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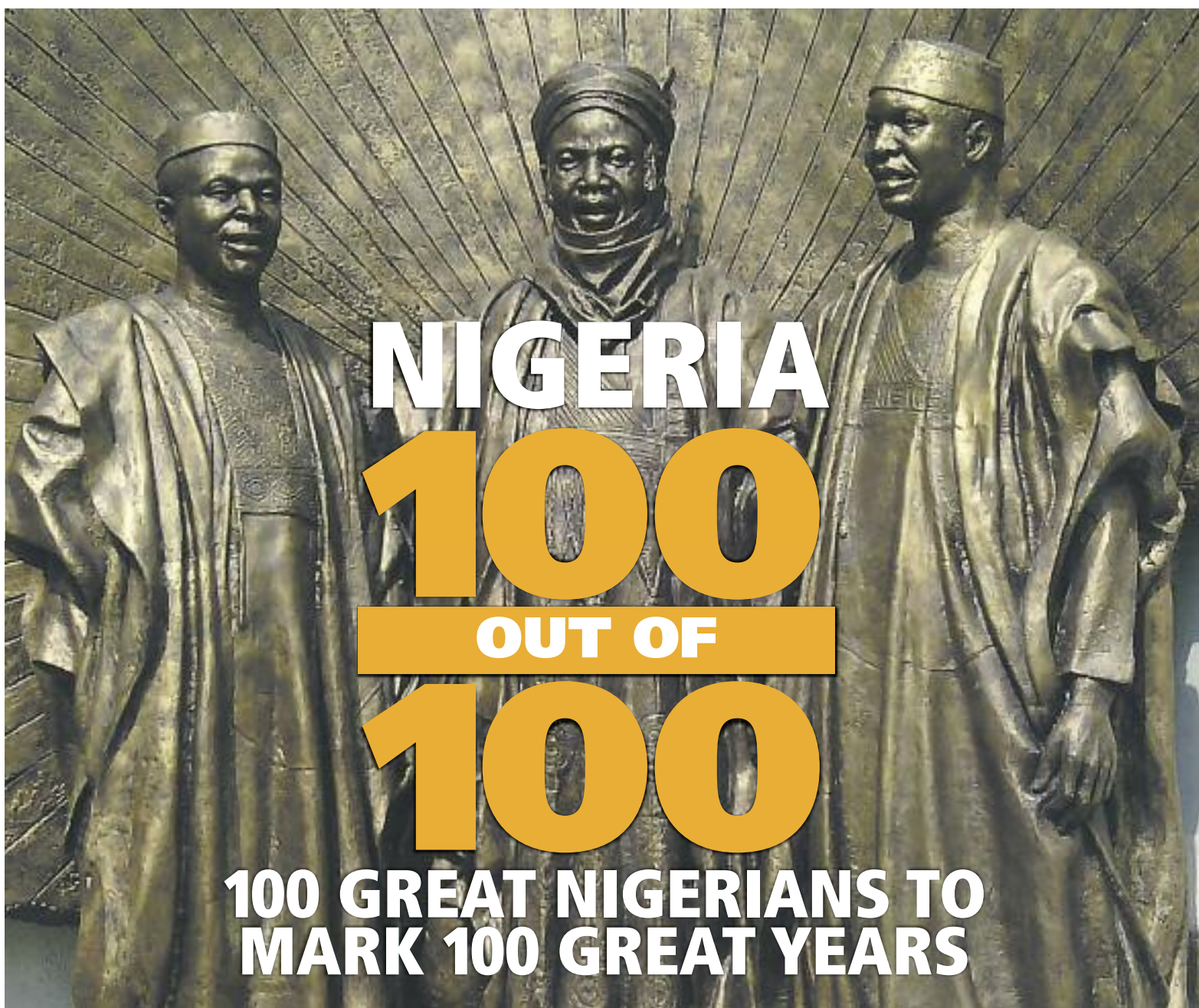
January 2014

Issue No 021

**MONTHLY**

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## Looking back to the future as our great nation enters its second century

In our first edition of the year we wanted to encapsulate the great achievements of Nigerians over the last 100 years. This obviously meant that many a great, nay, legendary name would not be included in the list. Names such as Jaja of Opobo, Usman Dan Fodia and his daughter Nana Asma'u, the warrior Queen Amina, to mention a few as their legendary feats took place before the 1914 amalgamation of our great nation.

I hear many a scoff at the placement of the words "great" and "nation" next to each other, especially when the current state of Nigeria is taken into consideration. But a nation differs from a country, a nation embodies not just the land but the people, and despite the many wrongs and debacles our nation has experienced over the years, there have been moments and periods of greatness.

Achieving independence is greatness. Surviving multiple military dictatorships and still staying united as a democratic entity is greatness. I could go on, but by now the point should be clear. It is the acts of the individual, not of the state, that define greatness. And many a great

individual has been birthed in the soil of our Republic.

If you look at the history of any union of states, the sheer nature of their existence has been turbulent. The most obvious example is that of the United States of America, a country once split literally right down the middle due to either side believing that their stance on slavery was right, a country that was brutally forged through conquest of the American Indians, questionable land purchases as done with the Louisiana Purchase bought from France, amongst other means that were seemed unconstitutional to Americans when they happened. Hundreds of years later there are still echoes of the North – South divide as old wounds, though they may have healed, itch every now and again.

This is the same the world over. Europe has had its own journeys through the mire. Nation states are forged by man, not nature and it is this very thing that both binds and divides us. It is the very differences of opinion that enable us to find a way to reach common ground. After all if we agreed with each other all the time then there would be no push and pull which is necessary to keep moving.

The laws of physics dictate that there must be friction between two surfaces to ensure that one can move over the other. Try walking with slippery shoes and

see how far you get. Our problem as citizens is that we haven't yet mastered what level of friction is necessary in order to achieve the maximum speed required for our nation to evolve. The people mentioned in this edition found that level of friction, and were able to succeed in spite of sometimes seemingly insurmountable odds.

Whether it was the stripping away of their way of life, culture, religion and values, standing up for their fellow man, selflessly giving their all for their country, working until there was nothing left to give, some paying the ultimate sacrifice for what they believed in, these are the people that helped to forge Nigeria in the fire and frenzy of passion for one's people, striving against all odds for peace, progress, forgiveness, tolerance, advancement, education, knowledge, understanding, justice and freedom.

Is Nigeria a nation united or a country divided? I do not know. I simply ask you, my fellow citizen, to search yourself and ask the question "what do I want for my nation? What holds for the next 100 years of Nigeria and how can I help my fellow citizens in this quest for greatness?"

Maryanne Jemide, MD



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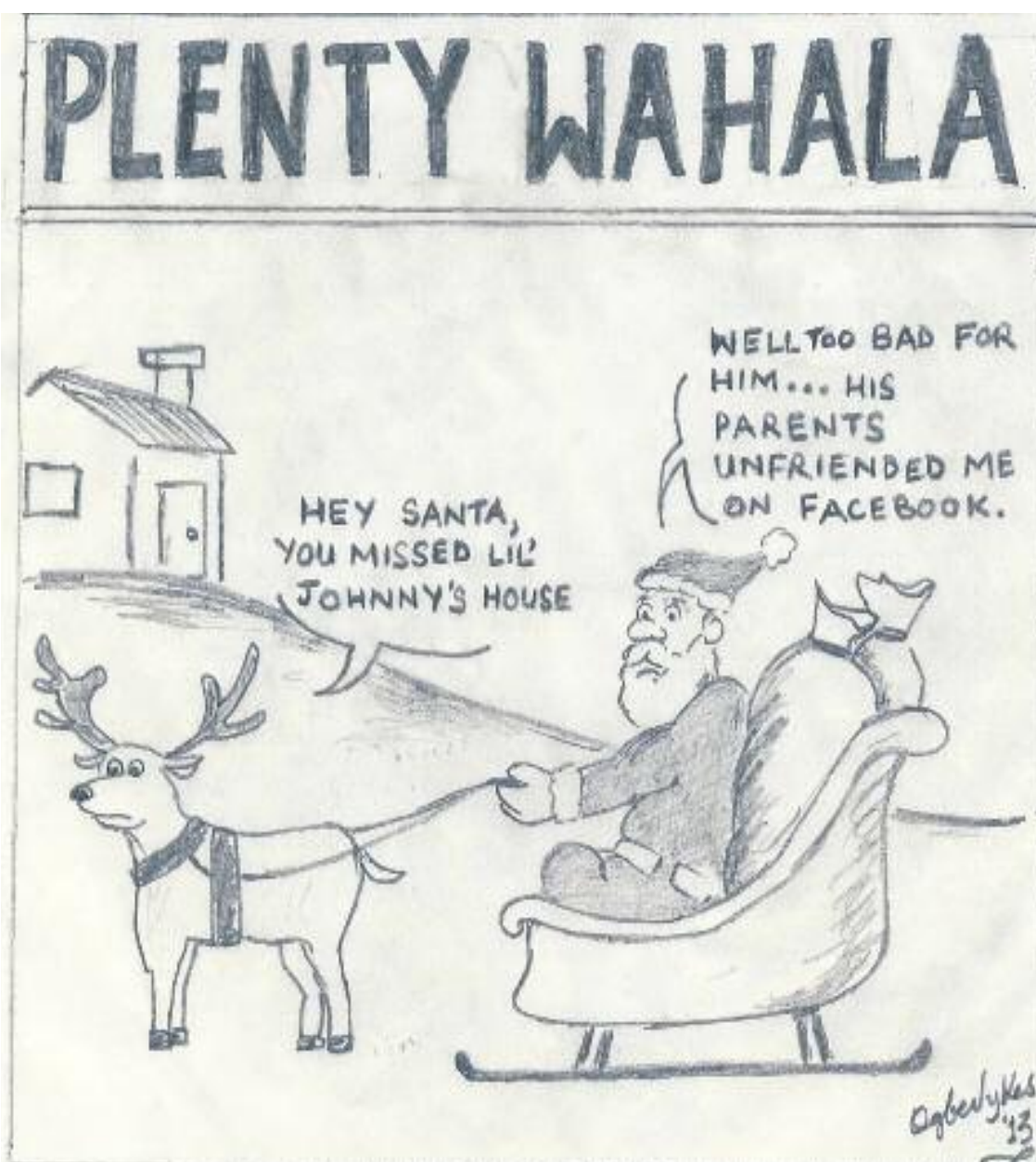
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Nigerian Watch is a monthly newspaper owned by Green World Media Ltd.

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## NEWS FROM THE NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON



# The Lion King of Africa

**Blessed with great people and great natural resources a united Nigeria is the world's best hope for the future. Jon Hughes reports on an inspirational centenary celebration**

An illuminating evening of discussion was staged at the Nigeria High Commission in London shortly before Christmas, in celebration of the centenary of the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates of Nigeria and creation of one united country.

The occasion was the brainchild of the High Commissioner, Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR, CFR who had taken the bold step of inviting three non-Nigerians but notable pan-Africanists to assess Nigeria's past, present and future. What emerged was a fascinating back-to-the-future insight.

Introducing the evening Dr Tafida said, "On the first of June, 2014, Nigeria will be 100 years in existence since the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates by the British colonial administration. A centenary by any stretch of the imagination is an epoch worthy of celebration."

He had a message for the doubters. "Some Nigerians and non-Nigerians refer to the amalgamation as a mistake," he continued. "If it was a mistake then why did the country fight a bitter civil war to crush a secessionist threat and why do its leaders continue to insist that the country of Nigeria is non-negotiable?"

"The corporate existence of Nigeria was a theory that found its concrete expression in the constitution of the Federation, put together by the consular assembly drawn from all parts of Nigeria. The centenary celebration is one of togetherness, peace and progress in Nigeria."

With which he handed over the chairman for the evening, the High Commissioner of Mauritius, Mr Abhimanu Kandasamy. Before introducing the panel he told the gathering, "This historic landmark is important from both the African and African union perspective because of Nigeria's capacity for development within our continent and Nigeria's leading role in terms of peace and security."

"Nigeria will be an engine of growth and has the capacity to make a massive difference to our continent. The other issue is strengthening peace and stability. Regionally Nigeria's conflict management has been repeatedly shown. Big challenges remain and we need Nigeria to lead from the front."

He then introduced the three panelists, three political heavyweights, each of whom has an in-



timate knowledge of the African continent and Nigeria. They were Ghanaian Lord Paul Boateng, a former MP for the Brent constituency in north London, health minister in the Labour government of Tony Blair and celebrated pan-Africanist; Jamaican academic Dr Patrick F Wilmot, a social scientist of world renown who chose to settle and teach in Nigeria after graduating in America, having turned down an offer to teach there; and Kaye Whiteman, a journalist and scholar who has been closely connected with Nigeria for nigh on 50 years.

Their outlook for Nigeria was universally positive. "The celebration of 100 years of unification comes at a critical moment in time," said Lord Boateng, the principal speaker. "Nigeria is about to overtake South Africa as sub-Saharan Africa's largest economy. Africa itself is increasingly the focus of global attention as the next largest emerging market, home to some of the fastest growing economies in the world."

"Africa, where by 2020 the collective GDP will be \$2.6 trillion, consumer spending will be \$1.4 trillion. There will be 1.1 billion Africans of working age and 128m households with discretionary income and 50% of the people of the continent will be living in cities; a middle class growing faster than India and China. And a continent increasingly seen in so many ways – economically and environmentally – as the world's best hope."

"So if indeed the African lions are on the move, and I believe they are, then Nigeria is the Lion King. The pride cannot afford for Nigeria to fail. And I believe the Lion King will see us to the end of this century and into the next in good



LEFT: Dr Tafida. Above, l-r: Lord Boateng, HE Abhimanu Kandasamy, Dr Tafida, Dr Patrick F Wilmot and Kaye Whiteman

shape and in good order."

Lord Boateng went on to quote liberally from the "Great Zik of Africa" – Benjamin Nnamdi Azikiwe, the country's first post-independence President – restating time and again how much he believed the words to be as accurate today, if not more so, than when they were first uttered on 15 January 1950 in the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York. "Africa is destined to become the continent of the present century," he said. "What happens there today must be material to the future of the course of the world's history. Nigeria is the key to the solution of Africa and its problems."

He went on to address the challenges – the

He defined governance as being the provision of the social and economic goods and services that a citizen has a right to expect from the state and the state has the responsibility to deliver to its citizens. On this score he said, "there is work to be done."

As much as that state has responsibilities so do the population. "Civil society has a crucial role to play in holding those in power to account. Nigeria is blessed with an active civil society and a love of argument and disputation, and the tradition of civil activism runs deep."

For the future he said the imperative for Nigeria was to diversify its economy "to give opportunity its proper place".

He lauded the Transformation Agenda, highlighting the lead President Jonathan has taken to develop science, technology and innovation and agriculture.

"Developed in the right ways science, technology and innovation can ensure the intellectual history of the country can be focused in productive ways in generating an economic renaissance."

"Nigeria has two of the best economic brains

in the world (the Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and President of the Central Bank Sanusi Lamido Sanusi) and they are developing a regulatory framework that promotes small and medium enterprises and supports science, technology and innovation that will be instructive for the whole continent.

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**"The pride of Africa cannot afford for Nigeria to fail and I believe the Lion King will see us to the end of this century and into the next in good order and in good shape"**

major ones identified as being achieving good governance and power generation.

"Nigeria has a past dating back many centuries that saw a display of intellectual and political sophistication and economic structures that are still capable of imparting lessons for us today," Lord Boateng said.





# My story, our story...

Author and youth leader Emeka Egbuono describes his own voyage of discovery and exhorts all others to learn their history saying "it will be the most important journey of your life"



One day in a history lesson I asked the teacher why we did not learn about black history in class. This seemed to be an awkward subject. She didn't really give much of a response apart from telling me to get on with my work.

I remember that we were learning about World War I at the time, and I was desperately curious to know what part black people played in this war. But whatever way I couched the question there never seemed to be a satisfactory answer. Was that because black men and women had no role in the First World War? Or was it just that no one wanted to acknowledge the part they played? Perhaps no one had recorded their efforts or involvement? The more I was fobbed off, the more frustrated I got because nobody seemed to have an answer for me.

I decided that the only way to find out was to do my own research, but where to start? How did I filter out the irrelevant to get to the information I needed? There is a vast amount of information on every subject you can think of on the Web these days but I needed guidance. I realised I had no one to turn to who could answer my questions.

Eventually my passion died because no matter where I looked, there was no one to help me find out about the black history I wanted to know about so desperately. The following academic year in October, Black History Month, I bumped into a teaching assistant. His name was Mr Richards. He told me he would be running an after school session on black history in the school. At last! I was so excited because finally after all this time it looked as though I would now have the chance to learn about black history. My passion for learning all I could about my heritage was re-ignited.

Full of enthusiasm, I told friends about the session after school, expecting them to be as enthusiastic as I was. I was amazed when most of them were not interested. My passion must have rubbed off a little though as when the session started a few of those I had told about it actually turned up.

As we sat waiting to see what this exploration of our heritage would bring to us, Mr Richards took us all by surprise. One by one he invited us to tell the class about our immediate background and family history.

This was not at all what we had expected. We thought we were going to be beginning our journey of discovery in ancient sun-baked Africa. But what Mr Richards told us next made a lot of sense.

He said, "I want all of you to go home

and do some research about your immediate past; which country your parents were originally from, for instance, and then speak to your family members to get as much historical information about each of your own families as you can. Grannies and granddads are particularly good for that!"

So now I had to go and do some research on Nigeria, the country that my family originally came from. I was born there but I knew little more than that about my country of birth. I came to England when I was seven, and much of the earlier life I had in Nigeria I had forgotten. I knew about some of my traditions because I had grown up seeing them in films, and unlike many of my friends, I was fluent in my native language which is Igbo, although most of the time I only ever speak it with my parents.

Thinking about the facts that I was starting with made me wonder how deep Mr Richards's wanted me to go in my efforts to truly know myself and appreciate where I had come from. And so I began my journey.

## "He told me that to understand the struggles would help to shape and strengthen me"

One of history's darkest times, the Atlantic trade in slaves, was started by the Portuguese in the fifteenth century, followed by the French, Dutch and British. For almost 400 years over 10 million men, women and children were forced out of their homes in Africa, families separated for life, at the whim of a slave trader.

The area now known as Nigeria was already well populated in the fifteenth century. Due to its geographic location Nigeria made a very convenient centre for the Americans and the Europeans to land in their ships in ports such as Lagos.

Nigeria's large population made it a highly desirable destination for Europeans who wanted to trade and to take advantage of the many slaves that could be bought and sold. Nigeria was central to the slave trade, home to one third of those shipped out as slaves to the Americas. Thousands of Nigerians were dragged away from their families and put in chains and shipped to new lands. These terrified people were sent by sea in such awful conditions that many died on the journey.

As I continued to do my research I felt a deep sadness as I imagined the suffering of those early ancestors, people torn

away screaming and begging from their home and families, beaten and put on ships in the worst conditions anyone could imagine. Transported and disposed of as if they were animals.

I was a 15-year-old boy and what I was reading was making me very angry. At this point I was contemplating whether I should continue as the more I read the more an impotent all encompassing rage engulfed me.

As I reported back to Mr Richards and told him some of the things that I had found out, he gently encouraged me to continue. He knew that it was hard to read about such awful injustice and evil cruelty but he told me that to understand the struggles would help to shape and strengthen me. It was a pain I had to go through, and a pain that was insignificant compared to the suffering of the slaves, my ancestors.

At the time I didn't know what he meant but I kept going and continued to read and watch documentaries to find out more. Mr Richards was a great mentor; he helped me understand why it was im-

portant to know my history.

Then came the shocking information, that although we were only in our third week of the after-school sessions, we would no longer have permission to study black history after school. I was extremely disappointed but I had started my quest now and I knew that nothing was going to kill my thirst for more knowledge.

I discovered that Nigeria was colonised from the 1800s to October 1st, 1960, a day now celebrated as Nigerian Independence Day. Now I really needed to talk to my dad about his experiences in Nigeria at that momentous time. So eventually when he had the time we spoke. Known to his friends and people as Chief Mr Vincent Egbuono, I knew that many people held my dad in the greatest respect and I wanted him to tell me of his personal journey.

The first thing he said to me was, "Emeka, do you know where we are from in Nigeria?" I said, "Yes, I do. Anambra state." He told me that it is very important to know where you are from, that as I grew up I would meet people who would ask me where I was from, and if I didn't know in detail that my ig-

norance could prove embarrassing. He impressed on me the importance of knowing as much as I could about my origins. He confirmed that we were from Anambra state; from a town called Nnewi, and in Nnewi our forefathers were specifically from Imudin. From that day I have never forgotten exactly where I am from.

I wanted to know about the Biafra War and to understand why it happened so soon after Nigeria had been granted independence. I had thought that perhaps after colonisation was over, the removal of a stable governing body, albeit a foreign one, left a power vacuum, and that perhaps the country could not find a way to exist peacefully.

I wanted to know more about the Eastern state of Biafra and its bid for independence from Nigeria. I needed to know why up to one million people died and millions more were made homeless. I asked my dad what he knew about the war and I wanted to know if he was involved. He told me that he was a child at the time. He was about 12 years old and he tried to enlist in the army for the state of Biafra but was laughed at and was sent away because he was too young and too small to enlist.

I tried to imagine my 12-year-old self going to volunteer for the army, any army. It was unimaginable; I would have been terrified! But my father had not been, or if he was he had overcome his fear. Just one generation before me and he had been a completely different child than I was.

My father told me to go and speak to my uncle Mr Syril Maduafor Chinyel-

ugo because he had been a soldier in the Biafran army and rose to the rank of captain.

And now, although I am no longer in school, the quest to know everything I can about my story still drives me on. I went to see my uncle to ask him what it was like to be on the front line. He was eager and willing to share his story.

## FLAGGING UP NIGERIA



ABOVE: Colonial Nigeria flag created upon release of Nigeria to British Crown from Royal Niger Company 1900



SEALS of Southern and Northern Nigeria Protectorates.



ABOVE: Adopted for the country as a whole when Northern and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated in 1914. Last flown on the day before independence.



ABOVE: Nigeria's coat of arms granted by Queen Elizabeth 1960. The pall wavy symbolizes the confluence of the rivers Benue and Niger, dividing the country in the Northern, Western and Eastern Regions. The wreath is in the colors of the flag and the red eagle is a symbol of power and resoluteness. The two horses symbolize the dignity of the people. They are standing on a grassy ground strewn with the national flower, symbolising the territory of Nigeria.

Hearing my uncle describing the circumstances of the war and the atrocities made me feel sad because these were my people and I felt hurt by the fact that they had to go through this hardship and struggle. My uncle enlisted and rose to the rank of Captain. I tried to imagine how my uncle, a young man **Turn to page 6**





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*Continued from page 4* no older than I am now, pulling the trigger for the first time to kill another man, knowing it was what he had to do for his people. That same day he saw the body of a friend that he signed up with. Now I tried to imagine his distress, the raw emotion of the moment when a friend that you had laughed and joked with, played schoolboy pranks with, lay dead in front of you. I tried to understand where he got the courage to continue.

We talked about the politics of the war and the role of Chukwuemeka Ojukwu. My father and uncle did not see eye to eye about Ojukwu.

My uncle told me that it was rumoured that the French and the Chinese were willing to help but, my uncle said, Ojukwu refused help from these countries. My uncle recalled how he was appalled when he heard this. And there we had it, the differences that my uncle and father had over Ojukwu stemmed from the fact that my uncle thought of him as a selfish man, who put pride before the lives of his troops, whereas my dad saw him as more of a hero.

From those early discoveries my interest in the past has never faded. Being British I now wanted to find out the history of black people in Britain and in America. Then one day after work in 2008, I went into an Afro-Caribbean bookshop to see what type of information there was about black people, about their history and the contribution they had made to the western world.

As I walked around the shop I quickly discovered vast amounts of information, I felt overwhelmed, not knowing what to read first. I told the man who owned the shop that I needed to read something that would get me going on my search for black history in the west.

He gave me a book called *From the Browder File*. When I got home I started to read it, and before I knew it I couldn't put the book down! I was amazed to read the stories in that book and stunned to learn that in all the passing years of history things had not changed much in the sense that black people still felt inferior. I still remember the powerful effect that the *Transition 13* statement at the beginning of that book had on me. It read, "We knew not, we studied, we learned all there was to know, and we taught others.

"Then we forgot what we had learned, and forgot that we had forgotten

"Now we are taught (by those who were once taught by us) knowledge we already had

"So... we study, we learn all there is to know, we teach others

"Will we forget AGAIN???"

After reading that book I went back to the shop and bought two more books. From that day to this, you will always find a book beside my bed. And every day a saying I heard once has sustained me and is what I live by.

"You never graduate from seeking

knowledge; there is always something to learn."

Understanding myself and my origins was the beginning of the journey for me; I now have a much better appreciation, respect, and admiration for those who have gone before me.

I know history, my story and our story, and this knowledge and understanding of the past has helped me respect some of the sacrifices which were made. Working with youths I have come to realise that a lot of people don't know anything about their history and have no sense of identity. This is a shame because our history is full of amazing things that black people have done in Africa and elsewhere in the world. Some people seem to think that black people's history begins and ends with slavery. There is so much more for me to learn and I want so much to encourage anybody and everybody to try and find out as much of their history as they can.

**"In order to know what you need to see ahead of you, you need to know what has gone before"**

This is very important because if we do not learn from the rich experience of our past, as a race, how will we ever understand the direction that we and our children need to take? Ignorance or unconcern is dangerous and the consequences potentially damaging. To live a rich and fulfilling life you need to know where you have come from. In order to know what you need to see ahead of you, you need to know what has gone before.

Like Asa G. Hilliard said:

- We have let our names go
- We have surrendered our way of life (culture)
- Some of us have stopped speaking our native languages
- The appetite to know about our history and culture is fading

It seems, tragically, that we have lost our solidarity, our unity, and our sense of brotherhood.

So I urge you to do something about it NOW! Start by identifying who you are, go back and read, but don't just read, enjoy the knowledge you will gain as you begin or continue your journey towards knowing your roots. It will be the most important journey of your life.

Emeka Egbuono's acclaimed book, *Consequences: Breaking the Negative Cycle* is available as an e-book, price £1.02, available from Amazon.



The amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates of commercial exploitation of the natural resources in both regions.

# THE COMING

The key to moving forward as a nation is in Ahmadu Bello's response to the great Zik, who had told Ahmadu Bello...

**"Let us forget our differences." And Ahmadu Bello responded, "No, let us understand our differences. I am a Muslim and a Northerner. You are a Christian, and an Easterner. By understanding our differences, we can build unity in our country."**



The above conversation took place between Nnamdi Azikiwe – known as 'the great Zik of Africa' – and Sir Ahmadu Bello on the occasion of their first meeting, according to John N. Paden's 1986 biography *Ahmadu Bello, Sarduna of Sokoto*



AMALGAMATION DAY 1914: Tinube Street, Lagos



LAGOS 1910: Postcard showing Massey Street

Frederick Lugard flanked on his left by the Sultan of Sokoto and on his right by the Emir of Kano at London Zoo, Regents Park, 1934, on a visit to Britain to meet King George V



## LUGARD'S BLUEPRINT

**"Northern Nigeria and Its Problems" was how *The Times* headlined this letter from Lord Frederick Lugard, calling for the amalgamation of Nigeria**

In my last letter I endeavoured to depict some of the disadvantages and drawbacks arising (and likely to become accentuated with time) from the dual administrative control now obtaining in Nigeria. For the following suggestions as to a possible amalgamation I claim no more than that they constitute an attempt, put forward with much diffidence, to indicate a few constructive ideas which might form the basis for expert discussion.

The main objects an amalgamation might be ex-

pected to secure, apart from the removal of certain inconveniences, are four in number: (a) That the financial management should be directed not only to meeting present needs, but to making provision for the future; (b) that the right sort of man should fill the important and onerous post of Governor-General; (c) the division of the territory into Provinces, corresponding as far as possible with natural geographical boundaries and existing political conditions, and involving as few changes as possible; (d) a comprehensive scheme of public works. These points can be best examined collectively.







Nigeria was a long-time in the planning and was primarily driven by the desire of colonial Britain to ease the Here we reprint reports of events as they happened and Sir Frederick Lugard's blueprint for how Nigeria should be

# TOGETHER OF A NATION

## New Years Day at Kano, 1913



The Emir Katsena's mounted police



VANITY FAIR Sir Frederick Lugard



The Shehu of Bornu

From *The Times of London*: We have received from a correspondent at Kano, Northern Nigeria, the following description of the Durbar which was held there by Sir Frederick Lugard on New Year's Day, part of the tour of Nigeria he undertook in the build-up to amalgamation.

Sir Frederick Lugard, the first Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the United Provinces, arrived at Kano by train at 4 p.m. on December 31. He stayed with his staff in his saloon carriage until the Emir came out of the Great Gate of the city to meet him.

The Emir was on foot, attended by about 600 of his principal chiefs and a large mounted escort. It was the first time Sir Frederick Lugard had entered Kano since the military expedition occupied the city by force in 1903, and an interesting episode occurred when he showed the Emir the 'swagger stick' he was carrying.

When interviewing the Emir after the taking of Kano in 1903 he asked for some personal remembrance of the occasion; the Emir offered

his palace, his horses, his cattle, his wives, and his worldly possessions, but Lugard preferred the stick the Emir was carrying in his hand. On being shown the stick and reminded of the occasion, the Emir was delighted.

New Year's Day opened with a parade of native troops, there being 800 on parade, including, 200 mounted infantry, who looked very smart, just like Indian Native Cavalry, and galloped past in a magnificent line.

Next came the filing past of the Emirs and their followings; there were 70 Emirs represented, and the bigger men made great efforts to appear better than their neighbours. Kano went past first, mounted on a fine white camel draped with gorgeous trappings, and with a retinue of at least 6,000 horsemen.

Of the other Emirs, the Shehu of Bornu was by far the most interesting, as his display was so unlike the rest, and unspoiled by the advance of civilization. Ten led horses went past first, and

then he followed supported by 100 mounted men in chain mail armour and a large crowd of mounted spearmen. His band was also excellent, with long trumpets, bagpipes, &c.

The Emir of Katsena also gave a fine display, with all his mounted and foot police in uniform. Banchi had a large number of half-naked pagans in his train.

In all it is calculated that there were present in the procession 20,000 horse and 40,000 foot;

**In all it is calculated there were present in the procession 20,000 horses and 40,000 foot**

they represented all parts of Northern Nigeria, from Lake Chad to Sokoto in the north and from Ilorin to Yola in the south. It was a very fine sight, and showed the loyalty of the Northern Nigeria natives.



The Shehu of Bornu ahead of mounted men and spearmen, and a band comprising of long trumpets and bagpipes



The Emir of Kano's retinue of horsemen

**THE FOUR NEW PROVINCES** On the accompanying map (see page 8) Nigeria is divided into four great Provinces. **I.** The Northern or Sudan Province, comprising the regions where a Mahomedan civilisation has existed for many centuries, and where the majority of the people, except in Kontagora, are Muslims. The ruling families in Kontagora are, however, so closely related with those of Sokoto that it would probably be found expedient to incorporate the former into the same Province, which would therefore consist of Sokoto, Kano, Bornu, the Zaria Emirate, and Kontagora. Its head-quarters would be at Kano.

**II.** The Central Province, comprising the Pagan section of the present Zaria Province, Zaria outside the limits of the Emirate proper and the Nassarawa, Bauchi, Niger, Yola, and Muri (north of the Benue) Provinces. It is not quite easy to forecast where the centre of gravity of the Central Province would ultimately fall; but if, as is probable, the Bauchi highlands become in time a second Simla for the Central Executive, the headquarters of the Central Province would presumably be fixed at Zungeru, the present

capital of the Northern Protectorate.

**III.** The Western Province, comprising all that is now incorporated in the existing western province of Southern Nigeria, plus to the north-Kabba, Ilorin, and Bornu; the right bank of the Niger and Nun would form the eastern boundary. Its headquarters would be at Oshogbo or its immediate neighbourhood.

**IV.** The Eastern Province, comprising what is now the eastern province of Southern Nigeria, but with its western frontier co-terminous with the left bank of the Niger and Forcados, and its northern frontiers pushed up to the south bank of the Benue so as to embrace Bassa and part of Muri-Yola being left, for political reasons, in the Central Province, as noted above. Its headquarters would be at Old Calabar, the starting point of the future eastern railway.

Each of these great Provinces would be ruled by a Lieutenant-Governor, with Residents and Assistant-Residents under him; wherever possible the present political boundaries of the divisions now called provinces, which would become districts and sub-dis-

tricts, would be retained. Thus in the Northern or Sudan Province nothing would be changed in this respect, save the separation of Mahomedan Zaria from Pagan Zaria; nothing would be changed in the Central Province (so far as the units remaining within it were concerned) except the division of Muri, which would offer no political embarrassments.

The enlargement of the Eastern Province as proposed would in some respects facilitate the work of administration, and would not cut across any ethnic divisions. In the Western Province the principal alteration would be the re-grouping of the different Yoruba sections in their old State form under a Resident, who would reside at Oyo; Ilorin, Eabba, and Bornu would remain under Residents as at present.

Wari (the capital of the existing central province of Southern Nigeria) would become the seat of a Residency for the Bini, Sobo, Ijaw, and Jekri speaking peoples. Lagos town would continue to be what the expenditure of much money and the enterprise of the Yorubas have made it, the commercial empo- **Turn to page 8**



*Lugard's Blueprint continued from 7* rium of at least the western portion of the Protectorate, and the headquarters of the small surrounding area known as the "Colony" administered by a "Lagos Council". This would replace the present "Lagos Legislative Council", and would be composed of much the same elements as the latter, presided over by a Resident.

The functions of the Lagos Council would be confined to the "Colony". The headquarters of the Governor-General and the central seat of Government would be the high plateau immediately behind Lokoja – known as Mount Patte – situated in the very centre of the Protectorate, commanding the Niger and the Benue, within easy steam of Baro – the starting-point of the central rail-way – and linked up with the western railway by a branch line to Oshogbo. The Governor-General would be assisted by an Executive and Legislative Council. The official members of the Legislative Council would include the director of rail and river transport (both services being amalgamated and placed under one department); the directors of public works, agriculture, forestry, commercial intelligence, and mining; and the Principal Medical Officer.

The unofficial members would include selected representatives of the educated native community, and later on one or two distinguished Mallams, and selected representatives of the European commercial and mining communities. But in no case would the functions of the Council be allowed to conflict with the Native Administrations of the Mahomedan Provinces.

**THE NEW FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS** The method of handling the finances of the Protectorate would depend to a large extent upon the capacity of the home Government, in conjunction with the potential Governor-General and other advisers, to map out ahead a considered scheme of railway construction and improvement of fluvial communications, which would proceed from year to year, and for which provision would be made. The whole problem of communications, both rail and river, ought to be placed under a special department subject to periodical inspection by an independent expert sent out from home by the Colonial Office, the system of consulting engineers in England being, if possible, abandoned.

The situation financially lends itself, in a general sense, to a certain boldness of treatment and departure from ordinary British West African precedent. Two distinct classes of Budgets might with advantage be evolved – a Colonial Budget and the Provincial Budgets. In other words, there would be a central Budget and four local Budgets, one for each Province.

The Colonial Budget would be fed by the Customs revenue, the whole of which would be credited to it. (It may be estimated that two or three years hence the total Customs revenue collected in Nigeria will amount to £2,500,000.) It would be augmented by the profits on the railways, the mining royalties, harbour dues, and pilotage fees (there should be a system of public pilotage on the waterways).

The Protectorate could be authorised to raise, on its own recognizances, a loan of £5,000,000, redeemable in a term of years. This loan would be expended in a succession of public works – some of the necessary lines of rail are indicated in the map, in accordance with the scheme of construction mapped out as previously suggested. The Colonial Budget would determine the successive

instalments of expenditure out of loans, and would provide the interest on the new loan and on the existing loan of £5,000,000 contracted by Southern Nigeria (for public works in Southern and Northern Nigeria). A further loan of £3,500,000 is about to be contracted by Southern Nigeria.

The revenues of the Colonial Budget, from whatever source derived (other than from loans), would be apportioned by the Governor-General in Council for the administration of the four Provinces in accordance with their respective needs. These needs would show marked variation for some years to come.

For instance, the hypothetical Northern and Central Provinces (i.e., the territory which now comprises the bulk of Northern Nigeria), relying upon the increasing regularity and juster assessment of internal direct taxation – what may roughly be termed a graduated property tax – might be expected to advance steadily towards the self-supporting stage. When that stage had been reached the surplus would be set aside under the Provincial Budget for extending the system of



fixed salaries to native officials, expenditure on provincial public works and economic research, improvements in sanitation, and so on, in collaboration with the native authorities of its various sections. A portion of my hypothetical Northern or Sudan Province – Kano – is already self-supporting. Indeed, but for the military establishment, the whole of that Province would be showing to-day a handsome surplus and, apart from the public works to be met out of loans, would require, even if it continued to be debited with the military establishment, very little assistance from the Colonial Budget.

The hypothetical Central Province would require more assistance for a time; but, as in the Northern Province, the basis of an expanding land revenue is securely laid and a not inconsiderable mineral development, bringing revenue, apart from royalties, is assured to it. On the other hand, most of the hypothetical Western Province and almost the whole of the Eastern Province – i.e., in combination, Southern Nigeria of to-day – produces no internal revenue whatever except licences, the amount derived from which will assuredly grow but will not become really large for many years.

Therefore, until and unless we can approach the delicate problem of introducing direct taxation amongst peoples, with the majority of whom we have been in touch for years without requiring the payment of any form of tribute, the Colonial Budget would have to furnish these Provinces with most of their administrative revenues.

## It's all about the railways

The amalgamation of North and South was all about easing the passage of business and commodities in the country, as this report from *The Times*' archive shows



Official opening of Lagos steam tramway 1902

A number of far-reaching reforms in the administration of Southern Nigeria are under consideration at the present time, which, when they come to be carried out should not only increase the efficiency of the Government, but materially assist the development of the country.

One of the most important of the projects – though not perhaps to be classified strictly as an administrative reform – is the development of railways.

The preliminary work has already been begun upon a line which will have its southern terminus at Okrika, at the head of the Bonny river and in the centre of the richest part of the oil-palm district. This place, which has been chosen in preference to Degema because it is on the proper mainland of the African continent, is in Degema district, in what is known as the "New Calabar" area, and has the advantage of being at the head of a fine waterway, which can be used by ocean-going steamers, so that the valuable products which come down the line from the country to the north will be loaded direct onto the ships.

The line will run from Okrika in a westerly direction, and will tap some of the country which is not only most rich in oil-palm, but is also capable of enormous development. The new line will certainly have an extension eastwards to Itu on the Cross River, where it will be carried over the river and run in a south-easterly direction to Calabar.

Another very probable branch will run a little westward to Uldi, or the main line may possibly run through Uldi – where new coal-fields have been found, from which coal is already being drawn.

There is already a line under construction from Onitsha, an important station on the Niger, to Udi. The new main line will probably continue northward, and may extend as far as the Banchi district of Northern Nigeria, from which tin is obtained.

Much is at the same time being done to ascertain the possibilities of development, the resources, the chief products and their extent throughout the Colony and Protectorate (for the actual Colony proper is only a region of about four "districts" round Lagos).



1901: A TEMPORARY STATION at Port Weir on the northern extension of the Lagos Railway. The first line of the Lagos Government Railway was opened in 1901 to Ibadan, a distance of 120 miles.



DOCTOR'S ROUND: by rail Borno 1912

**NIGER:** slip-way down to a train ferry on the northern extension of the Lagos Railway. For a long while the Niger was an obstacle to the railway, until two bridges were finally completed in 1916.







# The SAMUEL KASUMU Column

## The colonial legacy poses the big question

**For many Nigerians in the diaspora, Nigerian Independence Day every October is as far as our knowledge of the history of the great nation goes. The unfortunate fact is that the most significant story seems to be missed out.**

It was 100 years ago this month that Nigeria as we know it became one nation. In his Amalgamation day speech, January 1, 1914, Lord Frederick Lugard, 1st Governor General of Nigeria, said, "it would be to the great advantage of the countries known as Southern and Northern Nigeria that they should be amalgamated into one Government, conforming into one policy and mutually cooperating for the moral and material advancement of Nigeria as a whole."

There is no doubt that the views of Lord Lugard and the other colonial stakeholders were selfish, but in many respects the idea of a more prosperous country was something that was both in their best interests and in the best interest of all Nigerians. Those colonial masters viewed the creation of a larger country with many layers as a future powerhouse within the region, and today are proved to be correct.

One in four Africans are from Nigeria, we have the second largest economy within the region, a young population, and opportunities to develop into the China of Africa. But to this day obstacles still remain.

Nigeria's problems are not unique when it comes to dealing with the complexity of different dominant faiths within each major region. In fact, our inability to find a solution to this problem is also not very unique. Just a few years after the unification of the North and South of Nigeria, Britain were playing their part in deciding the destiny on arguably a more important place, Israel. They had negotiated with Zionists and today we still see the outcomes of this.

To be fair the decision to alternate the faith of Presidents within Nigeria on face value was probably a wise compromise. The only challenge was that those who came to this informal agreement were not wise enough to consider the idea of a President dying in office. Countries, like Pakistan and Bangladesh, and across the world have split up in the name of religious differences, and on this basis perhaps there is an argument that a unified state just cannot work, but I would disagree for reasons that are relevant to both the

North and the South.

Let us start by talking about terrorism. It is a worldwide epidemic, which currently in Nigeria is highly concentrated in the North. For many in the South there is an argument that dividing the country would make for a safer South region. This couldn't be further for the truth. Not only would the South lose the anti-terrorism capabilities that come from those who have been dealing with this issue for years, but they would also lose the ability to engage directly with the current debates on how to combat terrorism.

Economically the two states are intertwined. Yes, Lagos will remain the economic powerhouse of Nigeria, with it being the home of the Nigerian Stock Exchange and many other important financial institutions. But of course Northern Nigeria remains a place where there is so much potential to grow Nigeria as a great agricultural producer. Once the challenge of Boko Haram and other fundamentalists are dealt with, we will see the North proudly stand up as another form of financial powerhouse. We must also

*'We have come too far and been through too many struggles together. With a prosperous era ahead we may regret splitting up'*

not forget that there is a state that was rebuilt to house the government. When I visited Abuja it looked like the new Los Angeles.

Of course more important than a purpose build state, or currently more important than agricultural opportunities, is the production of oil. Who would take the oil wealth, this greasy liquid on which so much depends?

The North and South of Nigeria were forced into a marriage with both parties unable to consent or disapprove due to the moment in history which we were founded within. But like many forced marriages, we now have children to think about, and our destinies have become intertwined. We have been through many struggles together, managing to gain independence, and then surviving a period of military rule. We have come too far, and with a prosperous period ahead we may regret splitting up.

Yes, in many respects both regions may not be fully in love, but for the sake of the children it might be worth continuing on this forced journey.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

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## 100 GREAT NAMES TO MARK 100 GREAT YEARS SINCE THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN PROTECTORATES OF NIGERIA WERE AMALGAMATED ON JANUARY 1, 1914

What better way to enter a new era than to look back at the many people who, by dint of their actions, endeavours, personal achievement and singularity of purpose have increased the potential of Nigeria and delivered our nation to the verge of greatness.

As scientists say, "We stand on the shoulders of giants."

We know this list – as any list is – will be controversial. To identify 100 (and a few for good measure) great people from a population of over 160 million great people is a tall order. Determining who to include and who to omit has been a nightmare.

So, we fully expect and hope to hear howls of out-

rage from across the diaspora – and indeed we actively encourage it.

At this pivotal moment in our history what more fitting tribute can we make than to compile a living history of those who laid the foundations of Nigeria, and those who are building on them.

So let us know who you think deserves to be included – the change-bringers and future-makers of our glorious country. And remember, many great achievements are not played out in the lime-light or on the global stage.

Many an individual in the kingdoms, towns and villages across Nigeria will have performed acts that have changed their imme-

diate society for good and are an example of best practice. We want to know about them, too.

These people are the true heroes and we want to hear as much about them as those who have made their impacts felt in global arenas.

It is something we will update regularly throughout this centenary year.

So we hope our list, written and compiled by Ayo Akinfe, proves to be the start of something greater – as the achievements of the people in the list so clearly have been.

*Let us know your thoughts and who you think should be included on the list, and why, by writing to, editor@nigerianwatch.com*



**Herbert Macaulay** (November 14, 1864 – May 7, 1946) is considered to be the founder of the Nigerian independence movement. He also spurred democratisation, founding the

Nigerian National Democratic Party, Nigeria's first political party and in 1944 he co-founded the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons together with Nnamdi Azikiwe. He is celebrated on the N1 note.



**Nnamdi Azikiwe** (November 16, 1904 to May 11, 1996) Popularly known as Zik, he was a key figure in the nationalist movement. His writings spawned a philosophy of African liberation – Zikism – which identifies five concepts for

Africa's move towards freedom: spiritual balance, social regeneration, economic determination, mental emancipation, and political resurgence. The first Nigerian to be appointed to the Privy Council, which advises the UK sovereign, and President between 1963-1966.



**Obafemi Awolowo** (March 6, 1909 – May 9, 1987) A nationalist and chief cheerleader for federalism,

Awolowo was a dynamic force in Nigerian politics. Among his many great achievements Awolowo is hailed for laying the foundations of a welfare state, introducing free universal primary education, free limited health-care, a minimum wage, Nigeria's equivalent of the Open University and the first television station.

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**Margaret Ekpo (July 27, 1914 – September 21 2006)** A pioneering campaigner on behalf of women's rights, Margaret Ekpo burst onto the political scene when she took her husband's place to protest against the discrimination suffered by indigenous doctors. Her husband had wanted to tackle the colonial administrators on the issue but as a civil servant, he was disallowed from attending these meetings. She went in his stead. It was the start of a political journey that saw her found the Market Women's Association of Aba; by 1955, women voters in Aba outnumbered men in a city wide election. She won a seat to the Eastern Regional House of Assembly in 1961, a position that allowed her to continue the fight for women's rights, in particular the progress of women in economic and political matters, focusing on the practical issue of transport links to major markets.

## ABA WOMEN LED THE WAY IN DEMANDING EQUAL RIGHTS

Celebrated to this day, the Aba "women's war" (or "riot", as it is also known) of November 1929 was an unprecedented revolt against taxation without representation.

The catalyst for the uprising was widow Nwanyereuwa, who protested loudly when it became apparent the presiding warrant chief intended to tax her on the livestock she owned. This rode roughshod over traditional beliefs, under which women were not liable to pay tax.

She raised the alarm with fellow women in the town square and word spread like wildfire across the region. Soon 10,000 had gathered to protest and following Nwanyereuwa's advice, they devised a form of peaceful protest called "sitting".

Along with singing and dancing around the houses and offices of the Warrant Chiefs, the women would follow their every move, invading their space and forcing the men to pay



**THE WOMEN** Ikonna, Mwannedia and Nwugo, known as the Oloko 3; Mary of Ogu Ndem (Mary of the Women's War); Ihejilemebi Ibe of Umuokirika Village; and Ahebi Ugabe of Enugu-Ezike, "The Female Leopard", who was appointed as a Native Court Member in 1930.

them attention. This in turn caused the wives of warrant chiefs to nag their husbands to listen to the women's demands. This tactic of "sitting on the Warrants," i.e. following them everywhere and anywhere, was very popular with the women in Nigeria, and used to great effect.

The impact of the "war" was great. In some areas, women were able to replace the Warrant Chiefs. They were also appointed for the first time to serve on the Native Courts.

Many events in the 1930s, 40s and 50s were inspired by the Women's War, including the

Tax Protests of 1938, the Oil Mill Protests of the 1940s in Owerri and Calabar Provinces and the Tax Revolt in Aba and Onitsha in 1956. On two occasions security forces violently broke up such protests, shooting dead 50 women and wounding 50 more.

**Madam Mary Okezie (1906–1999)** was the first woman from her Igbo clan to gain a Western education, and was teaching at the Anglican Mission School in Umuocham Aba in 1929 when the women's revolt broke out. Although she did not participate in the revolt, she was a great sympathiser. She was the only woman who submitted a memo of grievance to the Aba Commission of Inquiry (sent in 1930). Today, the major primary source for studying the revolt is the Report of the Aba Commission of Inquiry. After the revolt, Madam Okezie emerged as founder and leader of the Ngwa Women's Association and worked for the rest of her life to support women's rights in Nigeria.



**THE CENOTAPH OF THE WOMEN WAR OF 1929** in Ikot Abasi. Ikot Abasi Local Government secretariat





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## THE FOUNDING FATHER OF NIGERIAN THEATRE

**Oloye Hubert Adedeji Ogunde (31 May 1916 – 4 April 1990)**

Actor, playwright, theatre manager, and musician, the accolades for Ogunde are legion. He is described variously as “the father of Nigerian theatre, or the father of contemporary Yoruba theatre” and “the first Doyen of traditional Nigerian drama”.

He was a teacher and policeman before he founded the Ogunde Concert Party in 1945, the first professional theatre company in Nigeria, which gave rise to modern professional theatre in Nigeria, a movement in which he remains the supreme artist and father figure.

As with many of his theatre contemporaries, such as **AB David**, **PA Dawodu**, **Layeni** and **GT Onimole**, his theatre career began under the patronage of the Church. In 1944, he produced his first folk opera, *The Garden of Eden and The Throne of God*, in aid of the building fund of Lagos-based Church of the Lord, a sect of the Cherubim and Seraphim Society. The performance was such a huge success it spurred Ogunde to write more operas and



**OLOYE** with some of his Theatre Group wives

turn professional.

The first play featured at Ogunde Theatre was entitled *Tiger's Empire*, a fierce attack on colonial rule. Premiered on 4 March 1946, *Tiger's Empire* was unique for another reason – it was the first time in Yoruba theatre that women were billed to appear in a play as professional artists in their own right.

*Tiger's Empire* is typical of Ogunde's social satire and dra-



2010: Crown Troupe of Africa performing 'Yoruba Ronu'

matic commentary. It was followed by *Darkness and Light*, an attack on the practice known as Aso Ebi. This craze had gripped Lagos for a year, and required both men and women to buy the most expensive materials for so-

cial gatherings. It bred intense competition with celebrants trying to outshine one another and often ruined marriages, as women were known to leave husbands who could not afford to robe them, for lovers who could. Ogunde's play attacked the vulgarity and ostentatiousness of the craze.

He was the most prominent of dramatists of the folk opera. He composed over 40 operas in Yoruba. His play *Yoruba Ronu* (Yoruba Think) was a satirical account of the strife that plagued Yorubas in the 1960s. It was banned in western Nigeria for some time but was produced with great success in other parts of the country.

He continued writing and acting throughout his life and starred with **Pierce Brosnan** in *Mr Johnson* (1990). Ogunde also became the leading producer of Yoruba movies with *J'ayesinmi* (Let the world rest) and *Aiye* (Life!) blazing the trail. He had 12 wives, many of whom were taken to allow them to remain in his theatre group. A portrait of Ogunde hangs in the National Gallery of Modern Art, Lagos.



**Tunde King (24 August 1910 – 1980s)** is credited with being the founder of Jùjú music. Jùjú music originated in the Olowogbowo area of Lagos in the 1920s, in a motor mechanic workshop where “area boys” used to gather to drink and make music. Tunde King was the leader of this group. Indeed he is thought to have coined the term Jùjú. The story goes that the name originated from when King bought a tambourine to his Samba drummer. The drummer developed a flamboyant style that included throwing the tambourine into the air and catching it, which the audience called Jù-jù, duplicating the Yoruba word for “throw”. His songs popularly highlighted the common injustices experienced under colonial rule. He recorded some discs at the time but made his living playing live.



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## “A nation must evolve from some torturous natural process of evolution” Ahmadu Bello

**Zanna Bukar Dipcharima (1917 – 1969)** was a popular Bornu politician who, unknown to many, was actually Nigeria's leader, as in January 1966 he was elected by the ruling Northern People's Congress as the acting prime minister to replace Tafawa Balewa. Having served in the Federal House of Representatives between 1954-1966, during which time he was the house majority leader. When Prime

Minister Balewa went missing on January 15, 1966, Dipcharima was elected to chair federal cabinet meetings as acting prime minister. Unfortunately, the acting president and senate president Dr Nwafor Orizu refused to swear him in, forcing the government to relinquish power to Major General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi. Dipcharima served as Nigeria's industry and commerce minister and transport minister during his time in parliament. Between 1938 and 1946, he was a member of the National Council of Nigeria and Cameroons (NCNC), despite being a northerner. In 1947, along with NCNC leaders Nnamdi Azikiwe, Adeleke Adedoyin and Olorun Nimbe, he was part of the delegation that came to London to discuss independence plans with the British government.



**Alvan Ikoku (August 1, 1900 – November 18, 1971)** In 1931, Ikoku established one of the earliest private secondary schools in Nigeria, the Aggrey Memorial College in Arochuku but he was a pioneering champion of “uniform” (comprehensive) education in Nigeria and fought long and hard on behalf of the Nigerian Union of Teachers to see this become a reality. He failed to win the day, despite being Minister for Education in the then Eastern Nigeria House of Assembly in 1946. However his proposals were adopted post-independence. His picture appears on Nigeria's N10 note.



**Ahmadu Bello (June 12, 1910 – January 15, 1966)** was the first and only premier of the Northern Nigeria region from 1954-1966. He was the Sardauna of Sokoto and Nigeria's most powerful politician at the time. Regarded as a mythical figure in some parts of northern Nigeria, Bello's greatest legacy was the modernisation and unification of the diverse people of the region, although he was often criticised for not seeking a unified Nigeria as a whole but rather a unified north.



**Major General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi (March 3, 1924 – July 29, 1966)** was Nigeria's first indigenous chief of army staff, assuming office in 1964 with the title general officer commanding the Nigerian Army. His record as a soldier was exemplary with mentions in dispatches for his role in the UN peacekeeping mission to the Congo (1960-64), and he was equerry to Queen Elizabeth II on her 1956 visit. He met a bloody end, however, after the military coup of January 1966 and six short months as head of state.



**Thomas Adeoye Lambo (March 29, 1923 – March 13, 2004)** was a Nigerian scholar, administrator and psychiatrist. He is credited as the first western trained psychiatrist in Nigeria and Africa. He championed the rights of the mentally disabled, pioneering a ‘care in the community’ approach as opposed to locking up sufferers in asylums. Between 1971 and 1988, he worked at the World Health Organisation, becoming the agency's deputy director general. Lambo went on to become world renowned for his work in ethno-psychiatry and psychiatric epidemiology.



**Louis Ojukwu (1909 – September 16, 1966)** gave licence for the entrepreneurial spirit of Nigerians to take off on the global stage as the first and founding president of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE). He was also the first president of the African Continental Bank and Nigeria's first recognised millionaire. What became the NSE was first established in 1960 as the Lagos Stock Exchange, with 19 companies listed. It is now the second largest stock exchange in sub-Saharan Africa with over 200 companies listed.



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**Tai Solarin (August 20, 1922 – June 27, 1994)** was an educator and author who established the famous Mayflower School in Ikenne in Ogun State in 1956. He always wore khaki shorts

and shirts – a symbolic riposte to dignitaries wearing flowing agbada, to show their wealth and position.

Dr Solarin never relented in his drive to se-

cure the rights of children to an education and in his opposition to military rule. He was imprisoned in 1975 when, after the regime of General Gowon delayed returning power to a civilian regime, Tai published his *The Beginning of the End* statement, which he then physically distributed on the roadside. Throughout his lifetime Tai fought running battles with various governments in a bid to improve the lot of Nigerians.



**Chinua Achebe (November 16, 1930 – March 21, 2013)** was Africa's most prominent novelist ever with his 1958 novel *Things Fall Apart* standing out as the most read African novel. Achebe's novels focus on the traditions of Igbo society, the effect of Christian influences and the clash of Western and traditional African values during and after the colonial era. A poet, professor, and critic, Achebe worked as a David and Marianna Fisher University and the African Studies Brown University Professor of African Studies up until his death. *Things Fall Apart* went on to become one of the most important books in African literature. Selling over 8m copies around the world and translated into 50 languages, making Achebe the most translated African writer of all time.



several dozen novels, including children's books. His most successful novel was *Jagwa Nana* published in 1961, about a pidgin-speaking Nigerian woman who leaves her husband to work as a prostitute in a city and falls in love with a teacher.

**Dick Tiger (August 14, 1929 – December 14, 1971)** born Richard Ihetu, Dick Tiger was a boxer who became the undisputed world middleweight champion twice and helped keep a struggling boxing industry going during the sport's recession in the 1950s. He was also the undisputed light-heavyweight champion. A staunch Biafran, he took time off boxing to fight in the Nigerian civil war, during which time he returned his CBE to Queen Elizabeth II on account of Great Britain's support for the federal forces. His actions led to the Nigerian government banning him from returning to the country from Britain but this was lifted when he contracted liver cancer. On May 20, 1965, Tiger floored Rubin "Hurricane" Carter three times, winning a unanimous 10-round decision against him. Tiger then took on Gene Fullmer and won the world middleweight title in 15 rounds.



**Cyprian Ekwensi (September 26, 1921 – November 4, 2007)** was a short story writer and author of children's books. He started out as the head of features at the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, rising to become a director in the ministry of information but resigned his position in 1966 before the Nigerian Civil War broke out and moved to Enugu with his family. He later served as chair of the Bureau for External Publicity in Biafra, during which he travelled extensively championing the breakaway republic's cause. Ekwensi wrote hundreds of short stories, radio and television scripts, and





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## ROYAL VISIT

A very historic visit to Lagos Nigeria in 1956 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, she was warmly received and given a very special Royal reception by Nigerians, one of the best ever given to any visitor.

**Haruna Ishola (Unknown – 1983)** was one of the most popular artist in the apala genre. Ishola began recording around 1955, when he adapted and stuck to a strong traditionalist approach, citing both Yoruba proverbs and Koranic scripture in his songs, and introducing no Western instruments into his musical lineup.

Legend has it that his voice was so powerful that his praise singing could kill the intended recipient if it were not moderated. In 1969, Ishola started STAR Records, in partnership

with Jùjú music legend I.K. Dairo. This was the first African record label owned by its artists.



**I. K. Dairo (1930 – 1996)** provided the soundtrack for independence with his 10 piece band the Morning Star Orchestra (1957), becoming the Blue Spots in 1960. I.K. played an amplified accordion and his style of Jùjú captured the euphoria of the nation as it moved towards independence and parties were legion and legendary. Prior to his emergence music had been much more solemn.

The band's well organised and slick arrangement and Yoruba and Latin America influenced dance rhythm contributed in his rise to the height of the Jùjú and musical arena in the



country. In 1962, he released the hit *Salome* under Decca records. He also released other popular hits including one about Chief Awolowo, who was incarcerated at the time the song was released.

The band made use of an amplified accordion, which was played by I.K., and he was the first high profile musician to play the accordion. Other musical instruments used by the group included electric guitar, talking drum, double toy, akuba, ogido, clips, maracas, agogo (bell), and the samba (a square shaped drum).

**Emmanuel Ifeajuna (November 25, 1930 – September 22, 1967)** was the first ever Nigerian athlete to win gold in an international tournament,



setting a record in the process. At the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Vancouver, Ifeajuna, a graduate from the University of Ibadan, set a new Commonwealth record when he became the first Commonwealth athlete to clear six feet and nine inches. At the games held at the Empire Stadium in Vancouver a total of 29 athletics events were contested, 20 by men and 9 by women. Coming before independence in 1960, this made Ifeajuna Nigeria's first and only pre-independence gold winner.



**Teslimi Balogun (1927 – 30 July, 1972)** was a Nigerian football player and coach. He played

at both professional and international levels as a striker before becoming Africa's first qualified professional football coach – and coached the

Olympic football team in 1968. During his playing time in Nigeria, Teslim, nicknamed

Thunder Balogun because of his fierce shot, won the Challenge Cup five times and was the

first player to score a hat-trick in the final (1953). He played for the national team for 12 years and represented QPR, scoring three times in 13 appearances.





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**Abubakar Tafawa-Balewa (December 1912 – January 15, 1966)** Was Nigeria's only ever prime minister, who introduced numerous reforms, including the founding of the University of Lagos and the conversion of the derelict Victoria Island into an upmarket housing estate. He was



an important leader in the formation of the Organisation of African Unity and was also instrumental in negotiations during the Congo crisis of 1960 to 1964. Sir Balewa, who was knighted by Elizabeth II in 1960, led a vocal protest against the Sharpeville Massacre and also entered into an alliance with Commonwealth ministers who wanted South Africa expelled in 1961.

**Michael Okpara, (December 25, 1920 – December 17, 1984)** was the premier of Nigeria's Eastern region during the First Republic, serving from 1959 to 1966. At 39, Dr Okpara was the nation's youngest premier and was a strong advocate of what he called



pragmatic socialism, believing that agricultural reform was crucial to the ultimate success of Nigeria. Dr Okpara acquired and managed a large farm in his hometown, which inspired many Eastern Nigerian leaders to follow suit. He never owned a house of his own while he was in government and when the Nigerian civil war ended, Dr Okpara went into exile in Ireland. Before his return from exile in 1979, his close associates contributed to build him a house in his village Umuegwu.

**Jaja Wachuku (January 1, 1918 – November 7, 1996)** was Nigeria's first speaker of the House of Representatives, first aviation minister and first

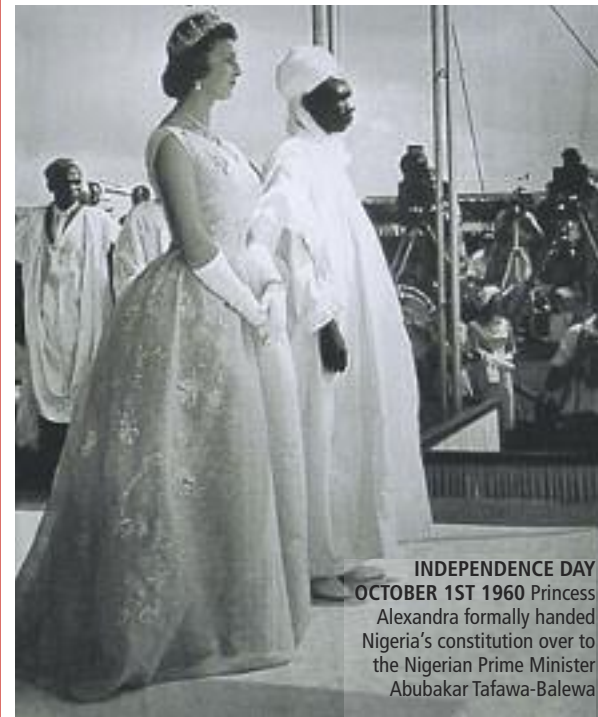


foreign minister. Among his achievements are the founding of Nigeria Airways, opening Nigeria's permanent mission at the United Nations and helping to lower the Union Jack at independence on October 1 1960. On

Thursday September 30, 2010, President Goodluck Jonathan conferred on Wachuku a posthumous special Golden Jubilee Independence Anniversary Award for his outstanding contributions towards Nigerian development.

## INDEPENDENCE 1960

After the amalgamation came the the day of destiny that freed Nigeria from colonial rule



**INDEPENDENCE DAY  
OCTOBER 1ST 1960** Princess Alexandra formally handed Nigeria's constitution over to the Nigerian Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa-Balewa



**INDEPENDENCE NIGHT** when the British flag was solemnly hauled down



**TIME OCTOBER 1960:** Featuring Abubakar Tafawa-Balewa

**General Yakubu Gowon (October 19, 1934 – present)** A

graduate of Sandhurst, Gowon became Nigeria's chief of army staff in January 1966 and in July that year, he became Nigeria's youngest ever head of state at the tender age of 32. Chief among Gowon's achievements were his ability to keep Nigeria united during the civil war, and ensure that when the war ended there were no pogroms against the defeated Biafran population. In accepting Biafra's unconditional cease-fire, Gowon said there would be no victor and no vanquished and declared a period of rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation. After he was overthrown in a military coup in 1975, General Gowon went into exile in the UK, gaining a PhD in political science at the University of Warwick. He left office penniless and homeless, until his friends found him accommodation. He lived in north London



and became part the English community in his area, where he served a term as a church warden in his local church.

**Moses Adekoyejo Majekodunmi (August 17, 1916 – April 11, 2012)** was Minister of Health in the Nigerian First Republic. He was appointed sole administrator of Western Region in June 1962

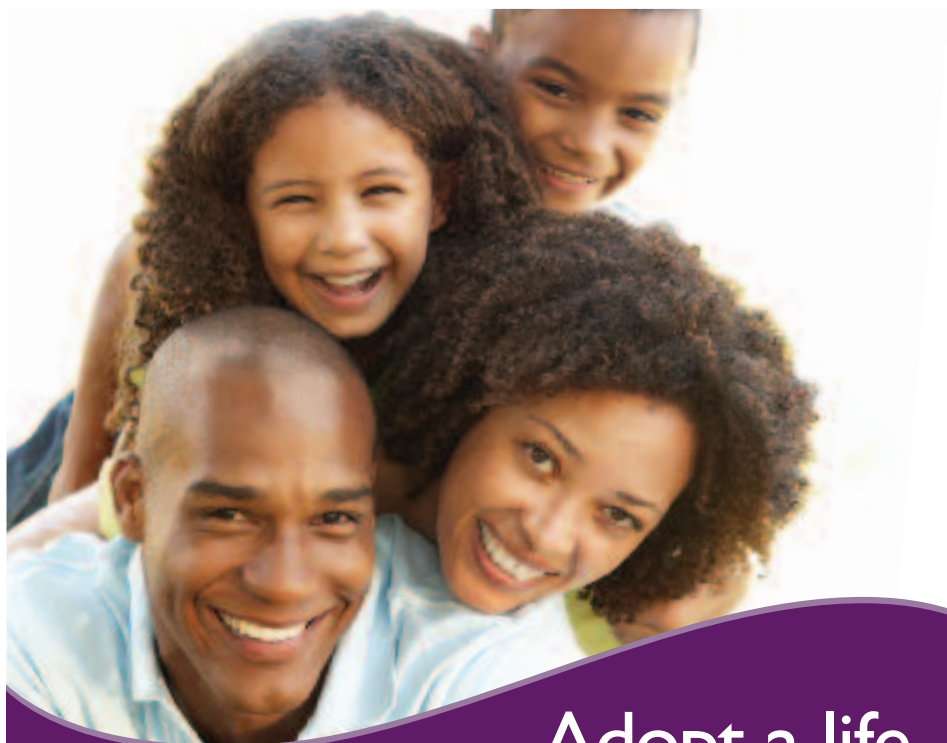


after a political crisis in the region, acting as peacemaker between the rival factions of Samuel Akintola and Obafemi Awolowo, which had led to violent scenes in the House of Assembly. After the situation had stabilised, Akintola resumed office on 1 January 1963.

As an Oloye of the Yoruba people, he held the titles of the Mayegun of Lagos and the Otun Balogun of the Christians of Egbaland. He also founded Saint Nicholas Hospital in Lagos, which opened in March 1968.



Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa of Nigeria (holding a bust of President Abraham Lincoln) White House, Washington, D.C. during his official visit to the USA on invitation from US president John F Kennedy, July 1961



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The Prime Minister and the Governor-General witnessed the flag ceremony from a small rostrum to which they had marched in step, both in white. They were two still figures standing to attention as Nigeria's hymn-like national anthem was given its first public airing.



**Brigadier Zakariya Maimalari (January 17, 1930 – January 15, 1966)** was Nigeria's first Sandhurst-trained soldier, who was commissioned into the army as an officer in 1953. He and Umar Lawan were the first two soldiers to train at the illustrious and elite British military academy but Umar left the service before 1960, so at independence, Maimalari was the undisputed first and as such was highly revered by the rank-and-file. He was seen as a soldier's soldier and was reputed to demand and get absolute loyalty from his men. He was reputed to be a fierce disciplinarian and intimidating character who would not tolerate any disobedience from his subordinates. Northern non-commissioned officers in particular revered Maimalari as a mythical figure and a perfect role model. He rose rapidly through the ranks becoming a Major within eight years and after that it took him only two years to become a Brigadier.



**Major General Adeyinka Adebayo (March 9, 1928 – present)** is another British-trained soldier who excelled while studying in the UK. Major General Adebayo was commissioned into the Royal West African Frontier Force as the 23rd West African military officer with number WA23 and seventh Nigerian military officer with number N7 after completing the War Office Cadet Training in Eaton Hall, England. He later attended the Staff College course in Camberley in 1960 and the prestigious Imperial Defence College,



London in late 1965 where he was the only African officer. Between July 1966 and 1971, Major General Adebayo served as the military governor of the Western State, being in office throughout the duration of the Nigerian Civil War. Since the Second Republic, he has been a dominant political figure in Nigeria.

**Lt Col Adekunle Fajuyi (June 26, 1926 – July 29, 1966)** joined the Nigerian Army in 1943 as a non-commissioned officer, having worked as a clerk. He was then trained at the now defunct Eaton Hall in the UK between July 1954 and November 1954 when he was short service commissioned lieutenant. His commission was backdated to March 1952 because of his excellence, that won him many accolades. In 1951, he was awarded the British Empire Medal for helping to contain a mutiny in his unit over food rations. In 1961, as the C Company commander with the 4QONR in a peacekeeping



mission in Congo, Major Fajuyi was awarded the Military Cross for actions in North Katanga and extricating his unit from an ambush. Upon completion of Congo operations Fajuyi became the first indigenous Battalion Commander of the First Battalion of the Nigerian Army in Enugu, a position he held until just before the first coup of January 1966 when he was posted to Abeokuta as garrison commander. When Major General Ironsi emerged as the new commander in chief on January 17 1966, he appointed Lt Col Fajuyi as the first military governor of the Western Region. Lt Col Fajuyi is famed for volunteering to die with major General Ironsi when he was killed in the coup of July 1966.

**Florence Nwapa (January 13 1931 – October 16 1993)** was Nigeria's first ever published female author and while she never thought of herself a feminist, she is best known for her acclaimed representations of the life and traditions of African women. Ms Nwapa's book *Efuru*, published in 1966, became Africa's first internationally published female novel in the English language. She has been called the mother of modern African literature. She went on to become the first African woman publisher when she founded Tata Press.

Ms Nwapa is also known for her work in reconstruction after the Nigerian Civil War, re-

settling the displaced during the war. She was born in Oguta in modern day Imo State, which was then famed for producing educated women in Nigeria, producing female graduates at a time when very few other towns in Nigeria did.



**HAROLD MACMILLAN:** Visiting Nigeria in January 1960 before making his "Wind of Change" speech in Capetown, South Africa, where he acknowledged that black people in Africa were, quite rightly, claiming the right to rule themselves, and suggested that it was a responsibility of the British government to promote the creation of societies in which the rights of all individuals were upheld.

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**Christopher Okigbo (August 16, 1930 – September 20, 1967)** was a poet, who died fighting for the independence of Biafra. He is today widely acknowledged as the outstanding post-colonial English-language African poet and one of the major modernist writers of the 20th century. Despite his father's devout Christianity, Okigbo felt a special affinity to his maternal grandfather, a priest of Idoto, an Igbo deity personified in the river of the same name that flowed through his village. Later on in life, he came to believe that his grandfather's soul was reincarnated in him and the water goddess figures prominently in his work *Heavensgate*, which was published in 1962.



life, he came to believe that his grandfather's soul was reincarnated in him and the water goddess figures prominently in his work *Heavensgate*, which was published in 1962.

**John Pepper-Clark (April 6, 1935 – present)** is a radical poet and playwright who used a complex interweaving of indigenous African imagery and that of the Western literary tradition to make his mark. He is also the author of the controversial book *America, Their America*, published in 1964, a travelogue in which he criticises American society and its values, which caused a global furor. As one of Africa's pre-eminent and distinguished authors, he has, since his retirement, continued to play an active



role in literary affairs. In 1991, he received the Nigerian National Merit Award for literary excellence and Howard University then decided to publish two definitive volumes, *The Ozidi Saga* and *Collected Plays and Poems 1958 to 1988*.

**Ola Rotimi, (April 13, 1938 – August 18, 2000)** was a leading playwright and theatre director who has frequently been called a complete man of the theatre. He served as an actor, director, choreographer and designer and created performance spaces, influenced by traditional architectural forms.



Rotimi often examined Nigeria's history and local traditions in his works. His first plays *To Stir the God of Iron*, produced in 1963, and *Our Husband Has Gone Mad Again*, produced in 1966, were staged at the drama schools of Boston University and Yale, respectively. Upon returning to Nigeria in the 1960s, Rotimi taught at the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), where he founded the Ori Olokun Acting Company. Owing, in part, to political conditions in Nigeria, Rotimi spent much of the 1990s living in the Caribbean and the US, where he taught at Macalester College in St Paul, Minnesota. In 2000 he returned to Ile-Ife, where he lectured till his demise.

**Gambo Sawaba (January 20, 1933 – October 14, 2001)** was a veteran human rights campaigner, whose advocacy for human and civil rights dates back to the First Republic when she was a member of the Northern Elements Progressive Union (NePU), which she joined because it identified with the working class and poor. Gambo's political activities during the period earned the wrath of both the colonial authorities and the native administrations, which resulted in her being incarcerated more than a dozen times. Her biography detailed several instances of beatings and assaults attributed to the ruling Northern People's Congress. Gambo Sawaba is also known for some of her charitable causes on behalf of children and also for her views on women's liberation.



'Omowale' Malcolm X visited Nigeria in 1964 – there he was given the name Omowale by the Yoruba people meaning, the child has returned home

## THE LION KING OF AFRICA

*Continued from page 3* “And Nigeria is blessed with some of the most entrepreneurial people in the world – what's the excuse for not engaging with the goods and services the rest of Africa is crying out for. The great trading routes of Africa were inter-African and focused on Nigeria. Nigeria will grow rich through the study of its own history.”

Lord Boateng was followed by Dr Patrick F Wilmot, who echoed the point about good governance. A graduate of Yale and Vanderbilt, Dr Wilmot taught Sociology at Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria for eighteen years. When he took up residence in Nigeria in the 70s he believed the then all-conquering Super Eagles' would win the world cup by 1990, and that by now the Nigerian economy would be on a par with France.

“I chose to teach in Nigeria because I had faith in the Nigerian people. If Nigeria hasn't achieved what it should have achieved it is not because of the intelligence and integrity of the ordinary Nigerian people,” he said.

All across the world Nigerians hold key positions and “run the places”. This is a problem. “Instead of nurturing its talent Nigeria keeps exporting its best brains,” he said.

“If Nigerian leaders stopped fighting amongst themselves for money and power and instead devoted themselves to the welfare of their people and country they could fulfil the promise of a nation blessed with human and material resources and then Nigeria would no longer be the butt of the joke that God has given Nigeria everything

except good leaders.”

He told the joke. When the rest of the world lobbied God and complained he had given Nigeria the best of everything, God calmed the clamour by saying, “Don't worry, wait until you see the leaders I have given them.”

And that became the burning question for the evening; how does Nigeria get good leaders? And the answer was simple, articulated by Dr Wilmot, “Only you, the Nigerian people can determine the kind of leadership you want.”

The final words went to Lord Boateng, who again quoted extensively from Azikiwe. He told the gathering to a rapturous response, “The challenge of Nigeria as a free state is the need to revive the state of man in Africa and restore the dignity of man in the world. Nigerians believe passionately in fundamental human rights. They regard all races of the human family as equal.

“And then he made this appeal to his fellow Nigerians,” continued Lord Boateng, listing all the key figures from the era, who had forged independence

with him, such as Balewa, Awolowo, Ohukwu, Akintola, Kanu. “Come and join [us]. Let us bind the Nation's wounds and heal the breeches of the past so that in forging our nation there shall emerge on this continent a hate-free, fear-free and, importantly, a greed-free people who shall be the vanguard of a world task force whose assignment is not only to revive the stature of man in Africa but to restore the dignity of man in the world.”

“That is unfinished business. We, the people of Africa, Nigerians, the diaspora, Ghana, must not let the likes of Azikiwe down.”



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## NIGERIA'S SOCIAL CONSCIENCE – THE KUTIS



L-R Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, Beko Ransome-Kuti

**Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti (October 25, 1900 – April 13, 1978)** was a teacher, political campaigner, women's rights activist and traditional aristocrat. Her political activism led to her being described as the doyenne of female rights in Nigeria. Early on, she was a very powerful force advocating for the Nigerian woman's right to vote and became the first Nigerian woman to drive a car. She was described in 1947 as the Lioness of Lisabi for her leadership of the women of Abeokuta when she led a campaign against their arbitrary taxation. That struggle led to the abdication of the king Oba Ademola II in 1949. Mrs Ransome-Kuti was the mother of the activists; musician Fela Anikulapo Kuti, Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti and Nigeria's former health minister Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti. She was also grandmother of Fela's two musicians sons Femi and Seun.

THE RANSOME-KUTIS IN THE 40S L-R: Rev Israel, Dolu (standing behind), Fela (standing in front), FRK holding baby Beko, and Olikoye.



Vintage Nigeria

**Beko Ransome-Kuti (August 2, 1940 – February 10, 2006)** was a Nigerian medical doctor known for his work as a human rights activist. Trained at Manchester University, where he became a medical doctor, Dr Ransome-Kuti returned to Nigeria in 1963 and was deeply affected by the



L-R Fela Kuti, Femi Kuti and Seun Kuti

events of 1977 when soldiers under the orders of Olusegun Obasanjo's military government stormed his brother Fela Kuti's nightclub, destroyed his medical clinic and killed his mother. He became chairman of the Lagos branch of the Nigerian Medical Association and later its national secretary and then deputy chairman, campaigning against the lack of drugs in hospitals. Beko was a fellow of the West African College of Physicians and Surgeons, a leading figure in the British Commonwealth's human rights committee, the chairman of the Nigerian Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, which he helped found and the executive director of the Centre for Constitutional Governance. In 1995, a military tribunal sentenced him to life in prison for bringing the mock trial of Olusegun Obasanjo to the attention of the world. He was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International and then freed in 1998 following the death of General Sani Abacha, the de facto President.



FELA KUTI with his mother Funmilayo

**Femi Kuti (June 16, 1962 – present)** is the oldest son of Afrobeat pioneer and legend Fela and like his father has become an internationally renowned musician with his own band Positive Force. He has continued his father's political activity, playing a leading role in the fuel protests of 2012 and speaking out about the civil war in the Congo.

**Seun Kuti (January 11, 1983 – present)** started his musical career as a child, when he acted as a sort of mascot for his father and would sing a few songs backed by Egypt 80 before Fela took to the stage. He continues to play both original material and covers of Fela songs, backed by his many members of his father's band. He joined Femi on the frontline of the fuel protests.

**Fela Kuti (1938-1997)** The great man needs no introduction. He has shaped not just the music but the history of Nigeria with songs such as *Lady* and *ITT*. Socio-political to the core, he brought a conscience to African music and despite many a great loss, including the killing of his mother by the Nigerian military, he still kept his musical integrity up until his death from AIDS in 1997.

**“A Nigerian senator just told me, ‘If even only 5,000 Nigerians started imitating Fela, it would soon be very chaotic here!’**

**Fela replied, ‘No, it would be a revolution!’”**

Fela Kuti speaking to Carlos Moore, author of his biography *This Bitch of a Life*

**Bala Usman (January 11, 1945 – September 24, 2005)** was a university lecturer at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, who strode the Nigerian political space with his uncompromising views. Blue-blooded, Dr Usman was famed for shunning the opulence and privilege he could have enjoyed to side with the masses. He was not just an intellectual but



also a democrat, a freedom fighter, and a lover of peace and justice. He declined the lucrative

jobs his royal status guaranteed him and chose to be a common classroom teacher, starting as a secondary school teacher at Barewa College, Zaria, from where he was mentored and poached by Professor Abdullahi Smith, the then head and founder of the Department of History, ABU. Usman developed a new approach to history; championing the learning of African rather than colonial history and demanding that sources other than books, such as oral and archaeological, be used to reveal the past. He left ABU in 1980, to serve as secretary to the government of Kaduna State under the civilian regime of Governor Balarabe Musa.

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**Olusegun Obasanjo (March 5, 1938 – present)** is a former Nigerian army general and former president of Nigeria, who served as a military ruler between February 13, 1976 and October 1, 1979, and as a democratically elected president from May 29, 1999 to May 29, 2007. Obasanjo, who received the Biafran instrument of surrender after the Nigerian civil war is the only Nigerian to have handed over power both as a military leader and as an elected president. The day Obasanjo took office as the first elected and civilian head of state in Nigeria after 16 years of military rule, is now commemorated as Democracy Day, a public holiday in Nigeria. He remains a grandee and political heavyweight in the ruling PDP party.



**Dauda Adegbenro (1909 – September 25, 1975)** is one of Nigeria's most exemplary politicians, who conducted himself with dignity and restraint during the Western Region crisis of the First Republic. Despite being rigged out of office by the NPC/NCNC government in favour of their stooge Ladoke Akintola, Alhaji Adegbenro refused to rabble rouse. Even when the judiciary was compromised, he stood firm. He had overwhelming support in the region and could easily have dislodged Akintola and his supporters from Government House Ibadan if he wanted to. Adegbenro was elected into the Western House of Assembly in 1951 and later to the Federal House of Representatives that same year. In 1954, he was appointed as the parliamentary secretary to the minister for justice and local government before rising to the position of regional minister for lands and later local government.



**Lateef Jakande, (July 23, 1929 – present)** was a journalist who became the Lagos State governor between 1979-1983 and later the minister of works under General Sani Abacha's military regime. He is credited with widespread infrastructural development in Lagos State, including a massive school building programme. During his stay in office, Alhaji Jakande refused to use a government car or live in an official house.



**Tunde Idiagbon (September 14, 1942 – March 24, 1999)** was a Nigerian army officer and the number two in the military government of General Muhammadu Buhari (1983-85). In this role he was responsible for implementing the War Against Indiscipline, which was a campaign to eradicate corruption and disorderliness in Nigerian life. After 20 months in power, the government of General



Buhari was overthrown and Idiagbon was placed under house arrest for three years. After his release, he returned to civilian life in his hometown of Ilorin, where he died in 1999 of an unknown illness after returning from a conference. Rumours have it that he died from poisoning.

**Murtala Muhammed (November 8, 1938 – February 13, 1976)** was Nigeria's military head of state between July 1975 and February 1976, during which short time he initiated numerous reforms aimed at expanding the country's economy, clamping down on corruption, developing infrastructure and controlling inflation. His policies won him broad popular support, and his decisiveness elevated him to the status of a folk hero among the general populace. Among other things, it was General Muhammed who took the decision to move Nigeria's capital from Lagos to Abuja. He was a passionate anti-apartheid campaigner who believed Nigeria should develop nuclear weapons to protect herself from a possible South African attack. His portrait adorns Nigeria's N20 note and the international airport in Lagos is named after him.



**Gabriel Igbinedion (September 11, 1934 – present)** is a household name in Nigeria, whose business empire comprises scores of companies across media, shipping, aviation, construction, hospitals and manufacturing, employing thousands. Established in December 1976 under a franchise agreement with Canada Dry, Okada Dry was the first indigenous soft drinks bottling plant in Nigeria. It has since become independent and currently produces more than 8m bottles and 2m crates of soft drinks a year, employing more than 1,500 staff.



President Carter welcomed to Nigeria by Lt. General Obasanjo 1978



**Benson Idahosa (September 11, 1938 – March 12, 1998)** was a charismatic preacher and founder of the Church of God Mission International, and regarded as the father of Pentecostalism in Nigeria. By 1971, he had established churches all over Nigeria and Ghana. Known for his boldness, power and prosperity-based preaching, as well as an enormous faith in the supernatural, he was instrumental in the strong revival of Chris-

tianity and marked conversions from animism that occurred between the 1970-1990s in Nigeria. Many prominent Nigerian pastors like Ayo Oritsejafor, David Oyedepo, Felix Omobude, Fred Addo, Bishop Mike Okonkwo and Chris Oyakhilome were his protégés. His ministry, the Faith Miracle Centre, Lagos, has a cathedral that seats up to 10,000 people.

**Bobby Benson (April 11, 1922 – May 14, 1983)** was one of the most influential Nigerian musicians, as it was he who brought the electric guitar to Nigeria. After leaving school, he became a sailor in the Merchant Navy and in 1944 he left his ship in London, where he made his debut with the Negro Ballet, touring several European capitals. When he returned to Nigeria in 1947, he came back with his guitar and amp and established The Bobby Benson and Cassandra Theatrical Party; he would play guitar and saxophone while his wife danced. In the 1950s, he expanded his band to 11 members, including a horn section, and began playing in the popular highlife style. Bobby was an entertainer as well as a singer and he had a TV show in the 1970s, where he performed as a stand-up comedian and magician. His song *Taxi Driver* became a classic hit across West Africa.



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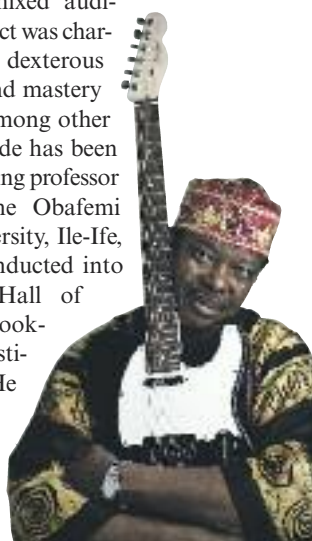


**Chief Commander Ebenezer Obey (April 3, 1942 – present)** was reputedly Nigeria's first multi-platinum selling recording star. With more than 30 albums to his name, the Commander is famed for taking on the role of public messenger at key moments in Nigeria's history. His *Naira and Kobo* taught many Nigerians how to calculate the exchange rate when the currency was introduced to replace sterling. His *Alo Mi Alo* performed a similar feat when Nigeria's traffic laws changed, and people were required to drive on the left rather than the right. And, of course, *Operation Feed the Nation*. He had scores of hits in the 60s and 70s playing highlife-Jùjú fusion with his band the Inter-Reformers. Obey is also renowned for Christian spiritual themes in his music and has since the early-1990s retired into Nigerian gospel music ministry.



**King Sunny Ade (September 22, 1946 – present)** born as Sunday Adeniyi but popularly known to his millions of fans worldwide as King Sunny Ade, the Jùjú musician was

once described by *The New York Times* as one of the world's great band leaders. He is a pioneer of modern Yoruba Jùjú music and has been classed as one of the most influential musicians of all time – a founding father of what is now called World Music. Sunny Ade left grammar school in Ondo under the pretence of going to the University of Lagos, where his mercurial musical career started. In the 1970s and 1980s Sunny Ade embarked on a tour of America and Europe where he played to mixed audiences. His stage act was characterised by dexterous dancing steps and mastery of the guitar. Among other things, Sunny Ade has been appointed a visiting professor of music at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, and has been inducted into the Afropop Hall of Fame at the Brooklyn African Festival in the US. He later dedicated the award to Michael Jackson.



**Sunny Okosun (1947 – 2008)** Sonny Okosun is known for combining political views in his music with songs such as *Fire In Soweto*. *Highlife* is also another renowned record. He sadly passed away of colon cancer on 24 May, 2008. For part of his career he performed as Evangelist Sonny Okosun, having moved over to a more gospel sound.



**Ola Balogun (August 1, 1945 – present)** is a Nigerian filmmaker and scriptwriter. He also ventured into the Nigerian music industry in 2001. Balogun, who has been making films for over three decades, is part of the first generation of Nigerian filmmakers. A pioneer of Nigerian filmmaking, Balogun produced his first films in the early 1970s. His 1981 film *For Freedom!* was entered into the 12th Moscow International Film Festival.



**Gabriel Okara (April 24, 1921 – present)** is a poet and novelist who was awarded the Commonwealth Poetry Prize in 1979. His most famous poem is *Piano and Drums* but his *You Laughed and Laughed and Laughed* is a frequent feature of anthologies. Okara is very concerned with what happens when the ancient culture of Africa is faced with modern Western culture and makes this point passionately in his poem *Once Upon a Time*. He pursues that theme in his novel *The Voice* in which its protagonist Okolo, like countless post-colonial Africans, is hunted by society and haunted by his own ideals. In addition to his poetry and fiction, Okara has also written plays and features for broadcasting. Unfortunately, many of his manuscripts were destroyed during the Nigerian Civil War as he worked for the Biafra propaganda Directorate and was constantly on the move during the crisis.



**Patti Boulaye (born Patricia Ngozi Ebigwe, May 3, 1954 – present)** After Boulaye's starring role in African movie *Bisi, Daughter of the River* – which is said to be the biggest grossing African movie ever made, running in the cinemas in Nigeria for three years – she rose to prominence as a singer after winning the British TV talent show *New Faces*, where she made history by becoming the only contestant ever to receive the



maximum 120 points. In Nigeria, she was the face of Lux; and *The Patti Boulaye Show* was shown on several NTA stations.

She wrote and produced of the West End musical *Sun Dance* – which took 12 years to put together – a celebration of “the colours and music of Africa in a display of ceremonial dances, rituals and initiation ceremonies, all played out to the beat of African drums”.

**Power Mike (August 8, 1939 – March 11, 2004)** whose real name is Michael Okpala, was a wrestler who retired as the undefeated world heavyweight wrestling champion. After finishing primary school in 1952,



he left his village for Onitsha, where he joined the Dick Tiger Boxing Club as a middleweight amateur boxer. Later, he switched to wrestling and took on the name Power Mike. He wrestled with and defeated Ali Baba of Lebanon in 1973 and later beat world greats like Johnny Kwango, Power Jack, Joseph Kovacs, Judd Harris and John Tiger of Canada. After retiring, he founded Power Mike International Promotions and brought foreign wrestlers like Mill Mascaras, Dick the Bulldog Brower, Buddy Rose, Michael Hayes, Mighty Igor, The Mongols, Carlos Colon, Chris Adams and Thunderbolt Williams to fight in Nigeria.

**Segun Odegbami (August 27, 1952 – present)** popularly known as Mathematical Odegbami for the precision of his crosses from the right wing, Odegbami is a former Super Eagles captain who won 46 caps and scored 23 goals for the national team. He guided Nigeria to its first Africa Cup of Nations title at the 1980 tournament. Odegbami played for IICC Shooting Stars of Ibadan for all of his career from 1970-84. His last game was the 1984 African Champions Cup final defeat to Zamalek of Egypt. Since taking his leave of the field he has been a champion for school sports and arch columnist.



**Aliko Dangote (April 10, 1957 – present)** is Africa's wealthiest man with an estimated net worth of \$20.8bn (at the time of going to press), and rated the 43rd richest man in the world by Forbes. The owner of the Dangote Group, which started out as a small trading firm in 1977, he now has interests in commodities with operations in several African countries, including Benin, Cameroon, Togo, Ghana, South Africa and Zambia. He is a driving force in the development of Nigeria – manufacturing cement and developing an oil refinery. Latterly Dangote has become a great philanthropist and has also reportedly given away \$100m of his fortune to charity in recent years. Causes he supports include flood relief, health-care, and poverty reduction.



**ARTS FESTIVALS** Prior to 1977's FESTAC, which celebrated the arts and culture from the worldwide African diaspora, Nigeria held the annual All-Nigeria Festival of Arts and Culture, meant to re-unify Nigerians after the divisive era of the 1960s. The inaugural festival convened at Ibadan in 1971, with subsequent sessions in Kaduna and Lagos.

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## THE RISE OF NIGERIAN FINE ART



**AINA ONABOLU**  
Above: Self-portrait. Right: painting titled Portrait of a Man, 1955



**JUSTUS D. AKEREDOLU**  
Invented the genre of 'thorn carvings' where fine detailed carvings are made from a single piece of silk-cotton tree.



The history of fine art in Nigeria started with **Aina Onabolu (1881-1963)** as a leading figure who did not only start the art of drawing and painting but also fought single handedly to put art in the school curriculum in 1927.

Onabolu consciously went into art of figure drawing and painting to prove and disabuse the minds of the then Europeans who thought no African could dabble in that specific art form.

Other talented indigenous

**QUEEN ELIZABETH AND ENWONWU** with his 1956, commissioned bronze of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on display at the Royal Society of British Artists Gallery. It now stands at the entrance of the Parliament Buildings in Lagos.



artists of the period who equally made their distinct landmark in the propagation of visual art include **Akinola Lasekan (1921-1972)**, **Justus Akeredolu (1915-present)**, **Ben Enwonwu (1921 - 1994)**, and **Etsu Ngbodaga**.

The late 1950s and early 1960s witnessed in Nigeria's art history the beginning of radical revolution in visual art. The periods consciously saw a change of art style from ancient traditions and the jet-tioning of western-style realism.

The new consciousness ushered in what was referred to as the "New African" concept, which simply means a mixing of traditions and modernism, the philosophy which was later developed as "Natural Synthesis". This philosophy was the first formal Art School in Nigeria.

Today Nigerian art is regularly sold through high auction houses such as Bonhams and features in exhibitions at major galleries, such as the Tate Modern in London.



**THE ENWONWU CRATER** on the planet Mercury is named in his honour of the painter. Sean Solomon of the Carnegie Institution of Washington stated upon naming 15 features on Mercury that; "These latest names honour a diverse suite of some of the most accomplished contributors to mankind's higher aspirations." January 2008



**AKINOLA LASEKAN** Dancers (1944)

**Nico Mbarga (January 1, 1950 – June 24, 1997)** was a highlife musician who transformed Nigerian music irrevocably with his hit song *Sweet Mother*, which remains the most successful



African hit to date. Born to a Nigerian mother and a Cameroonian father in Abakaliki, Prince Nico Mbarga recorded with his band Rocafil Jazz and in 1976, released *Sweet Mother*, which sold more than 13m copies. Temporarily relocating to England in

1982, Mbarga became known for his flamboyant, 1970s glam rock-inspired performances. Mbarga owned, Hotel Calabar and the Sweet Mother Hotel in Onitsha, which he managed in later life. He was killed in a motorcycle accident on June 24, 1997.



## "Sweet mother I no go forget you, for the suffer wey you suffer for me" Lyrics from *Sweet Mother* by Nico Mbarga



**Oliver De Coque (1947 – 2008)** is known as a foremost exponent of Nigerian Highlife and for popularising the Ogene dance style of the genre. Hits include *Biri Ka Mbiri* and *Identity*, which have recently been successfully remixed in a hiphop style by his son Safin De Coque. He also played on Prince Nico Mbarga's *Sweet*

*Mother* album. He recorded 73 albums in his lifetime.



**Ayinde Barrister (February 9, 1948 – December 16, 2010)** is one of the few Nigerian musicians to have been awarded an international doctorate degree, when the City University of Los Angeles in California awarded him a PhD. Renowned for his unique brand of Yoruba music known as Fuji, which combines amplified dance music with Jùjú, apala, and traditional Yoruba blues tunes, Barrister led a 25-piece band called the Supreme Fuji Commanders. Although he briefly attended Yaba Polytechnic, in 1961, financial difficulties prevented him from continuing and he left to join the Nigerian army between 1967-1970. Barrister recorded many groundbreaking singles during the 1970s and 1980s. His heartfelt vocals are set to a rhythmic mix of talking drums, claves, bells and Hawaiian-style guitar. His fuji music is named after Mount Fuji, the Japanese mountain of love. Barrister died at St Mary's Hospital in London after a protracted illness.

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**Balarabe Musa (August 21, 1936 – present)** is a left-wing politician who was elected Kaduna State governor in 1979. He is currently the leader of the Conference of Nigerian Political Parties, a coalition of opposition parties, and has been a consistent critic of Nigerian governments, attacking the ostentation of the country's rulers.



**Enoch Adeboye (March 2, 1942 – present)** is the general overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), one of the largest Nigerian pentecostal congregations. Pastor Adeboye has a PhD in applied mathematics from the University of Lagos and worked as a lecturer in mathematics at the universities of Lagos and Ilorin before dedicating his life to the church.



After joining the RCCG he began to translate from Yoruba into English the sermons of its then pastor and founder, Reverend Josiah Olufemi Akindayomi. In 1981 he was appointed general overseer, taking over from Pastor Akindayomi, who had died the

previous year. For three years he filled the role part-time, still lecturing at Ilorin. Since he took over, the church, which was not well known before, now claims branches in over 100 countries and has about 14,000 places of worship in Nigeria. Pastor Adeboye has stated that his aim is to put a church within five minutes of every person on earth. In 2008, *Newsweek* magazine named Pastor Adeboye one of the 50 most powerful people in the world.



**Major General Muhamadu Buhari (December 17, 1942 – present)** was the military ruler of Nigeria from December 31, 1983 to August 27, 1985. Buhari was a highly efficient civil war commander and revered as a soldier's soldier. Troops under his command were famed for their famous withdrawal from hostile Owerri territory during the Nigerian Civil war, securing very few casualties. Buhari is also one of the few Civil War com-



manders whose troops did not commit any atrocities during the conflict. As head of state he oversaw a regime of stringent "austerity measures", which were not greatly liked but in hindsight many analysts believe kept Nigeria afloat. Buhari was overthrown by corrupt elements in his government who were afraid of being brought to justice as his policies were beginning to yield tangible results in terms of public discipline, curbing corruption, lowering inflation, enhancing workforce and improving productivity. He remains active in politics today and is vying for the presidential nomination in 2015.

**Victor Uwaifo (1941 – present)**

His best-known songs, *Guitar Boy* and *Mami Water* were huge hits in the 60s. Mami Water was inspired by an encounter (which he has long maintained actually occurred) with a 'mami water' (mermaid) while lounging on Bar Beach in Lagos. He also served as commissioner for arts and culture in Edo State under the government of Lucky Igbinedion. Renowned for playing the guitar with both feet and his tongue, he won the first Gold Disc in Nigeria for his song *Joromi* in 1996 and has a total of 12 gold discs. He was appointed as a Member of the Order of the Niger (MON) and is a Justice of the Peace.



**Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida (November 24, 1940 – present)** is Nigeria's current High Commissioner in the UK. Following a distinguished medical career as a surgeon and consultant – including being the personal physician to President Shehu Shagari – he entered national politics in 1999 when he was elected Senator for the Kaduna North constituency of Kaduna State. After taking his seat in the Senate in June 1999, Dr Tafida was appointed to committees on Rules & Procedures (chairman), Science & Technology, Health, Agriculture and Drug & Narcotics. On his return to the Senate in 2003 he was made Leader of the House. During his terms he proved forward-looking, as exemplified by his securing funding for the then fledgling Nigeria Met Office. He has revolutionised the image of Nigeria in Britain through his sterling work as High Commissioner – robustly defending Nigeria when unfairly criticised, as occurred in a BBC documentary on Lagos, and overhauling the Mission, transforming it into both a splendid venue and centre of efficiency.



International Women of Courage Award 2013 presented to Joe Odumakin of Campaign for Democracy by Michelle Obama and Secretary of state John Kerry on International Women's day March 2013



**Major General Joseph Garba (July 17, 1943 – June 1, 2002)** was a Nigerian general who became a career diplomat and served as president of the United Nations General Assembly from 1989 to 1990. A celebrated pan-Africanist he was instrumental in ensuring the smooth transition to democratic control of the South African military in the post-apartheid era as director of the UN's Southern African Peacekeeping and Peacemaking Project. He rose to prominence in Nigeria when he announced the coup that removed President Gowon in 1975.

**Festus Iyayi (September, 29 1947 – November 12, 2013)** was a writer, lecturer and trade union activist known for his tough stance on social and political issues.



He came to international attention when his book *Heroes* won the Commonwealth Writers Prize. Dr Iyayi employed a realistic style of writing, depicting the social, political and moral environment and system both the rich and poor live and work in. He was also a former president of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (Asuu). In 1988, the union was briefly banned and Dr Iyayi was detained by the military government. Dr Iyayi died this year in a road accident when he was travelling to Kano to attend an Asuu meeting.

**Joe Okei-Odumakin (July 4, 1966 – present)** is the president of Nigeria's leading human rights group the Campaign for Democracy. Last year, she was honoured with the US Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award, which was presented to her by Michelle Obama. Dr Okei-Odumakin's consistency and unwavering determination for survival of democracy in Nigeria made



Professor Wole Soyinka describe her as a tireless fighter whose frail bearing belies an inner strength and resilience of purpose. He said she is a veteran of affirmative marches, of crude arrests and detentions, baton charges and tear gas, who has lent lustre to the struggle for justice and human dignity, who remains an inspiration of men and women, old and young. Dr Odumakin was the secretary of Women in Nigeria, Kwara State branch between 1988 to 1991. On November 25, 2010, the International Institute For Humanitarian And Environmental Law gave her an award in recognition of her selfless service. She also received an award in Imo State of Nigeria in November 2008 as The Defender of Women's Rights during the commemoration of 1929 Aba Women's War.

**Olusola Saraki (May 17, 1933 – November 14, 2012)** was a politician and doctor who went on to become one of Nigeria's most wealthy businessmen. In 1977, Olusola Saraki was elected as a member of the Constituent Assembly that produced the 1979 constitution. In 1979 he was elected a Senator and became Senate Leader. In 1983 Saraki was re-elected into the Senate on the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) platform. When an earlier bid to enter parliament as an independent in 1964 failed, he returned to practice as a doctor for the next 15 years. In 2001 he was head of a team from the Arewa Consultative Forum, a Northern cultural and political group, sent to







meet and discuss common goals with Northern state governors and other leaders. His business empire included Société Generale Bank (SGBN) where Saraki was chairman. In March 2003 it had its license temporarily suspended during investigations into money laundering. In 2011, Dr Saraki sold his palatial London home for £2.2m to fund his daughter's run for Kwara State governor.

**Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu (September 4, 1942 – present)** is a millionaire businessman and philanthropist who worked at the Harrel and Enic Construction Company, which he went on to buy. The business has since grown into a conglomerate of over 20 companies. He founded the Iwuanyanwu Nationale Football Club, now Heartland FC and The Champion Newspapers.



His wife of more than 40 years, Lady Eudora Iwuanyanwu, with whom he had three sons and five daughters, died on 28 August 2011, aged 63. She was described as critical to her husband's success. Chief Iwuanyanwu said of her, "As a patron of Cancer Society, she had recently expressed great concern over the large number of deaths due to prostate cancer and all other kinds of cancer. At a recent family meeting, she convinced me to build and donate to Nigeria 10 cancer screening and treatment centres, one in each of the six geo-political zones, and one in each of the five south-eastern states. This was scheduled to be announced on the September 4, 2011 but she died a week before it happened."



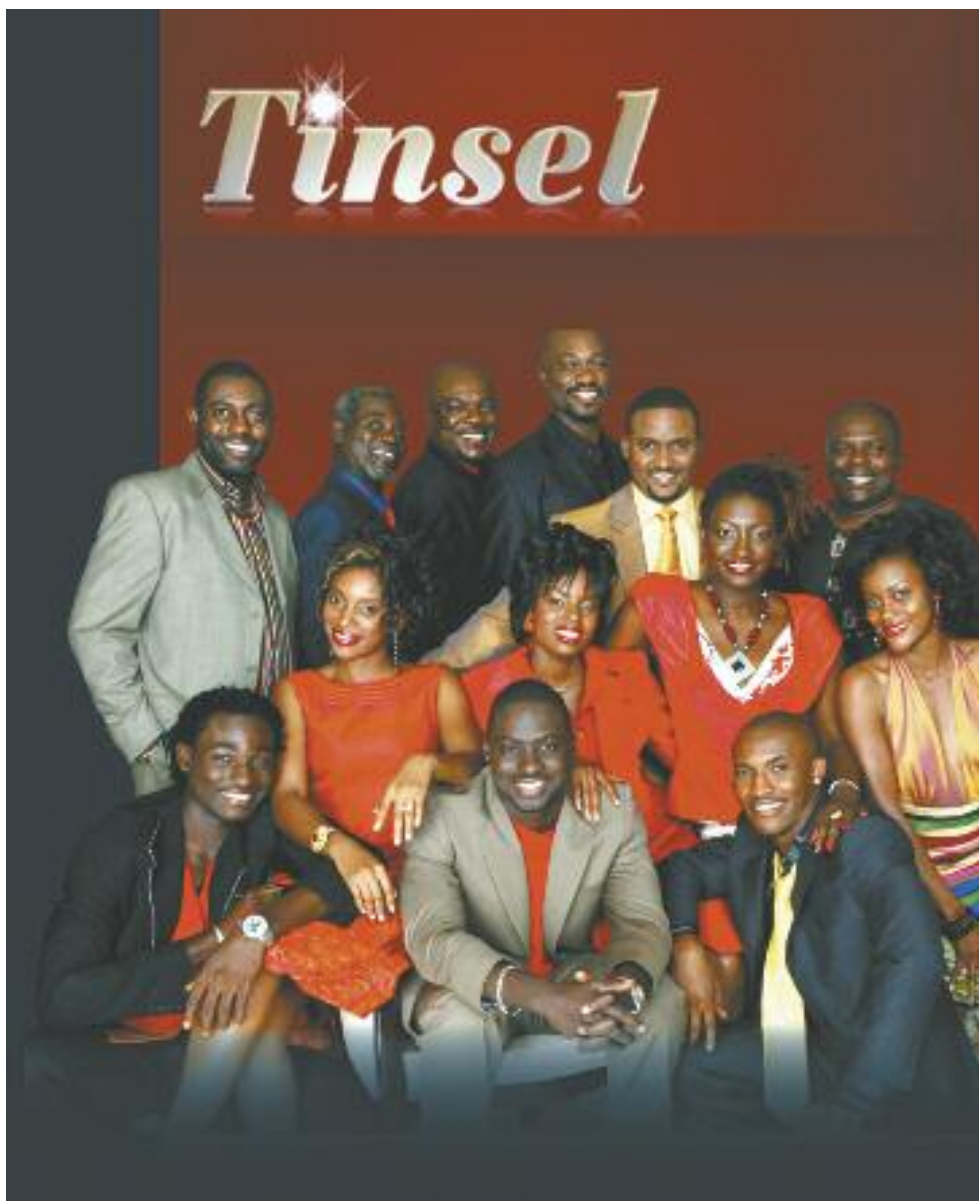
**Wole Soyinka (July 13, 1934 – present)** is the only African ever to have won the Nobel Prize for Literature, which he was honoured with in 1986. An internationally acclaimed writer, especially as a playwright and poet, Professor Soyinka has been a fierce critic of successive Nigerian governments and is a human rights campaigner. After studying in Nigeria and the UK, Professor Soyinka worked with the Royal Court Theatre in London and went on to write

plays that were produced in both countries, in theatres and on radio. He took an active role in Nigeria's political history and its struggle for independence from Great Britain. In 1965, he seized the Western Nigeria Broadcasting Service studio and broadcast a demand for the cancellation of the Western Nigeria regional elections. In 1967 during the Nigerian Civil War, he was arrested by the federal government and put in solitary confinement for two years.

## “The greatest threat to freedom is the absence of criticism” Wole Soyinka

**Sir Shina Peters (May 30, 1958 – present)** is a Nigerian Jùjú musician who pioneered the fusion of Jùjú and Afrobeat. Born Oluwashina Akanbi Peters in Ogun State, he began his career while playing the guitar with General Prince Adekunle. In the 1980s he formed his own band the Sir Shina Peters & His International Stars. Their first album release *Ace* (1989) went double platinum. The follow-up *Shinamania* (Afro-Juju Series 2) went on to confirm he had revolutionised the Jùjú music scene in Africa, creating the genre known as Afro Juju that exists in its own class to this day. He has released 16 albums. Sir Shina Peters & His International Stars have become a household name in the World Music genre, with huge fan bases in South Africa, Europe, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and United States.





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**Grace Alele-Williams (December 16, 1932 – present)** made history as the first Nigerian woman to become the head (vice-chancellor) of a Nigerian university, the University of Benin.

By serving in various committees and boards, Alele-Williams had made many contributions to the development of education in Nigeria, through roles on examination and curriculum review boards. She was also a member of governing council, UNESCO Institute of Education, and consultant to the Institute of International Education Planning. She was also vice-president of the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education and later president of the Nigerian chapter. Alele-Williams has published a book titled *Modern Mathematics Handbook for Teachers*.

**Professor Bolanle Awe (1933 – present)** is an academic and historian known for actively seeking better involvement of women in Nigeria's development. She won world renown as both a Professor of African Studies and activist on gender equality and poverty alleviation. She was also the first Director of Nigeria's National Commission for Women, established in 1989, where she led the implementation of programmes to facilitate and



enhance the advancement of women in Nigeria. Under her leadership special committees were established to help women achieve better education and empower them against domestic violence. The UN commended her for her work.

**Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola (August 24, 1937 – July 7, 1998)** was popularly referred to by his initials MKO, and is generally regarded to be the best President Nigeria never had. A self-made businessman, who went on to become one of Nigeria's wealthiest, his was a classic rags to riches story. And he never forgot the people. From 1972 until his death Moshood Abiola had been conferred with 197 traditional titles by 68 different communities in Nigeria, in response to his financial assistance to the construction of 63 secondary schools, 121 mosques and churches, 41 libraries, 21 water projects in 24 states of Nigeria. He was also grand patron to 149 societies or associations in Nigeria. And the people never forgot him, electing him to the Presidency with a landslide in 1993. Ibrahim



Ba b a g i n g a , however, refused to accept the result and imprisoned MKO. He died in suspicious circumstances in prison in 1998 on the day he was due for release. He is mourned to this day nationally and internationally, and in Ogun and Lagos June 12 remains a public holiday in his memory.

**"I believe there is enough in Nigeria to make everybody have a sense of belonging. There is no reason why any tribe or group should be an underclass in this country" MKO Abiola**



**1980 SUPEREAGLES**, Winners of the African Cup of Nations; Best Ogedegbe, Okey Isima, Muda Lawal, Christian Chukwu, Tunde Bamidele, Segun Odegbami, Aloysius Atuegbu, Felix Owolabi, Godwin Odiye, Adokiye Amiesimaka, Moses Effiong, Emmanuel Okala, Sylvanus Okpala, Ifeanyi Onyedika, Martin Eyo, John Orlando, Shefiu Mohammed, Charles Bassey, Henry Nwosu, Franck Onwuachi, Kadiri Ikhanu



**Christian Chukwu (January 4, 1951 – present)** is the former captain of the Super Eagles who led the team to its first ever African Cup of Nations triumph in 1980. Popularly known as **C h a i r m a n**, Chukwu is widely regarded as Nigeria's best ever centreback and it is

believed that had he played in Europe, he would have become a legend. After retiring from playing, Chukwu became a coach and managed the Super Eagles among other teams, which included the Kenyan national team, Lebanon and numerous club sides. At the 1980 African Cup of Nations, Chukwu was voted Player of the Tournament.

**Peter Konyegwachie (November 26, 1965 – present)** became Nigeria's first ever individual Olympic medalist when he won silver in the men's featherweight boxing category at the 1984 games in Los Angeles. Peter hails from Ogwashi-Uku, the same town as Jay Jay Okocha. After his Olympic success he turned professional in 1986 and won his first 15 fights prior to losing against journeyman Patrick Kamy in 1990. He retired after the bout.



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**Dora Akunyili (July 14, 1954 – present)** is the former director general of National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (Nafdac) and Nigeria's information minister between December 17, 2008 and December 15, 2010. She is a pharmacist and government administrator who has gained international recognition and won scores of awards for her work in pharmacology, public health and human rights. When Professor Akunyili took over leadership of Nafdac, she made the eradication of counterfeit drugs and unsafe food, which were then rife, her top priority. Typical of her selflessness she says of Nigeria "I can never sacrifice enough for this great country... that made me who I am today".

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**Lieutenant General Isaac Obiakor (February 18, 1951 – present)** was, with 38 years served, Nigeria's longest serving General and is currently the UN Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations (appointed in 2008). During his service he also held the position of chief of administration of the Nigerian Army, in charge of the welfare, discipline and medical services for all personnel, during which time he was instrumental in enhancing the professionalism of the armed forces. A veteran of peacekeeping roles in Liberia, at his passing out parade he said, "I know I am leaving a Nigerian Army that is committed to its constitutional responsibilities and will continue to contribute meaningfully to the entrenchment of our nascent democracy."



## "I repeat that we all stand before history" Ken Saro-Wiwa



**Deinde Fernandez (1936 – present)** is by far Nigeria's most reclusive millionaire as he generally shuns the limelight. Fernandez heads dozens of companies globally, but the foundations of the empire are in oil, gold and diamonds. His business interests are to be found throughout Africa and he has held many political positions, as special adviser or consul to numerous heads of state – in the Central African Republic, Benin and Mozambique – and is currently Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative to the UN. He made a bid to become governor of Kano State in the 1980s but lost. He is something of a maverick who surrounds himself with the most exquisite things that money can buy, including the prestigious All View estate on Long Island, New York.

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**Ken Saro-Wiwa (October 10, 1941 – November 10, 1995)** was a writer, television producer, environmental activist and winner of the Right Livelihood Award and the Goldman Environmental Prize. An ethnic Ogoni from Bayelsa State in Nigeria's Niger Delta region, Saro-Wiwa fought against environmental degradation in his homeland, which has suffered extreme damage from decades of indiscriminate petroleum waste dumping. As the president of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, he led a non-violent campaign against environmental degradation in Ogoniland by the operations of the multinational companies, especially the Royal Dutch Shell company. He was also an outspoken critic of the Nigerian government, which he viewed as reluctant to enforce environmental regulations on the foreign petroleum companies operating in the area.

1996. Before becoming Nigeria's chief of army staff, general Agwai was the deputy military adviser at the UN. He was later appointed chief of defence staff of the Nigerian Armed Forces in 2006. When General Agwai served as the commander of the combined United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, he led one of the biggest peacekeeping operations in the world, with approximately 20,000 troops and 6,000 policemen under his command.



**Chima Ubani (March 22, 1963 – September 21, 2005)** was a crusader, organiser, activist, revolutionary, human rights campaigner and student activist. A past president of the University of Nigeria's Students' Union, Ubani was an executive director of the Civil Liberties Organisation at the time of his death, which happened in a road accident while he was on his way back from a meeting to campaign against the removal of the fuel subsidy. On the day he died, Ubani had just finished addressing a rally in Maiduguri and had the option of flying back to Abuja by air alongside the Nigerian Labour Congress president Adams Oshiomole but characteristically and selflessly, gave up his seat and ended up travelling in Oshiomole's jeep which crashed on the way. In February 1994, Ubani's house and office were raided by security agents and a report on women and children in Nigerian prisons which he had co-authored was confiscated. He went on the run but was arrested and imprisoned in 1995, after which his case was taken up by Amnesty International, leading to his eventual release.



**BLESSING OKAGBARE**, winning bronze in the 200m (above) and silver in the long jump at the 2013 World Championships, Moscow (below), making her Nigeria's only double World Champs medal winner



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**Olisa Agbakoba (May 29, 1953 – present)** is a maritime lawyer but more popularly known as a human rights activist. He is also a former president of the Nigerian Bar Association. Fresh out of law school, Agbakoba became a key leader in Nigeria's pro-democratic movement and is the president of Afronet, an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) dedicated to furthering human rights causes. He is also a principal partner and founder of Human Rights Law Services, an NGO that specialises in advocacy and law, and is also the founder and first president of the Nigerian Shipping Chamber of Commerce. Along with fellow lawyer Clement Nwankwo, Agbakoba founded Nigeria's foremost human rights organization, the Civil Liberties Organisation. He was also the founder of United Action for Democracy and was one of the lawyers who defended environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa. In 1990 Agbakoba was awarded the Roger Baldwin Medal for Civil Liberties. In 1993, he was honoured with the Human Rights Award of the German Association of Judges and in 1996 he was given the Aachen Peace Award and the Dr Kwame Nkrumah African Leadership Award in 2006.



1983, using wealth garnered from the Ibru business empire, with the aim of making it one of the five best English language newspapers in the world. Despite pledging that the Guardian would be non-aligned politically the paper fell foul of the Sani Abacha regime (1993-98), which was raided by government forces. Subsequently Ibru survived an assassination attempt. He also founded the Trinity Foundation, which he chairs and uses as a vehicle through which to do his philanthropic work. The Trinity Foundation offers support to the poor and the needy and Mr Ibru is also the founder of the Ibru Centre, which promotes ecumenism and religious harmony. He has also been a long-standing funder of Nigeria's Civil Liberties Organisation.



**Alex Ibru (March 1, 1945 – November 20, 2011)** was the founder and publisher of *The Guardian* newspaper, and later *Newswatch* magazine. He launched *The Guardian* in

**Genevieve Nnaji (1979 – present)** Actress, model and recording artist, she is one of Nigeria's international poster girls, referred to by CNN as the "Julia Roberts of Africa" – and many believe she will star in a Hollywood movie very soon. Star of more than 80 Nollywood movies and reputed to be one of the best paid Nollywood actresses, she also has a fashion label "St. Genevieve", which donates its proceeds to charity.

**Amirul Mumineen Sultan Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar III (August 24, 1956 – present)** The Sultan of Sokoto is the religious leader of Nigeria's Muslim community, which consists of approximately half of the country's nearly 160 million inhabitants, and of millions of Muslims in adjoining countries in West Africa. He serves Nigeria as president-general of the National Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs. His role continues the leadership of the Sokoto Caliphate that unified the region under Islamic law in the early nineteenth century. He has been outspoken against the Boko Haram threat working to assure "all Nigerians that there is no conflict between Muslims and Christians, between Islam and Christianity. It's a conflict between evil people and good people. The good people are more than the evil ones, so the good people must come together to defeat the evil ones, and that is the message."



**Mike Adenuga (April 29, 1953 – present)** is a business tycoon regarded as one of the richest



Africans in the world. His company Globacom controls Nigeria's second-largest telecom operator and he also owns stakes in the Equatorial Trust Bank and oil exploration firm Conoil. Forbes has estimated his net worth at \$4.3bn as of March 2013, making him the second wealthiest Nigerian behind Aliko Dangote. Like Dangote he comes from humble beginnings. He had to work as a taxi driver to fund his education in the US, obtaining a degree in business administration. His telecom company Globacom is continuously spreading across West Africa. Mr Adenuga was named African Entrepreneur of The Year at the maiden African Telecoms Awards on August 15, 2007.

**Nwankwo Kanu (August 1, 1976 – present)** Popularly known as Papillo, Kanu is the only Nigerian footballer to have won the African Footballer of the Year trophy twice, winning it in 1997 and 1999. He captained the Nigerian national team to its first ever international honour when the Super Eagles won the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. Kanu played for Nigeria for 16 years from 1994 until 2010 and during the course of his career won a Uefa Champions League medal, a Uefa Cup medal, three FA Cup winners medals and the English Premier League. He has made the second-most substitute appearances in Premier League history, appearing from the bench 118 times. Kanu is also a Unicef ambassador and runs a charity called the Kanu Heart Foundation.



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**"There was a writer named Chinua Achebe in whose company the prison walls fell" Nelson Mandela**



Nigerian author Achebe and former South African President Mandela chat on September 12, 2002 prior to Achebe receiving an honorary degree of Doctor of Literature and delivering the third Steve Biko Memorial Lecture at the University of Cape Town





**Gani Fawehinmi (April 22, 1938 – September 5, 2009)** was a lawyer, author, publisher, philanthropist, social critic, human and civil rights lawyer and politician. He was known variously as the scourge of irresponsible governments, a sphygmomanometer – with which the blood pressure of dictators is gauged – the veritable conscience of the nation and the champion of the interests and causes of the masses. Many Nigerians called him the people's president. In 1993 Gani was awarded the biennial Bruno Kreisky Prize, given to international figures who advance human rights causes. In 1998, he received the International Bar Association's Bernard Simmons Award in recognition of his human-rights and pro-democracy work. In 1994 he and some other notable Nigerians formed the National Conscience Party of Nigeria and he stood for presidential elections in 2003. After years of being denied it, in September 2001, Gani was made a senior advocate of Nigeria, the highest legal title in the country.



CHIEF GANI FAWEHINMI, statue at the Memorial Gardens, Lagos, unveiled by State Governor Mr Babatunde Fashola, September 2010

## NIGERIAN CINEMA – FROM NOLLYWOOD TO HOLLYWOOD

**Kanayo O. Kanayo (March 1, 1962 – present)** is what many consider to be the first star of Nollywood. In 1992 Kanayo made his debut film appearance in Nollywood's first major film *Living in Bondage*.

*Living in Bondage* is a Nigerian thriller film directed by Chris Obi Rapu, written by Kenneth Nnebue & Okechukwu Ogunjiofor and produced by Kenneth Nnebue. It is considered to be the first Nollywood blockbuster hit movie which kicked off the Nigerian cinema industry.

The film was shot straight-to-video and stars Nollywood actors Francis Agu and Okechukwu Ogunjiofor alongside Kanayo.

Kanayo O. Kanayo has gone on the star in over 100 films and won an African Movie Award in 2006. In 2009, Unesco described Nollywood as being the second-biggest film industry in the world after Bollywood in output and called for greater support for Nigeria's second-largest employer.



ABOVE 12 YEARS A SLAVE Chiwetel Ejiofor OBE recipient, BAFTA winner, Golden Globe nominee and anticipated to be Oscar nominated for his role in 12 Years A Slave (in British cinemas from January 10.

LEFT AFTER EARTH Featuring Sophie Okonedo with Will Smith and his son Jaden. Starred alongside Chiwetel Ejiofor in the British film Dirty Pretty Things (2002), the film that gave them both their breakthroughs. Oscar nominated for her role in 2005's Hotel Rwanda and recipient of an OBE.



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**Kate Henshaw (1971 – present)** Actress, African Movie Academy Award winner and star of over 40 Nollywood movies. An astute business woman she has just released a fitness DVD and is a judge on *Nigeria's Got Talent*.

**Falilat Ogunkoya (December 5 1968 – present)** was the first Nigerian to win two medals in the same Olympics when she won a silver and a bronze at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. During the games, she won a bronze medal in the individual 400m event behind Marie-Jose Perec of France and Cathy Freeman of Australia, clocking a personal best and African record of 49.10 seconds, which is currently the twelfth fastest of all time. Falilat then went on to win the silver medal in the 4x400 metres with the Nigerian team.



**“The most authentic thing about us is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to transform, to love and to be greater than our suffering” Ben Okri**

**Ben Okri (March 15, 1959 – present)** is the only Nigerian author to have won the Booker Prize for Literature and is considered one of the foremost African authors in the post-modern and post-colonial traditions. Since he published his first novel, *Flowers and Shadows* in 1980, Okri has won international acclaim. His best known work is *The Famished Road*, which was awarded the 1991 Booker Prize, and along with *Songs of Enchantment* and *Infinite Riches* make up a trilogy that follows the life of Azaro, a spirit-child narrator, through the social and political turmoil of an African nation, reminiscent of Okri's remembrance of war-torn Nigeria. Okri was made an honorary vice president of the English Centre for the International PEN and a member of the board of the Royal National Theatre. On 26 April 2012, he was appointed the new vice-president of the Caine Prize for African Writing, having been on the advisory committee and associated with the prize since it was established 13 years previously.



**Patience Ozokwor (March 25, 1958 – present)** Affectionately known by her many fans as Mama G, Patience Ozokwor is a pillar of the Nollywood community worldwide, having starred in over 200 films. Internationally known, she has played a variety of roles including Shakespeare's Hamlet, showcasing her versatility as an actress. Her first role that captured the public was in an advert, a role she was put forward for by Chika Okpala (aka Chief Zebrudaya of *Masquerades* fame). With an adept ability to remember lines she relishes the opportunity to play bad roles and continuously stretches herself as an actor.



**Olu Jacobs (1942 – present)** African Movie Award winner, TV and movie star, not just in Nollywood but the West as well, having been in films such as *The Dogs Of War*. Has starred in over 120 Nollywood films and is married to fellow actor Joke Silva.

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**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (June 13, 1954 – present)** is one of the world's most respected economists and she has spearheaded the realignment of the Nigerian economy. In October 2005, she led the Nigerian team that struck a deal with the Paris Club, a group of bilateral creditors, to pay a portion of Nigeria's external debt (US \$12 billion)



in return for an \$18 billion debt write-off. Prior to the partial debt payment and write-off, Nigeria spent roughly US \$1 billion every year on debt servicing, without making a dent in the principal owed. Okonjo-Iweala also introduced the practice of publishing each state's monthly financial allocation from the federal government in the newspapers. This action went a long way in increasing transparency in governance. She was instrumental in helping Nigeria obtain its first ever sovereign credit rating (of BB minus) from Fitch and Standard & Poor's. However, she is best known for her two terms as Nigeria's finance minister and as the managing director of the World Bank between October 2007 and July 2011.

**Attahiru Jega (January 11, 1957 – present)** is a Nigerian academic and the current chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, which is tasked with organising free and fair elections. Jega was unanimously elected to the post by a committee including several former Presi-



Omotola calling on oil company Shell to Own Up, Pay Up and Clean Up the Niger Delta, with Amnesty International 2012

dents, the current President Goodluck Jonathan and the leaders of the Houses of Assembly and Representatives. A former vice chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, and chairman of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, Professor Jega was a member of the Justice Mohammed Uwais Electoral Reform Committee, which submitted a report on December 11, 2008 with recommendations that included establishing commissions to deal with electoral offences, constituency delimitation and political parties registration and regulation.



**Omotola Jalade Ekeinde (February 7, 1978 – present)** is famed as an actress, singer and philanthropist. Known as OmoSexy, she was named as one of Time 2013's Most Influential People In The World. She has starred in nearly 300 Nollywood movies but is equally famed as a UN World Food Programme ambassador and as a campaigner on behalf of youth empowerment, Save The Children, Amnesty International and the Delta Clean Up campaign.



**Femi Otedola (1967 – present)** is the chief executive of African Petroleum and Zenon Petroleum and Gas. Zenon, which is directly run by Otedola is the dominant force in diesel business among oil marketing concerns. It supplies this all important fuel to nearly all the major manufacturing firms in the country. These include Dangote Group, Cadbury, Coca Cola, Nigerian Breweries, MTN, Unilever, Nestle, Guinness among others.. He was only one of two Nigerians alongside Aliko Dangote to appear on the 2009 Forbes list of 793 dollar-denominated billionaires in the world and is estimated to be worth over \$1.2bn. He contributed N25 million towards the rehabilitation of the National Mosque in Abuja and was one of the co-founders of the Obasanjo Presidential Library, donating N200 million to its establishment. He is said to have direct access to the President. Otedola was appointed to the board of Nigeria Investment and Promotion Council (NIPC) by the President of Nigeria in 2011. He was also nominated by the President on the team of top Nigerian businessmen to go on an investment drive to South Africa. Otedola is said to be the biggest ship owner in the country and is the president of the Nigeria Chambers of Shipping.



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**OCCUPY NIGERIA** Femi Falana and Seun Kuti involved in taking over the road 2012

**Femi Falana (May 20, 1958 – present)** is a lawyer and human rights activist. He exploded onto the scene in 1983 when he stood bail for some university students who had been unlawfully remanded in prison custody. He has subsequently become famed for providing free legal services to the poor and disadvantaged, and has been detained numerous times by the security services for his activism. He was the former president of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers and a former chairman of the West African Bar Association, WABA. He contested and lost the governorship election of



Ekiti State in 2007 on the ticket of the National Conscience Party; as of 2011 he was the national chairman of the party. He was appointed a Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 2012.

**Abike Dabiri-Erewa (October 10, 1962 – present)** is a member of the Nigeria Federal House of Representatives who has championed progressive causes, including harnessing the global diaspora. In her capacity as the chairman of the House Committee on Diaspora Affairs, Dabiri-Erewa has travelled the world extensively, getting prisoners released and pressing for diasporans to be given the vote. Among the bills she has sponsored in parliament include the



freedom of information bill, a bill for an act to ensure the full integration of Nigerians with physical disabilities, the Nigerian infant health welfare bill to ensure every child under five gets free qualitative medical care, the Nigerian Diaspora Commission bill and a bill for an act to repeal the Nigerian Press Council and replace it with the Nigerian Press and Journalism Council bill to promote the practice of journalism and welfare of journalists.



**Dein of Agbor His Royal Majesty Benjamin Ikenchuku Keagborekuzi (June 29, 1977 – present)** is a unique monarch, featuring in the *Guinness Book of Records* in 1980 when he became the world's youngest monarch, aged just two years and four months. After being educated in the UK he returned to Nigeria in 2000 to fully resume duty. In March 2006, he became the youngest monarch to be appointed the chancellor of a federal university when former President Olusegun Obasanjo appointed him as the chancellor of the University of Ilorin. He is currently the vice chairman of the Delta State Traditional Rulers' Council.

**General Andrew Azazi (February 1, 1952 – December 15, 2012)** After a celebrated career as an army officer, General Azazi became Nigeria's national security adviser in 2010 to help combat the Boko Haram menace. As National Security Adviser, Azazi worked with neighbouring countries,



Europe and the US, toward developing a new security and counterterrorism strategy. After the Christmas 2011 Boko Haram bombings of churches, Azazi strongly cautioned fellow Christians against talk of retaliation against Muslims or even wider religious warfare. He called on citizens to question the strategic intentions of the perpetrators, and said that counterterrorism policy must address those strategic intentions.

**Charly Boy (June 19, 1951 – present)** is a *Nigerian Idol* judge and Nigeria's first androgynous musician. He has always been known as a controversial character but is seen as a pioneer for pushing the boundaries of acceptance in Nigeria. His records include *Nwata Miss* and *Carolina*.



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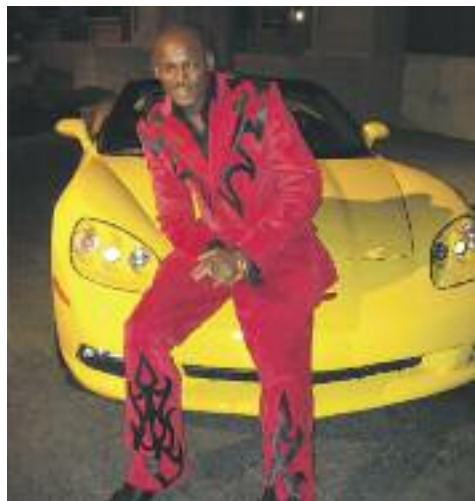
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**Eyitayo Lambo (December 28, 1944 – present)** has the honour of being the second longest serving Minister of Health in Nigeria to date, serving between 2003-07. During his tenure, the first Health Sector Reform Program for Nigeria was developed and implemented and the National Health Insurance Scheme was launched after being on the drawing board for forty years. Many health policies and legislations were formulated during his time in office, including the hotly debated National Health Bill. He also served as the Chairman of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Board from 2005 to 2007.



He was the first economist to be employed by the WHO Regional Office for Africa. At the Regional Committee of the Ministers of Health of the African Region held in Windhoek, Namibia in 1999, he received the award of the “most hardworking staff” in the WHO Regional Office for Africa.



**2Face Idibia (1975 – present)** Best known for his hit *African Queen*, Innocent Idibia was born in Jos, Benue State. Known by the moniker Tuface or 2Face, he cites this as a means of demarcating his personal life from his business life. Formerly part of the Plantashun Boyz who released two albums before disbanding, 2Face went on to have a solo career littered with hits. He currently runs his own record label called Hypertek Entertainment and was the first Nigerian artist to have an appropriately priced international album with *The Unstoppable International Edition*.

**P-Square (November 18, 1981 – present)** are a pair of identical twins named Peter and Paul Okoye, who have taken the Nigerian music industry by storm over the last 10 years, becoming one of the country’s top rhythm and blues act. Their Afrobeat brand of music has catapulted them to international fame and generated tremendous wealth for them as they produce and release their albums through their own label Square Records. In December 2011, they were also signed to Akon’s Konvict Muzik label and in May 2012, they signed a record distribution deal with Universal Music in South Africa. They started out in their school music and drama club where they began singing, dancing, and mimicking songs by MC Hammer, Bobby Brown and Michael Jackson.



**Namadi Sambo (August 2, 1954 – present)** is Nigeria’s fourth and current vice president who has been in office since May 19, 2010. An architect by training, Alhaji Sambo attended the Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, where he graduated in 1976 with a BSc, although he later returned to do an MSc. In 1988 he was appointed the Kaduna State commissioner for works, transport and housing and in 1990 he left to return to his private practice. In May 2007, Alhaji Sambo assumed office as the Kaduna State governor but on May 18, 2010, his tenure was cut short when President Goodluck Jonathan appointed him his deputy. While governor, Alhaji Sambo had an 11-point agenda to focus on empowering the youth and women of the community and to address security for the state.



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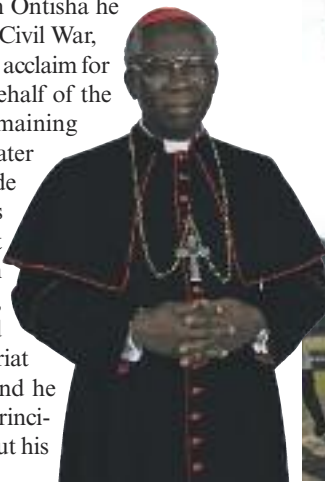


**“I do have a physical disability and I was determined that the scope of my creativity should not be restricted purely by my physicality” Yinka Shonibare**

**Mallam Nuhu Ribadu (November 21, 1960 – present)** is the Chairman of the Petroleum Revenue Task Force and a former Nigerian government anti-corruption official. He was the pioneer Executive Chairman of Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the government commission tasked with counteracting corruption and fraud. He has been the target of two assassination attempts and lived in exile in the UK until 2010 when he returned to Nigeria and declared his intention to run for President of Nigeria under the platform of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), prior to the party joining the newly formed APC.



**Francis Arinze (November 1 1932 – present)** is a cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church and was hotly tipped to become Pope. He became the youngest Roman Catholic bishop in the world when he was ordained on 29 August 1965, at the age of 32. Situated in Ontisha he was in the eye of the Civil War, winning international acclaim for his tireless work on behalf of the displaced, while remaining politically neutral. Later his ability to work side by side with Muslims in Nigeria brought him to the attention of Pope John Paul II, who in 1979 appointed him Vatican's Secretariat for Non-Christians and he remained one of his principal advisers throughout his life.



**Yinka Shonibare (1962 – present)** is an acclaimed British-Nigerian artist living in London whose work explores 'cultural identity, colonialism and post-colonialism' within the context of globalisation. A hallmark of his art is the brightly coloured Nigerian fabrics he uses. He recently announced he wanted to open a Museum of Modern Art in Lagos and is fundraising to that end. He is famed for his ship in a bottle which featured on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square.



Shonibare contracted transverse myelitis, an inflammation across the spinal cord, at the age of 18, which resulted in a long term physical disability where one side of his body is paralysed. He was awarded an MBE in 2004, and was elected Royal Academician by the Royal Academy of Arts in 2013.



**D'banj (1980 – present)** First Afrobeats artist to have a Top 10 hit in the UK, leading to a general acceptance of Afrobeats into the mainstream paving the way for other artists of the genre to have their records released by major and established independent labels in the West.

**Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (November 20, 1957 – present)** is Nigeria's 14th head of state and the current president of Nigeria. Prior to becoming president, he had served as vice president, Bayelsa State governor and Bayelsa State deputy governor. A member of the People's Democratic Party, President Jonathan was born into a family of canoe makers in modern day Bayelsa State in the oil-rich Niger Delta. Before he entered politics in 1998, he worked as an education inspector, lecturer and environmental-



protection officer. On June 29, 2010, President Jonathan became the first serving Nigerian president to launch a Facebook page, saying this action was part of fulfilling a promise to interact more with Nigerians. His great achievements to date include the Transformation Agenda, power sector privatisation and agricultural reform.

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