

ACCOMPLISH

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JANUARY 2025

MAE MUSK:
The Inspiring
Story of the
Mother of
Billionaires

**The 2025
Economic
Outlook:**
Will President
Tinubu Disappoint?

Elon Musk:
**THE WORLD
AT HIS FEET**

CEO INTERVIEW
Dr. Paul Abolo:
The Quintessential
CEO Who Sees
Opportunity In
Adversity

**Is Trump the
Most Powerful
Man on Earth?**

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January 2025

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OUR VISION:

To be the go-to publication for information and inspiration in pursuing life's attainments.

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To profile and celebrate the achievements and lifestyle choices of outstanding leaders and influencers in business, manufacturing, agriculture, academia, administration, entertainment and innovation in Nigeria, Africa and, indeed, globally.



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From The Editor

From Team Accomplish: Happy New Year to our esteemed readers! Welcome to 2025! May this be the best year of your lives in every sphere of endeavour!

Yes, we can all say, "We have put all the challenges of 2024 behind us!" But, 2024 wasn't all about inflation, insecurity and pen robberies. There were reasons for celebration, don't you think? We'd love to hear how 2024 affected you, your family or your business. Please, send your email to: editor@theaccomplishmagazine.com.

We open the New Year with Elon Musk as our cover page personality. We present different aspects of his life plus a piece on his mother referred to as the mother of billionaires.

Our CEO Interview, this month, has Dr. Paul Abolo, the quintessential CEO and innovative leader who sees opportunity in adversity. It's an interview of many nuggets!

As the United Nations prepares to commemorate the International Day of Education on January 24, our Editorial Board Chairman, Dr. Osita Aniemeka, highlights



Diyi William West

DIYI WILLIAM-WEST
Editor

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"Learning for Peace" in a transformative process that will produce knowledge, values, attitudes, skills, and behaviours for the ultimate benefit of communities.

We bring you Victor Oladokun as this edition's 'Diaspora African'. You'll enjoy it.

Our tradition of "Celebrating Accomplishments" continues with Emmanuela Mayaki and Eniola Shokunbi. Please, turn the pages to read their respective stories.

Our regular writers are in with 'Start-up Angel with TD' (Tomi Davies), 'Ethical Values' by Chief Victor Olewunne, who's also our Editorial Board member and 'AI Today and Tomorrow' by Wisdom B. Thursday.

The regular Team Accomplish contributors, Dave Baro-Thomas – Editorial Board member, Harry Choms and Ikenna Ngere, are marked 'present'. Completing the package are interesting stories from Amos Oma and Segun Adeyanju, new team members.

We were determined to get your 2025 started on a positive note. Hope we accomplished that?

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NIGERIA: BITS & BOBS

By Ikenna Ngere

BUSINESS AND FINANCE



Nigeria and South Africa Activate Joint Council to Boost Trade and Investment

Nigeria and South Africa have operationalised a joint ministerial advisory council aimed at enhancing trade and investment between the two countries. The move was announced during the Nigeria-South Africa Business Roundtable in Cape Town, with key business leaders, government officials, and trade stakeholders in attendance. The advisory council, first proposed

in 2021 during President Cyril Ramaphosa's visit to Nigeria, seeks to address trade challenges, harmonise policies, and promote a business-friendly environment. Ramaphosa emphasised the importance of diversifying trade beyond oil and gas to foster a more balanced partnership, noting South Africa's trade deficit with Nigeria.

President Bola Tinubu reaffirmed Nigeria's openness to South African investors, pledging to ensure security, stability, and legal

protections for businesses. He also urged South Africa to extend similar support to Nigerian enterprises operating within its borders. Tinubu highlighted Nigeria's ongoing economic reforms, positioning the country as a prime destination for investment and a driver of African prosperity.

Nigeria Partners with Saudi Arabia to Boost Local Steel Production

Nigeria and Saudi Arabia have partnered to extract iron ore and produce steel

locally. The agreement, part of President Bola Tinubu's "Renewed Hope" agenda, aims to boost industrialisation by processing minerals within Nigeria rather than exporting raw materials.

Saudi Arabia, known for its advanced steel industry, has shown interest in sourcing Nigerian iron ore. The partnership, discussed



by Nigeria's Minister of Solid Minerals, Dele Alake, and Saudi Deputy Minister of Minerals, Khalid Al-Musdaifer,

will be further explored at the 'Future Metals Forum' in Riyadh in January 2025..

POLITICS

Obasanjo: Anti-Corruption Fight Must Begin with Leadership Accountability

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo has called for Nigeria's anti-corruption fight to start at the top, stressing that leaders must lead by example. Speaking at a Zoom event in Abeokuta, he described corruption as a "hydra-headed" problem that requires continuous effort across successive



administrations.

Obasanjo also urged merit-based leadership appointments over political or tribal considerations and warned that not all leaders are divinely chosen, with some driven by selfish ambition or negative influences. He emphasised that national development hinges on transparency, accountability, and consistent anti-corruption efforts.

1,500 PDP, APGA, and YPP Members Defect to APC in Zamfaray

About 1,500 members from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Young Progressive Party (YPP), and other political groups have defected to the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Zamfara State. The move was led by notable figures, including former APGA State Chairman, Alhaji Rabi'u Salisu-Bature; YPP State Chairman, Alhaji Sani Anka; and key PDP leaders from Shinkafi Local Government Area.



Rep. Aminu Jaji, through APC Jajiyya Group Chairman, Alhaji Isiyaka Ajiya-Anka, welcomed the defectors, assuring them of fair treatment and a strengthened party capacity in the state. The defection is seen as a significant boost to the APC's influence in Zamfara.



**DAMIAN
IKENNA NGERE**

AUTHOR'S BIO

Ikenna is a graduate of Physics and Education, who works as a freelance writer. He has interest in technology, humanity and sports.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION 2025

LEARNING FOR LASTING PEACE

By Osita Aniemeka



International Day of Education (IDE) 2025 will be held under the theme, "Learning for Lasting Peace". Last year, the focus was learning for lasting peace in communities of developing countries outlining the role of education in countering hate speech, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, and the rising cases of violent conflict. Last year, IDE emphasised the importance of education in transforming lives, offering a path out of poverty, and building more peaceful, just, and sustainable societies.

Amb. Prof. Ada Menakaya, Chancellor, Youthgether Global, said, "Learning for peace must be a transformative process, enabling learners to gain essential knowledge, values, attitudes, skills, and behaviours, thereby empowering them to serve as catalysts for peace in their communities." She added that "the foundation of more peaceful, just, and sustainable societies is laid through education, a force that permeates every facet of our daily lives and overall prospects". In the face of escalating climate change, democratic erosion,



AMB. PROF. ADA MENAKAYA,
CHANCELLOR, YOUTHGETHER GLOBAL

persistent inequalities, growing discrimination, hate speech, violence, and conflict on a global scale, education emerges as a powerful tool to address and prevent these challenges in the future, the 2025 theme highlights how education can be a transformative process that empowers learners to become agents of peace in their communities. Education is a powerful tool to address and prevent challenges like climate change, democratic erosion, and inequality.

Led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the International Day of Education is celebrated on January 24th every year, advocating for inclusive and equitable access to education worldwide. It recognises that education is central to creating more peaceful, just, and sustainable societies.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines the right to education in Article 26. So, in 2018, the UN General Assembly proclaimed January 24th as the International Day of Education. This month, on Friday, January 24, 2024, the world commemorates the day by enunciating the importance of learning for lasting peace because it is transformative. It enables learners to gain essential knowledge about growth and development in a peaceful world, recognising that education is central to a dynamic obligation to peace and that the underpinning of more peaceful, just, and sustainable

societies is laid through schooling.

An active commitment to peace is more urgent today than ever and education is central to this effort when effectually shaped and implemented, education becomes a long-term investment with increasing returns. Active commitment to peace is most needed to surpass security and defense measures to prevent or stop conflicts. Sustaining peace requires a strong foundation of inclusive, self-governing, and participatory governance, dialogue, solidarity, mutual understanding and cooperation, sustainable development, gender equality, and the general realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Education is key to this

A transformed and well-resourced education system can be an effective long-term preventative tool that protects, builds, and sustains peace before, during, and after conflict.

undertaking. This pertinent role of education ought to reverberate in the ongoing negotiations towards a Pact for the Future to be launched at the Summit of the Future in 2024.

Education for peace needs to be transformative at its core, as jointly underlined by the “Recommendation on education for peace and human rights, international understanding, cooperation, fundamental freedoms, global citizenship,

and sustainable development”, also referred to as the UNESCO Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development, and the report of the International Commission on the Future of Education which calls for a new social contract for education.

A transformed and well-resourced education system can be an effective long-term preventative tool that protects, builds, and sustains peace before, during, and after conflict. Such an education can lay the preventative foundations by helping all learners realise their fundamental human right to accessible and equitable quality education. In periods of crisis, it is essential to ensure continuity of learning, especially for those marginalised, and mainstream education as part of global peace building efforts.

To make serious inroad in all of this, Youthgether Global shall be working all year round with Accomplish Magazine to help redefine the role of learning for lasting peace.



OSITA ANIEMEKA

AUTHOR’S BIO

Aniameka is a teacher of teachers, broadcaster, publisher and Chairman of Sub-Saharan Open University. He is also the Dean of the Academy of Management Sciences, a Central Bank of Nigeria consultant and top director or proprietor of several companies and non-profit organisations. He is the Chairman of the Editorial Board of Accomplish Magazine.

COVER

THE WORLD'S MOST
INFLUENTIAL MAN?

ELON **MU**

A close-up portrait of Elon Musk, wearing a dark suit jacket over a white collared shirt. He has a slight smile and his hands are clasped together in front of him. The background is dark with some geometric patterns and a red vertical bar on the right side.

SK

By Ify Davies

Elon Reeve Musk FRS, a name synonymous with innovation and ambition, has become a defining figure in the 21st century. As the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, Musk's relentless pursuit of groundbreaking technologies has not only transformed industries but also ignited imaginations worldwide. His journey from a curious child in South Africa to one of the most influential entrepreneurs on the planet is a testament to his vision and resilience.

Early Life and Education

Born on June 28, 1971, in Pretoria, South Africa, Musk exhibited keen interest in technology from an early age. By age 12, he created a video game called Blastar, which he sold for \$500. After moving to Canada at 18 and, later, transferring to the University of Pennsylvania, United States, Musk earned degrees in both Economics and Physics. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to drop out of Stanford University's Ph.D. programme just two days after enrolling, opting instead to pursue opportunities in the burgeoning tech industry.

Entrepreneurial Ventures

Musk's first major venture was Zip2, an online city guide software company he co-founded with his brother, Kimbal, in 1996. The company was sold for \$307 million in 1999. Shortly thereafter, Musk co-founded X.com, which would eventually become PayPal after merging with Confinity. The sale of PayPal to eBay for \$1.5 billion in 2002 provided Musk with the capital to launch SpaceX.

Founded in 2002, SpaceX aimed to reduce space transportation costs and enable the colonisation of Mars. Musk's vision materialised with several historic milestones that include:

- **Falcon 1:** The first privately funded liquid-fuelled rocket to reach orbit in 2008.
- **Dragon spacecraft:** The first private spacecraft to reach the International Space Station (ISS) in 2012.
- **Reusable rockets:** SpaceX pioneered reusable rocket technology with the Falcon 9, significantly lowering launch costs.

In addition to SpaceX, Musk became involved with Tesla Motors (now Tesla, Inc.) in 2004 as an early investor and chairman. Under his leadership as CEO since 2008, Tesla has revolutionised the automotive industry with



• Elon Musk

electric vehicles that blend performance with sustainability. Tesla brand of vehicles include:

- Tesla Roadster:

Launched in 2008, it was the first highway-legal electric vehicle to use lithium-ion battery cells.

- Model S: Introduced in 2012, it received accolades for safety and performance.

- Model 3: Launched in 2017, it aimed to make electric vehicles more accessible to the general public.

Innovations Beyond Earth

Musk's ambitions extend beyond terrestrial boundaries. He proposed the Hyperloop transportation system in 2013 and co-founded Neuralink in 2016, a

neurotechnology company focused on developing brain-computer interfaces. Additionally, he founded The Boring Company to address urban transportation challenges through tunnel construction.

His ventures have not only disrupted existing markets but have also sparked discussions about sustainable energy and interplanetary colonisation. Musk's commitment to renewable energy is exemplified by his acquisition of SolarCity and the development of products like the Tesla Powerwall.



• Dragon spacecraft



Challenges and Controversies

Musk's journey has not been without challenges. He faced significant setbacks at SpaceX, including multiple rocket failures before achieving success. His outspoken nature has also led to controversies, including legal battles with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regarding his social

media statements about Tesla.

Despite these hurdles, Musk's resilience shines through. He embodies a unique blend of ambition and pragmatism that drives him to tackle seemingly insurmountable challenges head-on.

Legacy and Influence

Elon Musk's impact is profound; he has reshaped industries and inspired a generation of innovators. His



• Falcon 1



• Tesla car brands



• Tesla Cars



• Falcon going vertical



• Tesla Cybertruck



vision for a sustainable future – whether through electric vehicles or interplanetary travel – continues to resonate globally. As he pushes boundaries and challenges norms, Musk remains a pivotal figure whose achievements will likely influence technological advancements for decades to come.

In an era where technology evolves rapidly, Elon Musk stands as a beacon of possibility – a reminder that with vision and tenacity, even the most ambitious dreams can become reality.

Role in US Politics

Elon Musk has emerged as a pivotal figure in the recent United States

presidential election, significantly influencing the outcome in favour of Donald Trump. As a major financial backer, Musk contributed over \$250 million to Trump's campaign and associated political action committees, making him one of the most influential supporters in the election cycle. His social media platform, X (formerly Twitter), became a megaphone for pro-Trump messaging, amplifying hardline views and mobilising support among his vast following.

Following Trump's victory, Musk has been positioned as a key advisor in the incoming administration. Trump has hinted at appointing Musk to lead a new "Department of Government Efficiency," where he would focus on cutting federal spending and reorganising government operations. This role could potentially grant Musk significant influence over U.S. policy and regulatory frameworks, especially considering his existing relationships with international leaders and his extensive business interests globally.

In conclusion, as for whether Musk is currently the most influential man on earth, many analysts argue that he holds an unprecedented level of power. His control over X allows him to shape public discourse and influence political narratives directly. Coupled with his financial clout and strategic position within the Trump administration, Musk's reach extends across business, government, and media, positioning him as one of the most powerful civilians in contemporary history. As he navigates this new political landscape, his actions will likely have profound implications for both domestic and global affairs.



IFY DAVIES

AUTHOR'S BIO

Ify Davies is a seasoned writer, editor, and strategist with a keen eye for technology. With a career spanning over six years, Davies excels in crafting compelling narratives and strategies that drive innovation and growth.



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Elon Musk and the New Digital World: How Does Nigeria Fit In?

By *Diiyi William-West*

With the continuously increasing impact of digital innovations, Elon Musk's image looms large in that space. His disruptive strategies have been felt in the making of electric vehicles and space exploration, reflecting a

broader trend of technological advancement that is reshaping economies and societies globally. Many African countries like Nigeria are wondering how they could be impacted by the unfolding transformative influence of Musk, moreso with his closeness to the recently inaugurated President Donald Trump.

Global Impact of Unfolding Digital Realities

Digital revolution has ushered in an era characterised by unprecedented connectivity, automation, and data-driven decision-making. Technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) have redefined industries and created new paradigms for economic growth. Musk's ventures exemplify this shift, particularly in how they leverage cutting-edge technology to solve complex problems.

However, the benefits of this digital transformation are not evenly



distributed. While developed countries often lead in technology adoption and innovation, many developing countries, including Nigeria, grapple with infrastructural deficits, regulatory challenges, and limited access to digital resources. This disparity raises pertinent questions about how Nigeria can harness the digital revolution to foster economic growth and improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Nigeria, a Country in "Unending Digital Take-off"?

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and one of its largest economies, stands at a crossroads as its digital journey seems not to have gone beyond take-off, in decades! No doubt, the country has witnessed some advancements in technology, especially in telecoms and financial services; mobile telephony has enabled millions of Nigerians to engage in the digital economy while innovations in mobile banking have engendered wider financial inclusion, allowing individuals in underserved areas to access banking services.

Despite these advancements, Nigeria faces formidable challenges. Inadequate infrastructure, inconsistent electricity supply, and regulatory hurdles hinder the growth of its digital ecosystem. Furthermore, the digital divide remains a pressing concern, with rural areas often lacking access to high-speed internet and digital literacy programmes.

Elon Musk's Ventures and Nigeria's Digital Aspirations

Elon Musk's ventures offer valuable insights for Nigeria as it seeks to navigate the complexities of the digital world. Musk's emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and global collaboration can serve as a blueprint for Nigeria's digital strategy. By investing in solar energy and other sustainable technologies, Nigeria can not only address its energy crisis but also

position itself as a leader in the green economy.

Moreover, Musk's approach to entrepreneurship - characterised by uncanny risk-taking can inspire a new generation of Nigerian innovators. The burgeoning tech start-up ecosystem in cities like Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Kano, Onitsha, Sokoto, Aba, Jos and Kaduna, demonstrates the potential for homegrown solutions to local challenges. By fostering a culture of innovation and supporting start-ups, Nigeria can harness its youthful population's creativity and drive to propel its digital economy forward.

Government and Public Policies

For Nigeria to effectively integrate into the new digital world championed by figures like Musk, progressive and robust digital policies must be adopted. Governments at all three-tiers must prioritise environment scanning and informed strategies for digital infrastructure, including broadband connectivity and electricity supply, to create an enabling environment for technological growth. Additionally, regulatory frameworks should be designed to encourage innovation while ensuring consumer protection and data privacy.

By collaborating with tech giants and start-ups, the government can leverage expertise and resources to drive digital transformation, ensuring transparency and relevant stakeholder partnership.

Enhancing Education and Digital Literacy

As the demand for skilled workers in technology-related fields continues to rise, Nigeria must invest in education that equips its youth with the necessary skills to thrive in the digital economy.

Programmes that promote STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education in schools can help nurture a

generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

Collaboration and Global Integration

Musk's ventures, particularly SpaceX and its focus on global connectivity through satellite technology, present unique opportunities for collaboration. The Starlink project, aimed at providing internet access to underserved regions, could significantly benefit Nigeria's rural communities.

Conclusion

Elon Musk's vision for the future, shown through his push for innovation, sustainability, serves as both an inspiration and a challenge for Nigeria as it navigates the complexities of the digital world. While the country faces significant challenges, it also possesses immense potential to harness technology for economic growth and social development. By prioritising investments in infrastructure, education, and policy frameworks, Nigeria can carve out its place in the digital space and even strive towards becoming a key player in the global digital economy.



DIYI WILLIAM-WEST

AUTHOR'S BIO

More fondly known as DDWEST, he has several years of media practice experience spanning magazines, newspapers, television and radio; laying emphasis on maintaining standards in media practice. He practised and lectured Public Relations for nearly a decade before going into leadership consulting and real estate consultancy.

Picture SPEAK



ELON MUSK WHILE ATTENDING A CONFERENCE IN NORWAY IN 2024



A PHOTO OF ELON MUSK CHARGING ONE OF HIS TESLA CARS



PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP LISTENS TO ELON MUSK AS HE ARRIVES TO WATCH SPACEX'S MEGA-ROCKET STARSHIP LIFT OFF FOR A TEST FLIGHT FROM STARBASE IN BOCA CHICA, TEXAS, ON NOVEMBER 19, 2024



WITH HIS SON IN ONE ARM, TESLA CEO, ELON MUSK, WAVES WHILE VISITING THE TESLA GIGAFACTORY IN GERMANY.



ELON MUSK LEAPS ON STAGE WITH REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE, NOW TRUMP, DURING A CAMPAIGN RALLY FROM BEHIND BULLET RESISTANT GLASS AT FAIRGROUNDS ON OCTOBER 05, 2024 IN BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA.



PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP EMBRACES ELON MUSK DURING AN OCTOBER CAMPAIGN RALLY IN BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA. OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THE TWO MEN HAVE CULTIVATED A WARM RELATIONSHIP



ELON MUSK SPEAKS BEFORE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AT A CAMPAIGN RALLY AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024, IN NEW YORK



SPACE X AND TESLA FOUNDER ELON MUSK, AWARDED KRISTINE FISHELL WITH A \$1 MILLION CHEQUE ON OCT. 20. THE LEGALITY OF THESE CASH PRIZES HAS BEEN CALLED INTO QUESTION



ELON MUSK ATTENDS HEIDI KLUM'S 21ST ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY PRESENTED BY NOW SCREAMING X PRIME VIDEO AND BAILIES IRISH CREAM LIQUEUR AT SAKE NO HANA, MOXY LOWER EAST SIDE IN NEW YORK CITY ON OCTOBER 31, 2022.



SECOND TIME PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AT THE BUTLER FARM SHOW



FROM LEFT, ELON MUSK, SAM ALTMAN AND ANDREW ROSS SORKIN, NEW YORK TIMES FINANCIAL COLUMNIST, SPEAK DURING THE VANITY FAIR NEW ESTABLISHMENT SUMMIT AT YERBA BUENA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS ON OCTOBER 6, 2015, IN SAN FRANCISCO

SELECTED QUOTES OF ELON MUSK

By Ify Davies

I think it is possible for ordinary people to choose to be extraordinary.

Great companies are built on great products

The path to the CEO's office should not be through the CFO's office, and it should not be through the marketing department. It needs to be through engineering and design.

You have to put in many, many efforts that nobody sees or appreciates before you achieve anything worthwhile

I could either watch it happen or be part of it.

Focus on signal over noise. Don't waste time on things that don't make things better.

Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts

**It's okay to have
your eggs in one basket
as long as you control
what happens to that
basket.**

**Persistence
is very
important. You
should not give
up unless you
are forced to
give up**

**Failure is an
option here. If things
are not failing, you
are not innovating
enough.**

**I would like
to die on Mars.
Just not on
impact.**

**Consistently
think about how
you could be doing
things better
and question
yourself.**

**Some people
don't like
change, but you
need to embrace
change if the
alternative is
disaster.**



MAE MUSK:

The Inspiring Story of the Mother of Billionaires

By Segun Adeyanju

Behind every great success lies a story of resilience, determination, and unwavering support. For Elon Musk, the world-renowned entrepreneur and richest man on earth, that story begins with his mother, Mae Musk. But Mae's influence goes far beyond being the matriarch of a billionaire family - her journey is a testament to the power of grit, reinvention, and boundless ambition.



From Humble Beginnings to a Life of Adventure

Born in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, in 1948, Mae grew up in a family that embodied curiosity and exploration. Her parents, Dr. Joshua Haldeman and Wyn Haldeman, instilled in their children a spirit of adventure, flying across continents in a single-engine plane and searching for the fabled Lost City of the Kalahari in South Africa. This daring approach to life would shape Mae's personality and influence her parenting style.

As a young girl, Mae moved with her family to South Africa, where she pursued a career in modelling at the age of 15. Despite her early success, Mae's life took a challenging turn when she married Errol Musk, an engineer. The



MAE WITH HER CHILDREN



MAE AND HER SON, ELON

marriage produced three exceptional children: Elon, Kimbal, and Tosca, but also came with its share of struggles, leading to a divorce in 1979.

A Single Mother's Struggle for Survival

Mae found herself raising three children as a single mother, juggling multiple jobs to make ends meet. Despite financial constraints, she prioritised education and independence for her children. "I told them, "Do what you love and follow your passion,"" Mae recalled in interviews. Her resilience set an example, proving that adversity could be the springboard for greatness.

The Musk household was no ordinary one. Elon immersed himself in programming, while Kimbal developed a passion for food and sustainability, and Tosca found her calling in film making. Mae's unwavering belief in their potential gave them the freedom to pursue unconventional paths.

Reinvention in the Face of Adversity

Mae's story took an inspiring turn in her later years. Determined not to let age define her, she returned to modelling in her 60s, becoming a global icon of beauty and confidence. In 2017, she became the oldest CoverGirl ambassador at the age of 69, redefining standards in the fashion industry and proving that reinvention knows no age limit.

Her journey from a struggling single mother to an international model is a masterclass in resilience. "I never let age or circumstances stop me," she said. Her renewed career also provided a platform to share her wisdom, inspiring millions with her memoir, *A Woman Makes a Plan: Advice for a Lifetime of Adventure, Beauty, and Success*.

Raising Innovators - The Musk Legacy

Mae's influence on her children is undeniable. Elon Musk credits his mother for teaching him the value of hard work and perseverance. Kimbal, a renowned restaurateur

and philanthropist, praises her for fostering creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. Tosca, an acclaimed film maker and CEO of Passionflix, credits Mae for her ability to balance ambition with compassion.

As a family, the Musks have revolutionised industries ranging from technology and space exploration to food and entertainment. Behind their remarkable achievements is a mother who nurtured their dreams while breaking barriers herself.

Mae Musk - An Icon for Generations

Mae Musk's journey is more than just a story of motherhood - it's a narrative of courage, transformation, and the indomitable human spirit. As the mother of billionaires, she is a beacon of hope for parents striving to raise successful children against all odds.

As a woman who reinvented herself, she is a role model for anyone seeking a second act in life. Mae's legacy reminds us that success isn't confined to one's youth, and challenges can be the foundation for extraordinary achievements.

Her story is a vivid reminder that with resilience and determination, greatness is always within reach.



SEGUN ADEYANJU

AUTHOR'S BIO

Segun Adeyanju is a seasoned journalist and editor with extensive experience in news writing, editing, and professional storytelling. A member of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), he's adept at stakeholder engagement and information management..



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE: What Sustainability And Climate Start-Ups Need To Know

As the urgency of addressing climate change and sustainability grows, investors are increasingly focusing on start-ups in these spaces. However, the lens through which sustainability and climate start-ups is evaluated differs from that of purely tech-driven ventures. While there's some overlap, sustainability-focused start-ups must navigate unique expectations around impact, scalability, and alignment with global priorities.

At the core of any sustainability start-up is its ability to create measurable environmental and social change. Investors are no longer content with vague promises - they want quantifiable results. For example:

- **Carbon Footprint Reduction:** How many metric tons of CO₂ emissions does your solution avoid annually?



- **Energy Efficiency:** What percentage of your operations rely on renewable energy sources?
- **Water Conservation:** How many litres of water are saved through your processes or products?
- **Waste Management:** What volume of waste is recycled or diverted from landfills?

These metrics not only validate your start-up's value proposition but also align with global frameworks like the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Investors want to see that your start-up is targeting a significant and growing market. For sustainability and climate start-ups, this means identifying problems with a broad total addressable market (TAM). But it's not just about the size of the market - it's about the scalability of your solution.

Can your technology or service be adapted across different regions or industries? For example, a renewable energy solution that works in Nigeria could have applications across other African nations and even globally. Scalability ensures not only financial returns for investors but also widespread impact that defines success in the sustainability sector.

Sustainability start-ups thrive by aligning with policies like the Paris Climate Agreement and leveraging grants or incentives, while balancing innovation with proven practicality through pilot projects or a minimum viable product (MVP) to appeal to investors. Barriers to entry such as unique intellectual property (IP) are appealing as they signal a competitive edge and ensure that your start-up isn't easily replicable by larger players.

Sustainability start-ups juggle a "double bottom line": profit and purpose. Investors need to see that your business can deliver financial

returns alongside measurable impact. Key indicators include:

- **Revenue Models:** Diversified revenue streams, such as carbon credits, product sales, or SaaS subscriptions, demonstrate financial sustainability.
- **Cost Savings:** How does your solution create value for customers; e.g. reducing energy consumption or optimising supply chains.

Founders should also prepare to articulate the long-term potential of their start-up, as sustainability solutions often have longer return horizons than traditional tech ventures.

To attract investors, you'll need to apply metrics that highlight your start-up's value. They include:

- **Environmental Impact:** Carbon reduction, energy efficiency, and circular economy metrics such as material reuse and recycling rates.
- **Social Impact:** Job creation, community benefits like access to clean energy, and educational initiatives.
- **Financial Performance:** Unit economics, cost savings for customers, and customer retention rates.

Many investors also look for alignment with ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) standards, using

tools like ESG scorecards or lifecycle assessments to evaluate your startup's practices.

Sustainability start-ups differ from tech counterparts by facing higher CapEx needs for infrastructure like renewable energy and longer return timelines due to regulatory hurdles and adoption challenges. In addition, their broader stakeholder engagement with governments, NGOs, and communities adds complexity while amplifying impact and strengthening brand equity.

So building a sustainability or climate-focused start-up isn't just about solving problems - it's about doing so in a way that resonates with investors. You'll need to:

- Clearly define and measure your environmental and social impacts.
- Align your business model with purpose-driven profitability.
- Highlight how your start-up supports key policies and frameworks.

The journey to creating a sustainable world is long, but the rewards - for you, your investors, and the planet - are immense. By addressing these priorities, you can attract the right partners and turn your vision into a lasting reality.



Tomi Davies (TD) BIO:

TD is a leading figure in Africa's tech ecosystem, known as "Africa's top Angel" and the inspiring voice behind TVC Labs, a start-up support organisation in Lagos, Nigeria. His expertise extends to angel investing, mentoring, and advising tech companies, all while equipping future generations of entrepreneurs through his book "Investment Worthy Startup" published in 2023.

Dr. Victor Oladokun:

A Distinguished Journalist,
Broadcaster, and
Communications Strategist

Dr. Victor Bandele Oladokun is a prominent British-Nigerian journalist, broadcaster, and communications strategist whose career spans several continents and industries. Born in 1958, in London, to an Irish mother and a Nigerian father (from Ondo State), Oladokun's multicultural background has significantly influenced his professional journey and his commitment to enhancing Africa's narrative on the global stage.

Early Life and Education

Growing up in England, Dr. Oladokun attended various schools, including a Canadian Jesuit-run Catholic high school in Nigeria. He later pursued higher education at the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo



• DR. VICTOR OLADOKUN



• AKINWUMI ADESINA AND VICTOR OLADOKUN

University), where he earned a degree in History and Political Science. His passion for media blossomed during this time, leading him to envision a future filled with innovative television programming.

Dr. Oladokun furthered his education in the United States, obtaining a Master of Arts in Communication degree from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He also earned a doctorate in Strategic Leadership from the same institution, which equipped him with the skills necessary to navigate complex communication landscapes.

Career Highlights

Dr. Oladokun's career began at Cadbury Nigeria Plc, where he held several management positions before transitioning to public relations with the A.G. Leventis Group in Lagos. His move to the United States marked a significant turning point as he joined the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) in Virginia Beach. For about two decades, he became a key figure at CBN, serving as a producer and host for internationally acclaimed programmes such as CBN World News and Turning Point. His work at CBN allowed him to interview notable figures like Muhammad Ali, Thabo Mbeki, and Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, further solidifying his reputation as a skilled journalist.

In 2017, Dr. Oladokun was appointed Director of Communications and External Relations at the African



• VICTOR OLADOKUN AND ALI

Development Bank (AfDB). During his tenure, he transformed the bank's communication strategy, significantly enhancing its regional and global profile. He played a pivotal role in raising awareness about Africa's development challenges and opportunities while serving as Senior Advisor to the bank's president on Communication and Stakeholder Engagement until his retirement in 2020.

Contributions to African Development

Dr. Oladokun is not only recognised for his media prowess but also for his commitment to fostering dialogue on Africa's future. He has participated in numerous high profile events, including the African Economic Conference and the Africa Investment Forum, where he has moderated discussions on critical issues such as digital transformation and agribusiness.

His writings reflect his deep

understanding of Africa's socio-economic landscape. He has authored articles on various topics ranging from drone technology to food security in Africa, advocating for innovative solutions to pressing challenges faced by the continent.

Legacy and Impact

As a diaspora African leader, Dr. Victor Oladokun embodies the potential of individuals who bridge cultures and contribute to their homeland's development from abroad. His career illustrates how effective communication can shape perceptions of Africa while inspiring future generations of leaders.

Dr. Oladokun's journey serves as an inspiration for many young Africans both on the continent and in the diaspora. His dedication to improving media representation of Africa and advocating for sustainable development underscores the importance of strategic leadership in addressing global challenges.

In summary, Dr. Victor Oladokun stands out as a distinguished figure whose work transcends borders. His contributions continue to resonate within media, communications, and development sectors, making him a vital voice for Africa's progress on the world stage.



IFY DAVIES

AUTHOR'S BIO

Ify Davies is a seasoned writer, editor, and strategist with a keen eye for technology. With a career spanning over six years, Davies excels in crafting compelling narratives and strategies that drive innovation and growth.

ACHIEVE MORE in 2025

Effective Methods for Setting Realistic Goals

By Harry Choms

Setting achievable goals is about creating realistic and within-reach targets. When we set goals that we can accomplish, it helps us stay motivated and focused. These goals should be specific, measurable, and time-bound, making tracking our progress and celebrating our successes easier.

The Role of Goal Setting in Personal Development

Goal setting plays a crucial role in personal growth. It gives us direction and purpose, helping us understand what we want to achieve. By



setting goals, we can identify the steps we need to take to improve ourselves and reach our full potential.

Long-term Versus Short-term Goals

Long-term goals are the big dreams we want to achieve in the future, say in the next 5 years or more, while short-term goals are the smaller steps we take to get there. Both types of goals are important. Short-term goals help us stay on track and provide quick wins, while long-term goals give us a vision of where we want to be.



Identifying Personal and Professional Aspirations

To set meaningful goals, it's important to understand where you are right now. Take a moment to think about your life, both personally and professionally. What are your strengths? What areas do you find challenging? By knowing your current situation, you can better decide what you want to achieve in the future.

Setting Priorities for 2025

Once you have a clear picture of your current situation, it's time to think about what matters most to you. What do you want to focus on in 2025? It could be advancing your career, improving your health, or spending more time with family. Setting priorities helps you to concentrate your efforts on what is truly important.

Overcoming Common Obstacles in Goal Setting

Recognising what might stand in your way when setting goals is important. These barriers can be anything from lack of time to fear of failure. By understanding these challenges, you can prepare yourself to face them head-on. Knowing what could go wrong helps you create a plan to overcome these issues before they arise.

Overcoming obstacles is a key part of achieving your goals. Each challenge you face can teach you something valuable, making you stronger and more prepared for the next step.

Strategies for Staying Motivated

Staying motivated can be tough, especially when things get hard. One way to keep your spirits up is to remind yourself why you set these goals in the first place. Finding a support system, like friends or family, can also help you stay on track. Celebrating small wins along the way can boost your motivation and keep you focused on the bigger picture.

Other strategies for staying motivated include:

- **Learning from past mistakes.** Everyone makes mistakes, and that's okay. What's important is to learn from them. Reflecting on what went wrong in the past can provide valuable lessons for the future. Instead of seeing mistakes as failures, view them as opportunities to grow and improve.
- **Measure progress and adjust goals with progress in mind.** To keep track of how well you

are doing with your goals, it's important to set milestones and benchmarks. You can celebrate little wins along the way by breaking your main goal into smaller parts.

- **Regularly review and adjust goals.** Circumstances can change, and sometimes, your goals might need to change, too. If something isn't going as planned, don't be afraid to adjust your goals. Flexibility is key to staying on track.

- **Boost self-confidence and morale.** You feel a sense of accomplishment when you set and reach a target. This feeling can make you believe in yourself more and encourage you to take on new challenges.

- **Enhance your mental well-being as you develop yourself in line with what is required to achieve your goals.** This would build resilience and further strengthen your psyche for tough times.



HARRY CHOMS

AUTHOR'S BIO

Harry Choms is a freelance writer with a passion for words and a keen eye for details, an editor, and an avid tech believer. His works can be seen on EntrepreneurNG.com, Imautomator, Secureblitz, Withinnigeria, Feelgospel, Kemifilani, and Glamsquad Magazine. He is the Webmaster and sole owner of Matrimart.com and biowiki.com.ng.

ETHICAL INNOVATIONS AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

By Victor Olewunne

Humanity has always been innovative, mostly driven by necessities, difficulties and challenges that changing circumstances of human life thrust upon us. Innovations come as responses

to emerging health problems, food crises, transportation needs, housing deficits, and communication and security challenges. When these basics are adequately addressed, innovation veers into comfort and entertainment, aiming to



increase the ease and pleasures of life. While innovation addresses today's problems, it also sets the tone and produces the template for the future of humanity.

Ethical innovations are those

whose primary objective is to improve the well-being of humanity at the individual, community, national and global level. This implies that there could be unethical innovations that harm, threaten and undermine the future of humanity. Yes, there are rogue innovations with intent for personal economic, political or social gains. Most people consider the case of genetically modified organisms (GMO) foods to be in this category.

History of innovation

A look at the history of innovations tells the story of humanity's drive for survival, efficiency, knowledge and progress. The invention of wheels (circa 3500 BCE) revolutionised transportation, industry and machinery. Agricultural innovations (circa 10,000 BCE) allowed for settled civilisation. The invention of the printing press (1440 CE) by Johannes Gutenberg led to mass production of books and acceleration in the dissemination of knowledge. Electricity enabled



modern technology from lighting to electronics. Internal combustion engine powered cars, aeroplanes and machinery. Then came telecommunication: telephones, radio and the internet. The mid-20th and 21st centuries saw the

introduction of computers, space exploration, internet, artificial intelligence and renewable energy - just to mention a few.

In the social and conceptual sphere, democracy, human rights frameworks, scientific methods of enquiry and economic systems took new forms.

The Imperatives of Ethical Innovations

History is replete with great innovations with the best of intent which creates new problems while solving the old. The mass production of books led to afforestation. Combustion engine creates pollution for the environment. Telecommunication increases microwave energy which affects humans negatively. Electricity and electronics pollute the environment with nuclear and electronic waste. Technological innovations have been a double-edged sword. As much as they produce many domestic utilities, they have advanced man's capabilities in annihilating himself. Countries with capacity to destroy humanity en masse is now the primary measure for national security and international respect. Scientific innovation is no better. Laboratory-engineered viruses and diseases are now weapons for political control and economic influence. HIV and Covid-19 are still fresh on our minds. Indeed, without ethics, innovation can lead to disastrous consequences for humanity now or in the future.

Ethical innovations and the future

The guiding principles of all innovations to be ethical are these: First, the innovation must be for the betterment of humanity. In other words, it must be for the improved well-being of mankind. Secondly, it must avoid harm while addressing present or future problems. Thirdly, it must consider all future misapplication or abuse and provide checks

or regulations to mitigate them. To meet these criteria, personal economic, political or social gains of innovation must be balanced against public long-term interest. Too often, the potential for wealth creation overshadows all other considerations.

Innovations must strive to improve or complement nature and uphold human dignity instead of conflicting with nature. Genetic engineering without regulation may end up creating pseudo-humans, just as telecommunications and internet use can disorient the mental well-being of children. For every idea, concept or product to be truly considered innovative, it must be drilled on all possible ethical implications, and adequate measures instituted to check the unsavoury ones.

Conclusion

Innovations are necessary for the survival of the human race. However, regardless of how urgent or important the innovation may seem, it must meet the simple ethical criteria of not causing future problems for humanity, in the short, medium or long term. It must balance progress with responsibility.



VICTOR OLEWUNNE

AUTHOR'S BIO

Victor Olewunne, the Ethicist, is a public affairs analyst and Founder, African Foundation for Ethics and Social Responsibility. He is the Business Development Director of Accomplish Magazine and member of its Editorial Board.



• CBN BUILDING

THE 2025 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: WILL PRESIDENT TINUBU DISAPPOINT?

By Dave Baro-Thomas

Some pro-government economic experts and development analysts seem upbeat about a possible turn around of the Nigerian economy in 2025 despite the dire economic upheaval recorded in 2024. The government's forecast across economic parameters had envisioned recovery, stability, and growth, given the surgical and deep-vein cleansing twin policies of oil subsidy removal and floating the naira.

The year under review came with the 2024 'Budget of Renewed Hope' falling below expectations and the worst for the country, in recent times, given the worsening economic realities. Poverty bracket expanded as Nigerians groaned under the crushing weight of headline inflation with a 28-year record high, perplexing exchange rates, crushing interest rates, insecurity,

irreconcilable unemployment figures, and arrays of endless calamities.

The concomitant effects of the economic reforms foisted on Nigerians without a well-thought-out roadmap or interventions to absorb such radical shocks

on a near-comatose economy left behind by Muhammadu Buhari sparked a hunger protest that swept across the country. Such socioeconomic fiasco was inconceivable even during military tyranny.

The year 2024 was the fall year for reworking the foundation of the economic superstructure. Will the massive deep-cleansing set in motion the possibilities for economic recovery, reengineering, and repositioning in 2025? These possibilities seem odd because all national economic performance indicators nose-dived in 2024. From a projected 3.1% GDP growth, a marginal decline in inflationary pressure and stability in the foreign exchange market that will force down the cost of imported raw materials and finished goods and a fall in food prices ended up mere textbook projections as the economy practically refused to rebound. The Bretton Woods Institutions' economic prescriptions for African

Fuel pump prices may further improve as Dangote and Port Harcourt refineries ramp up production, and the deepening of the CNG option could positively impact the cost of transportation and staple foods.

economies lack the structural framework and realities to absorb such postulations because the free market economy model is unrealistic and lacks pragmatism to drive growth in the continent.

The year, 2025, is crucial for the country on many fronts - before politicians begin to throw their hats into the rings for another round of politicking in 2026. Among promises made by the Tinubu administration include local government reforms that will stimulate marked development at the grassroots level along with a series of fiscal and monetary interventions. However, will they really lead to growth in 2025? It is a call too early, but Nigerians are running out of patience.

A sluggish economic growth, with GDP growth projections ranging from 2.53% to 3.64%, is likely, the services sector could remain the main driver of economic growth, but job creation may not be significant.

Also, growth opportunities exist in various sectors, including agriculture, technology, and services. Fuel pump prices may further improve as Dangote and Port Harcourt refineries ramp up production, and the deepening of the CNG option could positively impact the cost of transportation and staple foods.

Another critical possibility in 2025 is the unbundling of the Nigerian Police Force with the introduction of respective state police units. The National Tax Reform Bills scaling through the National Assembly will set the motion for the enshrinement of true and fiscal federalism and trigger a national rebirth and sustainable growth.

However, challenges persist, including high inflation rates expected to average between 31.81% and 37.16% in 2025 and

food inflation projected to hit 39.9% while core inflation would increase to 28.75%. The country also faces significant infrastructure deficits, particularly in power and transport, which could hinder economic growth. These are grave issues that will impact the political outcomes in 2027.

The government must also improve the business environment to attract more foreign direct investments, pursue fiscal deficit and discipline, reduce insecurity with the state policing structure in place. It should exhibit zero tolerance for corruption, and truly implement the Oronsaye report.

Overall, the economic outlook is cautiously optimistic, and opportunities for growth and development abound. Challenges must be addressed dispassionately, transparently and without ethnic colourations.



**DAVE
BARO-THOMAS**

AUTHOR'S BIO

A Banker, Special Project Executive (BusinessDay Media) and Event/Conferences Manager (Vanguard Newspapers). A Producer, Editor, Author/Publisher, (Development Post & Agrobusiness Times) Columnist, Voice-over artist, Content Specialist (Pan Atlantic University), Trainer, and Media Entrepreneur (GreenStel Communication/Zemeef Communications) with a strong flare for marketing and research. He is the Marketing Director of Accomplish Magazine and member of the Editorial Board.



Is Trump The Most Powerful Man On Earth?

By Chinedu Ugo

On January 20, 2025, Donald John Trump would be inaugurated as the 47th president of the United States of America in a ceremony expected to see world leaders from every continent. The Office of the President of the United States is, arguably, the toughest job on earth, as whoever holds the office is expected to play a key role in global affairs through the instrument of the United States foreign policy. Trump returns to the White House at a period when

the world is on the brink of World War 3, as the Russia vs. Ukraine war has seen President Vladimir Putin form a strong alliance with global nuclear power North Korea ; Israel has been involved in a war with terrorist groups - Hamas and Hezbollah, and Syria joined the party last December as President Bashar al-Assad fled office for rebels to take over government in that country.

Many would recall that Trump vowed, during his campaign, to end the Russia vs. Ukraine war "within a day" once elected president of the United States. Political analysts have pondered the possibility of the former real estate mogul ending the over two-year



war in 24 hours, as Putin has maintained that negotiations must be according to the terms of Moscow . Trump is already making

good on his promise by speaking with Putin shortly after his victory at the 2024 US presidential poll and reminding the Eastern European leader of "Washington's sizeable military presence in Europe".

On the troubles of the Middle East, Iran, which has backed Palestinian rebel group Hamas and Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, has been a strong enemy of Trump, as an FBI intelligence report confirmed plans by the Arabian nation to assassinate the

former The Apprentice show host, who ordered a US strike that killed one of its military commanders, Qasem Soleimani , in January 2020.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been known as a long-time friend of Trump, as he paid him a visit before the November 5 US presidential election and would later describe his victory as "history's greatest comeback".

Tehran was unhappy with Trump's victory, and for the first time since Hezbollah's confrontations with Israel, the Lebanese armed group expressed willingness for negotiation after Trump's victory.

Hezbollah's fear is not out of place as Trump is expected to show more support for Netanyahu and may impose heavier sanctions on Iran for its role in unsettling the Middle East.

Economically, Trump has vowed to impose a heavy 25% tariff on Canadian and Mexican goods coming into the United States owing to their governments' failure to control the influx of illegal migrants from their border into the US and vowed to impose a similar tariff on Chinese goods for failing to address the menace of drug smuggling into the US. Economic commentators fear that Trump might plunge America into a trade war with its neighbours, Mexico and Canada, and its trade partner China, but Trump has his ways around negotiations. Former German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, hailed Trump's negotiating prowess during a 2024 interview with CBS, saying he knows how to get the "deal" done .

The world might not have to worry, as the American billionaire already got off to a great start with Canada after a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, in November 2024. Trump is not a traditional politician that loves to involve bureaucracies in political processes. He was asked during his campaign if he wanted Ukraine to win the war against Russia. He replied by saying he is more interested in ending the war, which has cost lives and destruction of properties. He is set to control the affairs of the globe from Washington from January 20. Moscow, Beijing, Paris, and other world powers are expecting a radical shift of US foreign policy under the leadership of President Trump; partly in recognition of his global political status.



CHINEDU UGO

AUTHOR'S BIO

Chinedu Ugo is a writer, editor and media expert with over six-year experience. He is renowned for crafting compelling articles that thrills readers. Chinedu Ugo wants to change the world with the pen.

IMAGINE BEING ARRESTED FOR BEING TOO BEAUTIFUL



A Swedish woman was so beautiful, she got arrested for it! In the early 19th century, a young milkmaid captivated people, in Stockholm, Sweden. Her name was Pilt Carin Ersdotter. Like many girls from the Dalarna region of Sweden, Ersdotter spent

the winter of 1883, working in the capital.

Her reputation as a striking beauty, quickly drew attention. People came to the city square where she worked selling milk, just to get a glimpse of her. Her beauty became so well-known, that even the crown prince came to visit her

incognito. When the disguised prince asked to buy some milk, Ersdotter scolded him for not having a bucket to put it in!!

Not long after this encounter, her admirers grew so numerous that she was arrested for causing a traffic jam. Eventually, she was found innocent of "blocking the street with her beauty", and allowed to return to her milk bottles. Pilt Carin Ersdotter spent the rest of the winter visiting various homes of Swedish high society, where they marvelled at her beauty. This earned her a small fortune!



• MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

WARRIORS NEEDED, NOT PARASITES!

A journalist interviewed the founder of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, about his country's future. He replied: "My grandfather rode a camel. My father rode a camel. I drive a Mercedes. My son drives a Land Rover. And, my grandson will drive a Land Rover but my great-grandson will have to ride a camel again..."

"Why?"

He said, "Hard times create strong men. Strong men create easy times. Easy times create weak men. Weak men create hard times. Many won't understand, but we need to raise warriors, not parasites."

Editor's Note: This original piece was posted by Universal Truths, Facts and Life on Quora.com.

When she returned to her small village of Djura, many of her neighbours didn't believe her story. Despite the fact that she had a certificate corroborating her tale which was signed by various members of the upper class - many villagers claimed she had become a prostitute to earn a living. She had to appeal to her former employer, a well-respected lawyer, to confirm her story.

This second verification convinced the people of Djura that she hadn't

become a sex worker. She went on to marry her fiancée, Margites Daniel Andersson.

A statue of the extraordinarily beautiful Pilt Carin Ersdotter, now stands at the square where she used to work, in Stockholm.

Pilt Carin Ersdotter.
Sculpture by Peter Linde 2005. Picture credit - Holger Ellgaard.

Editor's Note: This interesting story was posted by Universal Truths, Facts and Life on Quora.com.

Racism Is Really Evil!

Eugene Burkins' ideas were stolen from him, so he never got recognised as the inventor of the automatic machine gun. This was due to the colour of his skin!

His story: Eugene Burkins (1877-1929), a native of New Orleans, was living with his father in Chicago in 1900 when he patented the Burkins' automatic machine gun. Although it performed to the high standards set by the military, he was unsuccessful in selling it. He ended up running a restaurant in Chicago, and subsequently died penniless in Detroit.

Editor's Note: This story was originally posted by Frank Abah on Quora.com.



• MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

Dr. Paul Abolo

The Quintessential CEO Who Sees Opportunity In Adversity

By Diiyi William-West

Interviewing Dr. Paul Abolo left a feeling of awe. First, his several fields of successful endeavour made it difficult to choose which aspects of his interview to leave out due to available space. Secondly, his profound statements about managing issues and leading people showed he learns from everything, including adversity.

Dr. Paul Abolo is, among other things, the President of Ecologistics Integrated Services; a global climate change investment and sustainable development firm. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of NEA Energie Limited and Executive Director of Connect Earth Initiative. He is the Chairman of Alliance for Food Security Action in Africa (AFSAA) and the convener of Nigeria Climate Change Investment Forum (NCCIF). He is a member of the Global Climate Solutions Advancement Network (Climate SAN).

This is an interview you are likely to make several references to in the future.





Accomplish Magazine: Tell us about your experience growing into adulthood, especially with your parents and childhood friends.

Dr. Paul: I grew up with what you can call times of flow and times of ebb; times when things were good and times when things were low. I was born into a family I could call a privileged family. My dad was the manager of CFAO Motors in Aba. At that time, that was a highly regarded position. I went to private primary school. Going to school with a car and living in our own personal house meant a lot. That was a time of flow.

One day in 1967, we were driven to school. When we got there, the school gate was locked and there was a big sign that read "School closed"! What happened? It was the Nigerian Civil War and federal troops were heading to Aba. So, the school had to be closed. That excited me but it turned out it was the last time I went to school for three years!

Aba was going to fall into the hands of the federal troops, so my family had to move. We kept moving until we got to a place called Obowo in present-day Imo State. Life was tough as no one was sure of surviving the war.

My father approached the Marist Brothers. They were part of the Catholic charities. My dad approached them that they should please take one of his sons to be their servant. They told him to write the names of his sons. He did and they picked my name. The next day, I packed up my stuff to go and live with them. When I got there, they said they expected an older person as a matter of fact they were looking for house boys. Eventually, one of them said since they've picked my name I have to stay. I

was early eight years old. Indirectly, they were faced with taking care of a child!

Every Wednesday, we would share food to the community, because they were cornmeal, egg yolk, corned beef, stock fish etc. as relief materials. Over time, the Marist brothers began to trust me as the older people often stole from the store to send to their families. As a child, I wasn't trained that way, so I was found faithful. When someone stole, the person is sent off and they'll bring another person. In the end, though I was the youngest, I was also the longest-staying servant and I was responsible for the key of the store. I remember they made a pair of khaki pants for me and it had a big pocket where I would keep the key to the store. I began to learn what it meant to be responsible.

This is part is crucial. Every Wednesday, people will line up and I would supervise how they were given food. Someone would ask the other, "How's your mom?" And you will see the eyes drop, and they will say, "My mom just died two days ago." Or, "How is Sam?" "Sam died as a result of malnutrition." I absorbed a lot of this stuff growing up.

I also learned what we called 'survival skills'. We were taught how to identify an air wave - if a plane is coming, with the sound, you'll know whether it's a bomber or a fighter. If it's a bomber, you run out, identify the plane, and watch. When the plane drops a bomb, you run towards the bomb, because the bomb doesn't fall at the point at which it was dropped. So you run towards the bomb and it goes over your head and drop. If it's a fighter, you hide behind a tree, or you go into the bunker. That was my growing up experience.

After the war ended, we moved to Government College, Umuahia. My parents survived and they went back to the then Midwest State which is now Delta and Edo states. When we moved to Umuahia with the Marist Brothers, most of the other boys with me had lost their parents.

My parents survived and my father came to take me back home. Settling back in my home was a problem because I was already used to the life of a house boy! My siblings will not wake up early, but by 5 a.m., I was already up and looking for what to do. Adjusting at home become a challenge because my siblings began to see what I was doing as eye service. My parents were quite impressed, but my siblings were not. So, there was sibling rivalry. And, there was another competition I had to deal with.

Back in school, they put me in Primary 4 because on my age. Remember that I left school in Primary One. I didn't go to school for almost three years yet I was taken to Primary 4. Primary 4 was already using ink to write. I didn't understand anything happening in the class. In fact, school became a nightmare for me.

After the second week, I approached my older sister for a way out and she told my parents that I wasn't coping in Primary 4 and they demoted to Primary 3. Most of the pupils in Primary 3 were a lot younger than me. But then, I found confidence. Though the things taught in

Primary 3 were a bit challenging, I picked up. By the end of the second term, I came third in the class and by the end of the third term, I came out first. All of this was based on determination and that determination is one of the things that has guided me, directed my life up to today.

After the Nigerian Civil War, my family went back into a life of flow. as my father got back his job and he was transferred to Warri, where I finished primary school. So, I have learned to live when I have and enjoy it, and I've also learned to manage when I don't have and that has guided my life till today. That is what I call contentment. I'm a highly contented person.

Accomplish Magazine: Are there outstanding memories from the schools you attended that contributed to the making of the widely respected Dr. Paul Abolo?

Dr. Paul: Of course, there are outstanding memories. I attended Edo College, Benin. At that time, Edo College was one of the best schools. It's still one of the best schools but it was quite outstanding at that time. I ended up being the school prefect.

One day in 1967, we were driven to school. When we got there, the school gate was locked and there was a big sign that read "School closed"! What happened? It was the Nigerian Civil War and federal troops were heading to Aba

Edo College created grounds for building relationships. Edo College taught us how to respect (others). I learned respect as a foundation for success there. I also recall that in Class One, I was playing football and I broke my hip. After several months, I came back to school. I found that my classmates were all willing to support me. They were bridging the gap; showing me what they were taught. I don't know if you would find that in schools these days.

I also remember that in Class 2, I broke my right arm and had P.O.P. on my arm. My father was sent to come and pick me. When my father came, he saw my right hand with P.O.P. He said: "When is your exam?" I responded that it was due the next week. He said, "Write with your left hand." He refused to take me home! He got into his car and left. And my friends came together and started helping me... One of them even joined two pens together, making it longer so that I could still use that right hand with the P.O.P. to manage to write. Edo College taught us how to rally around the weak one. You can imagine that in my set, everyone had a Grade One! We didn't cheat. I will never forget what I learnt there.

Another experience was at the Colorado Technical University where I did my MBA and my doctorate. I remember Prof. Ken Wall. When we started the doctoral classes, we were 25 in the class and there were lot of questions being asked about the things we were supposed to do in the fourth year. I was getting confused between focusing on what was being taught and what will be taught.

After one of the classes, I went to Prof. Ken Wall and said "I'm a little bit confused. You're teaching us this but questions keep coming up about research procedures and all but you haven't called for our research proposals. I don't get what is happening." And the man smiled and said, "Out of 25 of you, not more than five will graduate." That got me scared. Then, he said, "You will be one of those that will graduate." He added, "I will give you one advice. Follow the script. Whatever we ask you to do, do it. Forget all those

questions. All the people asking those questions will drop out. You won't see them here next semester. Just follow the script. Whatever we ask you to do leads into the next and the next." So I followed the script and in the end, only five of us graduated!

So, I learned that life is about following the script. There is a process flow when you take one step before you get to the next and it's about planning. These are the two major things I learned from the institutions that I attended that have guided my life very well so far.

Accomplish Magazine: You come across as an encyclopedia of climate and food related issues. What triggered your interest in these fields?

Dr. Paul: Let's start with the climate issues. One of the major things that triggered my interest in climate issues is that there is a very strong linkage between climate issues and humanitarian issues. I've shared my experience with the Marist Brothers and sharing relief materials. I grew up knowing the importance of helping to meet human needs. So I developed a human mind which found climate issues as a credible platform to express my desire to make great impacts for humanity. I realised that there are big gaps, and people are affected by climate change but they don't know. Governments in developing countries know that there are climate issues, but they don't even know how to engage in the climate issues. Then, there are humanitarian support funding and assistant that are embedded in the global policies on climate issues, and people who will implement - governments, NGOs, CSOs, they don't know. So, there is a gap.

With climate issues, I decided to draw a map and go through advocacy, for which a lot of good work has already been done. But awareness is lacking. So, I embark on creating climate change awareness and sensitisation. With that, you can get people to participate, and when they participate, they can get the desired transformation.

I realised that beyond advocacy,

awareness, sensitisation and transformation, it will be mere talking if there are no financial assistance to make these initiatives actionable. That was how I decided to convoke the Nigerian Climate Change Investment Forum where we teach organisations and governments on how to assess the financial and technical support that is embedded in the climate action.

Now the Paris Agreement on Climate Change that was reached at COP21 demystified the issue of climate change. The Paris Agreement is one of the most credible global documents on climate change. I took that document and read it like a textbook. While reading, I was looking for all the opportunities that are embedded in it for developing countries such as Nigeria; looking out for what we can benefit, and how we can benefit. In the process, I found out that Nigeria was not engaging at scale at the Conference of Parties (COP). When I attended COP22 in Marrakesh, Morocco, I observed that Nigeria did not have a pavilion there. The pavilion is like a home at the COP where you can showcase the country's challenges and aspirations, and people can come to you.

One of my success stories is before COP24, I went to the authority responsible for COP, and I asked them why can't we have a Nigeria pavilion? And the people in power said it will cost money, and we don't have the money. I replied, "I haven't come to ask you for money and I don't like to hear there is no money". They asked if I'm aware that the pavilion will cost about N100 million? I said I did. So, we contacted stakeholders, explaining why we needed a pavilion and the money began to flow in.

At COP24 in Katowice, Poland, we had what was acclaimed to be the first Nigerian pavilion in the 24 years of Nigeria's membership of the UNFCCC. At that pavilion, we had what we could call "Nigerian House". When the then President Buhari came for the high level session, and he heard that Nigeria had a pavilion, he came by I lined up people to

Climate change has become so central to what we do that if I claim that my life is all about climate change, I might not be wrong because you cannot run away from it.

welcome him. We shook hands. He was quite impressed. And when he looked at the branding, he said, "I see that you are branding recharging Lake Chad. Is that possible?" I replied: "Of course, it is possible." He said, "Show me." So we put up a presentation on the screen and the president refused to take a seat. He stood throughout. Everyone else stood too to watch the 20 minute-video of recharging a Lake Chad. Subsequently, I did a document called "Standing 20 Minutes for Climate Action in Nigeria". And I said, if every leader in Nigeria will stand for 20 minutes and think about climate action, that will make reasonable progress. This shows how deeply involved and passionate I am about climate change.

On the issue of food security, growing up, we were usually a lot of people in my home. Then, my dad was a manager for CFAO Motors. But besides that, my dad was known as the person who makes miracle of employment. Once you're from Midwest State and you arrive Aba, the next place you need to go to was his house. Within a short time, he will find you a job. That meant that my mother always had extra food. Combined with my experience with sharing food items as a child during the civil war, I realised that climate issues affected food security. I went into food security to address major challenges affecting food security in

Nigeria.

Accomplish Magazine: Besides your role as president of Ecologist Integrated Services and CEO of NEA Energy Limited, among others, you are the chairman of AFSA, convener of NCCI, and a member of the Global Climate Solutions advancement network. Is your life all about climate and related issues?

Dr. Paul: I won't give a yes or no answer to that question, but here's are some insights. Climate change has become a common global denominator. If you listen to the news, if climate change is not mentioned, one thing or the other that is related to climate change will be mentioned. We hear of wildfires in the Amazon, there's so much cold in Russia, and people are dying. These are all climate change. Climate change has become so central to what we do that if I claim that my life is all about climate change, I might not be wrong because you cannot run away from it. If there's no public power supply and you're running a generator and pumping pollution into the atmosphere, it is a climate change issue. You're driving your cars and you're pumping carbon into the atmosphere, it's climate change, etc. You can't run away from climate change. Climate change does not have boundaries.

Climate change has impact across several sectors: energy, agriculture, just name it. Also the reality is that the climate change issue has become an emergency; as the scientists have shown, no one knows when the global temperatures will get to a tipping point where there will be a lot of catastrophe. When such catastrophes happen, those in the developing nations will be the one to bear the brunt. I will explain this to you a little bit. If there is flood caused by climate change in Houston, Texas, USA, before it even happens, they would have prepared an emergency plan. They would also have warned the people to start moving. They'll use helicopter to pick those who refuse to move with their dogs and cats. In this part of the world, if it happens, NEMA will try their best, yet you're left to fend on your

own. When the floods recede, people move back into their homes as if nothing happened. They live in a highly polluted environment and become sick. So, yes my life is about climate change. My life is about helping people.

Accomplish Magazine: What is your assessment of Nigeria's management of climate and agric issues?

Dr. Paul: Nigeria has done so well in setting up some level of policy platforms. In 2022, if I am very correct, Nigeria enacted a climate change law which established the National Council on Climate Change. Nigeria is actively involved in the Conference of Parties. However, a lot more needs to be done.

Breaking it down a little bit, the global action on food has placed so much emphasis on innovation. The traditional form of agriculture cannot take care of our food crisis in this country. Imagine where people are having greenhouses and they are planting in a controlled environment, so whether it's rains or not, you can plant and harvest multiple times in a year. We have food preservation silos that are moribund. There are solar dehydrators; equipment that are used to preserve the food. I haven't seen a massive deployment of that.

Accomplish Magazine: Who is your leadership mentor?

Dr. Paul: Let's look at the leadership mentor. My primary leadership mentor is Dr. Ben Nwochei. He happens to be a family friend. His elder brother and my dad were good friends. I always heard his elder brother talk about him to my dad. Dr. Nwochei - very intelligent, he's in the America. Once, when Dr. Nwochei arrived Nigeria, I was looking forward to seeing him. I saw him and we got talking. I noticed that he was quite straightforward. Also, he believed in excellence. I said to myself, one day I'll be a doctor like Dr. Nwochei and that's what propelled my quest for higher education.

Accomplish Magazine: Gender issues have been on the front burner for decades. What are the main outcomes of your study on gender mainstream for the UN REED programme in Nigeria?

Dr. Paul: When people say gender, the first thing that occurs to the mind is women. But gender actually is either a male or a female. When you are developing a programme that has the word gender as a title, the first thing you do is to define gender in the context of that programme.

Of course, the REED programme has to do with reforestation, and the warm against desertification; it is a UN programme. In this context, gender is about women. What we did in that study was to look at the entire forest resource systems. We picked up some key states in Nigeria - Akwa Ibom and Nasarawa are among them. The idea is to see how women are involved, positively or negatively, in assessing forest resources in their states or communities. One of the major things that comes to mind if you may agree with me is that women use the forest more than men. They have to go there to gather fuel wood to cook, because they have to cook. They go to get snails and they get all other stuff that

they will sell. Women are involved in agriculture more than men. Notwithstanding, there are certain laws that prevent women from getting the best they can out of the forest. There are some traditional laws that say that you shouldn't go to the forest at a particular time.

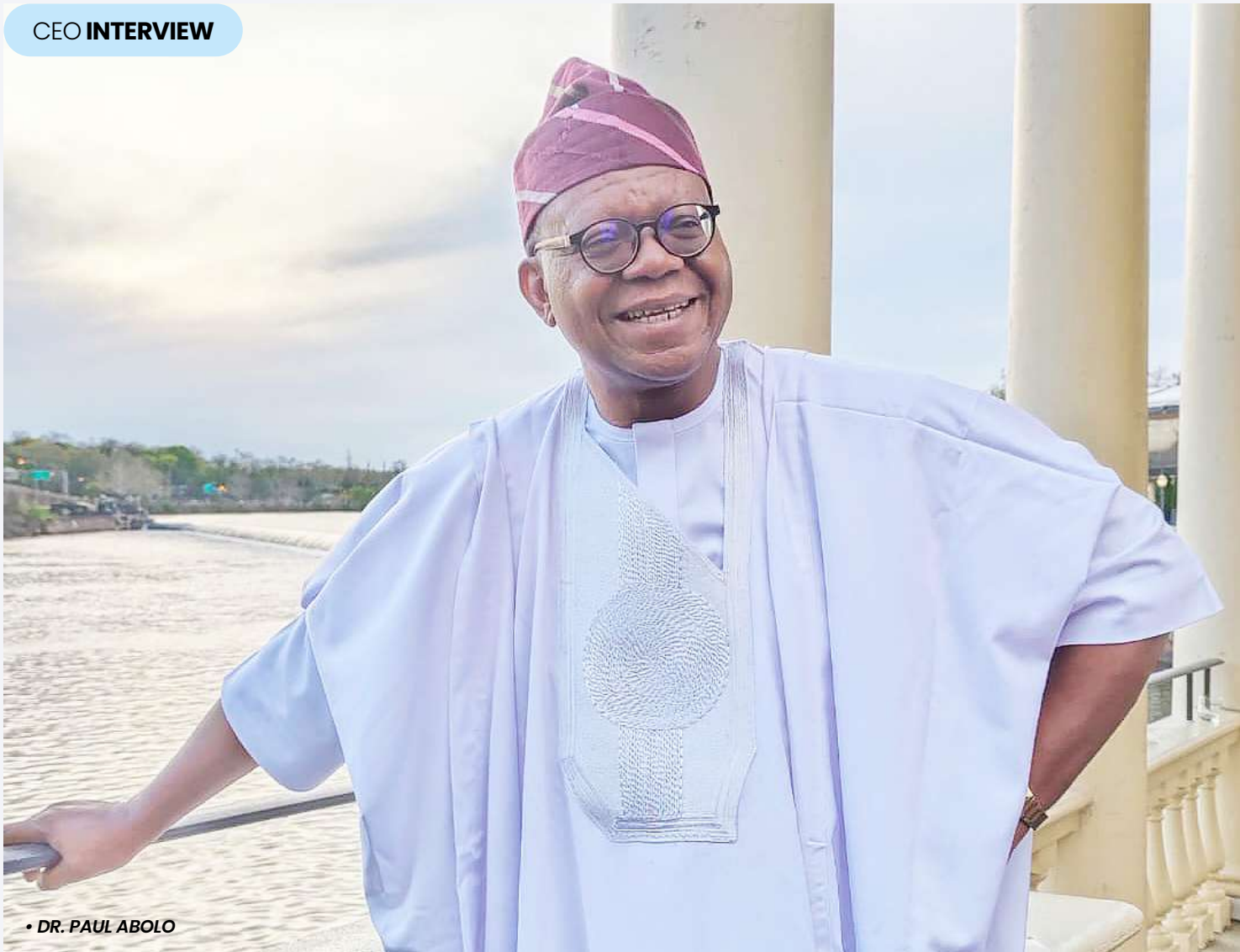
Many cultures forbid women from owning land. A woman who wants to farm will need to get authorisation from the family. A widow, for example, if the husband didn't have land finds it very difficult to find farmland. If a woman decides to buy land, they will say it's a taboo. The World Bank sponsored that programme, and I'm sure that they're using the recommendations in that programme to run initiatives in those areas.

Accomplish Magazine: Please tell us about the environmental social and governance and development of carbon market in Africa.

Dr. Paul: The environmental social and governance in Africa is a step ahead of corporate social responsibility, which has always been there. You'll see organisations doing business in a community and they need to meet their corporate social responsibilities by coming to the community - they provide water service, they build schools, and more. It is quite good and very exciting but the challenge with that is that it's not mandatory, it's not regulated, so it's like handouts. Environmental social and governance came into being to create a platform that makes it regulatory. So, you don't just introduce yourself as XYZ company in the area - then at the end of the year,



• DR. PAUL ABOLO WITH PROF P.L.O MOLUMBA



• DR. PAUL ABOLO

you share bags of rice to the people and they are happy. When you're reporting your performance, they'll ask you to report your environmental impacts of your business in the environment where you're doing your business. How much pollution are you pouring into the atmosphere? Because of the big plants and generators used. Then, they look at the balance sheet, the statement of the company and their declaring billions of profit. When you look at the profit declared, part of it is the environmental impact; they are not paying for the environment they are using. They pay the personnel, contractors and employees but the harm they cause to the environment they are not paying for it. The effect is that pollution goes into that environment and increases the climate change issues. For instance, when greenhouse gas gets too thick, it results to global warming. From global warming to climate change. The climate change impact can be expressed as intensified heat, intense rainfall, flooding and health impacts. You can imagine how much the government needs to spend on health care, you have people suffering asthma and other diseases based on pollution. Also, imagine how much the government will lose when there is flood and people are losing based on climate change impacts. ESR is in contrast to CSR. Where CSR allows you to give whatever you like, ESG states and checks requirements. We need to drive ESG a bit more in this part of the world, so that organisations are held

responsible for their impacts in the area.

To address your question about carbon, the pollution that goes into an environment is measured in carbon dioxide equivalent, because carbon is the major cause when it comes to climate change. When an environment is polluted, that pollution goes up into the sky. There's something called the greenhouse gas effect; the environment is wrapped around by something like a blanket of carbon that allows the rays of the sun to come onto the earth. We take what we need, what is not needed bounces back like a ball through the atmosphere. This is a natural phenomenon. That greenhouse gas, like a blanket, helps some of the heat from going away, so that the earth will maintain a good volume of heat for people to survive. However, with the gas that goes into the atmosphere, that blanket becomes thicker and thicker. It's like covering yourself with several sheets; the amount of heat that now goes out is reduced, so the earth heats up more than necessary. So, that heat creates what is called global warming, and that global warming now results in intense heat, plants dying, unregulated rainfalls. As a result of this, carbon was given value via the carbon market where the polluter-pay-principle was implemented. In the carbon market, you are made to pay for carbon if you pollute beyond a certain amount. The system is for developed countries, as developing countries do not

produce much amount of carbon but we are encouraged (to watch it). There's a carbon market where, if you produce more than a particular extent, you pay for (the extra).

Accomplish Magazine: One can say that you have come a long way pursuing your life goals. How have your own personal values helped you to drive your pursuits?

Dr. Paul: My personal values are based on my passion and work for humanity. But, above all of these, there's a principal value that controls the things I do and it is based on what I call appreciative intelligence. You hear about emotional intelligence and all. For me, it is called appreciative intelligence. Also, it doesn't matter what I'm doing or the qualifications I have; the God factor is primary. That aligns with what Prof. Ken Wall told me: "Follow the script". The God factor helps you to follow the script.

Appreciative intelligence means that you see the best in every given situation. So, if I'm pursuing something and in the process of doing that thing, I come against road blocks, I begin to say, "Okay, what is the lesson to learn from this? How can we appreciate the good that will come out of this?" That helps me to manage disappointments very easily. I'll give you an example.

Accomplish Magazine: Have you ever experienced failure? How do you deal with failure, drawing from such experiences?

Dr. Paul: The word failure may mean different things to different people. To some people, the definition of failure is not making their goals in a specific area. To some people, the description of failure may be, I have planned to do this and I'm unable to do it. So, it's difficult for me to use the word 'failure'. Rather, I apply the appreciative intelligence perspective. My inability to complete something or attain a particular goal may mean something positive for me.

Many years ago, I went for this interview in the US for social work. I went through series of interviews. When the last interview came, I was

told that the woman there makes people fail the interview. The woman asked me all the questions and I answered well. Then, she said, "If you have a case study and you're handling this case and in the end, you are not able to make results with this case, what will you do?" I looked at her; in my mind I said, 'This woman really wants me to fail this interview'. So, I said, "It doesn't matter. I will leave the matter since I have tried and it didn't work."

The woman turned around and said to me, "Go to the HR. You are hired. That is a right attitude. If you've done everything that you need to do and it's not working, then leave it."

What I do when things don't happen (as planned), I make it a case study so that next time, I'll decide on doing it in a different way. But I don't define it as failure. I define it as a learning curve. So, the word failure does not exist in my dictionary.

Accomplish Magazine: How do you balance your obviously tight itinerary to achieve well being?

Dr. Paul: I take buckets of time in between my work to relax. You're your best doctor. If my body tells me I'm stressing it, I simply shut down. I call it power down. I also do some power naps. I just take a five minute nap to rejuvenate - watching movies, whatever movie it is, to detox. But, I still need to do better; sometimes, I overwork. I usually like long trips because they keep me confined in one place; where I can watch movie and sleep.

Accomplish Magazine: How do you want to be remembered when you retire?

Dr. Paul: Let me rephrase that. I know you are being kind by saying 'retirement'. There is no retirement for me. I advise people 'Don't ever say you're retired'. If you retire from one job, find something else to do. We know people who started new businesses at 65 or 60.

When I go, I want to be remembered as somebody who made a huge impact on lives and livelihoods.

Accomplish Magazine:

What advice will you give to young professionals aspiring to become CEOs?

Dr. Paul: Beautiful! Number one: There's no end to learning. As a young professional, you continue to learn. Number two: You need to be a voracious reader. Always read, no matter what. Read, because as a CEO, you need to be well grounded. Number three: You need to adopt a lifestyle of learning. Learning does not need to be formal. It could be informal. You can learn from everyday processes, mistakes. Number four: You need to continually update yourself with information technology, because at our age, some of the CEOs who did not update themselves with the age of intelligence are losing out. If you are aspiring to be a young CEO, my final advice to you is get involved in artificial intelligence. That is the new direction where all of this is going to. If you don't, you will wake up one morning and realise that you're an illiterate. No matter your education now, if you can't use the internet you are an illiterate!



DIYI
WILLIAM-WEST

AUTHOR'S BIO

More fondly known as DDWEST, he has several years of media practice experience spanning magazines, newspapers, television and radio; laying emphasis on maintaining standards in media practice. He practised and lectured Public Relations for nearly a decade before going into leadership consulting and real estate consultancy.

CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emmanuela Mayaki: Nigeria-born Cyberspace Prodigy

By Harry Choms



Emmanuela Mayaki is a Nigerian tech wonder making waves in the tech world. Born in Edo State, Nigeria, she started learning tech at age seven and was already a master of many programming languages and software by age eight. She's skilled in tools like Microsoft Excel, Adobe Page Maker, and JavaScript. This shows her deep knowledge as a young coder.

At 13, Mayaki gained admission to study Computer Science at Mary Baldwin University, Staunton, Virginia, United States of America. She scored 91% on her Scholastic Aptitude Test. She's set to graduate as a Computer Scientist by 16!

Her passion is helping other young girls learn to code. She runs Emma's ICT Academy online. It aims to overcome internet access issues in Africa. Her work inspires many and opens doors for girls in tech.

The Rise of Emmanuela Mayaki in the Tech World

Emmanuela Mayaki started her tech journey in Lagos. She was passionate about coding from a young age. By seven, she had a diploma in Desktop Publishing and other tech skills. At nine, she wanted to be a web designer and analyst. At ten, she worked as a coding instructor, showing her talent for teaching.

In 2018, she took courses at NIIT and Tech24. She learned Web Development and Mobile App Development. She is well-versed in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.

She created Emma's ICT Academy to teach coding to girls in Nigeria. The academy offers training in everything from Microsoft Office to advanced programming. Her goal is to make IT certification more accessible.

Mayaki's success is inspiring. She shows that with hard work, anyone can achieve in tech.

Emmanuela Mayaki: A Trailblazer for Young Coders

Emmanuela Mayaki is a shining example for young innovators, especially women in tech. At 15, she shows us why coding programmes for youth are so important. With only 5% of West and Central African young people having internet at home, her work is crucial.

She founded Emma's ICT Academy to inspire young coders. She fights against old ideas that push girls towards traditional jobs. By teaching tech, she lets her peers see new paths in innovation. Her work makes her a standout young innovator.

Mayaki's story inspires many to chase their tech dreams. She shows that success in tech is within reach.

The Impact of Emmanuela Mayaki's Work on Technology Education

- Emmanuela Mayaki has improved technology education in

Eniola Shokunbi:

The Young Innovator Revolutionising Air Purification

By Segun Adeyanju

In a world grappling with the relentless challenges of airborne diseases and environmental pollution, a brilliant mind has emerged with a groundbreaking solution. Eniola Shokunbi, a young and visionary innovator, has developed an air filter capable of removing over 90 percent of viruses from the air.

Her invention, hailed as a transformative step in air purification, has garnered widespread attention in Connecticut, USA, and beyond.

The Mind Behind the Innovation

Eniola Shokunbi is not your average inventor. A Nigerian-American with a deep passion for science and technology, Shokunbi demonstrated exceptional aptitude for problem-solving from a young age. Inspired by the need to address public health concerns exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, she turned her scientific curiosity into action, designing a revolutionary air filtration system.

Educated in engineering and public health, Shokunbi's background provided the perfect foundation for tackling the intersection of environmental challenges and human health. Her invention reflects a synthesis of advanced technology and practical application, tailored to meet the urgent needs of communities.



How the Air Filter Works

The air filter, which has been rigorously tested, employs a cutting-edge combination of HEPA filtration and UV-C light technology. This dual mechanism effectively traps and neutralises over 90 percent of airborne viruses, including those responsible for respiratory infections.

The system is compact, energy-efficient, and designed for easy integration into residential, commercial, and healthcare settings. Its affordability and scalability make it a game-changer for improving air quality in areas prone to outbreaks and pollution.

A Solution with Global Implications

Shokunbi's invention has immediate and far-reaching applications. In Connecticut, where the device was first tested, schools, hospitals, and public

spaces have already begun adopting the technology to ensure cleaner and safer air. The global potential of this innovation cannot be overstated. As cities worldwide battle the twin crises of air pollution and airborne diseases, Shokunbi's air filter offers a scalable and impactful solution. Its ability to drastically reduce viral particles in the air could also play a significant role in mitigating future pandemics.

Recognition and Accolades

Eniola Shokunbi's invention has not gone unnoticed. She has received accolades from both scientific and public health communities for her contribution to air purification technology. Her work underscores the importance of young innovators in addressing pressing global challenges.

Inspiring a New Generation of Innovators

Beyond her invention, Shokunbi is committed to inspiring others to think creatively and embrace science. She actively mentors young students, encouraging them to pursue careers in STEM fields. Her story is a testament to the power of ingenuity and determination, proving that one person's idea can lead to a healthier and safer world.

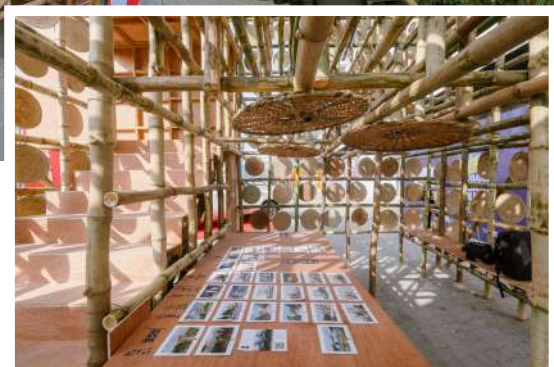
A Breath of Fresh Air

As we take a collective breath, cleaner and safer than ever before, we are reminded of the power of ingenuity to transform lives. Thanks to innovators like Eniola Shokunbi, the air we breathe - the future we imagine; has never looked brighter.

- Nigeria. Her online coding school, CodeKid, is for kids aged 6 to 15 and teaches important ICT skills like Python and Java.
- This helps fill a big gap in tech education, especially for young girls. She shows that girls can do well in coding and tech too.
- Internet access is a big problem in West and Central Africa. Only 5% of young people have it at home. Her school offers a chance for education that many miss out on.

- She's not just teaching, she's also empowering the youth. She's helping to fill 3.5 million cybersecurity jobs worldwide and teaching digital skills to the next generation of innovators.
- Emmanuela Mayaki teaches kids about coding, preparing them for the digital world. Her work goes beyond school, inspiring kids to succeed in tech. As more kids learn from her, a wider digitally literate society comes through.

By Damian Ikenna Ngere



• Bamboo Voxel: The Unsung Hero of Modern Construction

In a world driven by innovation, one of the most unassuming yet indispensable elements in construction is the bamboo scaffolding. At HTL Africa's Site Office pavilion, this humble structure is celebrated, not merely as a means to an end but as a central character in the architectural narrative.

Bamboo scaffolding, often overlooked and discarded after use, plays a crucial yet silent role in shaping the skyline of modern Nigeria. Cheap,

accessible, and crafted using traditional connection methods, it supports the rise of forward-thinking projects that shape our built environment. While its presence fades as construction progresses, its impact remains profound, much like an anonymous ghostwriter crafting a bestseller.

At Site Office, the bamboo voxel scaffolding takes centre stage, no longer a behind-the-scenes prop but a protagonist in the story of progress. Visitors are

invited to experience the world from the perspective of the builders, witnessing the blend of ancient craftsmanship and futuristic vision. Every material used is locally sourced and hand-crafted, with none sourced from beyond a few kilometres of the site, underscoring a commitment to sustainability and community-driven production.

The Generations exhibition at the pavilion brought these themes to life, offering an immersive experience that highlighted

the legacy of bamboo scaffolding in shaping architectural ambition. The pavilion, adorned with photographs by Olajide Ayinla, captured this intersection of history and modernity, while giving visitors a rare glimpse into the world of the builders themselves.

Beyond the exhibition, HTL Africa plans to keep the pavilion's legacy alive by repurposing it

as an outdoor reading room. This thoughtful transformation ensures that the soul of the space continues to inspire, educate, and provoke thought for generations to come. By elevating bamboo voxel scaffolding from mere tool to storytelling device, Site Office redefines the role of everyday materials in shaping extraordinary spaces.

Title: Iboji Ilu

Designed by: Omololu Soetan

School: University of Lagos



materials, particularly the tensioned surface of a drum or the surface tension of water. As sound propagates, it creates oscillations that manifest as wave-like patterns in both solid and liquid media, a phenomenon observable through the principles of cymatics.

The design is based on a regular hexagon with a diameter of 3.5 meters and an area of 9 square meters. A hexagon was chosen over a cylinder for its compactness and the ease of discretizing continuous curves onto its six flat faces. This simplifies fabrication by enabling the use of modular components.

IBOJI ILU translates to "Shadow of the Drum." The design concept draws inspiration from the idea of defining a space with a single, sinuous curve. Through exploration and iteration, this curved boundary evolved into a sine wave-like form. When wrapped around a cylindrical or polygonal solid, it begins to resemble the tension strings of a traditional African drum, giving rise to the name Iboji Ilu.

The roof design reflects the vibrational properties of sound waves and their effect on physical



**DAMIAN
IKENNA NGERE**

AUTHOR'S BIO

Ikenna is a graduate of Physics and Education, who works as a freelance writer. He has interest in technology, humanity and sports.

AI and Retail Technology:

Comparing China and the US, and Lessons for Nigeria

By Wisdom Thursday

Artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionising industries worldwide, particularly retail technology, where advanced algorithms and data analysis are transforming customer experiences and business operations. In this arena, two giants, China and the United States, dominate, leveraging AI to reshape how people shop. As Nigeria seeks to develop its technology sector, examining these nations' strategies provides valuable insights.

China: A Retail Powerhouse Fuelled by AI

China's rapid advancement in AI is largely driven by its massive population, strong government support, and innovative tech companies. Retail leaders such as Alibaba and JD.com



have seamlessly integrated AI into their operations in China. For instance, Alibaba's Hema supermarkets merge online and offline shopping. Shoppers can scan QR codes to access detailed product information or have goods delivered to their homes in under an hour. Similarly, JD.com utilises AI for automated warehouses and drone deliveries.

China's extensive use of mobile payments is another critical factor. Platforms like Alipay and WeChat Pay have made cashless transactions ubiquitous, driving retail efficiency. In 2021, China invested over \$17 billion in AI, solidifying its position as a global leader in this field.

The United States: Innovation at the Core

The US remains a strong contender in AI and retail technology, thanks to its robust tech ecosystem and culture of innovation. Amazon, for example, employs AI to personalise customer experiences, optimise supply chains, and power its cashier-less Amazon Go stores. These stores use sensors and computer vision to track purchases, allowing customers to "grab and go."

Walmart, another retail giant, leverages AI-driven robots to manage inventory and enhance store operations. The US's strength lies in its cutting-edge research institutions and significant AI investment, which amounted to nearly \$23 billion in 2021. This focus on innovation ensures that the US stays competitive in the global AI race.



China vs the US: Who Leads?

While China excels in implementing AI at scale and integrating it into everyday retail, the US leads in groundbreaking innovations and high-level research. Both nations have distinct strengths, making them equally formidable. Their approaches highlight different pathways to leveraging AI in retail, offering valuable lessons for emerging economies like Nigeria.

Lessons for Nigeria

Nigeria's retail sector has immense potential, but significant challenges remain. To harness AI effectively, the country must prioritise several key areas:

1. Digital Infrastructure:

Reliable internet and power supply are prerequisites for AI adoption. Investing in these areas will enable businesses to utilise AI tools effectively.

2. Support for Innovation:

The Nigerian government should create policies that encourage tech start-ups and provide funding for AI research and development. Local innovators need a supportive environment to thrive.

3. Embrace Mobile Payments:

Learning from China's success with Alipay and

WeChat Pay, Nigeria can promote platforms like Flutterwave and Paystack to drive cashless transactions and retail growth.

4. Skills Development:

Equipping the workforce with AI and tech-related skills will ensure that Nigeria can meet the demands of a technology-driven economy.

Conclusion

China and the US are shaping the future of AI and retail technology, each bringing unique strengths to the table. As Nigeria aspires to advance its retail sector, adopting strategies such as improving infrastructure, fostering innovation, and encouraging mobile payment systems can pave the way for success. By learning from these global leaders, Nigeria has the potential to build a vibrant, AI-driven retail landscape that meets the needs of its growing population.



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By *Damian Ikenna Ngere*

BUSINESS AND FINANCE



• PRESIDENT OF ZIMBABWE, EMMERSON MNANGAGWA

Zimbabwe Pursues Debt Restructuring to Access Funds and Revive Economy

On Monday, November 25, Zimbabwe's president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, met with finance executives

and creditors to go over strategies for restructuring arrears and paying down the nation's \$12.7

billion external debt. The endeavour is difficult for a country that has experienced financial crises in the past, including hyperinflation and unsuccessful currency reforms, with the nation's debt accounting for 81% of its GDP.

Timelines for debt restructuring will become more obvious by the middle of 2025, according to Finance Minister, Mthuli Ncube, once Zimbabwe has obtained bridge finance from lenders. Analysts caution that since Zimbabwe's financial problem prevents it from presently receiving International Monetary Fund (IMF) funding, resolving arrears is essential to the nation's economic recovery.

IMF Reviews Egypt's Reform Progress and Global Economic Trends

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has evaluated the progress of Egypt's reform programme positively. As Egypt continues to face economic difficulties made worse by regional tensions, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reaffirmed its support for the country's reform initiatives.

IMF Communications Director, Julie Kozack, stressed Egypt's dedication

to important reforms meant to maintain macroeconomic stability

during her remarks on Thursday, November 21, in Washington, D.C.



POLITICS

UK, US Urge Mozambique to Probe Deaths in Post-Election Protests

A number of countries, including the United States, Canada, and Britain, have condemned the "escalation of violence against civilians" following the violent post-election riots in Mozambique. In a statement, the nations called on Mozambique's government to investigate allegations of excessive force and make sure those involved are held accountable.

Anti-government protesters and law officers clashed in various sites throughout Mozambique on Wednesday, November 27, marking another fatal round of protests.



• LANDSLIDE IN EASTERN UGANDA

Landslides in Eastern Uganda Claim Dozens of Lives, Burying 40 Homes

Homes in six villages in eastern Uganda were buried by landslides, leaving at least 15 people dead and 113 missing, according to authorities

TECHNOLOGY



South Africa's Renovated Digital Dome to Launch in February 2025

Early next year, Johannesburg's largest planetarium in sub-Saharan Africa is scheduled to reopen with a completely renovated digital dome that will project wide-angle images of the solar system onto the screen.

On Wednesday, November 27, the Wits University planetarium hosted demos of the features of the now-renamed Wits Anglo American Digital Dome for both tech enthusiasts and stargazers. The immersive experience is enhanced by surrounding sound and ten cutting-edge digital projectors.

The head of the dome claims that the new technology will alter the educational process for both adults and young children, who frequently lose themselves in their phone screens.

on Thursday, November 28. Fifteen more wounded individuals have been saved and taken to the Buluganya Health Centre.

After 40 homes were buried by landslides, the Uganda Red Cross Society reported that 13 dead bodies had been found and that rescue work was still ongoing. Authorities anticipate that the death toll may reach 30, according to local media.



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GLOBAL NEWS

By Damian Ikenna Ngere

TECHNOLOGY



Alphabet Inc.'s growth investment fund.

The round also included dozens of angel investors, including prominent figures like Andrej Karpathy, co-founder of OpenAI, Palo Alto Networks CEO Nikesh Arora, and Scale AI CEO Alexandr Wang.

intelligence (AI), and public cloud product lines.

The way Microsoft mixes its cloud goods with its office and security capabilities is of special interest to the FTC, according to The New York Times.

Ex-Google, Stripe Executives Secure \$56 Million for AI Agent Start-up

In the United States, former Google and Stripe executives who contributed to the development of the Android platform have raised \$56 million for a new business that would create an operating system

for AI bots. On Tuesday, November 26, /dev/agents, a San Francisco-based firm, will emerge from stealth mode and reveal that it has secured a sizable seed round led by Index Ventures and co-led by CapitalG,



South Korea Cuts Interest Rates Amid Concerns Over Trump Policies

In a rare back-to-back action, the Bank of Korea unexpectedly lowered interest rates on Thursday, November 28, expressing concern about how Donald Trump's second term might affect the fourth-largest economy in Asia. With inflation declining and growth stalling, the BoK cut the benchmark rate by a quarter-point to 3%.

The action was taken as the central bank lowered projected growth rate for this year from 2.4% to 2.2% and for next year from 2.1% to 1.9%.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE



FTC Launches Antitrust Investigation into Microsoft

Several reports that support prior Financial Times report indicates that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has opened an antitrust probe against Microsoft. According to reports, the agency is investigating whether Microsoft broke antitrust laws in a number of areas of its company, such as its cybersecurity, artificial

VS ROUND UP

ENTREPRENEUR

POLITICS

Israel and Hezbollah Exchange Accusations of Ceasefire Breaches

Following accusations of violating a ceasefire intended to end more than a year of warfare, the Israeli military said its air force hit a Hezbollah mid-range rocket storage facility in southern Lebanon on Thursday, November 28. Israel said it violated the truce with Iran-backed armed organisation, Hezbollah, which went into effect on Wednesday, November 27, by firing on what it described as "suspects" with cars coming at several locations in the southern zone.



Indian Banks Assess Adani Exposure Amid US Bribery Allegations

Eight bankers stated on Thursday, November 28, that Indian banks are assessing their exposure to Adani and determining whether they need to strengthen due diligence in light of the company's billionaire founder, Gautam Adani, being charged by United States authorities with a \$265 million bribery allegation. As some partners and investors came together in support of the Adani Group, its listed equities, which at one time lost up to \$34 billion in market value, recovered.

Information from a regulatory source with knowledge of the situation indicates that there was no cause for alarm from the standpoint of the financial system because no firm was overexposed to Adani Group.

Australia Enacts World-First Social Media Ban for Under-16s, Warning Tech Firms

The world's first law prohibiting children under 16 from using social media was passed by the Australian government, and tech companies are being warned to strengthen security before an unspecified deadline. After months of strong public debate and a hurried parliamentary process that saw the bill proposed, discussed, and enacted within a week, the Senate finally approved the social media ban late on Thursday, November 28, the last sitting day of the year.



Under the new rule, tech corporations risk fines of around 50 million Australian dollars (\$32 million) unless they take "reasonable steps" to keep minors from using social media sites.



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ARTS & THE MASTERS



• The Female Masquerade Installation By Juliet Ezenwa Pearce

This is from the body of works titled "Overcoming Misogyny" in which the artist, Juliet Ezenwa Pearce, attempts to address the issue of patriarchal oppression of Nigerian women. With

patriarchy being the accepted social order in many parts of Africa, it was normal for female masks, where they exist, to be devoid of any form of authority associated with them.

Juliet Ezenwa Pearce said, "... female masquerades were performed by men since women were tabooed out of the realm of masquerades. This made me, as a visual artist, question the restriction of women from our shared ancestral existence. Are we women to be oppressed in this life and the afterlife as well?"

According to her women come from a history of

women being forbidden from carving wood or casting bronze, noting that she initiated some taboos by daring to create masks and masquerades or portray women in those powerful roles. She said her passion was reinforced by her belief that equality across board is a prerequisite for a virile society.

She noted, "I have recreated the female masquerade so that

generations of African women can have their existence validated in both the spiritual and physical realm. And that they have a major role to play in redefining the African culture. If African women are to succeed in raising a strong, enduring generation of people who will conquer the stars, they are going to need the freedom, strength and authority to do it. I believe they can and will."

• Rare Roman Brutus Coin Sells for Record-Breaking €1.98 Million at Geneva Auction



military triumphs and ambitions. Originally valued at over 800,000 euros, it was acquired by a European collector after fierce bidding among eight online participants. The coin is one of only 17 known of its kind and previously sold for 360,000 Swiss francs in 2006.

A rare Roman coin featuring Brutus, the assassin of Julius Caesar, has been sold for 1.98 million euros at an auction in Geneva. The coin, minted in 43-42 BC, symbolises the final days of the Roman Republic.

Weighing eight grams, it features Brutus' laurel-crowned profile on one side and war symbols on the other, reflecting his



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How Will FG's 2025 Proposed Budget Affect Nigerians?

By Damian Ikenna Ngere



President Bola Tinubu presented the proposed 2025 budget, titled "Budget of Restoration: Securing Peace, Rebuilding Prosperity," to a joint session of the National Assembly on December 18, 2024. It's the highest in Nigeria's history at ₦49.70 trillion; with an ambitious ₦13.39 trillion deficit, to be financed primarily through borrowing.

Key Allocations and Priorities:

1. Defence and Security: ₦4.91 trillion.
2. Infrastructure: ₦4.06 trillion, targeting projects like the Lagos-Calabar coastal highway and Sokoto-Badagry highway.
3. Education: ₦3.52 trillion, including funding for nine new tertiary institutions.
4. Health: ₦2.48 trillion for improving public health care and providing essential drugs.

The proposed budget aims to achieve economic stability, with projected revenue of ₦34.82 trillion and an inflation target of 15%, down from 34.6%. However, several areas raise significant

concerns.

Exchange Rate Projections

The proposed exchange rate of ₦1,500 per US dollar is problematic for a number of reasons:

- It signals a lack of optimism for the recovery of the naira despite projected increases in foreign exchange reserves, currently at \$42 billion.
- The naira depreciated from ₦464 in May 2023 to ₦1,541 as of December 2024, following the Central Bank's float policy.
- By setting this rate, the government may inadvertently discourage confidence in its currency stabilisation efforts.

Really, why is the exchange rate projection low if dollar inflows from crude oil exports, foreign investment, and reduced import costs are expected to improve?

Debt and Deficit Burden

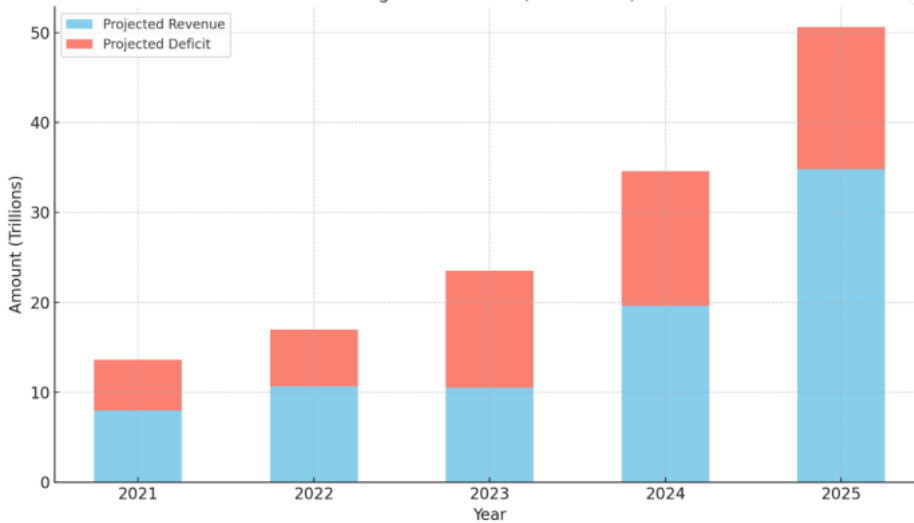
The proposed budget allocates ₦15.81 trillion to debt servicing as follows:

- **33% of total expenditure.**
- **45% of projected revenue.**

At ₦13.08 trillion, the 2025 deficit will be Nigeria's largest ever, representing 3.89% of GDP. This high borrowing continues a recurring trend where government spending outpaces revenue growth.

- Nigeria's total public debt rose

Budget Breakdown (2021 - 2025)



from ₦121 trillion in March 2023 to ₦138 trillion in November 2024. – With such debt levels, spending on critical sectors like health care, education, and infrastructure would remain constrained.

The continuous reliance on borrowing without substantial cuts to recurrent expenditure reflects a worrying fiscal strategy. As Hon. Mohammed El-Rufai remarked during the budget debate, frivolous expenditures like repeated purchases of vehicles utensils etc. drain resources that could be redirected to impactful programmes.

Inflation and Oil Production Targets

The government's projection of 15% inflation by 2025 from the current 34.6% appears overly optimistic. Key inflation drivers – fuel prices, food costs, and insecurity – remain high.

Economic analyst, Chijioke Ekechukwu, argues that without significant interventions, achieving such a sharp decline is unrealistic. He highlights that the government's inaction in addressing root causes of inflation, such as high

production costs and supply chain disruptions, undermines this target.

The projected crude oil production of 2.06 million barrels per day also raises doubts. While increased export capacity and reduced production costs are promising, Nigeria's historical struggle with oil theft and vandalism poses challenges to meeting this target.

Impact on Citizens

Despite the unprecedented scale of this budget, its benefits for ordinary Nigerians are not quite clear. This is particularly evident in the following areas:

– Rising Poverty: Millions of Nigerians have been enduring severe face hunger and unemployment, worsened by subsidy removal and naira devaluation. How the proposed budget will reverse these is unknown.

– Minimal Social Welfare: Unlike other countries that prioritise health care, education, and social safety nets, Nigeria's recurrent expenditure weighs heavily on administrative costs rather than transformative development. This expenditure disconnect underscores the usual inefficiencies in budget

implementation.

Conclusion

While the 2025 budget aims to address critical issues such as security, infrastructure, and human capital development, its ambitious projections and heavy reliance on borrowing raise valid concerns.

To truly achieve the promised "restoration", the federal government must:

1. Invest in sectors that directly impact the lives of citizens.
2. Implement policies that stabilise the naira and curb inflation sustainably.
3. Boost local production of goods and services for local and international markets, ensuring cost effective measures.
4. Support ample exploitation of the numerous non-oil mineral resources in the country.
5. Exercise the political will to drastically reduce the cost of running government's ministries, departments and agencies.

Ultimately, Nigeria's path to economic recovery requires not just unprecedented budgetary allocations but also disciplined fiscal management and effective and equitable implementation.



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Happy New Year 2025

from all of us at **UBA**

Step into the New Year with hope and determination!
Here's to making every moment count in 2025.