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HOME / LIFELINE / HOW FOUNDATION TURNED OUR LIVES AROUND, BY BENEFICIARIES



Some of the graduands of the MTNF-MUSON Scholars programme

## How foundation turned our lives around, by beneficiaries

— 1st March 2017

•Kolade, Dozie, others applaud CSR initiatives in Nigeria

By Cosmas Omegoh

Mufutau Akuruyejo, a Computer Engineering student of the University of Lagos, Akoka, was in a happy mood. He was fortunate to be selected among the winners of the MTN Foundation's Science and Technology Students scholarship. Having done very well and consistently maintaining the required 2.1 grade every semester, he was considered good enough to participate in the fully-funded, nine-week CERN ICT Openlab programme in Switzerland. He was the first Nigerian and African to be selected.

"It is an opportunity of a lifetime and I will forever be grateful to MTN Foundation and Oracle. I have learned a lot in this period through this scholarship because I am very passionate about technology. Through education, a whole community can be liberated and only skills like this can bring about such change," Akuruyejo said.

For Maria Fakunle, a student at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, her goal is to contribute her quota to saving lives as a medical practitioner. She said she had entered for the scholarship because she desired to be assisted with realising her dream.

"I was very glad that I was picked. I knew it was going to reduce the burden of my fees on my parents who are actually trying to see four of us through school at the same time," Fakunle said.

On her dreams, she said: "I see medicine, which would enable me to help others by relieving their stress or burden. You see patients everyday who come with one complaint or another and somehow you see that God has given you the ability to be a helping hand."

On the other hand, the trio of Kehinde Oritimehin, Aderayo Oyegbade and Olufemi Ayodeji, are beneficiaries of the MTNF-MUSON Scholarship and have formed a band known as the Harmony Kings. The scholarship has had a positive influence in shaping their future, they confessed.

"I can honestly say I am living my passion. I remember MTNF bought us the book on composition and ensured that we had a composition teacher. Now, I am training choirs. I have had some compositions performed at MUSON. I consult at schools. I'm putting final touches to my new album and I'm making a living from music," Kehinde said.

David Ajala, Tolu Omogbehin, Titus Ogunyemi and Seun Oluwalajo concurred. "You need good teachers, you need experienced performers to teach you and you need books, lots of expensive books that you can only get on special orders. And this is what the scholarship has given us. It is a rare privilege," Ajala said.

MTNF's Director, Aishatu Sadauki, at one of the programmes, said the foundation's involvements were beyond statistics and figures. According to her, the objective of the MTNF Scholarship scheme was to provide academic scholarship annually to a minimum of 500 students on full-time studies in accredited institutions across the six geo-political zones of the country.

"We aim at shaping Nigeria's future through education. We aim at making an investment in the lives of tomorrow's leaders by providing them with an opportunity to pursue their dreams despite financial limitations," she said.

Dr. Pascal Dozie, Chairman, MTN Nigeria, described the initiative as a responsible investment. "As a responsible corporate citizen, one must give. We prefer to call it social investment, for these are the people, who patronise us on a daily basis and we see it as crucial to investment in their welfare."

While reviewing the status of corporate social investment in Nigeria, the Founder/Coordinator of Social Enterprise Reports and Awards (SERA), Dr. Ken Egbas, said companies in Nigeria were investing heavily in CSR but advised that more was needed in the areas of impact measurement to adequately situate Nigeria in the CSR scheme globally.

He said: "We must appreciate organisations that have come out to show up. By showing up, I mean organisations that have promised to do something and they have tried their best to fulfil what they promised. However, we need to devise a means to adequately measure the impact of these great projects, and I think that is what is now left."

In the words of Nigeria's former High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Dr. Christopher Kolade, the philosophy of a good business must include investing in people within and outside your business.

"The philosophy of any good business is a stable approach to the market place; one that focuses on the needs and expectations of the stakeholder. Whatever policies are then developed to serve that market must be sustainable. The concept must be stable so as to serve the people. The focus must be on the human beneficiary of all these things – that they remain beneficiaries and not victims of your action. It is a people-centric approach to doing business," Kolade said.

Thus far, about 8,000 students are believed to have enjoyed MTNF science and technology scholarships programme aside the MTNF-MUSON Music Scholarship programme, among other programmes of the foundation. The beneficiaries have formed themselves into an alumni to carry on the legacy.

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South Africa deports 97 Nigerians

ABOUT AUTHOR



**Uche Atuma**

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LATEST



## South Africa deports 97 Nigerians

— 1st March 2017

• Senate to make official complaints to nation's parliament  
From Fred Itua, Abuja At a time tempers are still high over xenophobic attacks by South African nationals, 97 Nigerians have been deported from South Africa. The deportees comprise 95 males and two females. This is coming on the heels of the Senate's decision to dispatch...

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## Senate gives Melaye nod to raise motion on alleged subsidy fraud

From Fred Itua, Abuja The Senate has given nod for a motion seeking the probe of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) over alleged mismanagement of about N5.1 trillion subsidy fund to be formally raised on the floor of the Senate. In a point of order, Senator Dino Melaye drew the attention of the Senate...

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## N2.8b fraud: I made statement under duress –Ex-NBC director tells court

From Godwin Tsa, Abuja Former Director of Finance and Accounts, National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), Patrick Areh, yesterday told the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja that the statement he made in respect of the N2.8 billion fraud was not voluntary, as he was under duress. Areh, who made a two-page statement on January 11, 2016...

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## Supreme Court affirms 14-year jail term for female human trafficker

• High Court jails man 12 years for sexually abusing 2 boys  
From Godwin Tsa, Abuja After nine years of legal tussle, the Supreme Court has affirmed the conviction of a human trafficker, Martina Opara, who was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment for same offence. Opara's journey to prison began in 2008 when she was...

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## Abia police arrest most wanted kidnapers, foil bank robbery

By Christopher Oji The Abia State Police Command has arrested two kidnap suspects and eight other armed robbery suspects. It also foiled a bank robbery. The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Adeleye Oyebade, told journalists in Umuahia, Abia State capital, that one of the suspects was a most wanted kidnapper, Tochukwu Ugunsi (aka Cobra-No-Dey-Sleep). Oyebade said:...

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**Banky W escapes death as fire destroys Lekki home**

— 28th February 2017

(By Tony Ogaga – LAGOS) But for sheer providence, Nigeria would have lost one of its biggest contemporary singing sensations, Banky W whose home was gutted by a fire which emanated from a faulty AC early this morning. Confirming the incidence which happened around 6am in the morning, Banky W said: "There is good news..."

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**SOUTH-WEST REPORT**



**Onslaught against female circumcision deepens**

— 23rd February 2017

Oyo, Ekiti intensify war against genital mutilation From Wole Balogun, Ado-Ekiti & Taiwo Oluwadare, Ibadan The robust advocacy against the practice of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) by governments and non-governmental organisations (NGO) is fast spreading across the South West Zone. Ekiti and Oyo states joined in the campaign last week against the menace that is...

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**Court jails man 2 years, 12 strokes of cane for defiling boy, 10**

— 22nd February 2017

An Upper Area Court in Gwagwalada, Abuja, on Wednesday, February 22, sentenced a 40-year-old driver, Mansir Mohammed, to two years imprisonment and 12 strokes of cane for defiling a 10-year-old boy. The judge, Alhaji Alhassan Kuserki, ordered that the convict be flogged at a designated public place and the people around made to know why...

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**ORIENTAL NEWS**



**Threat of flood, erosion in Anambra**

— 22nd February 2017

From Jeff Amechi Agbodo, Onitsha Residents of Ibolo Obosi in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State have cried to the state government over looming danger caused by erosion and flood in the area over the years. According to the residents, because of bad road their community has been cut off from the other...

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**Documenting Anambra's history, icons, cultural heritage**

— 28th February 2017

Determined to preserve its rich history for posterity, especially as a state that prides itself as torchbearer in diverse human endeavours in Nigeria, Anambra State government, will, in the coming days, present a compendium, a comprehensive photo-history book of the state, that will showcase Anambra in all its glory. The book entitled, "Anambra Light of..."

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**LITERARY REVIEW**



**Hausa Literature: Kindred spirits gather for Bukar Usman**

— 28th February 2017

By HENRY AKUBUIRO It never rains but pours for the renowned prolific author, folklorist and historian, Dr. Bukar Usman. Two months after he was honoured by a group of Hausa poets, he has been nominated for another award in connection with his contributions to the growth of Hausa literature by another association. In a Notification of...

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**MARKETING MATTERS**



**Indomie, Coca-Cola, Delta State come out tops at 2016 ADVAN Awards**

— 30th November 2016

It was a unique gathering of major stakeholders in Nigeria's marketing industry when the Advertisers Association of Nigeria (ADVAN) rolled out the red carpet to celebrate outstanding achievers at the 2016 ADVAN Awards for Marketing Excellence at the MUSON Centre, Onikan, Lagos, last weekend. The event threw up new champions who would bask in the...



the graduates of the MTNF-MUSON Scholars program

**How foundation turned our lives around, by beneficiaries**

— 1st March 2017

\*Kolade, Dozie, others applaud CSR initiatives in Nigeria By Cosmas Omegoh Mufutau Akuruyejo, a Computer Engineering student of the University of Lagos, Akoka, was in a happy mood. He was fortunate to be selected among the winners of the MTN Foundation's Science and Technology Students scholarship. Having done very well and consistently maintaining the required...

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**EDUCATION REVIEW**



**BOOK OF LAMENTATION**

— 28th February 2017

\*Fate of 63 academic staff of Bauchi State University on overseas state-sponsored scholarship programmes hang in the balance as varsity is hit by lack of funds From Paul Orude, Bauchi Unless the Bauchi State government takes immediate step to pump some money into the state-owned varsity, Bauchi State University, Gadau, the institution of higher learning...

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**TSWEEKEND**



**How I got nicknamed Baddo – Olamide, The Sun Creative Personality of the Year**

— 24th February 2017

By Tosin Ajirire For Afro hip-hop superstar and rave of the moment, Olamide Adedeji popularly known as Olamide Baddo, winning The Sun Creative Personality of the Year award is one of the greatest things to happen to his career. According to Olamide, who won alongside Azubuike Chibuzo Nelson also known as Phyno at The Sun...

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**COLUMNISTS**

**Key Ndibe**  
OFFSIDE Musir

**Meeting a man who fed Biafrans**

— 28th February 2017

One of the fortunes of my frequent travels is that I meet fascinating people at different locations, even when I have no inkling of the possibility of such encounters. In stops in such cities as Los Angeles, Abuja, San Francisco, Johannesburg, London, Washington, DC, Houston and Austin, Texas, I have met classmates from my elementary...

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**CROSSFIRE**  
FEMI FANI-KAYODE

**President Muhammad Buhari and the 20 month jinx**

— 28th February 2017

Permit me to begin this contribution with an interesting and historically accurate observation made by the Vanguard Newspaper on 3rd of February 2015. They wrote: "Between 1983 and 1985, Peter Onu of Nigeria was Acting Secretary-General of the OAU. At the 1985 Summit in Addis Ababa, statesmen like Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania, lobbied for..."

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**Bloody tales from South Africa**

— 27th February 2017

The image of an adult Nigerian on television, lamenting the loss of all his earnings and property in the wake of renewed xenophobic attacks in South Africa, is, indeed, a sad story that breaks the heart, even if it were made of stones. Then, the bloodletting; human barbecue light up the skylines; ferocious youths, like...

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**EBERE WABARA**

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**Anaemic national corruption**

— 27th February 2017

AT the risk of being charged with blasphemy, do you know that advance fee fraud (simply known as 419) started in early Christendom long before it domiciled in Nigeria? The case of Esau and Jacob as contained in the Old Testament Book of Genesis, Chapter 27 Verses 18-33, is confirmatory of the commission and fact...

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**TALKING NONSENSE**

MICHAEL BUSH

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**The ranierilisation of excellence: Six lessons from Leicester**

— 27th February 2017

Last Thursday, slightly under 24 hours since losing a Champions League away match to Sevilla, one of the most talismanic coaches in world football, Claudio Ranieri of Italy, was fired by his English Club Thai owners. As it happened less than nine months back when he led then-underdogs, Leicester City Football Club, on a fairytale...

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**Re: Nigeria, indivisible behemoth**

— 27th February 2017

THE January 2017 edition of the Daily Sun newspaper refers: Your analysis of the true and precarious situation of Igbo in the Nigerian arrangement was, and still is, a bull's eye! Without sounding like a cry baby, I want the other ethnic nationalities that make up Nigeria to honestly tell us how they would react...

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**Controlling the weapon of mass distraction**

— 26th February 2017

Every man is a champion in his guarded moments; it is the unguarded hours that kill. Unguarded words, unguarded steps, unguarded emotions, unguarded action, these are recipes for disaster. Emotional intelligence demands unbroken sustenance of self-awareness. Never drop your guard, always realize that fate which seems to stalk every move, unleashes results based on cause...

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### Revealed: Health benefits of fasting

— 26th February 2017

You may have started the year with fasting and prayers. You are not alone, because it's the practice in many churches now. In Islam it's a basic requirement. Most religions require the faithful to fast for its many spiritual benefits. This willing abstinence or reduction of some or all food, drink or both, for a...

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### Love and respect your husband but get as much as you can in your name

— 26th February 2017

You are shocked at the headline right? Well, I have no apologies for that really but before you crucify me, read through. Ayoola got married to Kelvin when she was in her mid twenties. Before she got married, she had a thriving business while her husband worked as a civil servant. By the time she...

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### How would posterity judge my generation? (II)

— 26th February 2017

That successive Nigerian government had to contend with the tragic and accumulated national burden of the past is a damning report on what has gone before. But it is so easy to pass judgment on the past. What happens to the present? Most people in my generation are in their late 40s, in their 50s...

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M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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