O
nce in a while, she wonders in a
whispering soliloquy, “could this
be true of me?” Indeed, many months
after Bolanle Adeyemo, 16, a sickle-
cell patient got a reprieve from the
pains and punishment of this deadly
disease, she is still in a daze. Every-
body around this junior secondary
student, including her father, Tunji
Adeyemo, remembers her ordeals.
But all the bitter details, her troubles
and trauma are fully stored in her
teenage memory. She lived with con-
vulsive bouts, resulting from agony in
her joints and bones. She was like a
walking corpse, a shadow of a living
being. “I felt odd among my brothers
and sisters, even among my friends,”
she said, adding that her parents al-
ways kept vigil over her. Hospital, for
her, was home. “I could describe the
hospital more than I could describe
my house, because I stayed more in
the hospital,” she told TELL. Like all
captives of the sickle cell disorder,
Bola’s crisis was her doctors’ night-
mare. Her story has a familiar ring of
abiku, a Yoruba mythical sick child
who makes mess of a native healer’s
prowess. The more relief she savours,
the more relapse she suffers.
Yet, the financial cost of a short-
lived relief is not a child’s play. Drugs
are generally expensive but sickle
cell patients pay more, because they
consume much to buy a little lease of
life. Only last year, a couple in La-
gos allegedly murdered their sick son
because they could no longer cope
with the medical cost of keeping him
alive. The embattled couple Adekunle
and Margaret Ogunsuyi, of 52 Oku-
nowa Street, Agegunle, Lagos, al-
legedly pushed 13-year old Omoniyi
into the canal beneath the Coconut
Bridge around Ajeromi Ifelodun lo-
cal government area of Lagos. When
the Ogunsuyis were later arrested by
security operatives, Police Corporal
Okubena began to beam scientific
searchlight on the sources of Jubi’s
strength. It started with clinical tests
carried out at the Golden Heart Hospi-
tal, 410 Ikorodu Road, Ojota, Lagos.
Charles Obinwanor, the hospital’s
medical director, was initially skep-
tical. But the skepticism was swept
aside by the astounding revelations
produced by his tests. Jubi contains
essentially blood normalising proper-
ties. The medical director tried it on
himself. His documented testimony:
“Quite often in the past, fatigue
was my problem, but after using the
herbal blood tonic, I discovered I’m
now invigorated, bouncing with vital-
ity. Also, I have found it to be a diuret-
ic, that is, it promotes the excretion
of urine as well as being sedative.”
The orthopedic physician has healed
himself with traditional medicine! More
anaemic patients were sought for a
blood count test. Jubi was adminis-
tered on them on a thrice daily dos-
age of three table spoons. A week
later, they were taken to the laboratory
for re-examination. Results showed
that Jubi restores blood-level rapidly
and, as such, can substitute as blood
transfusion for blood sapped patients.
The tests further showed that patients’
packed cell volume (PCV) went up by
15 per cent within 24 hours of using
the drug.

The scientific investigative odys-
sey is scintillating. And it continues. A
pharmaceutical product analysis was
done at LUTH. Again, Jubi was dis-
covered to be rich in carbohydrates,
proteins, iron, tannins, saponins and
alkaloid. This was succeeded by a
rather robust experiment undertaken
by a team of experts, which comprises
V. A. Okochi, C.I. Igwillo, U. Arukwe
and A. Dare, all of the department of
Bio-Chemistry, College of Medicine,
LUTH. They examined safety and ef-
cacy of this tropical plant processed
into herbal compound. The first round
of tests were done on rats, which were
infected with parasitic fluid to induce
anaemia in them. They were treated
with Jubi. Two weeks later, the white
cells were regularised, while the anae-
mia was put into check. These initial
findings were later confirmed when
anaemic rats had their haemoglobin
level restored within four days after treating
them with Jubi. With the established

A BOOST FOR TROUBLED BLOOD
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was nothing, at least, compared to the
reproach and stigma of fathering con-
victs of fate which sickle cell patients
have become. The inability, over the
years, of both orthodox and traditional
medicines to provide a rescue has sen-
tenced them into a lifetime imprison-
ment with anguish. Yet, about 25 mil-
lion Nigerians are languishing in this
jail house of health. They all bear their
Cross with equanimity, since death
appears to be the only freedom from
the captivity of the disease. Thus , Bu-
kola was merely waiting for the worst
and hoping for the better. It was in the
midst of such contradiction that her
father heard of the incredible tales of
some carriers walking out of bondage
after taking some dosages of a local
herbal preparation called Jubi. Of a
special interest was the story of John,
a known patient whose crisis came to
an end barely three days after drink-
ing from the herbal concoction. There
were other testimonies. But it all
sounded like a fairy tale to Adeyemo,
a man who has watched his daughter
gasping for breath for 16 years. Be-
sides, he himself has been clutching
at straws in search of a lasting relief.
Thus, he chose to sieve out facts from
the whirlwind of weird claims. He
got in touch with Olajuwon Okubena,
chartered accountant, who had earlier
administered the herbal drug on sun-
dry carriers of sickle cells. He bought
some packs of Jubi which had already
been capsulated then. Three days af-
ter Bola started using the drug, her
countenance changed. She was no
longer the dizzy, fatigued and fever-
ish girl. Seven days later, her crisis
seemed to have ceased. Indeed, for
the first time since her childhood, she
was free from the daily consumption
of folic acid, anti-biotic, anti-malaria
and anti-rheumatic drugs. She also
bade farewell to blood transfusion, all
western medicine’s recipe for relief.

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Charles Obinwanor, the hospital’s

potency of this native medicine, its manufacturers advertised it on the internet, offering free trials of Jubi on all kinds of diseases - sickle cell, hypertension, impaired bone marrow and all types of cancer. By then, the powdery form of Jubi had been capsulated. Elsie R. Vergara, an associate professor, College of Health and Rehabilitation Service at Boston University, Massachusetts, USA, saw the promo on the web. She placed an order. Her husband was admitted for Acute Myeloid Leukemia at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston. After some months in this infirmary, Elsie’s husband was discharged to go and wait for death at home. He was given only two days to live. But when the professor got hold of Jubi, her husband’s life span was prolonged for one month. Though the man died eventually, Elsie testified to the ability of this tropical plant thus: “The Jubi formula definitely stabilised his haematocrit for as long as he took it and it may have prolonged his life for a few weeks. Having been able to keep him alive for a month after they thought he was going to die was worth it.”

The fact that Iyabo Oye, a Lagos businesswoman, now lives a healthy life is evocative of a painful past which Rotimi Ajanaku still remembers - a past full of pain and fatigue. Now, Ajanaku, an artist, is, at present, bereft of general weakness in his body - TELL learnt of many Nigerians with already diagnosed cases of high blood pressure, infertility and diabetes cured by this cocktail of herbs. Is Jubi then a cure-all compound? So it seems. At least, studies have shown that it works against any ailment that has to do with the blood. It is indeed, a veritable boost for the troubled blood. Obinwanor explained that the native drug works at “molecular and cellular levels.” On his part, Femi Dawodu, a pharmacist said, “What Jubi does is to help maintain and improve the immune system. “If, for instance, the white blood cell is low, then one’s immunity diminishes. The blood helps all parts of the body to understand each other and co-ordinates functions.” He explained that Jubi does not fight the diseases directly, but builds up the strength of the white blood cells to checkmate foreign agents. Does Jubi have any side-effects? “None has been discovered,” Obinwanor noted. “Generally, said Dawodu, director, Novelle Pharmaceutical Limited, Lagos, side effects of herbal medicines are low, if there is any at all, because they are natural herbs.” The only minus of local herbs therapy, the pharmacist said, is the volume and frequency of use. But that has already been taken care of because Jubi is capsulated.

With the proven potency of this local herb to heal immune maladies, experts hope it may assist AIDS patients as well. Already, Okubena said it has been tried on some HIV cases. But nothing categorical has been achieved in this area yet. Notwithstanding, Oloidi equates Jubi with a divine provision to relieve man from some afflictions and sicknesses which have for long defied cure.

No doubt, this herbal solution works fast: it is also a fact that permanent cure does not come after a few dosages of it. Mokeme testified that a patient’s condition can deteriorate if he discontinues with the formula too early. For example, when Enoh kept away from Jubi for some months, her cancer festered rapidly until she later returned to this nature’s own remedy. Both Obinwanor and Okubena agreed that some cases like sickle cell would require prolonged use, ranging from two to three months to attain a crisis-free status. And this is true of Bola and other ex-mates of ill-health.