



Celebrating an

Outstanding Humanist

@ 60

On behalf of myself and family, we heartily rejoice with an outstanding man of peace High chief **(Dr.) OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA** Eziakaego Nnokwa, Aare Basegun of Ikire kingdom and Executive chairman Green life pharmaceuticals ltd as he celebrates his **60th birthday anniversary.**

Sir, when posterity renders its final verdict in Nigeria, your name and record of service will indeed be a reference point in our contemporary history.

Your noble efforts in the service of humanity and uncommon ability to foster peace and unity across many diverse interests have always distinguished you as an exceptional bridge builder and a man of peace.

You have indeed written your name in gold for generation yet unborn to see and appreciate. We wish you more prosperous years in good health and sound mind.

Happy birthday sir!

Signed

Emenine Ugochukwu Anthony

Chairman/CEO

Glack Pharmaceuticals Ltd.





How Dr. Obiora Anthony **06** Chukwuka **BLAZE THE TRAIL**

Lionel Messi's Inter Miami contract worth about \$60 million per year

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UK spends \$109m on GDP in 6 Nigerians states in 10 years

UNICEF

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Publisher's Note

CHIEF (Dr.) OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA: A GOAL GETTER



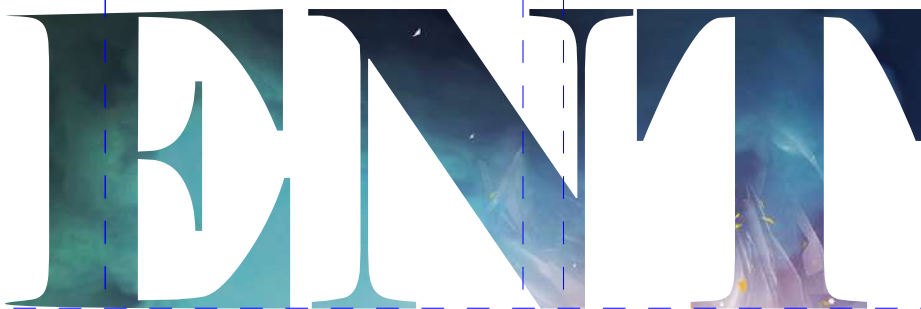
Lanre Olusunmade
Synochure international

A book on the life of Chief (Dr.) Obiora Anthony Chukwuka, Eziafakaego Nnokwa, Aare Basegun of Ikire kingdom and Executive chairman Green life pharmaceuticals Limited, would not only be a best seller but would also serve as a source of inspiration to the younger ones who may find themselves in a similar situation. How do we tell the story of a man who escaped death by the whiskers during the civil war when he contracted Hepatitis, went back to school 22 years after he completed secondary school and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Lagos and a master's degree in corporate Governance from Leeds metropolitan university, England, United Kingdom. He also became an Honorary

Doctorate degree awardee from commonwealth University, Belize in collaboration with London Graduate school, and an Honorary pharmacy Award (Hon. PSN) given to him by pharmaceutical council of Nigeria (PCN) in conjunction with the pharmaceutical Society Of Nigeria. (PSN).

Indeed, his life is in conformity with the saying that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Dr. Obiora is a self- made man who defied his background to register his name in the book of prominent people in Nigeria. He is a unique personality whose uniqueness derives not only from his present position but also from his acquired status over the years. He is what he is today not because it is handed down to him, but because of hard work, dedication, honesty and above all, Providence of God. He is a noble and enterprising personality who is ever ready to face challenges frontally. Right from the outset, his greatest desire is to be successful in life. And with that interest on his mind, he set out to be focused in actualising his dream. Indeed, he prides himself as a self-starter with a dynamic and resourceful disposition. A man of great vision and ideas, chief OBIORA ranks among the best managers of men in the country today.

In any business clime all over the world, the hallmark of a good entrepreneur is to be able to identify a need and put together resources to meet the need not only for his own benefit but for the benefit of mankind. And this is what has made his organisation Green life pharmaceuticals an active player in the pharmaceutical industry in Nigeria and Africa in general. As a highly industrious planner, he does not believe in failure rather he sees indexes of failure as raw materials which have to be recycled in favour of higher realities. He is never squenish, daring all obstacles and be very focused on the goal especially when the course is worth fighting for. Making him an excellent goal getter.



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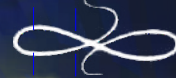
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FELICITATING...

**DR. CHUKWUKA
OBIORA ANTHONY**



@

60

On behalf of the entire management and staff
of EXPLICIT COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

I Olatunde Thani celebrate with you
on your Diamond Jubilee.

May God grant you joy & peace as you
celebrate more healthy years.

Happy Birthday



CELEBRATING A BRAVE MAN

@

60

On behalf of my family, we heartily felicitate with Chief (Dr) OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA, Eziafakaego Nnokwa, Aare Basegun of Ikire kingdom and Executive chairman Green life pharmaceuticals as he celebrates his 60th birthday anniversary.

You meet people each day, you do good everyday, rivers you have crossed, oceans you have passed.

Many times, God has blessed you, so many turbulent times. He has guided and protected you. Many more times to come.

You shall enjoy his Grace.

And you shall remain a special and rare gift to all.

Wishing you more fruitful years in good health and sound mind.

Signed

Chief Hilary O. Chimezie

MD/ CEO

HOCHIEZ Pharmaceuticals Nig. Ltd.



How Dr. Obiora Anthony Chukwuka BLAZE THE TRAIL

Every man born of woman has a root traced to some man somewhere ...every man from Abraham to Isaac, Jacob to Moses – and even Jesus Christ and the disciples. So also, every man with blood running in his veins has a story to tell ... a moment in time, a period in life when he is either up or down, abound or debase, full or empty ... a time called history, when nostalgic experience either brings a sweet or bitter memories that will make foolish men repine, indecisive surrender but make wise the one re-channel his course in life, laying bricks of gold, building citadel of treasures and hope – creating a path for the upcoming to follow.

This very wise decision, a glorious path was taken by a gentleman called Dr. Obiora Anthony Chukwuka, the Executive Chairman of Greenlife Pharmaceuticals, Sea Green Pharmaceuticals Ltd., and St. Anthony's Event Centre Ltd.

Anthony's rise to the top is like the story of Joseph with some slight differences. Joseph was betrayed by his brother, Anthony was disappointed by his father's limited resources after he completed his secondary school education. Joseph was sold into slavery, Anthony relocated to Lagos – and serve a master so as to cut his teeth in business. Joseph was sent to prison when his master's wife was trying to lure him for sex, Anthony's young and enterprising business was killed by military junta. Joseph did not stop dreaming and interpreting dreams, so also, Anthony did not stop trying new techniques – and at the end of day, just like a man called Isaac in the Bible, the promised child of Abraham, Anthony too dug many wells until he discovered his own Rehoboth in Greenlife Pharmaceuticals Limited.

COVER STORY



Below is a brief story of Anthony Chukwuka Obiora, a rejected stone that became the chief connerstone.

The Genesis of a General

Dr. Obiora was born in Nnokwa, Idemili South Local Government Area of Anambra State of Nigeria on July 18, 1963. He attended Central School Nnokwa and Oraukwu Grammar School both in Anambra State.

Journey to Lagos – Beginning of Greatness

Chukwuka's education came to an abrupt end after his secondary school because his father had no money to send him to the university –

but destiny had a separate pathway prepared for him.

He re-

located to Lagos in 1980 to serve as a trade apprentice of his maternal cousin, Chief LNC Uzoezie from Alor who trained him the rudiments and styles of business (specialising in lady's shoe selling) in a make shift shop at Balogun Market in Lagos. On the 4th of March 1983, he was settled with 5,000 naira by his master to start his own business. What a relief! But the freedom was short lived; the business died in his teething stage with the demolition of "illegal shops" in 1984, by the then Military Government of General Buhari/Idiagbon regime.

The Turning Point

Smart Chukwuka, despite the advice of his 'Oga' to look for another shop nearby, sold what was left of his shoe business at discounted rates for N10,000 and became a pharmaceutical products merchandiser (a more organised business than his previous 'gbanjo' trade) with little or

COVER STORY

nothing as cash, after a brief training in pharmaceutical business, in Idumota area of Lagos Island in 1985 as a Sole Proprietor with the name Leton Medical Stores (coined from the names of his boss, Leonard and his, Tony). That business later morphed into Caleb Pharmaceuticals Ltd Lagos, and then Greenlife Pharmaceuticals Limited.

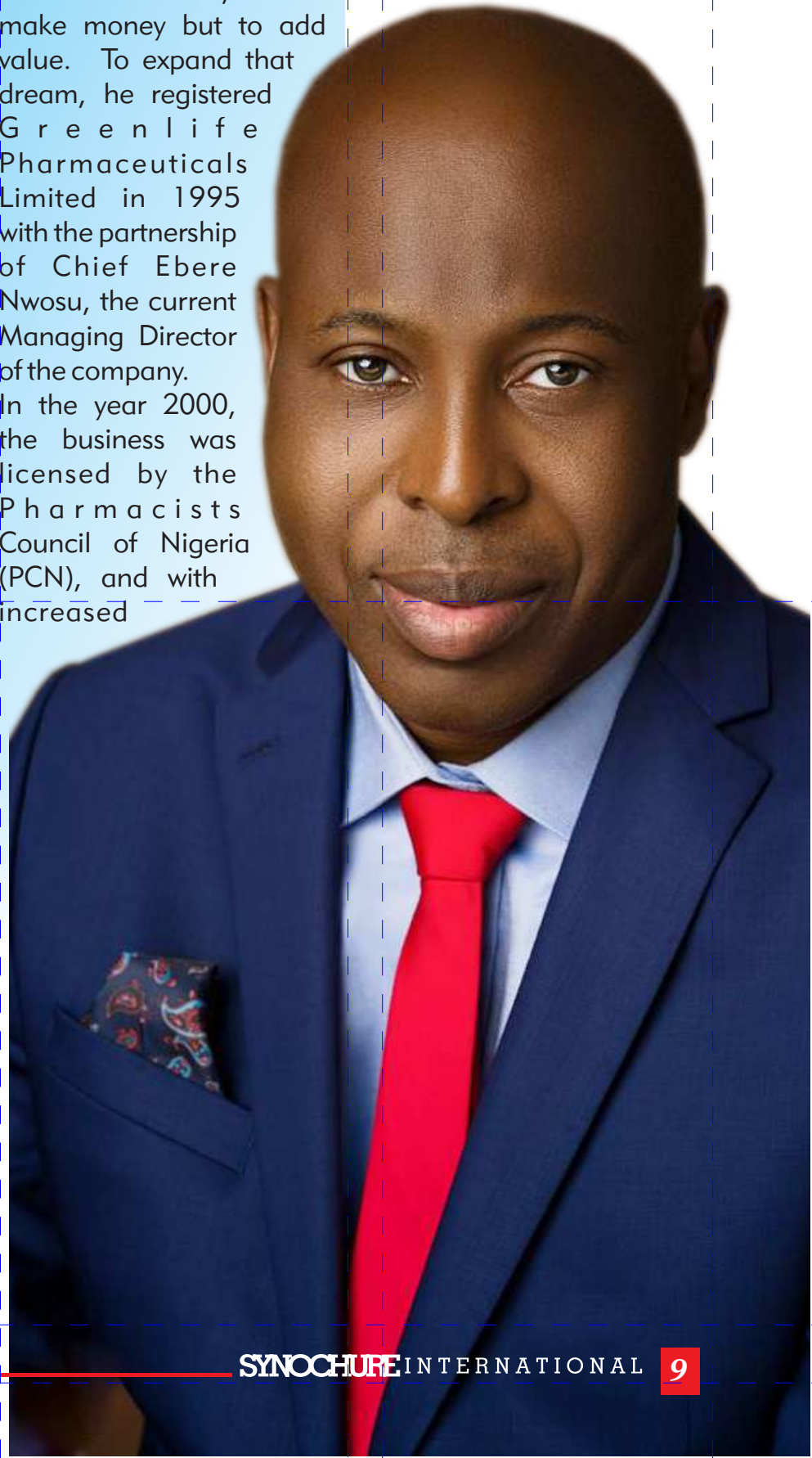
Further Education

Anthony Chukwuka went back to school 22 years after he completed secondary school to obtain Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from University of Lagos and Master's Degree in Corporate Governance from Leeds Metropolitan University England United Kingdom. He also holds a Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Management Consultancy from the same school. He was conferred with an honorary Doctorate Degree by Commonwealth University, Belize in collaboration with London Graduate School, England. Greenlife Pharmaceuticals Limited in the last 28 years The initial aim of Dr. Anthony Obiora delving into business was to make a

difference by ensuring that business community becomes better than it was when he entered, not to make money but to add value. To expand that dream, he registered Greenlife Pharmaceuticals Limited in 1995 with the partnership of Chief Ebere Nwosu, the current Managing Director of the company.

In the year 2000, the business was licensed by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN), and with increased

patronage, the business was relocated from Idumota to a more



COVER STORY

conductive business premises at Ilupeju area of Lagos in 2003 where the Corporate Head Office is currently located. A company that started operation with only four employees and one pharmacist in 2000 when it was licensed can now boasts of over 72 pharmacists and other para-medical Professionals. Other employees in the fold include Accountants, Economists among others.

Greenlife Pharmaceuticals (with its subsidiaries) has employees' strength running in hundreds (most of them graduates). Greenlife started business with just three products when registered in 2000 now has about 20 NAFDAC registered products including Lonart anti-malaria drug. The company also has a product distribution network that spans the country's six geopolitical zones. It was one of the first pharmaceutical companies in Nigeria to sign on to the anti-counterfeiting technology introduced by NAFDAC in 2011 with its flagship anti-malarial drug, Lonart.

Greenlife pharmaceuticals Limited's Corporate Social



Responsibilities (CSR)

To give back to the society, Greenlife Pharmaceuticals Limited have tarred roads in various communities, built hostels in various school campuses.

High and Low Moments of

Dr. Obiora's Life

"My happiest moments are when I see people succeed. My sad moments included not having many boys to play with as a child. I grew up playing with girls, my sisters, using coconut shell

COVER STORY

to
cook
s a n d
outside the
house. On one
occasion, I picked up a
coconut shell that I wanted to
play with and there was a big black
snake under it; I dropped the shell and
ran, the snake pursued me; luckily as I
ran a dog came out from inside the
house and fought with the snake and
killed it, but the dog died too because
the snake bit it."

Charges to Youths

"Youths should know that even if they
are university graduates, they can still
go through apprenticeship to achieve
what they want." Said Dr. Obiora

Philanthropic Gestures

Dr. Obiora's philosophy is
that, "Your wealth is better
appreciated when it is spent on the
less privileged," – and through
Eziafakaego Foundation he
created, many lives people have
been touched; houses were built
for people, scholarships provided,
free drugs shared, foodstuff given
to people and other services
rendered on a regular basis.

Social Affiliates and Attachments
Dr. Obiora Chukwuka is a Member
of the Council of Nigerian-British
Chamber of Commerce (NBCC);
Member, Institute of Directors
Nigeria,
Member, Nigeria Red Cross
Society,
Member Nigeria-India Chamber
of Commerce and Industry

(NICCI).

National Vice President,
Oraukwu Old Boys
Association;

Member, University of Lagos
Alumni Association,

Member, Leeds Metropolitan
University Alumni
Association, England.

Member, Chartered
Management Institute (CMI)
United Kingdom,

Fellow, Chartered Institute of
Administration of Nigeria
(FCIA).

Fellow, Certified Cost
Managers of Nigeria
(FCCM).

Public Relation Officer,
Association of
Pharmaceutical Importers of
Nigeria (APIN).

Chairman, Nnokwa
Progressive Union, Lagos
Branch.

Other Feats

Dr. Chukwuka built and
donated a multi-million naira
Civic Centre to Nnokwa
Community in memory of his
late father, Mr. Obi
Chukwuka (Eziáfakaego 1)
on January 2nd, 2012.

Honorary Title

Dr. Obiora was conferred
with the chieftaincy title of
Aare Baa'segun of Ikireland
by His Majesty Oba
Olatunde Falabi, Lambeloye
III, Akire of Ikire Kingdom.



He was also conferred with
an Honorary Pharmacy
Award (Hon. PSN) by the
Pharmaceuticals Council of
Nigeria (PCN) in
collaboration with the
Pharmaceuticals Society of
Nigeria (PSN). He is also
their Life Patron.

He is also Eziáfakaego of
Nnokwa, Nanka and many
other towns.

He has also received many
honours and awards such
as:

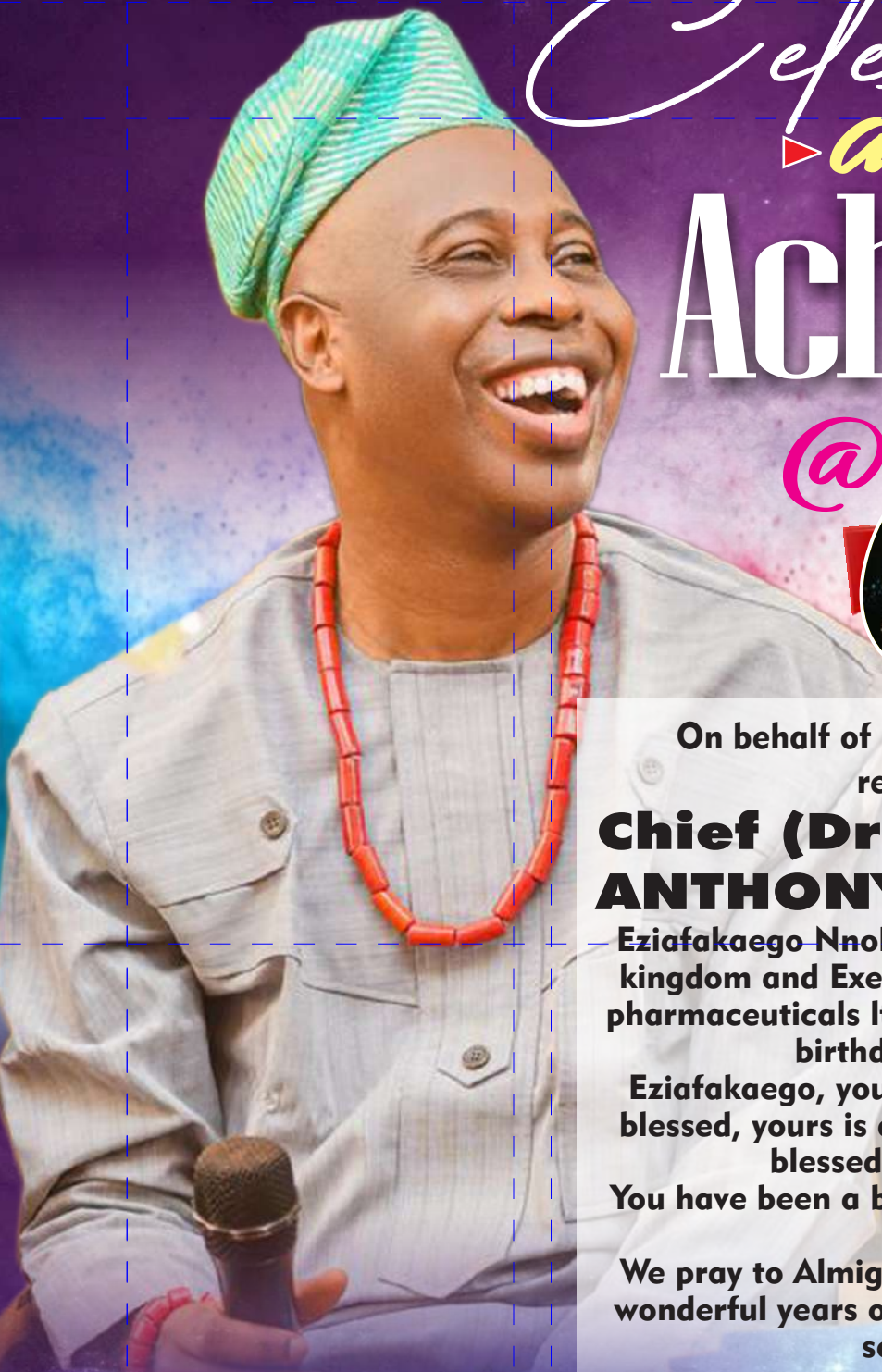
Distinguished
Entrepreneurship Award
from the University of
Nigeria Alumni Association.

Excellence Award from Red
Cross Society of Nigeria.

Development and
Excellence Award from the
Association of Anambra

State Development union
(MSDU).

Dr. Obi Chukwuka is a
devout Christian of
Catholic denomination.
He has received many
awards from the church
and served in many
capacities like Harvest
Planning Chairman of
many parishes. He is
Patron of various groups
in the church including
Catholic Women
Organization (CWO) of
his home parish. He is a
man of honour; simple
and humble with serious
aversion for any form of
dishonesty. He is happily
married to Mrs. Obiageli
Chukwuka and they are
both blessed with
resourceful children.



Celebrating *an* Achiever @60

On behalf of my family, we heartily
rejoice with

Chief (Dr) OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA

Eziafakaego Nnokwa, Aare Basegun of Ikire
kingdom and Executive chairman Green life
pharmaceuticals ltd as he celebrates his 60th
birthday anniversary.

Eziafakaego, yours is a life that is so richly
blessed, yours is a life that has touched and
blessed so many people.

You have been a bridge builder and a man of
peace.

We pray to Almighty God to grant you more
wonderful years on earth in good health and
sound mind.

Happy Birthday!

Signed

Chief (Sir) Felix Ugbojiaku
Chairman First Solid Rock Investment Ltd.





Chief Obiora has always been a very calm, kind, hardworking, focused and godly person

Mr Justin Okafor

Comparing a tiger with a dog is foolishness. Most animals tiger kills will automatically kill the dog without blinking. Though Justin Okafor treads gently, his gentility must not be taken for granted. Like a tiger, he may not be barking like a dog to announce his presence or make noise about his achievements, but he is sure a trailblazer.

Justin Okafor has been the Managing Director of Justeen Pharmaceuticals Ltd for about 30 years. He is a businessman from Anambra State who started business like a typical Igbo man

– apprenticeship, before establishing his own business, but today, he holds three Master's Degrees from different universities in Nigeria and abroad after his first degree at the University of Lagos.

Justin spoke to our correspondents on his meeting and relationship with Anthony Obiora thus, "I met Chief Obiora in Idumota in the course of doing the same business and we became birds of a feather that flock together – and as the saying goes, 'Formality can lead to Individuality,' and that was how we became very close."

Justin Okafor also spoke about the unique traits and qualities of his allies of many years saying, "Chief Obiora has always been a very calm, kind, hardworking, focused and godly person. He likes and

cherishes education since inception and as you can see in the trajectory of his life, he returned to school and got solid western education, the way he would have loved had destiny not played a fast card on him. Although, things did not go as he wished but at the end, he got what he had always wanted in a better way, without any form of stress. He is a man that likes to improve himself just like me too."

"Chief Obiora has achieved a lot and has given value to his business and pharmaceutical industry in Nigeria. He is a go-getter who never shy away from any challenges." He concluded by asking God to grant him long life and sound health to enjoy the fruits of his labour.

Oby is a very nice guy

*Chief Donatus Dunu
(Ezike Ugonwanne)*

Sun rises in the morning but moon glows all through the night and stars shine most in the darkest hour of the night. If human life is likened to a day, one man that has enjoyed all day goodness of God is Chief Donatus Dunu, an indigene of Anambra State.

Donatus Dunu who met Chief Obiora in Idumota spoke to our correspondent on his relationship with Chief Obiora and some distinguishing features of Oby.

"As a matter of fact, we were in

the same building doing the same pharmaceutical business." Donatus began.

"Oby is a very nice guy. I remember early in the business, there was no money but we used to work very hard. During that period, there was an eatery close to our building and anytime I told Oby, as we fondly called him, 'Let us go and eat,' he would look at me and said, 'O! boy, I don't have money o, but if you can pay, I will eat,' and jokingly we would go and eat." Donatus Dunu pulled out

the story from his memory file. Speaking further, Donatus Dunu added,, "Oby is such a wonderful guy; always jovial,, making people laugh. He is a complete gentleman who doesn't like any problems. He is very focused."

"Looking at the Industry today, you will agree with me that his company, Greenlife Pharmaceuticals Ltd is contributing a lot especially with their anti-malaria product, Lonart and I can tell you that some of the great things the younger ones can learn from him are hard work, determination to succeed and above all, his patience." Donatus Dunu concluded with prayer for longevity and well wishes.

Chief OBIORA is a complete gentleman and a committed Christian

Chief Hilary Chimizie



More often than not, we worship those big chandeliers in our living rooms, believing they are the best light in our houses. Though, they may look colourful and beautiful but they are not as important as those small bulbs on the passage to rest rooms that keep us from dashing our feet on stones in the middle of the night.

Prince Hilary Chimizie's significance is enshrined in his inner man and ability to proffer solutions to difficult problems. He hails from Abia State where he had his primary and secondary education before relocating to Lagos to start pharmaceutical

business in 1972.

In this piece, he narrated his experience with Chief Anthony Obiora, "I met Chief OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA in the course of business at Idumota when fake drugs criminal dealers were giving us bad names. Some of us came together and form the Association of Pharmaceutical Importers of Nigeria (APIN). We were very supportive to the then DG of NAFDAC, Late Prof. Dora Akunyili in fighting the menace of fake drugs in the country."

"Chief OBIORA is a complete gentleman and a committed Christian who has contributed

immensely to the work of God. He is very focused and hardworking. You can never do any business with him and regret it. He is a thoroughbred professional and a very decent man." He added.

"Chief Obiora is a very quiet person, and knowledgeable. Intellectually, he's sound and dedicated to whatsoever he wants to do. He is like a brother to me. He is very hardworking, homely, trustworthy and honest. Once he gives you his word, you can go to sleep." He concluded.



Chief Obiora started small but he is now a big Iroko tree

Chief (Sir) Felix Ugbojiaku

Enigmatic Chief (Sir) Felix Ugbojiaku is a businessman par excellence. He is as quiet as fire but his effect and exploits are large enough and well pronounced for the world to see. He is both fearless and powerful. He is a native of Orlu in Imo state. He is the Chairman of the Lagos State Medicine Dealers Association and the MD/CEO of

First Solid Rock Investment Ltd. He spoke to our correspondent on how he met Anthony Obiora and what their relationship had birthed, "I have known Chief OBIORA for over 20 years. He has always been part of us because he started here in Idumota on a very small scale but today you can see that he is now a big Iroko tree. He was the former PRO of APIN before I took over as Chairman."

"Chief OBIORA is a very humble personality and a philanthropist of note. He is a very generous man, always willing and ever ready to support anything that has to do with

APIN both morally and financially."

"He is a complete gentleman and a generous man. He respects the elders and he is very honest. I can stand for him anytime, anywhere. He is a straight forward person. He is someone that will not disappoint when you give him any assignment. In fact he will do it beyond your expectations."

Praying for his business ally, Sir Felix said, "On his 60th birthday anniversary, I wish him more abundant years in good health and sound mind."

Chief Obiora is a very focused person

Chief Joseph Ebowusim

No sane person will dare compare falling rain with the previous rain. The previous rain is in the past, no matter how long it fell – it has stopped, but who can say when this present rain will stop except God, and if He decides, its torrents might be heavier than that of Noah's time. Chief Joseph Ebowusim is a current rave, falling rain who presently reigns in Pharmaceutical field. He is the flood that takes away the debris of ingenuity by changing the pace of the game.

Chief Joseph Usoma Ebowusim, an indigene of Orlu in Imo State, had his primary and secondary education in the East before coming to Lagos. He was brought to Lagos to learn pharmaceutical trade by his elder brother – and he has since established himself in the heart of Idumota in Lagos Island.



Chief Obiora is a very focused person. He was never distracted from his goals in life – not by circumstances because happenings that could have sent some people back to the village are the main ingredients that fortified and made him stronger. He is also a friendly man with a very pleasant personality; he will never look down on anyone. He doesn't ferment trouble or cut corners, he does his business righteously.

Speaking to our correspondent on how he met Chief Obiora, he said, "I met Chief OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA when I was a trade apprentice in Idumota – and right from the first time I saw him, I knew through my natural gift of insight that he would go far in life and I am not, in any way surprised that he has achieved so much within that space of time."

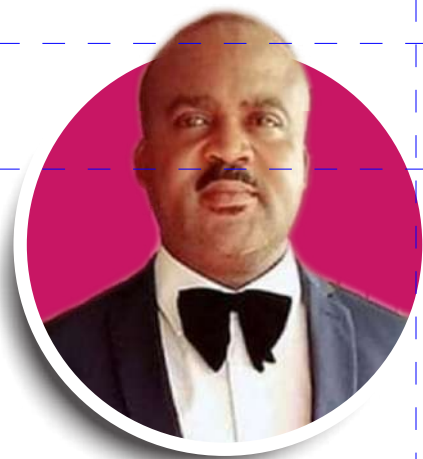
"Chief Obiora is a very focused person. He was never distracted from his goals in life – not by circumstances because

happenings that could have sent some people back to the village are the main ingredients that fortified and made him stronger. He is also a friendly man with a very pleasant personality; he will never look down on anyone. He doesn't ferment trouble or cut corners, he does his business righteously." He said of Chief Obiora's unique personality traits.

He said furthermore, "Chief Obiora has a winsome manner of approaching someone; the way he would present himself will make it so difficult for you to turn down his request. He is friendly, humble, not arrogant at all. You cannot see any form of any air around him. He is cool headed. He has a special way of communicating with people that will gladdens your heart."

"We did our businesses together at Idumota peacefully for many years, no rancour or bitterness – and I can tell you he is so phenomenal in his thoughts and ideologies. His contributions to the development of the Nigerian Economy in terms of employment and development of the pharmaceutical industry is quite huge – and I am sure there is a lot the younger ones, looking up to him as a role model can learn from him. They can emulate his consistency, resilience, tenacity, love, and spirit of industry and honesty in his dealings with people and government." He added.

In conclusion, Chief Joseph Ebowusim praised, prayed and wished his friend of long standing well. "My prayers for him as he celebrates his 60th birthday anniversary is to continue doing the good work people know him for especially his commitment to the work of God."



Chief OBIORA is a go-getter

Emenine Ugochukwu Anthony

Ever articulate and precise Emenine Ugochukwu Anthony is a man of immense ability. As an ardent manager and businessman, he has helped channel profitable paths for many budding businessmen and helped stabilise countless others from economic rot.

Ugochukwu Anthony Emenine was born in Usofia in Anambra State. He attended the Federal Polytechnic Oko in Anambra state for his OND in Business Administration. Thereafter, his uncle brought him to Lagos to understudy pharmaceutical

business and from there, he established his own firm, Glack pharmaceuticals Nig Ltd.

In his timeout with our correspondent on the personality and professionalism of Chief Anthony Obiora, he said:

"I have known Chief OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA for over 30 years. We used to attend prayer meetings at Our Lady of Apostle's Catholic Church at Coker, Aguda I. Surulere together. He was then the coordinator of the prayer group. He is like a mentor to most of us. While we were attending the same church, we were also together at Idumota in Lagos where we were both into the pharmaceutical business. What really brought us closer was the community life in the charismatic group of the Catholic Church we

both attended. I was also one of their company distributor at the early stage of the company, and since then, we have been very close."

"Chief OBIORA is a go-getter. When he sets his mind on something, he wants to achieve it. He doesn't take No for an answer. He is somebody you can't discourage when he sets his mind on a goal."

"The younger ones have a lot to emulate in him – his Religious activities and professional conducts. I strongly believe that he has run a good race and deserve to be thankful to God." Ugochukwu concluded by wishing his partner in progress all the best in the next phase of his life.

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CELEBRATING A RELENTLESS ICON @ 60

The management and staff of EL-GEBOON INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES LIMITED heartily rejoice with CHIEF (Dr.) OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA, Eziafakaego Nnokwa, Aare Basegun of Ikire kingdom and Executive chairman Green life pharmaceuticals as he celebrates his 60th birthday anniversary.

Sir, you have been acknowledged with deserved accolades because of your numerous achievement especially to the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Nigeria.

We wish you more wonderful years on earth in good health and sound mind.

Congratulations Sir!

Signed
MD/CEO
EL-GEBOON INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES LIMITED.



The 10 Biggest PHARMACEUTICAL Companies

AstraZeneca

Headquarters: Cambridge, UK
Revenue in 2021: \$29bn
Total number of employees: 83,100

Recruitment Status: over 1700 jobs returned
AstraZeneca develops, manufactures, and sells pharmaceuticals and biotechnology products to treat oncology, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, infection, neuroscience, respiratory, and inflammation disorders.

In 2020, they were one of the first companies to develop and manufacture a COVID-19 vaccine, following research and development with Oxford University.

Their corporate headquarters is in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and their main R&D centres are in Cambridge (UK), Gaithersburg (Maryland, US), Gothenburg (Sweden), and Warsaw (Poland).

AstraZeneca has an average **Glassdoor score of 4.2**, with over 90% of the organisation approving of CEO Pascal Soriot. Their employees claim a good work-life balance, good benefits, and a great working environment are the biggest reasons for AstraZeneca's positive scores.

Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS)

Headquarters: New York





Revenue in 2021: \$46.4bn
 Total number of employees: 32,200
 Recruitment Status: over 1800 global jobs
 New York-based **Bristol-Myers Squibb** operates research facilities in Belgium, France, the UK, and Japan.

BMS's primary focus is on cancer, cardiovascular, immunology and fibrotic therapeutic projects. Their stated mission is "to discover, develop, and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases."

BMS ranked 119th in the Forbes **'best employers for new grads' 2022** list, which is supported by a **Glassdoor rating** of 3.9. Positive employee reviews bring attention to the work environment, benefits, and development opportunities. They also rank 25th in the **Great**



Place to Work – World's Best Workplaces list 2022.

Abbvie

Headquarters: North Chicago, Illinois
 Revenue in 2021: \$56.2bn
 Total number of employees: 48,000
 Recruitment Status: over 1000 open jobs globally
 Founded in 2013, Abbvie is a new organisation. But they still make the list of one of the biggest pharmaceutical companies in the world with over 48,000 global employees and a 2021 revenue of over \$56bn. They split from Abbott Laboratories in 2011 and now focus on research-based pharmaceutical medicines from their offices across the US as well as Germany and Japan. Current employees have rated Abbvie for having a supportive structure, friendly teams and great experience opportunities, earning a score of 3.9 on Glassdoor, as well as being placed 72nd in the Top 100 Best Places to work 2022 and 160th in the Forbes 'best employers for new grads' 2022 list. Most impressively, it ranks 6th in the Great Place to Work – World's Best Workplaces list 2022.

Sanofi

Headquarters: Paris, France
 Revenue in 2021: \$37.8bn
 Total number of employees: 100,000

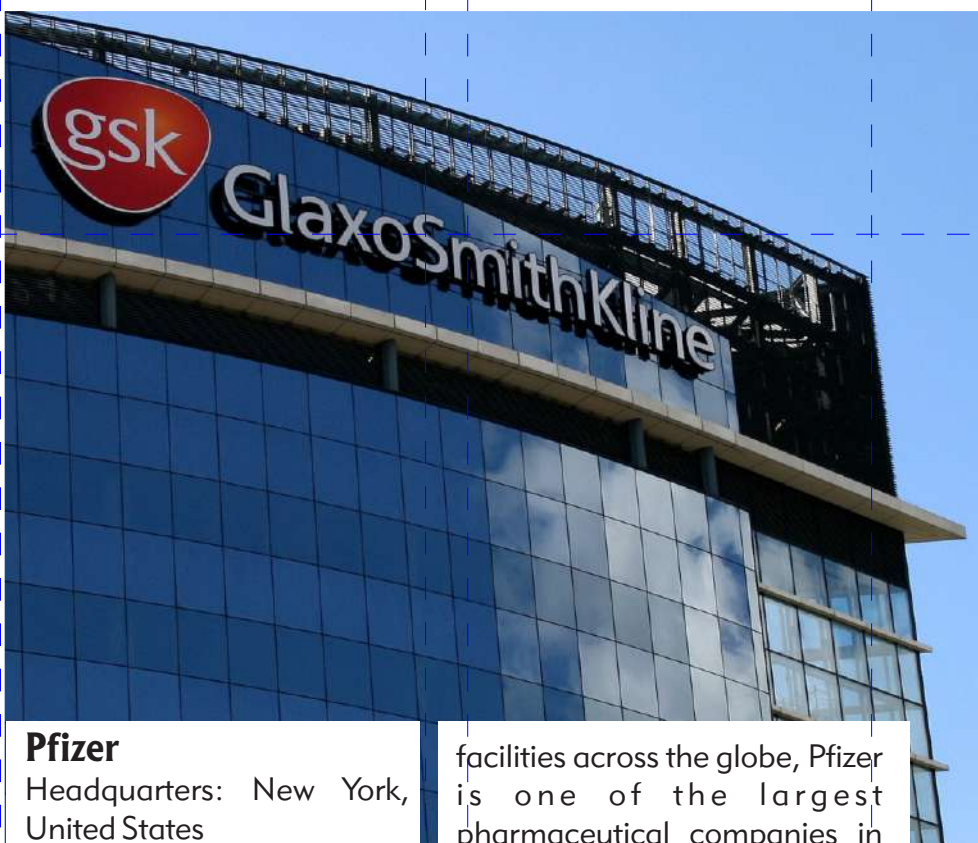


Recruitment Status: over 2000 jobs are available

Paris-based Sanofi was founded in 1973 and operates in thirty-four countries. The Sanofi Group manufactures and markets pharmaceutical drugs primarily for prescription markets, and also develops over-the-counter medications. Sanofi's therapeutic areas include cardiovascular, central nervous system, diabetes, internal medicine, oncology, thrombosis, and vaccines.

Roles available at Sanofi include pharmaceutical and science jobs, manufacturing, sales, marketing, and research. There are opportunities for people with a wide range of skills and experience and a passion for supporting medical research.

Sanofi has a Glassdoor rating of 3.9, with employee reviews speaking positively of the benefits and training programs, strong compensation, and a good working environment.



Pfizer

Headquarters: New York, United States

Revenue in 2021: \$81.3bn

Total number of employees: 79,000

Recruitment Status: 2000 opportunities listed globally
Headquartered in New York with offices and research

facilities across the globe, Pfizer is one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world. Revenues of over \$81bn in 2021 put them near the top of the list of biggest pharmaceutical companies by revenue.

While their name may have become more familiar through



their COVID-19 vaccine research, Pfizer has been producing a wide range of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medication since its launch in 1849.

Having won UK Top Employer seven times in a row and placing 37th in the Forbes 'best employers for new grads' 2022, Pfizer has regularly been voted as a great place to work. Employees have given their company an average review score of 4.1 on Glassdoor, for reasons including a positive work environment, great benefits and career opportunities, and great networking.

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)

Headquarters: Brentford, UK

Revenue in 2021: \$46.9bn

Total number of employees: 90,096

Recruitment Status: 2938 opportunities listed

GSK, based in Brentford UK, is known for developing medicines for respiratory disease and HIV, as well as developing in other key therapy areas such as



immunology and oncology. They now have offices in over one hundred countries and employ over 90,000 people.

Prescription medications include antidepressants, such as Paxil, and antidiabetics, such as Avandia. In addition to popular prescription medications, vaccines, and consumer health products, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is a major manufacturer of pharmaceuticals.

Opportunities with GSK include business operations, engineering, manufacturing and supply, and marketing and sales, as well as graduate and experienced opportunities in research and development of their broad line of products.

With employees reporting flexible working options, great employee welfare and a positive work environment and culture, GSK scores a respectable 4.0 on Glassdoor.

Merck (MSD)

Headquarters: Kenilworth, New Jersey, United States

Revenue in 2021: \$48.9bn

Total number of employees: 68,000

Recruitment Status: over 1400 jobs listed

Merck Group (known as MSD outside of the US and Canada) is a large pharmaceutical company with their head office in the United States and offices globally. They're also one of the oldest, able to trace their roots to the Merck family of Germany in 1668.

Merck's areas of research include oncology, vaccines, infectious diseases, and cardio-metabolic disorders. They also produce biological therapies and animal health products, as well as over-the-counter medications. They remain the second-largest pharmaceutical company in the US.

Career opportunities include healthcare, life science, as well as electronics and enabling functions which provide technical solutions to the medical industry. There are opportunities for postgraduate science positions to technical and office roles globally.

A review score of 4.1 on Glassdoor, as well as ranking 35th in the Forbes 'best employers for new grads' 2022 list, shows Merck/MSD is a great place to work. Positive feedback from employees includes an inclusive work environment with a high standard of professionalism, great benefits, and salaries.

Novartis
Headquarters: Basel,



Switzerland
Revenue in 2021: \$47.2bn
Total number of employees: 104,323
Recruitment Status: almost 2000 jobs listed
Novartis was formed in 1996, as a result of a merger between two Swiss companies, Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz Laboratories - one of the largest corporate mergers in history.
Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, it is separated into two main divisions; Innovative Medicines, which produces patented medicines,

and Sandoz, which specialises in biosimilar medications.
Novartis and Sandoz have more than 100,000 employees across their global offices and have a variety of open roles within their divisions - nearly two thousand vacancies at the time of writing.
They're also the highest-ranking employer in the Forbes 'best employers for new grads' 2022 list, in 27th place. Additionally, positive Glassdoor reviews praise the friendly work environment, great work culture and pay





and benefits structure, awarding an average review score of 4.1!

Roche

Headquarters: Basel, Switzerland
Revenue in 2021: \$62.9bn

Total number of employees: 101,000

The Roche Group, headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, operates in one hundred countries and employs more than 100,000 people. The organisation is divided into two segments - Pharmaceuticals, researching medicines in oncology, immunology, ophthalmology, infectious diseases and neuroscience; and Diagnostic, which researches diseases through an in vitro diagnostics process.

As part of their global recruitment, Roche also runs an entry-level program called Perspectives which supports new entrants in training and development into key roles.

Of all the pharmaceutical companies on this list, Roche



scores highest on Glassdoor reviews and also the highest approval rating for CEO Severin Schwan – 93%. With a review score of 4.3, employees like the overall purpose and direction of the company, the development opportunities, and the great benefits packages.

Johnson & Johnson

Headquarters: New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States

Revenue in 2021: \$93.6bn

Total number of employees: 141,700

Recruitment Status: over 2500 jobs advertised

With a workforce of over 141,000, 2021 revenues of over \$90bn and divisions spanning pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and consumer health, Johnson and Johnson takes first place as the largest pharmaceutical company in the world in 2022. Johnson

and Johnson were founded by three brothers in 1886; Robert Wood Johnson, James Wood Johnson and Edward Mead Johnson, in New Jersey in the United States. They pioneered the first commercial first-aid kits in 1888, and the first maternity kits in 1894, and have seen many innovations in their 135-year tenure.

To support steady growth, J&J regularly advertise new opportunities globally, with the most roles in their medical devices and pharmaceuticals operations. Their headquarters has remained in New Jersey, with offices and laboratories worldwide.

Employees praise the work environment, benefits, and also the impact the company makes on patients, awarding Johnson and Johnson a score of 4.2 on Glassdoor reviews.



Celebrating 60 Years

OF SERVICE TO HUMANITY

We the entire members of the Association of Freight Forwarders of Green life pharmaceuticals Limited heartily felicitate with

Chief (Dr.) OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA

Eziafakaego Nnokwa, Aare Basegun of Ikire kingdom and Executive chairman Green life pharmaceuticals Limited on his 60th birthday anniversary.

Our dear Chairman, when the list of outstanding Nigeria citizens is to be compiled, your name will take a prominent space because of your contributions towards the development of humanity. You are a shining star to the younger generation and we pray Almighty God will grant you more years in good health and sound mind.

Happy birthday Sir!

Association of freight forwarders of Greenlife pharmaceuticals limited

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Valchutex Int'l Nig Ltd | 10 Micheal Echeotu |
| 2 Godwin Ezeala | 11 Uche Anokoba |
| 3 Tomay Agencies Ltd | 12 Chukwudi Peter Eze |
| 4 Gabriel Nwankwo | 13 kenna Ezike David |
| 5 Kenito group (Ken Mbala) | 14 Amanchukwu Nwaosu |
| 6 Southern Trust Nig. Ltd. | 15 Emmanuel Nwaosu |
| 7 Ik Ekwelem | 16 Amaobi Uba |
| 8 Sunday Nwankwo | 17 Ogbonna Okoye. |
| 9 Obiozor Edmond Bakaba | |



RC:902848

PHAMATEX INDUSTRIES LIMITED

1, Crystal Glass Close (Marble House), By Tohan Fisheries,
Behind Abc Transport Amuwo Odofin industrial Estate, Lagos State, Nigeria.
Tel: 07068929900, 09092450300, 07019788668
Email: phamatex_industries@yahoo.com
info@phamatexindustries.com

12th July, 2023.

CONGRATULATIONS DR OBIORA CHUKWUKA @ 60.

The Management and staff of PHAMATEX GROUP Of Companies headed by CHIEF JOSEPH EBOWUSIM, ONWA IHIOMA wish to congratulate his long time friend DR OBIORA CHUKWUKA, Executive Chairman GREEN LIFE PHARMACEUTICALS, EZIAFAKAEGO NNOKWA and the BASEGUN OF IKIRE KINGDOM who recently attained 60 years of age.

I Particularly wish to rejoice with you on this auspicious occasion and thank GOD for your life, having brought you this far with a lot of achievements and laurels to your credit. As friends and players in the same industry(Pharmaceuticals), We know where we started and we know where we are now. TO GOD almighty we give all the glory.

The bible has taught us to number our days and count our blessings, name them one by one and that it will surprise us what the lord has done. MY FRIEND YOU HAVE DONE WELL @ 60 but I want you to know it is your starting point, my prayer is that God almighty will continue to be with you, you will grow from strength to strength, Glory to Glory and your Children, grand children and great grand children will surround your table. Happy birthday and congratulations once again my friend.


CHIEF JOSEPH EBOWUSIM

GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR

PHAMATEX GROUP OF COMPANIES

ONWA- IHIOMA

Directors: Prince C. O. Nebe, (Managing Director) * Chief Joseph Ebowusim (Executive Director)
Pharm Austin Otu (Director)



**A GREAT
ENTREPRENEUR @ 60**

On behalf of my family, we heartily rejoice with Chief (Dr.) **OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA** Eziafakaego Nnokwa, Aare Basegun of Ikire LAND and the Executive chairman Green life pharmaceuticals as he celebrates his 60th birthday anniversary. As we celebrate 60 years of your robust exploits, we salute the great strides you have

made to greatness which was ordered by Almighty God. Your selfless contributions to the pharmaceutical profession will never go unnoticed. You have indeed ran a good race. We wish you more wonderful years on earth in good health and sound mind.

Happy birthday!

**Signed: Chief Donatus Dunu
MD/CEO, Maydon pharmaceuticals ltd.**



His Royal Majesty

OBA OLATUNDE FALABI LANBELOYE III

OBA FUNFUN

Akire of Ikireland



AKIRE OF IKIRELAND
P. O. Box 1, Ikire, Osun State.
☎: 0803 316 0740



Our Ref: _____

Your Ref: _____

Date: _____

GOODWILL MESSAGE BY:

H.R.M. OBA OLATUNDE FALABI, FPSN, JP,

LAMBELOYE III,

AKIRE OF IKIRE KINGDOM

TO: AARE DR. ANTHONY OBIORACHUKWUKA

ON YOUR 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

I write on behalf of the highly esteemed Chiefs and the good people of Ikire Kingdom, my family and I to congratulate you very heartily on the auspicious occasion of your 60th birthday celebration and your autobiography book presentation which comes upon July 29th 2023.

We blessed the Lord for being magnanimous, marvelous and very good to you and your family. We have every reason to celebrate and to be very grateful to Him always.

We thank God for your live and to be among those that were called according to HIS PURPOSE.

We rejoice very heartily with you on this God ordained occasion of your 60th birthday celebration, our prayer is that you will live to celebrate many more useful years in good health in Jesus mighty name.

We pray that all the great things the Lord has done in your life will become greater still, in the days and years ahead and shall be permanent, we pray that God in His infinite mercies will continue to establish you in strength, grace, power and sound spirit in Jesus name.

It is our collective prayer that the Almighty God will grant you more and more years to continue doing your good works and also the privilege to reaping the well-deserved fruits of your labour in the Kingdom of God while working on your salvation with fear and trembling.

Thank you and God bless.

ALAIYELUWA

OBA OLATUNDE FALABI, JP, FPSN

LAMBELOYE III

AKIRE OF IKIRE KINGDOM



4 cities where disabled travellers are prioritised

With one in six people living with disability, ensuring that cities around the world are accessible to all is vital. But which cities are doing its best, and how?

What do disabled travellers look for when choosing a city to visit? This is important not only to the disabled people, but also for the cities tapping into a large and growing accessible travel market.

In 2018 alone, the **value of the so-called "purple pound" (the spending power of disabled people) to UK tourism** was estimated at £15.3bn; while 27 million

travellers with disabilities in the US took 81 million trips and spent \$58.7bn (£45.8bn) in that same year. As tourism recovers from the ravages of Covid-19, the business case for not excluding the 1.3 billion people living with disability – one-sixth of humanity – has become even more compelling.

A wide-ranging survey by the **Valuable 500** of 3,500 PWD in five countries – the US, UK, Australia, China and Japan – around their travel habits and experiences provides invaluable insight into this

question. The 2022 survey not only highlights the barriers to travel for people with disability (P W D), but respondents were also asked to nominate the cities they found most accessible and why, from which a **top 10** was compiled.

The resulting data provides great understanding into what makes a city attractive to disabled travellers, from the range of accessible accommodation to the availability of accessibility information. Here are four top cities for PWD to visit.



Singapore

Singapore has always been an easy travel destination for many compared with much of Asia, partly due to the excellent infrastructure and amenities, and partly because English is the lingua franca. But as a disabled traveller, it's the high degree of accessibility that makes it especially attractive.

In Singapore, the question is not, "What is accessible?" but rather, "What isn't?"

A majority of survey respondents nominated Singapore due to its accessible public transport, which makes

getting around the city a breeze. Unlike most underground metros, there is level access to every carriage on Singapore's MRT, which affords wheelchair users and people with impaired mobility both independence and dignity. In addition, more than 95% of pedestrian walkways, taxi stands and bus shelters are accessible to people living with a variety of impairments, and more than 85% of public buses are wheelchair-accessible. Deaf and hearing-impaired public transport users are also well catered for: as deaf resident Adrian Yap remarked, "Whenever there is any announcement on the trains, we can see the instructions written on the

screen." Yap also noted that "train officers are well trained to communicate with deaf people."

According to a respondent, "While infrastructure is one thing, another major aspect that makes a big difference for mobility-challenged persons are the people of Singapore and their culture. Always smiling, welcoming, helpful and soft-spoken, they make a big difference for PWD to feel accepted and looked after."

Las Vegas

The visitor economy – not just tourism, but also the enormously valuable **MICE** market – is all-important to Las Vegas. Tourism accounts for 20% of Las Vegas' GDP (compared with a national average of 6%) and 30% of jobs (double the national average).

Las Vegas is also home to **14 of the world's largest 25 hotels** and, according to prominent wheelchair blogger John Morris of *wheelchairtravel.org* who said, "The city has one of the highest concentrations of accessible hotel rooms and suites in the world, with hoteliers eager to attract the disability dollar."

Sydney

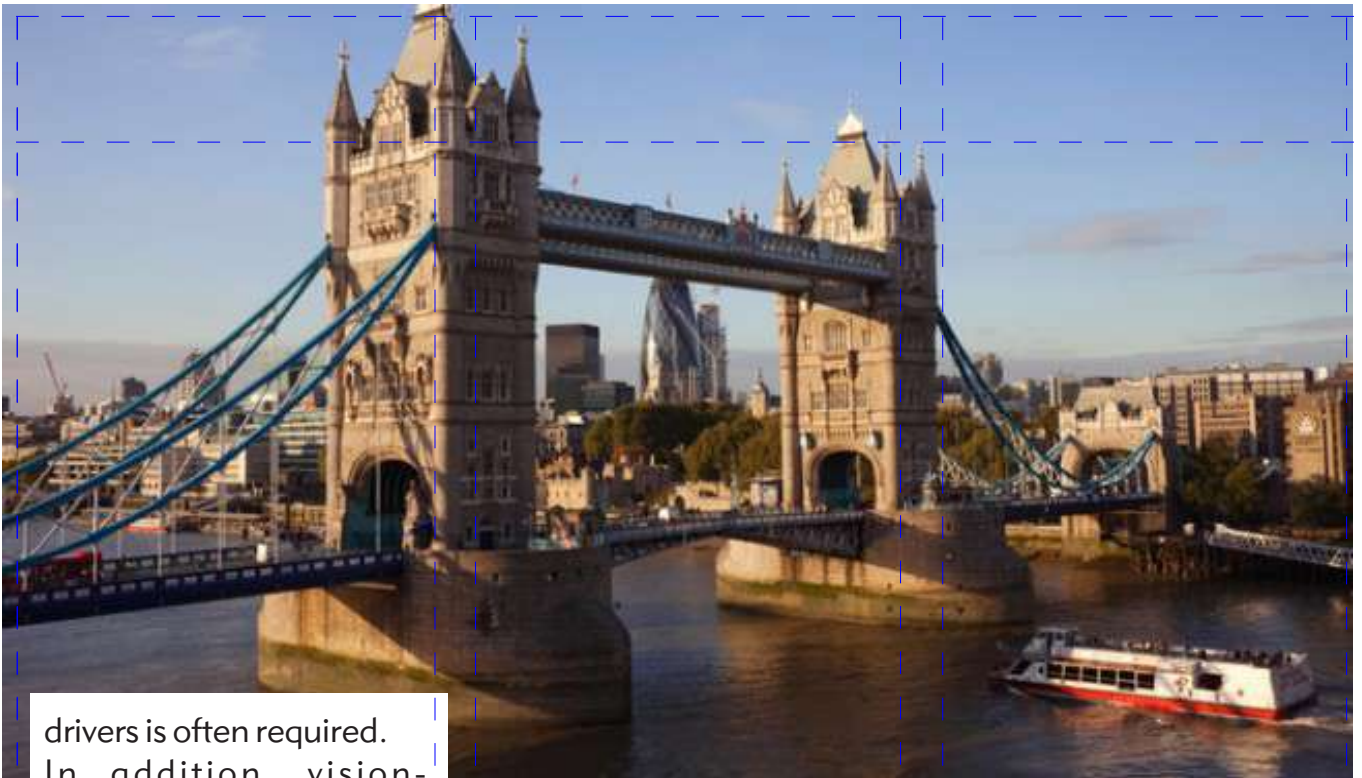
The majority of Sydney's main attractions, including most of the city's historic **National Trust** properties, which are accessible by wheelchair. The iconic Sydney Opera House has a **suite of accommodations** for people with access needs, including accessible performances, access programmes and tailored mobility tours. And after years of campaigning, lifts were finally installed at the **Harbour Bridge** four years ago.



Jones added: "The majority of the public transport system is accessible to wheelchair users, including Sydney ferries. The city's

public transport network, ferries, buses, light rail (trams) and rail, is almost wholly accessible, although assistance from





drivers is often required.

In addition, vision-impaired visitors will benefit from wide, well-maintained pavements with plentiful tactile ground surface indicators and Braille street signs, information pylons and digital technology.

Provision of information about accessibility – a key requirement for PWD to plan their trip – is where Sydney also scored highly.

London

London also scored highly in the survey, with 57% of respondents nominating it for its accessible transport links, while almost half chose the capital because its cultural attractions have good accessibility support and facilities. Many major museums and galleries have placed a particular focus on



accessibility, including the **British Museum**, the **National Gallery**, the **Tate Modern** and the **Natural History Museum**. There's also a wealth of information available for PWD to plan holidays and excursions.

As a blind **travel blogger**, Sassy Wyatt finds London easy to get around: "I can

rock up to any Tube station and use the turn-up-and-go service provided by Transport for London: a member of staff will guide me through the station and get me onto the right line, another member of staff will meet me at the other end and escort me to the exit, saving me lots of mental fatigue."



Government Proposed Reactions as Nigerian Students Loan

There is a buzz in the home of Esther Abu, where mother and daughters have just heard about a new law that will see poor Nigerian families given loans to send their children to university.

Mrs. Abu's youngest, a teenager who speaks like she is rapping, is leaving secondary school next month. She loves computer engineering but knows that her mother, a single parent whose salary as a street sweeper hardly provides enough food for the family - and has to be supplemented from alms given mostly by her church - does not have the money to send her to university.

Her eldest completed secondary school two years ago and immediately began work as a hair stylist to support the family who live in Mararaba, a congested suburb on the outskirts of Abuja.

"As a girl, I dreamed of working as a doctor," says 21-year-old Eunice.

Both now have a chance, albeit slim, of reviving their dreams, as the government says it will provide loans

to pay the tuition fees for people from such poor backgrounds. However, many questions have been raised about the scheme.

Since coming into office at the end of May, President Bola Tinubu has carried out a raft of reforms at lightning pace - ending fuel subsidies, devaluing the naira, sacking the head of the central bank and security chiefs - and his latest aims to revamp Nigeria's ailing tertiary education sector.

For decades, fees have been kept low by the government to encourage enrolment in a country where many are poor and there is a high level of illiteracy.

While medicine students at the University of Lagos in Nigeria's richest state pay just 25,000 naira (£26; \$32) per year, their peers at the University of Ghana in Accra pay 3,500 cedis (£242, \$308).

But such low fees have not been matched by government funding over time which has led to schools with obsolete equipment, overcrowded classrooms, and poor remuneration for lecturers and other staff.

An average Nigerian university professor takes home less than 500,000 naira (£570; \$725) a month, while a graduate assistant gets 160,000. These conditions have led to incessant strikes, which saw universities closed for eight months last year - the ninth stoppage in 13 years.

The strikes and lack of adequate funding have eroded confidence in Nigeria's public universities, leaving people to enrol at expensive private establishments or to study abroad, especially in Eastern Europe.

By introducing the loans, President Tinubu has given universities a free rein to increase tuition fees, which the government reckons students from poor families can now afford.

The president says the scheme will expand access to education to all Nigerians regardless



He says the conditions were necessary to ensure people paid up, in a country where most see government loans as free money.

While it is hard to measure the financial background of students in public tertiary schools, many at the University of Abuja are from low-income homes.

Their education is funded by parents and guardians who are junior civil servants, private security guards and company drivers.

Combined earnings in such families are often just above the threshold, putting the loan out of reach, even though they are not well-off by Nigerian standards.

These families have already taken hits from transport fares that have doubled, while the cost of food has also soared recently.

Now, they will have to deal with tuition fees which have gone up in some universities - which have been mulling increases since last year - by as much as 200%.

The loan is strictly for tuition and excludes other fees such as accommodation and food, which usually account for a higher proportion of the total cost of university.

"If they are not paying for everything, then what is the point of it? Who will buy books, pay for hostel, feeding," asks Mrs Abu, the chatter long extinguished in her home.

"They should have made the loans available to every student," says Caleb Isaac, a self-sponsored part-time student at the National Open University in Abuja.

In his spare time, he works as a marketer for a transport company and fears a hike in fees will be hard on him.

This is not Nigeria's first attempt at a students' loan - an initial plan in 1972 by the military government crumbled because beneficiaries refused to repay, says Prof Mohammed.

"Maybe the president should have first concentrated on creating jobs," says Mrs Abu.

The lack of jobs, other fees involved and a lack of clarity about what will happen to employees who default on repayments, mean the loan does not work for her family, she says.

"Better if my daughters learn trades and get small jobs than go to school and face jail," she says.

Culled from BBC.

of their backgrounds.

The zero-interest loan will be paid back as monthly deductions of 10% of the salaries of beneficiaries two years after they complete a mandatory post-graduate paramilitary service (NYSC).

"But what if they finish school and don't get a job?" asks Mrs Abu in a low voice that hushed the room.

It is a question been repeated across Nigeria by students and their parents since the scheme was announced.

Every year, huge numbers of graduates are pumped into Nigeria's labour market but only a few find jobs.

In the last survey, in 2020, one in three of those who wanted to work were unemployed, and millions of graduates were doing jobs below their skillset such as working as hair stylists.

Funding for education has improved recently but it still falls short of the UN-recommended 15-20% of the annual national budget



Akwa-Ibom

Proposed 42 States Model and Optimisation

Below is the kite being flown by the Federal Government on Restructuring.

Nigerian Economic Restructuring Bill 2021.

[1] Nigeria will be made up of 42 states, with seven per each of her constituent geo-political zone. These shall be:

South-south

- [1] Bayelsa State - Yenagoa
- [2] Western Ijaw State - Patani
- [3] Rivers State - Port Harcourt
- [4] Cross River State - Calabar
- [5] Akwa Ibom State - Uyo
- [6] Edo State - Benin
- [7] Delta State - Warri

Northeast

- [1] Mambilla State - Gashaka
- [2] Taraba State - Jalingo
- [3] Adamawa State - Yola
- [4] Borno State - Maiduguri
- [5] Yobe State - Damaturu



Ebonyi

- [6] Bauchi State - Bauchi
- [7] Gombe State - Gombe

Southeast

- [1] Aniom State - Asaba
- [2] Orashi State - Omoku
- [3] Anambra State - Awka
- [4] Imo State - Owerri
- [5] Enugu State - Enugu
- [6] Abia State - Umuahia
- [7] Ebonyi State - Abakaliki

North-Central

- [1] Abuja State - FCT
- [2] Gurara State - Kafanchan

- [3] Benue State - Makurdi
- [4] Plateau State - Jos
- [5] Nasarawa State - Lafia
- [6] Kogi State - Lokoja
- [7] Niger State - Minna

Southwest

- [1] Kwara State - Ilorin
- [2] Oyo State - Ibadan
- [3] Ogun State - Abeokuta
- [4] Lagos State - Ikeja
- [5] Ondo - Akure
- [6] Ekiti - Ado-Ekiti
- [7] Osun - Oshogbo



Imo



Kano



Owerri



Rivers



Kogi

Northwest

- [1] Sokoto State - Sokoto
- [2] Kebbi State - Birnin Kebbi
- [3] Kaduna State - Kaduna
- [4] Katsina State - Katsina
- [5] Kano State - Kano
- [6] Jigawa State - Dutse
- [7] Zamfara State - Gusua

[2] Each state will be responsible for creating and funding its local governments as it deems fit. Local governments will be funded internally by the charging of a local tax, which will be augmented by a state grant representing no more than 10% of TV.

[3] Over a 35-year period, we gradually migrate back to the 1957/58 revenue sharing formula agreed by our founding fathers at the Lancaster House Conferences in London under which the federating units will control all the resources within their domains and remit 50% to the centre.

[4] Our federating units will keep 50% of all the revenue that they generate, put a further 20% into a central pot called the Excess Federation Account to which everyone can have access as the need arises, 10% will go into a geo-political zone account and the remaining 20% will go to into the Federation Account used to run the federal government.

[5] With regards to all other resources, we shall move towards this immediately but in the case of oil and gas, the move will have to be gradual due to how dependent we have become on these two resources. A gradual migration shall take place over the next 35 years in this manner:
 2000 - 13%, 2021 - 18%, 2023 - 20%, 2025 - 25%, 2030 - 30%, 2035 - 35%, 2040 - 40%, 2045 - 45%, 2050 - 50%.

[6] Every one of our 42 states must target generating at least \$2bn in export revenue. Any state government that attracts inward investment to the tune of \$1bn, will get a corresponding grant from the federal

government.

[7] Any state that fails to generate as much revenue as it spends for two consecutive years as from 2020, will be subject to an immediate declaration of a state of emergency. It shall be administered centrally by the federal government until its books are balanced.

[8] Every state must seek to generate at least 30% of its internal revenue from manufacturing and services, with a migration away from primary products to value added production.

[9] Every state is free to create more local governments provided they meet the necessary criteria which includes holding a referendum and the fact that the local government area is self-sustaining. To be recognised as a local government area, basic facilities that must exist within the domain include 20 primary schools, five secondary schools, a local government headquarters, at least one vocational training college and at least one public health centre.

[10] All local and state governments will as a matter of course award supply contracts to companies that manufacture products within Nigeria. Only as a last resort will companies that manufacture products abroad be granted government contracts.





BURNA BOY

Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu

MFR (born 2 July 1991), known professionally as Burna Boy, is a Nigerian singer, songwriter and record producer. He rose to stardom in 2012 after releasing "Like to Party", the lead single from his debut studio album *L.I.F.E* (2013). In 2017, Burna Boy signed with Bad Habit/Atlantic Records in the United States and Warner Music Group internationally. His third studio album *Outside* (2018) marked his major-label debut.

In 2019, he won Best International Act at the 2019 BET Awards, and was announced as Apple Music Up Next artist that year. His fourth studio album, titled *African Giant*, was released in July 2019. It won Album of the Year at the 2019 All Africa Music Awards and was nominated for Best World Music Album at the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards. He was awarded African Artiste of the Year at the 2020 Ghana Music Awards. Burna Boy released his fifth studio album, *Twice as Tall*, in August 2020. It won Best World Music Album at the 63rd Annual Grammy Awards. He won Best International Act at the 2021 BET Awards.

Burna Boy's sixth studio album, *Love, Damini*, was released in July 2022 and became the highest debut of an African album on the Billboard 200 chart. It also became the highest charted African album in the Netherlands, United Kingdom and France. Burna Boy was also awarded the Member of the Order of the Federal Republic plaque for his achievements in music.

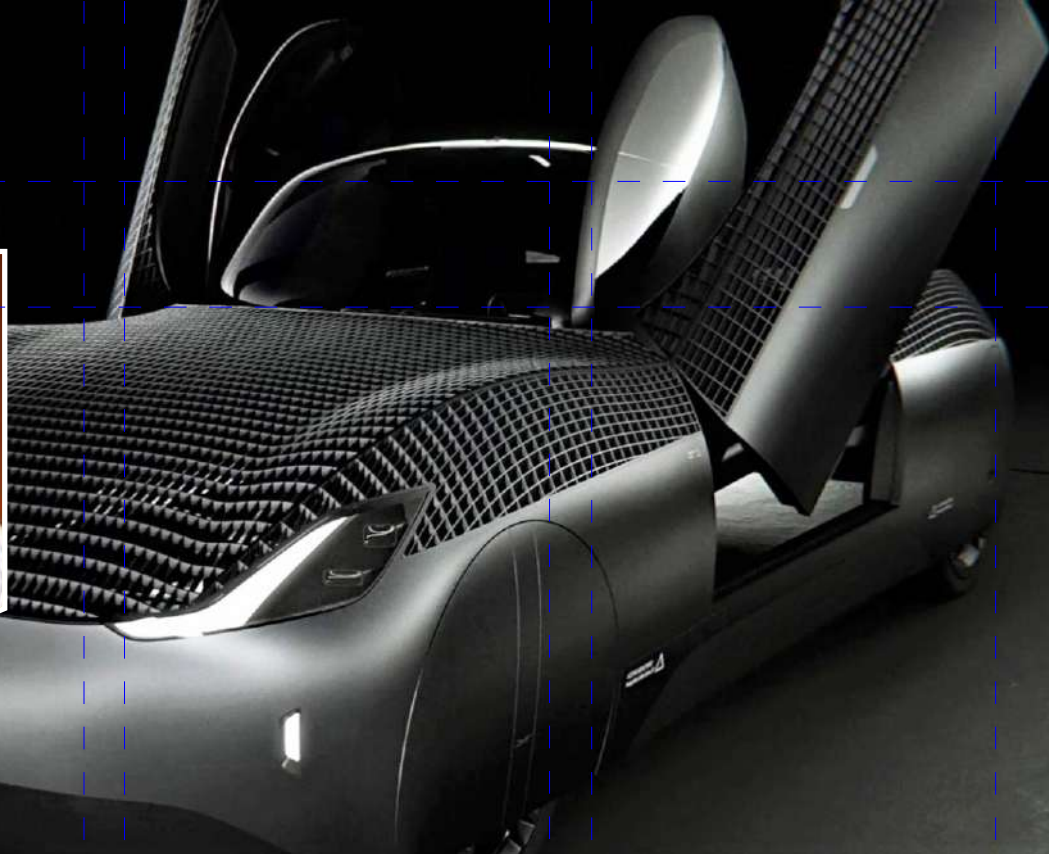
In 2023, Rolling Stone ranked him number 197 on its list of the 200 greatest singers of all time. Burna Boy won Bet International Act at the 2023 BET Awards, making for his third win in the category.

Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu was born on the 2nd day of July 1991, in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. His mother, Bose Ogulu, worked as a language translator and his father, Samuel, managed a welding company. His maternal grandfather Benson Idonije once managed Fela Kuti. His mother later became his manager. Ogulu grew up in Southern Nigeria and began making his own beats using FL Studio. He attended Corona Secondary School in Agbara, Ogun State, and relocated to London, England to further his studies. He studied media technology at the University of Sussex from 2008 to 2009, and also studied media communications and culture at Oxford Brookes University from 2009 to 2010.

Burna Boy returned to Port Harcourt and took up a year-long internship at Rhythm 93.7 FM. He launched his music career after returning to Lagos.

On 1 January 2023, during the Lagos leg of his *Love, Damini* tour, a visibly upset Burna Boy denied the nightclub shooting rumour and rumours about his mother being a former backup dancer for Afrobeat pioneer, Fela Kuti.

On June 10, Burna Boy hosted Pepsi's 2022-23 UEFA Champions League Final opening ceremony in Istanbul, Turkey, along with Brazilian singer Anitta and the Swedish DJ Alesso.



The Federal Aviation Administration has certified for testing a vehicle that a California start-up describes as a flying car — the first fully electric vehicle that can both fly and travel on roads to receive US government approval.

Alef Automotive said that its vehicle/aircraft, dubbed the “Model A,” is the first flying vehicle that is drivable on public roads and able to park like a normal car. It also has vertical take-off and landing capabilities. It apparently will be able to carry one or two occupants and will have a road-range of 200 miles and a flying range of 110 miles.

The company expects to sell the vehicle for \$300,000 each with the first delivery by projected for the end of 2025.

The FAA confirmed that it has issued the company a special airworthiness certificate, allowing for limited purposes that include exhibition, research and development.

Numerous companies are working on all-electric VTOLs, which stands for vehicle take-off and landing aircraft. The FAA said that Alef is “not the first aircraft of its kind” to get a special airworthiness certificate.

A flying car prototype just got an airworthiness certificate from the FAA

However, Alef noted that its vehicle is different because of its ability to function both on roads and in the air, to appear like a normal car and to park in a normal parking space.

We’re excited to receive this certification from the FAA. It allows us to move closer to bringing people an environmentally friendly and faster commute, saving individuals and companies hours each week. This is a one small step for planes, one giant step for cars,” said Jim Dukhovny, the CEO of Alef.

The company’s website said the flying car will be a certified as a “low speed vehicle,” which means it won’t be able to go faster than about 25 miles per hour on a paved road. “The assumption is that, if a driver

needs a faster route, a driver will use Alef’s flight capabilities,” the company posted on the site.

Regardless, it also still needs approval from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to

go on roads.

Development has been underway on the vehicle since 2015. Four friends, Constantine Kisly, Pavel Markin, Oleg Petrov and Dukhovny, inspired by the “Back to the Future” movies (which foresaw flying cars being available in that year), decided to form a company to try to develop them.

According to the company, an initial automated test flight of a skeleton version of the car was successfully conducted in 2018, and a full-size prototype was flown the following year. But Alef said that it needed the FAA’s special airworthiness certificate to continue conducting the necessary research and development.

The company also said that earlier this year that it had taken refundable pre-orders for more than 400 of the vehicles, with the cost of \$150 to be in the general queue and \$1,500 for the priority queue.

Celebrating

AN ACHIEVER OF NO MEAN STATUS

@ 60

On behalf of my family, we heartily rejoice with an outstanding achiever **Chief (Dr.) OBIORA ANTHONY CHUKWUKA** Eziáfakaego Nnokwa, Aare Basegun of Ikire kingdom and Executive chairman Green life pharmaceuticals as he celebrates his 60th birthday anniversary.

Chief, you have given the next generation not only to talk with administration about what you accomplished in life but remember the sacrifices you made for others to make their life's better, you truly care about people and show it.

This is the fulfillment of the word of God which says "The name of the righteous is used in blessings, but the name of the wicked will rot."

Enjoy the grace of God over you always.

Congratulations!

Signed Mr. Justin O. Okafor

MD/CEO:

Justeen Pharmaceuticals Ltd.



Chinese Naval Ship on Nigerian Shores

Three Chinese military ships have been found navigating on Nigeria seashores and the officials claimed it is to improve maritime security.

The arrival of the fleet which is led by a destroyer comes six months after a new billion-dollar deep sea port was opened in Lagos.

It was Chinese-built and China has retained a majority shareholding in the company that runs the facility.

Correspondents say the port and naval visit are further signs of China's growing presence in Africa.

Nigeria is a major oil supplier to China.

In a statement, China's ambassador in Nigeria Cui Jianchun described the event as a major move in China-Nigeria relations saying, "It demonstrates the high degree of political mutual

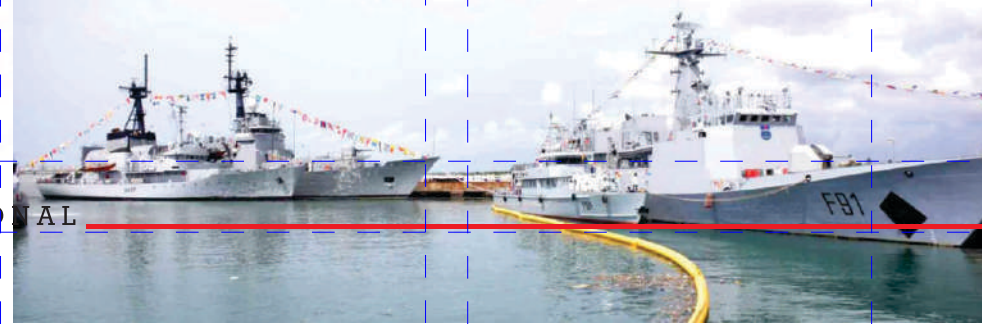


trust between the two countries which will have a profound impact on development."

The Nigerian navy led by Rear Admiral Akpan expressed "Willingness to work with China to tackle maritime security threats and maintain stability in the Gulf of Guinea."

Last year US defence officials expressed concern that America's national security could be under threat if China sets up a military base on the West African coastline.

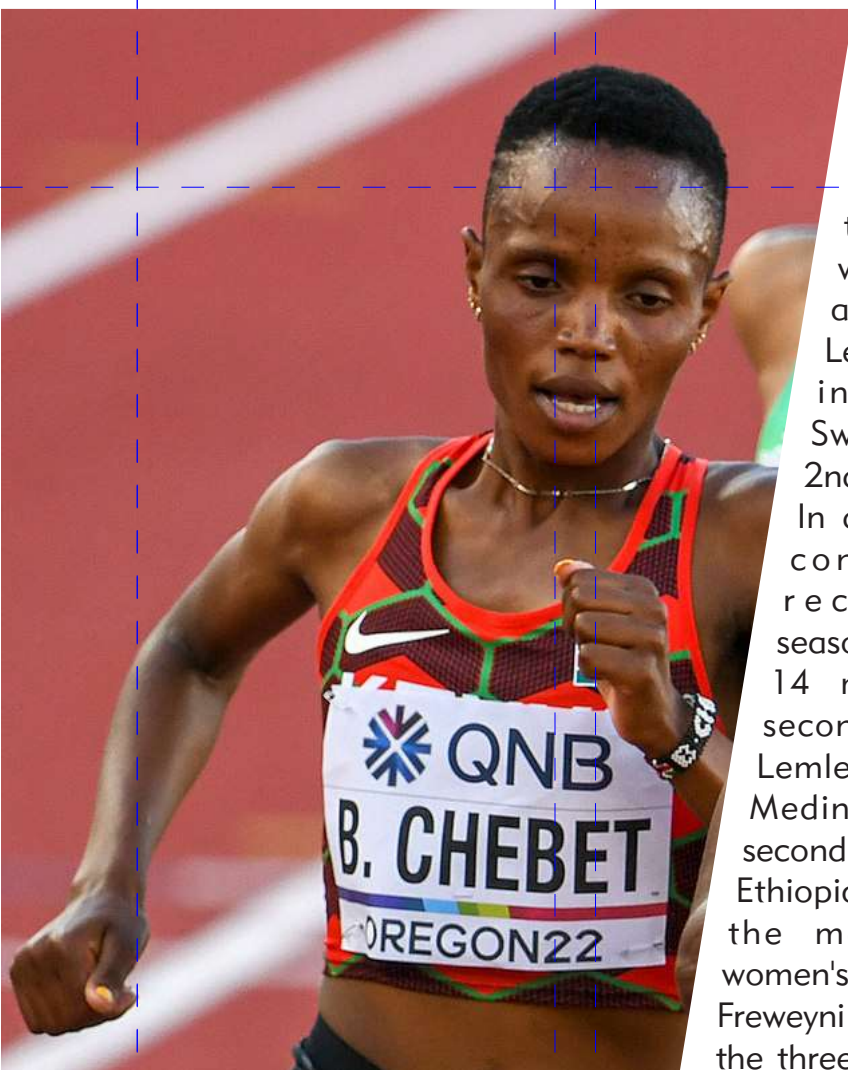
In 2017, China opened its first overseas naval base in Djibouti on the East African coast.



Kenya's

CHEBET

Leads Africans On Diamond LEAGUE TABLE



Kenya's Beatrice Chebet

led an African top three in the women's 3000m at the Diamond League meeting in Stockholm, Sweden on July 2nd, 2023.

In difficult weather conditions she recorded her season's best time of 14 minutes 36.52 seconds. Ethiopia's Lemlem Hailu and Medina Eisa came second and third.

Ethiopia monopolised the medals in the women's 1500m, with Freweyni Hailu leading the three with a time of

4:02.31.

"The victory is great but the competition was not ideal due to the weather. But we have to adapt to all conditions." Said Hailu.

Other African success included:

- South Africa's Akani Simbine winning the men's 100m
- South Africa's Zakithi Nene winning the men's 400m
- Algeria's Djamel Sedjati winning the men's 800m
- Nigeria's Tobi Amusan winning the women's 100m hurdles.

Controversial Chinese Scientist, HE JIANKUI, Proposes New Gene Editing Research

He Jiankui, the Chinese scientist who sparked global outrage in 2018 when he revealed that he had created the first gene-edited children, has put forward a new proposal for modifying human embryos that he claims could help aid the "ageing population."

He, who in 2019 was sentenced to three years in prison in China for "illegal medical practices," re-emerged last year and surprised the global scientific community when he announced on social media that he was opening a research lab in Beijing.

Since that time, updates on his research posted on his Twitter account have focused on proposed plans to develop gene therapy for rare disease. He recently posted a new research proposal that



experts say it is reminiscent of his earlier work, which scientists broadly decried as unethical and dangerous – with the potential to impact human DNA across generations.

In a succinct one-page document, he proposed research that would involve gene-editing mouse embryos and then human fertilized egg cells, or zygotes, in order

to test whether a mutation "confers protection against Alzheimer's disease."

"The ageing population is of grave importance as both a socioeconomic issue and a strain on the medical system ... Currently, there is no effective drug for Alzheimer's disease," he wrote in an apparent nod to China's growing demographic burden due to a rising proportion of elderly. Unlike the science that landed him in jail, this potential experiment involves a kind of abnormal fertilized egg cell generally considered not suitable to be implanted in a woman.

No human embryo would be implanted for pregnancy and "government permit and ethical approval" were required before experimentation, the proposal said.

It's not clear whether He would get approval for such work in China, even if the proposal he put forward were deemed to have merit – and other experts have said the current proposal is not scientifically sound.

Authorities in China took multiple steps to tighten rules and ethical standards affecting human gene editing in the wake of the revelations about his previous research. They also banned He from engaging in work related to assisted reproductive technology

services and placed limits on his work with human genetic resources, according to state media.

But the scientist's release of a new proposal involving gene editing of embryos has scientists and medical ethics experts concerned – and confused.

"The whole thing is, to put it bluntly, insane," said Peter Dröge, an associate professor at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, who focuses on molecular and

biochemical genetics.

The proposed research could be seen as a step to explore if such a method of genetic editing could be used in a viable embryo in future, according to Dröge.

Apart from ethical considerations, gene-editing an embryo to address a complex disease that affects people toward the end of their life and doesn't have a clear, single genetic cause is "highly questionable," he said.

"He basically wants to genetically modify the human species so they don't get Alzheimer's," he said. "I'm really surprised that he's coming forward with this again."

Joy Zhang, founding director of the Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice at the University of Kent in Britain, said the proposal seemed to be "more of a publicity stunt than a substantiated



Harvard-trained Economist May Become The Next China Central Bank Governor

China has named an economist who studied at Cambridge University and Harvard University to a key political post at its central bank that could position him to eventually replace governor Yi Gang.

Pan Gongsheng was appointed Saturday as the new Communist Party chief at the People's Bank of China (PBOC), in a surprise move as Beijing bolsters its drive to arrest the country's economic slowdown and stem a slide in its currency.

The announcement came just days before US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is

expected to visit Beijing, and follows a series of downbeat economic data that has sent the yuan tumbling towards levels last seen 15 years ago.

Pan, who will turn 60 this week, is likely to be named governor of the PBOC following his promotion to the top party post at the bank, state-owned Securities Times reported, citing anonymous analysts.

If that happens, he will replace Yi, 65, who has been serving as the central

bank's governor for five years and is still in post.

Pan currently serves as the deputy governor of the PBOC. He also holds a concurrent post as head of China's foreign exchange regulator, managing the world's largest foreign exchange reserves worth \$3.18 trillion.

He replaced Guo Shuqing, who had been the party boss at the central bank since 2018 and oversaw a regulatory crackdown on fintech conglomerates like Ant Group.



BYD Beats Tesla in Car Sales



BYD outpaced Tesla in the second quarter as the Chinese carmaker posted record sales of hybrid and electric vehicles.

Between April and June, BYD (BYDDE) sold more than 700,000 vehicles, almost double the number sold in the same quarter last year and setting a new quarterly record.

Recently, Tesla (TSLA) announced it had achieved its best quarterly results. The company produced nearly 480,000 vehicles and delivered over 466,000.

In June, BYD, which is backed by Warren Buffett, sold a total of 253,046 new energy vehicles, up 89% from a year ago, according to a company filing released Sunday. It was the best monthly sales

it has ever achieved. New energy vehicles include both battery powered EVs and plug-in hybrids.

Tesla and BYD are among the bestselling Electric Vehicles (EV) makers in the world. BYD still lags behind Tesla globally in terms of pure EV sales. But in China, the Shenzhen-based company has raced ahead as the top brand.

In May, BYD sold around 119,000 pure EVs, more than double from the same period last year.

In comparison, Tesla's Shanghai Gigafactory delivered 77,695 vehicles in May, up 142% from a year ago, according to the most recent statistics released by the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Australian Firm Sues Twitter for \$665,000 Bills Default

An Australian project management firm has filed a lawsuit against Twitter in a US court seeking cumulative payments of about A\$1 million (\$665,000) over alleged non-payment of bills for work done in four countries, court filings showed.

Sydney-based private company Facilitate Corp on June 29 filed the suit in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California claiming breach of contract over Twitter's failure to pay its invoices.

The Australian firm's lawsuit is the latest alleging non-payment of bills and rent against Twitter (TWTR) since Elon Musk bought the social media platform for \$44 billion last year.

Facilitate Corp said from 2022 through early 2023, it installed sensors in Twitter's offices in London and Dublin, completed an office fit-out in Singapore and cleared an office in Sydney.





Health effects of Aspartame draw new scrutiny from WHO experts

Decades after aspartame was approved for use in the United States, the sweetener's safety is getting another look by global health bodies assessing its potential links to cancer.

The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer analysed the potential carcinogenic effects of the sweetener this month. A separate WHO and United Nations committee, the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives, is now updating its risk assessment, including what it considers to be an acceptable daily intake.

Aspartame is a common sweetener used in beverages

like Coke Zero Sugar, Diet Coke, Sprite Zero, Pepsi Zero Sugar and Mountain Dew Zero Sugar. It's also found in chewing gum, cough drops and even some toothpastes, among other products. The sweetener has been reviewed multiple times by the US Food and Drug Administration, which says aspartame is safe for the general population.

The FDA updated its website on aspartame and other sweeteners ahead of the WHO analysis; it says it monitors the latest science and levels of consumer exposure to sweeteners and calls aspartame "one of the most studied food additives in the human food supply."

Both WHO committees are made up of independent health experts from around the world. The International Agency for Research on Cancer looked at existing research to assess whether aspartame is hazardous, and the report from the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives will provide recommendations for how much aspartame a person can safely consume.

The cancer research committee's range of carcinogens is broad, according to Qi Sun, an associate professor of nutrition and epidemiology at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. For example, it considers mobile devices "possible carcinogens," he said, a classification that indicates that a product has "limited" links to cancer in humans.

But Sun says consumers don't necessarily need to be worried. Whether aspartame can be considered a carcinogen "boils down to what kind of evidence we have," he said.



Vietnam Bans 'Barbie' Movie Over South China Sea Map

Vietnam has banned Warner Bros.' highly anticipated film "Barbie" from domestic distribution over a scene featuring a map that shows China's unilaterally claimed territory in the South China Sea, state media reported on Monday.

The U-shaped "nine-dash line" is used on Chinese maps to illustrate its claims over vast areas of the South China Sea, including swathes of what Vietnam considers its continental shelf, where it has awarded oil concessions.

"Barbie" is the latest movie to be banned in Vietnam for depicting China's controversial nine-dash line, which was repudiated in an international arbitration ruling by a court in The Hague in 2016. China refuses to recognize the ruling.

In 2019, the Vietnamese government pulled DreamWorks' animated film "Abominable," and last year it banned Sony's action movie "Uncharted" for the same reason. Netflix also removed an Australian spy drama, "Pine Gap," in 2021.

"Barbie," starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, was originally slated to open in Vietnam on July 21, the same date as in the United States, according to state-run Tuoi Tre newspaper.



A Danish research has postulated that people who identify as transgender have significantly higher rates of suicide and suicide attempts compared with the rest of the population, according to a population-level study out of Denmark.

Transgender People Face Higher Suicide Risk

The study of more than 6.6 million people found that those who identified as trans had 7.7 times the rate of suicide attempts and 3.5 times the rate of suicide deaths than the broader Danish population. Among the 3,759 survey participants who identified as transgender, there were 92 suicide attempts and 12 suicides between 1980 and

2021. However, the numbers are probably a significant undercount, as the researchers say the records they used do not always capture a person's gender identity. The authors of the study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, are careful to note that it has limitations. It can only count the number of suicides among people who have sought care from a hospital for gender identity-related medical issues, and it can only capture the number of trans people who applied for a legal change of gender. It does not detail what percentage of the

population may be missed. The study also does not pin down exactly why trans people face a higher suicide risk, but the researchers theorize that part of the problem may be "minority stress," in which people are bullied, discriminated against, socially excluded or faced with general prejudice for who they are. The researchers say previous work has showed that 60% of transgender people in Denmark experienced abuse in the form of harassment or bullying, and 30% experienced physical violence. Trans people in Denmark also report that they face discrimination in their interactions with the health care system. The researchers also note that the work may not reflect the situation in other countries.

ICAN vows to checkmate proliferation of accountancy bodies

By Chinwendu Obienyi

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) has vowed that it will checkmate the proliferation and balkanisation of the accounting professional bodies in the country.

The 59th President of ICAN, Dr Innocent Okwuosa, stated this during a press conference in Lagos on Tuesday. He noted that the accounting profession in Nigeria is currently facing an existential threat arising from proliferation and balkanisation of regulatory bodies, stressing

that the Council will engage more with other professions in Nigeria as well as cooperate with any national Professional Accountancy Organisation (PAO) in order to make the practice what it should be.

Okwuosa said, "What happened with proliferation is that quacks come into the profession and accept everything when it comes to rendering a service. It is something that the profession needs to work on and we hesitate to talk about how this

new profession that emerged recruits members.

When you look at the process through which they recruit members, you would see the challenge we are talking about. I do not want to stir a controversy, but a situation where someone sits in his house and a certificate of membership is posted to him without going through the rigours of what it takes to become a professional gives you an idea of the challenge.

Tinubu Assures Investors of Policy Consistency

President Bola Tinubu has assured the global business community of his administration's

commitment to policy consistency and better investment climate.

According to Special Adviser Special Duties, Communication and Strategy, Dele Alake, the president gave the assurance when he received the delegation of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) led by the Global Upstream Director, Ms Zoe Yujnovic.

He welcomed the SPDC's

offer for more investments in the Nigerian oil and gas sector, stressing that such investments were needed now more than ever, to enable government meet its obligations to the people.

He recalled that attracting fresh investment was "a promise I made personally to Nigerians. Whatever it takes, I will fulfill that promise to Nigerians."

Tinubu emphasised the readiness of Nigeria for business once again, reaffirming his administration's commitment to maintaining an open-door policy.





UK spends \$109m on GEP in 6 Nigerians states in 10 years –UNICEF

The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom (UK) through the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Federal and State Governments of Nigeria has expended the sum of \$109 million on Girls' Education Programme (GEP) in six States between 2012-2022.

The Girls' Education Programme Phase 3 (GEP3) and Sustainable Development Goal 4 of the United Nations were aimed at improving access, enrolment, retention, and learning outcomes for girls in basic education in Northern Nigeria, particularly in Bauchi, Katsina, Niger, Sokoto, Zamfara, and Kano states

According to the factsheet presented at the national dissemination meeting of the final evaluation of GEP 3 and SDG 4 conducted between the years under review by Senior Education Manager, UNICEF, Michael Banda, the search project was premised on related educational policies of the federal and state governments.

The factsheet revealed that before the coming of the GEP 3 project, one in four children in Nigeria were out of school, most were girls located in the North

West and North-east and in 2021, girls' primary attendance rate was 66 per cent compared to boys at 72 per cent.

The document indicated that about 1.5 million girls enrolled in school (surpassing the target of 1 million girls) and increased enrolment of girls by household while 23,655 girls benefited from the cash transfer programme to enable them to stay in school.

2.6 million children continued education through alternate learning during COVID-19; back-to-school campaigns were conducted in 18,567 schools, resulting in 94% of children returning to school.

Over 67,000 teachers and Integrated Quranic Studies (IQS) facilitators were trained; teaching competency improved from 12% to 52%

Over 3,800 schools and IQS implemented RANA with improvement in foundational literacy and over 135,000 girls benefited through 4,514 functioning G4G groups; school attendance improved from 43% to 70% through phases 1, 2 and 3 of the project.

106-year-old Filipino Becomes Vogue's Oldest cover model

A 106-year-old tattoo artist from the Philippines, Apo Whang-Od, is Vogue's oldest cover model as revealed in the popular magazine's cover of April issue.

Whang-Od — also known as Mariq Oggay — has been perfecting the art of hand-tapping tattoos since she was a teen, learning under her father's instruction.


Residing in the mountain village of Buscalan, about 15 hours north of Mahila, in Kalinga province, she is considered the country's oldest mambabatok — or traditional Kalinga tattooist.

Once, the hand-tapped tattoos that Whang-Od creates using just a bamboo stick, a thorn from a pomelo tree, water and coal, were earned by indigenous Butbut warriors.

Now, international visitors seeking her signature geometric designs make up much of her clientele.

Whang-Od, the last mambabatok of her generation, has imprinted the symbols of the Kalinga tribe — signifying strength, bravery, and beauty — on the skin of thousands of people who have made the pilgrimage to Buscalan.





World's largest **'wood city'** to be built in **Stockholm**

In recent years, wooden buildings have reached new heights, with soaring timber skyscrapers completed or underway in countries like Norway, Switzerland and Australia.

Meanwhile, Singapore can lay claim to the largest timber building in Asia with a sprawling 468,000-square-foot college campus that opened in May.

Now, real estate developer Atrium Ljungberg has announced plans to build the world's largest "wooden city," which will be constructed in Sweden's capital, Stockholm, from 2025.

Stockholm Wood City will

feature 7,000 office spaces and 2,000 homes in the city's southeast, and will offer a vibrant, urban environment with a mix of workplaces, housing, restaurants and shops set across 250,000 square metres, which will be the "world's largest known construction project in wood."

The project is being built in Sickla, a neighbourhood already home to more than 400 companies. Stockholm Wood City will be the largest timber construction project in the world.

Although some experts have raised concerns over fire risks

posed by wooden buildings, but advocates argue that engineered timber burns at a relatively slow and predictable rate, making it safer than many conventional steel structures.

Timber is also a "carbon sink," meaning that carbon dioxide removed from the air by trees is stored in the material rather than being returned to the atmosphere.

Wooden buildings have been found to enjoy better indoor air quality and can be constructed with significantly lower carbon emissions than those made with conventional materials.

Rwandan government has waived entry visas to Nigerians, other Africans and members of the Commonwealth in order to promote the ease of doing business and attract investors into the Central/Eastern African country.

Speaking at the commemoration of Rwanda's 29th anniversary celebration and liberation day in Abuja on Tuesday, the country's Charge D'Affaires in Nigeria, Mr. Vianney Rubagumya said: "In a bid to widen tourism and spur trade and investment, Rwanda has waived entry visas to visitors from all over Africa, the Commonwealth, and la Francophonie Nations."

He noted that: "The move

Rwanda waives Visa for Africans, Commonwealth citizens

complements the ease of doing business strides and popularity as a preferred Conference destination."

He also disclosed that Rwanda is in advanced stages of expanding the operations of the Kigali International Financial Centre, which is poised to dispense innovative world-class services."

The envoy said that "29 years after, "Liberation" is still in process. At the forefront of the leadership agenda of H.E President Paul Kagame, animated by the "Vision 2050", is the commitment to consolidate and sustain the journey towards self-reliance by ensuring holistic economic emancipation, as well

as effective and accountable systems of governance.

"In this process of Liberation, Rwanda counts on her citizens of course, but also on her friends and partners. I therefore take this opportunity to commend the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the immense support during the transformation journey and the excellent bilateral cooperation."

He stressed that President Kagame's attendance at President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inauguration on 29th May 2023 was an affirmation of the strong bond between Nigeria and Rwanda.

Meta Launches thread to rival Twitter

Facebook owner Meta has launched a new app, Threads, to rival Twitter. The app will be linked to Instagram. It is described as a text-based conversation app where communities come together. The new app is the latest chapter in the rivalry between Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk, who bought Twitter in October.

In June the two high-profile billionaires – agreed to take each other on in a cage fight in an exchange that went viral on social media.

The arrival of the new app comes after Twitter announced TweetDeck is to become the next part of the company to be limited to users who have paid for verified status.

The application, which allows users to manage multiple feeds and searches, will only be accessible to verified users in 30 days, according to a tweet from Twitter Support on Monday evening.

A new version of TweetDeck has been made available with the tweet giving instructions to update. The announcement follows Mr Musk announcing two days earlier that users were being limited to reading 600 posts a day.

He said the limit, which had been



Lionel Messi's Inter Miami contract worth about \$60 million per year

Argentine soccer superstar Lionel Messi is to earn between \$50 and \$60 million per year when he joins Inter Miami, the club's part-owner Jorge Mas said in an interview.

The lower of those figures would make Messi the highest-paid player in Major League Soccer (MLS) by over \$40 million, according to sports salary tracker Spotrac. According to that site, Xherdan Shaqiri currently earns the most in the league with an annual wage of \$8,153,000.

Messi's potential on-pitch earnings are outstripped by those of his long-time rival

Cristiano Ronaldo, who has a \$75 million playing salary after moving to Saudi Arabian team Al-Nassr, according to Forbes.

Mas confirmed that the 35-year-old's wage will be supplemented by the guarantee of being part of the club's ownership once he retires, as well as a cut from the profits of MLS' broadcasting deal with Apple TV and the team's kit sales from Adidas.

The managing owner noted that the Apple TV stipulation was "very important" in the completion of an agreement.



MAN UNITED SIGN MASON FROM CHELSEA IN A 60 MILLION DOLLARS DEAL

Manchester United have completed the signing of midfielder Mason Mount from Chelsea, the club announced on Wednesday. The two clubs had agreed on a deal worth £55 million (\$69.5m) with another £5m (\$6.3m) in add-ons.

Sources revealed that the bonuses due to Chelsea are “strongly dependent” on appearances as well as Mount’s success at Old Trafford.

“It’s never easy leaving the club where you grew up, but Manchester United will provide an exciting new challenge for the next phase of my career,” Mount said in a statement.

“Everyone can see that the club has made big steps forward under Erik ten Hag. Having met with the

manager and discussed his plans, I couldn’t be more excited for the seasons ahead, and I am ready for the hard work expected here.”

Mount, 24, who had one year remaining on his Chelsea contract, is United’s first signing of the summer transfer window.

United football director John Murtough said: “Mason is an extremely intelligent footballer and has so many fantastic technical qualities that will significantly add to our squad.

“We have admired his talents for a long time, so we are delighted that he has chosen to take the next steps in his career here at Old Trafford.”

Mount leaves Chelsea 18 years after joining the West London club’s youth team at age 6. He won the

Champions League in 2021, setting up Kai Havertz’s goal against Manchester City in the final. The England midfielder also won the UEFA Super Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup during 195 appearances for Chelsea, scoring 33 goals and making 37 assists.

Mount issued a message to Chelsea supporters on Tuesday as he said farewell to the club.

“I feel you deserve more than a written statement so I wanted to tell you directly how grateful I have been for all of your support over the last 18 years,” he wrote on Instagram.

“I know some of you won’t be happy with my decision, but it’s what’s right for me at this moment in my career.”



CATHOLIC CHURCH CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION IN SUDAN

South Sudan's Catholic bishops are calling for urgent intervention by the international community to help resolve the conflict in neighbouring Sudan and to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy in the region.

A letter signed by eight bishops, addressed to the government of South Sudan, the international community and humanitarian agencies, called for provisions of aid – both within Sudan and in South Sudan – and in other neighbouring countries which

are hosting Sudanese refugees.

They said in order to reduce the suffering of the people of Sudan, the way forward is a peace process not war.

“We are deeply concerned about the regional and international components to

the conflict [in Sudan]. The conflict is destabilising the already fragile region, weakened by internal conflicts,” the bishops said.

A joint effort by the US and Saudi Arabia to broker ceasefires has had limited success. A regional African mission to find peace has so far not made any progress.

Over 130,000 people have fled the fighting and crossed into South Sudan. Most were returning citizens but among them are 10,000 Sudanese refugees, according to a UN estimate.

Most Sudanese refugees now reside in Egypt and Chad.

