

How bloody civilian  
beat up police officer



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Candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in Rivers State, Siminalayi Fubara may have dropped out of public view for a while. This has given rise to speculations by spin doctors who are claiming that the PDP

## Sim: set for battle

candidate has been dodging public engagements. They allege that the fear of the EFCC has kept him away from the

public place.

But those who are close to the Opobo-born technocrat, say he has been paying serious attention to the minutest

of details as he works behind the scene on his agenda for Rivers people with members of his team.

Sim has been part of an

ongoing efforts to get more voters in Rivers State to register, obtain and secure their permanent voters cards in readiness for the

moment when votes would count.

Telegraph checks indicate that the technocrat who plans to place emphasis on industrialization have been working round the clock to fine-tune his agenda for Rivers

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## Rivers governorship:

# I did not make any promise

~ Governor Nyesom Wike



Governor Nyesom Wike

PDP members  
withdraw from  
Atiku Abubakar

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Nigeria  
picks on  
Algeria



## Matters of the Moment

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With  
Dakuku Peterside



## Sim: Set for battle

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people.

"Sim plans to hit the ground running. Governor Nyesom Wike has already laid the foundation for growth through the provision of basic infrastructure.

"There is a sense of urgency in the candidate that impresses me. It is obvious that he will devote attention to policies and programmes that would better the lot of Rivers people."

This publication has learnt that although insiders are keeping sealed lips, the PDP in Rivers is busy tinkering with its action plan.

The plan is to present a complete package of what the Sim administration would do if it wins.

Asked what would be her reaction if she were to be in Sim's shoes, a woman who spoke under anonymous conditions hinted this newspaper, "I expect Sim to pay attention to human capital development. We need to cultivate active hands and active brains who would be responsible for tomorrow's giant strides.

"This means he has to turn attention to education and come up with job creation strategies that will take children off the street." Rivers people may not have to wait too long. Campaigns will commence nationwide on September 28



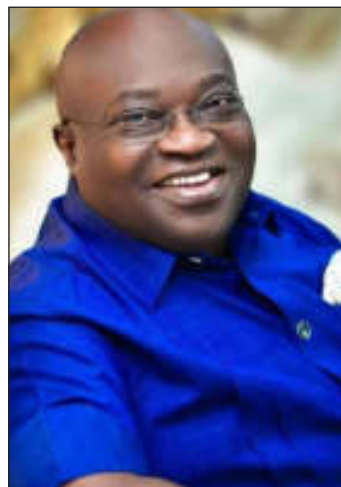
Sim Fubara



Jerry Gana



Seyi Makinde



Okezie Ikpeazu



Samuel Ortom



Donald Duke

## PDP members withdraw from Atiku Abubakar ... As crisis within the opposition party deepens

As the nation prepares for the advent of open air campaigns, the crisis in the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, has taken a turn for the worse. Close associates of Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State Wednesday, in protest, announced they will not take part in efforts being made by the to produce Alhaji Atiku Abubakar as the next president of Nigeria.

The group which gathered Tuesday night in Port Harcourt at the residence of the Rivers Governor at Rumuprikom to review developments within the party said the PDP had regrettably failed to address serious concerns in its midst.

Delivering the position of the group former Chairman Board of Trustees of the PDP, Chief Bode George announced the pro-Wike group will not participate in the campaign efforts to realize the presidential ambition of Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

He said the Wike camp will not participate until Iyorchia Ayu, National Chairman of the party is asked out of Wadata Plaza.

The PDP elder however reiterated that members of the group will not leave the party for any reason. The Atiku camp, it will be recalled, had gone ahead to set up a campaign organization.

Without any form of consultation or resolution of existing differences, Atiku simply added names of those Ayu had referred to as "children" in the campaign council. Asked for his reactions, a well placed source in Abuja told the Port

Harcourt Telegraph, "from all indications, Atiku's wing of the party carefully avoided dealing with issues bogging the party that require solutions and rather chose to create more problems along the way.

"I'm not surprised by the position taken by serving and former Governors as well as other high ranking members of the party who are with Wike.

"What Atiku and his friends did was an insult. Wike and his people have returned the slap."

The reaction by the Wike camp when it came was like a thunderbolt.

The Wike group choose to embrace the party but dumped its presidential candidate.

The implication of that action was easy to deduce. They would work for their own candidates without extending a helping hand to Atiku and his stormtroopers.

Across the land, on radio and television stations as well as newspapers websites and the social media, it was the major talking point, with observers warning the PDP might be headed for the precipice.

Not many within and outside the PDP agree that Atiku would be able to win the presidency if he decides to go it alone with his supporters.

Those who think there is need for Ayu to go say the chairman should voluntarily step aside and allow peace to reign.

They are equally noting that the size and spread of the Wike team is not something to be ignored by any rational thinking party.

Calling the bluff of the Wike camp, Atiku Abubakar said he was in no position to ask Ayu to step aside, meaning that the flagbearer and his associates were still willing to hang unto the national chairman at the risk of losing a presidential election.

George who appeared on **Politics Today** broadcast on **Channels Television** Wednesday night said arguments that the party would need to go through constitutional means to get Ayu out were unthinkable and grossly unfair.

George warned the South will not shut its eyes to the insult that is coming from Atiku and his supporters,

saying it is obvious the South does not matter in their calculation.

He said Ayu's removal was a moral issue, given the fact that Atiku's decision against convention to run for the presidency after the North and South had swapped positions led to the imbalance that the party is suffering from now.

Senator Jonah Jang accused the national chairman of partisanship.

He said remarks credited to Ayu at the end of the PDP special national convention suggested that instead of playing an impartial role, Ayu had taken sides in favour of a particular candidate even before the convention.

He said he was largely displeased when he heard Ayu describe Aminu Tambuwal, Governor of Sokoto State as the saviour of democracy.

He said it was only fair that Ayu should leave the chairmanship seat.

Governor Seyi Makinde said the decision taken by the entire team was at tandem with what he told the flagbearer of the party during his last visit to the South West.

Given the strong

statement that is coming out of Port Harcourt, several top ranking members of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP have pulled out of the Presidential Campaign of Atiku Abubakar.

This development may give an edge to both the All Progressives Congress and the Labour Party who have been watching events play out in the major opposition party.

However, Wednesday's decision appears to have given room for the PDP to rally.

Adolphus Wabara, Chairman of BoT acknowledged that there was substance in the demand of Wike's team.

He said the BoT would look into the matter even as he promised he would have discussions with the presidential flagbearer over his claim the issue of the chairman's removal is a constitutional matter.

Wabara had visited Governor Samuel Ortom in a bid to secure his support for the party's peace drive.

Among those who attended the Port Harcourt meeting were the Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom, Abia State Governor, Okezie Ikpeazu, Enugu State Governor, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, ex-Plateau State Governor, Jonah Jang, ex-Gombe State Governor, Ibrahim Dankwambo, former Ekiti State Governor, Ayo Fayose, former Ondo State Governor, Olusegun Mimiko, former Cross River State Governor, Donald Duke, Chief Bode George, Chief Dan Orbih, and Mohammed Adoke



Atiku Abubakar, Iyorchia Ayu



## Rivers governorship:

# I did not make any promise

~ Governor Nyesom Wike

PDP, saying he would remain within the party to fight injustice. The Governor assured members of the party that Rivers State would be delivered 100% to the

the North to have both the presidential candidate and the position of the national chairman. Insisting that there is

they have done for the State.

But he noted that the PDP could point at what it has done for the people under his watch as governor.

He said he had not on

Rivers/Imo boundary as well as the Bayelsa/Rivers boundary.

Governor Wike equally assured the Rivers people that he would not relocate to Abuja after his tenure.

He said he would live in his village among his people and among the people of the State.

He said that the task of providing additional infrastructure in parts of the State would continue until the terminal date of his administration.

Earlier, the State Chairman of the PDP, Ambassador Desmond Akawor had lauded the State Governor for his ground breaking efforts to develop the State.

He said both the party and the Rivers people were extremely proud of the various accomplishments of the governor, particularly in his protection of state related interests.

The PDP Chairman observed that on account of the governor's doggedness, Rivers State has become increasingly revered.

He said the people were happy with the way Wike had conducted himself since the crisis in the PDP began, emphasizing that he had demonstrated maturity and offered leadership.

Akawor said that their has never been anyone who has shown such commitment.

As a result of his love for the State, Akawor said Rivers people would be ready to follow him anywhere.

Recall that Governor Wike has through the instrumentality of the courts won

landmark cases at the Supreme Court that have returned oil wells, restored the rights of the State to its possessions and stopped Federal Government incursions into the use of funds belonging to the State to fund the Nigeria Police Force.



Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State Thursday re-emphasized that there was no time that he made a promise to anyone that he would make him governor.

The Governor who was addressing party stalwarts at Government House, Port Harcourt insisted that there was no time that he made such a commitment. He however observed that there may have been certain persons who are supposedly adept in reading the body language of others who could have concluded that they understood his body language.

He told stakeholders that he even had conversations with some of his friends who were eyeing the governorship ticket whom he advised not to contemplate such a race.

But he said those aspirants who spoke with him privately, who understood what was at stake going forward, did not convey the outcome of the deliberation which went on behind the scene to their supporters when it mattered most.

Wike noted that the same persons, grounded in the art of petition writing who acknowledged before Governor Peter Odili years ago, that they would support whosoever emerges as the gubernatorial candidate of the party and later turned round to fight Rt. Hon. Rotimi Amaechi when the mantle fell on him were the same persons who had made commitments to him and turned round to fight him.

He reiterated that he would never leave the

PDP.

Stressing that what was going on within the party was not about him, he explained that what was at stake was the interest of the South.

He repeated that it was wrong after they had violated the constitutional provision on zoning for

nothing anybody could do about the emergence of a presidential candidate and a running mate at this stage, he stressed that it amounted to injustice not to listen to the voices of those who are saying that there are imbalances in the way offices in the party have been shared.

He urged party faithfuls to remain steadfast, assuring them that his administration would continue to deliver on the promises made to the people of the State.

He challenged the Federal Government and those who claim to be close to the system to show what

account of personal aggrandizement, political party affiliation or friendship sold out the interest of the State.

He said that under his watch, he has been able to restore the State's control of oil fields that have been under dispute, including those along the



**A**utolycus in Ancient Greek mythology achieved fame and notoriety for being a successful robber and trickster whom no one could catch. He was a source of trouble for the king and the kingdom in Ancient Greece. Autolycus, were it be in today's Nigeria, would have been a trainee in Nigeria's crude oil-thieving empire, which is somewhat of a mystery. The quantity of crude stolen daily and yearly varies from one stakeholder to another, meaning we do not even know the exact quantity stolen. In a recent interview, the Chief Of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Gambo, raised fundamental issues about the estimated quantity of crude oil stolen daily, which he considered unrealistic and outrageous, literarily describing the given figures as the latest wonder of the world.

The thieves' methods are not fully understood and have different dimensions. Those involved in the stealing are only a matter of conjecture. However, many believe that the highest level of government officials, powerful business people, security personnel, oil industry operators and the host community stakeholders are involved. The crude oil thieving cartels are generally thought to be highly organised, sophisticated and at the same time complicated. The impact of the stolen crude on the national economy and other aspects of national life is now biting all Nigerians in one form or the other.

Recent statistics regarding crude oil theft and its implication on our national politics and economy are dire. The past three months have seen a more catastrophic and massive decline in the volume of crude exported. In June, Nigeria produced 1.238million bpd, July dropped to 1.083million bpd and it dropped to an all-time low of 972,394 bpd in August. The August production is the lowest in the last 20 years, and if it stays the same, could amount to a loss of about \$20bn in the year under review at an average price of \$100 per barrel.

Like has been argued elsewhere, it is not only a loss of revenue but also of jobs, opportunities, and possibilities. USD20bn can cushion our debt burden, increase our distributable income, and shore up our foreign reserves. Another impact of the drop in oil revenue attributable to crude oil theft is that NNPC Ltd did not contribute to the federation account for more than four months.

This crude oil theft has been on for years and seems to defy every solution. It has become a national embarrassment, especially now that the oil price is at its peak, and other nations and corporations are smiling to the bank, rebuilding their economy from the proceeds of the oil windfall, while Nigeria's revenue is at risk and is bleeding with complicated economic challenges. Today, this column will focus on three aspects of this endless cycle that has literarily threatened our national life: Its impact on gas revenue generation, overall investment in Nigeria, and national revenue.

Revenue from gas export and feedstock sales to the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Limited (NLNG) hit \$243.57 million in the first quarter of 2022 (Q1'22), surpassing receipts from crude oil export by 259.4 per cent under the same period. This revenue which has a potential of reaching \$300m per quarter plus future investment in gas growth ventures, is threatened by massive insecurity and pipeline vandalism. The reason is that NLNG feedgas mix comprises associated and non-associated natural gas sources, most of which are sourced from onshore/swamp area oil and gas production assets of its upstream gas suppliers.

The incidences of pipeline vandalism are primarily concentrated in these shallow offshore/swamp areas, resulting in significant feedgas supply disruptions to the NLNG Plant whenever these assets are impacted. Year to date, 2022, the NLNG Plant has operated at about 65% utilisation capacity (compared to 95-98% availability and reliability) because of feedgas shortages occasioned by frequent disruptions of upstream oil and gas operations following these vandalisation incidences. The difference between plant availability and current utilization translates to over 2billion dollars in revenue. So far, in 2022, NLNG has recorded significant production opportunity losses, impacting revenues.

Nigeria's gas reserve is estimated at 208 trillion cubic feet by 2022. Gas resources are a vital pillar of Nigeria's energy transition plan, and this could be under serious threat if the crude oil stealing and pipeline vandalism continue unabated.

On its impact on investment, Crude oil theft and related pipeline sabotage have forced some companies to shut down production and / or sell off their assets. Shell, Chevron, Mobil, and other international oil companies (IOC) are divesting their land and shallow offshore assets mainly because they no longer see growth potentials in them. It is also the same for marginal field operators. They all cite the significant difference between what they produce at wellhead and output at terminals as an operational challenge that makes a mess of their investment. This difference in crude

# Mystery of crude oil theft

production at terminals, plus the cost of cleaning up the environment and other security challenges, is a disincentive for new investment to come into the sector and the country. Persistent crude oil theft and pipeline vandalism has contributed significantly to the loss of investor interest and confidence in the oil and gas space. This partially explains why Nigeria is no longer mainly an attractive destination for foreign direct investment.

The micro and macro-economic impact of crude oil theft are apparent. With oil theft and illegal bunkering taking as much as 200,000 to 400,000 barrels per day of the country's oil production, the country's fiscal stability is threatened.

While the economic impact of the new wave of oil theft ravages the nation, losses to oil thieves and official leakages could overtake official receipts of oil revenues into the Nigerian treasury. Already, Nigeria, today, has the 25th highest inflation rate in the world, with price cost rises mainly driven by higher energy and food prices. The Naira had lost almost 95% of its value in five years, crossing N705/\$ in the parallel market. This depreciation of value is among other factors linked to our dip in revenue.

There is a need for an urgent national emergency response. Some influential individuals have hijacked the Nigerian state and are bent on strangulating it financially. The crude oil thieves are committing treason and destroying Nigerians' present and future hopes and economic potential. The inability of the government to deal with this situation demonstrates the abysmal state of governance in Nigeria or that the non-state actors in connivance with some elements within the government and security sector are more powerful than the state and are holding the Nigerian state to ransom.

An inexplicable dimension is the embarrassing failure of our security and defence forces in protecting oil pipelines and installations.

After over 20 years of insurgent disruptions of oil and gas installations in the Niger Delta, it is curious that the Nigerian armed forces

have not yet developed a specialized capacity to protect this vital sector. Instead,



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military officers deployed in the region, working with other actors have become part of an endless racket of oil thieves and vandals. Crude oil theft is not surreptitious and requires a highly planned and organised operation. How can big ocean liners used to lift crude oil that is stolen move freely within our territorial waters and succeed without detection from all the security agencies and government officials working daily in these areas? If this continues unabated, it will bring Nigeria to its knees financially, economically, and politically.

The state of things in Nigeria is not only embarrassing but stifling and suffocating the hopes and aspirations of its citizens, and it calls to question Nigeria's very essence and existence. These actions are gradually becoming the norm instead of the exception, and those responsible for acting on our behalf abdicate responsibility and shift blame while the Nigerian economy gradually caves in.

A recent report by Proshare Research, titled "The anatomy of crude oil theft in Nigeria: understanding the graft, impact, and implications" proposed that stopping oil vandals would require a combination of public policy, market action and military operations. I agree, but most importantly, the leadership's political will, backed by a firm commitment to stop the bleeding, will make the difference. Realising that crude oil theft and pipeline vandalisation can imperil national survival, the government can elicit some intense action to curb it. Negligence is not an option, and the buck stops on the table of the government. If the government fails to tackle this problem and eliminate crude oil theft, it should be directly, vicariously, and precariously liable for the impact and consequences of such inactions.

It is evident that some influential individuals at different strata of public, private and security sector leadership, taking advantage of their privileged position and vast network, have converted state assets to personal assets under the guise of oil theft. This has made curbing crude oil theft almost impossible and should not be the case. This is a crime against the state and must be treated as such. The government must go after perpetrators of this dastardly act and severely punish them as a deterrent to others. Economic sabotage is a severe crime against the state and is very reprehensible. It is even more dangerous when people doing it directly or in cahoots with others are in high government and security positions. The greed and corruption among officials are the banes of Nigeria.

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# Ebonyi State clears air over Obi, supporters



The Ebonyi State Government has denied knowledge of any face-off between law enforcement agents and members of the pro-Obi supporters. While ‘Obi-dients’ are claiming that the State Government was responsible for the disruption of their rallies, the government is saying that Obi supporters acted outside an approved venue. The Spokesman for the Umahi administration said it was not true that the State Governor, Dave Umahi decided to tumble the rally carefully plotted by major supporters of Peter Obi in the State. Clearing the air, Oko said that permission was duly granted by the State Government for the group to gather. He said that a venue was

provided for the rally, but he revealed that members of the Obidient movement rejected the site and stormed unto the streets.

The spokesman who said it was a deliberate ploy to create tension disclosed how the Obidients who complied with regulations on payments however ignored the efforts of the State to guarantee that there is law and order provided for the

the government had approved a venue for the obi group for use for a fee but they reportedly took to the streets to cause mayhem. Oko's statement titled Governor Ordered No Disruption reads: “The attention of the Executive Governor of Ebonyi State has been drawn to some online publications and rumours making the rounds that he Governor ordered the disruption of a gathering in support of one of the presidential candidates in the 2023 elections. This is not true.

“The Executive Governor of Ebonyi state is certainly not aware of any disruption of any gathering as he didn't order any. He is a democrat who believes firmly in the rule of law. He wishes every contending politician the very best and will insist on a level playing ground for all. If it is true that the police dispersed people, the answer will surely rest with the police. For record purposes, the relevant government agencies had approved the use of Abakaliki township stadium for a rally by the Labour party subject to the payment of some specified fees. Rather than pay the fees, it was gathered, the organizers chose to empty into the streets causing some untold hardships on the hapless citizens going about their daily “The police, we are told, had to step in to restore law and order. “The Governor appeals to all citizens to always abide by the dictates of the law and decent living so that law and order will always reign supreme. “He wishes all political parties and their candidates well and enjoins all to play the game by the rules.

## Man arrested for allegedly using charm to defraud PoS operators

Operatives of the Anambra State Police Command have arrested one Chisom Nweke, a 26-year-old man for allegedly using charm to defraud Point of Sale operators in Awka, the state capital. The suspect confessed to have defrauded unsuspecting PoS operators cutting plain paper to the size of naira note and give to attendants to deposit in a designated account in the bank. Spokesperson of the Command, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, disclosed this in a statement on Friday. Ikenga said Nweke was arrested on Thursday at about 9 a.m at Umawulu, Awka along Amawbia Roundabout. “The suspect who confessed to using charm to defraud POS attendant within Awka and its environs would cut out plain white paper to the size of a Naira note and give POS attendants to deposit in an account. “The operators only realize that the supposed money are mere paper only after they have

transferred the money to the designated account supplied by the alleged suspect. “We suspect that the culprit works with a syndicate, comprising

other members and efforts are being made to apprehend them and recover the defrauded amount. A Female resident of the Federal Capital Territory

FCT Abuja said to be a Professor, Kasoba Duke has been arrested for ordering the beating up of her security aid, a policewoman on Tuesday evening.

A statement by the FCT Police Command said the incident happened at number 245 Jessey Jackson street, Garki. The command said in the statement entitled “

## How ‘bloody civilian’ mercilessly beat up a female police officer

A police officer in Abuja has been brutalized by an aide to a bloody civilian according to information that is coming from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Incidentally, the said civilian is a powerful lady who showed very little mercy to a female police in uniform that was attached to her. We have learnt that many in the police are unhappy about the treatment that was meted out to their colleague. Police sources say that the incident occurred in the Central area. What is clear is that the female police personnel got the humiliation of her life at Garki. “At about 1930 hrs a distress call was received at Garki Division from COMPOL FCT of an incident at 245 Jessey Jackson Garki. “Police operatives immediately raced to the scene where it was discovered that one lady who showed very little mercy to a female Jessey Jackson street police in uniform that was attached to her. We have learnt that many in the police are unhappy about the treatment that was meted out to their colleague. Police sources say that the incident occurred in the Central area. What is clear is that the female police personnel got the humiliation of her life at Garki. “The said Kasoba and her house maid are currently in custody undergoing interrogation. Investigation in



Progress” it said.

Meanwhile, the Inspector General of

Police has personally directed that the woman be charged to court.



British megastar Adele has spoken of her “year of anxiety” that led her to live like a “recluse”, in a rare interview published in Vogue ahead of the release of her new album “30”.

“I thought, I’m just going to lock myself in a house,” she said of her anxiety-fueled retreat from the public glare, which began with two cancelled shows at London’s Wembley Stadium in 2017 due to problems with her voice. That’s what I did. I was very reclusive. It paid off. People are used to me being a recluse,” she said in comments published on the fashion magazine’s website late Thursday, her first major interview since 2016.

The 33-year-old singer graces the cover of its US and UK editions this month.

It was during what she called her subsequent “year of anxiety” that her marriage to Simon Konecki, with whom she had a son Angelo in 2011, fell apart.

“Neither of us did anything wrong,” she said. “Neither of us hurt each other or anything like that. I’ve been on my journey to find my true happiness ever since,” added Adele, who currently lived in Los Angeles.

Adele revealed that a new song on the album was inspired by a comment her son made to her as the marriage collapsed.

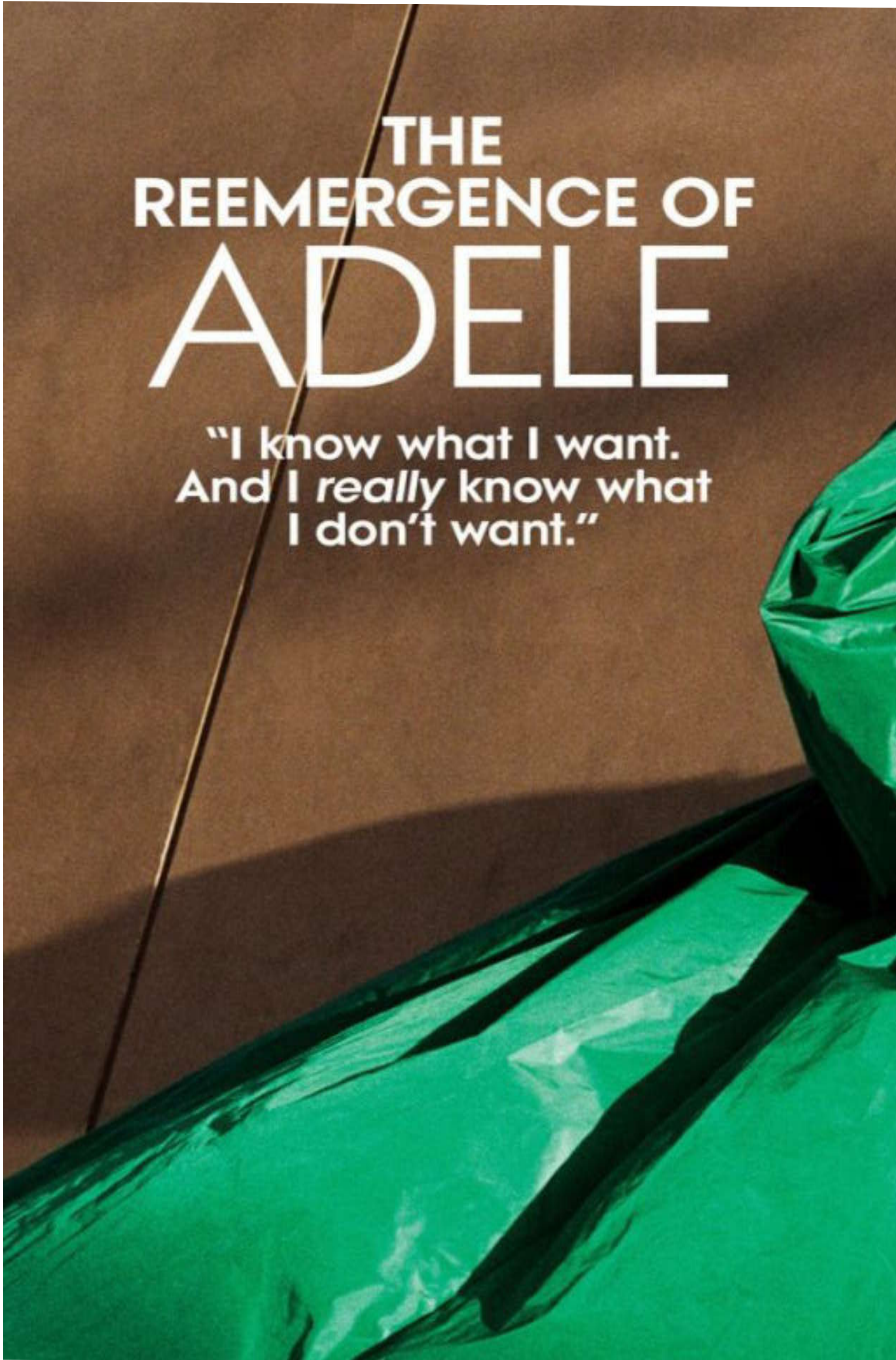
She took solace in “a lot of sound baths” — a meditative experience in which participants are “bathed” in sound waves — alongside more traditional meditation, exercise, and “a lot of therapy”.

“I realised that when

Continued on Page 8

# THE REEMERGENCE OF ADELE

“I know what I want.  
And I really know what  
I don’t want.”









The premiere of the long-awaited

# Road to Jabi

Continued from Centrespread

action-packed flick, Road to Jabi, took place recently at the Silverbird Cinema, Abuja. The event had both old and young movie lovers in their numbers, smiling their way to the red carpet. Road to Jabi is the first of its kind, produced by OPTICS Production Company.

According to the movie director, "This content is new to



Africa and Nigeria. Filmmakers are afraid to take up the challenge of shooting a zombie apocalypse movie, probably due

to funds. "But we were able to cross this huddle with little funds." The movie, which is set in Abuja, tells a story of a city ravaged by a strange world. The 30 minute virus that turned its populace into horror and elation in the viewers, had this zombies. A few the hearts of its survivors are left to viewers, such that unique and struggle with the their cheerful smiles refreshing. It is not insanities of their new were quick to oust like the conventional

Nollywood movie that we see every day.

"I am impressed. I am expecting its sequel given that it is open-ended in a way." The executive producer of the film, Leo, appealed to well-meaning Nigerians who are enthusiastic about youth development and creativity to come and help with sponsorship as they are open for collaborations. His words: "We are open for sponsorships and collaborations. This movie is a clear testament to the innovative minds of Nigerian youths, who are longing for a break from the norm." "The out of the box experience is a big win for the Nigerian entertainment industry as a whole," he said.

## The reemergence of Adele

Continued from Page 5

I was working out, I didn't have any anxiety."

Adele added that therapy had made her realise that much of her anxiety stemmed from her childhood and relationship with father Marc Evans, who left home when she was aged 2.

"My relationship with men in general, my entire life, has always been: 'You're going to hurt me, so I'll hurt you first'. It's just toxic and prevents me from actually finding any happiness," she told Vogue.

However, the pair "got our peace" before Evans died of cancer earlier this year.

The stresses of the business and the death of compatriot Amy Winehouse almost led

her to quitting the industry altogether, she revealed, at

one point writing to her manager: "This isn't really for me. It's not why I love music".



"I got really famous right as Amy Winehouse died," she told Vogue. "And we watched her die right in front of our eyes."

The Oscar and 15-time Grammy Award-winning soul star told fans to expect a slight change in sound with the new album, noting there "isn't a bombastic 'Hello'," referring to her 2015 smash single.

Her lyrics have also taken a change, of course, she said. "I realised that I was the problem," she added. All the other albums are like, you did this! You did that!.. Then I was like... I'm the running theme, actually. Maybe it's me!"



Writing hasn't always been a problem, not with me. But, after Muche left, my inner mind, torn to shreds, has been unable to articulate properly.

Muche was close to me. His death in an Abuja hospital has remained such a great shock. We had been full of hope that our friend and brother would return home, strong, happy and healthy.

I hadn't thought by any stretch of the imagination that I would be writing these lines. Muche was too young to die, too young to leave us at this time.

Long before our paths crossed, I heard so much about Muche. Until we met I didn't know that Muche and Gabriel Nwogu were the same person.

Gabriel Nwogu had left a job at the time to pursue his educational aspiration and a dream to develop at his own pace. Neither the fear of the present in which he lived nor the fear of a future that would shape his life could deter him.

He was kind, I was told, respected among his friends, courteous and above all, a team player.

I saw much more when we met; came to know much more; about my dear friend and our friend who is gone; about the one whom we mourn.

Muche's goodness radiated like light the first time we met. He wasn't talkative.

He wasn't arrogant, temperamental and abusive.

Rather, he spoke so little about the things he had capacity in as his articulate mind silently worked, smiled most of the time as we x-rayed issues and our views converged, and demonstrated attributes of a respectable gentleman.

I could tell he was a man of peace, a man who believed in the goodness of the Most High and the relationships he shared with others.

Above all, Muche was so full of promise, full of ideas and ready to work towards achieving those ambitions which drove his life.

From a driver, Muche by sheer determination transformed to an accountant and set up his own businesses.

Ask me about a young man who had a sense of commitment, a youth intently



**Gabriel Nwogu**

# Tribute

## Gone too soon

By  
**Ogbonna Nwuke**

focused and calm, and personae who dreamt about a great Etche nation, and I would readily point at Muche. It is a pity that he is no more.

Death has snatched him away and left us all in shock. It has left us in pain and in mourning. Death may have done its worst, the day it invited our younger brother and friend, to board the boat that sails along the endless river.

Death is but a messenger. As the messenger that it is, death has done the bidding of the Lord. The Lord has called and Muche has heard. No one can battle with the Lord.

Where it possible to do battle with the Lord, Muche would be here today not on his journey back to his Creator.

We are pained by it. Some of us have cried endlessly. Our hearts are heavy, even now, as we remember his dance steps and his sojourn in our midst.

The Lord gives, the Lord takes, and as good Christians, we are taught to accept this end from the beginning, to prepare for this time and season, and to praise His holy name.

We pray as Muche returns that his soul will be acceptable in your sight oh God. May his soul find eternal peace, find eternal joy in your presence and find rest in your bosom.

. Chokocho has lost a promising young man who was truly a community man at heart. So has the Peoples Democratic Party to which he belonged. The PDP has lost an astute youth, a mobilizer and a strong builder.

As his friends, we have lost unto the icy hands of death, a dependable ally, a trust worthy associate and a good man. The vacuum he has left will be too difficult to fill.

We will miss you Muche. Together we fought to win the last fight. We lost, God won. Today, we surrender. e surrender all.

Chokocho has lost a promising young man who was truly a community man at heart. So has the Peoples Democratic Party to which he belonged. The PDP has indeed lost an astute youth, a mobilizer and a builder.

As his friends, we have lost unto the icy hands of death, a dependable ally, a trust worthy associate and a good man. The vacuum he has left will be too difficult to fill.

May the Light of God shine upon the path that you now walk on your way home. God lead your spirit, protect and preserve your soul.

Enyi, la-nu-do!





# International friendlies: Nigeria picks on Algeria



## The Supers Eagles take a lap of honour

The Super Eagles™ camp at the Marriott Constantine hit the hundred per cent mark on Wednesday afternoon with the arrival of goalkeeper Francis Uzoho and defender Ebube Duru. Nigeria champions Rivers™ United left-back Duru was called up following injuries to a number of players including defender Leon Balogun, and joined the team on Wednesday after returning from Liberia where the

Pride of Rivers reached the penultimate stage of this year's CAF Champions League group phase.

Team captain Ahmed Musa and forwards Henry Onyekuru and Samuel Chukwueze are the others knocked out by injuries.

Head Coach JosÃ© Santos Peseiro has approved that the three-time African champions have a training game against Algeria's team on Saturday in order to see a number

of new and returning players in action, ahead of the official game against the Fennecs (Algeria's team) in Oran on Tuesday evening.

The match against Algeria's squad will start at 5.30pm on Saturday while the official game on Tuesday will commence at 8pm.

Goalkeeper Maduka Okoye, defender Kevin Akpoguma, midfielder Wilfred Ndidi and forward Chidera Ejuke are

returning to the squad after some period out, while midfielder Richard Onyedika and forward Godwin Saviour are joining up with the big boys for the first time.

Israel-based goalkeeper Adeleye Adebayo was in the squad for summer's AFCON qualifying matches against Sierra Leone and Sao Tome and Principe but did not see action.

Tuesday's clash will be only the second-ever friendly match

between the Fennecs and the Super Eagles, with the two-time African champions edging a clash in Austria in October 2020 by the odd goal.

When both teams clashed in a 2006 FIFA World Cup qualifying match in Oran in September 2005, the Super Eagles ran out 5-2 winners.

### ALL THE PLAYERS:

**Goalkeepers:** Francis Uzoho, Maduka Okoye, Adeleye Adebayo

**Defenders:** William Ekong, Kenneth Omeruo, Chidozie Awaziem, Olaoluwa Aina, Calvin Bassey, Zaidu Sanusi, Kevin Akpoguma, Valentine Ozornwafor, Ebube Duru

**Midfielders:** Wilfred Ndidi, Frank Onyeka, Alex Iwobi, Richard Onyedika

**Forwards:** Kelechi Iheanacho, Moses Simon, Godwin Saviour, Ademola Lookman, Taiwo Awoniyi, Chidera Ejuke, Cyriel Dessers, Terem Moffi

International friendlies: Nigeria's Super Eagles stepping out of the pitch. They will be in action this weekend against Algeria





# Roger Federer bows out of tennis

Roger Federer more match hopes for "one together on more beautiful the same moment" alongside side would Rafael Nadal at the be very Laver Cup, telling special." Eurosport's Barbara Nadal and Schett that he wants to Federer line up alongside his have great friend and rival in played each the doubles at the event. other 40 The Swiss is set to retire times, with after the Laver Cup this the e weekend in London and Spaniard [confirmed on Wednesday that he will most likely compete just in the doubles.](#) leading the head-to-head 26-14, having won 14 of the 24

Laver Cup rules say that finals they every player should have contested. compete in at least one In the same singles match during the interview first two days of play. with Schett, That necessitated talks Federer revealed with Team Europe one of those captain Bjorn Borg, losses – the tournament organisers and Borg's Team World 2008 counterpart, John Wimbledon McEnroe, to get the final – was necessary approvals to his most allow Federer to bow out heart-breaking as he wished.

In an exclusive The Swiss interview with Schett was a five-ahead of the event, time Federer said that he defending hopes his last champion match will be with his at the All professional tennis England Club, and greatest rival, Nadal. faced

"Of course, I'd love to Nadal in the play with Rafa," said final, having beaten him Federer. in the previous two

"We'll see if it's going to happen this week. We will speak to Borg and Rafa about it.

"I think it would be a beautiful moment for two rain delays, two rivals getting meaning that in totality together at the very end - their encounter ran past and having played one seven hours, ending in

more match together on the same side would be very special."

Nadal and Federer have played each other 40 times, with the Spaniard leading the head-to-head 26-14, having won 14 of the 24 finals they have contested.

In the same interview with Schett, Federer revealed one of those losses – the 2008 Wimbledon final – was his most heart-breaking.

The Swiss was a five-ahead of the event, time Federer said that he defending champion at the All England Club, and faced

Nadal in the final, having beaten him in the previous two finals at SW19.

It went to five sets and they played four hours and 48 minutes. The match also encompassed two rain delays, meaning that in totality their encounter ran past seven hours, ending in

fading light with Nadal prevailing 6-4 6-4 6-7(5) 6-7(8) 9-7.

"Probably Wimbledon 2008," said Federer when asked to reveal his toughest loss.

"Just because the way it ended in the darkness with Rafa. There was so much on the line. It needed a winner. And it

went his way. And it was heartbreak."

In an earlier press conference, Federer reassured his fans that his retirement would not see him walk away from the sport entirely.

"I just want to let the fans know that I won't be a ghost," Federer said ahead of the event.

"It's funny, I talked about [Team Europe captain] Bjorn Borg before, and I don't think he returned to Wimbledon for 25 years [after he retired].

"Totally acceptable - his life, his reasons. I don't think I'll be that guy.

"Tennis has given me too much, I've been around the game for too long, fallen in love with too many things.

"I love seeing people again and that is what I want to let the fans know - you will see me again. In what capacity, I don't know. I still have to think about it a little bit."



Roger Federer...time to go



# Warm FELICITATIONS!!!

**Y**our Friends, Associates, Colleagues, Relations and Well-wishers heartily felicitate with you **DR. TAMMY WENIKE DANAGOGO**, former Secretary to the Government of Rivers State, on yet another auspicious occasion of the anniversary of your birth. The thoughts of this day exude a constant reminder of your immutable benevolence, spectacular liberalism, unprecedented generosity and endemic goodwill which changed lives and fortunes of many.

Sir, we make bold to say that you are a quintessential gentleman, an avid administrator, consummate professional and distinguished scholar who displayed the fine skills of excellence, courage and loyalty with admirable candour in the discharge of your duties as Executive Chairman, Akuku-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State, Hon. Commissioner for Local Government, Chieftaincy and Community Affairs; Hon. Commissioner for Urban Development, Hon. Minister of Sports, Federal Republic of Nigeria and only recently, the Secretary to the Government of Rivers State.

Words are indeed not enough to thank God for this rare and wonderful gift to mankind but be assured that for those of us you mentored, we remain eternally grateful and commit more than ever before, to be worthy ambassadors of your unfathomable ideals and principles. We wish you an eventful birthday celebration as we pray the good Lord to plant your feet in higher grounds.

Happy birthday our maestro, legal icon, administrative sage, illustrious son and trans-generational Leader.

*Congratulations.*

**DR. TAMMY WENIKE DANAGOGO**

Former Secretary to the Government of Rivers State

HON. (ENGR.) MAJOR M. JACK  
Deputy Chief Whip, RVHA

*Signed*

HON. ROWLAND C. SEKIBO  
(Executive Chairman, Akulga)

SIR (BARR) IBIM S. DOKUBO