

VOICE OF YORUBA



NEWSLETTER OF **Egbé Omo Yorùbá**
OF GREATER MIAMI VALLEY

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Designed to Inform and Entertain

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VOY’s Wisdom for The Elderly:

If you are in the aging or aged category, don’t worry, **be happy**. Make the most of the moment. The quote below applies:

“Aging relieves us of the burden of the future.” - **Laura L. Carstensen**, Professor of Psychology at Stanford University, where she studies the prevalence of happiness in the elderly, contrary to what most people might think.

The moral of this quote is that we should not waste time worrying about the undesirable side effects of aging. Rather, we should take delight in enjoying the benefits and fun of the current moment with family, faith, friends, food, and festivals. . . and sleep too. On this note, we enjoin our readers to enjoy today’s **Happy Summer Day**.

Lesson in Unperturbed Civility: The Case of Mandela

When Nelson Mandela was studying law at the University, a white professor, whose last name was Peters, disliked him intensely. One day, Mr. Peters was having lunch at the dining room when Mandela came along with his trays and sat next to the professor. The professor said, "Mr Mandela, you do not understand, a pig and a bird do not sit together to eat". Mandela looked at him as a parent would a rude child & calmly replied, "You do not worry professor. I'll fly away," and he went and sat at another table. Professor Peters, reddened with rage, decided to take revenge. The next day in class he posed the following question: "Mr. Mandela, if you were walking down the street and found a package, and within was a bag of wisdom and another bag with money, which one would you take ?" Without hesitating, Mandela responded, "The one with the money, of course." Professor Peters , smiling sarcastically said, "I, in your place, would have taken the wisdom." Nelson Mandela shrugged & responded, "Each one takes what he doesn't have. "Professor Peters, by this time was about to throw a fit, seething with fury. So great was his anger that he wrote on Nelson Mandela's exam sheet the word *"IDIOT" and gave it to the future struggle icon. Mandela took the exam sheet and sat down at his desk trying very hard to remain calm while he contemplated his next move. A few minutes later, Nelson Mandela got up, walked up to the professor and told him in a dignified polite tone, "Mr. Peters, you signed your name on the sheet, but you forgot to give me my grade."

VOY Editor's moral of this story: *Not every response requires a punch.*

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On a Similar Theme:

Teacher addresses a student and asks: "How many kidneys do we have?"

"Four!", The student responds.

"Four? Haha," The teacher was one of those who took pleasure in picking on his students' mistakes and demoralizing them.

"Bring a bundle of grass, because we have an ass in the room," the teacher orders a front bencher.

"And for me a coffee!", the student added.

The teacher was furious and expelled the student from the room.

The student was, by the way, the humorist Aparicio Torelly Aporelly (1895-1971), better known as the "Baron de Itararé".

On his way out of the classroom, the student still had the audacity to correct the furious teacher:

"You asked me how many kidneys 'we have'. We have four: two of mine and two of yours. 'We have' is an expression used for the plural. Enjoy the grass."

Life demands much more understanding than knowledge. Sometimes people, because they have a little more knowledge or 'believe' that they have it, feel they have the right to underestimate others.

All are Welcome to the All Nigeria Picnic



Noon—8:00 P.M.

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Prairie Dock

4730 Frytown Road

Dayton, Ohio 45418



Directions

Take Liscum Ave Exit off State Route 35. Turn right onto Liscum if headed east on 35 or turn left if headed west. Stay on Liscum until it gets to Germantown Pike. Turn Right onto Germantown. Then turn left unto Frytown Road. Take the 3rd entrance on the right to the shelters or better yet use your GPS or MAP!!

Food and fun for the entire family!!!

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Nigerian flair at the juncture of cultures

Green-White-Green, that's the platform of connectivity seen recently in the Dayton Daily News newspaper. Read all about it below or go online to read the story at:

<https://www.daytondailynews.com/local/minority-owned-businesses-work-together/EMYIXO3IPBCDVNHXET7OAAAPTRA/>

Yetunde, omo wa ni o.

REGION



Mark Williams from Elements IV Interior and Yetunde Rodriguez Design Studio partnered to create a chair design inspired by their cultures.

©D&TBILLIUS/PHOTOCS



Local minority-owned businesses work together

Designers collaborate on chair project, give back to community.

By Jessica Graue
Contributing Writer

The American Dream has a different definition depending on where a person comes from. For one local business owner from Mumbai, India, that definition includes giving back to the community.

Mark Williams, president, CEO and owner of Elements IV Interior, recently partnered with another minority-owned business, Yetunde Rodriguez Design Studio. After seeing some of her designs on Instagram, Williams knew that he had to reach out to her.

"I really loved how authentically proud they (designs) reflected Yetunde's upbringing growing up in Nigeria," he said.

Elements IV Interior has been serving Dayton since 1990. According to Williams, the company has evolved from a small furniture installation company to a full-service office furniture distributor and service company.

The two businesses collaborated on an Indian- and African-inspired textile project. The combined creative inspirations turned into a custom textile produced through Rodriguez's studio that was then applied to a Haworth Zody office chair from Elements IV Interior. According to Williams, these partnerships are beneficial for the community.

"Being a minority-owned company can be lonely, and storytelling around that upbringing can be challenging," he said. "... Overall, we think it will be inspiring to other minority entrepreneurs looking to grow creative companies in Dayton."

During the endeavor, Williams and Rodriguez were able to reminisce about their heritages and connect them. Williams immigrated from Mumbai, India, to New Bremen, which he said was quite an adjustment to make. After working with various manufacturers and distribution companies in the Midwest, Williams was able to move up and eventually be the 100% owner of Elements IV Interiors in 2012.

"We have been proud our company roots started in Dayton in 1990 and look forward to continuing serving this wonderful region. Our biggest excitement is the growth we have been seeing in Dayton and the diverse projects occurring," Williams said.

Williams said that owning his company is also a part of what he considers the American Dream. He said that living in a country where one is truly free and can be whatever they want to be is another aspect of his American Dream.

"Beginning a career in an entry-level position and growing to be a leader within my organization, to ultimately owning and leading my own company. Raising a family, buying a home and having the ability to give back. This is the greatest, safest and most open country on earth, and we should be proud of how we continue to grow," he said.

Giving back to the community is something that Williams believes in. The chair created through the partnership was gifted to Rodriguez's studio. However, the textile will be applied to pillows and other merchandise to be sold through Rodriguez's studio. A percentage of the proceeds will go to a local minority-owned charity. Williams said that there are many things people can do to support minority-owned businesses.

"Walk the talk. Being local and minority-owned is our company's authentic identity," he said. "Other businesses and individuals rallying together to create a momentum of supporting local and minority-owned businesses is incredibly important to the business ecosystem."

While this was the first partnership of this kind for Elements IV Interior, it will not be the last. Williams said that this project is just a jumping-off point, and he looks forward to celebrating more diversity, equity and inclusion through collaboration.

Visit Elements IV Interior at www.elementsv.com. Yetunde Rodriguez Design Studio can be reached by visiting www.yeturnderodriguez.com.

VOY Funnies

Fun with BB Cartoons

© 2022, BB Cartoons

Original funnies and jokes



The Village Bathman

Upon arriving at the village hotel with his wife, the hotel desk clerk asks the Village Bathman,

“Sir, do you have a reservation?”

Village Bathman replies, **“Oh, yes, I have a reservation about staying here, but my wife insists that we come here.”** 😊

Note:

For VOY's funnies,
we welcome readers' original submissions.

Send to:

editor@voiceofyoruba.org

Quarterly Recent and Forthcoming Birthdays

Looking back and forward in birthdays

April:

Alice Okunade, April 6

May:

Christiana Okunade, May 5

Gabriel Okunade, May 10

Bisi Adegbile, May 18

Joan Apapa, May 29

June:

Gloria Iselaiye, June 13

Samuel Okunade, June 22

Yomi Omilakin, June 29



July:

Ayo Ogunduyile, July 7

Tunde Oriowo, July 7

Daniel Iselaiye, July 17

Remi Oriowo, July 20

Funso Oluyitan, July 25

August:

Augustine Olu Agbebi, August 2

Pauline Fadeyi, August 8

Abigail Odunsi, August 20

Morakinyo Kutu, August 31

September:

Taju Bakare, September 1

Deji Badiru, September 2

Dotun Sobande, September 4

Wole Okunade, September 12

Tokunbo Awoshakin, September 24



Have a “**Cakelicious**” Birthday Celebration!

Nigerians in U.S. Politics

Source: *Friends of Nigeria* newsletter, Winter 2023 (www.friendsofnigeria.org), Page 7

Eight Nigerian Americans Win Legislative Seats

by Peter Hansen, (27) 66-68

On November 8, 2022, eight Nigerian Americans were elected or re-elected to legislative seats – five in Georgia and one each in Minnesota, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia. All eight were Democrats.

Solomon Adesanya was elected to Georgia House District 43 – a district historically held by a Republican – with 56.1% of the vote. A second-generation American, Adesanya was born in Lagos. He attended Georgia State University's Master of Public Policy program. He is an entrepreneur who owns two restaurants in the Atlanta metro area.

Segun Adeyina was elected to Georgia House District 110 as an unopposed candidate. Born in Nigeria, Adeyina's pre-college education began in the UK and was completed in Nigeria. He has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Akron (Ohio) and a master's degree in management information systems from Lawrence Technology University (Michigan). He has been in the IT field for over 25 years, including positions in healthcare and the auto industry.

Letitia (Tish) Naghise was elected to Georgia House District 68 with 62.5% of the vote. A native Georgian, Naghise has a bachelor's degree in political science from Clayton State University and this year will complete her master's in strategic leadership development at Clayton State. In addition, she has completed studies at Emory University to become a

certified paralegal. She and her husband own T & C Transportation Enterprises, Inc.

Gabe Okoye was elected to Georgia House District 102 with 64.6% of the vote. Born in Nigeria, Okoye relocated to the U.S. in 1981. He has a civil engineering degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He founded and is CEO of Essex Geoscience Inc.

Phil Olaleye was elected to Georgia House District 59 as an unopposed candidate. The son of Nigerian and Colombian immigrants, Olaleye grew up in Stone Mountain, GA. He has a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a master's in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He served three years in the Peace Corps in the Philippines. He is the Executive Director of Next Generation Men & Women, an educational non-profit.

Pennsylvania, and a doctorate in jurisprudence from Harvard University. Agbaje formerly was a U.S. State Department Foreign Service Officer and is currently an associate attorney with Ciresi Conlin LLP, with specialties in general civil litigation and medical malpractice.

Carol Kazeem was elected to Pennsylvania House District 159 with 64.8% of the vote. A native of Chester, PA, Kazeem has an associate degree from Anthem College and has worked in the healthcare field for over 13 years. Known as an activist, she currently works as a trauma informed outreach worker and gun violence interrupter and is pursuing her education for a future career in law.

Oye Owolewa is the shadow U.S. Representative for the District of Columbia. First elected in 2020, he was re-elected on November 8th with 83.1% of the vote. Owolewa was born in Nigeria

but raised in Newton, MA. He earned a doctorate in pharmacy from Northeastern University and moved to Washington, DC to practice pharmacy. (Note: Shadow U.S. Senators and shadow U.S. Representatives are elected officials created

to represent Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, as part of their efforts to gain full admittance to the Union as a State.)

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari extended his warmest congratulations to these eight Nigerian Americans on their victory in the U.S. midterm elections, and he expressed his wish for them to have a successful tenure in office.



Top Row (L to R): Solomon Adesanya, Segun Adeyina, Letitia (Tish) Naghise, Gabe Okoye
Bottom Row (L to R): Phil Olaleye, Esther Agbaje, Carol Kazeem, Oye Owolewa

Esther Agbaje was first elected to Minnesota House District 59B in November 2020. She had two opponents but garnered 74.3% of the vote. This past November she ran unopposed. Agbaje was born in St. Paul, MN and lives in Minneapolis. She has a bachelor's degree in political science from George Washington University, a master's in public administration from the University of

Not to be parochial, it is encouraging that engineers are running for political offices. The published article below is relevant for this observation. Engineers are answering the call of the gavel at the political podium.

Source: Badiru, A. B. (2019), “Our greatest grand challenge: To address society’s urgent problems, engineers need to step up to the political plate,” *ASEE PRISM*, January 2019, p. 56 (www.asee-prism.org)

LAST WORD

OPINION BY ADEDEJI BADIRU

OUR GREATEST GRAND CHALLENGE

To address society's urgent problems, engineers need to step up to the political plate.



© Getty Images

The 2018 midterm elections once again raised the question of why there are so few engineers in politics. Politics—particularly Congress—is in dire need of systems thinking and problem solving. True, engineers are in scarce supply, and the shortage is a worrisome trend for employers in government as well as business and industry. With their pick of job options, it comes as little surprise that engineers place politics way down on their list of aspirations.

Despite a broad diversity of professions among U.S. elected officeholders, engineers remain woefully underrepresented. Engineers Week is celebrated each year on George Washington's birthday, but he was one of just three engineers to serve as president. (Herbert Hoover and Jimmy Carter were the other two.) And despite the influx of four newly elected Democrats with engineering backgrounds to the House of Representatives—Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania; Elaine Luria of Virginia; Sean Casten of Illinois; and Joe Cunningham of South Carolina—engineers still represent a sliver of that body. Indeed, of the 541 members serving in Congress last year, the Congressional Research Service tallied just eight engineers—seven in the House and one in the Senate, or 1.4 percent. This stands

in stark contrast to China, where many top political posts are held by engineers.

Members of Congress have been lawyers, actors, songwriters, comedians, journalists, authors, dentists, doctors, nurses, welders, entrepreneurs, and business executives. So where are the engineers? Perhaps it's cultural. Engineers seek finite solutions predicated on data-driven analyses, which are not exactly terms of endearment in Congress. Politicians are experts in arguing why something that appears to be red is actually blue. Engineers would have none of that! Thus, they are apt to find poor footing on the floor of the House or Senate when the debates grow heated. So engineers stay away in droves, to the detriment of building a critical mass.

As we fervently advocate for the education of future engineers, it is critical to impress upon engineering educators and engineering students the importance of increasing engineering's visibility in the policies and politics that influence society and address its challenges. In recent years, engineers have been stepped in the “Grand Challenges for Engineering” issued by the National Academy of Engineering in 2008. The 14 challenges range from making energy economical to providing energy from fusion, reverse engineering the brain, securing cyberspace, providing

access to clean water, personalizing learning, restoring and improving urban infrastructure, preventing nuclear terror, and advancing health informatics and medicines. Nowhere does that daunting list mention that engineers ought to pay attention to the policies and politics that can facilitate or hinder engineering solutions to those grand challenges. If the executive, judicial, and legislative branches are where the pertinent enabling policies are crafted, engineers must strive to be at the table.

Engineering students don't know what they don't know. It is the job of engineering educators to instill the awareness and desire to serve on policymaking platforms at the local and national levels. Recognizing the urgent need to address global societal issues from a

ENGINEERS SHOULD LEAD, OR AT LEAST INITIATE, EFFORTS NOW TO GET ENGINEERS ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO POLICYMAKING POSITIONS.

technical standpoint, engineers should leading, or at least initiate, efforts now to get engineers elected or appointed to policymaking positions as a strategic path for engineers in the future. Engineers can leverage their education in seeking data-driven, sustainable solutions while mitigating the murky areas of political horse trading and decision-making. The proven engineering design process can serve politics well, from problem identification and definition to selecting the best solution and monitoring its implementation. The result would be more effective representation and greater accountability. QED.

Adedeji Badiru is a professor of systems engineering and dean of the Graduate School of Engineering and Management at the Air Force Institute of Technology. He is a long-time member of ASEE.

Along the same line, we hear about a Nigerian immigrant's success in Colorado politics.

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/hfvUzCeTuTY>



Salivation Temptation Station

If you think this newsletter is food-centric, yes, we are. 😊

Without food, there is no life. We are just obeying nature's rule. The poem below applies.

The Seduction and Worship of Food

I am a worshipper of food.
Food, you are loved and adored in all corners of the world;
All circumferences of the globe;
All points on the planet;
And all peaks and valleys of Mother Earth.
You seduce me, I worship you.
You feed when I need you.
Each day, we yearn and yawn for you.
When I see you, my eyes pop out wide.
You are the nourishment for each body and soul.
The driver of our fellowship.
The anchor of our faith.
The link to our family.
The glue of our relationships.
The inflator of our belly.
The ready comrade of gluttons.
The bread and butter of our blood.
Ha, food, you are too much!
I struggle to keep up with you, but I always try.
You go from soil to the table in a flash, through the chef's toil and sweat.
You are the instigator of both our salivation and salvation.
The ingredient for our **happiness**.
Food, you are beautiful.
You are attractive to me.
You draw me closer to you each day.
I cannot resist you.
I love you, you love me.
I can see and feel you in my body.
Food, I give you thanks for loving me back.
We shall meet again soon.

© 2023 Culinary Poet Deji Badiru

For a relevant reference, readers should refer to the Factors and Equation of **Happiness**, published in the March 2023 issue of this newsletter.

The food views below confirm it. Behold and enjoy!
It is true, a photo is worth a thousand words. If you feel the effect,
please go and get some food to make you happy. 😊











Egbe's Rule: When we meet, we eat

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If all of the above get you hungry and salivating, please, go out and get some chow. You deserve it after getting to this point in the newsletter.

In case you are wondering, here we are at the April 2023 monthly meeting.



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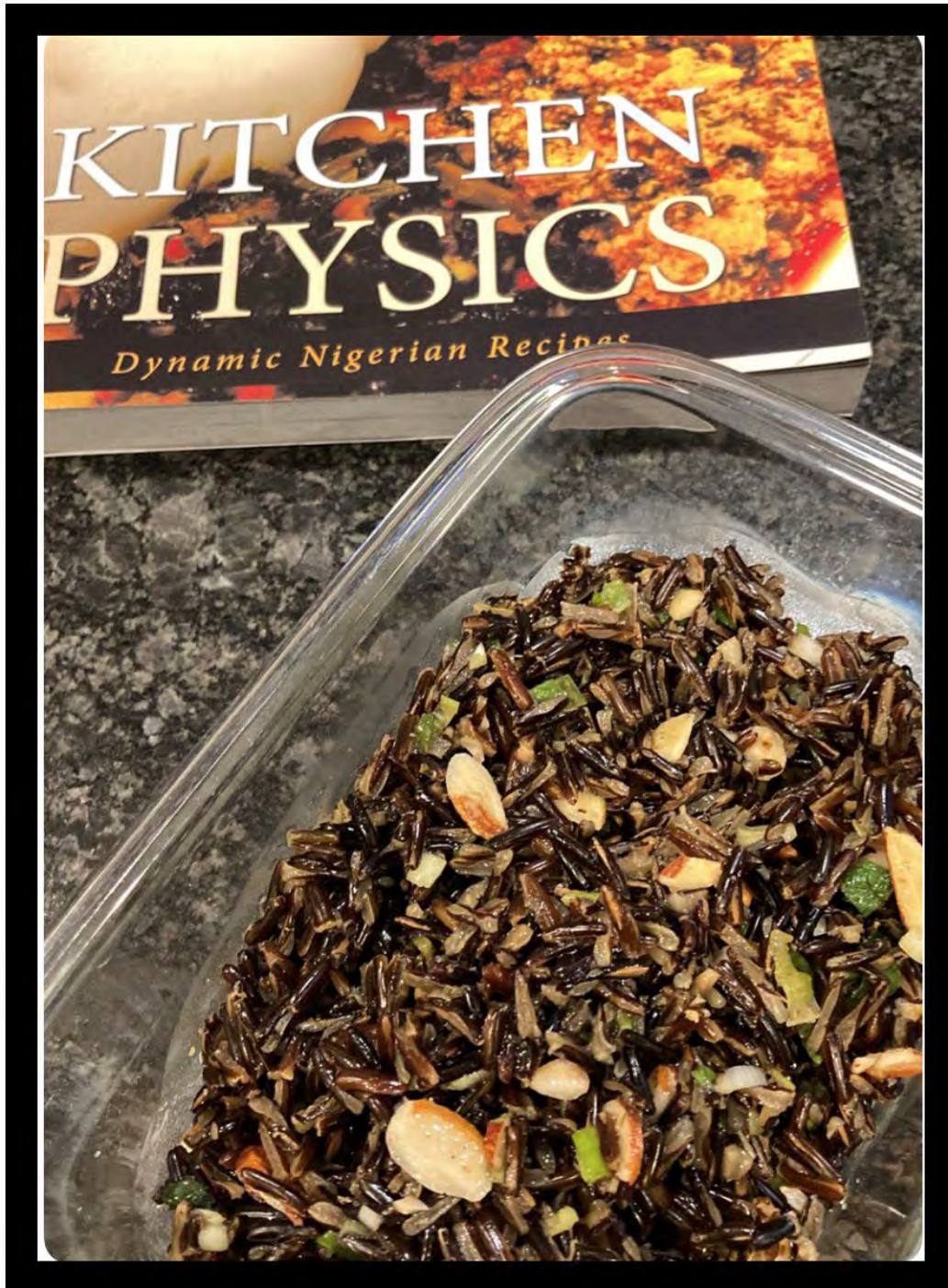
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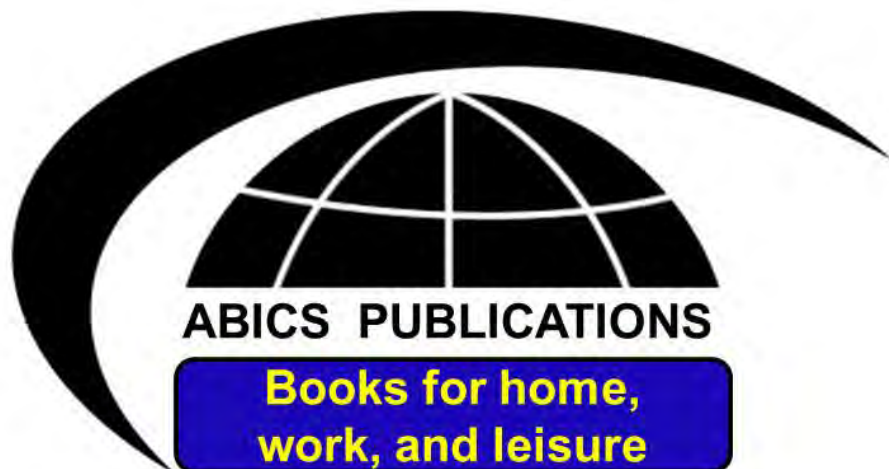
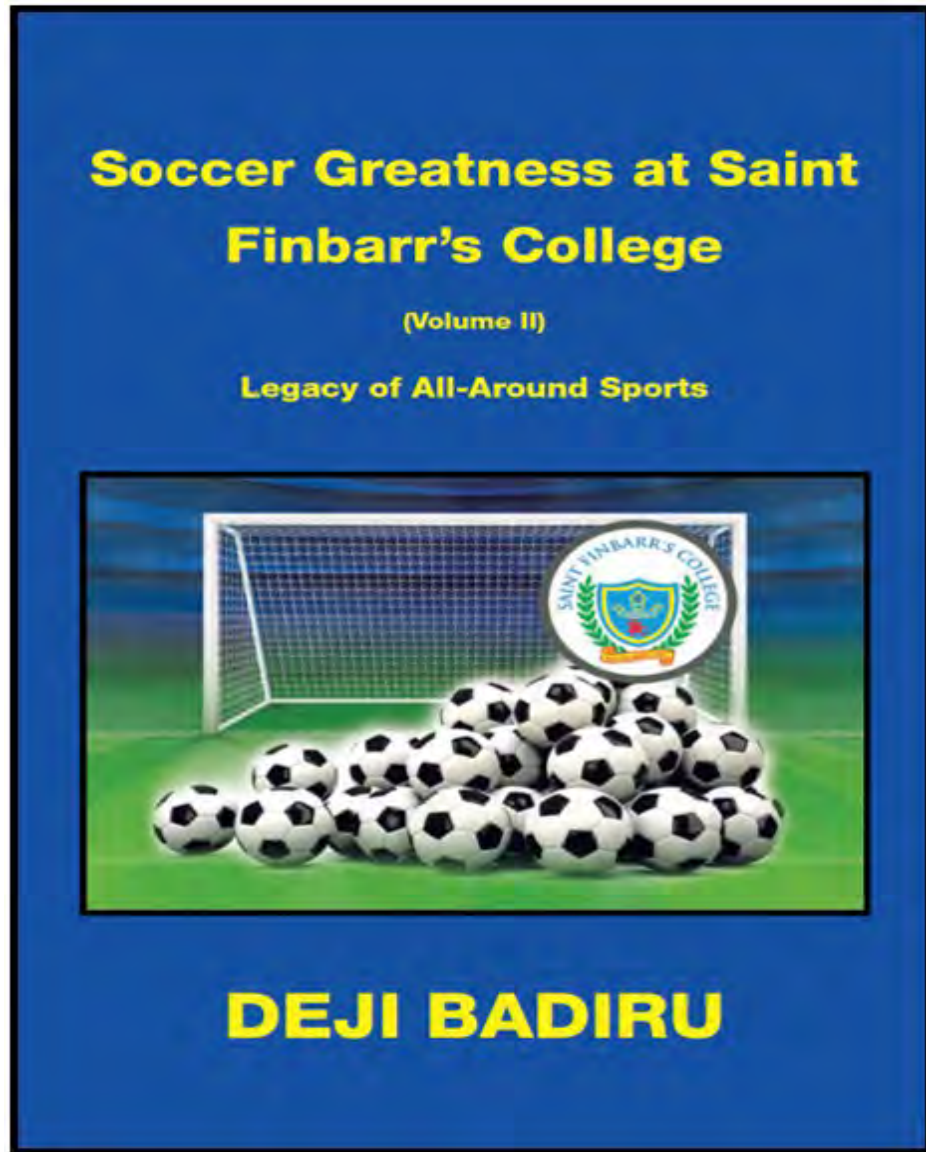
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From the Nigerian Kitchen

An admirer of Nigerian cuisine recently proudly posted a communication piece of how much she is experimenting with rice recipes from the Deji-Iswat Nigerian Recipe book. Below is a deliciously-rendered version of a wild rice recipe from the book.

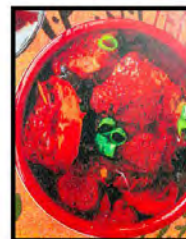
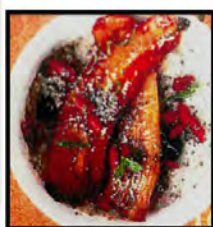


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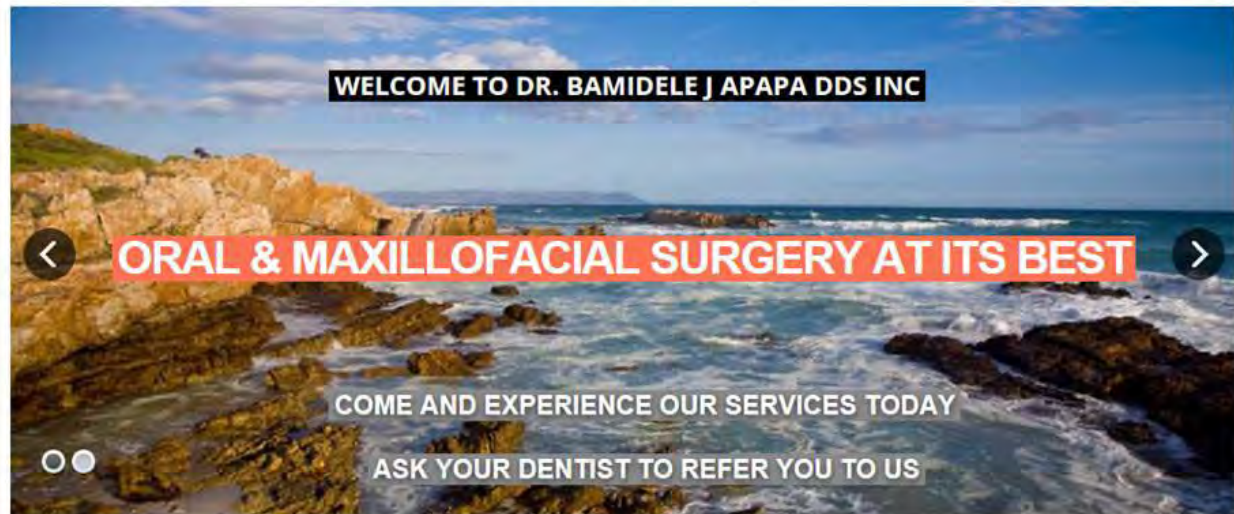


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From the Editor



To VOY readers, *Thank you..!*

