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May, 2025

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April 2025



Music Elders Forum

058360015

ABOUT US (M.E.F.)

Post Nigerian Independence, early music veterans began to inspire more and more Nigerians. Pre-Nigeria-Biafran War, skilled and inspired talents poured into the music arena. Post-Nigeria-Biafran War, the music arena in Nigeria exploded and led to the emergence of music superstars who have now attained full maturity, mentored others, inspired many, created legacies, and some still mount the stage like the vintage wine they have become. That's who

We often called ourselves soldiers and called non-musicians civilians. We had fun.

We found time to play soccer, chess, cards, billiards, pool, etc. We were often far away from home; had homes anywhere we went.

Nigeria Contact: NO. 9 MBONU OJIKE STREET. IKENEGBU LAYOUT. **OWERRI - IMO STATE,** NIGERIA.

> United States Contact: P. O. Box 40157 **Raleigh**, North Carlina United States of America

Keep Nigeria's Old School Music Alive!!!!!!!!!!!!!

we are!



Pastor Dallas Kinsley Chief Pekos Ekpo

See Page 1

M.E.F.

Ambassador Ozo

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EFENDING THE PROFESSION -- Dubily Emetuka, Abangwa Media Group Unlimited, Aba.

May, 2025

058360015

brief broadcast gious Superstitions, one Engr. Ja- impoverish a house owner or his cob Nwagwu of Aba was heard in- tenant to the extent of their packing sisting, with undeniable statistics, out of an existing building. Therethat it is not possible for a person to after, such a building, (if left withuse occult power (or any spiritual out maintenance over a reasonable force whatsoever), to push down a period of time); could decay, bestructure built professionally. The come dilapidated and finally fall anchor of the program, aptly titled into ruins. But it will be mere reli-DIVINE MYSTERIES, unsuccess- gious superstition, even a laughable fully attempted to present cases fallacy, to say that a bridge built to whereby apparently solid houses specifications, or an infrastructural had fallen in various parts of the project handled by a professional country, possibly through the agen- civil engineering firm could fall cy of dark forces. But, no. "Not to because someone with religious my knowledge", said Engr. Jacob pretensions pointed a finger at it, or Nwagwu, "There is no way a house did some spooky rituals in another or bridge that follows due process, corner of town. Just think about it!" adhering thoroughly with profes- Our subsequent inquiries showed sional civil engineering specifica- that Engr. Nwagwu is the Managforce".

conceded to the fact that social the Abia State government, particuproblems could be projected on the larly the State Environmental Pro-

Our media team recently monitored finances of a builder, making him Our correspondents say he had over a rousing radio program transmitted to abandon an ongoing project, or thirty years of experience, handling by Real FM Radio, Aba. In the to compromise on the recommend- several civil engineering projects in themed, ed quality of building materials. Lagos, Oyo and other states of the The Superior Positioning of Pro- "Yes, it might be possible also, to federation, for both government fessionalism Over and Above Reli- use spiritual force to degrade and agencies and private organizations. tions can fall due to any spiritual ing Director of Jericho Anderson Engr. Jacob Nwagwu, Nigeria Limited, currently handling Prodded further, Engr Nwagwu some civil engineering projects for MD, Jericho Andertection Agency.

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son Nigeria Limited



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Felicitations, 2025 Igbo Day Planning Committee on the occasion of your Igbo Day June 14, 2025 fricanization For Schools, Colleges, and Universities When you gift your house to your child, Uncle Sam may tax you or your child on the full or partial val-H & A ue. Don't lose your hard-earned USA S asset. I want to show you how you can save and protect that asset so **Books**







that your child may not pay any unexpected tax. If you suddenly can't work or do business anymore, do you have \$1.0m or \$500,000 to fall back to in such emergencies? I need to sit down with you and

show you exactly how to plan for such emergencies. Protect all your Assets and children. Email me: info@eclipseventuresinc.com



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Save Our Daughter from Breast Cancer!

Nneka Molokwu, one of the smartest, kindest, funniest people I know received devasting news that no 30-year old ever imagines: she's been diagnosed with HR+, HER2- breast cancer. After making a few jokes, her go-to coping strategy, she began a myriad of doctors' appointments and consultations. It quickly became clear to her (and her entire support system) that this is going to be a long road, with her treatment plan requiring chemo, surgeries, and radiation. As we help Nneka navigate this road, we are hoping to support her in any way we can.

Short of being able to erase her diagnosis, we are aiming to make all of life's responsibilities as manageable as possible to help her maintain her positivity and humor through this grueling process.

We are hoping to raise enough money to help her pay for medical bills that her insurance doesn't cover, supplement her monthly expenses when she inevitably has to take time off work, and allow her to pay for things to make this road a little less bumpy! Please consider donating to help our girl!

Donate at the link below. Also post it to your social media:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-nnekas-battle-against-breast-cancer?attribution_id=sl:011a7dc5-722a -4fd6-bdd6-32328c710c5b&utm_campaign=man_sharesheet_dash&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=copy_link

GHANA: Gate of No Return! The Jinx Has Been Broken!!!!!!



The jinx of the Gate of No Return has been broken!!!!!!! Hallelujah! It was not only believed but found to be true and real that once a person crossed that gate (exited), the person would be in the waterborne vessel bound for the slave fields of the Caribbeans and Americas. Time is the healer of all wounds. Something happened! It is called 'The Year of Return'. How did it go? Notable individuals who have hitherto been great grandchildren of slaves in the foreign lands have found their way back to Ghana. The government of Ghana eventually conducted a naturalization event where several foreigners pledged allegiance to the flag of Ghana and the republic for which it stands. Those individuals have become 'former' foreigners or diaspora Africans; now continental Africans. I hope they have used, or will use, The Gate of No Return to symbolically reverse the historical verbiage so that it may now be called 'The Gate of The Return'. These are positive signs, but Ghana (and indeed the rest of Africa) must understand that interest in her resources did not wane. If anything, interest in the minerals resurged! Be guided. Govern yourselves right



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EVERYDAY'S SERMON FOR LOST SOULS IN AFRICA IN PARTICULAR & HUMANITY IN GENERAL! By Prince Ezem Ihenacho

REMOVE THE WORRIES ABOUT WHAT TOMOR-ROW HOLDS & ALL THE IDOLATROUS MIRA-CLES, PROPHECIES, SIGNS & WONDERS **HUNTERS WOULD SUD-DENLY DISSAPPEAR!**

But in Matt 6:34 we were warned (BY CHRIST HIMSELF), not to worry about tomorrow because, tomorrow has enough problems of its own, which includes the fact that, neither you nor your fellow limited, imperfect human so-called "prophet" is promised nor guaranteed tomorrow! How can anyone claim to be a Christian (follower of CHRIST not followers of a mortal n't understood? human being), ignore CHRIST'S warning in preference to their own or someone else desires? Why would CHRIST warn if, anyone can or should do their own thing or whatever they believe works for them? If only the huge crowd, we see were a true reflection or sign of intelligence, insight & righteousness?

But sadly, the crowd is renowned for being extremely gullible, unreliable & unfaithful hence, the crowd was responsible for "Hosanna today & crucify HIM tomorrow!" CHRIST also warned about the exciting "Broad Road" that leads to destruction. HE reminded HIS followers that, "Many", meaning none other than the crowd owns & dwells on the "Broad Road!" CHRIST carefully made it known that, only "A few" would find the

or everlasting life.

None is righteous without CHRIST, none is currently without If you are not a willing tool or "HOUSE sin but the first step in finding the NIGGARS" of African descent in this "Narrow Road" is to study & know world wearing robe, collar or in sharp CHRIST, HIS antecedents & teachings! Without these first steps, one would become like a wave & would be tossed about by every wind that blows. Once you start support of him & also, in condemnation of using words like "Daddy & spiritual father" or start to ask people "What is the colour of your problem" then, you are on the path of in all the assassination attempts against "Broad Road!" None can be deep Ibrahim Traore! Your deafening silence rooted without the knowledge of CHRIST, HIS antecedents & teachings! Why would anyone follow nor claim to follow one, they have-

How sane, wonderful, peaceful & lovely life would have been if the massive crowd we see represents true Christians? Anyone doing the No true Christian would be loved, missed work of CHRIST can never be in or in good terms with the oppressors of the good books of political leaders, who are the oppressors of HU-MANITY! The devil retained power of witchcraft, magic, quotation sions), wasn't & isn't a Christian (CHRIST of scripture & can use the name -LIKE!) above all names JESUS CHRIST! Only the powers of knowledge of tomorrow & entry into the human soul without an individual's wilful invitation do the devil not have. Hence, the devil is the master gambler & subtle user of coercion, bribery, temptation and if need be force to get past the gullibles of this earth! GUARD & PROTECT YOUR SOULS FOR NONE CAN GUARANTEE THEIR **OWN** SALVATION, LET ALONE, SE-**CURE ANOTHER PERSON'S!**

"Narrow Road" that leads to eternal ARE YOU AFRICAN, RELIGIOUS OR A PREACHER OF "GOSPEL" OF ANY KIND? HERE'S YOUR REAL CHAL-LENGE!

dressing, as a Religious leader, deceitfully in bed with the oppressors of humanity against the oppressed then, your preaching must include your overt support for Ibrahim Traore of Burkina Faso & all those in Emmanuel Macron, his cohorts, supporters in & outside of Africa! You should demand action against Emmanuel Macron, French Government & all those implicated counts as support to the oppressors as, you seem to be agents used to distract & give people false, unrealistic & destructive hope!

STOP PREACHING ABOUT HEAVEN WITHOUT FIRST TELLING & RE-MINDING PEOPLE THAT. BEFORE "HEAVEN", WE ARE SENT INTO THIS WORLD (THOUGH TEMPORARILY), TO WORK!

humanity. If they're not overtly and/or covertly celebrating one's demise then, the dead (irrespective of title, uniform, colour, background, status, position or posses-



Prince Ezem Ihenacho

Who was in the village when Mungo Park came?

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Believe in Something... God, Satan, Stone, Stick, Anything.

Belief is such a broad phenomenon. Some believe in water or a body of Some 'believers' hate believers who believe in God through other reli-Thinking about belief should make one interrogate 'belief'. So, one must know what to believe (or believe in). The concept and act of belief have made several individuals believe lies or reject truth. The whole terrain is a maze. The 'belief' avenue is full of If you went into a church; any church, people going in all directions; east, and asked all the people privately and west, north, and south. Any person confidentially, one by one, what they lacking a sense of direction will just join one set of people and move along with them. Oftentimes, such individuals arrive at weird destinations before interrogating the journey. Therefore, belief must be interrogated by the selfsame believer. The interrogation should not come from outside as it will portend an ill wind. Everyone should in the book called 'The Holy Bible'. In believe in something. I believe in the the same manner, those who believe in Messiah called Yeshua (Yehusha). Rome gave him the name (or label) their code books. Some 'believers' love these is missing, you are in deep 'Jesus', and that name has become the most popular name all over the world. Everyone knows how powerful Rome is (or was). Some believe in stone (or stones). Some believe in stick, sticks, or stumps. Some believe in trees that where they themselves attend. are standing.

flowing waters.

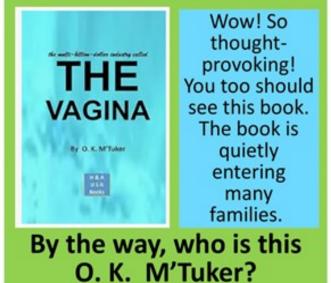
Some believe in God without Jesus. Some believe in Jesus without God. Some believe in God that is Jesus or Jesus that is God.

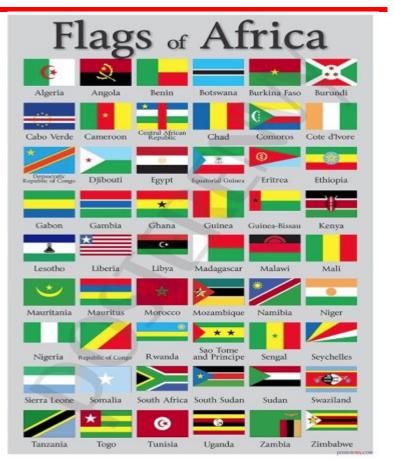
God through other religions follow other believers who believe exactly trouble. what they themselves believe. Some 'believers' love only those believer who attend religious gatherings onl

gions. Believe in God (or whatsoever it is), but love yourself and love others. That's exactly what Christ taught. The subject of 'Belief' is vast. Know also that you can freely profess and confess your love for God whether through Capand asked all the people privately and confidentially, one by one, what they believe, being a church, all of them will say 'God' and 'Jesus'. Some or many will forget (or even not know) that Christ said, 'Ye are gods', which means that I am a god. You are a god. When we believe in God, we follow specific codes. Those codes are found in the book called 'The Holy Bible'. In the bo fellow human being, you have di-luted everything. Practice Love. Practice Forgiveness. If one of

Unbelievable!!!!!

A colleague has been asking me since February if I had seen O. K. M'Tuker's hardcover book, 'The Multi-Billion **Dollar Industry Called THE VAGINA** on Amazon. The bother was too much. So, I went and saw the book.





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The Igbo Community In North Carolina USA Cordially invites you to their

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Customer Satisfaction in Education (contd.)

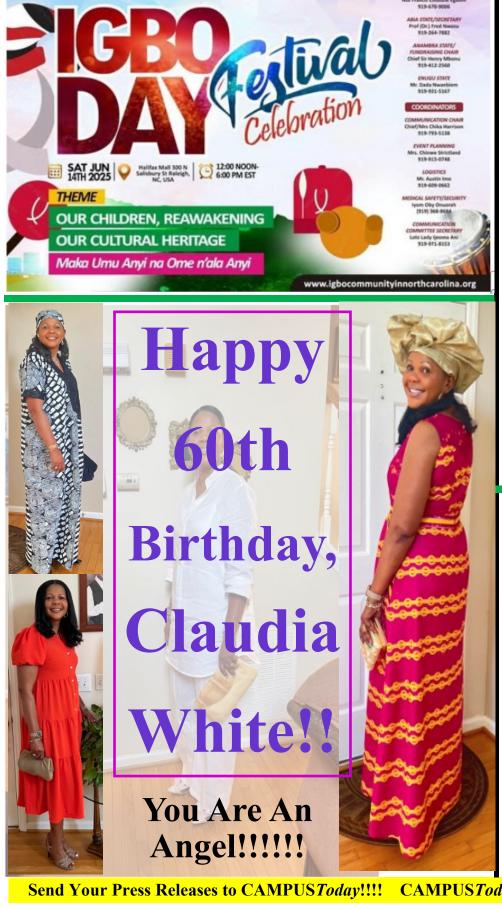
There is something in the Education 'industry' now that I call 'customer service'. Universities were laid back in that distant past. However, in the recent past, the online universities appeared on the scene and were found treating their students as 'customers' They did everything to make their students happy. Students were happy to learn and learning happily. Gradually, traditional universities began to (again, 'GRADUALLY') loosen up because their students were noticing the leeway online students were getting. Now, customer satisfaction is the order of the day in the 'industry', even though traditional universities are set in their ways (especially because they get money from big donors). When donors shrink and students have to pay out of pocket, the traditional universities will begin to change their ways. Customer satisfaction is the best

Religion

We often think of religion in the context of church, mosque, and temple. Unfortunately, religion is much bigger than that. Religion is A THOUGHT. It is a paradigm. It is a mindset. It is mostly a selfinflicted pain or pleasure controlling the way and manner in which man conducts 'business'. Religion should also draw attention to spirituality so that individuals may know that there is a difference between the two. You can be religious abut not spiritual, vice versa. If you had your way, which one would you choose? Religiosity?

Spirituality?

The most popular movement is a church movement. People go to a building and have a good time, interact with friends, make new friends, participate in different activities, and show that they are part of what is going on. That is religion. The other side, which is spirituality involves introspection. Mental and psychological demonstration of belief or faith.



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May, 2025



Dr. JIM OKEKE



You're invited to the Launch Party of The book "WHAT NEXT?"

12 JULY | 6PM

Emmanuel Anglican Church 1221 Corporation Parkway Raleigh, NC 27610

Meet the Author & Book Signing

Flowers, Flowers, and more **Flowers!**

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Isn't it amazing how flowers are a whole line of business? People actually open a business selling flowers! You pass in front of a florist shop and wonder who goes in there to buy anything? Sorry, you are way back in the stone age! People are making powerful statements with flowers, their stalk, petals, etc. We can't wait to welcome you into that world where your life will take a new (and better) turn.

Flowers are beyond words. Our purpose here is not to go into horticulture or the world of the florists. We want you to take a step back and ask yourself where and where you have seen flowers. What were flowers doing in those places? Who had those flowers in their hands? Would you see yourself in their shoes? If you did, what would you do? Would we see flowers in your hands? This calls for either a sober reflection or a strong statement that would defy diverse phenomena (describable and indescribable)!

Changing Global Economies India

United States

China

is at minus 1.8%, while our goods: RMB 8.37 trillion 2025 is expected to see a mod- economic milestone by douestimate stands at 0.5%. As a (US\$1.16 trillion), +4% YoY. est recovery, with GDP growth bling its Gross Domestic Prodresult, we have revised our Total import and export: In projected to be around 1.7% to uct (GDP) from \$2.1 trillion in GDP growth outlook down RMB terms, RMB 6.54 trillion, 2%, driven by infrastructure 2015 to \$4.3 trillion in 2025, to 1.7% in 2025 and 1.6% in with exports +3.4% YoY and investments and reforms, while marking a 105% increase—an 2026. While we don't anticipate imports -7.3% YoY. Fixed as- facing challenges like high unprecedented growth rate an outright pullback in eco- set investment: +4.1% YoY. unemployment and potential among major global economies nomic activity, we see the like- Unemployment rate: 5.3% lihood of a recession in the next 12-months at about 40%.

South Africa

global economic headwinds

The Atlanta Fed's GDP tracker Total retail sales of consumer South Africa's economy in India has achieved a significant

Provided by Google

These indices change on a constant basis. Government policies so far have led to price wars and other inflationary trends. Capital market forces are showing effects of hedging, especially when it comes to futures. Projections are unreliable now.

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The Practice, Process, And Procedure of **Recall Of Legislators Under The Nigeria** Constitution

process and procedure of provide for eight grounds Recall of a legislator in by which lawmakers can Nigeria legislative houses. lose their seats in Parlia-Nigeria operates a Bicam- ment, Section 69 and 110 eral legislature at the cen- actually provide for a reter and a Unicameral pro- call by constituents. Seccedure at the State level. tion 69 provides that "a Unlike the removal of the member of the senate or members of the Executive of the House of Repre-(President, Vice President, sentative may be recalled Governors, and Deputy when a petition is present- such a member if: Governors) provided un- ed by anyone or organizader section 143 (10) and tion provided it is signed 188 (10) of the 1999 Con- by one-half of the regisstitution of the Federal tered voters in that legis-Republic of Nigeria (as lators constituency." Like amended) which is con-Section 69, Section 110 ducted by legislators, law provides for the same makers can only be re- method for state legislamoved by their constitu- tors. In both situations, it ents through a process of is the referendum conrecall. Section 69 and 110 ducted by the Independent of the constitution provide National Electoral comfor the recall of a member mission (INEC) that deof the National Assembly termines the fate of the and State house of Assem- legislator. bly respectively.

A community reading and under- 2. THE PRACTICE OF RECALL standing of the relevant sections suggest that anyone or organization Since the beginning of the fourth provided it is signed by one-half of Republic, attempts to recall legislathe registered voters in that legisla- tors had all failed. tors constituency. However, it is the Factors that have been identified as referendum conducted by the Inde- the causes of failure include its pendent National Electoral Com- cumbersomeness, it involves much mission (INEC) that determines the financial resources, and its time legislator's fate.

This paper examines the While section 68 and 109

consuming. Another major issue

1.INTRODUCTION Recall appears to be most controversial means by which a legislator can vacate his seat. Sections 69^1 and 110^2 of the 1999 constitution provide the procedure for recall, thus---A member of the Senate or of the House of Representatives may be recalled as

There is presented a. to the chairman of the Independent National Electoral commission a petition in that behalf signed by more b. than one-half of the persons registered to vote in that members constituin that and.



Professor Mike Nwosu, Ph.D.

which signatures are duly verified by the Independent National Electoral Commission: and

The petition is therefore, in a referendum conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission within ninety days of the receipt ency alleging their of the petition, approved loss of confidence by a simple majority of member the votes of the persons registered to vote in that member's constituency

> has been that petitioners are always hasty in their process and at the end engage in procedural errors like inability to provide adequate details of petitioners. The final reasons appears to be that there is more of politics than procedural issues. *****

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Procedure of Recall of Legislators (contd.)

All attempted recalls have been Recall of legislators is analogous to This is a significant responsibility, more of politics as against non- removal of President, Vice Presi- designed to check abuses of office performance by the legislator. The dent, Governors or Deputy Gover- and other constitutional and legal framers of our constitution in their nors. The differences is that remov- infractions. wisdom that legislators are the rep- al of the executives are performed Apart from the constitutional proviresentatives of the people decided by members of the legislative arm, sions of Recall, the current INEC that sovereign right to recall them while recall reside with the elec- Chairman Professor Muhmood Yamust reside with the people. The torates. Recall process is activated if a peti- The National and State Assembly Guidelines for the Recall of law tion is presented to the Chairman of can initiate the removal of a Presi- makers and Area councils of the the Independent National Electoral dent or a Governor from office, Federal Capital Territory (2004). Commission (INEC), signed by when they commit an impeachable These guidelines even appear more more than one half of the registered offence. Section 143 provides that detailed in practice than the constivoters in that member's constituen- the President or Vice President tutional provisions. cy alleging a loss of confidence in may be removed from office when- **PROCEDURE** that member.

The signature must be duly verified writing, signed by no less than oneby INEC, and the petition must third of the members of the Nationsubsequently be approved in a ref- al Assembly, is presented to the erendum conducted by INEC with- President of the senate, stating that in ninety days of receipt, requiring the holder of the office of President a simple majority of the Voters cast or Vice President is guilty of gross by the registered Voters in that misconduct in the performance of member's constituency.

ever a notice of any allegation in their official functions.

kubu, signed the Regulations and

a. The first hurdle for petitioners is that, the petition must be signed with signature or thumbprints and shall include the names. voter identification Numbers (VIN).

PROCEDURE

- the member sought to be recalleda.
- the commission
- constituency
- verification details

f. ducted in the polling units within the constituency of the sought to be recalled.

The process is usually carried out by verification ofb. The signature of the petitioners must be ar- ficers (VO'S), and supervised by either by either an ranged by polling units in the constituency of electoral officer, assistant electoral officer, or any other officer designated by the commission. It is expected that the petitioners and the member subject to c. The name (s), contact address (es), phone recall will appoint verification agents who must be number (s), and email address (es) of the registered voters for each polling unit and collation representatives (s) of the petitioners specified center in their constituency. The signatures/ in the cover letter forwarding the petition to thumbprints verification of the petitioners will be at the polling units, using the Register of Petitioners (FORM EC41) and the Bimodal Voter Accreditation d. Upon notification of the member subject to system (BVAS). The outcome of the verification exrecall, the commission must verify that the ercise shall be announced at the polling unit, and colpetition is signed by more than half (over lated by the Registration Area Verification Collation 50%) of the registered voters in that member's Officer. The Constituency Verification/Declaration Officer shall announce the outcome of the verification. The Commission shall not conduct a referene. The commission will make a public announce- dum, if the verification indicates that not more than ment stating the day, time, location, and other one-half of the registered Voters in that member's constituency endorsed the Petition.

The Conduct of the referendum shall follow the same After the publication, verification will be con- pattern as the Verification exercise, with the appointment of Referendum officers. Voters shall select "YES" or "NO" on the ballot paper

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Procedure of Recall of Legislators (contd.) OTHER CONSTITUIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT COULD LEAD TO LEGISLATORS VACATING THEIR SEAT (apart from death)

Apart from Recall provided by Section 69 and 110 of the Constitution, Section 68 and 109 provide situations where members of the various legislative Houses (National Assembly and State Assemblies), may lose their seats. These include:

- a. If the member becomes a member of another legislative house
- b. If he is disqualified as a member of that house by virtue of any circumstance.
- c. If he renounces Nigeria Citizenship

- d. If he is sworn into another position
- e. If he becomes a member of any commission or agency
- f. If he absents himself from meeting from the house where he is a member for a total period amounting to one-third of the total member of days during which the House met in anyone year.
- g. If he decamps to another political party before the expiration of the period for which that

House was elected, provided that there is no division in the Political Party of which he was previously a member or a merger of two or more Political parties or factions by one of which he was previously sponsored.

Despite the above, every legislator's tenure spans the exact life the legislature which is four years.

Barrister Dr. Mike Nwosu is a Professor of Public Policy and Administration at Emmanuel University. He is also the Deputy Dean, Faculty of Law Mewar International University, Nasarawa State.

WHY THE RECALLS OF SENATORS DINO MELAYE AND NATASHA AKPOTI FAILED

The attempted Recall of Senator Dino Malaye of Kogi State in 2017 suffered Political and Procedural er- 6. CONCLUTUION ror, therefore was "dead on arrival". However shortly before the process got to verification stage, the Sena- The Recall process in Nigeria is time-consuming, tor approached the High Court to stop the Recall pro- cumbersome, intense, costly, problematic, and emocess. Both the Federal High Court and the Court of tion-laden. It is usually not done in good faith and Appeal ruled against him, that his suit was 'hasty, highly political. The initiators of Recall should underpremature and presumptions.

In the course of signature verification, the electoral management body led by Professor Ukertor Gabriel Moti (who was equally the Declaration officer) reported that only 18,742 out of 189,870 signatures to the petition could be verified, which represented 5034% of the351,146 registered voters in the senatorial District. Therefore, the number did not satisfy the legal requirement for a referendum.

The current Case of Senator Natasha Akpoti – Uduaghan of Kogi Central Senatorial District ended at the level of signature count.

The commission pointed out that, the total number of registered voters in the zone is 474,554. They further stated that more than one-half of the figure (that is 50%+1) is 237,277+1 Votes.

It ascertained 208,132 signature/thumbprint from the submission made by the petitioners. This translated to 43.86% of the registered voters, which falls short of the constitutional requirement by 29,146 signatories.

stand that taxpayer's money is used in the verification and referendum. It is supposed to be a performance check or accountability mechanism. Frivolous Recall process should be discouraged ab initio to avoid overheating the polity. Recall process will always end in fiasco because of bad motives and intentions.

REFERENCES

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).

Regulations and Guidelines for the Recall of a member of the National Assembly, House of Assembly of a state, or Area council of the Federal Capital Territory (2024).

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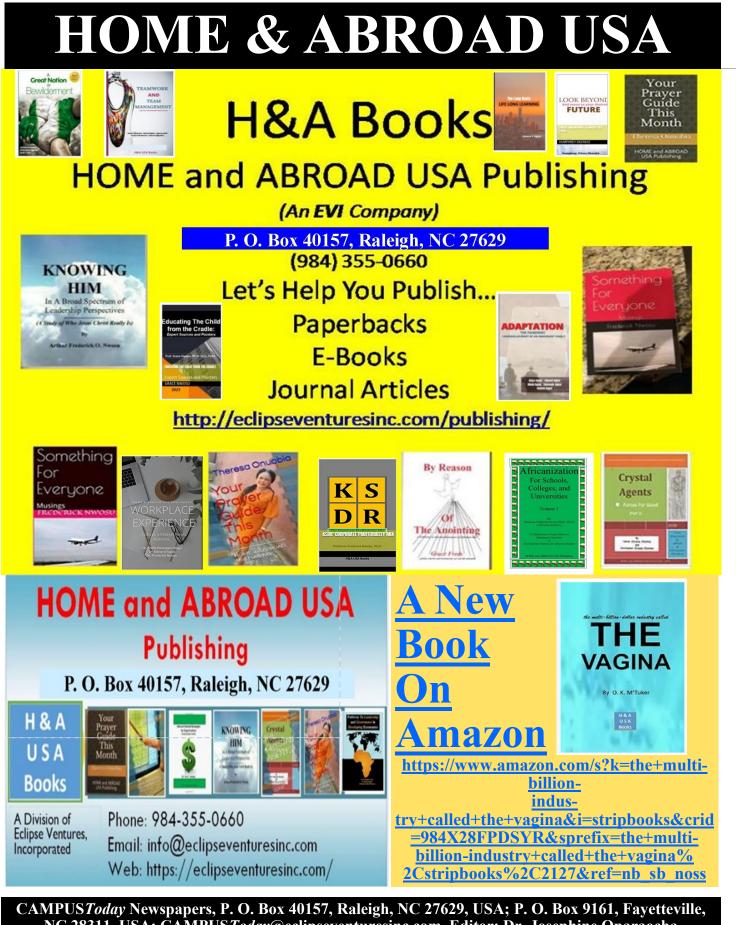
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Do You Remember Beni Tudumey?

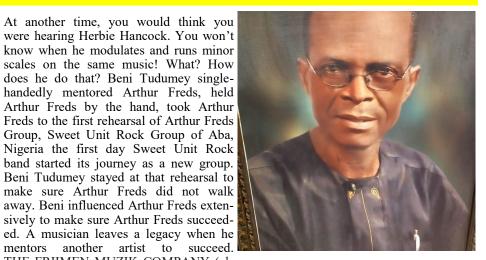
The one and only Beni Tudumey was At another time, you would think you sighted in Enugu City taking life easy. were hearing Herbie Hancock. You won't You could never believe that this was know when he modulates and runs minor the man who played freaking solos, scales on the same music! What? How chords, phrases, and stuff. Watch out does he do that? Beni Tudumey singlefor him on the songs, I Am Your Cap- handedly mentored Arthur Freds, held tain, P-O-T-E-N-T-I-A-L (Potential), Arthur Freds by the hand, took Arthur My Dreams, Funky Stuff, etc., etc.,

Once up on a time, in the City of Aba in Group, Sweet Unit Rock Group of Aba, Nigeria, there was a music group called Nigeria the first day Sweet Unit Rock Friimen Music Coy. That band refused to band started its journey as a new group. do what other bands were doing. They Beni Tudumey stayed at that rehearsal to carved their own niche. If you saw them at make sure Arthur Freds did not walk their rehearsal grounds, you would say away. Beni influenced Arthur Freds extenwithout a doubt that the band was a candi- sively to make sure Arthur Freds succeeddate for Billboard #1 spot. When you lis- ed. A musician leaves a legacy when he ten to their albums, you would say the mentors another artist to succeed. same thing. However, they shunned the THE FRIIMEN MUZIK COMPANY (als market and played music. They were ra- o known as FRIIMEN) was formed after ther musicologists instead of musicians. the Biafran war in 1973-1974 in the town Their performance at shows was in a class of ABA in the eastern part of Nigeria. Aba of its own as they dished out precise funk was the Number 1 Music Hub in the entire ed). FRIIMEN members' credits were that a listener would nod to the rhythm. Eastern Region of Nigeria. While bands numerous and they played, wrote or per-The line up at the time under reference and artists like 'Ofege' and 'Fela Kuti' formed on recordings from well-known included Jimi Henshaw, Kenneth Okog- ruled the LAGOS scene, bands like acts like The Funkees, The Jets, The Aposbue. Beni Tudumey, Charlie Eze. In the 'Friimen' and 'The Apostles' were ruling tles...and countless others. center of that production was the indefati- the ABA scene. Before forming the band, gable keyboardist Beni Tudumey! When most of its members were already working you heard his keyboard lines, you would together as freelance session musicians think it was Jimi Smith playing.

The Cross' but The Friimen 1976) was recorded at the fa- based in Coal City of Enugu in Muzik Company was the la- mous Decca Studios in Lagos Eastern Nigeria, serving the bel's signature band. The and comes swinging right out Performing Musicians Associa-Friimen Muzik Company was of the gate with a set of no less tion of Nigeria as General Secso solid that every new group than EIGHT monster tunes. retary, is ex-officio in many would then first consult the

backing up solo artists on many recordings When they started concentrat- label, or artist wanted the afrobeat and over the top meing on writing their own songs, Friimen to back them up in the lodic funk influenced by a wide the group instantly took off and recording studio. As a result, array of artists (both local and became an overnight hit that Anodisc Records received tons international). resulted in them doing multiple of demo cassettes from aspiring solos, captivating grooves, imsuccessful nationwide tours. artists...the label would then peccable sequences that turned FRIIMEN would go on to rec- first consult the Friimen mem- many heads...everything you ord three albums: Free Man bers to see if these new acts need to get a dancehall into a Don't forget: (1976), We Can Get It On were worthy of giving a chance complete uproar. The musi-(1978) and Merry Man (1979). to record and release an album cians' skills are just plain in-All three albums were released for Anodisc. Over the course of credible! FREE MAN is a quinon the Aba based label Anodisc the years the band went through tessential record that every seri-Records (THE key label to be several line-up changes...but in ous collector or fan needs to on if you wanted your music 1980 the band finally broke up have in his/her collection. Origheard and out there), Anodisc and their story came to an end. inally released in 1976 on Anoalso released hit records by The album we are presenting disc Records Nigeria. The What about Commy Bassey's? 'Sweet Unit' and 'Voice Of you today (Free Man from Mbaise-born Beni Tudumey,

Mesmerizing Expect nothing less than crazy music bodies in his country.



and concerts (or were playing in military bands that gradually became civilian bands because the war had just end-

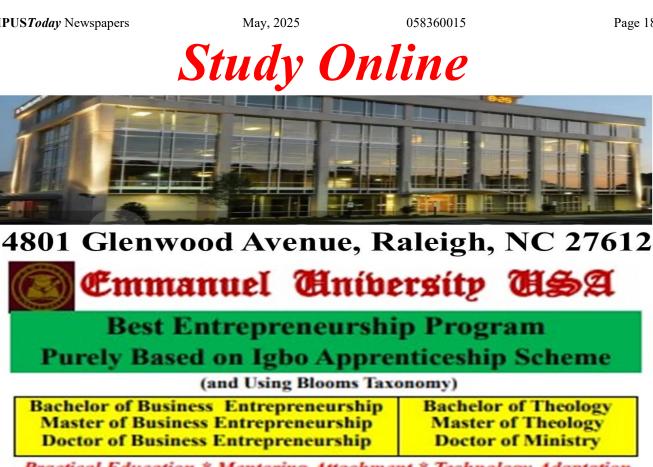


Beni Tudumey played the keyboards on Christy Essien's 'Freedom' album. He also played keyboards on all Joe Nez's albums. Arthur Freds album also. What about Kalu Onwuka?

The List Is Unending

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Marriage..., In Whose Favour?

She was in her father's house minding her business. This guy came knocking at the door. When her father asked him what he wanted, he said he was looking for the man's daughter. The man asked, "Why?" He said, "For marriage." The man called his daughter to the living room and asked her if she knew the guy. The girl admitted knowing the guy. Her father told her why the guy came, and asked if the girl wanted to marry the guy. The girl answered in the

commenced and completed according to broke out. The man was now playing the the customs of their people. A new couple second fiddle in his house. In fact, it was The next thing..., the girl started to house said, "I was minding my business. woman) began to talk back when her hus- marry, did you not know what it was?

affirmative. Normal marriage traditions band talks to her. Before you knew it, fight was thus born. Sooner than later, the girl no longer certain if it was the man's or became pregnant, had the first child, sec- woman's house. The man said, "I came to ond, and third. Gradually, the couple be- your father's house, married you, and came very comfortable with each other. brought you here." The madam of the demonstrate strength, independence, and Did I ask you to come? Did I point a gun 'republic'. Gradually, the girl (now a to your head? When you wanted a girl to

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