Nigeria possesses the land, climate, and human capacity to become a global powerhouse in ginger production. Unlocking the sector's full potential will require stronger government support, private sector investment, improved technology, and better access to international markets.

> ***A prosperous Nigeria begins with productive farmers. Investing in agriculture today is investing in the nation's future.***

AWARD CITATION

Engr (Dr) Simon Nuhu Yashim

RECIPIENT OF THE NEWS BELL MAGAZINE EXCELLENCE SERVICE AWARD

Recipient of the News Bell Magazine Excellence Service Award Ladies and Gentlemen, It is with great honour and profound admiration that News Bell Magazine celebrates an outstanding Nigerian, accomplished aviation engineer, visionary entrepreneur, mentor, and humanitarian—Engr (Dr) Simon Nuhu Yashim.

Born on 5th August, 1968, in Kurmin Masara, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Engr Yashim has built an inspiring legacy through perseverance, professional excellence, and unwavering commitment to national development.

His educational journey began at L.E.A. Primary School, Zaman Dabo, followed by B.A.T.C. Funtua, the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria, and Kaduna Polytechnic, where he earned both his National Diploma (ND) and Higher National Diploma (HND) in Mechanical Engineering. In recognition of his Christian leadership and service, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity (PhD) in 2024.

A highly respected aviation professional, Engr Yashim holds the Nigerian Civil Aviation Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Licence, earned in 2002. He has completed advanced technical training in aircraft maintenance and Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) Level II across multiple disciplines.

His professional career spans more than three decades, serving at Hold-Trade Air Service Limited, Sky Power Express Airways, Max Air Limited, Azman Air, and currently as Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer of ZAMES International Limited. He also trains officers of the Nigerian Air Force, contributing to national capacity building.

Beyond his technical accomplishments, Engr Yashim is widely admired for his dedication to youth empowerment, community development, educational advancement, and humanitarian service.

In recognition of his exceptional contributions to aviation engineering, vocational and technical development, leadership excellence, human capacity building, and selfless service to humanity, News Bell Magazine proudly confers upon Engr (Dr) Simon Nuhu Yashim the Excellence Service Award.

A visionary aviation engineer, mentor, and nation builder.



Engr (Dr) Simon Nuhu Yashim
Excellence Service Award Recipient

NEWS BELL MAGAZINE | *Celebrating Excellence. Inspiring Generations.*

Congratulations!

AWARD CITATION

DISTINGUISHED SENATOR SUNDAY MARSHALL KATUNG, ESQ.

News Bell Magazine proudly honours Distinguished Senator Sunday Marshall Katung, Esq., an accomplished legal practitioner, visionary legislator, and passionate advocate for education, environmental sustainability, and human capital development.

Born on 1st April 1961 in Madakiya, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Senator Katung's life reflects a remarkable journey of discipline, academic excellence, and selfless public service.

His educational foundation began at Kufena College, Wusasa, Zaria (1975–1980) before proceeding to the College of Arts and Science, Zaria (1980–1982). He earned his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from the University of Lagos in 1986 and completed the Nigerian Law School in 1987.

Committed to lifelong learning, he obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Management (PGDM), an MBA from Ahmadu Bello University, an Advanced Diploma in Legal Drafting and Conveyancing, and attended several professional programmes in Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

As a distinguished legislator, Senator Katung proposed the establishment of a Tertiary Research Trust Fund to support research on environmental degradation and climate change. He also delivered a keynote address at the International Forum on African-Caribbean Leadership during the United Nations General Assembly in New York, advocating stronger collaboration on climate action.

In recognition of his exemplary legislative contributions, he received the African Leadership Legislative Excellence Award from African Leadership Magazine on 4 September 2024.

He is married to Councillor Abigail Marshall Katung, the Nigerian-British erstwhile Lord Mayor of Leeds, United Kingdom.

In recognition of your outstanding legislative performance, unwavering commitment to education, environmental sustainability, good governance, and human capital development, News Bell Magazine proudly presents you with the Excellent Service Award.

News Bell MAGAZINE



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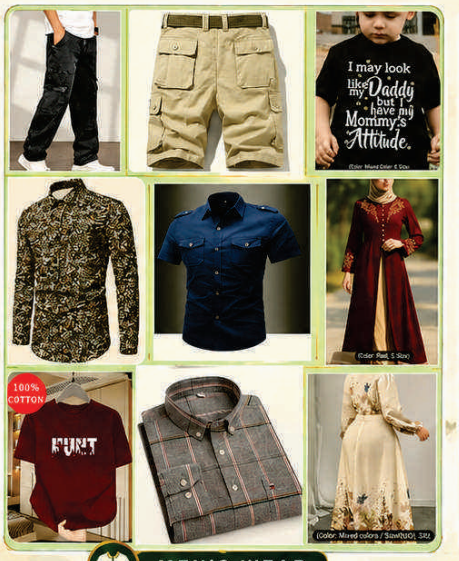

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Interview with Nufi Yohanna Esq on CREATIVITY & INNOVATION as Drivers to Business Growth and Development



MAY WE MEET YOU, SIR?

Certainly. My name is Nufi Barnabas Yohanna. I am a Lawyer, Private Sector Development Specialist, Business Environment Reform Expert, Investment Promotion Practitioner, and Certified PPP Professional with over 15 years' experience supporting governments to design and implement regulatory, institutional, and investment climate reforms aimed at improving competitiveness, attracting investments, and promoting private sector-led economic growth.

Professionally, I have built a career spanning private legal practice, public sector leadership, investment promotion, infrastructure development, and public-private partnerships. I began my legal career as Counsel with O.A. Omonuwa (SAN) & Co., where I gained foundational experience in litigation, commercial law, and legal advisory services. I subsequently joined Zakari A. Sofọfa & Co. as Counsel, further strengthening my expertise in corporate and commercial legal practice before establishing Mutum Solicitors, where I served as Managing Partner, advising public and private sector clients on corporate transactions, infrastructure projects, investment, and commercial dispute resolution.

My transition into public service saw me appointed as Technical Assistant on Legal Matters to the Kaduna State Government, where I provided strategic legal and policy advisory support on government reforms, investment facilitation, and public sector governance. I later joined the Kaduna Investment Promotion Agency (KADIPA) as Legal Advisor and was subsequently promoted to Director, Public-Private Partnerships and Privatization, leading the Agency's PPP and privatization initiatives. In that capacity, I was responsible for structuring and negotiating complex PPP transactions, developing investment frameworks, facilitating strategic infrastructure investments, and advising on institutional reforms aimed at improving Kaduna State's investment climate and private sector participation.

Building on these experiences, I joined Chris Umar SAN & Co. as Senior Partner (Infrastructure Investment Advisory), where I continue to provide strategic legal and commercial advisory services in infrastructure investment, public-private partnerships, project finance, economic regulation, climate-resilient infrastructure, and sustainable development. Over the course of my career, I have had the privilege of advising governments, multilateral development institutions, development partners, financial institutions, and private investors on complex infrastructure transactions, investment promotion strategies, policy reforms, and enterprise development initiatives, contributing to projects that drive economic growth, attract private capital, and strengthen institutional capacity across Nigeria.

Academically and professionally, I have pursued a multidisciplinary path that reflects my commitment to law, business, infrastructure, and sustainable development. I hold a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from the University of Abuja, a Barrister-at-Law (B.L.) qualification from the Nigerian Law School, a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Nasarawa State University, a Master of Sustainable Infrastructure Development and Finance from the Schulich School of Business, York University, Canada, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Malaysia University of Science and Technology. Beyond my formal academic qualifications, I am an alumnus of the Institute for Public-Private Partnerships (IP3), Washington, D.C., a Certified Climate Resilient Infrastructure Officer (CRIO) accredited by the Global Center on Adaptation, Netherlands, and I have completed the Climate Law and Governance Specialization offered by the University of Cambridge. I am also a Fellow of the Sustainable Infrastructure Investor Leadership Network (ILIN), Toronto, Canada.

> "I believe that sustainable transformation depends on strong institutions, sound legal and regulatory frameworks, strategic infrastructure, and a culture of innovation. These principles shape my work and guide my contributions to Nigeria's development."

These academic and professional experiences have equipped me with a unique blend of legal, financial, commercial, policy, and technical expertise, enabling me to advise governments, development finance institutions, multilateral organisations, and private sector investors on infrastructure development, public-private partnerships, climate-resilient investments, economic regulation, and sustainable enterprise development.

Over the past decade, I have advised governments, development partners, financial institutions, and private investors on infrastructure, investment promotion, transaction advisory, and institutional reform across sectors like transport, agriculture, energy, real estate, and industrial development.

Currently, I serve as a PPP Consultant to the National Coordination Office of the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Programme. My role involves reviewing project documents, developing PPP frameworks, building institutional capacity, and fostering collaboration between governments, DFIs, and private investors to deliver transformative infrastructure and agro-industrial investments. I also consult for the Nigerian Governor's Forum as PPP Consultant to the World Bank State Enabling Business Environment Reforms Program.

Beyond consulting, I am deeply interested in policy development, enterprise growth, and creating an enabling environment for private investment. I believe that sustainable transformation depends on strong institutions, sound legal and regulatory frameworks, strategic infrastructure, and a culture of innovation. These principles shape my work and guide my contributions to Nigeria's development.

HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION IN THE CONTEXT OF BUSINESS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT?

Although often used interchangeably, creativity and innovation are distinct but complementary. Creativity is about generating original ideas and seeing possibilities where others see problems. Innovation, on the other hand, is the disciplined process of turning those ideas into practical solutions that create real value for customers, businesses, and society.

In business, creativity asks, "What if?" while innovation asks, "How do we make this work sustainably and profitably?" An idea becomes an innovation only when it is successfully implemented, adopted by the market, and generates measurable value.

Innovation is not limited to new inventions. It includes improving business models, streamlining processes, adopting technology,

building more efficient supply chains, enhancing customer engagement, or finding cost-effective ways to deliver value. Often, the most impactful innovations are not novel inventions but smarter solutions to enduring problems.

In Nigeria, where businesses face infrastructure gaps, currency volatility, rising costs, and regulatory complexity, innovation has shifted from a competitive advantage to a strategic necessity. We see businesses redesigning supply chains, leveraging digital platforms, adopting renewable energy, and creating flexible financing models to stay competitive. These are real-world examples of innovation responding to local realities.

Eventually, sustainable business growth is not just about having creative ideas but about building an organisational culture that consistently transforms those ideas into solutions that improve productivity, create jobs, increase profitability, and contribute to national development. That, to me, is the true meaning of innovation.

3. Why are creativity and innovation increasingly important for businesses in today's economy?

The global economy is changing rapidly. Technological advances, shifting consumer expectations, climate change, geopolitical tensions, and intensifying competition mean that businesses cannot rely on past successes or traditional models. In this environment, creativity and innovation are not optional they are essential for survival, competitiveness, and long-term growth.

Innovation helps businesses respond quickly to market changes, improve productivity, reduce costs, and develop products that meet evolving customer needs. It also enables firms to create new markets, diversify revenue streams, and build resilience against economic shocks. Organisations that innovate continuously are better positioned to anticipate disruption rather than simply react to it.

In Nigeria, this is even more critical. Businesses operate in an environment marked by infrastructure deficits, high energy costs, inflation, currency volatility, and growing competition. These challenges demand innovative solutions, not conventional responses. Whether through digital adoption, renewable energy investment, local supply chain development, or new financing models, innovation has become the primary path to competitiveness.

Innovation is also central to Nigeria's broader economic transformation. As the country diversifies away from oil, creates jobs for a growing population, and leverages the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), businesses must become more productive, export-oriented, and technology-driven. That shift cannot happen without sustained investment in creativity, research, technology, and entrepreneurial capacity.

However, businesses that treat innovation as a continuous strategic discipline will thrive. They will not only create value for shareholders but also contribute to national productivity, industrialisation, job creation, and sustainable development.

4. Do you believe Nigerian businesses are embracing innovation at the desired pace? Why or why not?

I believe Nigerian businesses are becoming more innovative, but not yet at the scale or speed needed to unlock the country's full potential. Much of what we see is innovation born out of necessity rather than deliberate investment in research, development, and long-term competitiveness. Nigerian entrepreneurs are remarkably resilient they innovate to survive in the face of power shortages, inflation, currency volatility, and infrastructure deficits. While admirable, this survival-driven innovation is different from building globally competitive, innovation-led enterprises.

There are encouraging success stories. Nigeria's fintech sector is one of Africa's most vibrant innovation ecosystems. Companies like Interswitch, Flutterwave, Moniepoint, Paystack, and OPay have transformed how millions access financial services. They succeeded because they identified a major gap the inefficiency of cash-based transactions and developed scalable, accessible digital solutions. Today, digital payments are integral to commerce in Nigeria.

We also see innovation in agriculture and healthcare. ThriveAgric connects smallholder farmers to finance, inputs, and markets through digital platforms. Reliance Health uses technology to expand affordable healthcare access. In energy, Daystar Power helps businesses reduce diesel dependence through solar and hybrid solutions. These are examples of innovation addressing structural challenges rather than waiting for them to disappear.

However, these examples are concentrated in a few sectors, particularly technology and financial services. The broader economy tells a different story. Many manufacturing firms and MSMEs face high borrowing costs, unreliable electricity, rising logistics expenses, multiple taxation, and limited access to long-term capital. According to SMEDAN, MSMEs make up the vast majority of businesses in Nigeria and are major employers, yet most operate with limited access to finance and invest little in formal R&D. Their priority is often survival, not innovation.

In my work advising on PPP and infrastructure projects, I have seen that businesses become significantly more innovative when they operate within an enabling ecosystem. Industrial parks and Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZs) provide reliable infrastructure, shared services, efficient logistics, and better market access. When businesses no longer spend disproportionate resources generating electricity or overcoming logistics bottlenecks, they can invest in product development, technology, skills, and expansion.

So, while Nigeria has one of the most entrepreneurial populations in Africa, entrepreneurship alone does not automatically translate into innovation-led growth. To accelerate innovation, we must complement entrepreneurial energy with stable macroeconomic policies, affordable finance, quality infrastructure, stronger industry-academia collaboration, and greater investment in research, technology, and human capital. With these conditions, Nigerian businesses will not only innovate to survive but innovate to lead on the continent and globally.

5. How do creativity and innovation contribute to business competitiveness and long-term success?

Competitiveness is no longer determined by company size or capital alone. Increasingly, it depends on how effectively an organisation solves problems, adapts to change, and continuously creates value. That is where creativity and innovation make the difference.

Creativity helps businesses spot opportunities others miss, while innovation turns those ideas into products, services, processes, or business models that improve efficiency, reduce costs, enhance customer experience, and build sustainable competitive advantage. Businesses that innovate consistently tend to be more productive, more resilient, and better positioned to expand into new markets.

In practical terms, innovation drives competitiveness in several ways. First, it improves operational efficiency. Many Nigerian businesses have adopted enterprise software, cloud computing, digital payments, and automated inventory systems to reduce waste and lower costs. These improvements may not always be visible to customers, but they significantly boost profitability and performance.

Second, innovation enables differentiation. In crowded markets, businesses that simply copy existing products struggle to survive. Companies that understand their customers' needs and continuously improve their offerings are more likely to build loyalty and command stronger market positions. Moniepoint, for example, evolved from payment processing to a full financial services platform for businesses. Reliance Health combined technology with insurance to make healthcare more accessible. Their competitive advantage lies not just in technology but in solving problems better than traditional models.

Third, innovation enhances resilience. Economic disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic, exchange rate volatility, inflation, and fuel subsidy reforms have shown that adaptable businesses are more likely

to survive. Restaurants embraced online ordering. Manufacturers explored local sourcing. Professional firms adopted hybrid and digital working models. These innovations enabled continuity despite unprecedented challenges.

From my PPP experience, I have observed that innovation is equally important at the institutional level. Projects that incorporate technology, climate resilience, and efficient financing are more attractive to investors because they reduce risk and improve long-term sustainability. Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZs), for instance, are themselves an innovative approach to industrialisation. Rather than supporting isolated agricultural production, they integrate infrastructure, processing, logistics, and market access within dedicated zones. This reduces post-harvest losses, lowers costs, attracts investment, and creates more competitive value chains.

Innovation also opens access to larger markets. With the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Nigerian businesses are no longer competing only domestically but across Africa. To succeed, firms must improve quality standards, adopt technology, optimise processes, and embrace continuous innovation. Those that do not risk losing market share not only internationally but also within Nigeria.

Therefore, creativity provides the spark, but innovation sustains growth. It keeps businesses relevant, increa productivity, attracts investment, creates jobs, and delivers lasting value. In today's economy, innovation is not just a growth strategy it is the foundation of long-term business success and national competitiveness.

6. Can innovation help MSMEs overcome the challenges of Nigeria's business environment?

Absolutely. Innovation is no longer optional for Nigerian MSMEs it is essential for survival. MSMEs form the backbone of Nigeria's economy, employing millions, yet they operate in a tough environment marked by poor infrastructure, limited finance, high energy costs, inflation, currency volatility, multiple taxation, and weak market linkages. In such conditions, conventional approaches often fail, while innovation can level the playing field.

Innovation helps MSMEs achieve more with less reducing costs, improving productivity, expanding market reach, and competing with larger firms. Importantly, innovation does not always require heavy investment or advanced technology. Sometimes it is about smarter ways of doing business.

For instance, many MSMEs now market their products on Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp, while using payment platforms like Moniepoint, Opay, or PalmPay to receive payments instantly. This has allowed small businesses to reach customers nationwide without costly physical outlets.

Innovation is also reshaping agriculture. Digital platforms like ThriveAgric connect smallholder farmers to finance, inputs, and markets, bypassing traditional middlemen. Companies like Releaf use technology and local processing equipment to reduce waste in the oil palm sector, strengthening entire value chains.

Energy innovation offers another example. Many MSMEs are adopting solar-hybrid systems to reduce reliance on diesel generators cutting costs and improving reliability. Restaurants, pharmacies, and small manufacturers investing in renewable energy are better insulated from fuel price shocks.

From my PPP experience, I have seen how innovation works best within supportive ecosystems. The SAPZ Programme, for instance, provides shared infrastructure, power, and logistics, enabling agro-based MSMEs to innovate and grow collectively rather than struggling alone.

Innovation is also emerging in finance digital lending, invoice financing, and crowdfunding are beginning to offer alternatives to traditional bank loans, which MSMEs often find difficult to access.

That said, innovation cannot solve everything. It must be supported by stable policies, affordable finance, reliable infrastructure, and strong institutions. When entrepreneurs combine their resourcefulness with an enabling environment, Nigerian MSMEs will not just survive they will become globally competitive, driving industrialisation, job creation, and sustainable economic growth.

7. What role does technology play in driving innovation among Nigerian enterprises?

Technology is perhaps the greatest catalyst for innovation today. While creativity generates ideas, technology provides the tools to turn those ideas into scalable, efficient, and commercially viable solutions. It enables businesses to do more with fewer resources, make data-driven decisions, improve customer experience, and reach markets previously out of reach.

In Nigeria, technology has become especially important because it helps businesses bypass structural constraints. Rather than waiting for infrastructure to improve, innovative enterprises are using technology to work around these limitations.

Take financial services. Before fintech, millions of Nigerians were excluded from formal banking. Today, companies like Interswitch, Flutterwave, Moniepoint, and OPay have transformed payments enabling instant digital transactions, supporting small businesses, and expanding financial inclusion. Market traders, transport operators, and artisans can now receive payments, access working capital, and manage their businesses from mobile devices.

Technology is also transforming agriculture. Digital platforms connect farmers to extension services, weather data, inputs, finance, and markets. ThriveAgric and Releaf are using technology to strengthen value chains, improve productivity, and reduce post-harvest losses shifting agriculture from subsistence to commercial enterprise.

In healthcare, digital tools are improving access through telemedicine, electronic health records, digital insurance, and AI-assisted diagnostics. Companies like Reliance Health are making healthcare more affordable and accessible.

Artificial Intelligence is opening new frontiers. AI helps businesses automate repetitive tasks, analyse data, forecast demand, improve customer service, detect fraud, and optimise supply chains. In legal practice, AI assists with research, contract review, and due diligence allowing professionals to focus on higher-value work. AI should be seen as augmenting human expertise, not replacing it.

From my experience advising governments and investors on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects and infrastructure development, technology is also transforming how projects are conceived and managed. Digital mapping, GIS, BIM, drones, and data analytics support planning, environmental assessments, and investment decisions. In the SAPZ Programme, technology strengthens value chains through digital farmer registration, traceability, logistics optimisation, and market intelligence.

However, technology is not an end in itself. Businesses that adopt software without changing processes, developing skills, or strengthening governance often fail to realise its full benefits. Successful digital transformation requires investment in people, leadership, culture, and continuous learning.

Technology is democratising opportunity. It enables Nigerian businesses of all sizes to compete beyond local markets, access regional opportunities under AfCFTA, and participate in the global digital economy. The businesses that will lead the future are those that see technology not just as a tool, but as a strategic asset for innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable growth.

8. How important is research and development (R&D) in promoting sustainable business growth?

Research and development is the foundation of sustainable business growth because it enables deliberate rather than reactive innovation. It provides the knowledge and insights that help businesses develop

better products, improve processes, reduce costs, anticipate trends, and respond to customer needs. In today's knowledge-driven economy, businesses that neglect research and development eventually lose their competitive edge.

Research and development is often associated with laboratories and multinational corporations, but it is much broader. It includes understanding customer behaviour, testing new business models, improving operational efficiency, developing local alternatives to imports, adopting new technologies, and refining products based on market feedback. Every business can engage in some form of R&D.

For Nigeria, Research and development is particularly important as we diversify away from oil and build globally competitive industries. We cannot rely solely on imported technologies without adapting them to our unique conditions.

Agriculture offers a good example. Rather than just increasing production, sustained R&D has led to improved seed varieties, climate-smart practices, precision agriculture, and better post-harvest technologies. Companies like Releaf have developed proprietary processing technologies for the oil palm sector, while institutions like IITA have developed improved crop varieties that boost productivity and resilience.

In manufacturing, rising import costs have pushed many companies to explore local sourcing and backward integration. Dangote Group's investments in local production illustrate how research and development and technology investment can reduce import dependence, create jobs, and strengthen industrial capacity. Manufacturers that continuously research alternative materials, improve processes, and optimise energy use are better positioned to withstand economic shocks.

Financial services also show the value of Research and development. Nigeria's fintech success did not happen by accident. Companies like Flutterwave and Moniepoint invested heavily in understanding consumer behaviour, regulatory requirements, and payment infrastructure before developing solutions that now serve millions.

From my PPP experience, successful infrastructure projects are themselves products of rigorous research feasibility studies, market assessments, financial modelling, and environmental and social impact assessments. These processes generate the evidence needed to design projects that are technically sound, commercially viable, and attractive to investors.

Unfortunately, Nigeria still invests relatively little in formal R&D. Collaboration between universities, research institutes, and industry remains weak, and many MSMEs lack the capacity to establish dedicated research functions. Valuable research often remains on academic shelves without being commercialised.

Going forward, government, academia, and the private sector must work together to build a stronger innovation ecosystem through increased funding, stronger intellectual property protection, tax incentives for R&D, innovation hubs, and business incubators.

Innovation without research is guesswork. Research provides the evidence; development transforms it into practical solutions. Businesses that invest consistently in R&D are not only more competitive but also better equipped to anticipate change, adapt to disruption, and achieve sustainable long-term growth.

9. Could you share examples of Nigerian businesses that have successfully leveraged creativity and innovation to expand?

Nigeria has produced several remarkable examples of businesses that have transformed industries by solving local problems innovatively. Their success shows that innovation is not just about new technology it is about creating value, improving efficiency, and opening new markets.

Financial technology (FinTech) offers perhaps the most celebrated examples. Interswitch, Flutterwave, Paystack, and Moniepoint fundamentally changed how Nigerians make and receive payments. Before them, electronic transactions were slow, expensive, and inaccessible to small businesses. These companies simplified payments, expanded financial inclusion, and enabled millions of MSMEs to participate in the formal economy. Today, Nigeria is recognised as one of Africa's leading fintech hubs, with homegrown companies serving customers across the continent.

Moniepoint deserves special mention. It evolved beyond payment processing into a comprehensive business banking platform for SMEs combining payments, working capital, bookkeeping, and financial management. This illustrates how innovation often lies in creating integrated solutions rather than standalone products.

In agriculture, innovation is reshaping traditional value chains. Releaf has developed proprietary processing technology and digital sourcing systems that connect smallholder farmers directly to processors improving productivity, reducing waste, and increasing farmers' incomes. ThriveAgric uses digital platforms to connect farmers with finance, inputs, extension services, and off-takers. These innovations are helping to commercialise agriculture and strengthen food security.

Healthcare is also experiencing significant innovation. Reliance Health combines digital technology, health insurance, and healthcare delivery to make quality medical services more affordable and accessible.

In energy, Daystar Power helps businesses transition from costly diesel to cleaner, more reliable solar-hybrid solutions reducing energy costs and improving productivity.

The manufacturing sector offers inspiring examples too. BUA Group and Dangote Group demonstrate how continuous investment in technology, local production, and backward integration can reduce import dependence, create jobs, and build globally competitive industries.

From my professional experience, one of the most innovative public-sector initiatives is the SAPZ Programme. While not a private company, it represents an innovative development model shifting from exporting raw agricultural commodities to processing them close to production centres. By integrating infrastructure, processing, logistics, power, storage, and market access within dedicated zones, SAPZ reduces post-harvest losses, lowers production costs, attracts investment, and creates jobs across agricultural value chains.

What unites all these examples is that they solved real problems. They recognised gaps in the market, understood customer needs, embraced technology where appropriate, and built scalable models. That is the essence of innovation. Its value lies not in how sophisticated an idea appears, but in the problems it solves, the value it creates, and the lasting impact it has on businesses, communities, and the economy.

10. Are creativity and innovation sustainable under Nigeria's current economic realities?

Yes, I believe they are sustainable but sustainability depends on how we define and nurture innovation in the Nigerian context. In developed economies, innovation is often driven by abundant capital and advanced research. In Nigeria, innovation has largely evolved as a response to necessity. Businesses innovate because they must survive, not because conditions are ideal.

This distinction matters. Despite persistent inflation, currency volatility, high energy costs, and infrastructure deficits, Nigerian entrepreneurs continue to find creative ways to solve problems. That resilience gives me confidence that innovation will remain sustainable. However, for innovation to drive industrialisation and economic transformation, it must move beyond survival strategies to deliberate investments in research, technology, skills, and productivity.

The fintech industry offers a compelling example. Flutterwave,

Moniepoint, and Paystack emerged not because the environment was perfect, but because they identified inefficiencies in the financial system and developed technology-driven solutions. Today, they serve millions and have attracted significant international investment proving that challenging environments can also create opportunities.

The same trend is visible in energy. Faced with unreliable electricity and rising diesel costs, many businesses have adopted solar and hybrid systems. What began as a coping mechanism has evolved into a viable industry, creating new renewable energy businesses while improving resilience. Companies like Daystar Power are demonstrating that innovation can reduce costs while supporting environmental sustainability.

Agriculture offers another illustration. The SAPZ Programme represents a more innovative approach by integrating production with processing, storage, logistics, and market access. Rather than exporting raw commodities, the goal is to create local value, reduce post-harvest losses, attract investment, and generate employment. This shows that innovation is not limited to technology it can also involve new policy frameworks, institutional arrangements, and investment models.

However, we must also acknowledge that not all innovation is equally sustainable. Many businesses spend significant portions of their operating costs on self-generated electricity, logistics, security, and imported inputs. These expenses reduce resources available for research, product development, and technology adoption. Many firms remain trapped in a cycle of operational survival rather than strategic innovation.

From my PPP experience, I have observed that innovation flourishes where there is an enabling ecosystem reliable infrastructure, predictable regulation, affordable finance, strong institutions, and skilled human capital. This is why investments in industrial parks, economic zones, and logistics corridors are so important. They create conditions under which businesses can innovate consistently rather than intermittently.

I am optimistic because our greatest asset is not natural resources but the ingenuity, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit of our people. However, resilience alone is not enough. If we complement that energy with sound macroeconomic management, modern infrastructure, quality education, supportive regulation, and increased investment in R&D, Nigeria can transition from a nation where businesses innovate to survive to one where they innovate to lead. That is the transformation that will define our economic future.

11. What are the major barriers preventing businesses from innovating consistently?

Innovation thrives in environments that reward long-term investment, encourage experimentation, and reduce uncertainty. Unfortunately, many Nigerian businesses operate under conditions that make sustained innovation difficult and expensive. The challenge is not a lack of ideas or talent it is the environment within which businesses are expected to innovate.

One major barrier is macroeconomic instability. Persistent inflation, currency volatility, and fluctuating interest rates make long-term planning extremely difficult. When the cost of raw materials or imported equipment changes unpredictably, businesses shift focus from innovation to survival. Instead of investing in research or product development, they channel scarce resources into meeting immediate operating expenses.

High finance costs are another challenge. Innovation requires patient capital, but many Nigerian businesses especially MSMEs depend on short-term commercial loans with high interest rates. Entrepreneurs are more likely to invest in activities that generate immediate cash flow rather than R&D whose benefits may take years to materialise.

Infrastructure deficits remain a major constraint. Reliable electricity, efficient transport, broadband connectivity, and modern logistics are essential for innovation. Yet many businesses spend significant operating budgets generating their own electricity, transporting goods over poor roads, or overcoming supply chain bottlenecks resources that could otherwise be invested in technology, product development, or market expansion.

Regulatory uncertainty also discourages innovation. Frequent policy changes, overlapping mandates, multiple taxation, and lengthy approval processes increase the cost and risk of innovation. Investors are reluctant to commit long-term capital where the regulatory landscape is unpredictable.

Another challenge is the weak linkage between research institutions and industry. Nigeria has talented researchers and respected universities, but collaboration with the private sector remains limited. Valuable research findings are not commercialised, while businesses often solve problems independently instead of benefiting from scientific research.

Human capital is equally important. Innovation depends on people with advanced skills. Although Nigeria has one of Africa's youngest populations, many employers still struggle to recruit workers with digital, engineering, and problem-solving skills. Closing this gap is essential for competing in a knowledge-driven global economy.

From my PPP experience, I have learned that businesses become more innovative when these barriers are addressed collectively rather than individually. The SAPZ Programme tackles several constraints simultaneously providing reliable infrastructure, processing facilities, logistics, market access, and an enabling investment environment. When businesses no longer solve every infrastructure problem alone, they can focus on innovation, productivity, and value addition.

The greatest barrier is not the absence of creativity it is the high cost of turning good ideas into commercially successful enterprises. Nigerian entrepreneurs have demonstrated remarkable ingenuity. What they need is an enabling ecosystem that rewards innovation rather than one that compels them to devote most of their energy to overcoming structural obstacles. If we address these constraints, I have no doubt Nigerian enterprises will become far more innovative, competitive, and globally relevant.

12. How do inflation, foreign exchange volatility, and high production costs affect innovation?

Inflation, currency volatility, and rising production costs profoundly affect innovation because they change how businesses allocate resources. Innovation requires long-term thinking, investment, and a willingness to experiment. But when businesses are constantly battling rising costs and economic uncertainty, their priorities shift from creating the future to surviving the present.

Inflation erodes purchasing power and compresses profit margins. For manufacturers, the cost of raw materials, packaging, transport, wages, and utilities continues to rise. Businesses often postpone investments in R&D, technology upgrades, or new product development because preserving cash flow becomes the immediate priority.

Currency volatility presents an even greater challenge. Many industries still rely on imported machinery, equipment, spare parts, and production inputs. A sudden Naira depreciation can dramatically increase expansion costs. A business that budgeted for imported equipment at one exchange rate may discover months later that the same equipment has become significantly more expensive, forcing delays, reduced capacity, or abandoned innovation projects.

The manufacturing sector illustrates this clearly. As exchange rates fluctuate and import costs rise, resources that could have been invested in modernising production lines are instead diverted to maintaining existing operations. Innovation becomes reactive rather than strategic.

To read the full story, visit our website on https://nbmk.com.ng/

SEMA
KADUNA STATE
EST. 17.02.2003

KADSEMA WEATHER ADVISORY

– KADUNA STATE –

WEDNESDAY, 5 AUGUST 2026

Source: NiMet Weather Outlook

FORECAST FOR KADUNA



Morning:

Patches of clouds are expected across Kaduna State.



Afternoon/Evening:

Moderate thunderstorms are expected over parts of Kaduna State.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR KADUNA

Kaduna State is expected to experience a mostly cloudy morning, with moderate thunderstorms developing during the afternoon and evening. Residents should remain alert for lightning, strong winds, reduced visibility, slippery road conditions, and possible localized flooding, particularly in flood-prone and poorly drained communities.



KADSEMA ADVISORY

SECURE LOOSE OUTDOOR ITEMS

Strong winds may precede thunderstorms. Secure roofing sheets, signboards, tents, and other loose objects, and avoid taking shelter under trees.

STAY SAFE DURING THUNDERSTORMS

Disconnect electrical appliances where necessary during thunderstorms and stay away from exposed electrical installations, tall trees, and power lines.

FLOOD ALERT

Residents in flood-prone, low-lying, and poorly drained communities should remain vigilant, monitor water levels, and avoid walking or driving through floodwaters.

DRIVE WITH CAUTION

Motorists should drive carefully during rainfall, reduce speed, maintain a safe braking distance, and avoid flooded roads due to reduced visibility and slippery road conditions.

STAY INFORMED

Continue to monitor official weather updates and advisories from NiMet and KADSEMA.

AVIATION ADVISORY

Airline operators and airspace managers should obtain airport-specific weather briefings from NiMet before flight operations.

ACTION

Stay Weather-Smart, Stay Ahead.

For weather updates and forecasts, visit:

www.nimet.gov.ng

#KADSEMA #StaySafeKaduna #WeatherSmart #NiMet #ThunderstormAlert

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

112 | 08034534321 | 08032314444 | 07036710706

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



DEFENCE MINISTER COMMENDS PRESIDENT TINUBU FOR HISTORIC ARMED FORCES SALARY INCREMENT

> *"This subversion of financial hardship for our officers and soldiers will resonate across every theatre of operation...*
>
> – General Christopher Gwabin Musa (Rtd), OFR
> Honourable Minister of Defence

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **30–80%** salary increment for Armed Forces personnel
- Effective from September 1, 2026
- Benefits approximately **250,000** personnel across all services
- Boosts morale, enhances operational effectiveness and national security

The Honourable Minister of Defence, General Christopher Gwabin Musa (Rtd), OFR, on behalf of the entire military establishment and the Ministry of Defence, expresses profound gratitude to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for approving a historic 30 to 80 percent salary increment for Nigeria's armed forces personnel.

This landmark gesture, which takes effect from September 1, 2026, directly impacts approximately 250,000 personnel across all services. The strategic structuring of the package, yielding an 80 percent boost for junior ranks (Private to Staff Sergeant), a 50 percent increase for middle-tier officers and non-commissioned officers (Warrant Officer to Colonel), and a 30 percent increase for senior military leadership demonstrates an exemplary commitment to prioritising the operational welfare of frontline troops.

Reacting to the announcement, the Honourable Minister described the presidential directive as a decisive morale booster that reinforces the administration's dedicated vision for security sector reform."His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has once again demonstrated unwavering leadership and empathy for the brave men and women who put their lives on the line daily to preserve the peace and territorial integrity of our nation. By raising the annual personnel cost from N660 billion to N924 billion, the President has matched words with concrete action, proving that the welfare of our troops remains paramount," said General Musa."This subversion of financial hardship for our officers and soldiers will resonate across every theatre of operation; from those confronting insurgency in the North East to troops tackling banditry, oil theft, and kidnapping across the country. On behalf of the entire defence structure, we assure Mr. President and the Nigerian public that this gesture will be met with renewed vigour, uncompromising discipline, and heightened operational effectiveness." The Ministry of Defence charges all officers and men of the Armed Forces of Nigeria to see this substantial enhancement in their condition of service as a renewed call to duty. Troops are urged to redouble their efforts in neutralising all national security threats, safeguarding civilian lives, and restoring total stability across every corner of the country.

The Honourable Minister re-affirmed the ministry's commitment to aligning with President Tinubu's mandate to continuously modernise equipment, enhance technological capacity, and elevate the standard of living for Nigeria's military personnel and their families.

E-SIGNED:
Leah Katung-Babatunde
SA (Media) to the Honourable Minister of Defence



Makinde Declares Methodist Church Nigeria's

50th/15th Biennial Conference Open in Ibadan

IBADAN | AUGUST 7, 2026

The Governor of Oyo State, His Excellency, Engr Seyi Makinde, has officially declared the 50th/15th Biennial Conference of the Methodist Church Nigeria open in Ibadan.

Declaring the conference open, Governor Makinde described it as an opportunity to reflect on the Methodist Church's enduring contributions to nation-building and community development. He noted that the Church has played a significant role in advancing education, healthcare and community development, while also helping to shape values, strengthen families and inspire hope across communities.

Governor Makinde stressed the importance of sustained collaboration between government and faith-based organisations, noting that nation-building goes beyond policies and physical projects.

According to him, building a stronger nation requires integrity, compassion and a shared sense of purpose, making partnerships with organisations such as the Methodist Church essential to achieving sustainable development.

The biennial conference, holding in Ibadan, Oyo State, brings together members and leaders of the Methodist Church Nigeria for deliberations on matters concerning the Church and its broader role in society.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."
– Matthew 28:19

WEALTH FUNDS
GENERATIONAL IMPACT



SOVEREIGN WEALTH GOVERNANCE:
LESSONS FROM NORWAY AND NIGERIA

BY Omowonuola Alabi Esq

Discover how sovereign wealth funds, fueled by oil, can build lasting prosperity for future generations.

NORWAY'S FUND

- Established: 1990
- Assets: $1.7+ Trillion*
- Source: Oil & Gas Revenues
- Focus: Long-term value creation

*Figures approximate as of 2024

Norway's Fund

Norway's fund is a global leader, emphasizing transparency and strong governance for enduring wealth.



NIGERIA'S FUND

- Established: 2011
- Assets: $1+ Billion*
- Source: Oil Revenues
- Focus: Stabilization, Savings & Future Generations

*Figures approximate as of 2024

Nigeria's Fund

Nigeria's fund, though smaller, shows strong governance and growth potential, overcoming fiscal challenges.



KEY DIFFERENCES



Key Differences

Governance and funding discipline are crucial. Norway excels here, creating a significant wealth gap.

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Investment Discipline
- Long-term Perspective
- Institutional Strength



GOVERNANCE DRIVES WEALTH

Strong institutional design and funding discipline, not just oil, are key to building sustainable wealth for future generations.

STRONG INSTITUTIONS | SMART INVESTMENT | ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY | SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

BUILDING TODAY, PROSPERING TOMORROW.

TRIBUTE TO MY BOSS,

LATE RIGHT HON. SANI:

A TRUE SON OF THE SOIL

By Emmanuel Saiza

Former NYCN Coordinator

In life, our paths often cross with people whose presence leaves an indelible mark on our journey. Sometimes, those encounters are shaped by geography, time, circumstances, convictions, or shared aspirations. My encounter with the late Right Hon. Sani was one such defining relationship.

A LEADER WITH A CLEAR VISION

As the then Coordinator of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) in our dear Local Government Area, I had the privilege of working with three successive administrators. The first was Dr Elias Manza, followed by Alhaji Makhtar Abdullahi, and later, following his electoral victory in October, 2021, Right Hon. Francis A. Sani was a clear expression of many expectations of people of Zangon Kataf LGA.

Hon. Sani came into office with a clear vision: to improve physical infrastructure, particularly at the Local Government Headquatters; promote peaceful coexistence among the various ethnic nationalities; strengthen the security of lives and property; and empower women and young people.

There were several occasions when Hon. Sani and I discussed these lofty ambitions. In those conversations, he assured me of his determination and readiness to make a difference.

I could not, therefore, overlook his commitment and dedication to the welfare, security and development of our people.

To the best of my judgement, Zimbo, as he was fondly called, made significant contributions in the areas of security, healthcare, infrastructure, staff welfare, capacity development, and the empowerment of women and youth during his three-year tenure as Council Chairman.

POLITICS WITHOUT BITTERNESS

Regrettably, like many of his true friends, his bid for a second term became one of the most contentious political ambitions on which I openly disagreed with my Boss.

Yet, I understood that there was no way I could prevent a man who was legally entitled to exercise his political rights.

Even in the midst of our political differences, Hon. Sani reached out to me on the night he was



declared the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) flag bearer. He sent me a brief text message:

> *"Good day sir, how are you doing, two days."*

My immediate response was equally simple:

"I am fine, thank you sir."

Looking back today, I believe that exchange carried a deeper meaning. Perhaps, in his own quiet way, he was reminding me that politics should never be allowed to destroy relationships or breed bitterness among brothers.

THE LAST CONVERSATION

Sometime around 15 December 2025, I received a telephone call from Right Hon. Sani. It was unlike many of the calls we had shared before.

He spoke softly, in the Tyap dialect, asking how I was faring. Towards the end of the conversation, he asked why I had not called, sent a message, or visited him for quite some time.

At first, I responded casually. But almost immediately, I realised the weight of his concern. I pleaded for his pardon and promised to visit him at home as soon as possible.

Sadly, that was the last conversation I would ever have with my Boss.

Life can be painfully unpredictable. A conversation we consider ordinary today may suddenly become the final chapter of a relationship.

As the Scripture reminds us, "the end of a matter is better than its beginning" (Eccl. 7:8).

A TRUE SON OF THE SOIL

Hon. Sani was, in every sense, a true son of the soil.

He possessed an uncommon passion for the growth and development of his people and the land he called home. He was a man of action—ambitious and determined to achieve his goals, yet humble, generous, and kind-hearted.

His legacy should not be measured only by the positions he occupied, but also by the lives he touched, the people he encouraged, and the development he pursued.

A DARLING HUSBAND, AND LOVING FATHER

His widow, Mrs Comfort Sani described his absence as a priceless vacuum that is fondly remembered by his good counsel, show of love to his children, his dedication to humanity, and devotion to hard work.

POLITICS MUST NOT DESTROY BROTHERHOOD

The passing of Hon. Sani should also compel us to reflect deeply on the nature of our politics.

Our region can become better if we learn to practise politics without allowing personal reservations to define the boundaries of our relationships. We can disagree politically while still amplifying the bonds of brotherhood that unite us.

We must also learn to be vigilant about the quality and intentions of the opinions presented to us about people who disagree with us on certain issues. Political disagreement does not automatically make someone a sworn enemy.

We must never allow politics to erase humanity.

In honouring the memory of Hon. Sani, perhaps the greatest tribute we can offer is to build a society where political differences do not become permanent divisions; where disagreement does not become hatred; and where brotherhood remains stronger than political affiliation.

REST ON, BOSS

As we mourn the passing of a leader, a brother, a friend, and a true son of the soil, we are reminded that we are all sojourners in this world, and our journey here is but once.

May we, therefore, watch our ways, temper our words, cherish our relationships, and live in such a manner that, when our own journey comes to an end, we will leave



Hon. & Mrs Francis Sani Zimbo, Grand Patron/Grand Matron, NYCN, Z/Kataf.

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Telling today's stories with dignity and courage.

Book Review:

Feet on Broadways by Emmanuel M. Saiza

(Prepared for public presentation/ book launch)

Feet on Broadways is a timely, heartfelt, and unflinching call to Nigeria's (and the world's) young people. Emmanuel M. Saiza takes the biblical image of the "broad road that leads to destruction" (Matthew 7:13–14) and turns it into a living, breathing diagnosis of the pressures, shortcuts, and quiet compromises that define so much of contemporary youth experience.

The writing is direct, conversational, and rooted in lived Nigerian reality. Saiza does not preach from a distance. He writes as someone who has felt the pull of peer pressure, the seduction of "soft life," the loneliness of the narrow path, and the slow work of turning around. Stories of "Emeka," campus queens, codeine-dependent students, and young men who discovered that dollars do not buy sleep land with the weight of truth rather than moralising.

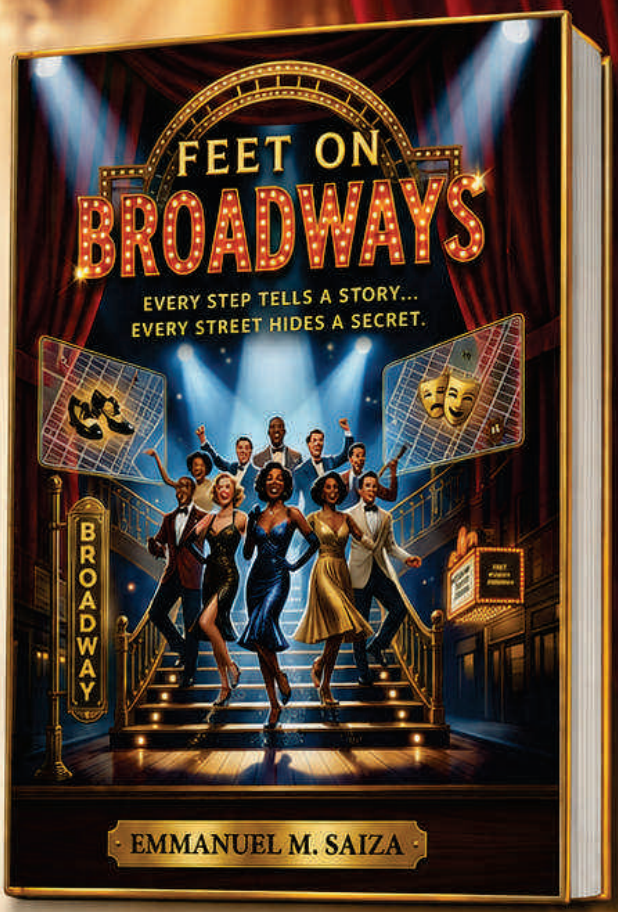
The structure is clear and cumulative:

- The promise of quick success and freedom
- The many wrong paths (fraud, party culture, toxic relationships)
- Stories of regret and their emotional/mental cost
- The practical road to redemption (recognition of warning signs, choice, faith, mentorship, discipline)
- Building a purposeful life through goals, habits, character, and right influences

Each chapter ends with reflection questions and actionable steps. This makes the book useful not only as inspiration but as a practical workbook for individuals, youth groups, churches, and schools.

Saiza's greatest strength is balance. He refuses both cheap condemnation and naïve optimism. He acknowledges poverty, unemployment, broken systems, and trauma as real drivers of bad choices, yet insists that choice remains. Quotes from Myles Munroe, Sam Adeyemi, Jim Rohn, Brené Brown, and others sit comfortably alongside Nigerian street wisdom and personal testimony. The result feels local without being parochial, spiritual without being sectarian.

Some sections, particularly in the middle chapters, lean heavily on anecdote and could be strengthened by slightly more precise data presentation or clearer attribution of statistics. The core message, however, does not depend on academic polish; it depends on authenticity, and authenticity is abundant.



Why This Book Matters Now

In an era when "blow by force," Yahoo culture, performative luxury, and validation-driven living dominate the conversation among young Nigerians, *Feet on Broadways* offers something rarer: a sustained argument for process, peace of mind, and long-term purpose. It does not romanticise struggle, nor does it pretend the system is fair. It simply refuses to accept that the only options are desperation or destruction.

The book is especially valuable for:

- Secondary school and university students
- Youth fellowships and mentorship programmes
- Parents and educators seeking language to discuss these issues without alienating young people
- Anyone who has already tasted the emptiness of the broad road and is looking for a way back

Closing Recommendation

Feet on Broadways is not a perfect literary object, but it is a necessary one. It speaks with the urgency of someone who has walked the road and returned with scars and wisdom. Emmanuel Saiza has written a book that many young people will recognise as their own unfinished story, and that some will treat as a map out of it.

On this day of its public presentation, this book deserves to be received not merely as another motivational title, but as a serious contribution to the conversation about what kind of future Nigeria's youth will choose, one step at a time.

Recommended with conviction.

Elder Yusuf Solomon Danbaki PhD.



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FULL-TIME

Nadine Ghazi 45+8 (Pen.) 84'	2 | 6	Asisat Oshoala 21' Gift Monday 45' +1 Uchenna Kanu 57' Christy Ucheibe 81' (Pen.) Rasheedat Ajibade 90' +1 (Pen) Ivy Omeiwa 90+9'

SPORTS LIGHTHUB

Photo Credit: Arise News

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