



EKO CLUB INTERNATIONAL

STRIVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

VOLUME 1

ISSUE 2

NEWSLETTER FOR EKO CLUB COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 2004

STATE OF THE CLUB ADDRESS

To All Blessed Members

It is with a deep sense of accomplishments that I give account of my stewardship to this organization in the last one year. One year ago, members of this great organization handed over a mantle to steer the ship of this organization for 2 years. The Expectations were high. I am indeed very delighted to report to you that not only did the goals and the expectations were achieved, but were surpassed. The Herculean task of running an organization of this magnitude is comparable to going to battle ill equipped without a truly committed army. The tireless effort, the unflinching support and allegiance of my executive members are instrumental to the monumental achievement of this Administration. Special thanks to the Board of directors, the council of Presidents and the entire members for their understanding and their constructive criticisms.

"Criticism as expressed by Samuel Johnson as a study by which men grow important and formidable at very small expense"

INTEGRITY

The Supreme quality of any leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is achievable or possible. The success of this administration can be attributed to the level of integrity that permeates throughout the organization. The level of commitment and dedication at which my executive members approaches their responsibilities is indescribable.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND STRONG SECRETARIAT

The success of any Organization is predicated not only on a very strong secretariat but also on effective communication policy. This administration has really lived up to that billing. A strong secretariat comparable to none has been the hallmark of this administration with accurate and timely report of the minute of our meetings.

The introduction of the Eko Club Newsletter is an effective tool of communication, which the administration is proud of. The introduction of the teleconferencing system has facilitated us to conduct our meetings and has made communication very easy.

ADMINISTRATION OF INCLUSION.

As a demonstration of our commitment to the principle of participation and inclusion,

this administration instituted the following:

1. Formation of the Board of Director
2. Formation of the under listed committee

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of director's proposal that will ensure the financial viability of the organization is under review. Special thanks to the board members for these innovative and progressive ideas

CONSTITUTION

Constitution committee is working on hard with the review of our constitution. A constitution that will reflect the concern of our members. There is no doubt that after the completion of the review, it will be an instrument of guide that every member will be proud of.

WELFARE COMMITTEE

The welfare committee has come up with a proposal towards ensuring the viability of E.C.I. A proposal where contributions will be kept in escrow for the benefit of members. This is also under review and the final report will be communicated to members

LAGOS COMMITTEE.

The Lagos committee is responsible for the coordination of our projects in Nigeria namely

1. The School Uniform Project.
2. The computerization of Lagos State University computer department. This is part of Eko Club International commitment to contribute to the educational development of Lagos State.

So far, we have 40 computers in pledges. The breakdown of the pledges is as follows

- 5 Computers from Eko Club Miami
- 20 Computer from Eko Club Houston
- 10 or more from Eko Club Dallas
- 10 computers from Atlanta -This will be presented to L.A.S.U .

The tentative date for presentation in Lagos is in December. We will keep members posted of any developments. I specially appeal to other chapters to assist with the provision of these computers.

CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Working hand to propagate our culture. A proposal towards self-sustenance was sent to the Executive and has the Executive Blessings.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The convention committee is working on the 2005 constitution. The final report will be forwarded to the members.

MEMBERSHIP

This administration has been working tirelessly for increased membership.

1. Lagosians in Chicago
2. Eko Club Minnesota
3. Eko Club Philadelphia
4. Eko Club N. Carolina
5. Eko Club Germany

ACTIVATION OF INACTIVE CHAPTERS

1. We are also working at activating the existing chapters that are not active
2. Effective October 2004, E.C.I executives will be visiting chapters to assist the inactive ones and use the opportunity to address some of their concerns

SOUND P.R POLICY

Our P.R team has consistently worked hard to propagate a good image about our club. Eko Club International today has become a recognizable force across the globe. The p.r o department has also instituted the following programs:

1. Birthday roster of members -Birthday card are sent to members during their birthday celebration.
2. Calendar of Events -a chronicle of E.C.I events in 2004.

EKO CLUB DIRECTORY

The directory of Eko Club is in progress. This is part of this administration's effort to network among the members. This directory will list various businesses of our members and members are encouraged to patronize those members.

LAND AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Due to our proximity and the relationship with Lagos State Government, over 166 members have taken advantage of the Lagos State government policy of encouraging Lagosians in Diaspora to come home and participate in its housing programs:

Efforts are underway to get the block allocation, i.e. Eko Club member will be allocated lands in the same area.

LAGOS SISTER COMMITTEE

This committee has contacted Lagos. But no response yet on the contact person, we will continue to work on this.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The disciplinary committee is working on rules and regulations that will ensure that discipline is maintained at our meetings.

FINANCE.

One of the greatest and unprecedented accomplishment of this administration is the accurate and timely reporting of E.C.I financial activities. Consistent presentation of quarterly financial reports. The Financial team is indeed a great asset to this Organization.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

A year ago, when we took the oath of office, we promised transparency and accountability. I am proud to tell you today, we have made tremendous stride in that area. A new account has been opened with the bank of America with a password and login information that will enable the organization to monitor the club's activities on line. The financial secretary. The treasurer and the President have access to the password.

501C

The 501C3 is in progress will be ready shortly.

LIFE INSURANCE

We are still working on a life insurance for E.C.I.

EKO CLUB AWARD NITE

As part of our commitment to make meaningful contribution to the development of our community, we have assembled individuals who have made tremendous contribution to the development of our beloved State which is consistent to the noble goals and objectives of this organization. The presence of our royal father undoubtedly is a remarkable feat that this administration is proud of.

EKO CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

Eko club international convention has always been a forum to showcase our beloved State to Investors as viable state to invest in. The economic impact in our state is indescribable. Several investors in the area of housing, road construction are currently in Lagos contributing to the development of our beloved State. I am proud of Eko Club International. I am proud of the executive members. I am proud of the achievements of this administration.

Blessed members, we have made tremendous progress. The seed of progress has been planted. The task ahead is monumental and is achievable if only we recognize the strength in our numbers.

It is true in an organization of this magnitude, there are bound to be differences. The uniqueness of our organization is to be able to find similarities in our differences and to collectively harness the untapped resources towards making a difference in our community. Let us continue to work together and eschew bigotry in the pursuit and articulation of group interest. Let us ensure that the environment in which we discuss issues is not contaminated by malice, spite or envy.

Eko Club International has come far to become a tutorial in success. The leadership has come far to become a tutorial in humility and integrity. Eko Club International has redefined what a social organization is all about.

This administration will continue to pursue a policy of inclusion. A policy of unlimited opportunities for our members. A policy of economic empowerment.

At our next meeting, we will share with our members our goals and objectives for the next one year and with your support, we can get this great feat accomplished.

To all the members, we thank you for your continued support. To the past administration under the leadership of Alhaji Olusesi Dawodu, we applaud the wonderful contribution that was made towards taking E.C.I to another level.

Blessings!

Blessings!!

Blessings!!!



Written by Ogunba T.J. Abass

E.C.I. Executives and Board Members

Executive Members

Attorney O.J. Lawal, President

Mr. Kunle Masha, Vice President

Mr. T.J. Abass, General Secretary

Mr. Shola Agbebi, Asst. Gen. Secretary

Mr. Bisi Gaji, Financial Secretary

Mr. T.J. Yussuf, Social Secretary

Mr. Dele Kadiri, Treasurer

Mr. Richard Opanuga, Auditor Gen-



Eko Club Interna-

Alhaji Zainuudeen I. Popoola, Chairman

Alhaji Adewal Ashade, Vice Chairman

Hon. Adewale A. Dosunmu, secretary

Hon. Diran Willoughby, Treasurer

Hon. Hakeem Dosunmu, Member

Hon. Fatai Etti, Member

Dr. Olajide, Member

Board of Directors

The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it. ----- **Theodore Roosevelt**

Eko Club International Happenings

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2004.

Eko Club international Award Nite

This black-tie affair will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, College Park, MD. Awards will be given out in four (4) major categories Educational/Technical, Philanthropic/Economic, Humanitarian, and Community. Also to be honored are the Shobowale twins that were born Siamese. In attendance will be the whose who of Lagos State, including the Oba of Lagos himself, HRH Oba Rilwan Akiolu I

SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2004

Eko Club International Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel College Park, MD in the morning. That night, we will celebrate with our gracious hosts, Eko Club Washington D.C. as they celebrate their 2nd Anniversary.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

OCTOBER 23RD, 2004

CANADA will host the next meeting of ECI

OCTOBER 24TH, 2004

Mr. Nosiru's 60th birthday celebration in Canada.

DECEMBER 19TH, 2004

Otunba Sam Dipeolu is inviting all ECI members to attend the 70th birthday celebration of his mother, Chief Mrs. Patience Adetola Dipeolu, on Sunday, in Lagos, Nigeria. For details please contact Otunba Dipeolu.

PAST EVENT

Dr. Olajide's daughter's birthday party

ECI was represented by our President O. J. Lawal which was a great surprise to the celebrant. As usual, the normal love and support that this organization outpours to its members and their families was not missed here either, she got a lot of money and a lot of gifts. To show her appreciation to the organization, she sent a very warm letter of appreciation to all Eko Club members

PROJECT UPDATES BY CHAPTERS_cont.

HOUSTON: *Final Payment on the Land*

Our chapter has completed the acquisition of our two and a half (2 ½) acre piece of commercial land at \$266,000. This property is now own free and clear and we are now in the final stages of starting the construction of our grand plan for this property, Eko Hall. Eko Hall will consist of retail, office, and party rental space. Please help me congratulate all of the members of Eko Club Houston.

ATLANTA

Eko Club Atlanta has launched its new website. The site can be found at: <http://www.ekoclubatlanta.org>

DALLAS

Chapter has started a building fund. To build fun, each member has been assigned a \$1,000 levy.

CALIFORNIA

After diligent and precise work, our chapter is now officially a charitable organization as outlined in the IRS Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). All of our paperwork was submitted to conform with this code. If any other chapters need help attaining this status with the IRS, please feel free to contact Dr. Sanusi, President of the California chapter for a copy of their filing.

MINNESOTA

Inaugural meeting of Eko Club Minnesota was held on August 7th 2004. Congratulations to the president Mr. Nujeeb Agunbiade and the members of one of our newest chapters.

CHICAGO

On August 14, 2004, The Lagosian, an organization of indigenes of Lagos state resident in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs had the 2004 edition of its annual get Nigerians together picnic at the 63rd/Cornell park on the south side of Chicago.

This years picnic attracted about 300 guest mostly from Chicago and the suburbs. The guests include mostly Nigerians and their family, Nigerian organizations and their members among others. Also present were the President and Secretary of ECI Mr. O. J. Lawal and Otunba T. J. Abass.

The picnic which started at about 2.00 pm lasted up till 11.00 pm with fun fare for kids, teenagers and adult alike. Events at the picnic includes the special dance by members of the Lagosians, gifts to kids present, raffle draw with lots of prizes.

This year picnic will go down in history as the most attended picnic organized by any Nigerian organization in Chicago.

Music was supplied by a popular Chicago DJ.

By Colin I. Atobajeun

Eko Club Medical Alert - Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia

BENIGN PROSTATIC HYPERPLASIA

A friend called me couple of weeks ago to seek second opinion when his doctor diagnosed him with Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) otherwise known as Prostate Enlargement and suggested surgery. He wanted to know the cause and seriousness of the disease and the after-surgery effect. I did some research and came up with the following information. If you are between the ages of 45 and 60, please take the following into consideration and visit your doctor for proper diagnosis.

WHAT IS BENIGN PROSTATIC HYPERPLASIA (BPH)?

BPH is a condition in which the prostate gland becomes very enlarged and may cause problems associated with urination. BPH can raise PSA (prostate-specific antigen) levels two to three times higher than the normal level. An increased PSA level does not indicate cancer, but the higher the PSA level, the higher the chance of having cancer.

CAUSES

Nobody knows the basic cause of BPH. Research shows that testosterone, the male hormone, or dihydrotestosterone, a chemical produced when testosterone breaks down in a man's body, may cause the prostate to keep growing. Since it surrounds the urethra, the prostate gland squeezes the urethra as it expands. Some over-the-counter medications for colds or allergies can drastically worsen BPH.

SYMPTOMS

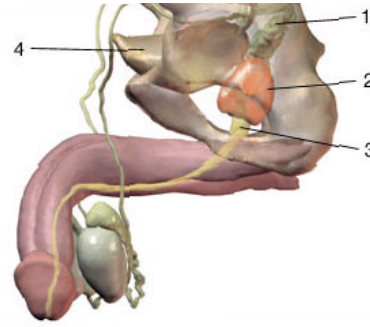
WHAT ARE SYMPTOMS OF BPH?

The following are the most common symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia. However, each individual may experience symptoms differently. Symptoms may include:

- leaking or dribbling of urine
- more frequent urination, especially at night
- urgency to urinate
- urine retention - inability to urinate.
- a hesitant, interrupted, weak stream of urine

HOW YOU ARE EXAMINED

A doctor usually can detect an enlarged prostate by Digital Rectal Exam (DRE). The doctor may carry PSA test to rule out cancer, and may also examine the urethra, prostate, and bladder using a cystoscope, an instrument that is inserted through the penis.



Male genitourinary system

1. Seminal vesicles
2. Prostate gland
3. Prostatic urethra
4. Bladder

SELF EVALUATION

The following will help you to evaluate your symptoms.

On the scale of 0 - 5

In the past month,

- how often have you had a sensation of not emptying your bladder completely after you finished voiding?
- how often have you had a sensation of not emptying your bladder completely after you finished voiding?
- how often have you had to urinate again less than 2 hours after you finished urinating before?
- How many times did you typically get up to urinate from the time you went to bed until you arose in the morning?
- how often have you found it difficult to postpone urination?
- how often have you found you stopped and started again several times when you urinated?

As you can see that the score ranges from 0 - 5 for severity. Based on your answers, your doctor will be able to diagnose your condition and give proper treatment.

Disclaimer: this is not an attempt to diagnose anyone with BPH, but to share health information with family and friends, should you have any of the listed symptoms, please consult with your physician for proper diagnosis and treatment.

Article by: Dr. Mustapha A. Sanusi
President Eko Club California

A man too busy to take care of his health is like a mechanic too busy to take care of his tools. - Spanish Proverb

LIFE INSURANCE - A MISUNDERSTOOD FINANCIAL PRODUCT

Sometime ago I met this guy in my son's flag football game and he seems to be a regular at all matches. We both exchanged pleasantries and before I knew it we started a conversation; we moved from one topic to another until he asked me what I do for a living. I told him I worked for an Insurance company and before I could finish my statement he interjected by saying he does not like insurance most especially life insurance because he derives no benefits from it. I asked him for clarifications and his response was as disturbing as perplexing. He dislikes life insurance because the proceeds would not be paid to him while living.

Many people do not understand the concept of life insurance and its uses in planning for future needs of the family. Basically, life insurance is not meant to provide benefit directly to the insured while alive but to provide income for the immediate family left behind. The proceeds of a life insurance policy could be used to provide streams of income to the deceased policy owner or insured family, to fund college education, final expenses and Estate planning, support for dependants, gift to a foundation, and business transaction. (Commonly used for buy-sell agreement). It could also be used for key employees of an organization or business organizations.

Furthermore, a question that often arises about insurance mostly centered on the amount of insurance needed. I would submit that the amount varies due to individual circumstances and stage in life. For instance a family of four with two children, and two working adults will need less insurance than a family of six with two working adults. The sum insured must be enough to take care of the loss of income the family will lose due to untimely demise or the death of one of the breadwinners. The rule of thumb is that annual income multiply by ten would be a suitable sum insured.

The process of obtaining Life insurance coverage begins from the application process. You could do this on a solo basis on the Internet, but if you prefer the human touch you may take the route of dealing with an Agent. Depending on the sum insured and your situation, you could opt for term life or traditional whole life insurance. Term life provides you with coverage for the term chosen. It could be for ten, fifteen or twenty years. The coverage ceases on the expiration of the term chosen. The term life insurance does not build cash value. Renewing term life at expiration could be expensive because the cost of insurance is usually based on attained age and medical conditions. Most insurance company would require APS (Attending Physician Statement) if sum insured exceeds certain amount.

The whole life insurance provides coverage for the lifetime of the insured if the premium obligations are regularly met by the insured. This kind of insurance provides cash value that is guaranteed. The rate of cash value is usually based on the prevailing interest rate as at the time the policy was written.

The benefit of life insurance is paid to designated beneficiary or beneficiaries. It is advisable for you to be very clear as to who and how much to be paid to the beneficiary. The beneficiary could be the spouse or combination of the spouse and the children. In this case, specificity is very crucial. The amount or the percentages of the amount must be specified. There are two classes of beneficiary. The revocable and irrevocable beneficiaries. A revocable beneficiary is the type of beneficiary the policy owner or the insured can change or replace by filing appropriate form with the Insurance Company. The insured or the policy owner on the other hand cannot change the irrevocable beneficiary. The irrevocable beneficiary can be changed only through his or her consent.

There are many options available to beneficiary on the method of payment they will prefer. An Insurance company usually worked with the beneficiary in making sure that the amount due to them is disbursed in systematic fashion until the proceed is exhausted or depleted. It could be a lump sum, a period certain, annuitization of the proceeds, or life payment option.

BUSINESS USES OF LIFE INSURANCE

In a business environment, Insurance policy does have a significant use most especially in a structuring of business continuity in the event of death or retirement of a partner.

BUY-SELL AGREEMENT

In A partnership business system, the need for business continuity is very crucial and partners often entered into Buy -Sell Agreement to purchase the ownership interests of the deceased partner. This agreement sets out the terms under which a deceased partner's ownership interest in the partnership is purchased. Two approaches are often used to accomplish this; namely cross purchase or the entity methods. Cross Purchase method allows each partner to purchase proportionate share of the deceased partner's interest in the partnership. Each partners buys a life insurance of predetermined amount on the life of each partner and named each other as the beneficiary on each policy. The partners are responsible to pay individual premiums. In case of death of a partner, the surviving partner receives the proceeds of the life insurance to buy the deceased ownership interests.

The entity method of Buy Sell Agreement is some how different in the sense that, it is the partnership that buys life insurance on the lives of all partners. In case a partner dies, the life insurance proceeds will be used to buy the ownership interest of the deceased partner from his estate. The proportionate share thus bought is then distributed among the surviving partners. The partnership is responsible for the payment of the premium in this case unlike in the cross purchase method where the individual partner is responsible for premium payments. It is customary in this type of structure to involve an attorney from the outset of the transactions because of legal requirements in contract structure and implementation of the agreement.

KEY PERSON/ EMPLOYEE INSURANCE

Many business organization put a lot of premiums on their human assets and loss of this could be disastrous to many organization in term of program continuity and cost involved in finding a replacement. One way to safeguard the interest of the business is through incentive directly given to the key employees. The most used method to achieve this is through the key person or employee life insurance. The company buys a traditional whole life, Term or variable life insurance on the lives of the key employees.

The company owns, pays the premiums and is the beneficiary of the life insurance proceeds on the life of the key employees. On the death of any of the key employees, the life insurance proceeds is used to reduce the financial loss associated with the loss of key person employee. Many a time, some key employees in business organization posses a great deal of expertise in their areas of specialization. Companies in most cases invested a lot of resources in training for these people to the extent that losing them poses a serious economic loss to the business; replacing such employees could be very expensive. A lot of business organizations take this approach to reduce the cost of replacing the lost key- employee. There are hosts of other benefits to business via this approach, which is I will discuss in-depth at a later time.

LIFE INSURANCE AS BENEFIT TO EMPLOYEES

Many business organizations provide their employees with life insurance. This is a win - win approach for both the business and the beneficiaries of the Insurance policies. While the cost or premium paid is tax deductible to the business as expenses and is treated as tax free to the employees. Business organizations often provide additional life insurance to some key personnel because of their expertise as an incentive to retain their services. Split dollar Life insurance Plans are commonly used to achieve this objective.

Split Dollar insurance plan is an agreement that requires business to provide insurance to selected persons within the organization. The premium is split between the organization and the individual. The policy could be owned by either of the two parties, employees or the employers. However, the employees are given the right to name the beneficiaries of the policies. As a matter of rule, the employer is required to contribute the part of the premium that accounts for the cash value accumulation for the successive years while the employees pays the portions of the premium that account for the mortality and the expenses of the policy.

The employer is entitled under this arrangement to receive from the policy values at minimum, an amount that is equal to what it contributed to the policy's premium while the beneficiary named by the employees is entitle to the remainder of the policy proceeds. Other incentives that could be accomplished through life insurance are deferred compensation plans established by the employer for the benefit of the employees. The plans provide cash benefits at a later date to the employee most especially after retirement.

Life insurance is a vital financial instrument that replaces the income of the family breadwinner in case of untimely death. It is an investment that is basic to all financial planning.

Life insurance is not meant to provide benefit directly to the insured while alive but to provide income for the immediate family left behind.

Article by: Wally Dosunmu
Hartford Life Insurance Company

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Politics: THE RACE FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE ALAUSA: Governor Tinubu's high noon dilemma

To appreciate the problem which presently confronts Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the indefatigable governor of Lagos State, who also goes with the title, Asiwaju, all an observer needs to do is look at the calibre of those arrayed to take over from him in 2007. Not that Tinubu does not still have the headache of an Oluseye Ogunlewe breathing down his neck with the instrumentality of his Federal Road Maintenance Agency, FERMA, he still has that to contend with, but the bigger problem he is having and may continue to have, is the choice of a replacement for him when the time comes.

ADVERTISEMENT

Of all those making pretensions to a possible take over, Senator Musiliu Obanikoro, two-time senator, Tokunbo Afikuyomi, and the recently interested Lagos State Deputy Governor, Femi Pedro, stand out as likely successors.

However, each of them carries with him an excess baggage which, if not properly balanced, may cause a buckling of the still surviving contraption referred to as the Alliance for Democracy, AD, just as it may likely lead to a catastrophic end for the political future of some of those presently angling for succession.

Picking these front runners from the rear, Pedro, who, information available to Vanguard suggests, owes his present position to at least two of those presently seeking the number one office in Lagos State, is respected in banking circles.

For an individual who rose to the top job at First Atlantic Bank, a new generation bank which took the banking sub-sector of Nigeria's financial system by storm, it is no mean feat. But the world of banking is not the same as the murky waters of politics. Urbane in outlook, cool in disposition, Pedro, while not looking like the poker-faced average Nigerian politician, is said to possess an analytical mind.

However, the best of brains may not turn out to be the best of politicians, especially when it comes to relating with the people at the grassroots level. In fact, what Pedro possesses in terms of intellect, he lacks in the real world of political networking.

First, at the height of the struggle for the re-validation of the June 12 mandate, a man like Pedro was nowhere to be located. Not that he was supposed to be part of the crusade and he dodged the draft, he was just not one of those in political activism at that time. And there are many politicians who still relish in what roles they played or did not play when the crisis was on. It was at a time when some politicians (enter Afikuyomi) had to take flight for safety reasons and continue to battle abroad, just as there were politicians on home soil (enter Obanikoro) who, without their participation in the struggle, would have made the flight abroad meaningless.

And as if not to appreciate the power of grassroots emancipation, Pedro has stuffed his office with near-neophytes in politics. Unfortunately for him, and because of his cool disposition, and as if not to appreciate the power of grassroots emancipation, Pedro has stuffed his office with near-neophytes in politics. Unfortunately for him, and because of his cool disposition, there are those who see in Pedro a deputy who just wants to get by with his boss, suffer him for as long as it is practicable, and then eventually, may be when he gets what he wants, turn coat or simply show his true colour. The truth being that you do not become the chief executive of a

bank in today's Nigeria and display the mien which Pedro carries about with himself, far from that. In fact, information has it that the reason why he was appointed Deputy Governor in 2002 was because he was recommended as a smart person.

Would he be able to do the job? That depends. The Federal Government/Lagos State Government tango is another point which would matter. Pedro is known to have always been the representative of Governor Tinubu any time President Olusegun Obasanjo comes to town. This, some Pedro critics have used as a point to insinuate that the deputy governor is into something untoward. They say he's becoming too familiar with the president and even alleged - and without any concrete proof yet - that he may be pre-empting Lagos State Government policies. Had the polity not been one without its murkiness, nothing says a Pedro cannot clinch the spot. However, he would need to convince Lagosians that his own Pedro is indeed, of the soil, that there is no native Pedro in Epetedo, except Agarawu, which is not his.

A few known deputy governors that fall into the category of wanting to replace their bosses include: Sir Goodluck Jonathan (Bayelsa), Chief Benjamin Elue (Delta), Chief Ebere Udeagu (Imo), Chief Okechukwu Ezenwata (Enugu), Chief Gabriel Toby (Rivers) and of course, Chief Mike Oghiomhe (Edo), and even Femi Pedro (Lagos State, who is seen, largely as an outsider).

Now, in the run-up to the real contest, the media campaign of Afikuyomi is more than enough to easily hand the keys to Alausa Governor's Office to the only two-time senator from Lagos State in this Fourth Republic. The fact of his second coming as a senator, in a situation where Adeseye Ogunlewe, a former AD, and Wahab Dosunmu, also a former AD, have been appointed minister and ambassador respectively, relates to Afikuyomi's commitment to the values and virtues of his party, the AD.

Although his second coming (the first election victory was on the wave of the June 12 sentiment), which had to be brokered by Governor Tinubu himself, was not as smooth as the first. He contested the Lagos Central seat in 1999 and won. However, Dosunmu's decampment to the PDP, saw the Second Republic Minister of Housing moving from the Lagos West Zone to his traditional Lagos Central on the platform of the PDP. Governor Tinubu, sensing the danger signal, had to move Afikuyomi to Lagos West, where, again, a Ganiyu Solomon, a politician with his feet firmly on ground in that zone, was waiting. It had to take Governor Tinubu's personal intervention, via several pleas to Solomon, to allow Afikuyomi contest the Lagos West Senatorial Seat. Even at the primaries, the state government had to bring the full weight of its force to bear because even while Solomon conceded at the last minute, there were supporters who still complained that an Afikuyomi was merely a usurper who is not from Lagos West and would not represent Lagos West effectively. To be fair, Senator Afikuyomi is cerebral; he can marshal his points in a number of ways, even in a spell-binding manner, if you like. That makes him a very articulate politician, sometimes verging on the very loud and even unnecessarily so. But in terms of concrete political support on

ground Afikuyomi suffers a discount. That discount is a function of the fact that he is a wholesale politician. In this context, Afikuyomi represents the genre of politicians who operate from the surface above. Such politicians have an advantage which is the fact that they network at the top level. However, where networking at the top level does not really do the job, you need to move to the grassroots (enter Obanikoro). Politically, Afikuyomi is not known to have won any election on his own steam. The councillorship which he contested in the early days of General Babangida's transition was not successful. It had to again take the anointment of Babagana Kingibe, then Social Democratic Party, SDP, chairman, for him to make it to the House of Representatives.

For all of Afikuyomi's seeming political correctness, had he the complementarity of grassroots support, he would have been a perfect vote-catching politician.

Add to this the fact that he is not seen as a true son of the soil - although every Yoruba migrated from Ile-Ife.

For Obanikoro, he would have to explain to the people of Lagos why the perception continues to gain ground that he is hobnobbing with the ruling Peoples Democratic Party, PDP. That is one excess baggage he is carrying. This perception even received amplification with the controversy which surrounded the emergency vote in the Senate.

While Afikuyomi was away in exile, Obanikoro joined forces with pro-democracy activists on ground in Nigeria.

Whereas there are insinuations that Obanikoro, Musiliu's surname, is merely a title and not his original surname, there are those who insist that had that not been his surname, it would not have been as easy as to hand him such a title in the traditional line of Lagos. With his deep grassroots support and seeming amiable disposition - always looking boyish without the exposure of his baldness - Obanikoro is said to be in close contact with most traditional rulers in the state. While some political leaders insist that Afikuyomi acts aloof, Obanikoro atimes dons the mien of a Lagos boy - something which he over-does when he chooses to, the *awa la'leko* (we own Lagos) syndrome. However, his grassroots approach to politics stands him in good stead.

Obanikoro had been a local government chairman during which time he was said to have done well. It was to his credit that Governor Tinubu found him worthy of first, being made a Special Duties Commissioner, before being drafted to confront Dosunmu on the Mainland and Island turf-battle which is Lagos Central Senatorial Seat. Obanikoro won. In fact, it was the fear that Afikuyomi would lose to Dosunmu which made Tinubu draft the former to Lagos West. Koro, as Obanikoro is fondly referred to, is said to be a member of the Justice Forum, the policy cum political arrow-head of the AD. Until Mcfoy took over, Koro was said to have served as secretary of the group. This would play a major role in who gets the AD ticket - although Afikuyomi is known to have also boasted that he belongs to the group.

But beyond the issue of boasts, placed side by side, it is quite obvious that the way Lagos politics runs, Tinubu would not just need a Man Friday to take over from him, he would need somebody who can touch base. It is in this context that the trio of Pedro, Afikuyomi and Obanikoro would really have to demonstrate seriousness,

commitment and a steadfastness hinged on not mere propaganda but on concrete support. And then the questions arise: Who has done the most to demonstrate that he can win elections? Who is seen more as a people's politician and not a political swindler? Who can be seen as a moderate, without compromising and playing along in the politics of compromise that the Nigerian polity has been imbued with?

Whereas the contest is not only going to feature these three, there is also Aro Lambo, who is a major player in the politics of Lagos State - although his wavering disposition between Funso Williams and Tinubu may count him out of serious contention.

Then there is also one Kaoli Olusanya, the state's Commissioner for Agriculture who is also said to be interested.

But the bigger problem for all these politicians is that what some are counting for a discount may turn out to be the clincher. As the polity stands today, it would require a miracle for the AD to retain Lagos State - this is not impossible.

First, last year before the elections, the rating of Governor Tinubu was at its peak because of his performance and steadfastness. With that, he barely retained Lagos with a little over 190,000 votes. With the present reality of federal might against the state, something which has made it appear as though the state government has lost its steam of performance, Lagosians are beginning to grumble.

There is a school of thought which counsels that the state government should soft-pedal in its antagonism to the Federal Government while not compromising itself. Some members of the public are already of the view that the AD of today is going to become a component of the PDP in 2007. Indeed, there were moves at some point by the leadership of the party to go into the PDP. That, however, was put on hold.

Today, the reality on ground is one which suggests that the AD, without putting its house in order, may just lose out completely come 2007.

Therefore, some politicians are already beginning to counsel that an early entry into the PDP, without losing face, may be one of the options open to it. Although the party leadership would not admit this in public, the resources that would be needed to fight the battle in 2007 may not be readily available for the party. Whereas Vice-President Atiku Abubakar was instrumental, albeit sub-consciously in the victory of the AD in Lagos in 2003, in 2007, the Vice-President would also be fighting the battle of his life for survival then.

It is that politician which properly situates himself within the matrix of the power politics presently going on between the state and the Federal Government on the one hand, as well as one which does not play out his hands too early, either as an entrenched AD loyalist, or as a possible turn coat, that may eventually carry the day. At the end of the day, it is he who knows how well to touch base, without the rhetoric of grandstanding, that may carry the day.

By Babatunde Odu

Laught Off

MADAM AND THE HOUSEMAID

A housewife realizing that the housemaid had started behaving funny decided to engage her one morning.

Madam: "Chinyere why u dey behave anyhow these days? abi u dey craze self? E be like say u no wan know ya mate for this house again o. U carry craze for head? Abi face no dey fear face for ya village?"

Chinyere: "Look at you, which kind wife wey u be? After all my food dey sweet pass ur own..."

Madam: "Ehn who told you u cook better than i do?"

Chinyere: "Oga now..."

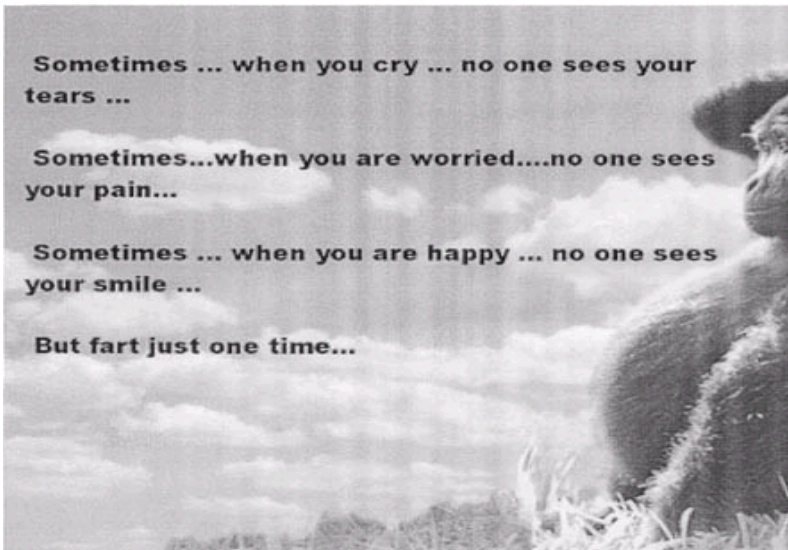
Madam: "Lord have mercy. Papa Nkechi is coming to meet me in this house... Na war between me and am today. Oooh no wonder... I dey suspect since..."

Chinyere: "That's not all, I'm even better than u in bed..."

Madam: "Yeepa.. I'm finished. So... Who told u such thing?"

Chinyere: "The driver."

Madam: "Uhhh Chi baby, Chinyerry Chinlosky..come here ehn... Good girl. Abeg no let Oga hear that one. OK..."



THE BARBER

An American priest walked into a barber shop in Washington, D.C. After he got his haircut, he asked how much it would be. The barber said, "No charge. I consider it a service to the Lord."

The next morning, the barber came to work and there were 12 prayer books and a thank you note from the priest in front of the door.

Later that day, a British police officer on vacation came in and got his hair cut. He then asked how much it was. The barber said, "No charge. I consider it a service to the community."

The next morning, he came to work and there were a dozen donuts and a thank you note from the police officer.

Then, a Nigerian Businessman came in and got a haircut. When he was done he asked how much it was. The barber said, "If you are really a Nigerian then you don't have to pay since you are from the same country as Akeem Olajuwon the basketballer."

The next morning, the barber came to work and there were 12 Nigerians in front of his door waiting for a haircut!!!

MONEY TALKS

An eighteen-year-old girl tells her Mom that she has missed her period for two months. Very worried, the mother goes to the drugstore and buys a pregnancy kit. The test result shows that the girl is pregnant. Shouting, cursing, crying, the mother says, "Who was the pig that did this to you? I want to know! The girl picks up the phone and makes a call.

Half an hour later a Ferrari stops in front of their house; a mature and distinguished man with gray hair and impeccably dressed in a very expensive suit steps out of it and enters the house. He sits in the living room with the father, the mother and the girl, and tells them:

"Good morning, your daughter has informed me of the problem. However, I can't marry her because of my personal family situation, but I'll take charge. If a girl is born I will bequeath her 2 retail stores, a town house, a beach villa and a \$1,000,000 bank account. If a boy is born, my legacy will be a couple of factories and a \$2,000,000 bank account. If it is twins, a factory and \$1,000,000 each. However, if there is a miscarriage, what do you suggest I do?"

At this point, the father, who had remained silent, places a hand firmly on the man's shoulder and tells him, "You'll f*ck her again!"

Pius the lover boy

One sunday afternoon a young man; Pius, went to visit a girl he fancied at her parents home. Unfortunately for him her father was home, but unlike most of our fathers he was rather receptive and asked the guy to seat and wait for her. While he was waiting they engaged in some small talk..."what do your parents do" type of question! Seems like all the questions made him nervous and to top it all, the family dog (Bingo) was seating right beside him and staring. The nervous feelings made him want to "mess" - that means fart! Anyway, he could not take it any longer and released one which was pretty loud!!!!1 The girls' father shouted "Bingo"!!!! The dog winced, but stayed still. Pius was glad the father thought it was the dog and he decided to go to town and mess all he could. After every release the guy yelled at the dog telling him to leave, but he stayed still. Pius got some extra confidence to mess some more Pius finally released this heavy duty gaseous mess and then the father yelled "**Bingo, you no go comot for there before them take mess kill you"?!!!!!?**

IN-LAWS

A couple drove several miles down a country road, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument, and neither wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules and pigs, the husband sarcastically asked, "Relatives of yours?"

"Yes," the wife replied. "In-laws."