

PLATEAU STATE IN THE EYES OF HISTORY: DAVID VICTOR DIMKA'S PICTURESQUE



The big question: who is Dimka?

Victor David Dimka was born on October 7, 1960, to his Christian parents, Baba David Dimka and Matwok Elizabeth David Dimka in Plateau Central, both of blessed memory.

Victor is a bringer of luck and glad-tidings, and his conception and arrival in the family ushered in the historic election of his father into the Federal House of Representatives on 12th December 1959. Victor's father distinguished himself in political leadership and representative governance as an Honourable member of the Federal Parliament, Lagos in 1959 and was re-elected in 1964. Later, he was appointed as one of the 50-man committees that drafted the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

As a true chip of the old bloc, Victor was a multiple award-winner right from his early days at Tuwan Primary School in Kabwir district of Kanke LGA in Plateau State. He was an outstanding pupil and athlete all through his primary school days. Victor's trajectory in secondary school from Yakubu Gowon College, Sharam, in Kanke LGA through Government Secondary School, Pankshin in Plateau State was crowned with excellent academic performance upon his completion of secondary education in 1979.

Plateau State was created on the 3rd of February 1976 under the military administration of General Yakubu Gowon with the capital located in Jos. Ranking as the twelfth-largest state and located in the north-centre region of the country, it is arrayed with unique and enviable natural endowments comprising beautiful hills; aesthetically green vegetation, the desired climate, serene environments with touristic attractions among others.

It is divided into 17 Local Government Areas, each comprising of ethnic groups such as the Berom, Afizere, Amo, Anaguta, Aten, Bijim, Bogghom, Buji, Jipal, Irchip, Gashish, Irigwe, Jarawa, Jukun, Kadung, Mupun, Ngas, Youm and others, all of whom are predominantly farmers with rich cultural and ethical values.

Blessed with growth-inclined and altruistic leaders (past and present), peace-loving indigenes and helpers alike, the state with a population of over 3.5 million people enjoys visible and ongoing works of progress. It must thus be emphasized that Plateau State has transformed significantly over the years, especially under the current and dynamic leadership of H.E. Simon Bako Lalong, whose policy focus and governance mission continues to drive development.

Since its inception, the '*Home of Peace and Tourism*' remains unique and relevant in its growth rating, national development contributions and regional improvements; priding itself as an abode of intellectuals and leaders of global repute as it proudly marches on the path of sustained progress despite confronting challenges.

One of its present leaders, a man of global recognition and true son of the soil, who has brought tremendous glory to the state and nation through his strives, strides and statements is Victor David Dimka, DVD is a distinguished personage who has served excellently in the public service for many years with proven integrity, required capacity and needed experience to take Plateau State to the next level of greatness.

Victor was admitted to study Political Science at the University of Jos and graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor's Degree, after which, he proceeded for the mandatory National Youth Service (NYSC) where he served as a prolific Feature Writer with the Nigeria Herald Newspaper, Ilorin, in Kwara State. Later while working, in between his busy schedules, he squeezed time to study and obtained a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Lagos in 1999, and also had a second Master's Degree in Diplomacy and Strategic Studies from the same University in 2014.

Victor has a strong desire for a uniform job and attempted to enrol into the Nigeria Army which didn't come to fruition as expected because Providence had other purposes for him. Undeterred, he later got enlisted in his beloved career, the Nigeria Customs Service after three years of patiently waiting. After the mandatory training at the Customs Training School, in Ikeja, he was commissioned as an Assistant Superintendent of Customs and posted to the notorious Idiroko Border under Ogun State Command. He rose through the ranks in the Service through meritorious work, loyalty and love for a country and became nationally famous for his dogged fight against the smuggling of contraband goods and his outstanding gallantry.

He had within a short time become the nemesis of smugglers and other cross-border criminals and received many commendations from the Service and security organizations for his superlative performances.

During his career, he was posted to Seme Border Command and later to Tin Can Island Command (1996-1999), the Enforcement and Drug Unit (1999-2000) and Lilypond Area Command (2001-2003) where he served as the Command's PRO, the officer in charge of Clean Report of Findings (CRI) and later Personal Assistant to the Area Controller. This distinguished career path saw David Victor Dimka serving his country with pride at the Federal Operations Units, Zone 'A' first as a Deputy Controller, Operations and in December 2010 to 2011 as the Acting Comptroller. He later left for the Institute of Security Studies Bwari, Abuja and bagged the Fellowship of the Security Institute (fsi), to mention a few.

For his exceptional efforts while in service, the gallant officer was a recipient of several coveted awards both at home and diaspora: such as the Africa Merit Gold Award (African Moment Magazine), Anti-Smuggling CZAR (Crime Watch), Area Inspirational Leadership Award for Immense Contribution to Youth and National Development 2011, the Award of Excellence (Global Business Eagle), Best Turn Around Area Controller by Transport Development Group, Commander 9 Brigade Nigeria Army (Brig-General S.W. Muazu Award of Excellence), Controller General of Customs Commendations for improved Anti-Smuggle Operations, June 2011, Crime Reporters Association of Nigeria; Exemplary Leadership in Security Award, Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Economic of Nigeria, Fellow of the Certified Institute of Shipping, Fellow of the Institute of Criminology and Penology, Fellow Nigeria Institute of Management, Paul Harris Fellow, Gold Award by first Eminent Group Board of Trustees, Membership, International Association of Chiefs of Police, USA and National Association of Criminologists & Security Practitioners of Nigeria (Border Security Award).

Victor, who is warm-hearted, vivacious and far-reaching has always been a champion of ploughing his hard-earned resources into projects that will impact positively on the lives of the downtrodden and the uplift of the economy of his community, state and nation. His generousities are vast and varied cross-cutting sectors, and his desire for a new level of stewardship in the state qualifies him out as a personage positioned for Plateau State promotions and progress.

Dimka is well educated and exposed; his penchant for qualitative, affordable and conducive pedagogic environments continue to inspire his regular interventions in the educational sector with many Nigerian students and scholars (both at home and abroad) and diverse academic institutions as beneficiaries. The provisions of brand new buses to his alma mater and the National Association of NGAS Students; building of conducive accommodation facilities for students located opposite FCE, Pankshin; assistance in the development of a secondary school and town Hall respectively in the Kabwir and Garram Communities among others are part of his salutary signature in this sector.

A sportsperson and an avid lover of sports development in the country, Dimka's involvements in sporting projects and programmes are extensive and exemplary. His provision of training facilities, feeding and transportation to sporting venues for long-distance athletes and encouragement of many sportsmen and woman to continually develop their skills and talents and pursue their aspirations in the industry are noteworthy.

Dimka is detribalized, peace-loving, promotional partner, developmentalist, goal-getter and a unifier; and he is also synonymous with several growth initiatives and interventions that have helped to drive poverty, illiteracy, idleness, depression, crimes, and untimely deaths out of the midst of his people. And many across the country are thankful to God for crossing paths with him.

Some of his relatable works include:

- The 'Kanke Resort' stands as a testimony of his rural economy promotions in Plateau State.
- The construction of the NDA Secretariat at Pankshin.
- Drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes in several communities across the state.
- Provision of gainfully employment for many through his agriculture and farm-development projects, especially those situated at Bwari Abuja and Sarkin Kudu in Taraba State.
- Job opportunities and entrepreneurial emergence for starters through his extensive contacts and connections in public and private circles.
- Payment of defraying medical bills, school fees, rents, vocational supports fund, and capacity assisted reach out for the indigent and several others support.

Rising from a noble background that is backed by divine benevolence and hard work, Dimka's compassionate heart and helping hands are constantly improving the lives of his people and state, His assistance in the promotions of effective *Security*, comprehensive *Health Care*, *Education improvements*, *Commerce and trade growths*, *Tourism promotions*, *Agricultural Industrialization*, and *Sustainable Human Development (SHECTAS-scheme)* are ensuring that the peace, prosperity and perpetuity of Plateau and 'Plateauans' remain on-course and secured.

Victor David Dimka (DVD) is a family man, a community leader, statesman, father and loving husband and is happily married to Mrs Maureen Victor Dimka nee Sugh and blessed with two children-Mrs. Jiritmwa Tapgun and Master Timothy Victor Dimka. Without a doubt, Dimka's footprints which are all over the length and breadth of Nigeria depicts the paths of a rare philanthropist.

■ **Courtesy: Solidarity Alliance for Dimka (SOLAD)**

US Consulate- YALI Alumni Celebrate World Environment Day With Schoolkids, Cleans-UP Communities In Lagos

In commemoration of World Environment Day, Acting U.S. Consul General Brandon Hudspeth on Saturday participated in a tree planting event with students of St. Savior's School, Ebute-Metta, Lagos.

Acting Consul General Hudspeth alongside General Manager of the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) Dr. Dolapo Fasawe and Assistant Director at the Lagos State Ministry of Environment Folasade Adeyoju, joined the students to plant a tree on the grounds of the school.

The event was organized by members of the Young Africa Leaders Initiative (YALI) under the auspices of the Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni Association, with the support of a public diplomacy grant of the U.S. Consulate General.

Acting Consul General Hudspeth noted that the tree planting activity underscores the U.S. government's commitment to supporting initiatives that raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment.

"We are thrilled that our YALI alumni are partnering with St. Savior's School for today's tree planting activity. Children have the potential to be powerful agents of change. By focusing on school-aged children, giving them tools and knowledge to change behaviors, future generations will be better prepared to care for the environment," Acting Consul General Hudspeth said.

He expressed optimism that the involvement of the students in the tree planting activity will shape their perspective about environmental conservation and restoration of our ecosystem. He also acknowledged the positive impact of work performed by the YALI alumni to build linkages between different communities and government institutions in Nigeria to promote environmental conservation efforts.

"Our main goal is to implement a campaign that will involve community members, local organizations, and government institutions to inspire and educate Nigerians on the importance of a clean environment for human health and a strong economy," Acting Consul General Hudspeth added.

In her remarks, LASEPA General Manager Dr. Dolapo Fasawe lauded the schoolkids and their teachers for their commitment toward protecting the environment. According to her, tree planting plays an essential role in mitigating the impact of climate change. "Planting trees is one of the most important things we can do to contribute to the health of the planet," Dr. Fasawe noted.

Head Teacher, St. Savior's School, Ebute Metta, Mrs. Lawrencia Izedonmwen, expressed the commitment of the school to promote environmental education and responsibility by creating awareness and empowering schoolchildren in its host community.

Following the tree planting activity, YALI alumni members moved to the Sabo-Yaba community of Lagos for a clean-up exercise as part of activities marking World Environment Day.

*Acclaim Nigeria International Magazine (ANIM), one of United State Mission in Nigeria media partners was among the invitee and covered the event. **ANN***



Tree Planting in Progress



Gift presentation to Dr Fasawe



Acting Consul-General presenting medals to one of the students



His Excellency Brandon Hudspeth interacting with YALI Alumni at the Clean-UP in Lagos



Acting Consul-General with ANIM Boss, Mr Olumide Ogunlade

IT'S TIME FOR A GREEN ECONOMY

ANIM participates in Ecology Expo Belarus 2021

The rapid climate changes witnessed and the dangers it poses across the world and to global diversity are indeed a source of worry to many. Key players in all identifiable platforms of impact are racing to make sure the planet and its inhabitants are safe both now and in the future. Towards this, global players gathered again, in spite of the pandemic threat to save the earth, and ensure sustainability and reduction in climatic impact to the global environment at the Ecology Expo 2021.

Belarus hosted stakeholders from around the world including government officials, the academic and business community, experts, non-governmental organizations and the general public—in addressing environmental problems, to enhance public participation in the environmental movement, and to improve the coordination of efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

This year's three (3) days exhibition and forum themed “**It's Time for a Green Economy**” took place at the Exhibition Centre, Minsk Belarus from June 3rd to June 5th 2021. The Exhibition is the first international specialized environmental exhibition and forum, also the largest environmental event in the country. The environmental forum was aimed at: becoming the largest discussion platform in Belarus on key issues of green economy development, a place for exchange of best practices and achievements in the field of environmental protection at the expert level, rational use of natural resources, and an effective platform for the presentation of innovative ideas and projects.

The goal of ECOLOGY EXPO Belarus 2021 Exhibition and Forum, is to create a communication environment for discussing innovative ideas, exchanging information on achievements in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources, accumulating proposals aimed at strengthening the economy through implementation and use of green technologies, promoting the coordination of efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, involving civil society in environmental decision making. A wide range of high-tech innovative products and turnkey solutions were displayed at the Exhibition and Forum which includes:

Belarus Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Andrei Khudyk, one of the chief hosts was on ground to receive and welcome Exhibitors, visitors, stakeholders, government officials, academicians, business community, experts, non-governmental organizations and the general public. *In his opening remarks he said "Today, environmental issues take center stage in the global agenda. I am convinced that the exhibition and environmental forum will help to involve more people in the green movement, and that our economy will be growing circular and more environmentally friendly," Andrei Khudyk*

The exhibition highlighted the following key areas: Green Technologies in the Industry, Waste and Secondary Raw Materials, Eco-Tourism, Environmental Recovery and Restoration, Renewable Energy Sources, Green Building Technologies, Eco-Transport, Eco-Food And Eco-Packaging, Emerging Technologies For, Wastewater Treatment, National Environmental Monitoring System, Environmental Education, Eco-Friendly Environment.

The event was arranged by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, the BelExpo national exhibition center, the Minsk City Hall, with the support of the project “Civic engagement in environmental monitoring and improving environmental management at the local level”. And, financed by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Program in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, as well as other stakeholders. Plenary Sessions, Business To Business Meeting, Presentations, Musical Interlude, Master classes from chefs on healthy eating, Eco Fair and food court, Green Schools educational Project for Children were among the programme schedules.

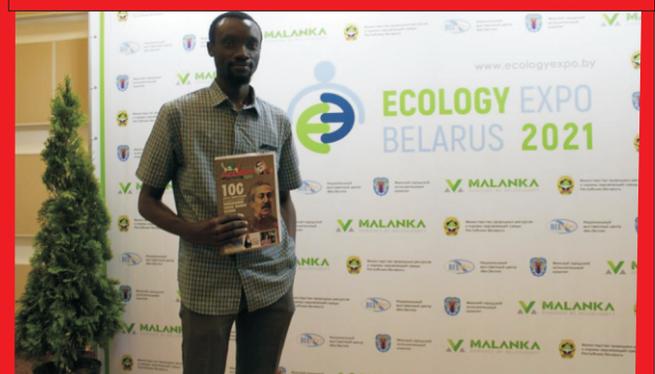
Acclaim Nigeria International Magazine (ANIM) in its supports and promotions of development at all levels was duly represented at the event by one of its senior editors, and the Eastern Europe correspondent, Mr Moses Oyeleye Taiwo. **ANN**



Mr Andrei Khudyk delivering his remarks



13-05 июня 2021
ECOLOGY EXPO BELARUS 2021
Международная специализированная экологическая выставка
XVI Республиканский экологический форум «Вовлечение гражданского общества в принятие экологических решений»



Moses Taiwo exchange pleasantries with Mr Andrei Khudyk (Above Photo) displays Acclaim Nigeria publication at event

A RARE DEVELOPMENTALIST



Nigeria is a great land, with greatness, glory and gaits known and respected around the globe. She is blessed with illustrious sons and daughters who are also making her proud daily and strengthening her status in the comity of nations.

While Nigeria's wheel of progress gradually rolls on, the land is not fully spared the bashing, bruises and bleeding accompanied with nationhood rebuilding and

reforming progress, nonetheless there abound lifesavers and developmentalists who are deeply committed to ensuring that Nigeria remains relevant, recognized and revered in circles that matters. And, one of the proud Nigerians at the vanguard of 'Forward Nigeria' is Dr Olayinka Afolabi

Taiwo Olayinka Afolabi was born April 29, 1962, MON, is a Nigerian business magnate and lawyer. He is the founder and current C.E.O of SIFAX Group, a conglomerate that deals in Maritime, Aviation, Haulage, Hospitality, Financial Services and Oil and Gas.^{[1][2]}

Afolabi was born as the first child of a set of twins in Ondo State, but he is a native of Idokunusi Ijebu in Ijebu East local government area of Ogun State, Nigeria. He completed his primary and secondary school education at Ansar Ud Deen Primary School, Ondo State, and Baptist Grammar School, Ibadan respectively. He later proceeded to the University of Lagos where he graduated with a LLB certificate in Law.^[3]

In 1981, he began his professional career with Nigerian Express Agencies Limited until 1988 when he left to establish SIFAX Group. Upon its establishment, the company has since risen to become one of Nigeria's leading companies with investments in oil and gas, haulage, logistics and maritime and aviation.¹ He is a Fellow of the Nigeria Institute of Financial Management, and the Institute of Freight Forwarders of Nigeria. Afolabi is a Member of the Order of the Niger since 2010. In recognition of his contribution to the Nigerian industrial sector, he was awarded the 2014 "Businessman of the Year" by The Sun Awards. The Taiwo Afolabi Annual Maritime Conference (TAAM Conference) is organized in honor of Taiwo Afolabi by students of the University of Lagos and sponsored by SIFAX Group.

Dr Afolabi is a pioneer, philanthropist, prolific key-player of many productive and profitable contributions across the planet. His many feats have raised Nigeria's rank and profile in the circle of relevance. His bringing and bankrolling the Lagos Marriot Hotel to Nigeria is an all-time applause for a man of many laudable promotions

He is married to Folashade Afolabi and is the father of a Nigerian recording artist.

Dr Afolabi is indeed a Nigerian Pride.

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Large-Scale Migrations Of Nigerians To The Developed World



Migration is currently a dominant topic in global politics. Though policymakers and political leaders are giving it much thought now, the desire to be relevant in society has, since time immemorial, played a significant role in human actions. Migration is an extension of this desire. At the global level, with the emergence of the “global village” as a concept that international relations are anchored on the ability of nations to make themselves relevant to the global community. There is no doubt that many factors give rise to the migration of people. Among them are economic, socio-political, cultural, health and educational as well as environmental issues. But their relative importance as propellers of trans-border migration varies from region to region and even country to country. The underlying causes of migration can be classified into two basic classes: the “push and pull” forces. The former emanates from poor or declining opportunities in terms of commercial or career prospects in a particular state or region. However, it is established in the existing literature that political crisis, ethno-religious conflicts, and the likes are also among the push factors. The latter, i.e., pull forces, is a product of the prevailing socio-economic and other benefits that exist in the anticipated host country of the migrant.

The yardstick for determining what constitutes a pull or push factor in contemporary literature on migration may need more careful analysis in the application of the theory to the African situation, particularly regarding Nigerian migrants in South Africa. This is because the existing analyses of the push and pull theory accepts violence and political crisis as push factors. In the worst-case scenario, people flee their countries because of violations of human rights, ethnic conflicts, or war. Dzvimbo

observed that this has been the case in most African countries and that many people are pushed into migration and enter other countries as asylum seekers or refugees because of ethnic or political conflict. In the case of Nigerian migration, unemployment, violence, environmental degradation, lack of enabling social infrastructure, political repression and extreme poverty have been found to induce large-scale migrations of Nigerians to the developed world. Both per capita income and life expectancy are low. The available facts demonstrate that the problem of poor infrastructure, high birth rate, high rate of unemployment and hunger and starvation date back to the 1970s. Yet currently there is no significant improvement. Nigeria parades a plethora of unflattering socioeconomic indices.

With a poverty headcount of 53.9%, the population of the poor in Nigeria of about 100 million is more than the whole population of Egypt (93m), the Democratic Republic of Congo(79m), United Kingdom (65m), France (64m), Turkey (79m), among others. Nigeria belongs to the low human development category positioning it at 152 out of 188 countries and territories under the UNDP ranking as her Human Development index value for 2015 of 0.514 is below the average for sub-Saharan Africa. Nigeria's life expectancy at birth of 52.8 years is among the worst in the world compared to 60.6 years on average for other low HDI countries and 64.1 years for Ethiopia and 58.7 years for the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is not surprising that the dominant media, political and academic discourses on the demographic mobility of Nigerians see a wave of desperate people fleeing chronic poverty, repression and violence and trying to enter the elusive Eldorado of the developed. Amidst the suffering of the masses and epileptic electricity supply, as well as epileptic public hospitals, public schools, and other public institutions, the political elites appropriate trillions of Naira illegally among themselves in addition to the reckless spending of the huge amount of public fund on trivial and often selfish projects.

It is therefore not surprising that the absence of infrastructure is a major handicap to the social and economic activities of city life in Nigeria. Water is not always available for drinking or for personal hygiene partly due to inadequate water treatment and partly due to poor drainage system and substandard facilities for waste disposal. As mentioned above, the electricity supply, provided by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria, is unreliable. Even in the best areas of large cities such as Lagos, Abuja, and Kano, the electricity often only works half of the time, which means you will often find yourself without lights and air-conditioning. Again, cities in the country suffer from the pollution of the environment. Cities are littered with solid waste from households and sewage lagoons due to the poor nature of infrastructure. This often results in the exposure of disposed of sewage to the open air. Lack of well-structured drainage systems often results in flooding. In addition, city life in Nigeria is pestered with the problem of pollution sometimes resulting from oil and in other cases from industrial gas. Air pollution as a result of industry and oil spillage is caused by poor functioning oil lines.

However, various forms of architecture could be found in the cities of Nigeria. Lagos and a host of other Nigerian cities are known for western and modernized architectural structure. For instance, Abuja is known for its numerous “luxury villas and hotels, apartments and mansions”, and in the African continent, it is regarded as one of the most expensive cities. Yet, as precisely portrayed by one writer, “the peripheries of Nigerian cities are shantytowns, or slums, that consist of huts and makeshift churches, schools and bars; Abuja's Toge, Lagos' Makoko and slums in other cities do not portray a pretty picture of Nigerian city life.” To sanitize the situation, but without consideration for the poor masses, Nigerian authorities bulldozed at least 800,000 homes in the slums of Abuja since 2003.

Compared with cities in developed countries, city life in Nigeria is marred with insecurity and tourists are among the worse victims. State capitals and major cities are gradually becoming violence centers and criminal activities. A major issue of this ugly development is the bad image this insecurity gives Nigeria internationally and its implication for the flow of investments and tourism into the country. It has been observed that if the outside world gets the impression that Nigeria is unsafe and ungovernable, not only will the country suffer the loss of revenue and income, but also opportunities to be given international responsibilities such as a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. Consequently, there is an urgent need for both immediate and long-term investments and strategies to be put in place and implemented, to reverse the situation and achieve national security and development.

It is also imperative to state that migration has its own social and economic contributions both in positive and negative terms. While internal migration has seen more positive inputs than that of international migration, it is believed to be one of the major causes of social vices such as increased populations, urban prostitution, street urchins and beggars and the problem of waste management in the major towns and cities among others. International migration on the other hand, especially that of the elite, although numerically not impressive, is widely associated with a large-scale capital flight, in which large parts of the country's oil windfall is transferred to foreign bank accounts and invested abroad. While legal migration outside the shores of Nigeria has benefitted many host countries because of the societal, cultural and economic inputs of the Nigerian migrants to those environments, Nigerians in diaspora have also been a huge source of national development (at home).

However, illegal migration has caused more pain than gain with attendant deaths and misfortune as regular occurrence. Trafficking in irregular migrants, previously a rare phenomenon is on the increase as young persons become involved in daredevil ventures to enter Europe. Individual stowaways risk their lives hidden on ships going to southern Europe, or as far away as eastern Asia. Many others seek political asylum, citing abuse of human rights in their home countries. For most migrants in pursuit of higher education, employment or survivability, illegal migration to other countries is inevitable. Forced labour, abuse of rights, torture and slavery and trafficking of female sex workers for remittance-driven wealth are among the dangers of this often-undocumented migration of people and all hands must be on deck to stem this global scourge.



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