

PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU ONE YEAR OF KICKING THE BALL OVER THE BAR

Thursday, May 23rd 2024 was the day set aside for the ministers of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to speak to their scorecards after being in office for one year. This exercise was a part of the activities organized to commemorate the one year anniversary of the APC-led government under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Recall that Bola Ahmed Tinubu was sworn in as the sixteenth President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on May 29, 2023 when he took over from his predecessor who also is a member of the All Progressive Congress Party (APC), President Muhammadu Buhari.

This was an opportunity created for the Ministers to relate to Nigerians their achievements over the past 12 months to run the 8-month agenda of the renewed hope of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. In trying to score the administration within one year of its operations, what comes to mind is the picture of a soccer field where typically there are two goal posts, one side of the field of play occupied by a team and the other by the other team. As we all know, what determines the winner in a soccer match contest is the team with the highest goals scored. In a game of soccer, some of the common happenings in connection with the rules of engagement include, the kick-off, the throw-in, off-side, corner kick, scoring a goal and kicking the ball over the bar.

Why kicking the ball over the bar is chosen is because in the field of play this refers to an aggressive war of trying to get the ball into the net but having it go not by the side of the goalpost but above the goalpost.

However, as we all know, a miss is as good as a mile. Kicking it above the bar is taking the ball far away from the field of play and there is no equivalence between that and kicking it away from the field through the two sides of the goalpost or kicking the ball into the net which constitutes a score.

Some of the Ministers of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu holding key positions and who presented their scorecards to the admiration of Nigerians include; Alhaji Mohammed Idris, Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mr. Nyesom Wike, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Mr. Shuaibu Audu, Minister of Steel Development, Mr. Festus Keyamo, Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Dr. Jamila Bio Ibrahim, Minister of Youths and Sports Development, Mr. Henry Dele Alake, Minister of Solid Minerals, and Mr. Heineken Lokpobiri, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources.

These players in the team “Renewed Hope”, played very well to the admiration of Nigerians but met with stiff opposition from the Nigerian team of hunger, poverty, inflation, insecurity, high tariff and taxes, and epileptic electricity, denying the team, Renewed Hope of any goals and making all their skills and efforts amount to playing to the gallery. It won't be surprising if President Bola Ahmed Tinubu decorates his team members with one of Nigeria's honors even when they don't deserve it. It is important to bring to the fore, the failure of the administration in achieving giant strides in his one year of operation.

The truth that needs to be told and heard is that no matter how much the administration of Bola Ahmed Tinubu tries to placate Nigerians through the use of propaganda, no goal can be scored until the problems of hunger, poverty, insecurity, inflation, high tariff and taxation are confronted head on and with positive results that resonate with the average Nigerian in such a way that translates into bringing food on their tables, nothing else can assuage their feelings and the future of this government is bleak. It is therefore not surprising that the one-year anniversary was marked low-key for it would not have been done otherwise as there is nothing significant enough to celebrate.

One year would not have mattered so much had the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu been able to lay out policies that inspire hope, but unfortunately, the reverse is the case and it is without gainsaying the fact that no significant steps forward have been taken, let alone take some back.

Going forward, the problems that Nigerians are expecting their leaders to tackle which are systemic and foundational would need the intervention and active engagements of the goal-getter ministries which include the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, under the suspended Minister Betta Edu, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, under the leadership of Wale Edun, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, under Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar, Ministry of Power, under Honourable Minister Adelabu Adedayo and the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu.

THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS TO SCORING GOALS BY THIS ADMINISTRATION, FOR THE NAME OF THE GAME THAT IS BEING PLAYED IS “WORK AND EAT.”



ON A FINAL NOTE, NOTEWORTHY IS THE EXCESSES AND THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF IMPUNITY DISPLAYED BY THE NIGERIAN MILITARY AS EVIDENCED IN THE OKPOAMA INCIDENT THAT LED TO THE LOSS OF THE LIVES OF FOUR OFFICERS AND THIRTEEN SOLDIERS AS WELL AS THE CLOSURE OF THE BANEX PLAZA IN ABUJA BY SOLDIERS DUE TO A FIGHT BETWEEN A SOLDIER AND SOME MISCREANTS WITHIN THE PLAZA.

A situation where soldiers take over the responsibility of the police regarding civil matters is ridiculous and unacceptable. The recent massacre of five soldiers in Aba, Abia State, Nigeria on May 30, 2024, by unknown gunmen is also a case to be referenced regarding how soldiers have taken over the work of the police.

The Judiciary also is not spared as can be seen in his involvement in cases involving the Rivers State government, the Minister of Federal Capital Territory, and the People's Democratic Party. This to say the least is despicable and ridiculous and makes a mockery of the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. For instance, there was confusion in Kano following two conflicting court orders concerning the tussle over the Kano Emirate throne between Emir Muhammadu Sanusi II and Aminu Ado Bayero, the deposed emir.

While Justice S. Amobeda of the Federal High Court, Kano, ordered the Inspector-General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, and the Kano State Commissioner of Police, Hussain Gumel, to ensure that all rights and privileges of an Emir were given Ado Bayero, Justice Amina Aliyu of the Kano State High Court restrained the police, the Department of State Services and the Nigerian Army from evicting Muhammadu Sanusi II, the reinstated Emir of Kano, from the

palace. The invitation of the two judges by the Nigerian Judicial Council (NJC) did little or nothing to assuage the feelings of Nigeria over what looked like incompetence on the part of the judges involved in the administration of Justice in Nigeria.

Nigerians also were shocked by the hasty reversal of the old National Anthem which got the assent of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu against the advice of the Attorney-General of the Federation, Lateef Fagbemi that the house of the assembly should conduct a wild consultation with Nigerians before any action would be taken. These are the situations of confusion and reckless-

ness that characterized the one year of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's presidency in Nigeria. The worst of them all is the harassment and unlawful arrest of journalists using the cybersecurity laws as an excuse and this action is definitely a war that the administration of Bola Ahmed Tinubu cannot win, for he who murders sleep will himself not enjoy the luxury of sleeping.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has all it takes to contribute his own quota in moving Nigeria forward, cognizant of the fact that he cannot solve all the problems of the country. However and going forward, the state police issue deserves an expeditious attention and this is one of the fundamental problems that should be solved in his second year in office and as soon as possible. The ban on open grazing is also a welcome development and all the round pegs should be put in the round holes regardless of how difficult the decisions may be to move the country Nigeria forward.

The journey of nation-building continues even as Nigerians are expectant of the dividends of democracy in an atmosphere of peace, progress, and prosperity.



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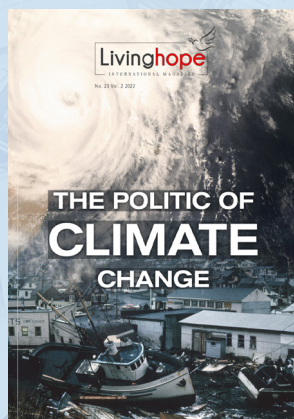
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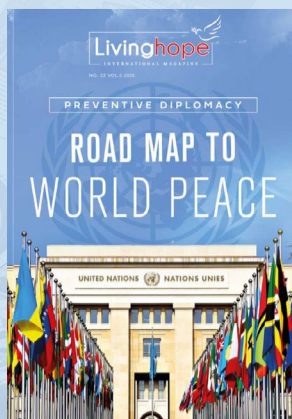
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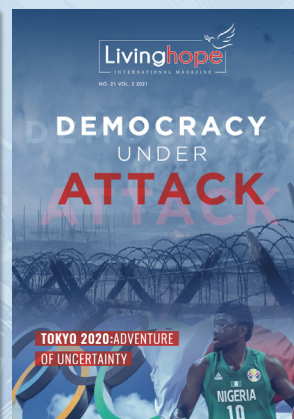
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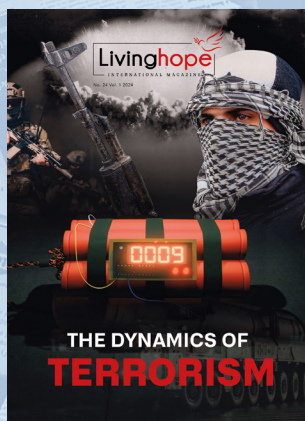
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