



WEEKLY

THIS WEEK'S TOP NEWS HEADLINES

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#10,000
WEEKLY**



BROKEN HALO

THE FALL OF NIGERIAN PASTORS

CAREERS

How Linda Ikeji Destroyed My Career

YOU NEED A LOAN?

8 Reasons You Should Consider Salary Advance

MENINGITIS

6 IMPORTANT THINGS NIGERIANS SHOULD KNOW

My Ideal Woman Wants To Be A Man



LAGOS

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Table Of Contents

Broken Halo: The Fall Of Nigerian Pastors	2
This Week's Top News Headlines	6
Meningitis: 6 Important Things Nigerians Should Know	7
How Linda Ikeji 'Destroyed' My Career	10
My Ideal Woman Wants To Be A Man	13
Need A Loan? 7 Reasons You Should Consider Salary Advance	16
This Weeks Top Jobs	19
NB Weekly Quiz: Bob Isuo Wins N10,000	21
NB Team and contact details	21

Broken Halo: The Fall Of Nigerian Pastors

Psalm 105:15 - "Touch not my anointed, do my prophet no harm" is now the most popular Bible verse in Nigeria as Men of God struggle to hide the many failings of their human flesh.



Previously, these canal failings of the Men of God would have slipped by unchallenged, but Nigerians have become more 'awake' as they grapple with the current economic and societal difficulties facing the country. Today, questions are being asked about the relationship between a pastor's lifestyle, church funds and other church assets [e.g.: universities, private jets]. Life's difficulties have created a congregation of doubting Thomas; Psalms 105:15 is fast losing its potency. The doubt is not in their faith in God, but in the 'anointed' modern day prophets and the church structure.

Every new week is now greeted with a new scandal centred on a Man of God. The revelations about the inside workings of the church and its leaders will only increase, as we are in the information dissemination age. Information can now be recorded and distributed around the world in less than a second.

Some of the recent difficulties

Despite the easy flow of information and the awareness of Nigerians, there are still some major challenges in unravelling the lifestyle of Nigerian Pastors.

Apart from a high regard for Psalms 105:15, a lot of congregants are afraid of divine misfortune after speaking up. A few others do not want to be labelled as those behind the fall of the church/Man of God.

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome of Believers Loveworld Inc. [Christ Embassy], during his divorce saga, warned his congregation to refrain from speaking against a man of God.

“To speak against the man of God is to bring a curse on yourself and your children. When you hear people speaking against a man of God, move away from there. Men of God don't just talk. When they speak, God is forced to move,” he said during a church service.

These fears are heavily fed and nurtured by some readings in the Holy bible. E.g.: When Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses, Miriam was plagued with leprosy. Numbers 12:9-10 [The anger of the Lord burned against them, and he left them. When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam's skin was leprous[a]—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease.]

Reasons why questions are being asked

If the church must become more responsible to God, society and its followers, then questions must be asked.

God encourages believers to ask questions. 1 John 4:1 - *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God. For many false prophets have gone out into the world."*

If Christians do not ask questions, church leaders will sleep on duty, take a piss on the bible and probably go unpunished. Nigerian pastors are gradually becoming lords whose actions cannot be questioned.

The church is presently rife with stories of fraud, sexual immorality and consumerism. Some recent scandals involving men of God include- the alleged loss of \$5 million to a Ponzi scheme by Kingsway International Christian Centre lead by Pastor Mathew Ashimolowo and the explosive sexual scandal involving preacher Apostle Suleman.

When accused of wrong doing, Nigerian Pastors hide under the tagline 'religious prosecution'. Should their congregation not hold them accountable especially when these accusations are backed by evidences? [1 Timothy 5:19-20]

Even in cases when the Pastors promised the congregation a 'robust reply', the reply never comes.

An example is the news that broke out about 4 years ago that Pastor Biodun Fatoyinbo of Common Wealth Of Zion Assembly (COZA) Ministries had been sleeping with a church member. The member had published a detailed account of the affair, which circulated widely, to which the pastor had promised a "robust reply" shortly thereafter. No robust response came forth afterwards, and he not even offered an apology or explanation to his church members.

1 Corinthians 11:28 calls for self-examination; are Nigerian pastors exempted from the call?

What the churches need to do

These cases are reminders that religion provides a perfect platform for unscrupulous men to capitalise on the fear peddled in scriptures to exploit billions of gullible people around the world. Churches need to revisit their doctrines on veneration of men of God. They need to accept that all men are fallible.

The Bible in Song of Solomon 2:15 - *"Catch the foxes for us, The little foxes that are ruining the vineyards, While our vineyards are in blossom."*

Just as it is with public officials and secular leaders, pastors who abuse their positions of trust should be held accountable and purged of their ill behaviour. If not, the church, as it is seen now, will continue to be exploitative and become a den of concealed abuse.

Congregants should also stop being preys and gullible to the actions and inactions of the pastors. They should become more responsible for their lives and know God for themselves.

Nigerian Pastors have certainly fallen from their pedestals, but only God knows those that have fallen from Grace.

This Week's Top News Headlines

Some of the top headlines from this week.

[Buhari Will Shock Nigerians on May 29 – APC](#)

[Efe Ejeba Wins 2017 Big Brother Naija](#)

[Buhari Sidelines Senate, DSS, Okays Magu As EFCC Boss](#)

[FRSC Recalls Commander Who Cut Female Officers' Hair](#)

[Malabu Oil Deal: Jonathan Allegedly Received \\$200m Bribe - Reports](#)

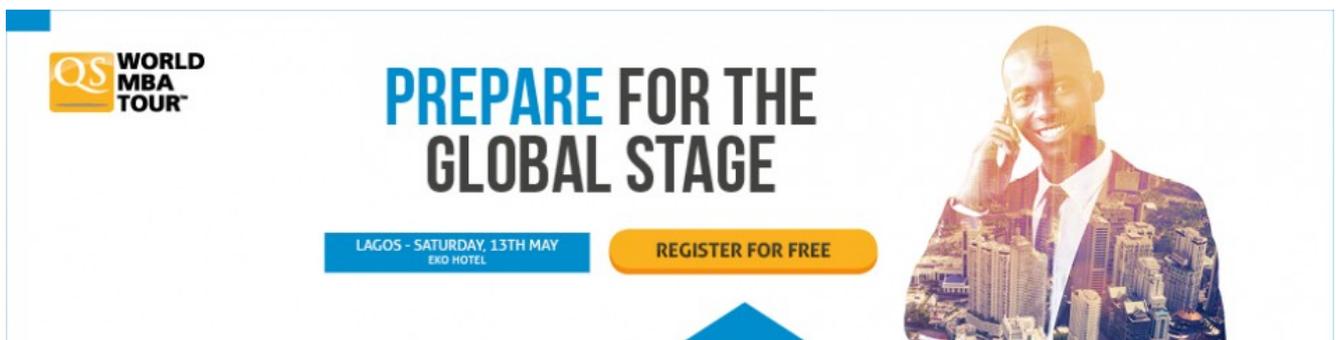
[EFCC Discovers Huge Cash In Ikoyi House Raid](#)

[Lagos Apartment, Cash, Belong To Amaechi - Fani-Kayode](#)

[Jibrin: If Dogara's Pay Slips Are Real, I Earn Than Him](#)

[Buhari Misses FEC Meeting, First Since Return From UK Medical Trip](#)

[Nigerian Inflation Rate Drops Again As Food Prices Stabilises](#)



QS WORLD MBA TOUR

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Meningitis: 6 Important Things Nigerians Should Know

Three weeks ago, the Federal Government announced the outbreak of a new strain of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis (CSM) in parts of the country. Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole said that the new strain, which is not common in Nigeria, was imported from Niger Republic. He said all the states in northwest region are prone to the disease and the states would be treated equally when confronted by outbreaks such as this. Over 340 Nigerians have died due to the outbreak since late last year.



In a rather unfortunate move, the governor of Zamfara state, which has been severely hit by the epidemic, alluded the disease to a form of punishment from God because of the increase in sin among Nigerians. His statement raised a backlash from different quarters and he has since retracted his statement.

Here are 6 important things you should know about meningitis:

Origin

Meningitis is a disease caused by the inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord, known as the meninges. The inflammation is usually activated by an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

Types

There are five types of meningitis depending on the cause. Bacterial meningitis, Viral meningitis, Fungal meningitis, Parasitic meningitis and Non-infectious meningitis. The severity of illness and the ensuring type of treatment depend largely on the specific cause. The bacterial version of meningitis is the most deadly, accounting for the deaths of over 100,000 people around the world every year

Causes

The germs that cause bacterial meningitis can be contagious. Some bacteria can spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions like kissing. Fortunately, most of the bacteria that cause bacterial meningitis are not as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu. Also, the bacteria are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been.

Susceptibility

Although infants and children under the age of 5 are known to be at a higher risk, the nature of the disease means it can affect anyone at any time. Geographical locations also do not matter as it affects people of all races. Meningitis may be more frequent in low income areas and where vaccines are not as available, but it is still found in every corner of every society.

Symptoms

Meningitis infection may show up in a person by a sudden onset of fever, headache and stiff neck. Other symptoms like nausea, vomiting, increased sensitivity to light and confusion may also be experienced. Children may appear to be inactive, grumpy or feeding poorly. Later symptoms can be severe live seizures or coma. If you have these symptoms, see your doctor immediately

Vaccination/Treatment/Prevention

The most effective way to protect you and your child against certain types of bacterial meningitis is through vaccination. Other prevention tactics include hand-washing frequently, exercising regularly, maintaining a stable immune system and covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough.



How Linda Ikeji 'Destroyed' My Career

I had a job; one of those jobs where the dress requirement never matches the salary, thank God for night market! My job was good for a beginner; it held great prospects for the career I wanted, but it never got me the recognition I deserved. To get noticed in my field, I would have to grind hard for at least 15 years, the pay at the top wasn't even fantastic. My entire pension would not be enough for a Birkin bag. Someone was making more from shouting "koko master" in a philistine video. Another was making more by simply copying and pasting people's story; does she have 2 heads?



If Linda Ikeji can do it, I can do it better. If Linda can make money, I can make more money! I am smarter, finer and have more connections than all the servers in my bank branch put together. I am also a champion on Nairaland.”

So, armed with this wonderful self-assessment, I quit my job at a burgeoning career in one of Nigeria's top banks and proceeded to gather all the tools I needed to become the next big thing in Nigeria's blogosphere.

I bought a domain; Linda did not have one at the time. I found a great techie to help me with all the details: server, website, email etc. and a good creative friend helped me with logo and branding. When all was done, before a single word was written, I high-fived myself in every single way possible. My site, logo, branding, domain and ideas were bigger and better than madam Ikeji's.

So now, time for work. I wrote my first post with all the enthusiasm in the world and shared it with my dear friends on social media, my former colleagues and my wide contacts and connections. The response was great; they liked it, shared it and commented on it. The second post went just as well. Then my tech chap, who was monitoring the visitors to the site told me that while people were enthusiastic on social media, there were not actually coming to the site. He then dropped a bombshell and asked, what will you do differently from Linda Ikeji and the other entertainment sites, what special insight do you have? How can you use your contacts to create a unique selling proposition? Oh I wished he had asked me this before I left the cosy left corner in the bank head office.

I was equipped for my last job, almost over-equipped. In addition to my degree, I had multiple certifications that most beginners never bother with. I had prepared well for life after school. While I was in college, I thought an accounting degree would put food on my table – going through the rigorous class lectures and drills. However, little did I know that I would end up not punching the calculator, but weaving words together – as a blogger.

Nigeria's influential blogger, Linda Ikeji, poster child for blogging in Nigeria changed my life. I allowed her to change my life even when I wasn't ready for that change. Her fame, designer clothes and luxurious trips reeled me in. I got in without a solid plan.

Linda Ikeji makes success look easy and is to blame for most of the copycat blogs around Africa. Her astounding achievement as a solo blogger who has gone on to own a thriving media enterprise is an admirable feat.

It's easy to jump into blogging after reading of her success, but many like me are hardly prepared for the real work. I wasn't even very passionate about blogging when I started out; all I wanted to do was write a bit and get that advertising dollars. I didn't even have a strategy or a fall back plan. It was all supposed to be easy.

The life of a career blogger is anything but easy. Very few people listen when Linda Ikeji says she hardly socialises as she has to stay at home to work on her blog. Our eyes are too fixated on the designer shoes and bags she constantly flaunts on Instagram.

We also forget that she officially started blogging in 2007, almost four years before she made a dime from it. Linda Ikeji also has almost as much enemies and friends- still not sure I'm ready for that life. She is renowned for controversies, mostly due to her gossip style of writing, which many have criticised for lacking in credibility. In 2014, her blog came under scrutiny amidst allegations of plagiarism and unfair usage of images, which led to the blogging platform Blogger, run by Google, temporarily taking her website offline. She remained unshaken.

At 36, Linda Ikeji is expanding beyond blogging to build a media empire. While she continues to serve as a source of inspiration, it is important to look beyond the glitz. Just like Rome, the Linda Ikeji Empire wasn't built in one day. The fancy things are paid for by years of endless grinding. Overnight success is a myth.

“An overnight success takes about fifteen years” – Anonymous.

My Ideal Woman Wants To Be A Man

I'm a 35 year old, well-off professional single guy. I have not had the time for serious relationships as I have focused mainly on my business and the drive to escape poverty to provide for my immediate family. As you would expect, this decision affected my love.



I was introduced to online dating by a close friend who admitted that he met his wife on social media. He encouraged me to give it a go and I signed up for a dating site. It was an easy step for me, as I could take my time to assess what I really wanted without any immediate pressure. I signed up to a dating website and in no time, was matched up with several profiles. From all the profiles I received, I was immediately taken by that of Kate.

Kate's profile on the dating website was all I wanted in a woman. I sent her a friendship request and she accepted. We hit it off immediately and that began our online relationship or should I say love life. We chatted almost every day. Nothing was hidden from each other and I sincerely felt I had fallen in love.

Three months later, I decided it was time we met. When I informed Kate, she was initially not ready for that step, and I thought that a bit strange considering we have been getting on so well and talking about a future together. I was madly in love and thought she felt the same, so I was lost at this initial rebuff.

After many pleas, she finally agreed to my request. I was prepared for love, dressed to impress and I chose a classy restaurant and planned my non-virtual version of my perfect date. First impressions count they say, so I arrived early to get the best view of my date making a dramatic entrance into the restaurant. After about an hour of waiting, I got a call that my wait was almost over. When she walked in, I had to pinch myself to make sure this was actually happening and was not a dream. The date went extremely well; we had a lot in common and my experimentation with online dating was vindicated.

A few months later, Kate called and said she will be leaving the country, but needed to see me first to explain. When she arrived, she looked a bit down. The glow she had on that first date had eclipsed by some sort of worry. What she said next sent me into a spin. Kate informed me, in her softest voice, of her plans to transition to become a man. She no longer wished to live life as a woman and would be leaving the country to have the necessary operations and treatments. She told me she had always felt like a boy from an early age and now she has the opportunity to see this through. Meeting me had halted her plans for a few months, but she could not keep it from me any longer.

Everything I heard on that day sent me into an emotional whirlwind between rage and fear.

I had fallen in love with Kate, but her decision has thrown me off balance. Nothing in my life or upbringing had prepared me for this. I walked away slowly from the table, weighed down by the news I had just received and confused by the few months we shared.

How do I fall out of love with the perfect woman? In my society, her new life can never be part of mine.

VIDEO Overview: Hyundai Elantra 2017 In 60 Seconds



Need A Loan? 7 Reasons You Should Consider Salary Advance

Salary Advance is a salary-based temporary overdraft facility, which enables staff of private companies and government agencies to access a certain percentage of their net monthly salary in advance.



The loan may be for the following:

- Funds to pay your house rent
- Funds to support your child's school fees
- Funds to meet urgent personal needs

NB Weekly 11

Here are seven reasons you should consider a salary advance loan from any reputable organisation:

1. For a business opportunity
2. To pay school fees and other family pressing issues - Access to funds for the prompt payment of your child/ward's school fees as well as other family obligations
3. To carry out a financial project: You may need salary advance loan to carry out projects
4. Help on a rainy day: There are times when you may run short on cash and need a bridge to take you through till your salary arrives
5. Repayment: Monthly repayment is flexible and not exceeding 35% of net monthly salary, depending on the loan and the financial institution you borrowed from.
6. It has limited interest loan payment, far better than a Business loan from any financial institution
7. Requirement for accessing the loan is simple, once you are a full-time employee of government agency or private sector.

How To Apply:

For Most Nigerian Banks

1. You must earn at least N40 000 and must have a salary account with us for at least three months.
2. Minimum loan amount is N20 000.
3. You must have been with your employer for at least six months.
4. You must be 21 years or older (but not older than 60 years when the facility would end).
5. In the case of a contract worker, you need to be contracted to an approved company and must have valid contract terms.

Interest rates:

1. 20,000 to 250,000 – 2.5% per month
2. Between 250,000 to 370,000 – 2.25% per month
3. Between 375,000 to 1,500,000 – 2.08% interest

Documents to present:

1. Confirmation letter
2. Letter from employer
3. Salary domiciliary letter

Please check specific terms with your bank.



This Weeks Top Jobs

[Stanbic IBTC Bank: Company Secretary](#)

Stanbic IBTC Bank is a leading African banking group focused on emerging markets globally. It has been a mainstay of South Africa's financial system for 150 years, and now spans 16 countries across the African continent.

[Sahara Group: IT Support Analyst](#)

Sahara Group nurtures businesses in the energy sector. These companies operate essentially within the energy industry and its associated sub-sectors. The Group consists of individuals, who are determined to make a positive impact on the business environment.

[Uber Nigeria: General Manager, West Africa](#)

started out to solve a simple problem: the need to get a ride across town. Six years and one billion trips later, we've stumbled upon something a bit bigger: a new way to help tackle congestion - one of the most serious challenges cities face today.

[Procter and Gamble: OND Holders Internship](#)

Procter and Gamble is the largest FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) company in the world with strong brands like Pampers, Ariel, Always, Gillette, Oral B just to name a few. We have been in existence for over 176 years globally and 21 years in Nigeria.



Meet The Worlds Top Universities at The QS MBA World Tour, Lagos, Saturday 13 May 2017 - [Register Free](#)

NB Weekly Quiz: Bob Isuo Wins N10,000

Congratulations NigerianBulletin.com member @bob isuo who is the winner of last weeks quiz draw and also to @Khaleesi Dragonfire and @ugwuagbo who are the runners up and both received recharge cards worth N2,500 each.

To take part in this weeks quiz and have a chance to win the top prizes, visit the competition page on NigerianBulletin.com - [Click here](#)

NB Team and contact details

Ese Obajuwana
Samson Oloto
Aderemi Ojekunle
Femi Ogunjobi
Juliana Morgan
Emmanuel Oke
Kemi Busari

Contact Phone: +234 8097 406 456

Contact email: impact@nigerianbulletin.com

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