



MINNESOTA INSTITUTE FOR  
NIGERIAN DEVELOPMENT  
**(MIND)**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 2025**

**UNISON BANQUET**

8100 WHITE BEAR AVENUE,  
MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109



## NIGERIAN ANTHEM



Nigeria, we hail thee,

Our own dear native land, Though  
tribe and tongue may differ, In  
brotherhood we stand,

Nigerians all are proud to serve

Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol

That truth and justice reign, In  
peace or battle honoured, And this  
we count as gain, To hand on to our  
children A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,

Grant this our one request, Help us  
to build a nation

Where no man is oppressed, And  
so with peace and plenty Nigeria  
may be blessed."

## AMERICAN ANTHEM



Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's  
early light, What so proudly we  
hail'd at the twilight's last  
gleaming? Whose broad stripes  
and bright stars, thro' the perilous  
fight,

O'er the ramparts we watch'd,  
were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the  
bombs bursting in air, Gave proof  
thro' the night that our flag was  
still there.

O say, does that star-spangled  
banner yet wave O'er the land of  
the free and the home of the  
brave?



HIS EXCELLENCY  
**BOLA AHMED TINUBU** GCFR  
PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

# W E L C O M E A D D R E S S

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE MINNESOTA INSTITUTE  
FOR NIGERIAN DEVELOPMENT (MIND) BY **MR OLALEKAN OBADIYA**  
AT THE OCCASION OF THE 65<sup>TH</sup> NIGERIA INDEPENDENT ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



**MR OLALEKAN OBADIYA**  
**P R E S I D E N T**

**O**ur special invited guests, presidents of Nigerian ethnic and cultural associations in Minnesota, religious leaders, members of Minnesota Institute for Nigerian Development (MIND), my fellow Nigerians, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. It is with a great sense of honor and humility that I welcome you to the 65<sup>th</sup> Nigeria Independence Anniversary Celebration. We give thanks to God the Almighty for the many blessings he bestowed on us, our family and our nation Nigeria, we also thank God for America. America the beautiful is the country where God has planted our feet to blossom. It is by the special grace of God that Nigeria is here today to attain this milestone. I believe that God in his infinite wisdom and mercy has made this possible because he has a purpose for our nation despite all the troubles along the way. Congratulations to every Nigerian on this Independence Day celebration.

The theme of this year's independence celebration is Unity in Diversity. Our planning committee came up with this theme after MIND started the first in the series of documentaries focusing on Nigerians in Minnesota with a focus on the history

of how MIND was formed as the Nigerians Umbrella Organization, where we are today as a community, and what we want our legacy to be in the eyes of the coming generations. One of the lofty ideas that was conceived by our fore fathers was to establish a community bank. MIND was that cohesive and strong at the time. Let us pause for a second and think about that, let us reflect on what Nigerian community would have look like if we had had our own Community Bank, the financial opportunities that would have abounded, and how the establishment of a financial institution would have raised the status of Nigerians in Minnesota through easy access to loans and grants for business. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be at that time. Personally, the findings of this first documentary were an eye opener to me. Please, I encourage you to visit our Web Site and watch these documentaries by yourself.

MIND is currently working on the next in the series of the documentaries, this will shed the light on the Nigerian community, with emphasis on the activities of our tribal and cultural organizations. We have worked and will continue to work tirelessly to restore MIND back to an enviable position in the committee of National Organizations in Minnesota. We are working hard to meet the needs of our people. We help those that are in desperate need of family help and support. Recently, we prevented the deportation of one of our country men to another country even when he was ready to go back to

Nigeria due a health challenge by facilitating his smooth and empathic return to his family before his deportation date, and we also facilitated his rehabilitation back at home. We hope he will soon be in the position to return to the US to come and complete his doctoral degree if he chooses to. I will like to thank everyone and organizations in the community who contributed towards this assignment. May the God continue to increase you.

MIND, with the support of some members of our community also spearheaded the burial of the husband of one of our international students who suddenly died after a brief illness while he was visiting his wife. He was buried here immediately in total respect of his religious belief and right after due consultation with his family. We represent and proudly hoist our Green-White-Green flag at international events along other immigrant communities where only the national organizations of these communities are invited. Our members are encouraged to explore and invest back home, many opportunities are abound in Nigeria. We walk slowly but surely stronger together with one purpose so that no one is left behind. We try to avoid past mistakes, by doing away with any non-progressive ideas, and embrace new and progressive ideas instead. On our part as the executives of the organization, we are servant leaders, we are leading the organization with a laser focused transparency and accountability. These were the only things I promised the community during the campaign before I was elected as the president along with my wonderful executive members. So far so good, our approach is working as old MIND members are returning, new and young members are also joining this Nigerians umbrella organization.

MIND is for all Nigerians living in Minnesota, and with the increased of the numbers of active members comes with increase logistic responsibilities. For instance, we know that many of our tribal and community organizations are doing fantastic job in their immediate communities back home in Nigeria, they know their native communities better, hence, we would continue to rely on them in this regard, but we need to be in the position to give them the necessary support. We are currently working towards the acquisition of a Nigerian Community and Cultural Center (The Nigerian House), a center that will serve as a home away from home to every Nigerian in the state of Minnesota. It will serve as resource center to people that want to know about Nigeria, a place where our elderly parents can meet daily for appropriate programs rather than using the television for companionship while we go to work. It will be a hub where our youths can meet and learn about our multi-cultural customs, foods, history, and our way of life, so that they can uphold our cultural heritage. Nigeria is proudly home to about three hundred ethnicities in the heart of West Africa, and the most populous black nation on earth.

On behalf of the MIND family, I would like to thank some of our community members that have donated money towards this project (The Nigerians House), those who have pledged annual donation and have promised to continue to do so until we achieve our aim, and those who have promised to answer our call. Let us walk together, though we may be slow but together we will achieve our set goal. Let us remember that our unity is our strength. With Nigerian Americans and American Nigerians, we are about 22000 strong in Minnesota. Let us put our strength to work, God will help us.

In closing, I would like to thank our sponsors for this year independence celebration, past presidents of MIND, devoted and dedicated executives and leaders, the planning committee, and the ever-vibrant MIND members. And to our guests, thank you for coming, we greatly appreciate your presence and contribution. I wish those who have traveled both far and near to attend this event a safe journey back to their destination.

**God bless us all  
God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria,  
and God bless the USA.  
Thank you.**

## PROFILE OF THE 18TH CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF ARMED FORCES OF NIGERIA



**GENERAL CHRISTOPHER  
GWABIN MUSA OFR**

**Chief of Defence Staff  
of the Armed Forces of Nigeria**

**G**eneral Christopher Gwabin Musa was born on December 25, 1967, in Sokoto State in northwest Nigeria, he hails from Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State. He had his elementary and secondary education in Sokoto State despite coming from Kaduna State. In 1986, the distinguished Senior Officer proceeded to the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna for his military training. General CG Musa was commissioned as a second lieutenant into the Infantry Corps of the Nigerian Army as member of the 38th Regular Course on 21 September 1991. Since his commissioned, General Musa has attended several military and civil courses amongst which are the Mechanical Transportation Officers Course – 1992; Young Officers Course (Infantry) – 1993; Regimental Signal Officers Course – 1998; Junior Staff Course at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College Jaji – 2000; Senior Staff Course at the Armed Forces

Command and Staff College Jaji – 2004 – 2005; Advance Diploma in Defence and Strategies Course (China) – International; College of Defense Studies National Defense University (ICDS-NDU) – Chang Ping China 2013, MSc (Military Science) – ICDS-BDU (China) – 2013; National Defence College at ICDS (China) – 2013 and the Combined Joint Land Component Commander's Course on Leadership at the US Army War College – 2017.

In the course of his career, General CG Musa has held several appointments, amongst them are Platoon Commander at 192 Bn in 1991; Intelligence Officer at 192 Bn from 1993 to 1994; Administrative Officer at 2 Div Camp (Garrison) from 1995 to 1999; Pioneer Adjutant 195 Bn – 2000; Operations Officer – NIBATT 8 UNAMSIL between 2001 to 2002; 195 Bn 2ic from 2002 to 2003; 149 Bn 2ic from 2005 to 2006; General Staff Officer 1 Training/Operations at HQ 81 Division 2006 to 2007; Commanding Officer 73 Bn from 2007 to 2009; Assistant Director Operational Requirement at Department of Army Policy and Plans from 2009 to 2011; Infantry Representative/Member Training Team at HQ Nigerian Army Armour Corps – 2011 to 2012; Deputy Chief of Staff Training/Operations at HQ Infantry Centre and Corp – 2013 to 2014. Chief

of Staff at HQ 2 Division – 2014 to 2015; Commandant Depot Nigerian Army – 2015 to 2017; Principal Staff Officer (Combat Arms) at Army HQ Department of Projects and Programmes – 2017, Pioneer Executive Director Nigerian Army Farms and Ranches Ltd – 2017, Commander 82 Division Task Force Brigade OP LAST HOLD in the North East – 2018; Commander Sector 3 OP LAFIYA DOLE – 2019; Comd Sect 3 Multinational Joint Task Force in the Lake Chad Region – 2019; Chief of General Duties TRADOC – 2019 to 2020; Director Campaign Planning AHQ DATOPs – 2020; Director Training AHQ-DATOPs – 2020; Senior Research Fellow, Nigerian Army Resource Centre – 2021; Theatre Comd JTF (NE) Op HADIN KAI 2022 and Commander, Infantry Corps, an appointment he held from January 2023 till his appointment by the President as the 18<sup>th</sup> Chief of Defence Staff. General Musa is the immediate past Chairman of ECOWAS Chiefs of Defence Staff.

In terms of successes recorded in Operations General Chris Musa, as the Theatre Commander for “Operation Hadin Kai,” ensured that his troops reclaimed the upper hand after more than ten years of fighting Islamist insurgents in the northeast. His tenure saw the troops decimate many insurgents while many others surrendered to the sustained fighting power of the troops which deny the insurgents freedom of action in the general area of the operation. Other Operations attended by the Senior Officer include OP MESA; OP SECOND HEAVEN; OP FOCUS RELIEF, (Joint Training/Ops with the US Troops) – 2000; United Nation Mission in Sierra Leone from 2001 – 2002; OP HAKURI – 2002 to 2003; OP SAFE CONDUCT – 2007; OP RESTORE HOPE – 2007 to 2008; OP SAFE CONDUCT – 2015; OP AYAM APATUMEH – 2018; OP LAST HOLD – 2018; OP LAFIYA DOLE – 2019; Multi-National Joint Task Force Lake Chad – 2019; OP KANTANA JIMLAM – 2020 and JTF (NE) Op HADIN KAI – 2021.

General CG Musa has the following qualifications, honours and awards to his credit. These are BSc Hons NDA – 1990; Advance Diploma in Security Management at University of Lagos – 2008; Masters in Military Science at the International College of Defence Studies (ICDS) -National Defence University (NDU), China –2013; Diploma in Defense and Strategy ICDS-NDU China – 2013. The honours and awards include UNAMSIL Medal – 2002; Passed Staff Course (psc) – 2004 – 2005; Forces Service Star – 2003; Meritorious Service Star – 2009; Distinguished Service Star – 2015; Fellow Nigerian Institute of Management – 2008; Member Nigerian Institute of Industrial Security – 2008; General Operation Medal – 2009; Command Medal (CO 73 Bn) – 2009; Chief of Army Staff Commendation Award – 2009; Silver Jubilee Medal – 2010; Meritorious Service – 2012; Fellow-NDU (ICDS-NDU)-Chang Ping China – 2013; Centenary Medal – 2014; Distinguished Service Star – 2016; Training Support Medal – 2017; OP LAST HOLD Medal – 2018; OP LAFIYA DOLE Medal – 2019; MNJTF Medal – 2021; Grand Service Star (GSS) – 21 Sep 21; Field Commander Medal of Honour (FCMH) – Jun 21 and Operation HADIN KAI Medal (OPHK) – Jun 21; Armed Forces Distinguished Star. General Musa was also conferred with National Honour of the Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic in 2023.

The distinguished Senior Officer is married to Mrs. Lilian Oghogho Musa and the union is blessed with four children. General Musa enjoys giving service to humanity.

# HON. HULDAH MOMANYI HILTSLEY

## Official Biography



**H**on. Huldah Momanyi Hiltsley is a trailblazing leader, public servant, and global advocate for equity, innovation, and inclusive development. She currently serves as the **Minnesota State Representative for District 38A**, making history as the **first Kenyan-born legislator elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives. Representative.**

Hiltsley's legislative priorities center on **housing, public safety, education, healthcare access, workforce development, and mental health policy.** She is widely recognized for her ability to unite diverse voices, build bipartisan coalitions, and champion policies that promote transparency, equity, and sustainable community growth.

She holds **three undergraduate degrees**—International Business, International Relations, and Reconciliation Studies—and **an MBA in Global Business Management.** This academic foundation, combined with her lived experience, equips her to navigate complex global, political, and economic landscapes with insight and vision.

Beyond elected office, Rep. Hiltsley is a **global data privacy and compliance professional** with Boston Scientific, a leading medical device

manufacturer. In this role, she ensures compliance with international regulatory frameworks such as **GDPR** and **HIPAA**, safeguards sensitive data, and advances ethical global business practices. Her expertise at the intersection of **technology, governance, and international business** positions her as a trusted voice in conversations about cybersecurity, healthcare innovation, and market access.

She is also the **founder of Stronger Together Leadership, LLC**, a platform dedicated to empowering leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers through mentorship, training, and cross-border collaboration. A passionate advocate for African diaspora engagement, Rep. Hiltsley recognizes its critical role in fueling billions in remittances, investment, and entrepreneurship across the continent.

Her leadership and impact have been recognized with multiple honors, including the **Trailblazer in Global Civic Leadership & African Representation** from the Myogenic. She is also a sought after speaker at high-level gatherings on governance, diaspora engagement, innovation, and gender equity—sharing her insights on how good governance, credible politics, and inclusive economic strategies can drive sustainable growth in Africa and beyond.

She is a sought-after speaker at high-level gatherings on **governance, diaspora engagement, innovation, and gender equity**, offering a unique perspective shaped by her Kenyan heritage and global professional experience.

From grassroots organizing in Kenya to shaping policy in the United States, **Hon. Huldah Momanyi Hiltsley** continues to be a **bridge-builder**—connecting communities, countries, and continents to create a future rooted in opportunity, dignity, and shared prosperity.

**Contact:**  
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# *Happy Birthday*

TO OUR  
MOM AND GRANNY,  
AND NIGERIA

ON THEIR

# *65<sup>th</sup>*

YEARS MILESTONE.

CONGRATULATIONS!

From Patrecia Ogbeide-Ihama.



► Hollies Winston ◀

THE BROOKLYN PARK  
MAYOR & FAMILY

*Congratulates*

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on their

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INDEPENDENCE DAY  
CELEBRATION





# ANIOMA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION IN MINNESOTA

## SUPPORTS

### MIND ON THEIR INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION





# Egbe Omo Oduduwa Minnesota



The People of Yoruba Heritage in Minnesota  
rejoice with all Nigerians on the

**65<sup>th</sup>**

**ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION OF NIGERIA INDEPENDENCE**

**Though Tribes and Tongues may Differ,  
in Brotherhood we stand.**

**LONG LIVE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA!**

**Asa ati Ise wa lagba**

***Our Culture and Work Are Supreme***

**[www.oduduwamn.org](http://www.oduduwamn.org)**

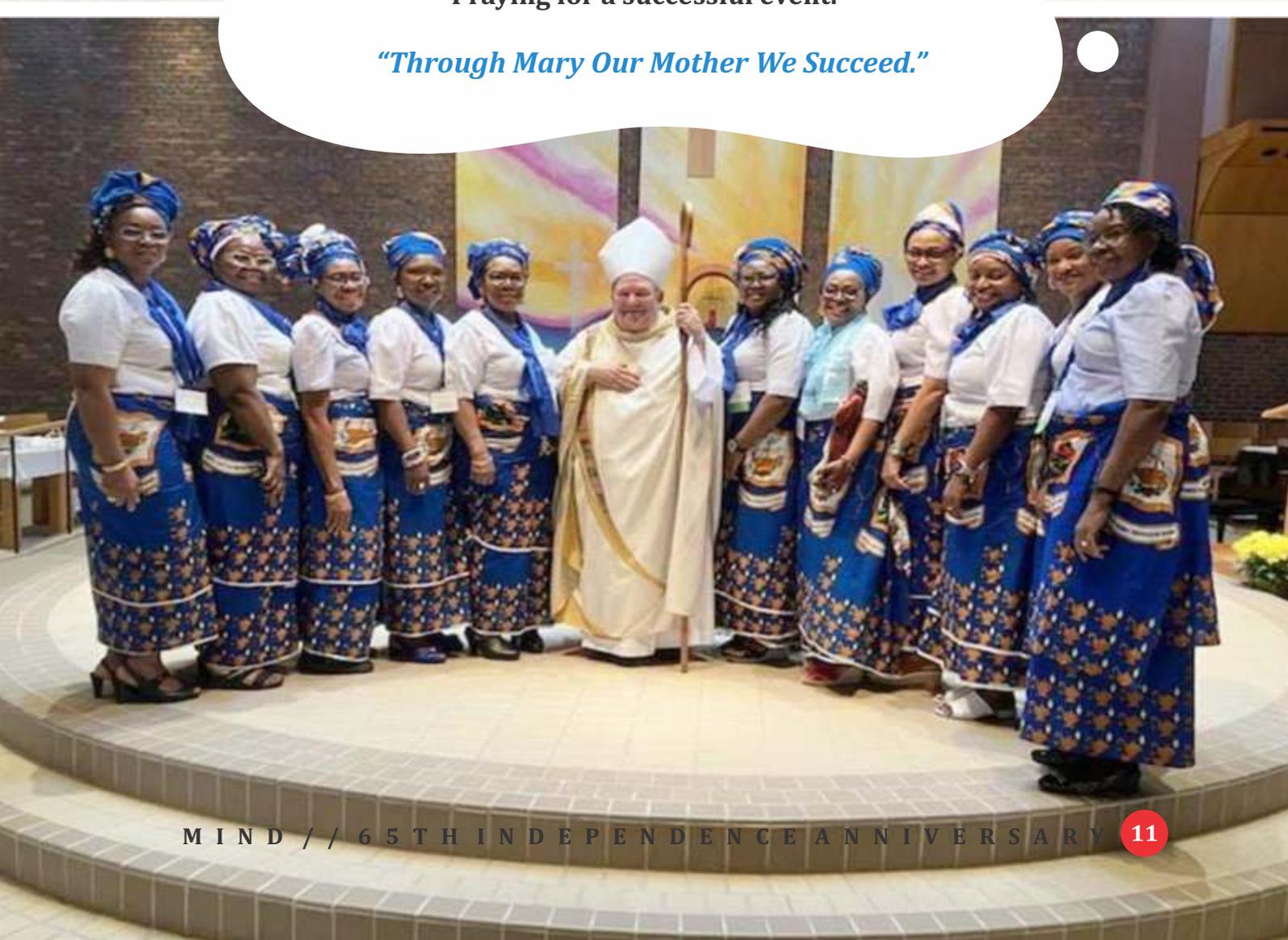


**Catholic Women Organization  
of Minnesota (CWOMN)**

*Felicitates*

with our brothers and sisters of MIND  
as we celebrate **Nigeria's 65th Independence Day.**  
Praying for a successful event.

*"Through Mary Our Mother We Succeed."*





Owerri Daughters Association  
of Minnesota

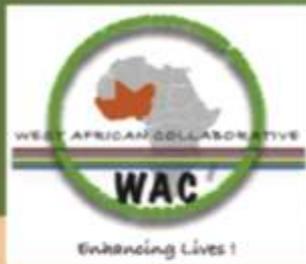
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on their

**65<sup>th</sup>**

**NIGERIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.**



# WEST AFRICAN COLLABORATIVE

West African Collaborative is a community-based nonprofit that delivers business and workforce development services in Minnesota through its member organizations and their extended community networks.

The members of the West African Collaborative are themselves umbrella organizations for African immigrant community networks from ten of the 16 West African country communities present in Minnesota.

The ten country communities represented in the West African Collaborative are: **Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.**



*West African Collaborative wish to congratulate Minnesota Institute for Nigerian Development - MIND 65<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary.*

[www.wacmn.org](http://www.wacmn.org)



**Nigeria American  
Public Affairs Committee,  
Minnesota Chapter (NAPAC-MN)**

**C O N G R A T U L A T E S**

**MIND**

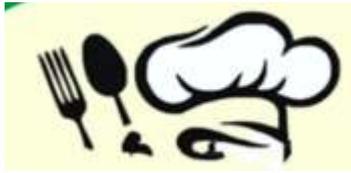
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**Sika Lawson**, along with her parents, **Dr. Fatima and Roger Lawson**, join the Nigerian Community in Wishing Nigeria the very best as she turns 65! Moving towards empowering and creating wealth and independence for its citizens, *Now You're the Boss*, a self-help book, has been carefully written towards that goal. Please make it a point to buy and read the book, for you will not regret it. Also visit [sika@makolaa.com](http://sika@makolaa.com)/[Makolaamediahouse.com](http://Makolaamediahouse.com)

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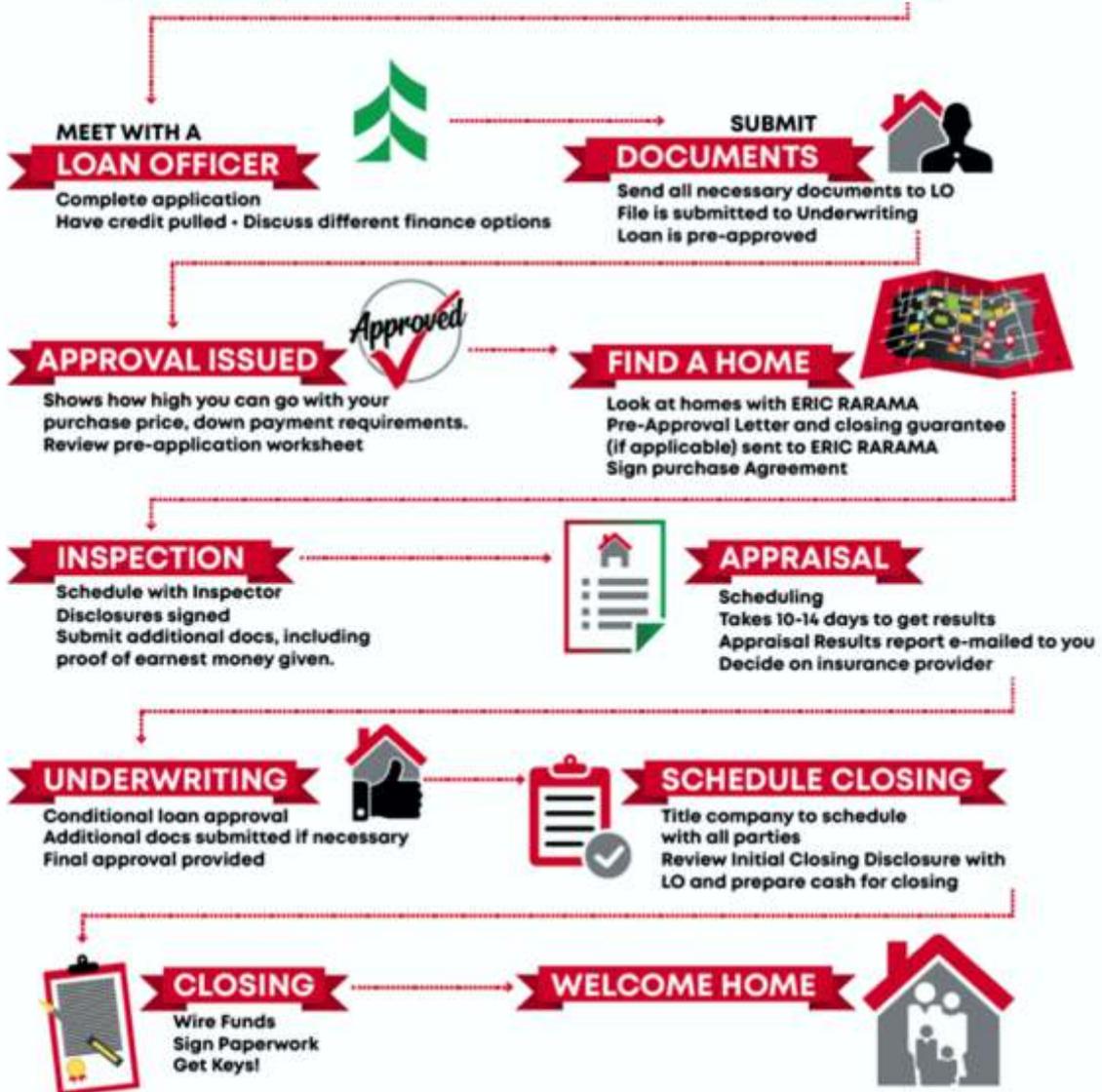
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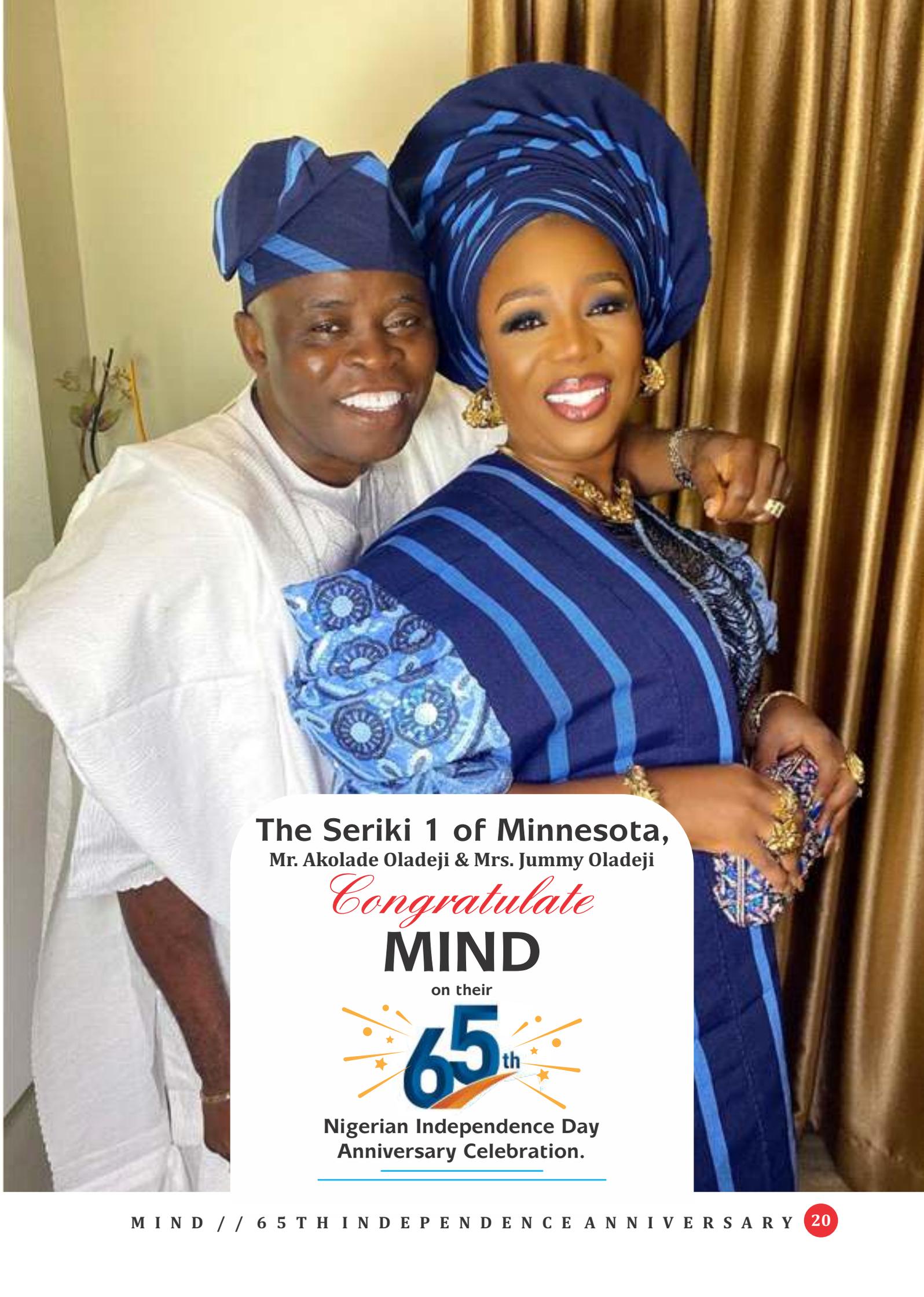
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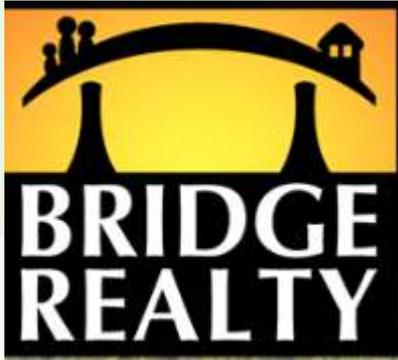
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**65<sup>th</sup>**

INDEPENDENCE DAY  
CELEBRATION

**The family of Grace Mobosi-Enwesi  
extends heartfelt congratulations  
to MIND as we celebrate **Nigeria's 65th Independence Day!****



*Ekene dili Chukwu! Thanks be to God!*

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MINNESOTA INSTITUTE FOR NIGERIAN  
DEVELOPMENT (MIND) AND ALL NIGERIANS ON THE

**65TH ANNIVERSARY OF NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE**



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[E. nwaneri@nwaneri.com](mailto:E.nwaneri@nwaneri.com)

Website: [nwaneri.com](http://nwaneri.com)

[E. unwaneri@nwaneri.com](mailto:E.unwaneri@nwaneri.com)

A portrait of Mrs. Pat. Amajuoyi, a woman with glasses and a large, dark blue, textured headwrap. She is wearing a dark blue, sequined top. The background is a light blue and white geometric pattern.

The President of  
Obinwanne Mbaise  
Minnesota,

**Mrs Pat. Amajuoyi**

*Congratulates*  
the President of MIND and  
MIND in general at the celebration  
of Nigerian Independence.



*Chief*  
**Richard & Lolo**  
**Angela Ikeri**

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MR. & MRS MAFE



**Mr. & Mrs Mafe**

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**all Nigerians in the state of Minnesota on the**



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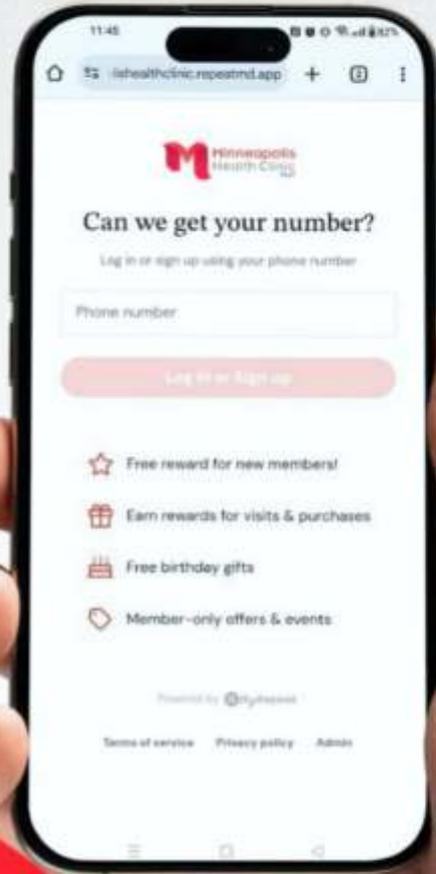
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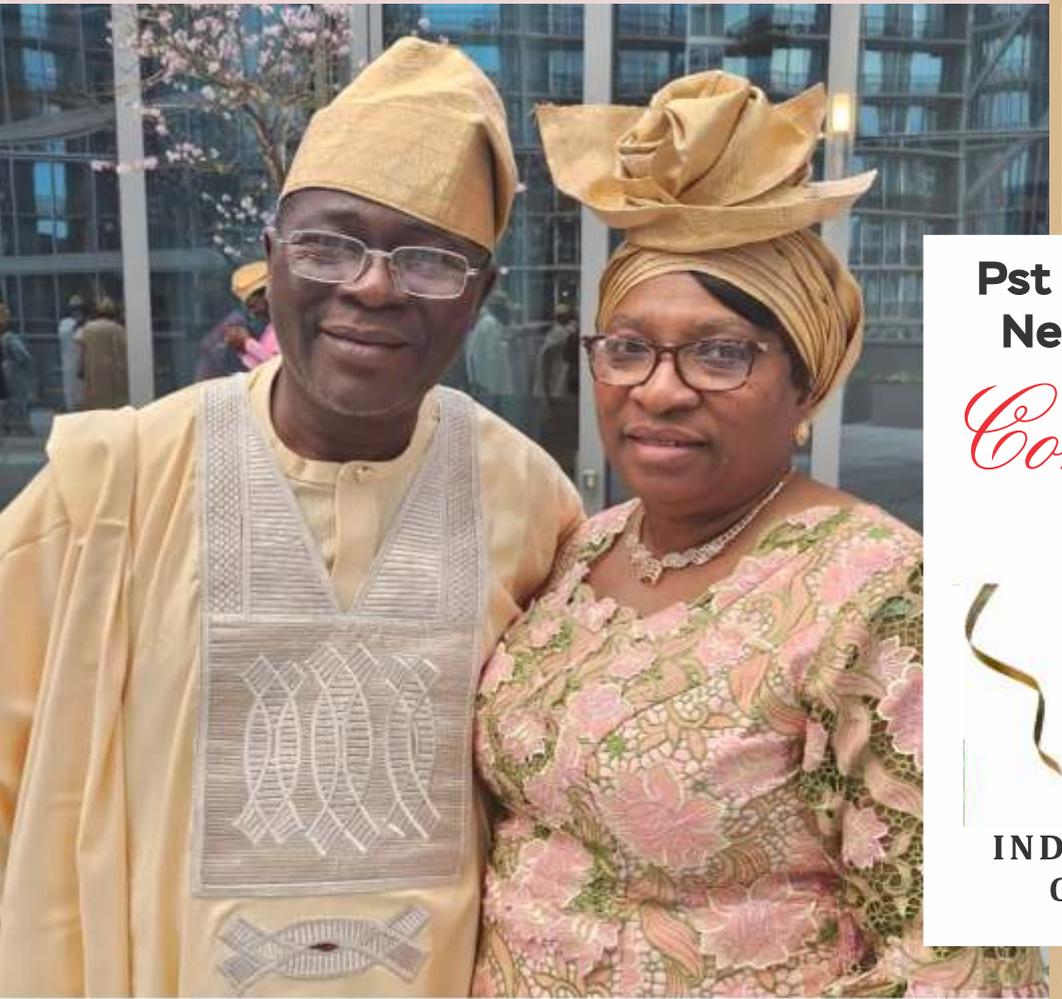
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on their

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**Pst & Mrs Bayode &  
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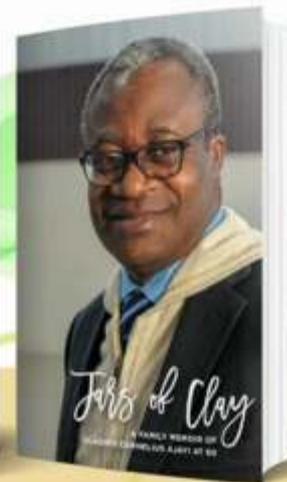
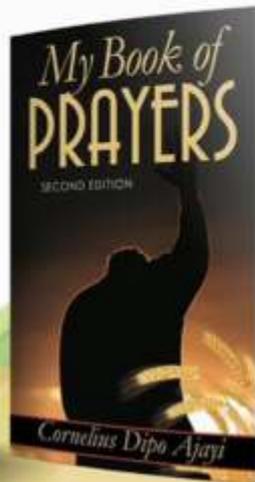
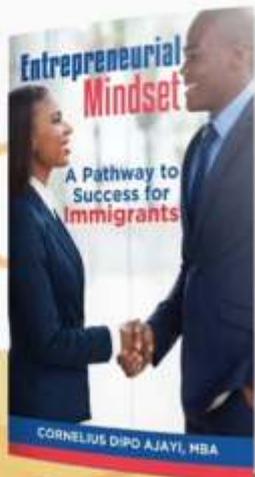
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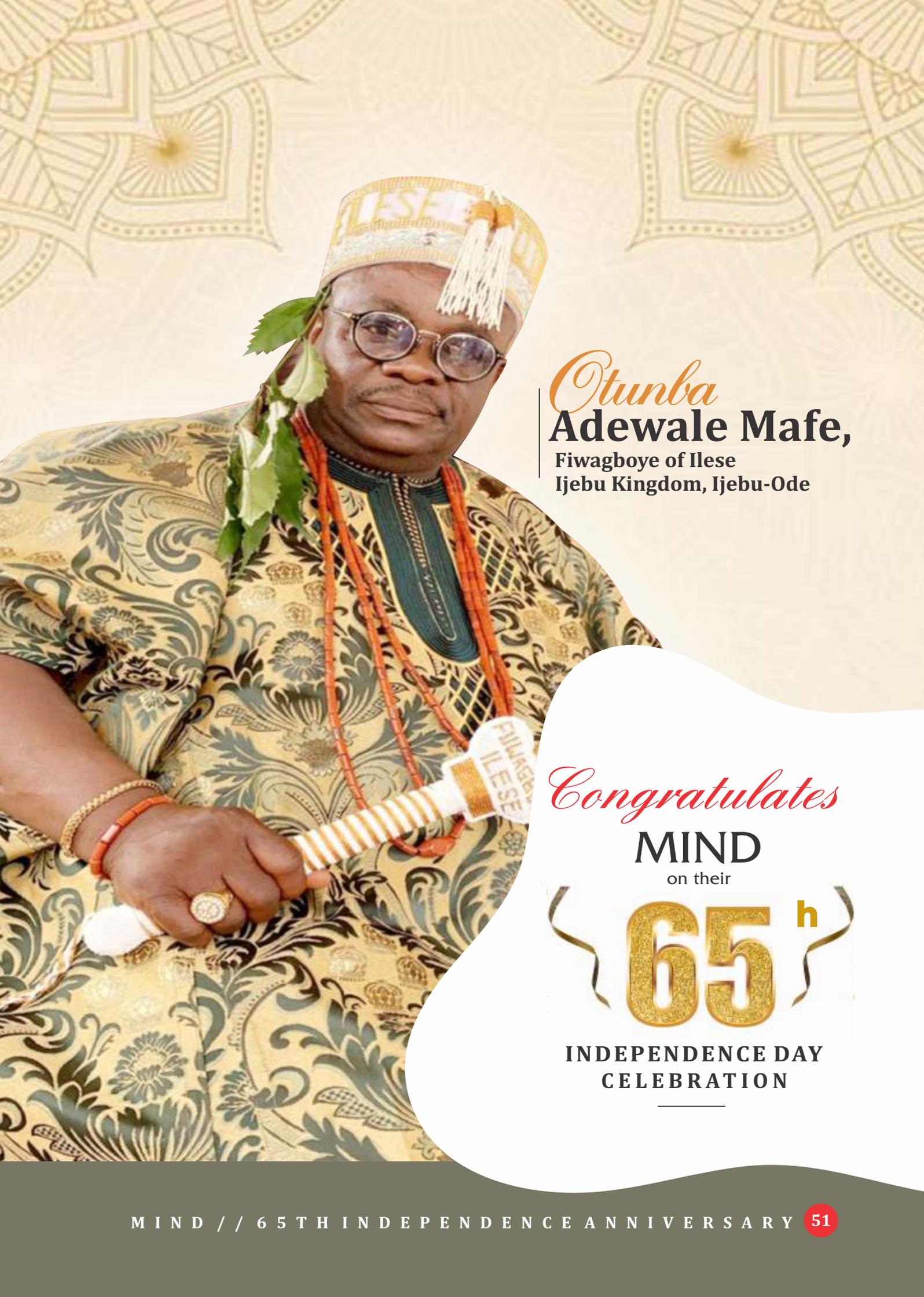
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