Buhari Rejoices with Femi Otedola on 60th Birthday

Deji Elumoye in Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari felicitated businessman, philanthropist, and Chairman, Geregu Power. Plc, Mr. Femi Otedola, on his 60th birthday anniversary today. Otedola would mark the event on the French Riviera aboard the 99.13-meter-long Christina O Yacht, once owned by the Late Greek shipping tycoon, Aristotle Onassis.

Buhari, in a statement issued yesterday by his media adviser, Femi Adesina, joined the Otedola family, friends, and associates to celebrate the milestone.

Buhari gave thanks to the Almighty God, "Who has showered Otedola with grace for business success and prosperity, clearly reflected in his knack for investments in key sectors of the economy, like oil and gas, shipping, real estate, finance, and energy."

The president affirmed that Otedola's interest in the real sector, creating employment for many, supporting infrastructure development, and opening opportunities for others to thrive was an asset to the country. He highlighted Otedola's interventions to help individuals, families, and the underprivileged.

Buhari celebrated Otedola for always honouring calls to national service, serving as a member of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Council (NIPC), and National Economic Management Council, and consistently providing a sounding board for economic and development policies.

The president prayed that God would keep the investor and his family in good health and strength.

The National Peace Committee (NPC) recently appointed Otedola as one of its members. He was also recently appointed Chancellor of Augustine University.

Continued on page 5

Crisis over Oloto Stool as Remi Tinubu Allegedly Imposes Aide... Page 50

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UN Lauds Obasanjo's Role as Ethiopia, Tigray Sign Peace Deal... Page 5

2023 Elections Won't Be Decided in Paris or Dubai, APC Mocks PDP, Atiku

●Says opposition party is drowning ●Kicks off campaign in Jos November 15

Adedayo Akinwale in Abuja

The Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) of All Progressives Congress (APC) has told the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar, to stop gallivanting around the world, because the 2023 presidential election would not be decided in Paris, Washington or Dubai, but in Nigeria by Nigerians.

The campaign council dismissed PDP as a drowning party, as APC resolved to flag off its presidential campaign, ahead of the 2023 elections, in Jos on November 15.

Director of Special Media Projects and New Media, Tinubu/

Continued on page 5

Melaye Scolds Shettima, Says Presidential Villa Not for Bandits

●Atiku: We're yet to resolve PDP crisis, but we've moved ahead ●Declares no cabal will run his govt

●Insists call for Ayu's removal untimely, counterproductive

●Promises to support death penalty for kidnappers as president

Chuks Okocha in Abuja

One of the spokespersons of the Atiku/Okowa Presidential Campaign Council, Senator Dino Melaye, chided the vice presidential candidate of All Progressives Congress (APC), Kashim Shettima, saying the presidential villa is not meant for bandits.

This is just as the presidential candidate of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2023 elections, Atiku Abubakar, yesterday, admitted that though the crisis rocking the party had yet to be resolved, he had moved ahead to commerce his campaign for the presidency.

Speaking to the Voice of America (VOA), Hausa Service, in Washington DC, Atiku insisted that the call for the removal of the party's national chairman, Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, was ill-timed and counterproductive.

The former vice president promised that his government, if

Continued on page 5



CONVENING ON IMPACT INVESTMENT IN LAGOS...

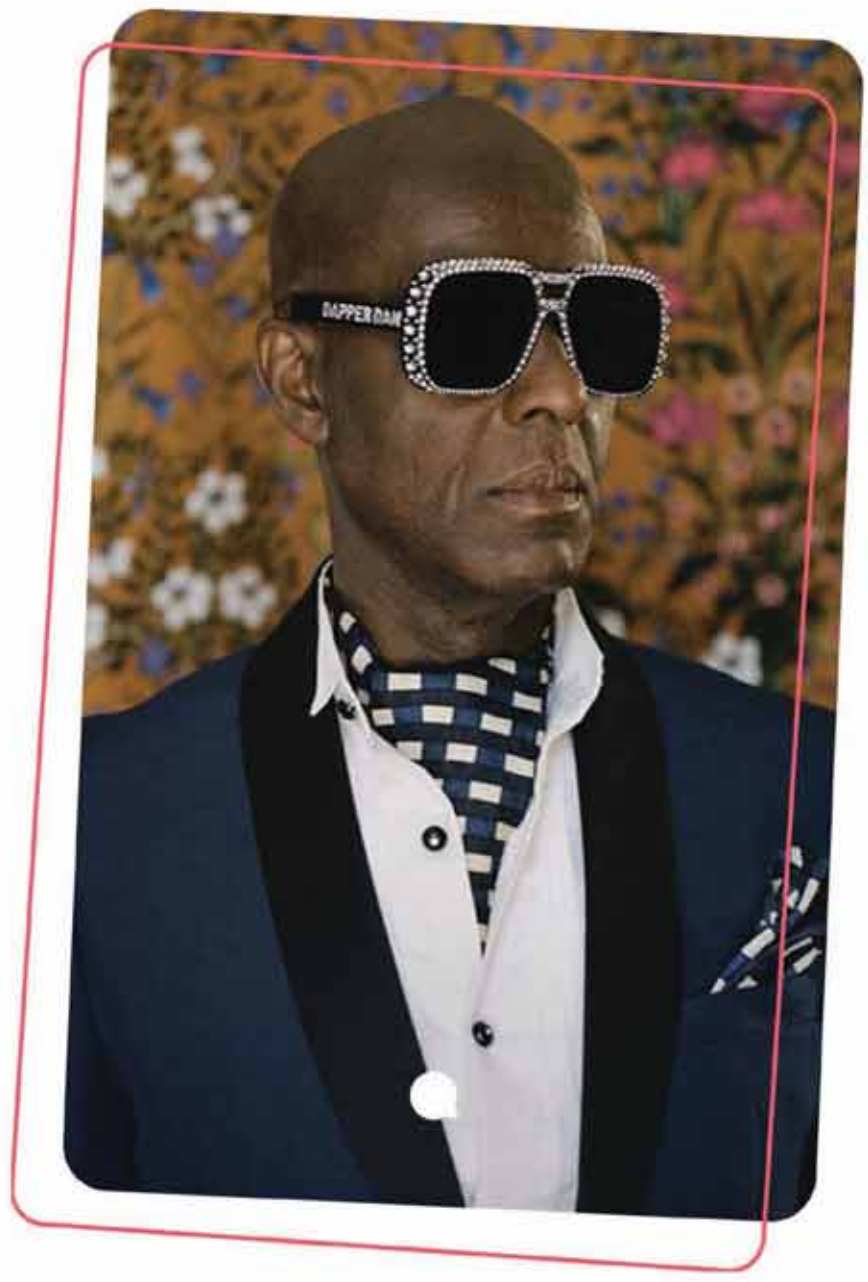
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A legend with something of an everlasting influence on high fashion, Daniel Day, better known as Dapper Dan, is widely regarded as the godfather of streetwear.

A self-taught tailor, the musically minded, energetic style Dan popularised laid the foundations of hip-hop's visual identity. With his famed store on 125th Street in Harlem, Dapper Dan pioneered high-end streetwear in the 1980s, remixing classic luxury brand logos into his own innovative, glamorous designs, which saw many celebrity clients over the years including Eric B. & Rakim, Salt-N-Pepa, LL Cool J, Missy Elliot, Naomi Campbell, Diddy, and Jay Z.

Whether it is dressing music's coolest stars or highlighting his signature aesthetic at fashion's biggest events, Dapper Dan has firmly cemented himself as a formidable tastemaker, designer, and creative. In 2017, the high-end luxury fashion powerhouse, Gucci, teamed up with Dan on a collaborative line of menswear inspired by his archive, released a limited-edition book, "Dapper Dan's Harlem", and made him the face of #GucciTailoring. Dan also had a hand in standout outfits from the 2019 Met Gala which saw the designer deck out Ashley Graham, Regina Hall, and Karlie Kloss in custom Gucci x Dapper Dan.

His bestselling memoir, "Dapper Dan: Made in Harlem," is a poignant, yet inspiring story of how Dapper Dan evolved as a cultural icon, fusing street style with high sartorial elegance. He has been featured on notable platforms such as The New York Times, Elle, Vogue, Vanity Fair, The New Yorker, CNN, the Smithsonian Museum, the Museum at FIT, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art, among others.

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PAGE FIVE

UN Lauds Obasanjo's Role as Ethiopia, Tigray Sign Peace Deal

●600,000 lives lost to conflict ●It's new dawn for Africa, says ex-Nigerian leader ●Represents important step towards peace, says US

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

The Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, yesterday took special cognisance of the critical role played by Nigeria's former president, Olusegun Obasanjo, towards the signing of a peace deal between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

Following efforts by the ex-Nigerian leader, the parties in the conflict in Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray have now agreed on a "permanent cessation of hostilities" just more than a week after formal peace talks began in South Africa.

The development, according to the US State Department spokesperson Ned Price, "represents an important step towards peace."

"We applaud the parties in their commitment to peace in reaching this agreement. The United States remains committed to supporting this African Union-led process and peace and to partnering to advance peace in northern Ethiopia."

Negotiations began on October 25 in Johannesburg and concluded after 10 days.

The deal calls for the disarming of Tigrayan forces, with both parties agreeing to "permanently silence the guns." The parties agreed to "stop all forms of conflicts and hostile propaganda," calling Ethiopians within the country and abroad to support efforts for lasting peace.

The deal followed a truce to end the conflict that has killed thousands of people, displaced millions and created a desperate humanitarian crisis in northern Ethiopia.

The African Union's mediator announced the "permanent cessation of hostilities" following talks in Pretoria, South Africa, almost two years to the day since the start of the war.

"Ethiopia's government and Tigray authorities have agreed on an orderly, smooth and coordinated disarmament. Today is the beginning of a new dawn for Ethiopia, for the Horn of Africa and indeed for Africa as a whole," Obasanjo declared.

According to him, the two sides have also agreed on: "Restoration of law and order, restoration of services, unhindered access to humanitarian supplies and protection of civilians".

"This moment is not the end of the peace process but the beginning of it. Implementation of the peace agreements signed today is critical," Obasanjo added.

Diplomatic efforts to bring to the negotiating table the government of Prime Minister , Abiy Ahmed and the TPLF – a guerrilla movement turned political party which dominated Ethiopia for 27 years – intensified after a five-month truce was broken in late August and fighting resumed.

In a statement released by his spokesperson, Stephane Dujarri, Guterres said the agreement signed in South Africa represented "a critical first step" towards ending the brutal two-year war.

The UN chief added that it was a promising start to finally stopping the fighting which erupted in November 2020 after months of tension.

"The secretary general urges all Ethiopians and the international community to support the bold step taken today by the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Tigrayan leadership," he said.

The secretary-general pledged his support to the parties in the implementation of the deal.

He also urged both sides to continue with negotiations on the outstanding issues in the spirit of reconciliation in order to reach a lasting political settlement.

The UN said the war had led to a de facto blockade of Tigray, with humanitarian supplies of food and medicine unable to get through throughout most of the last two years.

Guiterres said it was a promising start to finally stopping the fighting which erupted in November 2020 after months of tension which had destroyed so many lives and livelihoods.

"The secretary general urges all Ethiopians and the international community to support the bold step taken today by the Federal Government of Ethiopia and the Tigrayan leadership," the statement said.

The secretary-general pledged his support to the parties in the implementation of the agreement.

The UN chief urged both sides to continue with negotiations on the outstanding issues in a spirit of reconciliation in order to reach a lasting political settlement.

He appealed to all stakeholders to seize the opportunity provided by the ceasefire, "to scale up humanitarian assistance to all civilians in need and to restore the desperately needed public services."

Guterres commended Obasanjo, the AU and its high-level panel for the facilitation of the peace talks and South Africa, for its key role hosting the peace talks.

"The UN stands ready to assist the next steps of the African Union-led process and will continue to mobilise much-needed assistance to alleviate suffering in the affected areas," he said.

"We are ready to implement and expedite this agreement," said the head of the Tigray delegation, Getachew Reda, who added that they had "made concessions, because we have to built trust."

He also expressed gratitude to Obasanjo and other mediators, saying in a statement the government's commitment to the implementation of the agreement was strong.

"Our commitment to peace remains steadfast. And our commitment to collaborating for the implementation of the agreement is equally strong," the statement said.

The negotiations in Pretoria were the first formal dialogue between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF since the conflict began. Secret contacts were held previously in Seychelles and Djibouti, according to a Western official.

The AU said in a statement it stood ready to continue accompanying the Ethiopian peace process "towards a more democratic, just and inclusive Ethiopia in which youth, women and men participate fully and in peace".

"The lasting solution can only be through political engagement and being able to accommodate our differences, our diversity, while still remaining a united Ethiopia. The lasting solution can only be dialogue," said former Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta, a co-mediator in the talks.

The two-year war led to the deaths of more than 600,000 people and the internal displacement of millions of others.

BUHARI REJOICES WITH FEMI OTEDOLA ON 60TH BIRTHDAY

Otedola's daughter, Ifeoluwa, "DJ Cuppy", had posted videos on her Instagram page on Wednesday showing the business tycoon, his wife, and children celebrating at a private, intimate soiree, off the coast of Italy on the famous yacht, which has a rich history and has hosted some of the world's most historic figures.

Plying the seas first as a World War II Canadian frigate and then as a private luxury vessel starting in 1954, the Christina O is a piece of floating history. Aristotle Onassis purchased the vessel in 1954 and named it after his daughter Christina. When Onassis married Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy, in 1968, the couple held their reception on the Christina O.

The yacht also hosted famous guests, such as former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, former US President Franklin Roosevelt, Jr., John F Kennedy, Music legends, Frank Sinatra, Elizabeth Taylor, and a host of other influential personalities around the world.

2023 ELECTIONS WON'T BE DECIDED IN PARIS OR DUBAI, APC MOCKS PDP, ATIKU

Shettima PCC, Chief Femi Fani-Kayode, made the assertions in reaction to the statement credited to one of the spokespersons of the PDP Presidential Campaign Management Committee, Senator Dino Melaye.

Melaye had described the APC vice presidential candidate, Senator Kashim Shettima, as "grand commander of bandits".

Melaye also alleged that Shettima was aiming at establishing an office for the Boko Haram terrorists at the presidential villa if the APC presidential candidate, Bola Tinubu, won the election in 2023.

But Fani-Kayode, in his reply, described Melaye's outburst as absolute nonsense, saying, "These are nonsensical words, spoken on behalf of a nonsensical man, who is running a nonsensical campaign."

He stated that the allegation against Shettima was absurd and designed to terrify the people and make them feel that APC was a party of terrorists and that the party's candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, condoned terrorism.

Fani-Kayode stated, "The assertion that Dino Melaye is making is at the consequences of the failure of his candidate's campaign within and outside Nigeria. They went to America, they went to France, they went all over the world, crawling in the corridors of those in power in the places they went and nobody was prepared to see them or discuss with them.

"So, they are drowning fast and instead of focusing on the issues and stay at home the way our candidate (Tinubu) is going. What they are doing is throwing stones, hauling bricks at us, insulting us and making absurd claims about our presidential candidate and our vice presidential candidate.

"But let me remind them that at the end, it is Nigerians who will decide. It will not be decided in Paris or Washington or Dubai, it will be decided by Nigerians. All I want them to know is that we are going to defeat them at the polls and that is what matters to us."

On the allegation that Shettima was the commander-in-chief of Boko Haram, Fani-Kayode said the allegation had been investigated over and over again, and proven to be false.

The APC presidential campaign director said, "Senator Kassim Shettima is a refined, decent and Godly man, who simply wants to help his nation and ensure we move forward as a people. If you look at his record in Borno State as a governor, before he went to serve as senator, you will see what he did.

"If you look at his successor in office, Prof. Babagana Zulum, he, too, is doing a great job in Borno. That is not a legacy of a terrorist. What we have in Borno is a legacy of a great leader, that is what Shettima stands for.

"For anybody to try to smear his name this way is a reflection of that person more than anything else. Not only was it a reflection of Melaye himself, it is also a reflection of the man (Atiku) he is speaking for.

"I can tell you that Atiku Abubakar is a traitor, who continuously betrayed everybody that has worked with him, including President Obasanjo, late Gen. Yar'Adua, late President Yar'Adua, including APC and the PDP.

"His record of public office is betrayal. At the end of the day, he'll betray PDP again. You remember, he betrayed the governors of his party. He broke his words and Dino Melaye is saying this is the man that should be President of our country. No way!

"The truth is that Kassim Shettima is 100 times a better man and we will prove that at the polls. We will defeat Atiku even in his local government area in Adamawa State by the grace of God."

Meanwhile, the timetable and schedule of activities of APC sighted by THISDAY showed that the party scheduled to hold a town hall meeting with agro and commodity groups in Niger State on November 7, while Inter-faith town hall meeting would be held on November 9. The party scheduled another town hall meeting for Calabar on November 12.

According to the schedule, on November 21, APC will hold a rally and South-east stakeholders' meeting in Imo State, and hold a similar rally and meeting in Kwara State for North-central on November 22.

The party's town hall meeting with CSOs in Edo State is slated to hold on November 28, with a rally scheduled in Enugu State on November 29, and another in Sokoto on November 30.

On December 1, the party would hold a rally in Rivers State and on December 3, it would hold another rally and South-west zonal meeting in Lagos, while slating "international engagements" between December 4 and 10.

On December 12, the party would hold a rally and North-west zonal stakeholders meeting in Kaduna, from where the campaign train would move to Benue State on December 13, before berthing in Ondo State on December 15. It slated a rally of its youth campaign team in Abuja on December 17.

On December 19, the party would hold a rally in Bayelsa State, with another rally in Zamfara State on December 20, while a town hall meeting with the creative arts industry will take place in Lagos on December 21, and a musical concert will be held on December 22.

The ruling party's campaign train will hit Kano on January 4, and it will move to Edo State on January 5, and berth in Ebonyi on January 7, while Oyo's rally is slated for January 9. The campaign train will move to Yobe State on January 20, while Akwa Ibom will play host to the campaign team on January 12, and that of Nasarawa will be held on January 14.

The party's rally in Abia State will take place on January 17, while Gombe State's rally and North-east zonal stakeholders' meeting are scheduled for January 18. Taraba State will host a similar rally on January 19 and Jigawa will host the rally on January 21.

The campaign team will move to Bauchi on 23, Osun on 24, and Niger State on 26. Similarly, Cross River State's rally and South-south zonal meeting is scheduled to hold on January 28, while the Anambra State rally is slated for January 30.

The timetable showed that there would be rally in Kebbi State on February 2, Ekiti State February 2, Kogi State February 4, and Kastina State on February 6.

On February 8, 2023, there will be a rally and musical concert in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

The Borno State rally is schedule for February 9, Kano State February 11, while the Lagos rally, which will be the last, is scheduled to hold on February 13.

The PCC will use the period from February 12 to 24 next year for "election planning", the schedule of activities revealed.

Director of Police Research and Strategy Directorate of the Tinibu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council (PCC), Dr. Musa Babayo, said yesterday that the ruling party was ahead of all the other political parties.

Babayo stated this during the inauguration of members of the directorate. He said the directorate was responsible for focusing the robust manifesto document, "Renewed Hope", into its most critical elements and engaging in the formulation of strategies as to how to attract Nigerians to the Tinubu/Shettima ticket.

Babayo noted that the directorate would help to ensure that the campaign focused its message on the most contemporary challenges that Nigerians were facing today around the economy, security, and other key issues.

The Agro Commodities Directorate of the PCC also promised to mobilise of 25 million farmers to deliver Tinubu in next year's election. The director, Hon. Abubakar Kuka, while speaking at the inauguration of the 60-man committee, said the event would avail the farmers the opportunity to participate in the process that would bring in "Renewed Hope" for all farmers across the country.

MELAYE SCOLDS SHETTIMA, SAYS PRESIDENTIAL VILLA NOT FOR BANDITS

elected president next year, would not be manipulated by any group of persons intent on controlling the affairs of state, either as cabal or under whatever nomenclature. He declared his prospective administration's support for the death penalty for kidnappers.

Melaye, in a statement, said, "Overwhelmed by the conviviality of a civil atmosphere, Kashim Shettima, the grand commander of bandits and the running mate of the presidential candidate of All Progressives Congress (APC), who has gathered enough funds from his field soldiers to be so intoxicated as to engage in a verbal gibberish that is only permissible in Sambisa forest.

"He has been seen in a footage, where he was exciting a rented crowd with whimsical pot shots at His Excellency, Atiku Abubakar. It was the same hallucination that made Shettima to have defined an illusory presidency, where he would create an office for Boko Haram in the villa, with him in charge of the security of our precious Nigeria.

"The emergence of the garrulous, intemperate and indecorous Shettima is another manifestation of the failure of APC, which after weeks of shilly-shally to fill the slot of a running mate, ultimately, settled for a rustic jejune, whose concept of a suit is the sartorial equivalence of babanriga.

"The joke rested squarely on Shettima, who in an attempt to desecrate the wholesomeness of Abubakar Atiku succeeded in promoting the presidential campaign front runner as a productive, enterprising and job-creating office seeker, who does not fit into the mould of rent seekers like Shettima and his presidential campaign boss."

Melaye urged Nigerians to critically assess those he described as jesters in the political space whose understanding of political campaign was the acerbic deployment of an unsterilised mouth, adding that, in attempting to cast aspersions on Atiku's high profile, Shettima only succeeded in promoting him as a global citizen, who was well acceptable in Dubai.

Meanwhile, Atiku, who spoke to VOA's Head of Hausa Service, Aliyu Mustapha Sokoto, during an exclusive interview at the radio station in Washington, said, "You won't find any cabal in my government. It is me, Waziri (Atiku), that will run the administration."

The PDP presidential hopeful had visited America to hold discussions with US government officials on issues confronting the country, including insecurity, economic drawbacks, and the 2023 elections.

He told the VOA that in order to tackle the problem of insecurity, an overhaul of the constitution was imperative.

According to him, "We would confront this issue by convoking a constitutional review so that states and local governments, to whom we intend to give the imprimatur to run their security affairs, would be able to do so. But this requires a rejig of constitution.

"Before we embark on this, we intend to employ more boots on ground, especially, in the area of policing and civil defence, all of which we want to equip properly."

The former vice president explained that his administration would work closely with the judiciary to ensure speedy trial of offenders, pointing out that he would support the imposition of death penalty for terrorism related offences.

Although Atiku did not talk elaborately on his current relationship with his erstwhile boss, former President Olusegun Obasanjo, the PDP candidate said his disagreements with Obasanjo, when they were in office, was one of the factors that cost him victory in his bid for the presidency in 2011.

On the planned redesign of the naira by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) under the current APC administration, Atiku said he knew nothing about it.

But on the issue of Nigerian oil refineries, he said, "My position on this is not new. I have told you some years ago that I will privatise them. The reason is simple. If you allow investors to own them, they would be better managed."

He added that private investors had the capacity to overhaul the refineries and make them functional at all times.

On corruption, he said the rule of law would be applied to make sure those found guilty were sanctioned appropriately.

"This would demonstrate to Nigerians that our government means business," Atiku said.

The PDP presidential candidate also spoke on the internal squabbles rocking his party. He acknowledged there was no reconciliation in sight yet, saying, "We are yet to resolve the matter. But we have moved ahead. Our train has moved. We leave the dislocations to the dust bin of history."

He said he did not support the removal of the party's chairman, as this was not a clever move on the eve of elections.

Atiku stated, "It is not proper at this time to contemplate a change of leadership of our party, whereas we are approaching the elections season."

But he expressed confidence in the ability of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct free and fair elections in February next year.

"This is because we have seen how they conducted two elections in Ekiti and Osun," Atiku told the VOA. He added, "In both cases, we have praised them for good outings. In addition to this, President Buhari has assured us that he would allow transparent, free and fair elections to be conducted in 2023."

NEWS

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CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN NB PLC AND CROSS BOUNDARY ENERGY...

L-R: Supply Chain Director, Nigerian Breweries Plc, Martin Kohl: Legal Director/Company Secretary, Uaboi Agbebaku; Finance Director, Ben Wessel Boers; Chief Commercial Officer, Cross Boundary Energy, James Shoetan and Senior Business Development Manager, Cross Boundary Energy, Ugochukwu Nwankwo, during the contract signing ceremony between NB Plc and Cross Boundary Energy on renewable energy (Solar) expansion for its Ibadan Brewery and Ama Brewery Plants held in Lagos… yesterday SUNDAY ADIGUN

FG Targeting Chinese, Portuguese, Turkish Loans to Complete Rail Projects, Says Minister

Sunday Aborisade in Abuja

The Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo yesterday said the federal government was expecting to complete the ongoing rail projects across the country with multi-billion dollar loans from financial institutions based in China, Portugal and Turkey.

Sambo stated this when he appeared before the joint National Assembly Committee on Land and Marine Transport, chaired by Senator Danjuma Goje.

He explained that the ministry was committed to the implementation of the Nigeria Railway Modernisation project.

He said the railway network was being progressively expanded through yearly budgetary appropriations since the federal government was facing challenges in securing counterpart funding through loans.

The minister said, "Currently, the implementation of the Kaduna-Kano, Port Harcourt to Maiduguri and Kano - Maradi Segments of the Railway Modernisation is ongoing with the federal government counterpart funding in the 2022 appropriation.

"The ministry hopes that the Federal Ministry of Finance concludes negotiation of the loans with infrastructure development finance institutions of the Chinese, Portuguese and Turkish origin to implement the projects.

"To ensure finalising and signing of the loan agreements, evidence of source of funding of the balance of the advance payment and other aspects of work to be financed directly by the federal government has to be made available to these financial institutions through adequate budgetary provisions in the year 2023 budget and subsequent budgets."

He also said the Lagos - Ibadan segment of the Lagos - Kano and Itakpe to Warri railway projects were fully operational and receiving patronage from the general public.

To reach practical completion on the projects, the minister said some aspects of works, including construction of overpass bridges, connection to the national grid and other ancillary provisions had to be completed.

He said, "Adequate funds need to be provided in the 2023 budget to facilitate the practical completion of the projects.

The minister lamented the sad occurrence on the Abuja - Kaduna Rail incident earlier in the year and said plans were ongoing to resume service there.

He said, "With the release of those abducted, the Ministry plans to commence operation on the line, but not without taking proper precaution."

He explained that necessary security gadgets would be installed to monitor the line and forestall a reoccurrence.

He expressed the hope that members of the National Assembly would assist the ministry in achieving the plan.

He told the lawmakers that his ministry had proposed a total capital budget of N92, 251,422,746 and overhead of N382, 185, 472

He added that the total capital appropriation of the ministry for 2022 was N147, 549,080,677 out of which N52,134,727,253.22, representing 35.33 per cent had been released to date.

He said N38,904,208,345 had been utilised as of 25 October, 2022. In addition, the sum of N358, 799,998 was appropriated for overhead expenditure out of which N209, 299,998.81 was released.

He said the sum of N180, 623,089.34 of the released amount was expended as at October 25, 2022.

The Chairman of the Joint National Assembly Committee on Land and Marine Transport, expressed concern over the extension of the implementation of the capital component of the yearly budget beyond each fiscal year.

Goje said, "The extension of the implementation of the capital component of the annual budget by three months, had defeated the success recorded by the 9th National Assembly to reverse the country's budget cycle to January to December."

Kyari: Nigeria Leading Africa's Drive for Investments in Infrastructure to Boost Gas Exports

Peter Uzoho

The Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC), Mallam Mele Kyari, yesterday said Nigeria was leading the drive for massive investments in critical gas infrastructure in Africa to boost the export of the product to Europe and other continents.

Kyari stated this during a panel session at the ADIPEC Strategic Conference holding in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

The panel session focused on how leadership and organisational agendas were changing as the industry navigates the evolving global energy landscape.

Contributing at the panel, the NNPC GCEO said the energy transitioning aspiration has changed the dynamics of the global oil and gas industry.

He noted that currently, the global community was faced with a stark reality of sourcing for cleaner energy, adding that within this context, Nigeria has adopted gas as its transition fuel.

Kyari stated that the federal government recognised the importance of gas to the global energy mix, stressing that this was why huge investments were being made in the sector.

Currently working with the government of Morocco, he said Nigeria was building a gas pipeline infrastructure.

Kyari said, "There are very stark realities that we are facing. Of course, it is also true that there is a huge impact of our business on climate. So, that is also real, we have the finance, we have to face the reality of today and the truth is that we do need the energy of today.

"What we are doing is to build that capacity to clean and refined capacity so that we can take care of our current needs and transit gradually, utilise the resources of today and ultimately use gas as a transition fuel."

The GCEO, however, observed that Nigeria cannot achieve the foregoing aspirations without adequate infrastructure, adding that Africa has one of the largest oil producing countries and the largest resources with over 203 trillion cubic feet of gas and over 200 billion barrels of oil.

"But we know that we have the resources that can be of help to everyone and that is why we are engaging in the West African sub-region including Morocco and all the way to Europe to create a backbone infrastructure that will take gas from Nigeria all the way to eleven countries into Morocco and hopefully in Europe.

"In essence, there is so much gas available that we all need today and it is becoming more and more critical for energy industry globally," he said.

To harness the gas potentials, he said collaboration had become critical with all stakeholders.

Meanwhile, the conference was expected to dissect the energy transition phenomenon, unlock the real value of a decarbonised future, showcase ground-breaking technologies and explore actionable strategies and solutions to the challenges and opportunities created by complex global energy market dynamics.

It also serves as the leading venue for the energy industry to debate, deliberate and address key issues on the trilemma of security of supply, affordability, and sustainability.

The ADIPEC conference equally provides a platform for policy makers, energy chief executive officers and industry professionals to address the critical factors influencing the energy ecosystem's transformation and its role as a key enabler of the global economy.

Glencore Fined $313m for Bribing NNPC Officials, Others in Oil Contracts Deals

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

A British court yesterday ordered commodities company, Glencore, to pay more than $313 million for using bribes to bolster its oil profits in Nigeria and four other African countries.

The order came months after the Anglo-Swiss company announced it had reached deals with authorities in the United States., Britain and Brazil to resolve corruption allegations.

But the court had rejected Nigeria's bid to claim compensation from the British subsidiary of mining and trading group over the bribes paid to officials at Nigeria's state oil company.

The court ruled that Nigeria did not have the right to be heard, as only the prosecution and the defence could make arguments at a sentencing hearing.

Nigeria had argued in its written arguments that it was "an identifiable victim of Glencore's admitted criminal activity", as two of the charges to which Glencore Energy had pleaded guilty relate to payments made to Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) officials.

Glencore pleaded guilty in June to seven counts of bribery after an investigation launched by the UK Serious Fraud Office in 2019 found it paid bribes worth a combined $29 million to gain access to oil in Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast and South Sudan.

The fraud office said the penalty is the largest for one of its cases and is the first time a company was convicted for authorising bribery instead of just failing to prevent it under a 2010 law, AP reported.

"The facts demonstrate not only significant criminality but sophisticated devices to disguise it," Judge Peter Fraser of the Southwark Crown Court said in sentencing Glencore yesterday.

"The bribery was endemic among traders and took place over an extended period. Other companies tempted to engage in similar corruption should be aware that similar sanctions lie ahead," the judge added.

Glencore, which is headquartered in Baar, Switzerland, said it cooperated with the British investigation and "engaged in an extensive programme of corporate reform."

"The conduct that took place was inexcusable and has no place in Glencore," Chairman Kalidas Madhavpeddi said in a statement.

Glencore "is committed to operating a company that creates value for all stakeholders by operating transparently under a well-defined set of values, with openness and integrity at the forefront," the Glencore chair said.

The British investigation found that the company would fly large amounts of cash by private plane to bribe officials in oil and gas companies and government ministries in African countries.

Cash withdrawals were masked in financial reports as charges like service fees, signing bonuses and office expenses.

For example, two Glencore executives took a private jet in August 2011 to deliver $800,000 in cash to a local agent to funnel to officials in South Sudan's new government. An additional $275,000 followed.

First@sports

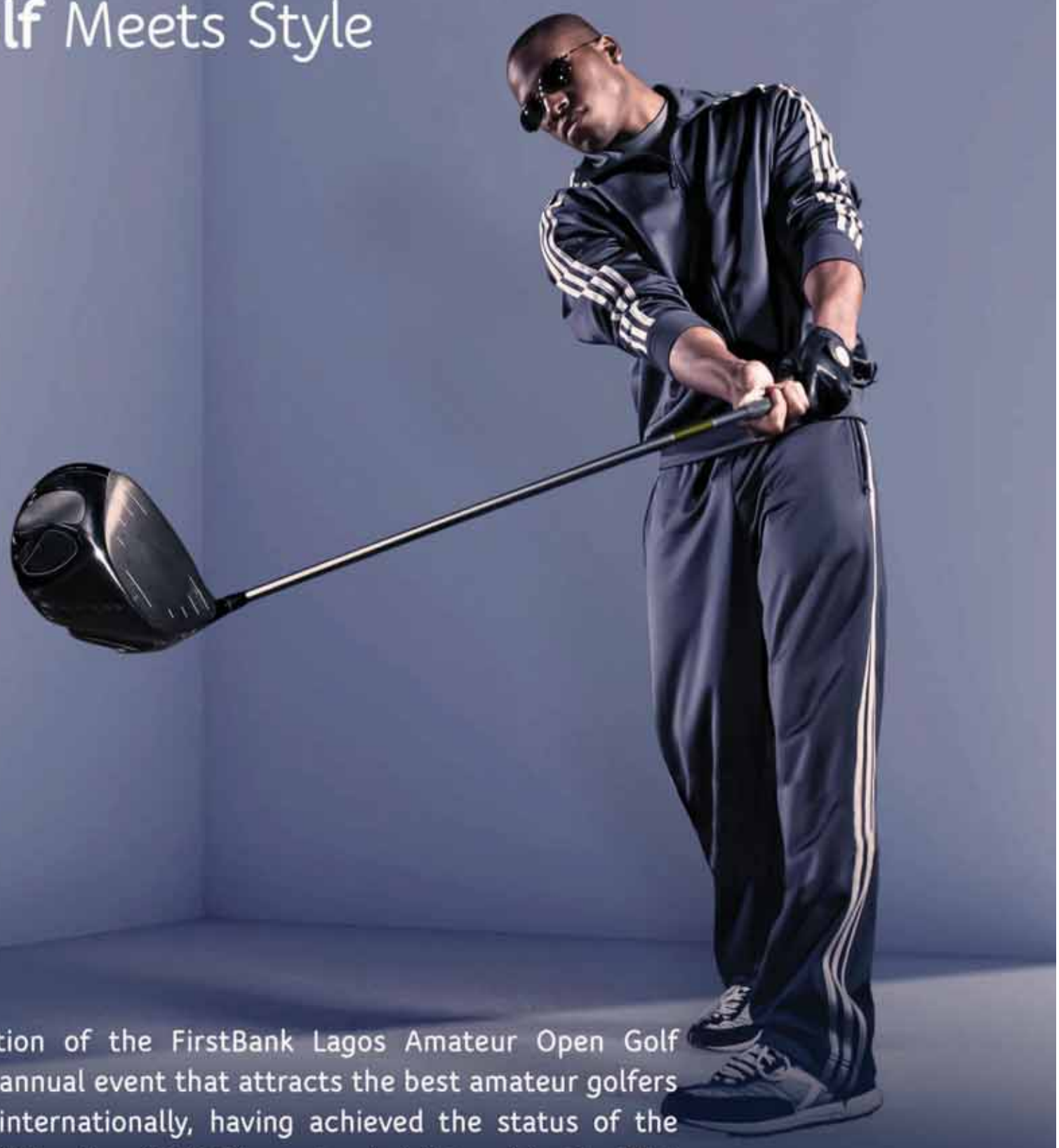
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Jim nwa Ovia

Oteele ali le ngbede.

Omeghor Omeghor.
Ahua Ohun: Ehuriken.
Ahua Ohun: Ndu Ohun.

Osolobue ya elepu yi Eyan. Ke ezi lu uloi.

Ihun Ihun kiye ejen.
Ihun Ihun ke wa hun oken enwe.

Eka agulali ya wu ogun ngba.

Eworo: Ezigbo efan ke we edu anu ofia aza.

Ezijen nimi ekele.
Ekele Ahua Ohun.

No riniyi nma jerin ejen. Nefa Jesu Kristi onye won nenyi.

Mgbeni Akan le.

Ise Ise Ise.

Ekpere nme Tom nwa Ogboi

THE GENTLEMAN IS 60 DIAMOND



FEMI OTEDOLA CON

As you celebrate this attainment of Diamond, I am not only counting the birthday candles but the illumination that the light gives.
Your exemplary life of service has impacted on all spheres of humanity.
My brother, you're a jewel wrapped in humility, empathy and loyalty to friendship.
Wishing you a happy birthday may sound rhetorical, but it's in all sincerity I convey this to you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MY BROTHER!

EKPENYOUNG ESIEN ITA CFR mni
Former DGSS

Toast to the CHANCELLOR AT 60



MR. PETER OLUFEMI OTEDOLA, CON

Chancellor – St. Augustine University

1962 was a remarkable year!, that was the year our friend and brother, Peter Olufemi Otedola was born.

Turning 60 years is nothing but a privilege, as only a few get to enjoy in good health.

Now that you are here! trust that you appreciate, that 60 is just a number and that is why, we are confident that you have what it takes to achieve all the most cherished desires of your heart.

Happy Birthday bro!
We pray that God keep on blessing you and keep sadness away from your door.
Amen!

ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS

Adbulrazaq & Kate Isa,
Bimbo & Titi Ogunbanjo
Dele & Bola Belgore
Gbenga & Remi Ademulegun
Kayode & Kemi Odukoya
Tayo and Tutu Ayeni
Wale and Gbolahan Babalakin

BUA Foods Plc RC 621320

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

The Board of Directors of BUA Foods PLC is pleased to announce the unaudited results of the Company for the nine months ended 30th September, 2022.

Description	Group	Group	Company	Company
	30th Sep 2022 (Unaudited) ₦'000	30th Sep 2021 (Unaudited) ₦'000	30th Sep 2022 (Unaudited) ₦'000	30th Sep 2021 (Unaudited) ₦'000
Net Revenue	289,819,825	241,078,629	221,650,393	166,001,829
Cost of Sales	195,641,326	158,825,185	159,203,255	109,825,155
Gross Profit	94,178,499	82,253,445	62,447,138	56,176,674
Operating Profit	79,336,575	68,931,720	50,032,752	46,192,230
Operating Profit Margin	27%	29%	23%	28%
Profit Before Tax	74,268,302	63,580,296	45,205,927	41,520,337
Profit After Tax	68,761,255	58,685,036	39,698,880	36,625,077
Total Comprehensive Income	**68,761,255**	**58,685,036**	**39,698,880**	**36,625,077**
Comprehensive Income Margin	**24%**	**24%**	**18%**	**22%**
Earnings Per Share (Naira)	**3.82**	**3.26**	**2.21**	**2.03**

Description	Group	Group	Company	Company
	30th Sep 2022 (Unaudited) ₦'000	31st Dec 2021 (Audited) ₦'000	30th Sep 2022 (Unaudited) ₦'000	31st Dec 2021 (Audited) ₦'000
Non-Current Assets	324,582,866	323,256,014	248,236,800	249,070,108
Current Assets	305,815,106	270,213,501	342,785,596	333,603,790
Total Assets	**630,397,972**	**593,469,515**	**591,022,396**	**582,673,898**
Shareholders Equity	206,479,925	200,718,673	177,291,684	200,592,804
Non-Current Liabilities	51,210,249	52,392,390	51,210,249	52,392,390
Current Liabilities	372,707,798	340,358,452	362,520,463	329,688,704
Total Liabilities	**423,918,047**	**392,750,842**	**413,730,712**	**382,081,094**
Shareholders Equity and Total Liabilities	**630,397,972**	**593,469,515**	**591,022,396**	**582,673,898**

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD:

ABDULRASHEED OLAYIWOLA
CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER
FRC/2014/ICAN/00000010407

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FCT-IRS
Federal Capital Territory
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

No: 2022/002

Publication Date: 4th November, 2022

SUBJECT:
INFORMATION CIRCULAR ON THE DEMAND FOR TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE (TCC) AND VERIFICATION OF GENUINENESS BY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAs), SECRETARIAT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF FCTA (SDAs) AND COMMERCIAL BANKS

This circular is issued for the information and guidance of the Ministries, Departments & Agencies (MDAs) of Government and Commercial Banks as well as FCTA's Secretariats, Departments, Agencies, Area Councils, Corporate Bodies and Statutory Authorities in accordance with the provisions of the relevant tax laws.

1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this circular is to provide insight regarding the demand and verification of a Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) by MDAs, SDAs and Commercial Banks from individuals and business names who have dealings with respect to any transaction and to verify the genuineness of the TCC before rendering services.

The circular enumerates transactions that requires the demand and verification of a TCC before service are to be rendered and the penalties for defaulting.

For the purpose of this guidance, a **transaction** is any form of dealings, contractual engagement, communication, business, trade, connection or relationship between an MDA, SDAs, a Commercial Bank and an individual or business name.

2.0 Background

A TCC is a document issued by the **relevant Tax Authority** to a Taxpayer who has fully complied with his/her tax obligations for the three preceding years of an assessment. The relevant Tax Authority is the States Internal Revenue Services (SIRS), which is the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCT-IRS) in case of FCT residents and the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) accordingly.

The TCC is issued when the relevant Tax Authority substantiates that the tax assessed on the **total income** of an individual or business name is fully paid and that no tax is due on the global income or that the individual is not liable to tax for any of the three preceding years of assessment.

The features of a TCC include the chargeable income, tax payable, tax paid, tax outstanding and Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

.

3.0 Legal Framework

Section 85 (2),(4),(5),(6)&(9) of the Personal Income Tax Act (PITA), 2011 (as amended) provides that the Federal Government MDAs and Commercial Banks shall demand for a TCC covering the immediate three years preceding the current year of assessment and shall verify its genuineness by referring same to the issuing Tax Authority.

> Section 85 (2) provides that "A Ministry, Department or an Agency of Government or a commercial bank with whom a person has any dealing with respect to any of the transactions mentioned in subsection (4) of this section, shall demand from the person a tax clearance certificate for the three years immediately preceding the current year of assessment and shall verify the genuineness by referring same to the issuing tax authority".

Section 31(5) of the FCT-IRS Act, 2015 provides that the FCTA's SDAs or officials of the FCTA, Area Council officials, any Corporate Body, Statutory Authority are to **demand** from an individual or business name, a tax clearance certificate for the immediate three years preceding the current year of assessment and shall **verify** the genuineness by referring same to the issuing tax authority.

> Section 31 (5) provides that "A department, agency or official of the FCTA, any Area Council official, any corporate body, statutory authority or person empowered in that regard by this Act or any other law shall demand a tax clearance certificate for the three years immediately preceding the current year of assessment as a pre-condition to transacting any business".

4.0 Affected Transactions

This circular specifically focuses on the transactions listed below for the purpose of monitoring and compliance: -

i. application for Government loan for industry or business;
ii. registration of motor vehicle;
iii. application for foreign exchange or exchange control permission to remit funds outside Nigeria;
iv. application for certificate of occupancy;
v. application for award of contracts by Government, its agencies and registered companies;
vi. application for approval of building plans;
vii. application for trade licence;
viii. application for transfer of real property;
ix. application for agent licence;
x. application for pools or gaming licence;
xi. application for registration as a contractor;
xii. application for distributorship;
xiii. confirmation of appointment by Government as chairman or member of a public board, institution, commission, company or to any other similar position made by the Government;
xiv. stamping of guarantor's form for a Nigerian passport;
xv. application for registration of a limited liability company or of a business name;
xvi. application for allocation of market stalls;
xvii. appointment or election into public office;
xviii. application for change of ownership of vehicle by the vendor;
xix. application for plot of land;
xx. application for FCTA loan for housing, business or any other purpose;
xxi. application for allocation of market stalls;
xxii. any other transaction as may be determined from time to time.

Let's build the FCT of our dream

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

No: 2022/002

Publication Date: 4th November, 2022

5.0 Demand and Verification Process

The importance of demanding and verifying a TCC before rendering the above services cannot be over-emphasized. In line with the provision of the tax laws, the transactions mentioned in 4.0 are practically income driven where tax is derived. Hence, demanding for a TCC before rendering such services would further strengthen the legal obligations of FCT residents in terms of taxation and thereby lead to increase in Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) as well as socio-infrastructure development of FCT.

5.1 Demand for TCC:

5.1.1 Demand for TCC by MDAs and other FCTA Secretariat & Agencies

The Federal Government of Nigeria and the FCT Administration are responsible for regulations as well as enabling the ease of doing business. Its MDAs deal with granting of several approvals in which a TCC is a mandatory document required before a service is rendered.

Such services may include, but are not limited to, Government grants approvals for loans to business owners, motor vehicle registration/renewals, Certificate of Occupancy (CoO) to Land owners awards contracts, building plans/change of use, transfer of property, confirmation of appointments, change of ownership of vehicles etc.

These transactions and other related engagements by the Federal MDAs and FCTA SDAs as the case may be should be rendered after a TCC is presented showing that the tax obligations are fully complied with.

5.1.2 Demand by Commercial Banks and other Financial Institutions

The Commercial Banks and other Money Deposit Banks (MDBs) such as Micro-Finance Banks, Mortgage Banks, Pension Funds Administrators and other financial institutions are required to demand for Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) as part of documentation while applying for foreign exchange or exchange control permission to remit funds outside Nigeria.

> Section 85 (5) of Personal Income Tax Act (PITA), 2011 (as amended) states clearly that "An applicant for control permission to remit funds to a non-resident recipient in respect of income accruing from rent, dividend, interest, royalty, fees or any other similar income shall be required to produce a tax clearance certificate to the effect that tax has been paid on the fund in respect of which the application is sought or that no tax is payable, whichever is the case".

5.2 Verification Process

A TCC issued by the FCT-Internal Revenue Service is verifiable through the followings channels: -

a. The TCC can also be **verified** via the **Quick Response (QR) code** using an Android or IOS devices by scanning the QR Code at the bottom right corner of the TCC.
The scan result redirects the verifier to a Uniform Resource Locator (URL), which opens the TCC for instant verification. The verifier can copy, search for or share the TCC where necessary

b. **Alternatively,** you may **refer** the TCC presented to the FCT-IRS in writing, with the subject '**Request for Verification of TCC**' and address same to
The Executive Chairman,
FCT-Internal Revenue Service
No. 3, Abriba Close, Area 7, Garki - Abuja

6.0 Penalty for Defaulting MDAs, SDAs and Commercial Banks

Section 85 (9) of the Personal Income Tax Act, 2011 (As amended) state that,

> "A person be it a government organisation or corporate entity to whom section 85(2) applies who fails to comply with same is guilty of an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of N5,000,000.00 or to imprisonment for 3 years or both fine and imprisonment".

The aforementioned section of the law implies that any MDAs, SDAs, officials of the FCTA, Area Council officials, any corporate body, statutory Authority or Commercial Banks who violates the above provision will be periodically reported for sanctioning on case by case basis.

7.0 Monitoring and Periodic Enforcement for Compliance

In line with Section 37 (2) of FCT-IRS Act, 2015 the FCT-IRS shall under-go a comprehensive monitoring and enforcement exercise monthly, quarterly or annually to ascertain the level of compliance by the MDAs, SDAs, Commercial Banks and other related bodies that are responsible for demanding and verifying of TCCs before a service is rendered.

During the periodic Monitoring & Enforcement exercise, copies of TCCs provided by any individuals or business name and verified by the MDAs, SDAs, Commercial Banks and other related bodies will be investigated to ascertain the violation of any tax law, whether or not such violation has been reported to the Service.

8.0 Amendment or Revision of the Circular

The FCT-IRS may from time to time review this circular for the purpose of amendment or at any time withdraw or replace the circular and publish an updated or amended version.

9.0 Enquiries

For further clarifications or enquiries regarding this Circular, please contact the following:

The Executive Chairman,
FCT-Internal Revenue Service
No. 3, Abriba Close, Area 7, Garki – Abuja

Or
Director, Tax Operations
FCT-Internal Revenue Service
No. 3, Abriba Close, Area 7, Garki – Abuja

Or
Visit our website: www.fctirs.gov.ng

Email: info@fctirs.gov.ng

Signed
Executive Chairman,
FCT-IRS

Let's build the FCT of our dream

FLOODS



Farouq: Jigawa, Anambra, Kogi Most Affected By Flood Disaster

●Reveals Ebonyi not among 10 worst hit states ●Claims ignorance of USAID's $1m donation to victims ●Says enforcement of evacuation warnings to be considered in the future ●Govt mulls compensation for owners of destroyed farms ●FG inaugurates committee on flood prevention, disaster management ●Sylva calls for collective action, permanent solution to flooding

Deji Elumoye, Folalumi Alaran in Abuja and **Olusegun Samuel** in Yenagoa

The federal government yesterday gave an update on the recent flood disaster that wreaked havoc across the country and categorised Jigawa, Anambra and Kogi as states most hit in terms of deaths and other calamities.

Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Minister, Sadiya Umar Farouq, made this known while speaking with newsmen at the State House, Abuja.

This was just as the federal government yesterday inaugurated a Technical Working Group and Steering Committee on the management of floods and disasters in Nigeria.

Also yesterday, the Minister of State, Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, said both the federal and state governments must collectively find a permanent solution to the perennial flooding in the country and stop playing politics with people's lives.

According to an official statistical chart from the Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Ministry, the number of deaths recorded per state, number of people displaced, number of injuries, houses damaged, farm lands per hectares damaged, as well as general population affected, were some of the factors used in assessing the states affected most.

In the 2022 flood data obtained from officials of the ministry, as at 24th October, the death toll in Jigawa stood at 91, while it was 77 in Anambra, in Kogi 471,991 persons were affected, with no death record.

The data also disclosed that 3,219,780 Nigerians have been affected nationwide, while number of displaced persons stood at 1,427,370, with total number of recorded dead put at 612.

Farouq disclosed that contrary to insinuation in some quarters, Bayelsa State did not fall into the category of 10 worst hit states by the flood disaster.

Her words: "It will also interest you to know that Bayelsa is not even among the 10 most hit. I think Jigawa is number one and we have taken intervention to Bayelsa and it's still ongoing. We're using the Nigerian Air Force to access the inaccessible areas.

"These are natural disasters, we just hope and pray that we don't see that again. It is a global phenomenon and the government is up and doing in this regard".

Reacting to the varying levels of impact the flood has had on the states, recent misgivings expressed by key figures from some parts of the country about federal government's response, especially by Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State and elder statesman, Chief Edwin Clark, Farouq said the ministry had been working with states to convey relief.

According to her, 28 states and the FCT, have received relief of food and non-food items from the federal government while 44 temporary shelters have been erected in 22 states and 22,000 metric tonnes of grains are being distributed to victims nationwide.

"I've mentioned that we have officers in all the states and they are supporting the states officials to give support to these victims, where it is possible for us to visit, we have visited, but the most important thing is the response which we have given; a very quickly response for the states affected.

"We have a plan in place - a flood emergency preparedness plan, it is in place and the FG has a role to play in this and we have started operationalising that plan. That plan has just been approved by federal executive council in September this year.

"Let me use this opportunity to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. Lives have been lost, very unfortunate. There were early warnings and hence, early actions by all; the national sub nationals and even individuals that were prone to this disaster.

"We have erected temporary shelters, about 44 of them in 22 states, some people moved to those shelters, while others did not, very unfortunate and I think at this point, I quite agree that there should be enforcement going forward.

"We've mentioned 12,000 metric tons that was given to us by Ministry of Agriculture, but that is in addition to other interventions, it's not just the 12,000 metric tons. If you look at it, I didn't mention rice and other food items and even non-food items that we have provided. So it's not just the 12,000 metric tons that was provided.

"How much we will need, that will also be after the assessment, I cannot really say how much federal government… and the people, the real people that are affected are going to be the real people that will be provided the support because we have on the spot assessment," she added.

On the United States donation of $1 million support to Nigeria for flood victims, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Farouq said she was not aware of any pledge or donation to that effect.

The US Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard was said to have mentioned that $1 million donation was coming to the state to assist the flood victims.

The US envoy had said the donation provided through the USAID would allow local partners on the ground to provide emergency shelter assistance, relief commodities, and hygiene kits to promote safe and healthy practices, adding that it would also curb cholera outbreak and multipurpose cash assistance for people impacted by the devastating floods.

But the minister said she did not know where the information came from as no such money had come to her ministry.

"We have not received one dollar as a ministry from any organisation. I am not aware of this and it has not come to me officially," she said.

Responding to Pa Clark's comment about her, as Minister of Humanitarian Affair not being humane, Farouq said "you mentioned this issue of the Humanitarian Minister not being humane, this is a natural issue that we are facing and I think, with every sense of responsibility, I'm carrying out my duties to the best of my abilities, the best I can in service to this nation and in service to humanity and I think by mere looking at me, you know I'm humane."

The minister said government would consider enforcement of evacuation advice in the future for people living around river banks and flood prone areas to avert loss of lives from flood disaster.

She explained that although there were early projections and warnings from NIMET and relevant agencies, majority of those to whom these were directed refused to respond, saying this is why government would consider the enforcement measure option.

"We are working with the local authorities, with the affected communities to gather this data of the affected persons. So I want to believe, I'm optimistic, that these targeted beneficiaries will be the ones that will be given these interventions.

"Yes, enforcement is very key and I think going forward that is what should be done so that it shouldn't be a matter of choice for one to be evacuated. It shouldn't be, really, because we are talking about human lives here. That will have to be done.

"We have, as I mentioned, evacuated those that agreed to be evacuated. Some people feel these are their ancestral places and so they do not want to live, or they will not live and then they face the consequences, but we hope that next time people will heed these early warnings and then will heed to the evacuation programme," she said.

Farouq also stated that farmers who lost farmlands due to the flood disaster are to get compensation from the federal government at the end of a comprehensive impact assessment by the National Food Security Council, to ensure food security in the country next year.

According to her: "You may recall that we have a Presidential Committee on Food Security. Now, we are doing the assessments of those farmlands that are destroyed and we'll submit our report to the food security council, which is being chaired by His Excellency, Mr. President, and the vice chair is His Excellency, the Governor of Kebbi State.

"Once that is done, we'll know the next step to take, but definitely, farmers will be compensated and that lost means of livelihoods is also to be compensated accordingly. We the intervention we hope is coming very soon, the dry season farming is going to cushion that and very optimistic about that. We don't hope for food shortage."

Meanwhile, the federal government has inaugurated a

Technical Working Group and Steering Committee on the management of floods and disasters in Nigeria.

The Chairman of the Committee and Minister of Water Resources, Sulieman Adamu who spoke in Abuja, said in accordance with President Muhammadu Buhari's directive, he would coordinate teams from the relevant federal ministries, agencies and state governments to create action plans for preventing floods and disasters in Nigeria within 90 days.

Adamu said it was no longer news that the recent floods across the country devastated properties worth billions of naira, put several communities through difficulties, inundated residences in over 34 states, and caused severe hardship in various communities.

He said, "The members of the Presidential Committee being inaugurated today are seasoned professionals and bureaucrats who have been selected from across the MDAs, states and professional organisations.

"You have been adjudged to have in one way or the other contributed immensely to the water resources, environmental, agricultural and other sectors of the country.

"I urge you, therefore, to consider your nomination to membership of this committee as a privilege and another opportunity to serve and contribute towards safeguarding the lives and well-being of our fellow citizens that otherwise would be vulnerable to the devastating effects of flood in the future."

In his remarks, the Deputy Governor of

Anambra State, Dr. Onyekachi Ibezim lamented that his state had suffered huge losses from the 2022 floods, as it affected a third of its local government areas.

He added that the formation of the committee came in good time, saying the state government was deliberating on using excess water from flooding for hydropower generation.

On his part, the Minister of Environment, Dr. Hassan Abdullahi, said flooding was a result of human activity and urged states to heed early warning signs.

He advised that building permits be strictly enforced by the governments to end the practice of building indiscriminately on flood planes.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire, also spoke, noting that the rise in global temperatures had led to predictions that the effects of climate change on people and the environment would worsen over the next years.

The steering committee members included Ministers of Health; Environment; Agriculture and Rural Development; Transport, Works and Housing; Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development as well as their respective permanent secretaries.

Others were representatives of Jigawa, Adamawa, Anambra, Ogun, Bayelsa and Kogi states.

The Technical Working Group included Directors-General of National Water Resources Institute, Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency, representatives of Nigerian Society of Engineers and the Nigerian Academy of Engineering, among others.

In the meantime, Sylva has said both federal and state governments must collectively find a permanent solution to the perennial flooding in the country and stop playing politics with people's lives.

The minister who was in Bayelsa to see the extend of damages caused by the flood in the state and also commiserate with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), described the level of destruction caused by the rampaging flood as unimaginable and unbelievable.

The Bayelsa former governor who was accompanied by the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Content Management and Development Board (NCDMB), Engr. Simbi Wabote, directed the board to present palliatives items to the IDP's in the state.

The minister visited the failed portions of the East-West road at Okogbe and the Yenagoa-Ammasoma road, which was completely devastated, said the devastation was total.

He also visited the IDP camps at Igbogene and Ox-bow lake, where food items, medicine and other palliatives were given to the IDP's with a promise to bring more.

"The devastation is unbelievable, but of course as you know, we stand with the people, I have come all the way from Abuja with a message from the Federal Executive Council, we have given a directive to the NDDC and the Niger Delta Ministry to ensure that the repairs of this road is completed expeditiously.

"But this of course is beyond what we are talking about because this happens every year, as we stand here we know that the water is receding but the water will come back in a matter of few months, next year, we must look for some kind of solution to this problem which has bedeviled us every year.

72
Hearty Cheers



On behalf of myself and the campaign team, I wish our big brother, Musa Danjuma, a hearty birthday as he clocks a milestone today.

Wishing you long life, more wisdom and prosperity.



Signed:
Lt Col Agbu Kefas (rtd)
PDP Governorship Candidate
Taraba State

THE PRESIDENCY

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STAFF HOUSING LOANS BOARD (FGSHLB)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the under-listed **Federal Public Servants from various Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and whose Housing Loan Application File Numbers are outlined below** that their applications for housing loans have been approved and ready for final processing and payment.

S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.
S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.	175	NEMA	86331	233	NCEEC	85177	289	DMO	37858
1	FRSC	86361	59	NABDA	86444	117	NIG. ARMY	86478	176	NASRDA	86332	234	JAMB	85178	290	NUC	42845
2	FRSC	86363	60	NICO	86447	118	FIIRO	86480	177	NIG ARMY	86354	235	NCEEC	85179	291	FINANCE	46008
3	FRSC	86364	61	NISS	86450	119	STATE H.	86482	178	WORKS	86355	236	NCEEC	85182	292	FGSHLB	46850
4	FRSC	86365	62	NIS	86452	120	FGFRMM	86496	179	FRSC	86357	237	NCEEC	85186	293	NASS	46902
5	FRSC	86368	63	OHCSF	86453	121	ENVIRN	86497	180	FRSC	86358	238	NCEEC	85205	294	FCT-H.C	47458
6	FRSC	86369	64	WORKS & HOUSING	86455	122	NAN	86500	181	NIPN	47958	239	ICPC	66358	295	PCC	82067
7	FRSC	86370	65	NOA	86458	123	POLICE .F.	86501	182	NPC	48436	240	FED UNI-LOKOJA	67954	296	VON	82675
8	DSS	86389	66	N.I.S.H	86462	124	NAN	86502	183	NCMM	48456	241	FED. UNI-LOKOJA	68027	297	NIG ARMY	83796
9	NISS	86391	67	ICPC	86463	125	NAN	86503	184	PCC	48922	242	EFCC	68530	298	OAGA	84005
10	FRSC	86406	68	ICPC	86464	126	NAN	86504	185	NIMC	48984	243	INFORMATION	68584	299	CAC	84340
11	NIGCOMSAT	86430	69	ICPC	86466	127	NABDA	86505	186	OHCSF	56501	244	FED.UNI.	70733	300	FRSC	84376
12	NAN	86435	70	FIIRO	86105	128	NAN	86506	187	PETROLEUM	57113	245	FED. UNI- LOKOJA	70851	301	NIG.ARMY	84705
13	NAPAD	86436	71	ICPC	86467	129	N.D.E	86507	188	FMC	60148	246	WORKS & HOUSING	73088	302	NHA	84886
14	ICPC	86439	72	DSS	86469	130	F.M.C ABJ	86508	189	NIG. ARMY	62781	247	NVRI-VOM	73341	303	FCT-SEB	85122
15	NICO	86440	73	ICPC	86470	131	NAN	86509	190	NSCDC	86208	248	NPC	73858	304	A/IKOKU, FGC	85974
16	NICO	86441	74	FIIRO	86474	132	SEC. Board	86515	191	JAMB	85206	249	EFCC	73920	305	DSS	86197
17	NEPAD	86443	75	ICPC	86477	133	NIG.ARMY	86520	192	FCTA	47489	250	NITT	75578	306	FGSHLB	86343
18	AGRIC	86523	76	NAF	87006	134	HEALTH	87069	193	NASS	79781	251	NITT	75765	307	OHCSF	86459
19	NDLEA	86524	77	NSITF	87013	135	EFCC	85978	194	NPC	79017	252	WOMEN AFFAIRS	76602	308	FGSHLB	86493
20	DEFENCE	86526	78	IMMIGRATION	87018	136	EFCC	85979	195	FAAN	79770	253	NIG ARMY	78987	309	FGSHLB	87431
21	DSS	86530	89	NAF	87020	137	EFCC	85981	196	LEGAL AID EDU	39718				310	OHCSF	86485
22	MOD	86532	80	IMMIGRATION	87023	138	EFCC	85986	197	ICRC, ABJ	79684	254	FCTA	55988	311		56176
23	FMITI	86551	81	NAF	87024	139	FCTA	86020	198	NASS	41537	255	HEALTH	80604	312	FCTA	82046
24	FMITI	86552	82	IMMIGRATION	87030	140	EFCC	86046	199	POLICE AFFAIRS	44829	256	FCTA	80630	313	CSTD	82353
25	FMITI	86553	83	NAF	87032	141	EFCC	86053	200	MLSCN	45192	257	FCTA	80859	314	YABA TECH	83982
26	FMITI	86554	84	NAF	87034	142	EFCC	86056	201	NASS	46874	258	ABU ZARIA	80962	315	DSS	70339
27	FMITI	86555	85	NAF	87045	143	EFCC	86057	202	FMST	46997	259	FRSC	81079	316	FCTA	71765
28	NJI	86556	86	NAF	87051	144	EFCC	86058	203	LABOUR	47987	260	NHRC	81321	317	ICPC	72291
29	HEALTH	86557	87	NASRDA	87053	145	NIG. ARMY	86059	204	AVIATION	49288	261	NHRC	81326	318	NBTE	2822
30	NTA	86560	88	NAF	87058	146	NIG.ARMY	86060	205	NAMA	51431	262	NHRC	81338	319	NBTE	73381
31	NIEPA	86561	89	C&LTC	87066	147	FMC-KEFF	86061	206	FRSC	52244	263	NHRC	81340	320	NTA	73801
32	OHCSF	86961	90	IMMIGRATION	87067	148	FMC-KEFF	86066	207	INEC	52303	264	NHRC	81390	321	NBTE	73806
33	IMMIGRATION	86998	91	NAF	87068	149	EFCC	86072	208	EMIT &	53068	265	CSTP	81551	322	NBTE	73820
34	FIRE SERVICE	86073	92	NABTEB	86206	150	FIIRO	86082	209	AMAC	53273	266	NAMA	81617	323	NBTE	73827
35	NAF	86083	93	SON	86209	151	FGSHLB	86269	210	LEGAL AID EDU	53719	267	NIGCOMSAT	81748	324	NBTE	73830
36	NASS	86097	94	SON	86225	152	SON	86272	211	NAQS	55740	268	NASS	81961	325	NBTE	73833
37	FIRE SERVICE	86103	95	TRANSPORTATION	86226	153	SON	86273	212	NBC	67260	269	FCT-SEB	85061	326	NASS	74070
38	INFO. & CULT.	86139	96	FCC & DE	86231	154	FIIRO	86081	213	ICPC	66360	270	NCMM	84113	327	NBTE	73838
39	NIG. ARMY	86140	97	FMC & DE	86237	155	EFCC	86280	214	OHCSF	53O35	271	RADIO NIG.	86160	328	UNTH	47662
40	NIG. ARMY	86148	98	OHCSF	86238	156	MS & TECH	86283									
41	NIG. ARMY	86149	99	JUSTICE	86241	157	FRSC	86300	215	OAUGF	86591	272	FIIRO	86108	329	UNTH	48153
42	NIG. ARMY	86150	100	SON	86248	158	FRSC	86301	216	FIIRO	86118	273	FIIRO	86106			
43	NTDC	86154	101	NASRDA	86249	159	FRSC	86302	217	NBC	67261	274	NECO	85066	330	NSITF	74980
44	INEC	86158	102	SON	86254	160	FRSC	86304	218	ICPC	68414	275	NASS	85373	331	NSITF	74992
45	EFCC	86162	103	TRANSPORT	86258	161	FRSC	86306	219	NBC	69210	276	NTDC	86154	332	MPR	75028
46	VON	86173	104	NASRDA	86262	162	FRSC	86310	220	EDUCATION	69222			86158	333	NBTE	75429
47	UNI. ABUJA	86184	105	UNI. ABUJA	86264	163	FRSC	86311	221	MOD	69562	277	FCT, H&HSS	86293	334	NBTE	75432
48	MOD	86191	106	HEALTH	86265	164	FRSC	86312	222	FCTA	75844	278	ICPC	65504	335	NCMLSA	85161
49	IMMIGRATION	86199	107	FMITI	86265	165	FRSC	86313	223	FHCN	76402	279	FCTA (H & H)	66158	336	OAUGF	85214
50	FRSC	86314	108	FGSHLB	86521	166	NCEEC	85284	224	FHCN	76405	280	FMC-KEFFI	66939	337	OAUGF	85216
51	FRSC	86315	109	FGSHLB	86522	167	NCEEC	85626	225	NAN	77057	281	ICPC	66959	338	NBAIS	85226
52	FRSC	86317	110	FGSHLB	86518	168	FIIRO	85663	226	NASS	78762	282	ICPC	66960	339	FCTA	85236
53	FRSC	86318	111	OHCSF	30104	169	JAMB	85664	227	OHCSF	68760	283	YOUTH	67230	340	NASS	85253
54	FRSC	86319	112	NBC	67179	170	NCEEC	85665	228	FCTA	68789	284	FMIC	67268	341	MOD	85298
55	FRSC	86320	113	FMPWH	67914	171	NCEEC	85666	229	SCI. & TECH	69181	285	NIGCOMSAT	67437	342	FMITI	85361
56	FRSC	86321	114	OHCSF	68151	172	FME	85668	230	NSRDA	69205	286	ICPC	67632	343	NASS	85373
57	FRSC	86323	115	FMPWH	81336	173	NHRC	37431	231	FGSHLB	69586	287	NIGCOMSAT	42585	344	NIGCOMSAT	81363
58	FRSC	86324	116	NCEEC	85176	174	VON	376179	232	NUC	70661	288	NIG.ARMY	48072	345	FCTA HLTH	81606

S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.	S/N	MDA	HB NO.
346	FMITI	85392	398	ICPC	50986	451	NAFDAC	81616	501	FCT-SEB	85061	543	FAAN	85058	582	OSGF	87569
347	FCTA-HEALTH	85468	399	MOD	51249	452	FCE- PANKSHIN	81723	502	NECO	85066	544	EDUCATION	85266	583	FGSHLB	86792
348	NAN	85498	400	NIG. ARMY	53028	453	NIGCOMSAT	81750	503	OAUGF	85214	545	NASS	85373	584	ICPC	68544
349	OAGF	85669	401	OHSF	53257	454	FCTA	82017	504	OAUGF	85216	546	NCCE	85466	585	HEALTH	86277
350	FC OF FOREST	85788	402	ICPC	54335	455	FCTA	82046	505	FMOH	85570				586	ICPC	68876
351	SALARIES & W.	85830	403	HEALHT	56830	456	TRADE & INV.	82207	506	FAAN	85582	547	NTA	85996	587	FAAN	86040
352	NIG. ARMY	85864	404	FMC KEFFI	57476	457	CORR. SERVICE	82861	507	FAAN	85642	548	NAFDAC	85999	588	NOUN	86052
353	FGSHLB	69224	405	HUMANITARIAN	57578	458	NIRC	82963	508	NASS	86022	549	FCT- H. COURT	86009	589	NSITF	86077
354	OAUGF	86590	406	NIS	58354	459	NLRC	82964	509	JSC	86033	550	FAAN	86010	590	INEC	86138
355	FGSHLB	86568	407	OAUGF	86605				510	NASS	86202	551	NASS	86015	591	JAMB	86166
356	OAUGF	86577	408	OAUGF	86606				511	NOUN	86181	552	DEFENCE	47741	592	JAMB	85671
357	OAUGF	86583	409	FGSHLB	87285	460	NBDA	87211	512	NASS	86204	553	DRTS	85677	593	NCEEC	85673
358	OAUGF	86585	410	FMF	87228	461	ICPC	87217	513	LEA-AMAC	86215	554	DSS	85896	594	NCEEZ	85674
359	OAUGF	86586	411	ENERGY COM.	87235	462	FMF	87226	514	NTDC	86285	555	DSS	86983	595	OHSF	53257
360	OAUGF	86587	412	NARSDA	87236	463	FMF	87227	515	INEC	86286	556	EDUCATION	47784	596	MRTB	83668
361	NAF	87070	413	TRADES & INVT.	87319	464	NASRDA	87138	516	HEALTH	86339	557	EFCC	86287	597	JAMB	85675
362	ENVIROMENT	87070	414	ICPC	87328	465	NECO	87139	517	NASS	86362	558	EFCC	86289	598	FMC	85898
363	OHCSF	87071	415	FMSTI	87329	466	FMYSD	87151	518	NAN	86426	559	EFCC	86290	599	NNMDC	86036
364	HEALTH	87072	416	ICPC	87330	467	NECO	87162	519	NAN	86427	560	EFCC	86292	600	FMYSD	86038
365	FOREIGN A.	87075	417	ICPC	87332	468	NAT, MATH, CENTRE	87175	520	NASRDA	86449	561	EFCC	86294	601	FIIRO	86067
366	FCTA	87080	418	NSCDA	87338	469	NAT.MATH. CENTRE	87180	521	DSS	86456	562	EFCC	86377	602	FIIRO	86074
367	OHCSF	87087	419	ICPC	87353	470	NBDA	87183	522	AVIATION	86457	563	EFCC	87137	603	FIIRO	86076
368	FMYSD	87093	420	HEAD OF SERV.	87369	471	MIN. OF FINANCE	87189	523	OHCSF	86468	564	EFCC	87152			
369	MIN. FINANCE	87095	421	NASRDA	87375	472	FIRE SERVICE	87389	524	NAN	86499	565	EFCC	87154			
370	FMITI	87102	422	NIG.CORR.SERV	87376	473	IMMIGRATION	87390	525	NDLEA	86523	566	EFCC	87230			
371	FMITI	87103	423	OHCSF	87379	474	IMMIGRATION	87392	526	NEMA	86531	567	EFCC	87258			
371	FCTA	87110	424	NASRDA	87380	475	FIRE SERVICE	87394	527	WATER	86539	568	FCC&AM	79766			
372	FIIRO	86480	425	NASRDA	87382	476	NASRDA	87395	528	FMC-KEFFI	86540	569	YABA TECH	86069			
373	FIIRO	86474	426	NASRDA	87384	477	NASRDA	87402	529	ECN	86536	570	FCC 86442	619			
374	NASRDA	87118	427	NASRDA	87385	478	PTAD	87404	530	ICPC	86858	571	FIIRO	86120			
375	DSS	87122	428	NASRDA	87386	479	NIGER DELTA	87406	531	LABOUR	86037	572	FIIRO	86123			
376	NAPTIP	87126	429	IMMIGRATION	87387	480	ICPC	87245	532	MLSCN	85989	573	FIIRO	86127			
377	OHCSF	87136	430	NASRDA	87388	481	NIS	87256	533	NAMA	85897	574	FIIRO	86128			
378	ICPC	43679	431	ICPC	72291	482	NASRDA	87257	534	NARSDA	85854	575	FIIRO	86129			
379	ICPC	59701	432	ICPC	72673	483	FOREIGN AFFAIRS	87259	535	NASRDA	87218	576	FIIRO	86131			
380	ICPC	60322	433	ICPC	86180	484	REV. MOB	87262	536	NAT HOS. ABJ	85749	577	FGSHLB	87285			
381	ICPC	60331	434	ICPC	86439	485	ICPC	87263	537	NGA	85691	578	FIIRO	86473			
382	ICPC	60335	435	ICPC	86462	486	ICPC	87266	538	NIG. ARMY	85604	579	FIIRO	86170			
383	ICPC	65549	436	IMMIGRATION	87411	487	ICPC	87268	539	NIG. ARMY	86266	580	OHCSF	53034			
384	ICPC	65563	437	PTAD	87414				540	NIRSAL	85899	581	OHCSF	86492			
385	ICPC	67010	438	PTAD	87415	488	NASRDA	87269	541	NPA	85870						
386	OIL SPILL	87430	439	UNI.OF ABUJA	87424	489	ICPC	87301	542	OAUGF	86578						
387	ICPC	87433	440	NIPOST	87438	490	ICPC	87302									
388	FCTA	87434	441	FCC	87441	491	ICPC	87307									
389	RADIO NIG.	87435	442	NCS	87443	492	NASRDA	87310									
390	NPF	87436	443	FMIC	87444	493	TRADES & INVEST	87318									
391	FCTA	87437	444	NA	87446	494	FMITI	87447									
392	NAPTIP	87452	445	INEC	82163	495	DSS	86565									
393	FMITI	87461	446	INEC	82167	496	DSS	86566									
394	OHCSF	87488	447	EDUCATION	82293	497	UNI ABUJA	86856									
395	NASRDA	87490	448	EDUCATION	81800	498	ICPC	87048									
396	NASRDA	87493	449	FCE	81803	499	PTAD	87412									
397	FMITI	87494	450	NBTE	73845	500	OAUGF	875488									

2. The affected Officers are, accordingly, requested to visit the Board's website **@www.fgshlb.gov.ng** for the **Checklist** of the different loan types and to physically come to the Board with the required documents during the hours of **9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday**, or contact the following Desk Officers for further information:

I.	**Purchasing Loans**	**-**	**Mba**	**-**	**08058625903**
ii.	**Special Schemes**	**-**	**Jibril**	**-**	**08065555676**
iii.	**FISH Programme**	**-**	**Adamu**	**-**	**07033368136**
iv.	**Building Loans**	**-**	**Ibrahim**	**-**	**08025735945**
v.	**Mortgage Services**	**-**	**Bakare**	**-**	**08065385033**

3. The concerned Officers are to respond **within two weeks from the date of this publication** as stated in Para. 2 above.

4. **Failure to respond** within the time frame stated in this Notice shall **be construed to mean that the Officer is no longer interested in the loan** and such an Officer will be replaced on the waiting list.

SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT

POLITICS

Acting Group Politics Editor DEJI ELUMOYE
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08033025611 SMS ONLY



Crisis Rocks Katsina PDP Over Suspension of Officials

Francis Sardauna writes that a raging storm may scupper the chances of the Peoples Democratic Party in Katsina State during the 2023 general election if the broken fences within the party are not mended before the poll.

Fresh crisis is brewing in the Katsina State Chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) because the main opposition party which is fiercely battling to reclaim power from the All Progressives Congress (APC) party is now a house ripped apart by self ambition, confusion and in total disarray.

The squabbles rocking the PDP in the state seem to suggest that the fortune and the future of the opposition party in the state is under serious threat. Menacing activities had come ricocheting in droves to shatter the hitherto peace of the graveyard within the party.

For political observers, the water boiled over last week when some PDP officials believed to be loyalists of the party's Governorship Candidate, Senator Yakubu Lado, removed the party's chairman, Hon. Salisu Yusuf and the deputy chairman, Alhaji Salisu Lawal Uli, over alleged loss of confidence and trust in their leadership.

24 local government chairmen, 13 House of Representatives candidates and two senatorial candidates of the party who were said to have unanimously endorsed Majigiri and Uli's removal at a recent meeting in Kano, elected the Daura zonal vice chairman of the party, Hon. Lawal Magaji as acting chairman.

In a letter signed by the State Secretary of the party, Hon. Sanusi Ali and addressed to the PDP National Working Committee (NWC), the plotters accused Majigiri and Uli of breaching section 58 subsection (i), (d), (f) and (h) of the party's constitution as amended in 2017.

The letter read in part: "The Katsina State Executive Committee (SEC) of the PDP held a meeting on Sunday 30th of October, 2022 chaired by the state secretary of the party, 50 members out of the statutory 73.

"It was resolved, among other issues, that members of the party have lost confidence and trust in the leadership of Hon. Salisu Yusuf Majigiri as state chairman and Alhaji Salisu Lawal Uli as deputy chairman. The committee found the state chairman and his deputy in total breach of section 58 subsection (i), (d), (f) and (h) of the constitution as amended in 2017.

"In view of the seriousness of the offences which can have a significant negative effect on the campaign efforts both for the presidential down to the state Assembly, the committee resolved to sanction them and salvage the situation by removal from office as per section 59 (I) of the PDP constitution as amended in 2017.

"Furthermore, the committee deliberated on the vacancy created and resolved to appoint Hon. Lawal Magaji presently vice chairman of Daura zone as the acting chairman. The committee relied on section 47 (6) of the PDP constitution to appoint another person at the appropriate level from the area or zone where the officer originated from to serve out the tenure of the immediate former chairman.

"The attention of the National Working Committee (NWC) is hereby drawn to the resolutions of the 75% of the state executive committee on removal from office of Hon. Salisu Yusuf Majigiri as chairman and Alhaji Salisu Lawal Uli deputy chairman. The SEC resolved to appoint Hon. Lawal Magaji as acting chairman to serve out the rest of the tenure".

In a swift reaction, Majigiri said he resigned as the state chairman of the party and officially handed over all the documents of the party to Uli even before the conduct of the party's governorship and other primaries in the state.

Majigiri, who contested the gubernatorial primary but lost to Lado, is the current PDP House of Representatives candidate for Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency. He described the decision taken by some members of the state working committee of the party as politically mischievous and rubbish.



According to him: "They are just being mischievous. Any communication from the party, have you ever seen my name? People are calling me chairman but that is not official. What is official is Salisu Lawal Uli, my deputy is the acting chairman, and that is what the constitution provides.

"Where did the constitution provide for a candidate to change the leadership of the party even if that is the case? And even the local government chairmen they mentioned there, are not constitutionally responsible for changing the leadership of the party.

"The constitution is talking about the executive committees at all levels: wards, local government, state and national executive committee of the party, are responsible for removing any member of the party or leadership, not one segment of a candidate. It is rubbish. It is politically mischievous and they are going nowhere".

Alas, the turmoil rocking the PDP escalated when Uli and some staunch supporters of the party believed to be his loyalists, announced the suspension of the state governorship flag bearer of the PDP, Lado, from the party.

Uli said the party suspended Lado from the party for conspiracy, insubordination and defamation of character of officials of the party.

He said 11 out of 14 members of the state working committee alongside 26 local government chairmen of the party had endorsed the suspension of Lado from the party with immediate effect.

According to him: "We suspended the governorship candidate of the party, Senator Yakubu Lado on the grounds of conspiracy, insubordination and defamation of character of officials. We relied on section 57 subsection 3 and section 58 of the PDP constitution to suspend him from the party".

But some chieftains of the party who are in Lado's camp argued that Uli and his supporters lack constitutional power to sack him from the party. "We suspended them (Majigiri and Uli) so they don't have power to even spearhead the affairs of the party nor sack the governorship candidate of the party who is duly elected", Sanusi Ali, the secretary of the party said.

Some political observers argued that the removal of Majigiri and Uli as leaders of the party by those they described as latter-day members, may abridge the already foreseeable chances of the party winning the forthcoming 2023 polls.

According to the observers, those that plotted for their sacking may have been carried away by blind followership to know that Majigiri, Uli and other founding fathers of the PDP in the state built it on the principles of justice, equity and fairness and it is the principles that held the party to where it is today.

Pundits, however, opined that Uli and his allies acted hastily for suspending Lado from the party a few hours after they were sacked from office. The situation which, they said, is unhealthy and has brought permutations in the party.

Also, Majigiri and the former Governor of the state, Ibrahim Shehu Shema and other executives who have never defected from the party for once since its formation in 1998, are strongly behind Senator Iyorchia Ayu-led national executive committee of the party.

On the other hand, Lado who is a strong ally of Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, is believed to be the brain behind the current crisis rocking the state chapter of the PDP following his feud with the leader of the party (Shema) and his associates within and outside the state.

Surprisingly, the recent defection of the former Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Dr. Mustapha Inuwa to the PDP, has also triggered the party's crisis which is seemingly tearing the hitherto peaceful umbrella apart because Shema and his loyalists are said to be against Inuwa's entrance into the party.

It was reliably gathered that Shema and his staunch supporters are vehemently against Inuwa's presence in the party because of their long-standing feud that apparently landed them in court over Shema's actions during his tenure as governor of the state.

However, the governorship candidate of the party (Lado) who believed that Inuwa is more important than Shema in his age-long political ambition of becoming the governor of Katsina, had since appointed him as 'Jagora' (leader) of his 2023 campaign as captured in almost all the party's posters and billboards across the state.

NOTE: Interested readers should continue in the online edition on www.thisdaylive.com

House Leader Extols Governor Ganduje's Virtues

Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, **Hon Alhassan Ado Doguwa**, says Governor Abdullahi Ganduje of Kano state remains his political leader as well as mentor.

Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, Hon. Alhassan Ado Doguwa, has described himself as part and parcel of the Governor Abdullahi Ganduje-led administration in Kano State.

According to him, every right-thinking person in the state should be proud of the governor given the transformation he has brought to the state, cutting across all spheres of human development.

The ranking lawmaker in a statement personally issued by him on Thursday said "it is untrue that I threatened our father, the governor of our beloved state, Kano, and the leader of our party, APC, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, who is my mentor for life, over workers' salaries as published by the online news platform.

"I have instructed my team of lawyers to write to the publisher to retract the unfounded publication, apologise to me, and state his source, the failure of which will lead to litigation.

"Our governor remains my father, my leader and my mentor for life, no matter the fake news and antics of mischief makers, who are hell-bent on causing confusion between us. Governor Ganduje remains the most outstanding governor in the North, noting that the successes being recorded are a result of the governor's management of the state's resources for the benefit of all. I have never seen a governor in the North who has done as much as Governor Ganduje has done in the areas of security, education, healthcare delivery and infrastructural development."



He said a fake news report by an online platform said he had threatened to expose Governor Ganduje over alleged deductions from salaries of Local Government workers in the state.

The platform, mikiyawww.hausanews-nigeriya, had published a report claiming that Doguwa, who represents Doguwa-Tudun Wada Federal Constituency of Kano State, had threatened to expose the governor over deductions.

Doguwa described the report as blatant falsehood, mischief, and fake news concocted by his detractors and agents of darkness to tarnish his image and cause confusion between him and his leader and mentor, Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje.

While saying his lawyers will pursue the matter, Doguwa, a ranking lawmaker, said he has never held any adverse feelings against the governor, whom he described as the best-performing state executive in the country, talk less of having any cause to expose him.

THE VIEW FROM AMERICA
CHIDO NWANGWU



"The Boy is good" Mbazulike, Mandela and Nigeria

Chido Nwangwu pays tribute to first Republic Minister of Aviation, Chief Mbazulike Amaechi, who died earlier this week at the age of 93



Earlier on November 1, 2022, I was informed of the death of one of the architects of Nigeria, Chief Mbazulike Amaechi. He's one of the distinguished frontline nationalists in Nigeria, an iconic figure and leader.

He turned 93, on the 16th of June, 2022.

This nationalist, popularly known as "The boy is good", spoke truth to power! He was a brilliant activist, strategist, and development advocate.

On July 3, 2020, I had my first interview with him.

Unusual for many Nigerian politicians, he was polite, patient, punctual and globally informed about ancient matters and contemporary events.

I know that I've benefited a lot of knowledge from seeking his front row seat location and profound insights to the political history and the nationalists anti-colonial movements in Nigeria, and West Africa. He spent time in Ghana, as a Zikist.

He was a pioneer Zikist movement member — under the inspired leadership of the foremost, nationalist, and first ceremonial president of Nigeria, late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe of the NCNC. Zik of Africa. Amaechi was a junior minister in the post colonial Government of the time.

I interviewed him about Nelson Mandela; for my forthcoming 2023 book titled Power, Leadership & Identity: MLK, Mandela & Achebe. MLKMandelaAchebe.com

Mandela stayed with Amaechi in Yaba in Lagos in the 1960s during the ANC's fight against apartheid in South Africa. The two men visited and spent some time together in Chief Amaechi's village of Ukpor and parts of the Igbo heartland in the Eastern region of Nigeria.

Chief Amaechi was truly a great man!

Without any doubt, Mbazulike Amaechi championed and made very huge sacrifices for a greater and better Nigeria.

Which led me to ask another question: are the recent, ghastly, relentless terrorism assaults on the sovereign borders and across Nigeria by jihadists, gunmen, bandits, gross nepotism, discriminations and grinding poverty what they fought for?

I do know that for Amaechi and many of his generation, Nigeria of yesterday and today remain an uninspiring effort.

Nigeria seems to have become an intractable arena of ineptitude and colossal waste!

Literally, it has become a waste land. Nigeria has become the trending tag for incendiary weekly mayhem and daily savagery. It has become the devil's playground with chronicles of serial catastrophic experiences, punctuated by corruption!

Many before Amaechi died, heartbroken. Waiting for Nigeria to awaken is like Waiting for Godot!

I recall some months ago, Amaechi, some priests and leaders visited and offered Buhari options to defuse and tackle the Nnamdi Kanu tangled palaver. He rejected it.

Regardless, he was hopeful that Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari (retired army General and former dictator) with the leadership of the country would halt the sweeping drift and involve all Nigerians fairly, equitably and appropriately to restructure and rebuild a severely damaged country and heal its brutalized citizens.

Otherwise….

-Nwangwu is Founder & Publisher of the first African-owned, U.S-based newspaper on the internet, USAfricaonline.com

Follow him on Twitter @Chido247

As Peter Obi Visits Flood Victims...

Etim Etim writes about the visit of the presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Mr Peter Obi, to some of the communities affected by the recent flood disaster that ravaged parts of the country



It's quite commendable for Peter Obi to suspend his campaign activities and go visiting flooded communities across the country.

Over 600 Nigerians have died and over a million people displaced in what has become the worst flooding in a decade. In Benue State, Obi waded through the waters, spoke words of consolation to the beleaguered citizens and donated N5 million to them.

As you read this, Obi has moved to another flooded community. I understand that he will visit most of the flooded communities. The Labour Party candidate also called on the other 17 presidential candidates to suspend their campaigns and join him in visiting our fellow citizens in distress. So far, none of them has responded. I recall that when he was governor of Anambra State, Obi also waded through high flood waters to reach the affected people in his state.

This year, Kogi, Anambra, Bayelsa, Delta, Benue and many others in the North East have been ravaged by the overflowing water.

Those who know him closely assert that Obi, a staunch Catholic and a wealthy businessman, is imbued with compassion, humility and generosity; and so, since he left office in 2013, he's been engaged in many public-spirited activities.

He has a foundation through which he funds his philanthropic activities. Obi loves to support renovation of educational and health facilities, extending assistance to the poor and the less privileged members of the society. His donation of N100 million for the refurbishment of Bishop Shahannan Hospital in Nsukka a few years ago stands out in my memory. As a student at UNN in the 1980s, I can recall that this medical facility served the university town and the neighbouring communities so effectively.

So, it is not right to claim that Peter Obi is now extending help to flood-ravaged communities because he is running for President.

Rather, showing love and empathy is his second nature. I recall that in the university in the 1980s, Obi was a rich student, driving around the campus in a new Peugeot car. But he was obviously unassuming and humble; always helpful to those who sought help from him. As governor, his sense of modesty in personal and official conduct and frugality in managing public funds are well known to Nigerians. Obi is one of the very few former governors who have never been associated with corruption – something of a rarity in a country where high level corruption is not only common, but is the leading cause of social and economic dislocations.

This is how Prof. Stefan Dercon of Oxford University, UK, describes the situation in his recently published book, ''Gambling on Development – Why some countries win and others lose'': ''Nigeria is not just a country characterized by both extreme wealth and deepest abject poverty. … It is also home to some of the worst forms of patronage, rent-seeking economic behaviour, absurd economic policies, ethnic political competition, poor, or at times, predatory and corrupt public administration, violence and conflict, and, too often, little hope''. Nigerian writers and commentators are even less charitable in their assessment of their political leaders. That explains why Obi appears as the most lustrous example of what is good among the leading presidential contenders. Both Bola Tinubu and Atiku Abubarkar are poorly rated when it comes to transparency in public office.

Indeed, compassion and humility are two of the 21 qualities of a good leader.

As Deanna deBara, American writer, entrepreneur, speaker and coach, writes, ''humility leads to better listening, increased collaboration, and a more compassionate leadership style. It creates a more authenticity and a more constant drive to learn. These qualities lead to better outcomes, both for the leaders and the teams. Humble leaders aren't afraid to make mistakes''.

I thank Peter Obi for his kind gesture and exemplary conduct. I call on other wealthy Nigerians and philanthropic organizations to reach out to our people in distress. Nigerians have always shown responsiveness to fellow citizens who are in anguish.

-Etim writes from Abuja


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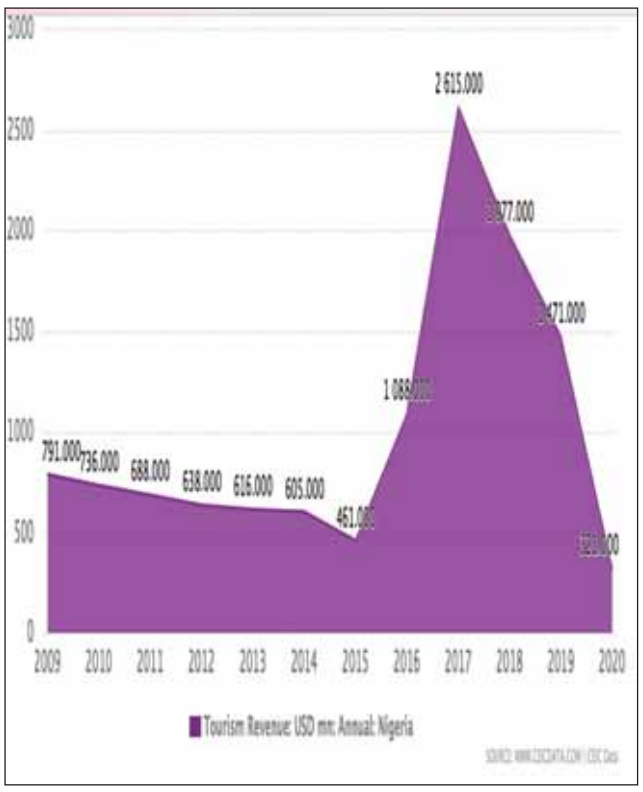
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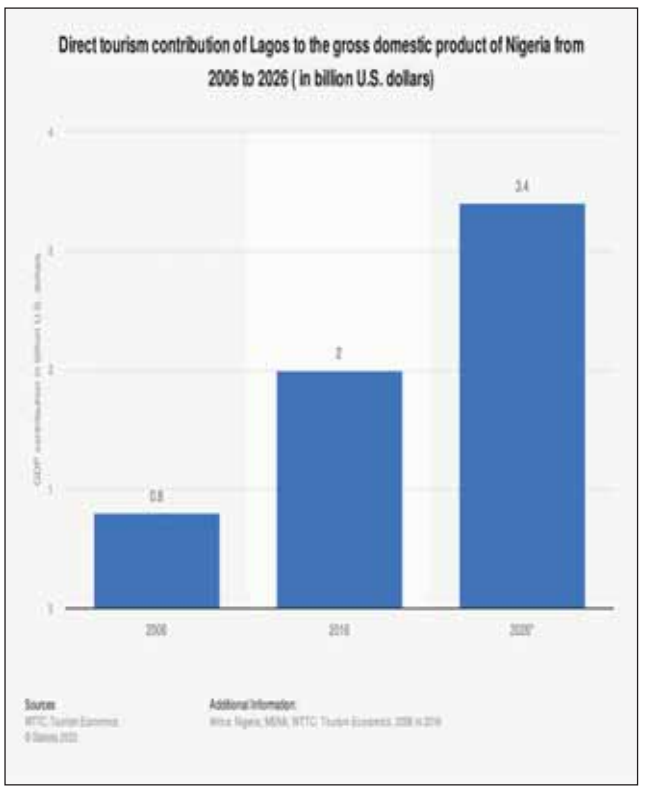
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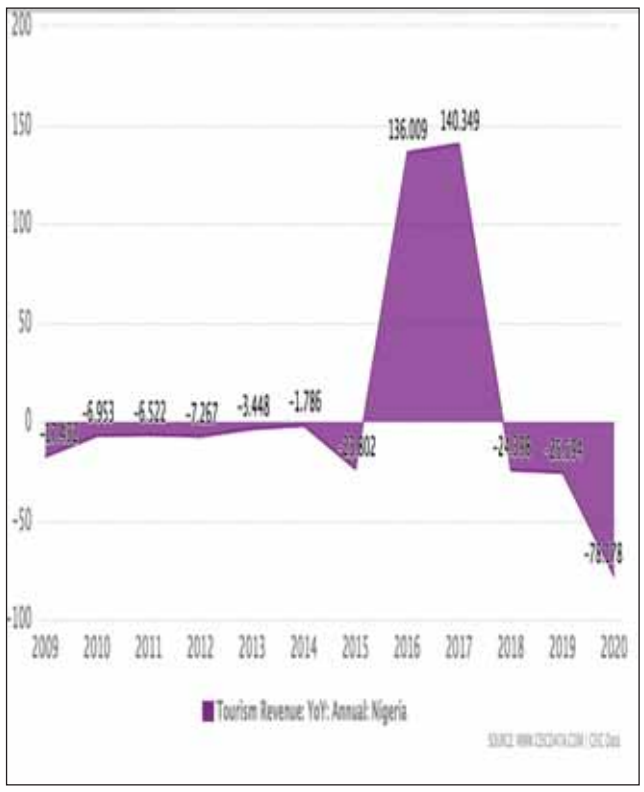
RATES AS AT NOVEMBER 3, 2022

MONEY MARKET		REPO		S & P INDEX		S & P INDEX		EXCHANGE RATE
OPR	11.25%	CALL	10.25%	INDEX LEVEL	613.31%	1/4 TO DATE	-0.85%	N416.86/1 US DOLLAR*
OVERNIGHT	11.50%	1-MONTH	9.56%	1-DAY	0.16%	YEAR TO DATE	7.64%	*AS AT LAST FRIDAY
		3-MONTH	10.52%	MONTH-TO-DATE	0.44%			

Citing SA, Egypt and Kenya, Experts Say Nigeria Can Earn $20bn Annually from Tourism







Chinedu Eze

Making references to South Africa in Southern Africa, Egypt in North Africa and Kenya in East Africa, where so much money is being generated from tourism, experts have said that Nigeria could generate up to $20 billion annually from tourism, if the landscape and the numerous side attractions are well developed.

According to the experts, "With hundreds of beaches, different aquatic beauties, game reserves, flora and fauna from the mangrove region to the Sahel region, Nigeria can earn at least $20 billion annually from tourism if these numerous attractions are developed."

They said West Africa, led by Nigeria, could generate over $50 billion annually from tourism, noting that West Africa is the only sub-region that has not exploited its tourism potential.

They disclosed that revenues generated from tourism in East Africa, South Africa and North Africa, have become the mainstay of their economy, adding that the 16 West African nations have so many tourist attractions that have not been exploited.

They gave the statistics that in 2019 South Africa earned R121. 5 billion with 1.2 per cent increase from the previous year.

The experts analysed recent reports, which indicated that African countries with the largest international tourism receipts in 2019 included Egypt that was ranked first in Africa with international tourism receipts of $13.03 billion, whereas South Africa and Morocco recorded $8.38 billion and $8.18 billion respectively.

Tourism expert and the organiser of Akwaaba African Travel Market, Ikechi Uko, who spoke to THISDAY during the 18th edition of the event in Lagos, said comparative study on what other sub-regions earn from tourism could throw light to what West Africa is losing from the sector because the 16 countries in the sub-region have not taken time to study and find ways to fully explore the opportunities available in these countries, stressing that Nigeria and Ghana are potentially losing huge revenues by under developing their possible tourism destinations.

"If you look at what Egypt and South Africa are earning, including Kenya, Morocco and others in the other sub-regions in Africa, you will realise that the 16 countries in West Africa are losing a lot of money. Each country can earn at least $2 billion annually and that gives you about $32 billion. Nigeria alone can generate over $20 billion from tourism and even Lagos has so much that if it decides to develop its toursim destinations, it can generate enough money to fully manage the state," Uko said.

In an interview THISDAY on the sid, at Wave Beach, Elegushi, Lagos on Sunday, the Minister of Tourism, Sierra Lelines of the event, eone, Memunatu Pratt, said if well developed, tourism could become major source of revenue for West African nations, but these countries need to exploit the opportunities in the individual countries and work together with the others in the sub-region.

"Tourism today is critical to the transformation of West Africa's woes or difficulties. And the reason why we have not been able to leverage on that is because of the fact that we have not improved on connectivity. When we say connectivity, we have a huge interest in Information Technology (IT), and I agree with that. But even at that, you have millions of people that they cannot reach. So you still depend on traditional methods of media and more, especially on the electronic media, which is what you are doing. But for West Africa, generally, we have wasted a lot of time in connecting the sub region. I remember as far back as 1975 and up to 1980, there were projects to link West Africa. We are talking about the West Africa railway. We were also talking about the West Africa air connectivity and to some extent that we missed it as a result of the fact that a few things happened in West Africa. Like for instance, if you can recall the Civil wars in Sierra Leone, the one in Liberia, which affected Guinea a little bit. And then also, it disrupted quite a lot of processes," she said.

FG Approves Five Processing Terminals for Agro Export

Gilbert Ekugbe

The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) has approved five export-processing terminals to boost the nation's agro export.

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, NPA, Mr. Mohammed Bello-Koko, at the public presentation of export processing terminal licenses in Lagos, explained that movement of agro export boxes arriving the ports from Lagos & Ogun states shall only be allowed into the ports from any of the five Export Processing Terminals (EPT).

Koko who was represented by the Executive Director, Marine and Operations, Mr. Onari Brown, said for export containers arriving from the Domestic Export Warehouses (DEWs) located across the country, the Authority is committed to receiving export containers subject to compliance with the traffic management put in place by the Lagos State Government in collaboration with the Nigerian Ports Authority.

"We have found the partnership with Lagos State Government very effective in taming the traffic gridlock and we are desirous of ensuring the export boxes which represents important deliverable for us and the Federal Government work in sync with the structure for the mutual benefit of the state, national economy and Nigerian export community," he said.

He added: "For our terminal operators, shipping companies and other stakeholders, you have been fully briefed on the procedure for ensuring success of the Federal Government National Action Plan on agro - export development in the country. You have a responsibility to ensure strict compliance in this regard."

He added the official presentation is a testament of its unflinching resolve to transform Nigeria's export potentials into actualities.

"We are presenting operational licenses to five EPTs namely; Messrs. Diamondstar Port & Terminals Limited, Messrs. Esslibra Terminal, Messrs. Sundial Global Trade & Service Limited, Messrs. Bellington Cargo Limited and Messrs. Tenzik Energy Limited. These terminals are to support our ongoing efforts to create the enabling environment that will scale-up our export development initiative," he added.

He noted that the procedure for licensing these terminals commenced in April, 2021 after which 30 companies expressed interest.

He pointed out that the inspection committee and the Project Delivery Team (PDT) following a thorough engagement including presentation by prospective companies arrived at a list of 10 companies, which

Continued on page 25

MARKET DATA AS AT THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

BONDS

DESCRIPTION	Price	Yield	Change (%)	Updated Time
^14.20 14-MAR-2024	100.09	14.09	0.00	October 28, 2022
13.53 23-MAR-2025	98.81	14.11	0.00	October 28, 2022
^12.50 22-JAN-2026	9409	14.84	0.85	October 28, 2022
^16.2884 17-MAR-2027	106.42	14.25	-0.01	October 28, 2022
^13.98 23-FEB-2028	98.42	14.40	0.00	October 28, 2022

BILLS

MATURITY	Dis-count	Yield	Change (%)	Updated Time
NTB 10-Nov-22	13.10	13.16	-0.01	October 28, 2022
NTB 26-Jan-23	10.85	11.15	0.00	October 28, 2022
NTB 9-Feb-23	8.32	8.52	0.00	October 28, 2022
NTB 9-Mar-23	8.96	9.26	0.00	October 28, 2022
NTB 27-Apr-23	8.05	8.38	-0.01	October 28, 2022

CPS

MATURITY	Discount	Yield	Change (%)	Updated Time
FDHP CP III 17-MAR-23	15.07	15.99	0.04	October 28, 2022
VHPL CP III 1-APR-23	19.05	20.72	0.05	October 28, 2022
.	.	.	0.00	.
.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.

OTC FX FUTURES

CONTRACT TENOR (MONTH)	Contract	Current Rate ($/N)	Updated Time
1	NGUS NOV 30 2022	454.73	October 28, 2022
2	NGUS DEC 28 2022	456.93	October 28, 2022
3	NGUS JAN 25 2023	459.12	October 28, 2022
4	NGUS FEB 22 2023	461.32	October 28, 2022
5	NGUS MAR 29 2023	463.51	October 28, 2022

NAMA Tasks Airlines, ATCOs, Others on Incident Reporting

Chinedu Eze

The acting Managing Director of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Mr. Matthew Pwajok, has urged pilots, air traffic controllers, airlines, ground handlers, passengers and other stakeholders in the aviation industry to continue to report aviation incidents to the safety authorities.

He said incident reports would further enhance the relative safety in the industry and also boost confidence in air travel.

Pwajok, who was an award recipient at the Association of Foreign Airlines and Representatives in Nigeria (AFARN) safety summit and awards, which held in Lagos recently, contended that investing in sensitisation of key stakeholders in the area of safety reporting is as important as investing in safety critical equipment and manpower training. He stressed that incident reports were critical and strategic aspect of the aviation safety chain, because, "if you don't report incidents we can't control them, if we don't have reports we cannot provide the required risk analysis and mitigations."

He commended pilots "for being very faithful in incident reporting, even to the detriment of the airlines, as this could sometimes cause slight flight delays while awaiting a review or investigation of the incident by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) before releasing the aircraft back for operations.

The agency said when these incidents are reported by pilots to ATC, they are immediately relayed toNCAA for investigation, and when the reported event or defect is mitigated, the aircraft is released back to service.

"For instance, we had an occurrence at Escravos yesterday that was reported to the control tower by the pilot, and consequently NAMA informed AIB (Accident Investigation Bureau) and NCAA, and after the required mitigations were effected, the aircraft was released back to service. It is as prompt as that! These are the kind of 24/7 collaboration, cooperation, and coordination that have largely enhanced safety in the sector," Pwajok said.

The NAMA boss expressed appreciation to stakeholders in the industry for the enhanced safety in the sector, which he attributed to the effective synergy amongst stakeholders and strategic efforts by service providers. The NAMA boss also observed that the relative safety enjoyed in the sector over the last 10 years was not by chance or luck but as a result of significant investments both in infrastructural deployment and human capital development to enhance safety in the Nigerian airspace, thereby ensuring that major air disasters such as those witnessed between 2005 and 2006 were a thing of the past.

Air Peace Chairman Wins GCU 2022 Man of the Year Award

Chairman of Air Peace, Allen Onyema, has been conferred with the Man of the Year Award 2022 by the alumni association, Government College of Ughelli, GCU, Class of Friends.

The award ceremony, which held on Sunday, October 30, 2022, at the Federal Palace Hotel in Lagos, had in attendance, several alumni who have made a mark in various facets of life, including the Chairman, ARISE NEWS Channels and THISDAY Newspaper, Prince Nduka Obaigbena, who was honoured with the Mariner of the Century.

Onyema was honoured for his landmark strides in aviation and his 'behemothic' humanitarian interventions, especially his corporate philanthropy, through Air Peace and commendable national peace advocacy.

While receiving the award, Onyema expressed gratitude to the leadership of the GCU and stated that he is proud to be an alumnus of the college, adding that it had tremendous influence on him.

He further called on the private sector and well meaning Nigerians to support Nigeria's education, as government alone cannot do it all. Onyema promised to continually support the infrastructure development of the GCU.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, GCU Class of Friends, Mr. Cyril Ogude, said both Onyema and Obaigbena have established themselves as high achievers, and by honouring them, the GCU is acknowledging them as entrepreneurial role models.

Obadare Wins CSEAN's Cybersecurity Outstanding Award

The Co-founder and the Chief Visionary Officer (CVO) of Digital Encode Limited, Dr. Obadare Peter Adewale, has emerged the first recipient of Cyber Security Experts Association of Nigeria (CSEAN's) 'Outstanding Individual of the Year Award'.

Adewale is PAN-African Cybersecurity Influencer, Thought Leader and GRC Technopreneur.

He received the latest honours at CSEAN Merit Award held recently in Lagos.

According to the chairperson of the award planning committee, Mrs. Oluwatoni Falade, the award was in recognition of his over-time demonstrated excellence, innovation and leadership within the cybersecurity industry.

Adewale is a Fellow, British Computer Society (FBCS), Fellow Institute of Management Consultants (FIMC), Fellow Institute of Information Management (FIIM), Fellow Enterprise Security Risk Management (FESRM), Fellow Institute of Brand Management (FIBM), Chartered Information Technology Professional (CITP), The First PECB Certified Data Protection Officer (CDPO) in Nigeria, The First PECB Lead Pentest Professional in Nigeria, The First Ec-Council Licensed Penetration Tester (LPT) in Africa, among other qualifications.

He is a seasoned multi-award cybersecurity expert with over 50 international professional certifications to his credit, Peter is a well-recognized subject matter expert with numerous successful engagements to his credit in Africa.

Grooming Endowment Trust Lifts 15 SMEs with N12.5m Grant

With the need to boost local entrepreneurs across the country, the Grooming Endowment Trust has empowered 15 small and medium-sized enterprises with a total of N12.5 million grant to upscale their businesses.

This is aside from two weeks of business workshop and mentoring sessions facilitated by a seasoned consulting firm, the Centre for Research in Enterprise and Action in Management (CREM) across all sectors on business growth and sustainability.

At the GET Compass prize presentation, the Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Grooming Endowment Trust, Adaobi Okafor, said: "Creating an ecosystem for businesses remains critical for their survival."

According to her, "At times people have amazing ideas, but funding, capacity and mentoring that they need are lacking. One thing is to start a business, but another thing is to sustain it to the end for them to gain traction."

On why accelerating local SMEs with grant funds, she maintained that it was imperative for them to grow, while leveraging networks to upscale growth, sales and services.

In her words: "With the top five who received two million naira each, the other 10 SMEs will receive N250,000. This grant will help them to support their businesses along their value chains. The winners were grateful to the Grooming Endowing Trust."

The CEO of Grooming Centre, Dr. Godwin Nwabunka, charged them to see the fund as a vehicle for growing their businesses.

He challenged SMEs in the country to lead growth across all sectors of the economy by investing properly into ventures that would give them return on investment.

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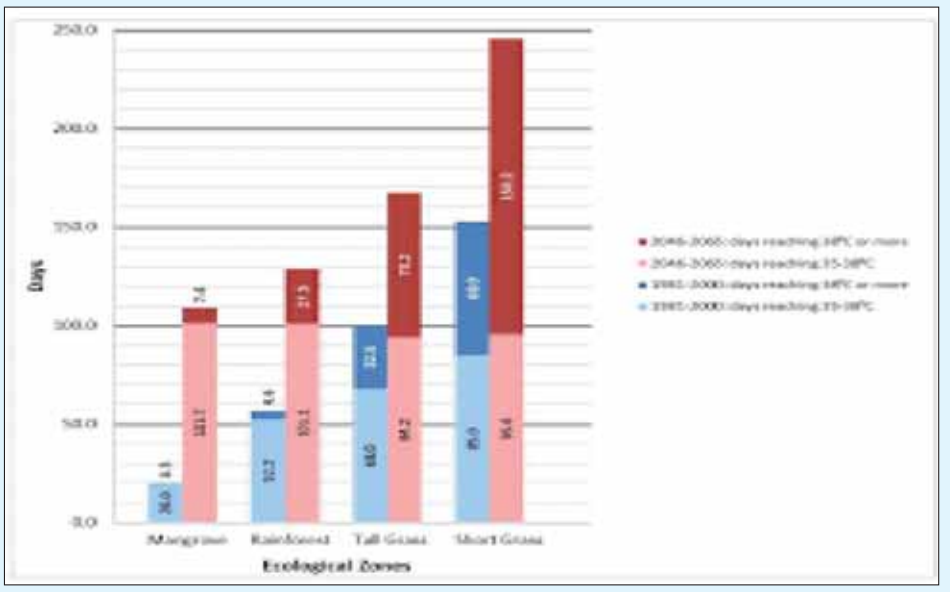
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NiMet Predicts Flight Disruptions in Harmattan Season



Chinedu Eze

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) has alerted the public of the possible commencement of the dry season otherwise called the harmattan season in most parts of the north, which it said, may likely affect flight operations in the country.

Since the beginning of this week, following weather report of observed movement of dust plumes from the source region (Niger and Chad), NiMet said relatively low visibility values would be expected in the county.

A release issued by NiMet on Tuesday indicated that as a matter of hours there were good prospects of dust haze (in moderate horizontal visibility, 2000m – 5000m) over Maiduguri, Yobe, Katsina, Kano, Kaduna, Gombe, Bauchi and Jigawa states, while other northern states (including North-central) could report sunny and hazy (visibility of 5–7km). It is expected that this weather condition would persist for the next three days and be harbinger to the full Harmattan season that would end next year.

Like in other years, these weather changes will affect fight operations, which would include flight cancelations and delays.

NiMET in a statement said: "The dry season is usually a period of no rainfall in the North and a period of little or no rainfall in the South.It is characterized by dust particles, harmattan cold, especially at night, high day-time temperature values, fog occurrences, hazy condition and associated health related risks such as meningitis, respiratory illnesses and more.

"As the dry season begins, NiMet advises stakeholders and indeed the general public that places where visibility is impaired by dust haze, motorists should drive cautiously. People with respiratory issues should apply necessary caution, especially for out-door activities.

"Airline operators are also advised to get updated weather reports from NiMet offices for effective planning of their operations, stressing that with the warmer temperatures, there are higher chances of clear air turbulence."

NiMET further explained that hot weather result in aircraft taxing longer distance on the runway to generate enough lift for flight take-off. This increases the fuel consumption and requires adequate planning by operators.

It also stated that during the dry season, there could be increased chances of bird strike due to influx of migratory birds. This constitutes a hazard to flight operations. Motorists are also advised to adhere to recommended tyre pressure by the manufacturers especially during the hot days to safeguard against tyre burst.

NiMET also observed that with reduced visibilities, flight delays or cancellations, in compliance with safety regulations might not be unexpected.

"The climate of Nigeria is characterized by two distinct seasons: the rainy season and the dry season. The rainy season usually last between late February and Early November in the South with a little break between late July and Mid-August, while it lasts between late May to early Mid October in the North. Beyond this period, between the end of rainy season and the beginning of the next rainy season is the dry season, which is what is unfolding. However, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency assures the public that it will keep track of the changes in weather and provide updates when necessary," the agency said.

Meanwhile, NiMET has said that its forecasts on flooding were ignored by most state governments across the country.

The Director-General of NiMET, Prof. Mansur Matazu, stated this recently in Lagos during the commencement of the two days 'Needs Assessment Workshop' for stakeholders in the Maritime, Oil and Gas sectors.

Matazu who was represented at the occasion by the Director, Weather Forecasting Services, NiMET, Mailadi Abba, stated that the agency had issued early warning on the possibility of floods across most states of the federation before the commencement of the rainfall, but lamented that the warnings were disregarded by most stakeholders.

He insisted that if the warnings had been adhered to, the level of havoc caused would have reduced, while the losses would also be curbed.

Matazu declared that NiMET weather predictions are almost perfect and called on all stakeholders and state governments to always endeavour to adhere to its warnings.

According to him, its accurate weather predictions in the aviation industry have helped to drastically reduce the rate of air accidents attributed to weather issues.

He maintained that the same safety heights recorded in the aviation sector, NiMET intended to replicate such in the maritime sector, stressing that this could be achieved through partnerships with stakeholders in the industry.

He said: "We gave the warnings and weather for each state, but whether the states adhered to it or not, we are now seeing the end result. Most of them did not adhere, but unfortunately it was only when the flood came that many states were now running to Mr. President cap in hand to get money.

"If they had listened to us, some of these things would have been avoided. We asked them to invite us and gather their stakeholders to allow us to train them on the use of the information and engage with them so that we can have a window by which we can interact with them; giving them updates, reminding them about what the forecasts say.

"But, unfortunately, they didn't come forth to take the information to their grassroots members. It is only when the flood came that everyone is now calling for relief funds. So, our information is accurate, reliable and timely. So, I don't think we are going to have any issue of accidents due to weather forecasts. You may have some gaps not necessarily from NiMET, but from the user itself.

"In the aviation sector, accidents due to weather are reduced If not totally eliminated. This is the kind of service that we want to deliver to the marine sector. So, our information is accurate, reliable and timely. So, I don't think we are going to have any issue of accidents due to weather forecasts. You may have some gaps not necessarily from NiMET, but from the user itself."

Matazu further decried the vandalism of NiMET equipment at airports and stations, especially at the MurtalaMuhammed Airport (MMA), Lagos, saying that the agency was collaborating with security agencies to address the situation.

"We install our facilities so that we can get information, but some people vandalise them and we are not the security outfits at the airport. But, after the meeting with the security agencies, I think it is going to reduce," he assured.

FG APPROVES FIVE PROCESSING TERMINALS FOR AGRO EXPORT

were subsequently granted approval to join the Lilypond Export Processing Terminal.

According to him, only five out of 11 companies have met its stringent conditions and would be granted formal certification, stressing that the remaining six who hold provisional licenses would unfortunately be dropped at the end of this month if they fail to meet its standard to allow the Authority consider other applicants on its waiting list.

"This journey has not been easy but we have insisted on ensuring that only venture capitalist willing to deploy appropriate resources can make the cup. We have also used this project to encourage local content in the export value chain and we are proud of that. We will offer all support policy wise to ensure the growth and stability of the terminals," he averred.

He stated that the need for the Export Processing Terminals (EPTs) is underscored by the limitations of current port facilities in the Lagos area which are operating beyond their 'as built capacity' for cargo handling, stressing that the EPTs are therefore holding areas positioned in Lagos and Ogun States to help exporters prepare their arrival at port terminals in-view of the traffic management challenges that are visible in Lagos.

In his words: "This initiative signposts the Nigerian Ports Authority's (NPA's) commitment to implementation of the National Action Plan on Agro-Export and the Federal Government of Nigeria desire to diversify the national economy from oil export to non-oil exports."

Also speaking, the Comptroller, Lilypond Export Command, Muhammed Babandede, said Nigeria has the potential to be among the top economies of the world to also be one of the top export nations across the globe, saying that the present administration is prioritising efforts to promoting exports.

"Once exports is promoted, at least there should be procedures for exports that will add to our national reserves. We cannot be a country of only import, we have to also export we have to produce and Nigerian Customs Service is doing everything to promote the business of export," he said.

He added: So that is why a whole command is established at the Lilypond. If there is anything that has to do with export, it will be jointly examined. The command is a one stop shop where all the relevant agencies of government are there. So once a container is examined, seen, it will go to any of the ports of the choice of the exporter and the container will be escorted by our officers and natural port authority security personnel."

FCMB Rallies Operators to Diversify, Stimulate Nigerian Economy

Stakeholders in the nation's financial service sector have stated that Nigeria's vast non-oil endowment must be urgently leveraged to diversify and expand its revenue base, reduce the dependence on crude oil for foreign exchange earnings, and stimulate rapid economic growth.

They stated this in Lagos at a non-oil export trade seminar organised by First City Monument Bank (FCMB.

Fifth in its series, the Seminar themed, "Refocusing Nigeria's Economic Development Through Non-Oil Exports," aimed to transform the non-oil sector into the primary driver of economic growth.

In her opening remarks, The Managing Director of FCMB, Mrs Yemisi Edun identified non-oil export as a catalyst for rapid economic growth. She said it would reduce Nigeria's vulnerability to external shocks undermining the economy. Mrs Edun affirmed FCMB's commitment to the sector, especially opportunities in the African Continental Free Trade Area.

She commended the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Bankers' Committee for introducing the Road To $200 billion (RT200) to fast-track the diversification of the economy's productive base through export.

Edun disclosed that the programme increased foreign exchange inflow significantly by about $600 million in the first half of 2022.

Also, CEO of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Mr Ezra Yakusak, lauded the "Road To $200 billion (RT200) programme. He said it offers ample opportunities for operators in export trade to scale up. Mr Samuel Oyeyipo, Regional Director of the Council, represented Mr Yakusak at the Seminar.

According to the NEPC Boss, Nigeria's abundant natural resources provide a good and solid base for rapid industrialisation if we make the necessary financial provisions. He disclosed that huge opportunities abound for Nigerian manufacturers that can get it right in Nigeria and other African markets.

The Export Promotion Chief disclosed that between January and June 2022, Nigeria exported products worth $2.593 billion, representing a 62.37 per cent increase from the $1.59 billion exported within the same period in 2021.

On his part, the Head of Strategic Planning at the Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM), Mr Tayo Omidiji, called for capital investment in the sector. He said enhanced credit flow to the non-oil export sector, primarily to support capital investments in productive assets, will lead to economic diversification. "Given Nigeria's endowment in agriculture, solid minerals and services sector, Nigeria has vast potential to grow non-oil exports and diversify its export revenues."

Addressing export trade stakeholders, Comptroller General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Col. Hameed Ali (Rtd.), harped on the agency's role as a conscious trade facilitator. The Controller of Kirikiri Lighter Terminal Command, Comptroller Hammi Swomen, represented him at the Seminar.

Ali said the agency had re-engineered its process to ensure that exporters and Nigeria benefit from global trade. He said, "We have automated our documentation and procedures by developing the Nigeria Integrated Customs Information System (NICIS II). So today, exporters can lodge their export declaration for processing from the conduct of their office. We are also working on completing the end-to-end automation of the Export Clearance documentation on the NICIS II system".

Jumia Nigeria Begins Black Friday Campaign with over 50,000 Vendors

Emma Okonji

Jumia, Africa's e-commerce platform, has concluded plans to begin this year's Black Friday shopping campaign, with over 50,000 vendors that will cover varieties of products that will meet consumers' needs.

The campaign, tagged 'Beat Sapa', is geared towards helping consumers navigate the current economic realities while supporting SMEs and brands to reach millions of consumers.

The campaign, which begins today Friday, November 4th, 2022, will run till Sunday, November 27th, 2022. Consumers in Nigeria will get massive discounts on a wide range of products across different categories from top international and local brands. This year's Jumia Black Friday is in partnership with Adidas as the Platinum sponsor and Nivea, Xiaomi, Oraimo and Guinness as Gold sponsors.

Speaking at a virtual press conference to announce the campaign, Jumia Nigeria CEO, Massimiliano Spalazzi, said: "The Jumia Black Friday Campaign is another opportunity for us to enrich the shopping experience of our consumers. With the current economic situation, it is important to ensure that consumers can still shop for their needs at the best prices. This 9th edition is set to provide this, and we are happy to have partnered with the biggest household brands and SMEs. We are encouraging our consumers to take advantage of this campaign."

According to Spalazzi, the annual commercial event, which was introduced for the first time in Nigeria and in Africa in 2014 by Jumia, continues to gain popularity amongst consumers and has largely contributed to the adoption of e-commerce nationwide through massive awareness.

Country General Manager, Beiersdorf Nivea Consumer Nigeria Limited, Oladele Adeyole, said: "We are delighted to partner with Jumia for this year's Black Friday campaign, where our customers can expect the best deals on the quality range of product assortment from the Nivea brand. We are aware of the tough economic conditions, which is why at Nivea, we believe in care beyond skin which means being part of the solution. We want to make self-love and self-care accessible and affordable for all. "

Aside the heavily discounted prices, Spalazzi said consumers would also get mega deals, which include flash sales on select products and free shipping by brands, daily games, prime members dedicated offers, and JumiaPay discounts, amongst others.

Consumers can take advantage of the amazing offers during the Black Friday Sale by simply downloading the Jumia App. The campaign will feature Treasure Hunt, Brand Days, Daily Check-In, Flash Sales and Jumia Games, where consumers can win exciting prizes and get further discounts on several products. In addition, there would also be JumiaPay incentives, Jumia Prime members dedicated offers and free shipping on a wide range of products to consumers within Lagos, Abuja, and Ibadan.

TranscorpHotels
RC 248514

EXTRACTS OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
CONSOLIDATED AND SEPARATE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

	Group		Company	
	30 September 2022 N'000	31 December 2021 N'000	30 September 2022 N'000	31 December 2021 N'000
ASSETS				
NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Property, plant and equipment	105,080,621	103,979,889	90,454,332	91,173,701
Investment property	-	-	1,695,000	1,695,000
Goodwill	1,974,756	1,974,756	-	-
Other intangible assets	147,351	158,605	117,433	137,465
Investment in subsidiaries	-	-	3,529,841	3,529,841
Long term receivables	-	-	8,412,891	6,753,736
Deferred tax assets	132,556	132,556	-	-
	107,335,284	106,245,806	104,209,497	103,289,743
CURRENT ASSETS				
Inventories	788,076	619,523	731,885	570,208
Trade and other receivables	3,437,432	2,636,602	3,932,765	2,926,130
Prepayments	1,114,502	1,422,337	1,095,622	1,404,657
Cash and bank balances	4,155,511	4,965,458	4,126,128	4,765,806
	9,495,521	9,643,920	9,886,400	9,666,801
TOTAL ASSETS	116,830,805	115,889,726	114,095,897	112,956,544
EQUITY				
Share capital	5,121,264	5,121,264	5,121,264	5,121,264
Share premium	12,548,859	12,548,859	12,548,859	12,548,859
Retained earnings	46,173,460	44,577,786	46,126,720	44,347,486
Equity attributable to Owners of the Company	63,843,583	62,247,909	63,796,843	62,017,609
Non-controlling interests	(67,911)	(27,684)	-	-
TOTAL EQUITY	63,775,672	62,220,225	63,796,843	62,017,609
LIABILITIES				
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Borrowings	15,544,309	16,448,964	15,544,309	16,448,964
Deferred income	1,668,809	2,005,878	1,668,809	2,005,878
Deposit for shares	2,410,000	2,410,000	-	-
Contract liabilities	2,275,477	2,333,370	2,275,477	2,333,370
Deferred tax liability	4,841,445	4,841,445	4,841,445	4,841,445
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	26,740,040	28,039,657	24,330,040	25,629,657
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Contract liabilities	152,820	152,820	152,820	152,820
Trade and other payables	17,466,407	17,606,939	17,120,328	17,291,083
Borrowings	7,229,047	7,252,926	7,229,047	7,252,926
Deferred income	450,659	450,659	450,659	450,659
Current tax liabilities	1,016,160	166,500	1,016,160	161,790
	26,315,093	25,629,844	25,969,014	25,309,278
TOTAL LIABILITIES	53,055,133	53,669,501	50,299,054	50,938,935
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	116,830,805	115,889,726	114,095,897	112,956,544

The consolidated and separate financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 26 October 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr. Emmanuel Nnorom
Chairman
FRC/2014/ICAN/00000007402

Mrs. Dupe Olusola
Managing Director/CEO
FRC/2020/003/00000021164

Oluwatobiloba Ojediran
Chief Finance Officer
FRC/2020/001/00000020314

CONSOLIDATED AND SEPARATE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

	Group		Company	
	January - September 2022 N'000	January - September 2021 N'000	January - September 2022 N'000	January - September 2021 N'000
Revenue	22,654,514	14,601,237	21,949,396	13,978,234
Profit before tax	3,288,613	745,092	3,512,400	753,293
Income tax	(1,016,189)	(3,075)	(1,016,189)	-
Total comprehensive income for the period	2,272,424	742,017	2,496,211	753,293
Profit for the period attributable to:				
Owners of the Company	2,312,651	743,129	2,496,211	753,293
Non-controlling interest	(40,227)	(1,112)	-	-
	2,272,424	742,017	2,496,211	753,293
Basic profit per share (kobo)	23	7	24	7



TECH FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT…

L-R: Pastor and Founder of Trinity House, Itua Ighodalo; Chairman of SmartCity, Plc, Demola Aladekomo and presidential candidate of Labour Party, Peter Obi, during a meeting with Fintech stakeholders in Lagos…recently

Leverage Startup Act to Accelerate Growth, Fintech Stakeholders Tell Peter Obi

Emma Okonji

A selected number of stakeholders in the Nigeria Fintech sector have urged the presidential flag bearer of the Labour Party, Mr. Peter Obi to leverage the provisions of the newly signed Fintech Act by President Muhammadu Buhari, to accelerate national economic growth, when voted into power in 2023.

The stakeholders, who met with Peter Obi recently to engage him on the future of Fintech in the country, stressed the need to empower Fintech players across all sectors of the economy, in order to open up digital innovations that would accelerate national development.

The private meeting, which was put together by some top players in the industry, was led by the Chairman of SmartCity Plc, Demola Aladekomo.

Addressing the audience, Aladekomo said the session was to allow players have the candidate's understanding of the Fintech sector by interacting with him on what would be their expectations if he wins the 2023 presidential election.

President of the Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON) and driver of Fintech1000+/NESG, Chinenye Mba-Uzoukwu, encouraged Peter Obi to continue with the model of collaboration between government and the private sector, while stressing the importance of leveraging the provisions of the Startup Act to create an environment that retains, nurtures and accelerates the growth of the Nigerian innovative youth.

Another Fintech stakeholder, Ade Atobatele, challenged the presidential candidate on the need for government to focus on policies that would unleash innovation.

A major player in the Fintech space, Emeka Okoye, stated that government should define the blueprint of the future of the country with the educational system. He said there was need to make lifelong learning relevant to the economy and society, and improve the quality of the workforce by investing more in training and technical education at the secondary level.

Obi who spent over three hours with the group, spent over 60 per cent of the time standing while he spoke extensively on what his government would do in the areas of security, corruption, agriculture, investment and

Double Taxation: FG to Harmonise Taxes Paid by Jetty Operators

Kasim Sumaina in Abuja

The federal government has hinted of its readiness to harmonise taxes paid by jetty operators to address double taxation and promote Ease of Doing Business in the country.

The Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo made the disclosure in Abuja during a meeting with the Technical Sub-Committee of the Presidential Standing Committee on Private Jetties (PSCPJ), led by its Chairman, Engr. Joseph Ororo.

Sambo noted that operators are more often made to pay multiple registration fees by different regulatory agencies such as the National Inland Waterways and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency.

Speaking on the Committee's mandate of licensing jetties and closure of illegal platforms, the Minister appreciated their exploits while advising that their inspections should not be restricted to timelines but should include unscheduled visits to jetties to ensure compliance with extant laws and regulations.

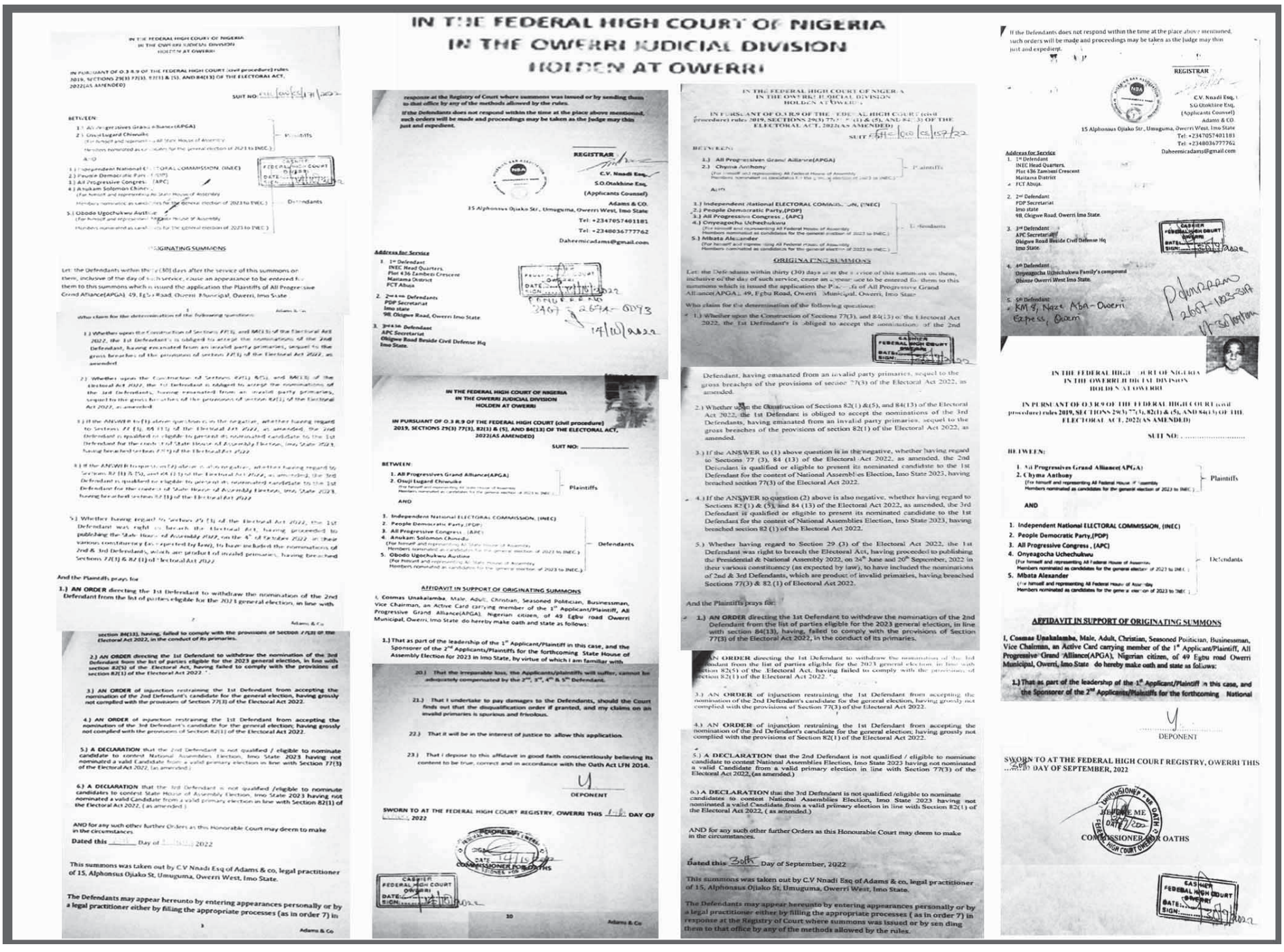
Earlier, the Chairman, Technical Sub-Committee on Private jetties, Joseph Ororo informed that the Committee was created in 2004, to checkmate security breaches, economic sabotage, gun-running and other criminal activities which were traced traced private jetties.

According to him, the Technical Sub-Committee is the expert arm of the Presidential Standing Committee on Private Jetties (PSCPJ), adding that prior to the constitution of the Standing Committee, there was a directive shutting down all private jetties across the country due to the intractable illegalities associated with them.

Speaking further, Ororo said the Committee had the following Terms of Reference: "To re-open all jetties deemed vital to the economy of the country as well as to examine all the remaining closed jetties and recommend those to be retained and those to remain permanently closed".

Others are that: "The Standing Committee meet from time to time to consider applications for operating licence for jetties and recommend those to be issued new licences by the Honourable Minister of Transportation.

"Also, the Honourable Minister of Transportation to continue to issue licenses for the operation of jetties on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, the Minister to prepare and present a note to Federal Executive Council (FEC) on the activities of the Standing Committee for its information, the Minister is also to keep the President fully informed on the work of the Standing Committee."





R-L: Customs Area Comptroller, Lilypond Export Command, Mohammed Babandede; Managing Director, Diamond Star Port and Terminals Limited, Mr. Olatunji Baale; Executive Director, Marine & Operations, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Hon. Onari Brown; Executive Director, Strategy and Business Development, Diamond Star Port and Terminals Limited, Oyeyemi Ayeyemi; Representitive of the Lagos South West Regional Coordinator, Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Olamide Damilola Olatunde, at the presentation of License for operation to Diamond Star Port and Terminals Limited in Lagos… recently

Omoniyi: Kwara Revenue Agency Generated N3.9bn in Three Years

Hammed Shittu in Ilorin

The Executive Chairman, Kwara Internal Revenue Service (KWIRS), Mrs. Shade Omoniyi has disclosed that the agency has generated a total sum of N3.9billion in the past three years.

Omoniyi in a statement, which was signed by the Corporate Affairs Manager of the agency, Miss Titilayomi Ogunwale also exonerated the agency on the recent insinuations from certain quarters over the alleged financial recklessness occasioned by the usage of frivolous consultancy services in the agency.

According to the chairman, "Within the past three years alone, the KW-IRS has saved taxpayers a humongous N3.9billion (Three Billion and Nine Hundred Million Naira) in what could have gone to consultancies of all kinds if the former platforms had been retained.

"The savings from what was paid as consultancy before are now ploughed back to the public treasury for investment and development projects. It is this transparency and patriotic act of the present management that are being twisted by the detractors who are not used to such culture.

"The Executive Chairman and Management Team of KW-IRS have made corporate governance and due diligence their watchwords, and will continue to enforce the doctrine to the letter in public interest.

"While the agency still lawfully engages consultancy firms like all revenue agencies in the world, Omoniyi said that, "our management is proud to have ended the era of bogus and often-opaque consultancy fees of the past".

She added, "The Service is aware of the vast network of conspiracies to sully its image through propaganda and false equivalence as political campaigns begin."

Uzodimma: Imo Launches Industrial Policy, Sets for Business

Amby Uneze in Owerri

Governor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State has launched the Imo Industrial Policy, with a promise that the State is now ready for national and international economic businesses that go with industrialisation.

Performing the ceremony at the Sam Mbakwe Exco Chambers Government House Owerri, the Governor said the Industrial Policy would "serve as the State's strategic master plan to stimulate the growth and development of all sectors of the economy of Imo State, identify and prioritize the low hanging fruits for immediate harvesting."

He said that the government has set out to identify all the economic potentials where Imo State has comparative advantage with the aim of clearly outlining how the potentials can be harnessed into going enterprises in the form of countless small and medium scale enterprises.

The governor used the occasion to call on investors to take advantage of the robust and friendly investment climate that his administration has deliberately put in place, to invest in different areas of the economy in Imo State, particularly in digital economy, agro industry, tourism, oil and gas, mining, fabrication and in the allied industry that will be thrown up from the Imo State Green Revolution Initiative (ISGRI).

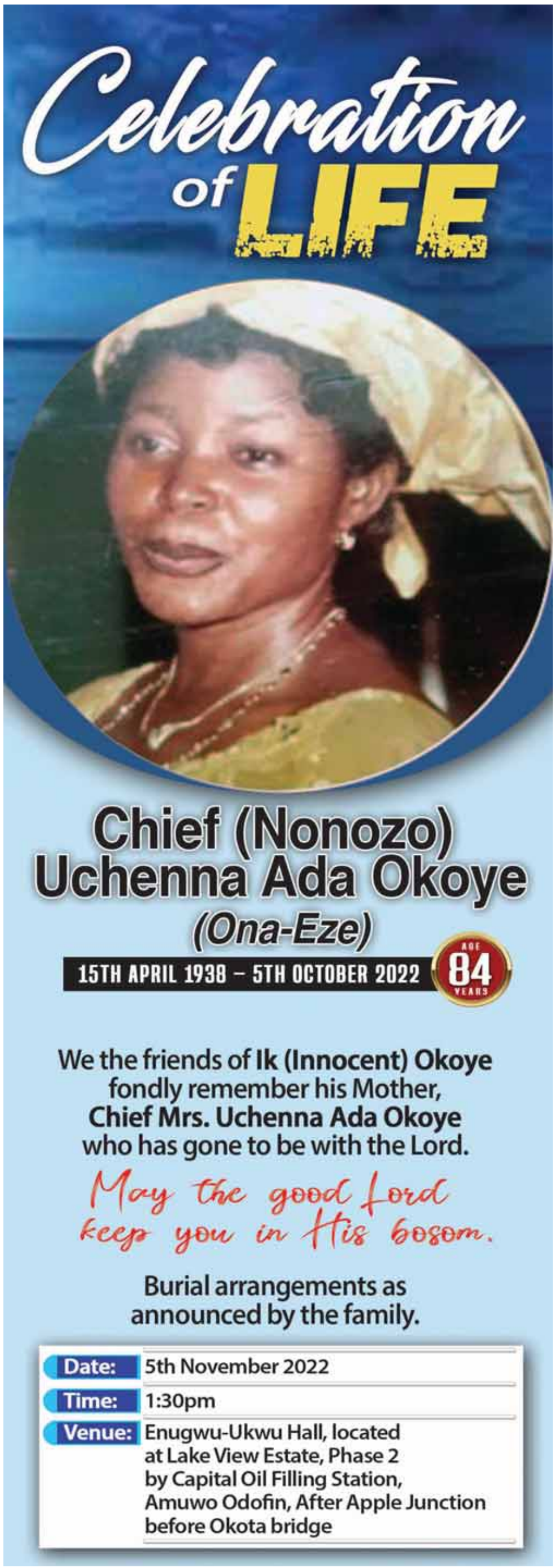
In his presentation, the Director General Imo State Investment Promotion Agency, Dr. Jude Nzeako said the policy will among other things be a road map to strategic Industrial and economic investment of the State.

He said it will enable the government to intervene in the areas of comparative advantage, stimulate the interest in the Local Government Areas on discovery of natural resources in such areas, and bring and collate other interests on economic development together.

In his remarks earlier, the Chief Economic Adviser to the Governor, Prof. Kenneth Amaeshi said what the Industrial Policy requires most is political will like that of the Governor as well as policy based on pragmatism.

For him, "the Policy will create jobs, companies will come to establish and invest in Imo State and with the sustainable potentials resulting from the abundant local natural resources of oil and gas, mines and agriculture and others the sky will be the limit of Imo State in achieving the industrial Policy."

Earlier the Regional Director of UNIDO in Nigeria Mr. Bankole Jean congratulated the Governor for the initiative and acknowledged that it is the first time he has seen an inclusive policy that even involves Heads of Intelligence and Security Agencies.



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OPINION

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ENHANCING TOURISM THROUGH THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

The November conference would create opportunity among policymakers and industry experts towards repositioning the sector for greater efficiency, writes ***FOLORUNSHO COKER***



See page 29

ANIOMA, THE BIAS AND IMBALANCE IN CREATION OF STATES

ERIC TENIOLA *writes on deliberate obstacles in the path of state creation*



See page 29

EDITORIAL

THE RETURN OF LULA IN BRAZIL



See page 30



Disagreement within the Yoruba social-cultural organisation over the 2023 presidential race shows a decline in its consensual approach to politics, writes ***BOLAJI ADEBIYI***

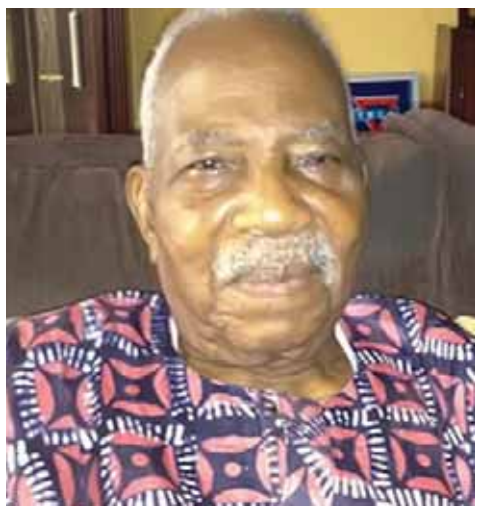
AFENIFERE ON THE BOIL

Afenifere, the pan-Yoruba socio-cultural group, has been embroiled in a political controversy since Sunday. It arose from the visit of Bola Tinubu, the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress, to the Akure, Ondo State home of Reuben Fasoranti, the well-respected leader of the group. The event drew a virulent objection from Ayo Adebanjo, its acting leader, who had months ago announced his support for Peter Obi, the presidential candidate of the Labour Party.

The media has since been agog with some fireworks from both elders, Adebanjo being the more combative. His position is that the group had on the basis of equity adopted Obi as its preferred choice for the presidential duel slated for 25 February 2023. Afenifere, he argued had been at the forefront of the struggle for equity and social justice in the country, contending that the presidency should be zoned to the South-east region, which is the only zone of the South that has not produced a president in the Fourth Republic. A sound argument you may say.

Fasoranti has not bothered to dispute Adebanjo's equity argument. Rather he has shown more interest in the group's cohesion and the need for wider consultations before a political decision on the instant issue could be made. "He, Adebanjo, has made his decision, and I have made mine," he told a news reporter, explaining, "In a matter like this we need to consult before we make a decision, which is what we have just done."

Those who are familiar with Afenifere would appreciate the position of Fasoranti. Although the group set out from its inception as a socio-cultural organization, it has always played critical political roles to protect the Yoruba interest. An offshoot of Egbe Omo Oduduwa formed in 1945 and led by Chief Obafemi Awolowo, which metamorphosed into the Action Group in 1951 and formed the government of the Western Region in the First Republic, it went into hibernation at the death of that first attempt at democratic governance in the country. In 1978 it regrouped under the Unity Party of Nigeria, winning the four states in the South-west and Kwara State in the North-central during the 1979 general election. Again, it went latent when the military took over power in 1983. It would resurface during the struggle for the actualization of annulled 12 June 1993 election of Moshood Abiola, the candidate of the Social Democratic



Party, who was widely believed to have won the electoral contest.

In 1998 when the military began the process of returning power to civilians, Afenifere chieftains formed the Alliance for Democracy, winning the six states of the South-west before it lost control of five of them in 2003. In all of these political transitions, the group acted in concert to protect the Yoruba interest and was cohesive largely due to the deep consultations and great efforts at consensual politics by its leaders, including Abraham Adesanya, Bola Ige, Ganiyu Dawodu, Agbonmire, Adebayo Adefarati, Pa Onasanya, Adenihun Ajayi, Femi Okurounmu, Fasoranti, and Adebanjo.

For as long as the group restricted itself to regional politics, consultations were deeper and the consensus was easier to achieve. However, its consensual politics began to break down in 1998 when a schism erupted over the AD presidential candidacy. Many of the older members of the group supported the aspiration of Ige, its deputy leader. But Adebanjo broke ranks with them and teamed up with the younger and newer elements to prop up Olu Falae, a former minister and secretary to the military government, who had just joined the group.

Although disappointed at what he felt was a betrayal, Ige never complained openly. He would later take steps that would see the beginning of the decline of the group as a cohesive organization. Against the group's position, he took the offer of ministerial appointment from President Olusegun Obasanjo, a decision that split the organization down the middle. Not a few people held Adebanjo responsible for the schism that made consensus over Ige impossible.

It was not until Ige died in 2001 that Adesanya was able to begin to rein in the leading members of the group. Though not an easy task, particularly after its political wings had been clipped by Obasanjo who exploited a serious error of judgment by the group to deplete its control of the South-west states from six to one in 2003. With the loss of substantial political power and grip on its region of influence consensus building as a strategy for organizational survival became more imperative. And in the years after the demise of Adesanya and the ascension of Fasoranti, there has been no known serious internal disagreement among the group until the development last Sunday.

Insiders trace the misunderstanding to Adebanjo's misconception of his role as the acting leader of the group and his innate disregard for consultation, which had been the bedrock of the organization, particularly since the demise of Adesanya. According to them, he erroneously thought that as the acting leader, he could make decisions without consulting the leader who had merely stepped aside from the day-to-day administration of the group. Besides, Adebanjo is thought to habitually substitute the group position with his personal view, a tendency they say cannot but lead to the current conflict.

For instance, even if Afenifere is to adopt Obi over Tinubu, such a decision would have to be made in consultation with the general assembly of the group, and certainly not behind the leader, Fasoranti. Had this been done, it was unlikely that the prevailing altercation would have occurred. In any case, the group makes decisions on the basis of programmes of action. It is unclear the basis of Adebanjo's choice of Obi when none of the group's basic demands has ever been canvassed by him even in his longest of speeches since the outbreak of electioneering.

Not a few leading lights of Afenifere think Tinubu's visit and subsequent endorsement by Fasoranti is more in keeping with the group's convention. Not only were the leading members at the event, but the formal political authorities represented by the governors of the region were also present to review the plans of their adopted candidate.

Adebiyi,
the managing editor of THISDAY Newspapers, writes from bolaji.adebiyi@thisdaylive.com



The November conference would create opportunity among policymakers and industry experts towards repositioning the sector for greater efficiency, writes ***FOLORUNSHO COKER***

ENHANCING TOURISM THROUGH THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Following major upheavals in the human experience, there is certainly the need to rethink tourism, and create the basis for making it a lot more sustainable. This is a prime aspect of economic activity, involving many inter-related industries, which great numbers of livelihoods depend on, alongside the wellbeing of communities and nations.

The need for a recalibration in approach is what informed the convocation of a global conversation on "Linking Tourism, Culture and Creative Industries: Pathways to Recovery and Inclusive Development", which would hold in Lagos from November 14 to 16, 2022 at the National Theatre in Iganmu. This will witness the participation of a wide range of tourism actors and stakeholders from across the world.

The nexus between culture, the creative industries and tourism has been one which we have engaged with very boldly



at the Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC), which I have been privileged to lead in over half a decade, and it has inspired both our mediations on this close interconnections and the conception of a number of programmes. These include Tour Nigeria and Nigerian Flavours, among others, which were designed to bolster domestic and inbound tourism in the country.

As such, it is quite inspiring to be part of a broader and international conversation on how to advance the frontiers of this practice, under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, and at this crucial period in the history of our country, and the world at large.

It goes without much saying that the world has been hugely impacted and disrupted by the advent of natural phenomena, including COVID-19 and climate change, with the former having occasioned highly palpable effects on the global economy which, until the recent reversals, had seen to the loss of as much as 80% of the value in many sectors. This occurred across a chain of industries, such as those involved in creativity and hospitality, among others.

Likewise, human activity over the past decades has elicited consequences that have not only seen to the growth of wealth and nations but also a massive carbon footprint that has altered the climate in ways that require urgent actions to prevent the unraveling of the natural environment, and the world we live in.

Yet, with the healing that comes on the heels of the human capacity for resilience, there is the need to embrace a more sustainable approach to recovery – as indicated earlier, by developing newer strategies to recoup on lost grounds and create new value that drives sturdier economic growth. This is necessary in order to safeguard livelihoods, jobs, to expand the income pool and put countries back on the path of holistic recovery.

A vital part of the responses for recovery has been the identification of the vast potentials in the connection between the tourism and the Creative and Culture Industries (CCI), and the huge promise they hold for generating and sustaining economic activity. It was this recognition that made the 74th General Assembly of the United Nations to declare 2021 as the International Year of the Creative Economy for Sustainable Development.

In describing the reinforcing capabilities of the Creative and Culture Industries, for global economic recovery, within the frame of tourism, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) stated that the "creative economy and creative industries could be part of the solution. They offer an immense potential for growth, innovation and product diversification within the tourism ecosystem."

The case for a greater leveraging of the creative and culture industries as a crucial flank of economic recovery is hinged on the compound value of $2.3 trillion that it generated, which constitutes about 3% of the world's GDP. And, the value of creative goods in the global markets rose to $509 billion in 2015, from $208 billion in 2002, highlighting the potentials of the creative sector as an engine room of economic growth. This is buttressed by the fact that no less than 40% of international tourist visits are driven by the need for "culture-related experiences", of which the creative sector is a crucial aspect.

As such, the culture and creative industries are prospective catalysts of significant recovery and a resurgent global economy. This is as evident in the more recent strengthening of demand for products of the sector, as in the expanding array of newer and more appealing offerings coming out of the sector. Hence, there is the necessity of rethinking the policy outlay and designing novel approaches to enhancing the capabilities of the sector.

Nigeria has one of the largest and most popular creative industries in the world – with an explosion of creative forms from movies to music, the performance and visual arts, etc. – and is certainly the most appropriate location for the contemplation of newer pathways or approaches a recovery that links tourism to culture and the creative industries.

The numbers also bear witness to this, with the country's movie industry, Nollywood, which is now one of the most sophisticated globally, being valued at close to $7 billion in 2021, and producing over 2,500 titles annually. ■

Chief Coker,
the Baba Eto of Yorubaland and Director General of the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation, is the chief marketer of the Nigerian destination



ERIC TENIOLA *writes on deliberate obstacles in the path of state creation*

ANIOMA, THE BIAS AND IMBALANCE IN CREATION OF STATES

If the bar on creation of new states, as contained in our 1979 and 1999 Presidential Constitutions had been lowered, Anioma could have become a state by now. And not part of Delta State. Likewise Ijebu, Ijesha, Okun which comprises of Mopa, Ogidi, Ayetoro Gbede, Okedayo, Odo Ere, Ife, Egbe, Iyara, Iyamoye, Odoape, Ekinrin-Adde, Kabba, Isanlu, Obajana, Ikoyi, Agbaja, as well as other states, could have been created, by now.

Anioma means "Good Land" in the Igbo



language.

Mineral resources identified in Anioma include large deposit of gas at Okpai and Ndokwa. Dominant industry in Anioma is education, hence the first teachers' training institute in Western Region of which the Anioma nation was part of was in Ibusa in today's Oshimili North local government area. If it had been created, Anioma could have become the sixth Igbo state.

Major towns and villages include Asaba, Agbor, Kwale, Oligbo, Ibrode, Ibusa, gbanke, Igbodo, Igbuku, Illah, Isa-Ogwashi, Iselegu, Isheagu, Isikiti-Ishiagu, Issele-Azagba, Issele-Mkpitime, Issele-Uku, Isumpe, Mbiri, Ndemiri, Ndokwa, Abbi, Inam-Abbi, Eziunm, Nkpolenyi, Nsukwa, Obeti, Obi Anyima, Obi Umutu, Obi, Obiaruku, Obikwele, Obinumba, Obior, Obodo-Eti, Obomkpa, Ogbe, Ogode, Ogume, Ogwashi-Uku, Oko Anala, Oko/Ogbele, Oko-Amakom, Okotomi, Okpa, Okpanam, Okwe, Oligbo, Oligbo, Olor-Usisa, Olu-Odu, Omaja, Onicha Olona, etc.

Outstanding men and women like Major Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu (26 February 1937- 29 July 1967), Chief Dennis Chukude Osadebay (29 June 1911 — 26 December 1994), Chief Ogoegbuname Idise Dafe (1928 to 1981), Chief Jim Ovia (70), Chief Nduka Obaigbena (63), Chief Tony Elumelu, Nduka Irabor, General Alaba Isama (rtd.), Mitchell Obi, Nduka Otionu, Ambassador Joe Keshi, Chris Okolie, General Fred Chijuka (rtd.), Colonel Trimnel, Major Okonkwo, Chief Sunny Odogwu, Nduka Eze, Godwin Emefiele, Colonel Igboba, Professor Fideli Odia, Dr. Gabriel Ogbechie, Bode Bernard, Admiral Dele Ezeoba, Ambassador Ralph Uwechei, Dame Winnie Akpani, Dr. Austin Izagbo, Epipany Azinge (SAN), Frank Nwachukwu Ndili, Ike Nwamu, Emma Nyra Joseph Udeh, Maryam Babangida, General Lucky Irabor, Alex Iwobi, Professor Joseph Chike Edozien, Professor Patrick Utomi, Zulu Sofola, Sam Obi, Austine "Jay-Jay"Okocha, Nduka Odizor, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Lisa Omorodion, Ned Nwoko, Stephen Okechukwu Keshi, Demas Nwoko, Faze, Chief Phillip Asiodu, Emmanuel Ibe Kachukwu, Joseph "Hannibal" Achuzie, Sunday Oliseh, Ifeanyi Okowa, Joy Ogwu and others too numerous to mention, are all from Anioma.

The struggle for the creation of Anioma State started a long time ago but it became more vocal in 1980. And men like Senator Nosike Ikpo (1933-2021) championed the cause. At that time, what could be referred to Anioma comprised of four local governments namely Ika, Oshimili, Aniocha and Ndokwa. Now the four local governments had been increased to nine, namely, Aniocha North, Aniocha South, Ika South, Ika North-East, Ndokwa East, Ndokwa West, Oshimili North, Oshimili South and Ukwuani.

Senator Ikpo was born on March 21, 1933 in Ibusa. He was educated at the St. Thomas School, Ibusa. He was a teacher, later bank clerk, administrator, company director, elected Senator, 1979-1983, re-elected Senator, October-December, 1983; member, Action Group, 1958-1966, member, Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN), 1979-1983, administrative Secretary, UPN, 1979-1983; Chief Organisation Secretary, UPN, old Bendel state branch until 1983; member, National Party of Nigeria, March-December 1983.

The people of Anioma are well educated. Long before Mid-West region was created in June 1963, they benefitted from the free education programme of Chief Obafemi Awolowo when they were part of Western Region and thereafter when they became part of Mid-Western region. It was during one of the several lunches that I had with Senator Ikpo at the National Assembly Canteen in 1979 that I first heard of the name Anioma.

ALADINMA was first proposed as the capital of Anioma State but reasons prevailed on Senator Ikpo's committee and was later persuaded to make Asaba the capital of the proposed state. This was long before General Ibrahim Babangida endorsed Asaba as the capital of Delta State.

Although Asaba is a very expensive city now but years ago, between 1886 and 1900, it hosted the Royal Niger Company, which the British authorities set up to stimulate trade and the exportation of goods to England. That company has grown today into UAC Nigeria PLC. Scottish explorer William B. Balkie, when signing a trade treaty with Igbo Chief Ezebogo in Asaba on 30 August 1885, remarked, "After our salutations, I speak of friendship, of trade, and of education, and particularly enlarged upon the evils of war, and the benefits of peace", all of which was well received.

If Anioma State has been created, Asaba port could have become functional by now. People used to refer to that area as Mid-West Ibo or later Bendel Ibo. Senator Ikpo then lectured me that it was uncharitable to refer to his people as Mid-West Ibo or Bendel Ibo. He explained that they were Igbos of the same identity with then Anambra and Imo States. ■

Teniola
was a Director in the Presidency

Editor, Editorial Page **PETER ISHAKA**
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EDITORIAL

THE RETURN OF LULA IN BRAZIL

The election in Brazil holds lessons for Nigeria



Former President of Brazil, Luiz Lula da Silva last Sunday defeated the incumbent Jaír Bolsonaro in the runoff election that has split the country down the middle. Because no presidential candidate received more than 50% in the first round of voting, a second round was needed. At the end, the leftist Lula of Workers Party secured 60.345,999 votes representing 50.9 per cent while the right-wing Bolsonaro garnered 58.206.354 votes representing 49.1 per cent. While the incumbent has not conceded defeat, he has also not been as belligerent as he was before the contest when he gave indication that he might not accept the result if it did not go his away. Despite the protest by some of his supporters who are blocking highways across the country, the transition to a new Lula administration in January 2023 has commenced.

The outcome of the presidential election in Brazil is important for wider reasons. The clash between a liberal politician and a Trumpian conservative populist symbolised by Lula and Bolsonaro respectively is an increasingly imminent global pattern. It has played out somewhat in the Philippines. It is loading in Hungary and several other countries in Europe. While the tribe of extremist leaders is growing across the world, it is also important to properly appreciate the electoral value of people-oriented social programmes in the politics of emerging market democracies. That is the value of Lula's electoral victory. He is returning to power 12 years after he left office as a two-term president on the basis of socially beneficial legacies.

It is noteworthy that in 2010, Lula was convicted on charges of corruption and money laundering after a controversial trial and sentenced to nine and a half years in prison. But he fought his case to the country's Supreme Court where he was acquitted. Apparently because he left demonstrably beneficial social and economic legacies during his previous tenure as president, he has remained a folk hero to millions of Brazilians and that reflected in this election. Meanwhile, the outgoing president embarked on an insensitive devastation of the Amazon Forest with scant regard for the livelihood and values of the millions of Brazilians that have depended on that ecosystem for centuries. He also reaped the consequences at the poll.

The first lesson from the Brazilian election is that a democracy matures when the will of the people is vindicated no matter how thin the margins of victory may be. Also in a true democracy, electoral outcomes must reflect not only the most enlightened scientific poll projections but also reflect the wishes of the people. The outgoing president pursued his conservative agenda sometimes in utter disregard for issues of public good like the Covid-19 pandemic which he downplayed with tragic consequences that almost claimed his own life. At the end, a statistical deadlock necessitated a run-off poll. The people waited and cast the second decisive ballot which returned a final outcome with a narrow margin, thus vindicating most of the polls.

Yes, the presidential election has polarised the Brazilian society. But it's a salutary division between supporters and beneficiaries of the social democratic agenda of Lula on the one hand and those in favour of the recklessness of the outgoing President Bolsonaro on the other hand. Therefore, the choice before the Brazilian electorate was primarily policy-defined and not ethnic, regional or religious. It is also instructive that leaders of the Workers' Party remained resilient during Lula's persecution. They did not defect to the "winning" party. Having stayed the course, they would now return to power.

For Nigerian politicians, the foregoing are lessons in consistency and principled adherence to enduring values. We hope they will imbibe those lessons as they campaign for the 2023 general election.

The first lesson from the Brazilian election is that a democracy matures when the will of the people is vindicated no matter how thin the margins of victory may be

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Letters to the Editor

Letters in response to specific publications in THISDAY should be brief (150-300 words) and straight to the point. Interested readers may send such letters along with their contact details to **opinion@thisdaylive.com.** We also welcome comments and opinions on topical local, national and international issues provided they are well-written and should also not be longer than (750-1000 words). They should be sent to **opinion@thisdaylive.com** along with photograph, email address and phone numbers of the writer.

LETTERS

NIGERIA AND THE PROBLEM OF CHILD LABOUR

That children matter is as easy to say as it is to understand because it is a truism bereft of any complications. It is further simplified by the fact that if the world is to have any future at all, the children must play a part in that future.

Children matter. As the center of the family which is often the foundation of any stable society, children matter to an extent that cannot be fully described. As the youngest members of any society at every point in time, nature ensures that they will survive other members of the society and that naturally, they will be around after others have long gone.

Children matter because they bring with them the ability to reinvent the world as it is. Yet, this is a world that hunts children. In many parts of the world, children, as the most vulnerable part of the population often live under harrowing conditions. Whenever and wherever there have been conflict, experience has shown that children have disproportionately borne the brunt, experiencing in brutal turns what no one their age should ever have to experience even over the course of a thousand life times.

For many children in Nigeria, even before they are old enough to savour the fleeting miracle that childhood is, that most precious of gifts is savagely snatched away from them. One of the main culprits is child marriage but an equally culpable culprit is child labour.

Child labour, manifesting in its many malignant forms ensures that children stop being children even before many of them are old enough to really understand and enjoy what it means to be a child.

Child labour it is that ensures for example that children who should be in school getting equipped to take the world by storm are instead marooned in places where they are subjected to conditions alien to their age or aptitude.

The International Labour Organisation recently stated that no fewer than 15 million children are engaged in child labour in Nigeria. This is as the Nigeria Employers` Consultative Association (NECA) listed communities in Niger, Ondo, and Osun States as some of the communities where child labour is prevalent in Nigeria.

Gratefully, the International Labour Organisation also confirmed that the National Child Labour and forced labour survey will be released soon to properly beam the light on what has become a scandalous scar on the conscience and image of the 'Giant of Africa.'

Why should Nigeria`s youngest and those who for reason of age bear the torch to a brighter future be subjected to backbreaking work when they should be in school getting equipped with all the tools they need to shape a peaceful and prosperous future for all?

Why have those who subject children to all manner of abuse and forced labour continued to work scot-free or at worst are let off with mere slaps on the wrist when they are caught in the middle of their crimes? Why have the conditions which make it possible for forced labour to thrive in parts of Nigeria remained in place with painfully little done to check them?

These grave questions must be speedily and correctly answered if Nigeria is to pay the enormous debt it owes its children especially those children betrayed by the spectacular failures of a country that once promised so much.

Kene Obiezu,
@kenobiezu

IBEDC Moves to End Estimated Billing

Kemi Olaitan in Ibadan

The Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC), has restated its commitment to close the metering gap and end estimated billing within its franchise area.

The Lead Media Relations of the company, Mrs. Busolami Tunwase, gave the commitment in Ibadan, the Oyo state capital, during a roadshow of the IBEDC mobile map initiative.

She said the company had been to places like Ibadan, Ogun and Osun States and would not relent until its customers have meters.

According to her, the development is for customers in Akanran and Oyo environs, adding that the upscaling was meant for their customer service delivery to be faster and closer to the people as well as meet the yearnings of IBEDC's customers.

She said, "Metering is a major issue, and IBEDC is determined to close the metering gap for our customers, hence the mobile map. You don't have to wait for estimated billing, you can change the narrative by going for a pre-prepayment meter, thereby, you can control your energy usage. This is one of the many initiatives we have to reposition the business and to also help us serve them better when the bills are properly paid and so the issue of estimated billing and wrong or late bills are sorted out."

The Manager of Integrated Resources Limited, in charge of IBEDC region, Mr. Adebowale Adeogun, in his remarks, said the company, for now, is covering Akanran and Oyo Business Hub, noting: "and we are taking the scheme to customers. We want to correct the perspective that there is no meter or that meters are scarce or that they are hoarding meters but with the scheme, you will get the meter in 24 hours.

"The advantage of the scheme is that once customers do it, it won't take long to get the meter. It is a fast-tracked method of getting metres, with N63,000 for a single phase and N117,000 for three phases. Customers would be paid back their money used to purchase the meter in tranches as they are vending because every meter is the property of distribution companies, "he said.

He assured customers that the metres are durable and designed to withstand Nigeria's weather and it has gone through various standardisation and certification.

"There would also be sales support service, if after installation the meter develops any issue, within like space of time we will replace the meter," Adeogun added.

Abdullahi Seeks Amendment of StartUp Act to Include Youths Ministry

Hammed Shittu in Ilorin

Former Minister of Youths and Sports Development and Kwara Central PDP Senatorial candidate for 2023 election, Malam Bolaji Abdullahi has called for the amendment of the recently signed Nigeria StartUp Act to include the Ministry of Youth development in the council for digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

Abdullahi in a statement said without such amendment the Act would be missing the coordinating power of the youth ministry, which is critical to the effective implementation of the new law.

The former minister while commending President Muhammadu Buhari for his assent to the law, notes that the act will open the country for greater investment in the digital economy, and unleash the huge potentials of our youths for greater competitiveness.

Abdullahi, a former editor with THISDAY Newspaper said, "I commend President Muhammadu Buhari for his assent to the StartUp Act, I am delighted that the country has embraced such legislation at this crucial time when we are at a crossroad on how to boost national productivity. This Act has the capacity to unlock the huge potentials for entrepreneurship and digital innovation in Nigeria.

"However, I consider the exclusion of the youth ministry from the council for Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship as provided for in the Act as an omission which if not immediately redressed can impair the full implementation of the law."

Abdullahi added, "I believe this Act is a major step in the right direction, but we know that laws are not enough. What matters ultimately is what we are able to achieve with the law. From my experience as a Minister, the law would be missing the convening power of the youth ministry, to coordinate, organise and mobilise Nigerian youths who are the frontline players in the digital innovation ecosystem.

"I recall the YOUWIN programme, under former President Goodluck Jonathan's administration, which had a similar objective of promoting entrepreneurship among the youths. Although, the programme was originally domiciled with the ministry of finance and the ministry of ICT, the ministry of youth development under my leadership was at the forefront of its implementation by assuming the responsibility of convening, coordinating, mobilising and organising youths across the country for the programme.

"This new Act is a more institutionalised framework, but the objectives are the same. This is why I demand immediate amendment to the Act, to reflect the critical role of the youth ministry for the successful implementation of the StartUp Act."

Abdullahi noted that creating opportunities in the digital economy is an important element of the Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship pillar of his BIG IDEAS Campaign.

NGX to Recognise Stakeholder's Contribution to Capital Market

Kayode Tokede

The Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) disclosed that all is set for the 2022 edition of NGX Made of Africa Awards at which organizations and individuals will be recognized for their contribution to the capital market ecosystem.

The bourse in a statement yesterday disclosed that the hybrid event themed "Innovation in Capital Markets: The Panacea for Exponential Growth", will bring together key stakeholders in the capital market.

According to the statement, the Made of Africa Awards is designed to recognise organisations and individuals within the capital market ecosystem that demonstrate exceptional performance in value delivery and sustainable impact, and act as key drivers in strengthening the Nigerian and African capital markets.

"The Awards will also reward adherence to high ethical standards, compliance with the rules and regulations of the Exchange, and other applicable laws and regulations. Interested participants and sponsors should visit https://ngxgroup.com/moaa-2022, to learn more about the event and the different sponsorship categories.," Exchange in a statement disclosed.

Speaking about the awards, the Chairman, NGX, Mr. Abubakar Mahmoud in a statement stated that, "NGX Made of Africa awards is a landmark recognition platform that rewards and inspires excellence. We are proud to promote success stories and drive the culture of innovation whilst catalysing a vibrant African capital market ecosystem.

"With the awards, NGX is showcasing 'The Stock Africa is Made Of'. We remain committed to building a thriving market and promoting innovative solutions that provide a globally competitive platform for issuers to raise capital, and investors to meet their financial objectives across markets and geographies."

On his part, the CEO, NGX, Mr. Temi Popoola, said, "In our continued quest to deliver a sustainable Nigerian capital market through cutting-edge innovation and exemplary leadership, NGX recognises notable institutions and individuals whose remarkable forward-looking initiatives have contributed immensely to the growth of the market in Nigeria and beyond. To this end, NGX Made of Africa Awards has been refined to reflect the dynamic nature of the Nigerian capital market, rewarding excellence and leadership".

"As we engineer market-wide innovation, we must ensure that stakeholders uphold the principles and values that make the market standardised. Accordingly, we will be rewarding not just performance but compliance and commitment to best practices. I am optimistic that the awards will spur capital market stakeholders to continue to champion inclusive growth that will deepen the market and ultimately boost the economy."

Established in 2012 as NSE CEO Awards, the Made of Africa Awards offer winners a year-round marketing opportunity and a big morale-booster for institutions and individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the Nigerian capital market and exemplify the highest standards.



Celebration of LIFE



With gratitude to God for a life well spent and in total submission to the will of the Almighty God, we join our friend, **Engineer Collins Ibekwe** and the entire Ibekwe family in mourning the demise of their beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Sister and Aunt

Late Mrs. CECILIA IFEMEGBUNAM IBEKWE

Nee Ezeani a.k.a. Nwaogalanya

AGED 94 YEARS

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Iyke Ehirim	Dr. Charles Mba	Solomon Ogaragbo	

MAY HER GENTLE SOUL REST IN PERFECT PEACE. AMEN

This Weekend

THISDAY WEEKLY MAGAZINE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022

NEWS

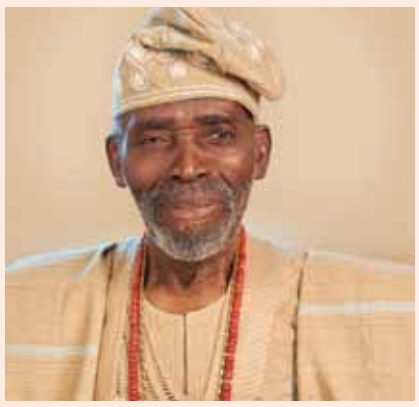
Landwey's New Town Development Initiative, Future City, Set to Launch Tech Valley

See page 35

ETRENDS

In 'Doyen of Nollywood', Olu Jacobs Gets a Deserving Tribute

See page 36



ART WEEKEND

Elesin Oba Movie: A Director's Burden of Transmedia Storytelling

See page 35



POLSCOPE

So, Who are the Oil Thieves?

See page 35



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EMEKA OKWUOSA:
The CON's Sustained Legacy of Excellence, Philanthropy

COVER

This Weekend

Emeka Okwuosa: The CON's Sustained Legacy of Excellence, Philanthropy

Engr. Emeka Okwuosa is the Chief Executive Officer, Oilserv Limited, a pipleline, facilities maintenance company which he birthed in 1992 and has nurtured since 1995 when it began operations. Coupled with his vast knowledge in the sector, the seasoned administrator has also carved a niche in numerous others. Whether at Frazimex Engineering Limited which is an engineering design company or at Frazoil Exploration and Production Limited, an exploration and production company and at Frazpower, which is a Gas Development Company or even at Ekcel Farms Limited, an innovative industrial agricultural project, incorporating cassava and tomato farming with full industrial processing facilities, one detail stands out about the serial entrepreneur; excellence! Also known for his philanthropy, Okwuosa was recently awarded at the National Honours with the Command of the Order of Niger by President Muhammadu Buhari. **Chiemelie Ezeobi** writes that his constant quest to sustain a legacy of excellence has stood him out over the years and formed the basis of the recent honour

"Congratulations to Mr. Local Content, Engr Dr Sir Emeka Okwuosa FNSE, FIOD, NPOM, CON. You are a humble gift to mankind."

Those were the words Assistant Inspector General of Police (Rtd) Mbu Joseph Mbu (NPM, NPMC, pss, psc (+), described Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, Oilserv Group, Engr. Emeka Okwuosa at the occasion of his recent National Honours Award of the Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) by President Muhammadu Buhari.

Speaking to THISDAY, Mbu while congratulating Okwuosa, whom he described as Mr. Local Content, a destiny helper, friend and brother, also commended him for the unceasing succor he gives to humanity through his numerous charity projects including "the 27-bed world-class Dame Irere Ikwuosa N5 billion Memorial Hospital at Oraifite, Anambra State and many other philanthropic contributions".



Engr. Emeka Okwuosa (CON) receiving his National Honour Award as Commander of the Order of the Niger from President Muhammadu Buhari

Early Beginnings

The question is, who is Engineer Emeka Okwuosa? Born on August 19, 1961, he attended Community Boys Secondary School in Oraifite, Ekwusigo Local Government Area of Anambra State, before proceeding to the University of Ife, where he bagged a degree in Electronics and Electrical Engineering in 1982.

Career Trajectory

With his background in engineering, Okwuosa worked in different capacities for Schlumberger (a French oil service giant) as field engineer and afterwards, a technical manager in Europe (Pau, France, Scotland); North Africa (Libya); West Africa (Mauritania, Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana); Gulf of Guinea/Central Africa (Nigeria, Benin Republic, Cameroun, Gabon, Congo, Angola); and even Indonesia.

Birth of Oilserv

As he worked in various capacities, he honed his skills and it paid off when he finally gave entrepreneurship a shot.

In 1992, he founded and incorporated Oilserv Limited, but began operation in 1995. The company offers world-class services such as engineering, procurement, construction, installation and commissioning (EPCIC), project management, maintenance and rehabilitation of oil and gas pipelines and facilities.

Initially, Oilserv worked exclusively for Shell Nigeria for over five years before it diversified into working for other international oil companies (IOCs) and for Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) in maintaining their pipeline transmission systems.

Impact on Oil and Gas Local Content Law

Although its initial focus was on Pipeline/Facilities EPC and maintenance, its wide range of activities in the Niger Delta and across Nigeria extended to gas as it became a major player in the actualisation of the Gas Masterplan in Nigeria especially for domestic gas distribution. Currently, it is ISO 9001:2015 certified and operates in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Benin Republic and Togo.

In fact, together with other key practitioners in the sector, he was instrumental to the enactment of Oil and Gas Local Content Law three years ago and down the line, it has actually boosted the development of sustainable local capacity in the industry.

Carving a Niche in Agriculture, Others

Beyond the feat he has achieved in the oil and gas sector, the serial entrepreneur has spread his tentacles to even agriculture.

With Ekcel Farms Limited, an innovative industrial agricultural project, incorporating cassava and tomato farming with full industrial processing facilities, Okuwosa became a farmer.

His vast farmland covers a total of 5,000 hectares with an estimated cost of about $150m. This is said to exclude land cost in the first phase. One of the things it brings to the table is the targeted employment of 2000 workers.

Although it is affiliated with technical partners in Europe and Canada, the farm is cushioned by an MOU signed with Anambra State government with the goal to aid massive agricultural development and expansion, as well as create employment and help solve Nigeria's food insecurity.

Not done, he also has Frazimex Engineering Limited, which is an engineering design company with activities that cover pipelines, facilities, civil engineering works, instrument and electrical, etc.

With Frazoil Exploration and Production (E & P) Limited on the other hand, Okwuosa delved into exploration and production and is the owner/operator of Block 3 Offshore Republic of Benin.

Meanwhile, with Frazpower Limited, a Gas Development Company (Gas-To-Power), his vision is to deliver at least 10 TCF of gas reserves in the next decade.

Awards for He Whom the Cap Fits

A goldfish has no hiding place and for Okuwosa, this rings true. Over the years, he has received tons of awards locally and internationally for his excellent service.

From 2009 to 2019, he consecutively won the OTC/PETAN (Offshore Technology Conference/Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria) Awards of Excellence in Houston, Texas, USA.

In 2013, he bagged the US Africa International Oil & Gas Leadership Award, Best of Africa.

In 2014, he got the Award of Excellence by the Nanotechnology Research Group of the Physics Department, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He repeated the feat in 2016.

In 2015, he bagged the Lifetime Achievement Award by Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN).

In 2016, the awards of Nigeria Advancement Award for Creativity and Enterprise; International Socrates Award (UK); Award of Excellence by Nigerian Gas Association (NGA); PETAN Corporate Social Responsibility Award; PETAN Capacity Development Award; Honorary Doctorate Degree Award (Hon.D.Eng) by the Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT); Industrialist of the Year Award; and Agro Entrepreneur of the Year Award was given to him, as well as Award of Excellence by Nigerian Gas Association (NGA).

In 2017, he got an Honorary Doctorate Degree Award (Hon. DBA) by the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN); Award of Excellence in Engineering by the Association of Anambra State Development Union; Award of Excellence in Engineering by the Nigerian Institution of Highway & Transportation Engineers; Oil & Gas Organisation of the year award by African Entrepreneurs Foundation; as well as the National Productivity Order of Merit Award (NPOM) by President Muhammadu Buhari.

Professional Bodies

Expectedly, he belongs to several professional bodies including Council for the Regulation of Engineering (COREN); Society of Professional Well Log Analysts (SPWLA); Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN); Pipeline Professionals Association of Nigeria (PLAN); Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE); Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE); Nigerian Gas Association (NGA); and Institute of Directors (IoD).

Life of Philanthropy

Despite all the accolades and encomium his career trajectory has earned him, he is more legendary for his acts of philanthropy.

Over the years, the Knight of St. Christopher (KSC) of the Anglican Communion has given back to the society in numerous ways through his Sir. Chukwuemeka Okwuosa Foundation.

From educational aids to, road construction, erosion control, water supply and even electricity infrastructure provision, Chief Okwuosa has always stood out. One of the highpoint of his acts of philanthropy is the building of Dame Nneka Okwuosa Medical Centre, a N1 billion medical facility at Oraifite, Anambra State.

In fact, for those that know, he has committed millions to educational development in Anambra and also sponsors the PETAN Roundtable at the annual Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston, Texas, USA, as well as

the bi-annual international workshops on science development. Not done, his bigger vision is to build a first-of-its-kind science park in Africa.

For many, including AIG Mbu, the national award by President was fit and deserving because it took into account his contributions to the nation through Oilserv, his numerous other companies and acts of philanthropy.

THISDAY

Landwey's New Town Development Initiative, Future City, Set to Launch Tech Valley

Stories Mary Nnah

Isimi Lagos, Nigeria's Pioneer Wellness and Technology City, has just been launched as part of the New Town Development Project called Future City by Nigeria's largest residential development company, LandWey Investment Limited.

Future City, a New Town Development Project integrating nature's green with humankind's technology and innovation, was launched, with hopes of conserving the environment, and making living more efficient and smart while simultaneously protecting the already deteriorating state of the earth's ecosystem.

The Chief Executive Officer of LandWey Investment, a member of Oxygen Holdings, Olawale Ayilara, expressed enthusiasm regarding this new development.

"We are excited about what Isimi Lagos means for the future of living. Approximately 70% of the global population is predicted to live in cities by 2050 due to global urbanisation, which makes new towns and new settlements ideal for rapid urbanization. We are redefining what our cities should be by developing projects like Isimi Lagos that will accommodate an ever-increasing number of urban dwellers."

Isimi Lagos, a tranquil city surrounded by nature and elevated by technology, is the ultimate eco-friendly getaway nestled within Epe, a bustling cultural city.

The firm also announced the launch of the Isimi Lagos Tech Valley, a two-pronged ecosystem that provides both residential and educational facilities for tech start-ups and enthusiasts. The tech hub also consists of a campus equipped with tech and innovation labs, a research institute, and incubation work labs.

"Isimi Lagos Tech Valley's goal is to develop Nigeria and Africa's next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, and founders, ensuring young talents are nurtured into becoming established problem solvers. We are looking to raise tech founders, agro-technologists, and climate change activists as we build a strong base to grow the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Nigeria and Africa at large", he added. To this effect, we will be launching the inaugural edition of the Lagos Future City Week later this year".

The Lagos Future City Week is set to be Africa's foremost solution-focused event dedicated to promoting sustainability and the future of living", Ayilara said further.

Additionally, this Future City project features conservation parks, golf courses, recreational centers, farm-to-table restaurants, a water jetty, electric vehicle charging stations, forestry, a helipad, scenic trails, and a polo field.



Chief Legal Officer LandWey, Sijibomi Agbadaola; Financial Controller, LandWey, Olamide Opadiran; CEO Landwey, Olawale Ayilara; Managing Director, LandWey, Shola Bello; Head of Business, Alvin Grey, Adesuwa Abiode; Senior Business Manager, LandWey, Tolulope Ruth Hassan at the event

InDrive Empowers Underprivileged Kids with IT Skills

A few lucky underprivileged kids in Nigeria were recently empowered with Information Technology (IT) skills during a one-day training programme by BeginIT, a programme spearheaded by inDrive.

The BeginIT programme is an initiative from inDrive, one of the world's fastest-growing online ride-hailing services, targeted at identifying and providing future career guidance for capable children from orphanages, boarding schools, and rural schools in the sphere of new technologies.

To this end, 33 young persons drawn from three schools owned by not-for-profit organisations were groomed on different technologies, including Embedded Systems (Physical Computing with Arduino kit).

At the end of the session, the enrollee presented projects to demonstrate their ability to identify solutions relative to transportation in their environment.

In his remarks, the Director of Transport Operations, Lagos Ministry of Transportation, Olasunkanmi Ojowuro, who represented the Lagos State Commissioner for Transportation, commended inDrive for the initiative, which he said would go a long way to bring about innovations needed to transform not only the transportation sector but other sectors in the state.

"Whatever you learn here today, make sure you take it seriously because the more you understand, the better for us all. So, it is good to seize this opportunity as kids so that Nigeria can match up with technological advancement as it is in many developed societies. For instance, transportation has changed from what we witnessed in the past. Now, we use technology to manage transportation," he said.



L-R: InDrive, BeginIT Representative & Driver Acquisition Specialist, Mrs. Onuzulike Clementina; BeginIT beneficiary from Mayzer Memorial Foundation, Bello Jubril; Director, Transport Operations, Lagos State Ministry of Transportation, Engr. Olasunkanmi Ojowuro; BeginIT beneficiary from Mayzer Memorial Foundation, Grace Joseph; Chief Vehicle Inspection Officer, Directorate of Vehicle Inspection Service (DVIS), Lagos State Ministry of Transportation, Engr. Mrs. Adejoke Balogun and Business Development Representative, InDrive, Nigeria, Mr. Timothy Oladimeji during the BeginIT Stem Pop Up Programme by Indrive, held in Lagos recently

Speaking on the theme, "inDrive: Future of Mobility", InDrive's BeginIT Representative & Driver Acquisition specialist, Mrs. Onuzulike Clementina, explained that the initiative, which has registered its presence in 15 countries, including Nigeria, is geared towards catching kids young in the field of technology to stimulate their problem-solving skills and prepare them for the future of work.

"We believe strongly in the potential of every child regardless of the circumstance of their birth. We feel they need to get the knowledge in time to ensure that they can compete with their counterparts in the developed world. This is why we have come up with an initiative to enable them to reach their potential", Clementina said.

She stated that the training would further help to deepen knowledge around transportation and automobiles by helping to groom a new generation of engineers, designers and creatives. Also speaking, the Programme Associate, STEMCafe, Daye Omona, stated that the organization was partnering with inDrive on the initiative to impart the kids by implementing a STEM-based program focused on the future of transportation.

According to Omona, the training session would afford the kids the opportunity to learn concepts such as design thinking, conceptualization, and working with microcontrollers and sensors necessary to create, for example, a driverless car or blue tooth control boat.

The list of not-for-profit institutions that participated in the session includes Amazing Grace, Precious Jasper Foundation and Mayzer Memorial Foundation.

InDrive, a global IT and transportation platform, services are available in over 700 cities in 47 countries throughout the world.

GROUP SOLICITS CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR MEDIA PRACTITIONERS

Participants who marched through the streets of Lagos on October 25th to celebrate a man they described as a strong pillar of Nigeria's democracy, Chief Raymond Anthony Dokpesi, a Nigerian media entrepreneur and Founder, of Daar Communications Plc, said the need for government to create a conducive environment for media organisations in Nigeria has become imperative if the media is to effectively discharge it constitutionally assigned duties of a watchdog.

The event was the 2022 Raymond Dokpesi Endurance Trek, a yearly event organised by Raymond Dokpesi Centre for Media and Development. The Centre was set up to promote media practice and national development and peace.

The theme for the 2022 Raymond Dokpesi Endurance Trek, which also aimed at getting the government to declare October 25th as a Day of Broadcasting in Nigeria, was "The Media, the Nation's Stabiliser".

The Head of Production, AIT, Lagos and Director-General of the Centre, Dr. Christopher Ebuetse said, "The Centre has always advised the government not to gag the press, fight the practitioners nor promote legislation that is inimical to the growth of the pres, stifle the media and prevent press freedom as such practices wouldn't enhance development."

He noted, however, that despite the harsh condition under which the Nigerian media strives, it has continued to play the role of the nation's stabiliser, enhancing economic growth, and national security, and promoting the socio-political development of the country.

He noted further that this year's endurance trek was to reflect on the life of an enigma who started private broadcasting in Nigeria, adding, "Each time we celebrate the development of private broadcasting, we reflect on the tenacity of the man who started it all, pioneering the first private broadcasting company in Nigeria."

Ebuetse said, therefore, "The gathering remained symbolic as it stands for the voices of the Nigerians in our collective resolve in the promotion of private broadcasting", adding, "The media in Nigeria, like any advanced country, has continued to play the role of the nation's stabiliser."

WIMIN'S MAIDEN EDITION OF GOLD AND GEM STONE CONFERENCE FOR NOVEMBER 4TH

The Lagos Chapter of the Women in Mining Nigeria (WIMIN) will be hosting the maiden edition of the Gold and Gem Stone Conference and Exhibition from Friday, November 4th to Saturday, 5th in Lagos.

The event which is held in collaboration with WIMIN's concept partners namely APATA Gems, AC&C Priceless Nigeria Limited and Energy & Mineral Resources Nigeria has the sole objective to promote value addition.

The event scheduled to kick off with an opening ceremony/exhibition at the Metropolitan Club, Ikoyi on November 4th and an award dinner at Cilantro Restaurant Ikoyi on November 5th, also aims to encourage the participation of more women in the sector through sensitisation and awareness to financial institutions, potential investors and government.

Addressing pressmen during a media parley to announce the event, the Founder/National President of WIMIN, Engr. (Dr.) Jenet Adeyemi said, the conference will address the strategic role of women in the development of the solid mineral sector in Nigeria and shall further examine the investment environment of the mining as it affects women.

The conference will also divulge the critical limitations to funding, how and where to engage as an investor especially in the midstream, sidestream, or downstream sectors where value addition is important; reflecting on the opportunities and challenges.

The highlight of the two-day event, she revealed further, is the design competition where the best jewelry designer shall be selected and walk away with great gifts, adding that assessment of designs shall be by very reputable jewelry designers.

VERDANT ZEAL LAUNCHES AHA, A PLATFORM FOR CONTENT CREATIO

Verdant Zeal Marketing Communications Limited, a Pan-African multidisciplinary marketing and communications firm, through its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, 'Innovention Series', has launched a new enterprise, tagged, Arc Hub Africa (AHA).

Speaking on AHA, a new web platform, the Chief Operating Officer of Verdant Zeal, Dipo Adesida explained, that AHA is a fulcrum for creating content, engaging content, educational content, entertaining content, durable content of Nigerian and African themes.

"When we say AHA, it's like an exclamatory expression, like wow, so what we want to do is create content that wows. We want to be able to bring into conversations things that people know about but in an interesting format. We want to be able to bring some social issues to life and bring some certain characters to life", he noted. The launch of AHA came with a premiere of its first original short film titled " The Delegates" at EbonyLive Place, Victoria Island Lagos on October 20th.

Adesida explained further that the Delegates is the first of more short and feature films to come out of the stable of AHA. He said at least five films, titled Nonetheless, Fawa House, Eko Palava and two others are in production stages.

He said further, "As we discussed during the Innovention series, African content is on the rise. There is this consciousness that Africans are holding their own with their ways of life that are fast becoming acceptable everywhere. Before now, if you are not in a suit you are considered improperly dressed. But the reverse is the case when you can wear native attires to the office five days of the week."

"Even our music has taken over everywhere. Before it used to be foreign music everywhere but now it is our African local music. Now you can sustain a party with Nigerian music for a week without repeating a track."

E-TRENDS

...Your weekly entertainment delight

MEET THE IJIMAKINDES IN 'COVENANT', TV'S NEW BELOVED FAMILY

Hate them or like them, the Ijimakindes in Africa Magic's new TV series 'Covenant' is a delight to watch. Executive-produced by prolific filmmaker Femi Odugbemi who recently became a member of the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, 'Covenant' is a political drama that centres on the Ijimakindes, a powerful and dangerous family with complicated relationships.

The patriarch of the family is Kane Ijimakinde (Antar Laniyan), fondly called MKI. The series started with him as the sitting governor of Lagos State. MKI is roguish and selfish but wears a perfectveneer of genteelness. Driven by his political ambitions, he is ruthless in clearing out obstacles blocking his dreams including planning a car accident that left his wife, Jane (Clarion Chukwura) paralysed, simply because she opted to run for the senate rather than support his presidential aspiration. This eventually cost him the governorship seat which he ceded to his deputy Gboyega James Gbadamosi (Funsho Adeolu). The power tussle between the couple is likely to cause collateral damage given that there is no love lost between them. They live a perfect life in front of the camera but behind closed doors are toxic.

The couple is blessed with two sons, Kane Ijimakinde Jr.,(Preach Bassey) and AK (David Eyi). The former lives in the slum Orita Meta and his family background is known to only a few. He goes by the appellation Uncle J and helps to keep youths away from the streets through his carpentry workshop. But Uncle J has enemies lurking behind him and is always facing one dilemma or the other. His love interest is Talia (Gbubemi Ejeye), an ambitious lady who is pimped by her guardian to Were Wanle (Toyin Oshinaike), the leader of the Road Transport Workers. Though their relationship is still budding, the couple will have to fight their inner demons as well as other characters planning their downfall.

For a long time, AK believed his brother was dead until a chance meeting. Always striving to live up to his father's expectations, AK, like his father, is ruthless and impulsive.

ACCESS ART X KICKS OFF TODAY

The seventh edition of Africa's renowned art fair, Art X Prize will be kicking off today, Friday, November 4 and will run till Sunday, November 6. This year's edition of the art fair, which previously featured only Nigerian and African artists resident on the continent, will witness, for the first time, the participation of African artists in the diaspora.

Billed as a hybrid event, it will hold a physical event at the Federal Palace Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos, while a showcase will be available online and Artsy from November 4 to 21.

Sponsored by Access Bank, the top ten finalists will be announced on November 16, and the finalists will be presented to the Jury on November 24. While one artist from Nigeria will be selected for a residency at Gasworks London in the United Kingdom, another artist from Africa and the diaspora will be selected for a residency at Yinka Shonibare's G.A.S Foundation in Lagos, Nigeria. They will also receive $10,000 in grants for their exhibition.

E-TRENDS OF THE WEEK

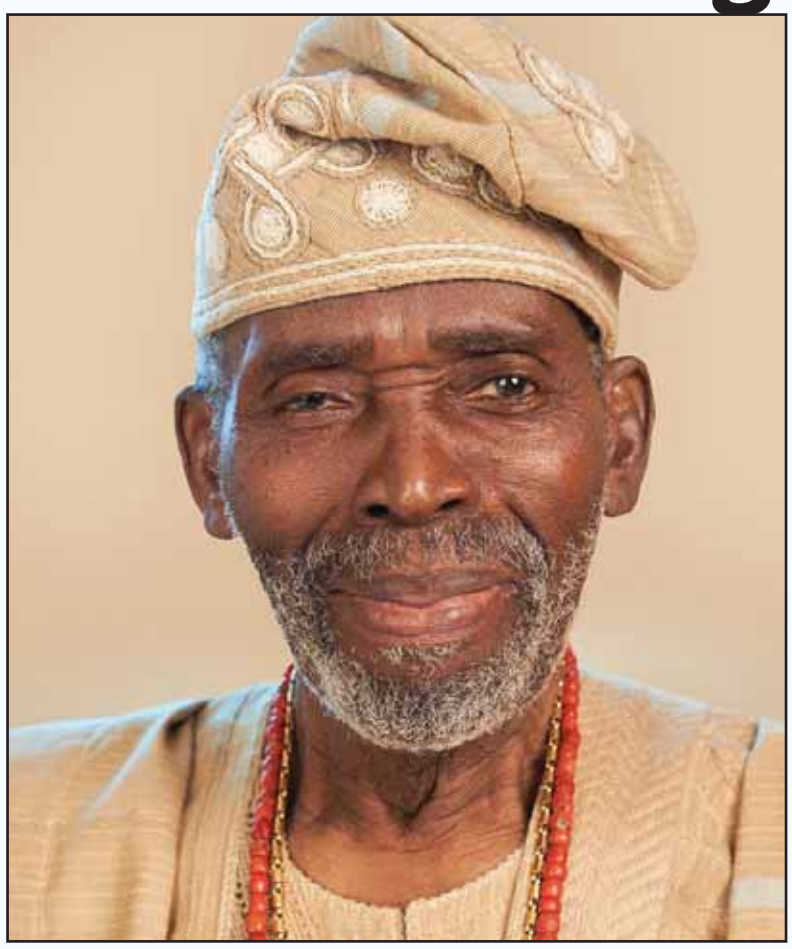
- The week started on a tragic note with the death of Ifeanyi Adeleke, the son of famed Nigerian music star, Davido and his fiancée Chioma. Condolences flew in from the high and mighty of society, while the police are said to be grilling one of the nannies over the tragic death.

- Takeoff, a member of the American hip-hop trio Migos was shot dead at a bowling alley in Houston, Texas.

- A viral snippet of Nigerian music act Skales' rap song revealed that the singer is still blaming his ex-wife for the death of his mother.

In 'Doyen of Nollywood', Olu Jacobs Gets a Deserving Tribute

Stories by Vanessa Obioha



Mr Olu Jacobs

You must have read or heard it before, Olu Jacobs is an actor's actor. His acting skills are peerless and if one is lucky to have worked with him, then the accolades go beyond that title. He goes by many distinguished monikers and this was evident in the Zuri 24 documentary, 'The Doyen of Nollywood: Celebrating Olu Jacobs at 80', which was aired on Monday, October 24 on Africa Magic Showcase.

The documentary, produced by the cerebral filmmaker Femi Odugbemi is a noble ode to the legend who marked his 80th birthday earlier in the year. It recognises the towering character of the veteran actor and how it has impacted the film industry.

Not many are aware of the veteran actor's journey to Nollywood. However, the documentary features the actor's colleagues, friends and family who narrated his story and revealed different sides of him that have never been seen or heard before. For instance, K.A Tejumola who worked with him in the north describes him as an affable character whose stellar performance in market research marked him out for excellence.

"I haven't seen anybody who can complete his quota in a day. He will complete his and help us with ours. His communication is thorough. Olu is a trailblazer," he gushes in the reel.

Mr Jacobs' trip to the United Kingdom was to take a marketing course but it was also at the time when the film and TV industry was building up. This piqued his curiosity and it was only a matter of time before he answered his true calling and returned to Nigeria to fully embrace acting.

Veteran actress Taiwo Ajai-Lycett who studied with him in the UK describes him as a master of words as she gushes about the play they acted in together 'Murderous Angels' in Dublin.

"He didn't come to help Nollywood, he came to build it," she emphasises.

From his venture into acting, the documentary segues into his family life. His wife Joke Silva recounted their wedding with nostalgia. The young Jacobs was known for his distinguished style but nothing prepared Silva for his tardiness on their wedding day. Wearing a cloak, he apologized profusely and blamed himself for partying too hard on the eve of his wedding. The ceremony was modest and a younger Richard Mofe-Damijo played the host.

At home, his children Soji and Gbenga describe him as a man of principles who ensured that they represented themselves appropriately in public.

"He is a family man and a gentleman," says Soji.

As famed as the elderly Mr Jacobs is, he sometimes loves his space, as revealed by Soji. As such, the latter has learnt to protect him from the spotlight whenever he notices his withdrawal.

Although the documentary features colleagues in the industry like Prof. Ahmed Yerima who took a liking to his voice because "he spoke like a storyteller" to Kate Henshaw who said he was always particular about diction and very encouraging, there was a snippet of Mr. Jacobs. To pay homage to his long years in the industry, his clip was shown from an old TV set.

One thing is certain from all the subjects, Mr Jacobs is a legend whose contribution to the film industry cannot be quantified.

"If he didn't come back home, we wouldn't have become who we are. A lot of people are successful in this business because of him. His return showed his commitment to his people," says Mofe-Damijo.

The CEO of MultiChoice Nigeria, John Ugbe puts it more succinctly: "His films transcend generations."

Elon Musk's Twitter is Changing Celebrity Status



The new owner of the microblogging site Twitter, Elon Musk, is asking users to pay to be verified. The blue check mark which signifies that a celebrity is really the owner of the account due to online impersonations is a status symbol on the platform. Users with blue checks are often seen as celebrities, and thought leaders and perceived as authentic and authoritative voices in topical issues.

However, celebrities may not enjoy that status alone given Musk's new verification plan for the platform. He is asking users to pay at least $8/month to get a blue check after the award-winning author Stephen King criticised him for the earlier price of $20.

"Twitter's current lords & peasants system for who has or doesn't have a blue checkmark is bullshit. Power to the people! Blue for $8/month," Musk tweeted on Tuesday, November 1.

What this means is that celebrities may no longer have the celebrity status symbol alone and it will be harder to determine who really is the owner of an account. Given the number of celebrity wannabes crawling the internet, anyone can easily assume the identity of Elon Musk as long as they can afford the blue verification badge.

In his defence, Musk tweeted that this already happened but for public figures, there will be a secondary tag.

The new verification system comes with some perks according to the billionaire. They include priority in replies, mentions and search "which is essential to defeat spam/scam," the ability to post long video and audio, and have half as many ads. For publishers, Musk said he is willing to bypass the paywall for those interested in working with the company.

"This will also give Twitter a revenue stream to reward content creators," said Musk.

Musk's control over Twitter is one meshed in controversies, right from the acquisition to the takeover. He fired the Chief Executive Parag Agrawal and other top executives; he ousted the company's board of directors and made himself the board's sole member according to filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. With this new regime, one wonders if celebrities can enjoy their status alone.

SEARCH FOR NAIJA HIGHLANDAH INTENSIFIES AS GRAND FINALE DRAWS NEAR

More and more fun seekers are trying their luck in the ongoing William Lawson's Naija Highlandah Challenge. Last weekend saw a high number of contestants with about 574 male and female contestants taking part in games at several select outlets including lounges like the Bamboo Lounge in Ikeja GRA, Q4 on Awolowo Way, Ikeja, Esporta Magodo, and Jacoin Bar, Surulere.

Out of the 574, 24 people scored the maximum 80 points required to qualify for the grand finale. So far, 74 people have qualified for the grand finale, but only 10 will contend for the grand prize.

It is expected that by the end of the last activations happening this weekend at Fish Farm, Ogudu; Ice Age, Abule-Egba; Busy Body, Ikotun; and Jendol, Abule-Egba and Ikorodu and JustRite, also in Ikorodu, the number of bold and daring Nigerians aiming for the N2 million and a trip to Scotland grand prize would further increase. The contest is a search for the boldest and most unconventional Nigerian who lives by their own rules. It involves daring participants competing in a series of games to win the grand prize. The grand finale is scheduled for November 12 and will feature music and comedy.

ADA EHI'S 'ONLY YOU JESUS' MUSIC VIDEO HITS 100 MILLION VIEWS ON YOUTUBE

Mary Nnah

"Only You Jesus", a musical gospel video by renowned gospel minister, Ada Ehi, is making waves at the moment. The song made an astonishing milestone on the digital streaming platform, YouTube by surpassing over 100 million views on the platform.

The gospel musician's 2016, "Only You Jesus", track according to her, was inspired by a true life experience of how the Lord got her out of very difficult moments.This recent feat has made Ada Ogochukwu Ehi, simply known by her stage name Ada Ehi, the second gospel artist in Africa after Sinach to attain this milestone achievement.

Ada is widely known and celebrated for her vocal dexterity, inspirational songs and top-notch music videos. Her youtube channel has a total of well over 360,000 Million views and 1.46 Million, subscribers.Ada, who was recently awarded The Achievers award in the UK, also won CLIMA Awards' 2022 best collaboration song, "Congratulations", featuring Buchi.

"Only You Jesus", produced by Kelly Lyon & Crix B, was displayed as the fifth soundtrack off Ada Ehi's remarkable body of work, titled, "Future Now", which contains eighteen elegant worship melodies.

This impressive record from Ada Ehi captioned 'Only You Jesus', garnered millions of views on Youtube. This song topped several gospel music charts and it has also enjoyed lots of downloads and streams from various digital platforms until this moment. Ada who revealed that she spent about 1 million naira at that time to create the music video, noted that her recent accomplishment with the song, means a lot to her and the industry at large, being the second gospel artist in Africa to attain this feat, noting that this will make her work harder and strive to attain new heights and break into territories of the world.

You can stream, follow and subscribe to her platforms: YouTube: Ada Ehi; Instagram: @Adaehimoses and Twitter: @adaehi.

THISDAY

ART WEEKEND ...For pure art enthusiasts

Elesin Oba Movie: A Director's Burden of Transmedia Storytelling

New on Netflix, the much anticipated Biyi Bandele flick, 'Elesin Oba: The King Horseman,' a film adaptation of Wole Soyinka's classic tragedy, is a rich assortment of actors, spectacle and bull's eye moments. But could this movie by EbonyLife Films upstage its textual and theatrical forms? **Yinka Olatunbosun** asks

'You have no respect for what you don't understand.' This is the defining line conveying the very essence of the drama that the Nobel Laureate, Prof Wole Soyinka penned against the backdrop of actual events that took place in Oyo, South West of colonial Nigeria around 1946. First performed in 1975 as a stage play at the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, the movie becomes Nigeria's second flick to be screened at the Toronto Film Festival.

Elesin Oba, a 1 hour 36 minutes long movie, opens with an establishing scene that points to Elesin's tragic flaw- his indiscriminate love of women. Through the visual narration, Biyi Bandele, a transmedia storyteller and film maker transports the same themes of universal struggles of the will, culture clash, colonial subjugation, racial prejudice from text to screen while beaming lights on traditional Yoruba worldview and cosmology.

Arguably, the story of Elesin Oba-in its movie format- is simplified and perhaps shorter than most theatre productions of it. The multi-racial drama tells the story of Elesin's fall from a pedestal of honour to a place of shame. His reluctance to fulfill his cultural mandate of committing ritual suicide upon the King's demise is the conflict of the drama woven on the threads of a multi-racial cast.

For a play that has been staged repeatedly in theatres across the globe, Elesin Oba's film treatment comes with some freshness rooted in its casting, original score and translation. It could well be a critic's delight to see the metamorphosis of Nollywood's screen regulars.

Odunlade, largely known for comedies exerts his physical assets -his voice and his height -in delivering his lines and nailing the characterisation. What a better match he finds in Iyaloja (Shaffy Bello) during the confrontational scenes. Bello's marked deviation from impeccable English to sweet-sounding Yoruba accentuated her flawless artistry. The seasoned actor, Jide Kosoko who has a slew of yoruba movie credits in the leading surprisingly takes on the supporting role of Sergeant Amusa in Elesin Oba while Joke Silva and Taiwo Ajai-Lycett delivered a spots-on screen chemistry to project their upper-class characters in the ballroom.



Harem

Deyemi Okanlawon represents one of the best casting decisions for the movie. He understands the degree of rage needed to make the character of Olunde believable so he brings the fury.

And the biggest discovery by the director is Olawale Brymo who doubles as a singer and praise singer in the movie, without necessarily making one skill look better than the other. His emotive soundtrack ejects life into the sung narration thus complementing the poetic structure of the original play.

The movie has two distinct locations: the home of the District Officer and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Pelkings (Mark Elderkin and Jenny Stead) and the surrounding village where Elesin, other chiefs, traders and others reside. Undoubtedly, it's a tough call for a movie director to recreate to perfection the locale of the period drama. However, efforts were made to situate the epic drama in its socio-political contexts with the use of costumes as well as diction. But can this movie upstage its textual and theatrical forms? That's debatable. Certainly, the literary text is the basis for all other transmedia storytelling. However, due to the depth of Soyinka's language, some readers don't consider the play an easy read. Thus, the movie makes the story more accessible to non-readers of Soyinka's works except for the younger audience that are excluded. The movie adaptation of 'Death and the King's Horseman' is more conversational than incantatory. Some conservative audiences would argue that the literary text is better. Every theatre buff would probably remain biased towards the stage interpretation for its often detailed rite of passage scenes.

Asides being EbonyLife Studios' cinematic maturation from the transgressions of Chief Daddy 2, Elesin Oba is considerably an audacious and contemplative experiment into recreating a history totally lost in cultural dislocation.

Encounter with Patrick Otoro on His Musical



A scene from the musical, One Good Man

Yinka Olatunbosun

The CEO, Rivers of Water Productions, Patrick Otoro has secured his name on the list of socially-committed theatre producers with his recent musical production in Abuja titled 'One Good Man.' Starring Richard Mofe-Damijo (RMD) and Patrick Diabuah, the drama highlights the theme of governance and leadership as well as the civic responsibility in nation building. Steeped in reflecting Nigeria's diverse cultural life, the musical performance was a total theatre spectacle with its rich music, dance, lighting, costumes and food display.

While reflecting on the production, Otoro said: "We choose this genre of musical drama to be able to express our diversity in our creativity. Two things we want to achieve is to send a message, as well as give our audience quality entertainment. We know that music and drama and dance put together gives you value for your time and money. This one scene you saw is one out of several scenes in the play. It is the only northern scene in the drama. There are other scenes showing the Yoruba, Igbo, South-south cultures and more. You need to see the full play to appreciate the story. I tell you, it is a beautiful story."

Although many fun seekers often go to the theatre for escapism, the producer was determined not to diminish the entertainment factor for this play's strong political message.

"Every human being is a political animal. We all are. We cannot pretend that we are not. Whatever happens in politics affects all of us. We are part of the political state in Nigeria, and we must make comment. But what we have done deliberately is to take the political reality of this country and sandwiched it with a lot of entertainment."

Drawing the cast and crew from his pool of friends and associates, he is not a newbie when it comes to staging a big cast production having staged a 60-man show in 2019, Agbaro the Musical. For him, one major drawback for theatre productions in Abuja remains the scarcity of performance venues that are purpose-built.

"One of the challenges we have in Abuja is real estate. We don't have performance halls. And we are hoping that as you write, you will make that case for us. This is not a private property rather government. It is costing us a lot of money to rehearse here. We can't even get a good place to perform because there is no good theatre space in Abuja. Politicians don't care. The conference halls we have here in the city are for conferences.

"With the amount of creativity and talent in this country, a place like Abuja should not lack a performing arts theatre. But we don't have that. We hold performances at the Hilton Hotel which costs about millions per night. And at that N3.5 million. We have moved to NAF Conference Center in Kado, because it seems cheaper but it is going to cost us N2million per day," he revealed.

With the exception of a few cultural hubs like Heritage Africa Village Square, Abuja is indeed a fertile land for theatre infrastructure.

Nigeria's Iké Udé Unveils "Nollywood Portraits" in Washington DC

Yinka Olatunbosun

The anticipated exhibition that explores African beauty through the portraits of Nollywood Celebrities is on-going at the prestigious Smithsonian's National Museum of African Arts in Washington DC. Titled "Iké Udé: Nollywood Portraits," the works will be on display at the said museum throughout the month of February.

"We are very excited to join the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art in celebrating these Nigerian film industry personalities in the classic, elegant style Iké Udé has perfected," says Osahon Akpata, Project Director of Nollywood Portraits.

"The radical beauty of these portraits is intended to make a bold statement about the portrayal of our people at the highest art and cultural institutions in the world."

Akpata further disclosed that today, Friday February 11, there will be a virtual global launch event of the exhibition featuring an interactive session with the artist, Iké Udé, and four Nollywood stars discussing their portrait experience, an exclusive preview of Udé's documentary short, Nollywood in Focus, and a sneak peak of the exhibition.

Iké Udé celebrates the luminescent beauty and mystique of Nigerian visionaries by turning his lens on the talented people who drive Nollywood, Nigeria's $3 billion film industry.

Known for his performative and iconoclastic style and vibrant sense of composition, Udé's photographs use colour, attire and other markers to make elegant yet unexpected portraits.

His photographs make a bold statement about the power of African identities, despite centuries of attempted erasure by Eurocentric art history and notions of beauty.



Some of the works at the exhibition

Currently based in the U.S., Udé is originally from Nigeria. After three decades away, he returned to Lagos, Nigeria, in 2014 to photograph its celebrities.

The exhibition features 33 of Udé's 64 portraits of Nollywood film stars, directors and producers, alongside—for the first time—some of the garments styled by the stars and a bespoke set, in which visitors can create their own identities with the help of on-site stylists.

"Black History Month is an opportunity to reflect on the contributions of African people across the globe to art, to history, to culture and to our common humanity," said Ngaire Blankenberg, Director, National Museum of African Art. "Whether he turns his camera on himself, flowers or the talented stars of Nollywood, Iké Udé presents a world of beauty, and most powerfully, a world that centres on African beauty."

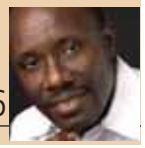
On display through February 2023, the exhibition was originated by independent curator Selene Wendt and curated for the Smithsonian by Karen E. Milbourne. In addition to Udé's portraits, the exhibition will feature fashion, film clips and interviews with such Nollywood celebrities as Alexx Ekubo and Taiwo Ajai-Lycett.

"Iké Udé is a true visionary who presents himself and the world around him with a combination of extraordinary style, cutting intellectual humor and exacting detail," said Milbourne, senior curator for the National Museum of African Art.

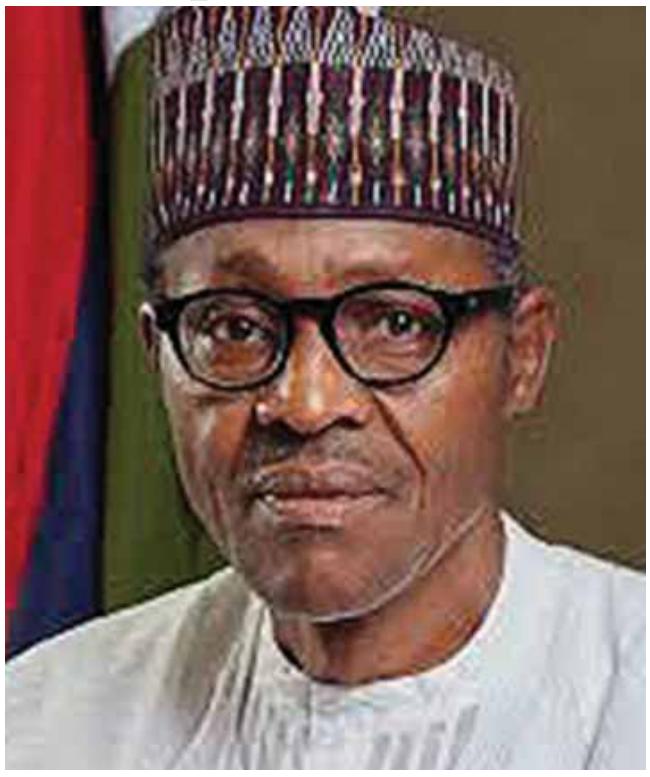
"He reveals how each of us performs our identity, and in the case of these Nollywood stars, he takes us beyond the façade of celebrity. He invites us to see how they, themselves, want to be seen."

POLSCOPE

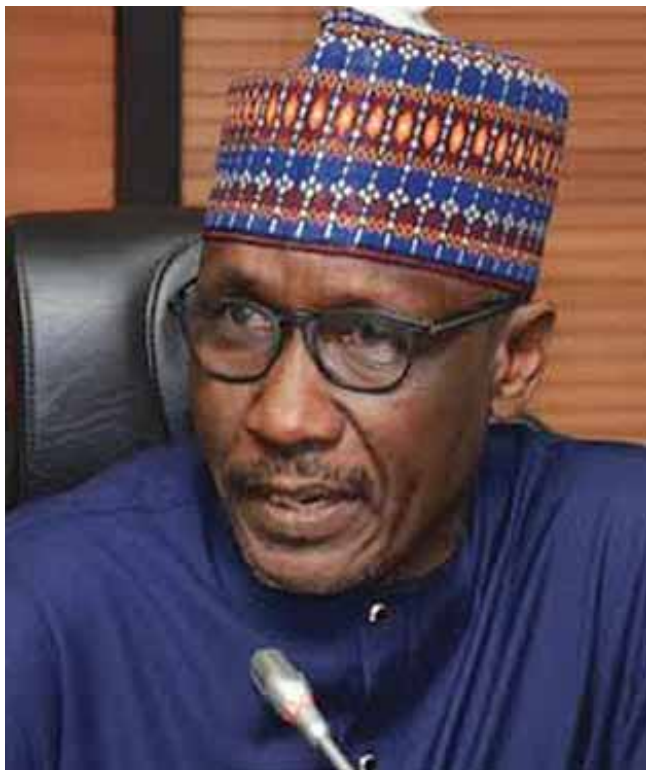
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So, Who are the Oil Thieves?



Buhari



Mele Kyari



Tompolo

That Nigeria is in serious debt is no news. What should be news is how we got to this sorry low point in our life as a country. How come suddenly, we tumbled from the height of a country that has so much money with our only problem being how to spend it, to a country of puppetry indebted to so many nations in huge margins and profile? We do not need experts in economics to know that Nigeria's ill fortune is as a result of economic mismanagement, orchestrated by hydra-headed corruption. If there was anyone yet in doubt about this, the revelations on the quantum of crude oil being stolen every day (for nine years) from the Niger Delta creeks, will sure be solid evidence on why we are so richly poor.

With a total (local and foreign) debt profile of over N42.8 trillion naira and a highly depleted foreign reserve, any government succeeding the Buhari administration will surely have a tough time. What that means is that we, the Nigerian folks will surely be in the woods for a long time to come.

Some have argued that God loved Nigeria so much that everything a country needs to grow and excel was given to us—from human to natural resources, what with our clement weather, vast landmass, bodies of water, etc. etc. Others have however argued that God does not make a mistake. That He grossly over-endowed us with mass and mass of resources, but deliberately gave us acidic leaders who will be so determined to ruin the resources. You can believe any of the theories you want to believe.

However, not all our leaders have been like yam beetles, eating away the yam. But on the average, Nigeria seems to have been pretty unlucky with the kinds of leaders that have come our way. Next February, comes again the test for electing another leader in a make-or-mar election, as many believe.

For over a month, we have been regaled with tales of the great discovery of how our oil wealth has been stolen mercilessly for years unend. The theft of our crude oil did not just start. The thieves only got lionized. Before now, the stealing was with a modicum of fear of God. Not anymore. The present-day thieves neither fear God nor man. It got to a height last July when the nation could no longer export even the modest OPEC quota of 1.8 million barrels per day. Nigeria was only able to export just about 900 bpd—half of our quota! That should mean half revenue from oil. Yet, it is even worse.

Perhaps it will be consoling if we now earn half of what we ought. But no. Because we have entangled ourselves in the web of subsidy, we are told that our petrol consumption is over 60 million litres per day. At that, the halved revenue from crude oil sale is not even enough to service the sickening so-called subsidy. So, we borrow to subsidise just the PMS (petrol). Many have cried and sworn to the heavens that Nigeria does not consume as much as 60 million litres per day. It is our word against theirs. It has been argued that the refusal to remove the subsidy is benefiting a cabal at the expense of the larger economy.

So, while our subsidy figures keep rising, our revenues keep dropping, faithfully. The result is the heavy deficit we have continued to suffer.

It is said that for months now, the (now) privatized Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Ltd (NNPCL) has not been able to contribute a dime to the national treasury. So, if we are earning zero kobo from crude oil sales which is our main source of revenue, it means that we are clearly in dire straits. It's been said that the Nigerian government has, on several occasions, resorted to "ways and means" to even pay monthly salaries of workers.

But this same NNPC which has not been able to contribute anything to the nation's treasury spent over N13 billion on entertainment; N20 billion on phone calls, yes phone calls; N90 billion on media relations; N788 billion on salaries, etc; bringing a total of N788.7 billion "administrative expenses" in 2021.

What kind of organisation is that? Just take another look at the figures and you will understand why we are where we are.

This is the eleventh month of the year. The NNPCL has not paid a kobo into the federation purse for sharing by the three tiers of government, but can incur "administrative expenses" of N788 billion in one year!

All of these are happening at a time that oil and gas companies, all over the world are upping their game, smiling lavishly to the bank and raising their capital worth. But our NNPCL is wringing its hands in helplessness and wretch.

The Saudi Arabian Oil and Gas company, Saudi Aramco, the equivalent of our NNPC, taking maximum advantage of the Russia-Ukraine war, as it concerns global pricing of petroleum products, two days ago, became the most market capitalized company in the world, at $2.426 trillion, beating the hitherto top-ranked Apple brand whose market capitalization stood at $2,415 trillion. But our NNPC, trading in the same global market, is netting a vexatious deficit.

But even if we scale down from the Aramco height and compare with a smaller oil and gas company like Petrobras of Brazil, which is about the same age and capacity with our own NNPCL, the figures of the earnings from Petrobras will make you want to say everybody in NNPC be arraigned on Monday for gross economic sabotage. By early this year, Petrobras had raked in 272 billion Brazilian reals which is the equivalent of about $53 billion. But our NNPC is spending N20 billion on phone calls in one year. Not even calls to heaven will cost as much.

It is a crying shame that what ought to have been our major source of strength has become not only our weakest link, but indeed our albatross.

While oil-producing countries showcase their might in infrastructure and well-being of their citizens, Nigeria is struggling with the awkward stories of huge theft of her crude, mindless rape of the oil treasury, cruel and criminal connivance of people entrusted with national assets, seizure of diamond bra and exotic jewelry plus seized cars and mansions of a former Petroleum minister, called Diezani Madueke. Our stories are disenabling.

The NNPCL, which recently re-organised its operations and its subsidiaries is expected to be transformed from this depth of economic liability to a profitable venture that can grow the profit margins of the country.

But before then, the guys who have ruin-run the organisation deserve to be questioned on what brought us to this sorry state.

They need to tell us who has been stealing our crude oil all along. They need to tell us how between them and the Nigerian Navy, the crude oil heist had gone on endlessly without a whiff of alarm from them.

It was just about seven weeks ago that the NNPC commissioned an enquiry into the vigorous stealing of our crude. A team of media maven had been shuttling between Abuja and the deep alleys of the Niger Delta creeks on the trail of the crooks. The complex network of collaboration between the thieves, on one hand and the Nigerian Navy, the Nigerian Police and even the Nigerian Army, not forgetting the Nigeria Customs and the Nigerian Civil Defence Corps (NCDC), on the other hand, had made the tracking and stemming of the malaise somewhat difficult.

The ensuing revelations have been deeply shocking.

Little wonder that among the security apparatchik, there is an intense lobbying by its rank and file to be posted to the creeks, as it had become the gateway to easy and sudden wealth.

It got so bad that the NNPC had to engage a private individual, Government Ekpemupolo, better known as Tompolo, who had no formal training in arms handling and security (though a reformed(?) militant) to secure and protect the pipelines and oil installations in the creeks, at the whopping cost of N4 billion per month. Insider sources say the fee is far more than was announced.

That in itself is a huge and harsh indictment of the nation's security architecture.

With Tompolo now in command, so many dirty deals have been blown open. The stemming effort was hallmarked by the recent arrest and burning of a vessel which came to steal crude. Some House of Reps members and some busybody lawyers had argued that burning the vessel had destroyed the evidence that could be used to prosecute the oil thieves. The question is where are all the previously caught thieves? Burning the vessel, though despoils the environment, thus further imperiling the flora and fauna in the creeks, sends a strong signal to the foreign cartel of oil thieves that the game has changed, as a new sheriff is in town.

Under the old order, the navy had always collaborated with the oil thieves to allow ships and vessels sail into our waters uncaught. The NPA Managing Director , Mr Mohammed Bello Koko recently revealed that the ships on rogue mission, before sailing into the Nigerian waters, turn off a bar code in the ship that will enable them to be tracked and located within the Nigerian waters; so, that way, they can sail to our creeks, get loaded with stolen crude and sail out undetected. That is only possible with the connivance of the Nigerian navy and even the Nigerian Customs.

The degree of stealing is indeed mind-boggling. If sources say that those illegal pipelines connected over long kilometers from the loading terminals to some illegal platforms where crude is loaded into illegal ships and vessels, then the question must be asked about who is behind them all. It is a technical, highly skilled and expensive engineering process. Some of these questionable platforms are owned by renowned oil companies. So are they also part of the stealing? As Peter Obi will say, poor men don't steal crude.

Can the NNPC truly say they are not part of the cartel that has been stealing the crude? Can the Navy say their men have not been aiding and abetting the mindless heist in the oil and gas sector? Can even the Nigerian army claim to be innocent? I am aware of huge sums given to the Nigerian army to reinforce security of the oil and gas sector. To what end has it all been?

When Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, embarked on a drive to shut down all illegal refineries in Rivers State, it was revealed that even some illegal refineries were owned and operated by serving Police DPOs and the like. It is a broad-based cartel.

It is clearly an organized crime that had gone on for years. Many of the locals who were engaged by the team of media enquirers confirmed that even local people have long been in the business of "helping ourselves with what God gave us", especially as they do not feel the presence and effect of government in the creeks.

With the stealing of the crude comes the inadvertent consequence of oil spillage, in some cases. Images from the creeks show the telling effect of the eternal (?) damage done to the Niger Delta environment. Needless to say that those not involved in the stealing of crude have no other legitimate means of earning a living as they can no longer fish nor farm as the waters have been harshly polluted, just as the vegetation have been massively damaged. It is truly a sorry sight, and a reason they are tempted to conclude that the oil which ought to be a blessing has indeed become a caustic curse to them.

So now that the stealing of our crude has been established, what next is the government planning to do? The Buhari-led administration has about six or so months to go. What will he do with those found culpable in the oil pillaging? Will they be part of the handover notes to the incoming administration or will he begin a decisive prosecution of those involved, no matter whose ox is gored? Will these oil thieves, aka economic saboteurs be left untouched like the thieves that nearly ruined the NDDC whom Mr President vowed to make to cough up all stolen monies, since last year, yet nothing has been done?

IMAGES

Photo Editor Abiodun Ajala
Email abiodun.ajala@thisdaylive.com



L-R: Ex-Officio member, Women's Wing of Nigeria Anew Movement (NAMO), a pro-Peter Obi political group, Mrs. Pauline Olamide; Chief Whip, NAMO, Lady Bukola Ogunbanwo; National Women Leader NAMO, Princess Dominica Onugu; Deputy Leader, NAMO, Mrs. Funke Idowu; and Secretary-General, NAMO, Dr. Jennifer Onwueme, during the group maiden edition of National Dialogue titled: 'Mobilising Women Voters to Vote Right in the 2023 General Elections', in Lagos…recently



Director-General, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Brigadier-General Muhammad Kaku Fadah (right), presenting his 100 days in office memorial plaque to the team leader of the female squad of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), CSC Imonikhe Oluwakemi, during her visit to Fadah in his office in Abuja…recently



L-R: Kasi International Partner/Chairman and Founder, Infrastructure Masons, Mr. Deen Nelson; Head, Corporate Affairs, Kasi Data Centres, Mr. Ibrahim Dikko; Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Kasi Data Centres, Mr. Johnson Agogbua; and Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Innovations and Technology, Mr. Tokunbo Alake, during the launch of Kasi Foundry in Lagos…recently



Minister of Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN) (left), and Ekiti State Governor, Mr. Biodun Oyebanji (right), during the governor's courtesy visit to the minister in Abuja…recently



L-R: National Chairman, Joint Drivers' Welfare Association of Nigeria (JIDWAN), Akintade Abiodun; General Counsel/Legal Adviser to JIDWAN, Ayo Ademiluyi; Social Activist/JIDWAN member, Banwo Olagokuw; and the General Secretary of the association, Ajimatanarareje Feyisayo; at a press conference on the peaceful protest and boycott of work by commercial drivers in Lagos…recently



L-R: Deputy Director, Lagos State Council for Art and Culture, Mr. Ayoola Mudasiru; Executive Director, OMD, Mr. Yinka Adebayo; grand prize winner, Indomie Fan Club (IFC) 'Team Yourself Up 7', Ezinwanne Oforbike of Ebelechukwu International School, Anambra State; Group Corporate Communications and Event Manager, Dufil Prima Foods Plc, Mr. Tope Ashiwaju; Managing Director, Noah's Ark, Mr. Lanre Adisa; and National Coordinator, Indomie Fan Club (IFC), Mrs. Faith Joshua, at the 'IFC Team Yourself Up 7' prize presentation to winners in Lagos...recently



L-R: Country Director, Harley Reed Nigeria, Grace Onasode; Business Advisor, Zigma Limited, Temilola Achakobe; Chief Launcher, Mrs. Adejoke Chukwumah; the author, superpowers book, Mrs. Ivie Okuegbuna; guest, Nekpen Emokpae; and the book reviewer, Dr. Joy Isa, at superpowers book launch by Okuegbuna in Lagos… recently

PHOTO: SUNDAY ADIGUN

NDPB Tasks Nigeria on Harnessing Youth Power for Economic Growth

Rebecca Ejifoma

The Commissioner/CEO of Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB), Mr Vincent Olatunji, has tasked organisations, ministries and agencies to harness the potential of the youth to accelerate the nation's economy.

The commissioner made this clarion call at the on-going hybrid 14th Annual Conference of the ISACA Abuja on the theme, "Digital Innovation and the Future of Work: Implications for Community, Industry and Governance" which was held at the Seun Musa Yar'Adua Centre in Abuja.

According to Olatunji, these youth are loaded with ideas and are ready to take risks in the area of the digital technology space.

He added: "They are doing a lot, have a lot of potential and talents. All we need to do is put appropriate measures in place and take advantage of their maximum potential."

While describing Nigeria as a special nation, the commissioner cited "We have a population of over 220 million people and 65 per cent of this population is made up of the digital serving youth.

"There are so many things coming up. We have seven unicorns in Africa. Five of them in Nigeria are Flutterwave, Andela and Opay which are some of the products of our young generation in the country," says the NDPB CEO.

He, therefore, charged the nation to put in place measures and an enabling environment to utilise the youth to come up with more innovative solutions.

Olatunji added: "One thing the government has done is Startup Bill which is important to stimulate the ecosystem, bring them together, harness their potential and put in place the enabling environment for them to exhibit their talents and come up with innovative solutions that can solve our problems locally and even internationally."



L-R ;MD pcl., Rob Taiwo, Partner Commercial Services pcl., Dele Phillips, Partner, Olayimika Phillips, Olaniwun Ajayi LP, Chairman pcl., Foluso Phillips, Deputy Governor, Ogun State, Engr. Mrs. Noimot Salako-Oyedele, Partner, Business Solutions pcl., Modupe Thomas-Owoseni during the 30th anniversary celebration of Phillips Consulting Ltd in Lagos...recently

NGX Group Grows Income by 18% to N5.71bn

Kayode Tokede

The Nigerian Exchange Group Plc (NGX Group) has recorded a 17.46per cent revenue growth in the three quarters of 2022 ended September 30, 2022 to N5.71billion from N4.86billion in the corresponding period of 2021.

This was disclosed in its Unaudited Financial Statements for the period ended September 30, 2022. According to the income statement, revenue from its core businesses rose by 13.37 per cent from N4.39billion as of September 2021 to N4.97billion in the same period in 2022.

This include income generated from treasury investment, transaction fees, listing fees, rental income and other fees.

Other income consisting of market data income, net gain on disposal of property and equipment; and technology income also rose by 55.48 per cent from N417.83million as of September 2021 to N733.62million in the corresponding period of 2021.

Operating profit rose to N798.56million in September 2022 compared to N710.31million while operating margin declined to 13.99 per cent from 14.62 per cent in the previous year.

Profit after tax moderated to N464.38million from N1.73billionn, which was bolstered by N1.36billion in share of profit-equity, accounted investees. At the end of the reporting period, the Group recorded N172.66million in net profit.

EBID's Authorised Capital Now $3.5 Billion

Michael Olugbode in Abuja

The Board of Governors of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) has unanimously increased the Bank's authorised capital from USD 1.5 billion to USD 3.5 billion with effect from January 2023. The Governors also called for the third tranche of the capital of the Bank, which is in the sum of USD 438 million.

The Board of Governors, which comprises the Ministers for Finance and Ministers for Planning and Development of the fifteen ECOWAS Member States took this decision at its just ended 10th Extraordinary session held on 27th October 2022 in Praia, Republic of Cabo Verde.

The President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of EBID, Dr. George Agyekum Donkor, made this disclosure immediately after the session. According to Dr. Donkor, the decision by the Governors was very strategic and timely especially as the Bank intensifies its resources mobilisation initiatives and seeks to position itself as the foremost regional development finance institution committed to playing a key and expansive role in assisting ECOWAS Member States to navigate the path to socio-economic recovery from the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian – Ukraine war.

Outlining the justifications for the Governors' decision, Donkor emphasized the need for the Bank to improve leverage, capital adequacy, liquidity, and the overall risk-bearing capacity. He further underscored the need for the Bank to be abreast with industry trends and improve its rating. According to the President of EBID, calling the third tranche of the Bank's capital will no doubt enhance the Bank's capacity to grant concessionary resources to Member States in order to accelerate economic recovery.

The Chairman of the Board of Governors, who is also the Vice-Prime Minister for Finance and Business Development and Minister for Digital Economy of the Republic of Cabo Verde, Dr. Olavo Avelino Garcia Correia, commended the President of the Bank and his team for the remarkable and exceptional performance within a short time which has led to impressive operational and financial performance of the Bank and the eventual upgrade of the Bank's rating by both Moddy's and Fitch rating agencies. He urged the Management of the Bank not to rest on its oars but strive to obtain investment grade in order to attract competitive resources for ECOWAS Member States.

BSG Announces Appointment of Rocha as Chairman

The Beer Sectoral Group (BSG), a section of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), has announced the appointment of Hugo Dias Rocha as Chairman of the Group with effect from 1st November 2022.

A statement by the company said Rocha replaces former BSG Chairman, Baker Magunda who retired from his position as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Guinness Nigeria Plc on the 31st of October 2022.

The statement also noted that the BSG is a trade association of beer manufacturers in Nigeria who are members of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria.

The statement revealed that the membership currently comprises Nigerian Breweries Plc, Guinness Nigeria Plc and International Breweries Plc.

According to the statement, "Hugo Rocha is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of International Breweries Plc (a part of the AB InBev Group), and President of AB InBev West Africa.

"Rocha has been in the AB InBev Group for 27 years, within which period he has held different leadership roles across general management, sales, process integration and human resources functions in various countries, including Brazil, Dominican Republic, China, Colombia, Argentina and South Africa.

"He gained his first degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Federal University of Paraiba, Brazil, and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Sao Paulo Business School, Brazil and is Lean Sigma Six Black Belt certified."

MARKET INDICATORS

MONEY AND CREDIT STATISTICS (MILLION NAIRA)

	AUGUST 2022
Money Supply (M3)	**49,356,443.6**
-- CBN Bills Held by Money Holding Sectors	**50,601.36**
Money Supply (M2)	49,305,842.3
-- Quasi Money	27,869,678.3
-- Narrow Money (M1)	**21,436,164**
---- Currency Outside Banks	**2,680,236.81**
---- Demand Deposits	18,755,927.2
Net Foreign Assets (NFA)	**5,074,909.92**
Net Domestic Assets(NDA)	**27,869,678.3**
-- Net Domestic Credit (NDC)	61,195,142.4
---- Credit to Government (Net)	**21,001,401.5**
---- Memo: Credit to Govt. (Net) less FMA	**0.00**
---- Memo: Fed. and Mirror Accounts (FMA)	**0.00**
---- Credit to Private Sector (CPS)	40,193,740.9
--Other Assets Net	6,785,979.22
Reserve Money (Base Money	14,040,351.9
--Currency in Circulation	3,210,664.98
--Banks Reserves	10,829,686.9
--Special Intervention Reserves	390,557.8

• Source - CBN

Money Market Indicators (in Percentage)

Month	July 2022
Inter-Bank Call Rate	13.00
Minimum Rediscount Rate (MRR)	
Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)	14.00
Treasury Bill Rate	2.76
Savings Deposit Rate	1.42
1 Month Deposit Rate	3.64
3 Months Deposit Rate	4.96
6 Months Deposit Rate	5.87
12 Months Deposit Rate	5.76
Prime Lending rate	12.10
Maximum Lending Rate	27.61

• Monetary Policy Rate - 13%

OPEC DAILY BASKET PRICE AS AT 24 OCTOBER, 2022

The price of OPEC basket of thirteen crudes stood at $92.17 a barrel on Monday, compared with $92.09 the previous Friday, according to OPEC Secretariat calculations.
The OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Djeno (Congo), Zafiro (Equatorial Guinea), Rabi Light (Gabon), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basrah Medium (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

MARKET NEWS

Daily Turnover on NGX Up 38% as Banking Stocks Drive Volume

Kayode Tokede

The trading volume on Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) yesterday soared by 38.45per cent as investors exchanged majorly stocks in the financial services sector.

At the end of trading on the floor of the Exchange, 215.15 million shares valued at N1.91billion were traded in 3,389 deals, a significant increase over the previous day's turnover of 155.41 million shares worth N1.53billion in 3,796 deals.

The market capitalisation closed at N24.09trillion, 0.1per cent or N24.12billion down from the previous day's N24.12trillion as the NGX All-Share Index closed lower at 44,236.7 basis points from 44,283.02 basis points the market opened for trading.

As a result, stock market performance in its year-to-date (YTD) return fell to 3.57per cent.

Sectoral performance on the NGX was mixed with the Oil and Gas index dropping by 0.96per cent, Consumer Goods depreciated by 0.21per cent while Banking Index added 0.05per cent and Industrial Index gained 0.01per cent.

Stocks of financial services firms occupied 76.67per cent of total volume traded for the day with Access Holdings Plc leading the charts by volume.

Transnational Corporation of Nigeria followed as 16.07 million units of its shares were traded in 62 deals. Sterling Bank Plc, Fidelity Bank Plc, and Zenith Bank Plc were also highly traded.

By value, Access corporation was the most traded stock as N892.56million worth of its shares were exchanged in 358 deals.

Zenith bank followed with N142.83million worth of shares in 169 deals, and MTN Nigeria Communications Plc with N127.49million in 169 deals.

Other highly traded stocks by value were Vitafoam Plc and Guaranty Trust Holding Company Plc (GTCO). By

Atop the gainers' chart was UPDC Real Estate Investment Trust as it rose by 9.09per cent, followed by Trans-Nationwide Express Plc with 8.82per cent.

Other major gainers were Champion Breweries Plc (7.81 per cent), JaPaul Gold & Ventures Plc (7.69 per cent), and Cutix Plc (4.88per cent).

Analysts at InvestmentOne research said, "The stock market closed negative due to the southward movement recorded in the Oil and Gas and Consumer Goods sectors.

"Going forward, we expect investor's sentiments to be swayed by the search for real positive returns and developments in the interest rate space. We reiterate that this may be a great period to pick up some quality names with a medium to long-term investment horizon."

PRICES FOR SECURITIES TRADED AS OF 03/11/2022

MAIN BOARD	DEALS	MARKET PRICE	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE TRADED (N)
FINANCIAL SERVICES				
S/N BANKING	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
1 UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	232,556.07	6.80	0.74 ⇧	183 5,485,690
2 ZENITH BANK PLC	624,790.23	19.90	-0.25 ⇩	224 7,190,550
BANKING				407 12,676,240
S/N OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
3 ACCESS HOLDINGS PLC	282,584.54	7.95	0.63 ⇧	358 112,333,613
4 FBN HOLDINGS PLC	355,363.40	9.90	-1.00 ⇩	71 2,305,115
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				429 114,638,728
FINANCIAL SERVICES				836 127,314,968
ICT				
S/N TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
5 MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC	3,989,484.56	196.00	-	169 649,752
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES				169 649,752
ICT				169 649,752
INDUSTRIAL GOODS				
S/N BUILDING MATERIALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
6 DANGOTE CEMENT PLC	4,089,721.78	240.00	-	61 35,343
7 LAFARGE AFRICA PLC.	358,398.45	22.25	-	65 493,267
BUILDING MATERIALS				126 528,610
INDUSTRIAL GOODS				126 528,610
OIL AND GAS				
S/N EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
8 SEPLAT ENERGY PLC	647,289.02	1,100.00	-	19 60,453
EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION				19 60,453
OIL AND GAS				19 60,453
AGRICULTURE				
S/N CROP PRODUCTION	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
9 ELLAH LAKES PLC.	7,200.00	3.60	-	0 0
10 FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	682.00	0.31	-	5 202,409
11 OKOMU OIL PALM PLC.	161,687.75	169.50	-	25 20,296
12 PRESCO PLC	128,350.00	128.35	-	34 52,932
CROP PRODUCTION				64 275,637
S/N LIVESTOCK/ANIMAL SPECIALTIES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
13 LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	3,090.00	1.03	3.00 ⇧	15 1,020,619
LIVESTOCK/ANIMAL SPECIALTIES				15 1,020,619
AGRICULTURE				79 1,296,256
CONGLOMERATES				
S/N DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
14 JOHN HOLT PLC.	315.21	0.81	-	3 16,119
15 S C O A NIG. PLC.	1,137.19	1.75	-	0 0
16 TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION PLC	42,273.91	1.04	-0.95 ⇩	62 16,068,124
17 U A C N PLC.	24,579.51	8.40	-	23 59,383
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES				88 16,143,626
CONGLOMERATES				88 16,143,626
CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE				
S/N BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
18 ARBICO PLC.	152.96	1.03	-	0 0
CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE				
S/N BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION				0 0
S/N INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
19 JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC.	37,520.00	23.45	-	26 70,040
INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION				26 70,040
S/N REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
20 UPDC PLC	18,003.17	0.97	-2.02 ⇩	8 270,284
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT				8 270,284
CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE				34 340,324
CONSUMER GOODS				
S/N AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
21 DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	954.53	0.20	-	0 0
AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS				0 0
S/N BEVERAGES--BREWERS/DISTILLERS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
22 CHAMPION BREW. PLC.	27,011.76	3.45	7.81 ⇧	10 277,685
23 GOLDEN GUINEA BREW. PLC.	829.98	0.81	-	0 0
24 GUINNESS NIG PLC	181,582.74	82.90	-	21 9,679
25 INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC.	111,477.58	4.15	-	17 197,127
CONSUMER GOODS				
S/N BEVERAGES--BREWERS/DISTILLERS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
26 NIGERIAN BREW. PLC.	328,014.15	39.90	-0.99 ⇩	74 2,539,861
BEVERAGES--BREWERS/DISTILLERS				122 3,024,352
S/N FOOD PRODUCTS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
27 BUA FOODS PLC	1,006,200.00	55.90	-	24 109,465
28 DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	197,994.12	16.30	-	47 205,544
29 FLOUR MILLS NIG. PLC.	124,241.50	30.30	-	35 109,970
30 HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	17,446.43	2.20	-	22 153,101
31 MULTI-TREX INTEGRATED FOODS PLC	1,340.10	0.36	-	0 0
32 N NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC.	1,095.93	6.15	-	6 11,600
33 NASCON ALLIED INDUSTRIES PLC	25,169.66	9.50	-	4 33,702
34 UNION DICON SALT PLC.	2,446.38	8.95	-	0 0
FOOD PRODUCTS				138 623,382
S/N FOOD PRODUCTS--DIVERSIFIED	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
35 CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	21,317.59	11.35	-	30 695,886
36 NESTLE NIGERIA PLC.	963,077.35	1,215.00	-	28 7,712
FOOD PRODUCTS--DIVERSIFIED				58 703,598
S/N HOUSEHOLD DURABLES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
37 NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC.	1,231.72	16.20	-	0 0
38 VITAFOAM NIG PLC.	25,016.88	20.00	-	56 5,964,590
HOUSEHOLD DURABLES				56 5,964,590
S/N PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
39 P Z CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC.	36,528.39	9.20	-	39 220,487
40 UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC.	57,162.80	9.95	-8.29 ⇩	71 1,090,653
PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS				110 1,311,140
CONSUMER GOODS				
CONSUMER GOODS				484 11,627,062
FINANCIAL SERVICES				
S/N BANKING	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
41 ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORPORATED	183,495.51	10.00	-	21 26,150
42 FIDELITY BANK PLC	119,086.42	4.11	-1.91 ⇩	79 9,290,573
43 GUARANTY TRUST HOLDING COMPANY PLC	517,988.75	17.60	-0.28 ⇩	378 6,478,049
44 JAIZ BANK PLC	34,195.76	0.99	3.13 ⇧	35 884,139
45 STERLING BANK PLC.	40,306.59	1.40	0.72 ⇧	70 12,256,961
46 UNION BANK NIG.PLC.	174,724.52	6.00	-	17 83,374
47 UNITY BANK PLC	4,909.52	0.42	-	11 130,063
48 WEMA BANK PLC.	42,174.75	3.28	-	24 89,053
BANKING				635 29,238,362
S/N INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
49 AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	4,117.00	0.20	-	0 0
50 AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	20,132.90	0.55	-	20 148,017
FINANCIAL SERVICES				
S/N INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
51 AXAMANSARD INSURANCE PLC	14,670.00	1.63	1.24 ⇧	28 559,562
52 CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSURANCE PLC	6,208.61	0.58	-	4 19,223
53 CORNERSTONE INSURANCE PLC	7,993.21	0.44	-2.22 ⇩	5 208,500
54 CORONATION INSURANCE PLC	8,397.09	0.35	-2.78 ⇩	26 293,361
55 GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	909.99	0.20	-	0 0
56 GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	1,228.00	0.20	-	0 0
57 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSURANCE PLC	487.95	0.38	-	0 0
58 LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	1,595.22	0.87	-	3 9,500
59 LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	5,040.00	0.36	-	1 20,000
60 MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC.	5,416.64	0.27	-	8 1,824,168
61 NEM INSURANCE PLC	20,065.91	4.00	-	11 111,400
62 NIGER INSURANCE PLC	1,547.90	0.20	-	0 0
63 PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	6,096.18	0.46	-9.80 ⇩	6 209,419
64 REGENCY ASSURANCE PLC	1,600.50	0.24	-	4 313,170
65 SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2,841.12	0.25	-	8 2,048,580
66 STACO INSURANCE PLC	4,483.72	0.48	-	0 0
67 STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC.	2,582.21	0.20	-	0 0
68 SUNU ASSURANCES NIGERIA PLC.	1,859.46	0.32	-8.57 ⇩	2 252,647
69 UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC	3,200.00	0.20	-	0 0
70 VERITAS KAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	2,773.33	0.20	-	0 0
INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES				126 6,017,547
S/N MICRO-FINANCE BANKS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
71 NPF MICROFINANCE BANK PLC	9,229.12	1.54	-	0 0
MICRO-FINANCE BANKS				0 0

MAIN BOARD	DEALS	MARKET PRICE	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE TRADED (N)
FINANCIAL SERVICES				
S/N MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
72 ABBEY MORTGAGE BANK PLC	17,261.54	1.70	-	0 0
73 ASO SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	7,370.87	0.50	-	0 0
74 INFINITY TRUST MORTGAGE BANK PLC	5,296.48	1.27	-	0 0
75 RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	2,265.95	0.20	-	0 0
FINANCIAL SERVICES				
S/N MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
76 UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC.	2,949.22	3.02	-	0 0
MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES				0 0
S/N OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
77 AFRICA PRUDENTIAL PLC	10,300.00	5.15	-	37 194,029
78 CUSTODIAN INVESTMENT PLC	38,232.12	6.50	-	6 5,114
79 DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	300.00	0.20	-	2 1,000
80 FCMB GROUP PLC.	67,329.22	3.40	-	38 270,687
81 NIGERIAN EXCHANGE GROUP	39,478.73	20.10	-0.99 ⇩	23 1,298,918
82 ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC.	3,704.67	0.72	-	0 0
83 STANBIC IBTC HOLDINGS PLC	362,795.92	28.00	-	35 47,214
84 UNITED CAPITAL PLC	67,800.00	11.30	-0.44 ⇩	58 566,489
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				199 2,383,451
FINANCIAL SERVICES				960 37,639,360
HEALTHCARE				
S/N HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
85 EKOCORP PLC.	2,886.90	5.79	-	0 0
HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS				0 0
S/N MEDICAL SUPPLIES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
86 MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	1,958.54	1.98	-	0 0
MEDICAL SUPPLIES				0 0
S/N PHARMACEUTICALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
87 FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	19,943.52	8.69	-3.98 ⇩	15 330,448
88 GLAXO SMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC.	6,876.29	5.75	-	24 34,369
89 MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	6,486.88	3.76	-0.79 ⇩	30 645,990
HEALTHCARE				
S/N PHARMACEUTICALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
90 NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS PLC	2,848.74	1.50	-	12 330,772
91 PHARMA-DEKO PLC.	401.12	1.85	-	0 0
PHARMACEUTICALS				81 1,341,579
HEALTHCARE				81 1,341,579
ICT				
S/N COMPUTER BASED SYSTEMS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
92 COURTEVILLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PLC	1,776.00	0.50	-	3 50,000
COMPUTER BASED SYSTEMS				3 50,000
S/N COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
93 OMATEK VENTURES PLC	588.36	0.20	-	0 0
COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS				0 0
S/N IT SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
94 CWG PLC	2,019.86	0.80	-	1 15
95 NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	388.80	3.60	-	0 0
IT SERVICES				1 15
S/N PROCESSING SYSTEMS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
96 CHAMS HOLDING COMPANY PLC	1,174.02	0.25	4.17 ⇧	20 5,864,469
97 E-TRANZACT INTERNATIONAL PLC	29,440.00	3.20	-	2 3,372
PROCESSING SYSTEMS				22 5,867,841
S/N TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
98 AIRTEL AFRICA PLC	4,791,643.17	1,275.00	-	22 18,223
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES				22 18,223
ICT				48 5,936,079
INDUSTRIAL GOODS				
S/N BUILDING MATERIALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
99 BERGER PAINTS PLC	1,651.99	5.70	-	7 76,961
100 BUA CEMENT PLC	2,438,233.49	72.00	-	51 69,890
INDUSTRIAL GOODS				
S/N BUILDING MATERIALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
101 CAP PLC	14,461.77	17.75	-	8 57,304
102 MEYER PLC.	1,205.91	2.27	-	0 0
103 PREMIER PAINTS PLC.	1,230.00	10.00	-	0 0
BUILDING MATERIALS				66 204,155
S/N ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
104 AUSTIN LAZ & COMPANY PLC	2,192.12	2.03	-	0 0
105 CUTIX PLC.	7,573.68	2.15	4.88 ⇧	20 1,035,410
ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS				20 1,035,410
S/N PACKAGING/CONTAINERS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
106 BETA GLASS PLC.	26,368.52	43.95	-	5 1,400
107 GREIF NIGERIA PLC	232.39	5.45	-	0 0
108 TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	400.91	0.81	-	1 1,599
PACKAGING/CONTAINERS				6 2,999
S/N AGRO-ALLIED & CHEMICALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
109 NOTORE CHEMICAL IND PLC	100,754.14	62.50	-	0 0
AGRO-ALLIED & CHEMICALS				0 0
INDUSTRIAL GOODS				92 1,242,564
NATURAL RESOURCES				
S/N CHEMICALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
110 INDUSTRIAL & MEDICAL GASES NIGERIA PLC	3,696.25	7.40	-	4 10,995
CHEMICALS				4 10,995
S/N METALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
111 ALUMINIUM EXTRUSION IND. PLC.	1,429.71	6.50	-	1 1,500
METALS				1 1,500
NATURAL RESOURCES				
S/N MINING SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
112 MULTIVERSE MINING AND EXPLORATION PLC	1,807.06	4.24	-8.23 ⇩	15 1,374,819
MINING SERVICES				15 1,374,819
S/N PAPER/FOREST PRODUCTS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
113 THOMAS WYATT NIG. PLC.	77.00	0.35	-	0 0
PAPER/FOREST PRODUCTS				0 0
NATURAL RESOURCES				20 1,387,314
OIL AND GAS				
S/N ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
114 JAPAUL GOLD & VENTURES PLC	1,753.56	0.28	7.69 ⇧	11 221,396
ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES				11 221,396
S/N INTEGRATED OIL AND GAS SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
115 OANDO PLC	51,341.73	4.13	-5.92 ⇩	90 4,224,904
INTEGRATED OIL AND GAS SERVICES				90 4,224,904
S/N PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTORS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES VOLUME
116 ARDOVA PLC	18,104.49	13.90	-	16 71,666
117 CONOIL PLC	18,389.73	26.50	-	21 79,518
118 ETERNA PLC.	8,216.11	6.30	-	17 815,000
119 MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC.	4,011.75	11.70	-	8 26,315
120 TOTALENERGIES MARKETING NIGERIA PLC	66,885.80	197.00	-	34 21,215
PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTORS				96 1,013,714
OIL AND GAS				197 5,460,014

THISDAY | AFRINVEST 40 INDEX

Friday, November 4, 2022

Thisday Afrinvest Index shed 0.06%

The Thisday Afrinvest 40 index lost 0.06% to 1,974.82 index points due to losses in **ZENITH** (-0.3%), **FBNH** (-1.0%), and **NB** (-1.0%). Cumulatively, these stocks account for 8.8% of the index.

Local Bourse Records Loss...ASI down 0.1%

Yesterday, the domestic market closed in the red as losses in **GEREGU** (-3.5%), **UNILEVER** (-8.2%), and **FBNH** (-1.0%) dragged the ASI lower by 10bps to 44,236.70 points. Accordingly, YTD return moderated to 3.6% (previously: 3.7%) while market capitalisation fell ₦25.2bn to ₦24.0tn. Meanwhile, activity level improved as volume and value traded rose 38.4% and 24.8% respectively to 215.1m units and ₦1.9bn.

Mixed Sector Performance

Across sectors within our purview, performance was mixed with a bearish tilt as 3 indices lost, 2 gained while the **AFR-ICT** index closed flat. Losses in OANDO (-5.9%), CORNERST (-2.2%), WAPIC (-2.7%) dragged the **Oil & Gas** and **Insurance** indices down by 1.0% apiece. Likewise, the **Consumer Goods** index lost 0.2% due to price depreciation in UNILEVER (-8.2%) and NB (-0.9%). On the other hand, the **Banking** and **Industrial Goods** indices advanced 0.1% and 1bp respectively, following buy interest in ACCESSCORP (+0.6%), UBA (+0.7%), and CUTIX (+4.8%).

Outlook

Investor sentiment, as measured by market breadth, strengthened to -0.12x (previously: -0.19x) as 12 stocks advanced, 20 declined while 68 closed flat. In the final trading session, we expect the bearish performance to be sustained in the absence of any positive catalyst.

THISDAY AFRINVEST 40 INDEX

Fundamental Performance Metrics for THISDAY AFRINVEST 40 Index

	Ticker	Current Price	Previous Price Change	Current Weighting	Price Change YTD	Price Change Index to Date	ROE	ROA	P/E	P/BV	Divindend Yield	Earnings Yield
	THISDAY AFRINVEST 40	1974.82	-0.06%		6.5%	97.5%	25.6%	4.7%	4.2x	0.7x	7.6%	15.3%
1	Airtel Africa PLC	1,275.00	0.0%	41.3%	33.5%	-26.4%	18.3%	6.4%			1.7%	
2	MTN Nigeria Communications PLC	196.00	0.0%	8.4%	-0.5%	-14.8%	162.9%	15.4%	11.4x	16.5x	7.2%	8.7%
3	BUA Cement Plc	72.00	0.0%	7.4%	7.4%	0.1%	23.3%	12.1%	27.1x	6.1x	4.0%	3.7%
4	Guaranty Trust Holding Co PLC	17.60	0.0%	4.5%	-32.3%	-14.1%	20.5%	3.1%	2.8x	0.6x	17.0%	35.1%
5	Zenith Bank PLC	19.90	-0.3%	4.7%	-20.9%	-8.3%	20.7%	2.6%	2.4x	0.5x	15.6%	41.3%
6	Dangote Cement PLC	240.00	0.0%	4.1%	-6.6%	-12.7%	34.5%	12.8%	13.8x	5.0x	8.7%	7.2%
7	Lafarge Africa PLC	22.25	0.0%	3.1%	-7.1%	-15.7%	14.0%	10.3%	6.5x	0.9x	9.8%	15.5%
8	FBN Holdings Plc	9.90	-1.0%	2.8%	-13.2%	-14.7%	24.6%	2.2%	1.8x	0.4x	3.5%	56.2%
9	Nestle Nigeria PLC	1,215.00	0.0%	2.8%	-21.9%	-13.2%	122.7%	13.7%	20.7x	23.3x	4.6%	4.8%
10	SEPLAT Energy PLC	1,100.00	0.0%	2.7%	69.2%	-15.4%	8.6%	4.4%	9.5x	0.8x	3.9%	10.5%
11	Access Holdings PLC	7.95	0.6%	2.3%	-14.5%	-14.5%	17.5%	1.5%	1.6x	0.3x	2.5%	63.0%
12	United Bank for Africa PLC	6.80	0.7%	1.9%	-15.5%	-8.7%	16.5%	1.4%	1.8x	0.3x	14.6%	54.7%
13	Nigerian Breweries PLC	39.90	-1.0%	1.3%	-20.2%	-32.1%	10.9%	3.8%	16.6x	1.7x	4.0%	6.0%
14	Okomu Oil Palm PLC	169.50	0.0%	1.4%	19.4%	-21.9%	52.6%	30.4%	7.9x	3.7x	1.3%	12.7%
15	Ecobank Transnational Inc	10.00	0.0%	1.5%	14.9%	-5.7%	20.0%	1.1%	1.9x	0.4x	6.8%	51.6%
16	Stanbic IBTC Holdings PLC	28.00	0.0%	1.3%	-22.2%	-16.5%	19.6%	2.5%	4.6x	1.0x	12.5%	21.8%
17	International Breweries PLC	4.15	0.0%	0.9%	-16.2%	-34.1%	-5.0%	-1.7%		0.8x		-6.1%
18	Flour Mills of Nigeria PLC	30.30	0.0%	1.1%	6.9%	-6.8%	13.2%	3.2%	5.2x	0.7x	7.9%	19.1%
19	Fidelity Bank PLC	4.11	-1.9%	1.0%	61.2%	20.2%	15.5%	1.3%	2.6x	0.4x	2.4%	39.1%
20	Guinness Nigeria PLC	82.90	0.0%	0.8%	112.6%	-8.4%	16.7%	7.1%	12.7x	8.5x	9.6%	7.9%
21	Presco PLC	128.35	0.0%	0.4%	46.2%	-22.2%	53.7%	20.2%	6.0x	3.0x	1.7%	16.7%
22	FCMB Group Plc	3.40	0.0%	0.5%	13.7%	-1.7%	12.4%	1.2%	2.2x	0.3x	5.9%	44.7%
23	AXA Mansard Insurance PLC	1.63	1.2%	0.4%	-29.7%	-18.5%	5.7%	1.7%	7.6x	0.5x	36.8%	13.1%
24	United Capital PLC	11.30	0.0%	0.4%	14.1%	-11.4%	46.0%	2.6%	5.2x	2.3x	13.3%	19.2%
25	Dangote Sugar Refinery PLC	16.30	0.0%	0.5%	-6.3%	0.0%	23.2%	8.7%	7.4x	1.4x	6.6%	13.5%
26	Transnational Corp of Nigeria	1.04	-1.0%	0.4%	8.3%	-15.4%	19.0%	4.3%	2.0x	0.4x	1.9%	51.1%
27	PZ Cussons Nigeria PLC	9.20	0.0%	0.3%	50.8%	-4.2%	20.3%	6.3%	5.3x	1.0x	11.0%	18.8%
28	Cadbury Nigeria PLC	11.35	0.0%	0.2%	29.0%	-34.2%	11.6%	3.5%	12.2x	1.4x	4.4%	8.2%
29	UAC of Nigeria PLC	8.40	0.0%	0.2%	-11.6%	-24.3%			43.3x		7.7%	2.3%
30	TotalEnergies Marketing Nigeri	197.00	0.0%	0.2%	-11.2%	-16.0%	37.1%	6.2%	4.2x	1.4x	2.1%	23.9%
31	Julius Berger Nigeria PLC	23.45	0.0%	0.2%	4.9%	-11.5%	18.6%	2.1%	5.1x	0.7x	11.0%	19.5%
32	Custodian and Allied Insurance	6.50	0.0%	0.2%	-17.7%	-7.1%	18.2%	5.2%	3.9x	0.7x	8.1%	25.5%
33	Wema Bank PLC	3.28	0.0%	0.2%	355.6%	2.8%	15.7%	0.9%	4.2x	1.7x	7.5%	23.9%
34	Unilever Nigeria PLC	9.95	-8.3%	0.1%	-31.4%	-32.8%	3.1%	1.8%		0.9x	4.9%	-1.3%
35	Jaiz Bank PLC	0.99	3.1%	0.2%	76.8%	8.8%	20.0%	1.5%	7.7x	1.4x	4.0%	12.9%
36	Oando PLC	4.13	-5.9%	0.1%	-6.6%	-27.2%		-21.5%				-217.7%
37	Union Bank of Nigeria PLC	6.00	0.0%	0.1%	1.7%	-2.4%	6.4%	0.7%	9.6x	0.6x		10.4%
38	Sterling Bank PLC	1.40	0.7%	0.1%	-7.3%	-7.9%			2.3x	0.3x	7.1%	43.1%
39	Notore Chemical Industries Ltd	62.50	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-17.7%	-4.1%		1.8x		-1.0%
40	Transcorp Hotels Plc	6.25	0.0%	0.0%	16.2%	0.0%				1.0x	1.1%	

Top 10 Gainers

Ticker	Price	Price Chg %
UPDCREIT	3.00	9.1%
TRANSEXPR	0.74	8.8%
CHAMPION	3.45	7.8%
JAPAULGOLD	0.28	7.7%
CUTIX	2.15	4.9%
CHAMS	0.25	4.2%
JAIZBANK	0.99	3.1%
LIVESTOCK	1.03	3.0%
MANSARD	1.63	1.2%
UBA	6.80	0.7%

Top 10 Losers

Ticker	Price	Price Chg %
PRESTIGE	0.46	-9.8%
CAVERTON	0.87	-9.4%
SUNUASSUR	0.32	-8.6%
UNILEVER	9.95	-8.3%
MULTIVERSE	4.24	-8.2%
IKEJAHOTEL	0.94	-6.9%
OANDO	4.13	-5.9%
FIDSON	8.69	-4.0%
WAPIC	0.35	-2.8%
CORNERST	0.44	-2.2%

Top 10 Trades by Volume

Ticker	Volume	Price Chg %
ACCESSCORP	112.3	0.6%
TRANSCORP	16.1	-1.0%
STERLNBANK	12.3	0.7%
FIDELITYBK	9.3	-1.9%
ZENITHBANK	7.2	-0.3%
GTCO	6.5	0.0%
VITAFOAM	6.0	0.0%
CHAMS	5.9	4.2%
UBA	5.5	0.7%
OANDO	4.2	-5.9%

Top 10 Trades by Value

Ticker	Value	Price Chg %
ACCESSCORP	892.6	0.6%
ZENITHBANK	142.8	-0.3%
MTNN	127.5	0.0%
VITAFOAM	119.1	0.0%
GTCO	114.2	0.0%
NB	101.4	-1.0%
SEPLAT	65.5	0.0%
FIDELITYBK	38.2	-1.9%
UBA	37.6	0.7%
NGXGROUP	26.1	-1.0%

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FOCUS

Tackling Currency Counterfeiting with Naira Redesign

James Emejo, explores the narrative around the planned redesign of some denominations of the naira by the Central Bank of Nigeria and concludes that the benefits far-outweigh any perceived costs

Expectedly, the October 26 announcement by the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Godwin Emefiele, to redesign the Naira has expectedly attracted mixed reactions with politicians in particular crying foul.

The exercise, which is coming on the eve of the 2023 general elections has been criticised as politically motivated by a section of the political class.

A few have also expressed their reservations over the financial cost implications of the move.

To set the context of the conversation, the CBN governor had disclosed the bank's resolve to redesign, produce, and circulate new series of banknotes including N200, N500, and N1,000 denominations.

The currency redesign project which had the full backing of President Muhammadu Buhari, will commence with the circulation of the new banknotes on December 15, 2022.

RATIONALE

According to the CBN governor, the decision was aimed at checking the increasing ease and risk of currency counterfeiting evidenced by several security reports and the increased risk to financial stability as well as the worsening shortage of clean and fit currency, with the attendant negative perception of the central bank.

Other reasons adduced for the exercise were the need to control currency in circulation - with 80 per cent outside the vaults of commercial banks.

According to Emefiele, as of September 2022, a total of N3.2 trillion was in circulation, of which N2.73 trillion was outside the vaults of the banks.

The scenario is particularly troubling given the country's high rate of inflation and foreign exchange challenges.

The redesign is also aimed at tackling vote-buying by politicians given that inflation is often spiked-off during election.

In fact, there had been concerns that except there was a bold policy direction, the forthcoming general elections could provide monetary authorities with major headache in view of the proposed election spending.

I'm addition, the naira redesign project was aimed at tackling terrorism financing which remains a growing security concern in the country.

For a long time, Nigerians have sought financial regulatory intervention to make it difficult for kidnappers to seek ransom from victims. The volume of monies collected as ransom also create challenges for monetary authority.

In a nutshell, the currency redesign effort could be seen as an attempt by the CBN to address a myriad of problems using a single intervention.

The CBN governor, however, said there had been persisting concerns over the management of the current series of banknotes as well as currency in circulation, particularly those outside the banking system in the country.

He said currency management remained a key function of the CBN as enshrined in Section 2 (b) of the CBN Act 2007, stressing that the integrity of a local legal tender, the efficiency of its supply, as well as its efficacy in the conduct of monetary policy are some of the hallmarks of a great central bank.

He pointed out that in recent times, however, currency management had faced several daunting challenges that have continued to grow in scale and sophistication with attendant and unintended consequences for the integrity of both the CBN and the country.

He said recent development in photographic technology and advancements in printing devices had also made counterfeiting relatively easier, stressing that in recent years, the CBN had recorded significantly higher rates of counterfeiting especially at the higher denominations of N500 and N1,000 banknotes.

CONTRARY TO SPECULATIONS

Emefiele, further clarified that although the global best practice is for central banks to redesign, produce and circulate new local legal tender every five to eight 8 years, the Naira has not been redesigned in the last 20 years.

He said, "On the basis of these trends, problems, and facts, and in line with Sections 19, Subsections a and b of the CBN Act 2007, the Management of the CBN sought and obtained the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari to redesign, produce, and circulate new series of banknotes at N100, N200, N500, and N1,000 levels."



CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele

Emefiele said, "So first of all, what we want to do is mop up the N3.2 trillion back into the CBN so we can take control of the money supply. Again, this would help to rein inflation and it would have a positive impact on inflation."

He explained that the new and existing currencies shall remain legal tender and circulate together until January 31, 2023, when the existing currencies shall seize to be legal tender.

ANALYSTS WELCOME REDESIGN PROJECT

If anything, the currency redesign project has enjoyed the overwhelming support of the public.

One of its covert objectives is to.compel politicians and corrupt individuals who had stolen huge public resources and hidden them in safe havens to bring them back to the banking system.

This is because any money that is outside the formal financial system could be disruptive to stability.

Also, given that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is already collaborating with the CBN to track such stolen public treasuries, amidst wanton poverty in the country, the currency redesign programme has received wide public acceptance.

A former Deputy Governor of the CBN, Prof. Kingsley Moghalu, commended the apex bank on the proposed redesigning of the naira, saying the measure will address insecurity in the country.

He said, "I fully support the Central Bank of Nigeria in redesigning the Naira. If 80 per cent of banknotes in circulation are outside the banks, that is troubling.

"The CBN obviously wants to force all those notes back into the banking system. Those with the notes must surrender them to get new ones or else it becomes illegal tender after January 31, 2023."

Moghalu said, "This is also a way to withdraw currency from circulation, an unorthodox way of tightening the money supply since the country is battling high inflation.

"The flip side is that people who are holding huge amounts of cash outside the banking system for nefarious reasons will go to the parallel forex market to buy hard currency, putting further downward pressure on the value of the naira as too much naira will be chasing too few dollars."

Also, a group, the Ethnic Youth Leaders, said the decision to redesign the naira was a welcomed development as it was a way of tightening the money supply in the face of rising inflation.

Also reacting to the development in separate interviews with THISDAY, Chairman, Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), Abuja Branch, Prof. Uche Uwaleke, said the decision to replace some naira denominations with new ones will positively impact the economy in the medium to long term.

He said though the measure does not amount to demonetization of big currency notes often carried out by central banks to curb black money and corruption, it will nonetheless, "go a long way in ensuring that a lot of naira notes circulating outside the banks are crowded in."

He said, "If it leads to large deposits in banks, it means the banks will have more money to lend which may reduce interest rates. I also think it may have the effect of reducing speculative attacks on the naira in the parallel market.

"I expect that the Financial Intelligence Unit will be on the watch out for huge deposits as a way of monitoring illegitimate transactions.

"Despite the huge cost involved in changing currency notes, I think it's time to sanitize the system especially now that electioneering activities have kicked off. However, I think the deadline of Jan 31 2023 is short in view of the number of naira denominations involved, from 100 to 1000. The CBN may consider extending it with time."

Wealth Management and Business Development Consultant, Mr. Ibrahim Shelleng, said currency redesigns are typically carried out as a security measure against counterfeit notes and to get a grip on currency in circulation.

He said while this exercise may be beneficial in terms of the measure earlier mentioned, it would also come at a large cost due to consultancy, design, and printing fees.

Shelleng said, "At this stage where the government is severely strapped for cash, I wonder if it's a priority. With inflation skyrocketing, the CBN may have seen this as an option to help limit the cash supply in circulation."

On his part, Managing Director/Chief Executive, Dignity Finance and Investment Limited, Dr. Chijioke Ekechukwu, said the announcement of the redesign ought to have been delayed until fully implemented.

He said, "Firstly, if CBN plans to redesign the Naira, they shouldn't have made it common knowledge until fully done and implemented, then, they would give a period of time for everybody to bank the old design or use the same.

"The benefit of changing the design is that monies starched out in homes and containers will start coming out and heading to the banks. There will be so much money for credit facilities and funding of projects and other attendant benefits.

"The danger of announcing it far before implementation is that individuals stocking this Naira cash will start buying foreign currency to stock instead of depositing the monies in the banks. This may spike the exchange rate to an uncontrollable level."

Also, Managing Director/Chief Executive, SD&D Capital Management Limited, Mr. Idakolo Gbolade, "The reasons given for redesigning the Naira notes regarding efforts to trace ransom payments or curb counterfeiting may be germane but its attendant cost could further increase inflationary pressures on the economy. This decision will not positively lift the economy."

The apex bank, had however, urged Nigerians to support the currency redesign project which is in their overall interest and the economy at large.

The central bank further insisted that it followed the law and due process to carry out the redesigning exercise, which is 12 years due.

The apex bank's clarification came against the backdrop of claims by the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Zainab Ahmad, that her ministry was not carried along in the ongoing process of redesigning three series of the Naira.

CBN, Director, Corporate Communication, Mr. Osita Nwanisobi, had in a statement, expressed surprise at the minister's claim, stressing that the CBN remains a "very thorough institution that follows due process in its policy actions".

He said the CBN Management, in line with provisions of section 2(b), section 18(a), and section 19(a)(b) of the CBN Act 2007, had duly sought and obtained the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari in writing to redesign, produce, release and circulate new series of N200, N500, and N1,000 banknotes.

The Chief Executive, Globa Analytics Company Limited, Dr. Tope Fashua, said achieving price stability and exchange rate parity requires the cooperation of all stakeholders and not only the central bank.

According to him, one of the first steps to achieving a strong local currency is by the Nigerians developing a love for the naira.

Fashua, said the value of the naira was tied to patriotism and nationalism stressing that a "lot of the value of your currency is made up of perception actually - what do people think about the currency? If those who hold the currency don't have confidence that currency is in trouble".

According to him, the local currency remained an embodiment of the people as well as fundamental to the economy, pointing out that the US dollar had remained strong partly because it is protected from losing its value.

He explained that mere speculating that Naira would crash could actually lead to its depreciation.

OLOTO STOOL: LET'S ENSURE RULE OF LAW TO FORESTALL BREACH OF PEACE

AS peace remains the most important commodity most sought for in the world, we make this clarion call to the Government and peace- loving people of Lagos State, particularly, the residents and business owners within and around Otto and environs.

The vacant Oloto stool and the rumoured endorsement of an impostor, Bashir Oloto by the state government has continued to trouble the peace and tranquility of the area.

As watchers, we consider this call imperative at a time like this before things get out of hands.

It behoves on all of us to join hands and ensure that the relative peace currently enjoyed in Otto is not breached over the failed ambition of a single individual.

This individual is ready to create crisis and chaos within our community in his bid to occupy the vacant Oloto stool, a claim he is not legally entitled but is also subject to various litigations in the court of law.

In his desperation to put some legitimacy in this failed bid, the impostor is misleading the State Government to supporting his illegal desperation to occupy the Oloto stool.

We are aware through the pronouncement, jubilation and acts of provocation of his supporters in the last few days that something sinister, which can cause a breach of peace in Otto, is being perpetrated at the Alausa seat of Government.

While we maintain our belief in the administration of Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his respect for the rule of law, we are hopeful the Government and its agents will not be a party to any act that can lead to total break down of law and order in Otto in an attempt to foist an impostor on the good people of Otto kingdom.

We are making this public statement as the rumour of his purported endorsement is attaining an alarming rate of credibility, and if not quickly dispelled, such act of lawlessness will result in anarchy.

It can also result in breach of public peace and of course paint an indelible legacy of lack of integrity, disrespect for rule of law, and morality on this government and royalty.

For the benefit of those unaware, the family next in line to produce the Oloto of Otto is the Baalo Ruling house.

A Government White Paper and Laws of Lagos State is clear on this (See Documents attached).

We are therefore shocked to hear this impostor, who is not a member of the Baalo Family, parading himself as the Oloto-elect and claiming the endorsement and solidarity of the Lagos State Government under the leadership of Mr Babajide Olushola Sanwo-olu.

The impostor is neither a member of the Baalo ruling house and was not selected by any branch of the family as Oloto-elect.

In order to properly situate claims and counter claims by different parties, a case with Suit Nos. LD/3782GCMW/2017 Agbalaya Oteniya vs Ors has been instituted at the Federal high court, Lagos.

We are confident the Lagos State Government, its agencies and Political Office holders will not get involved in any matter that will desecrate the judiciary or create anarchy in the state. It is pertinent we all wait for the determination of the suit.

The Lagos State Government should be mindful of the security implication of a break down of law and order in Otto.

The government is aware of the role played by the youths of this community during the last Endsars protest and the unfortunate destruction that followed.

The Otto youths were notably praised for defending government facilities from the rampaging hoodlums at that time, it would therefore be inimical to peace and development if such peace-loving youths were forced to take up arms against the state over the imposition of an unknown person as the Oloto of Otto.

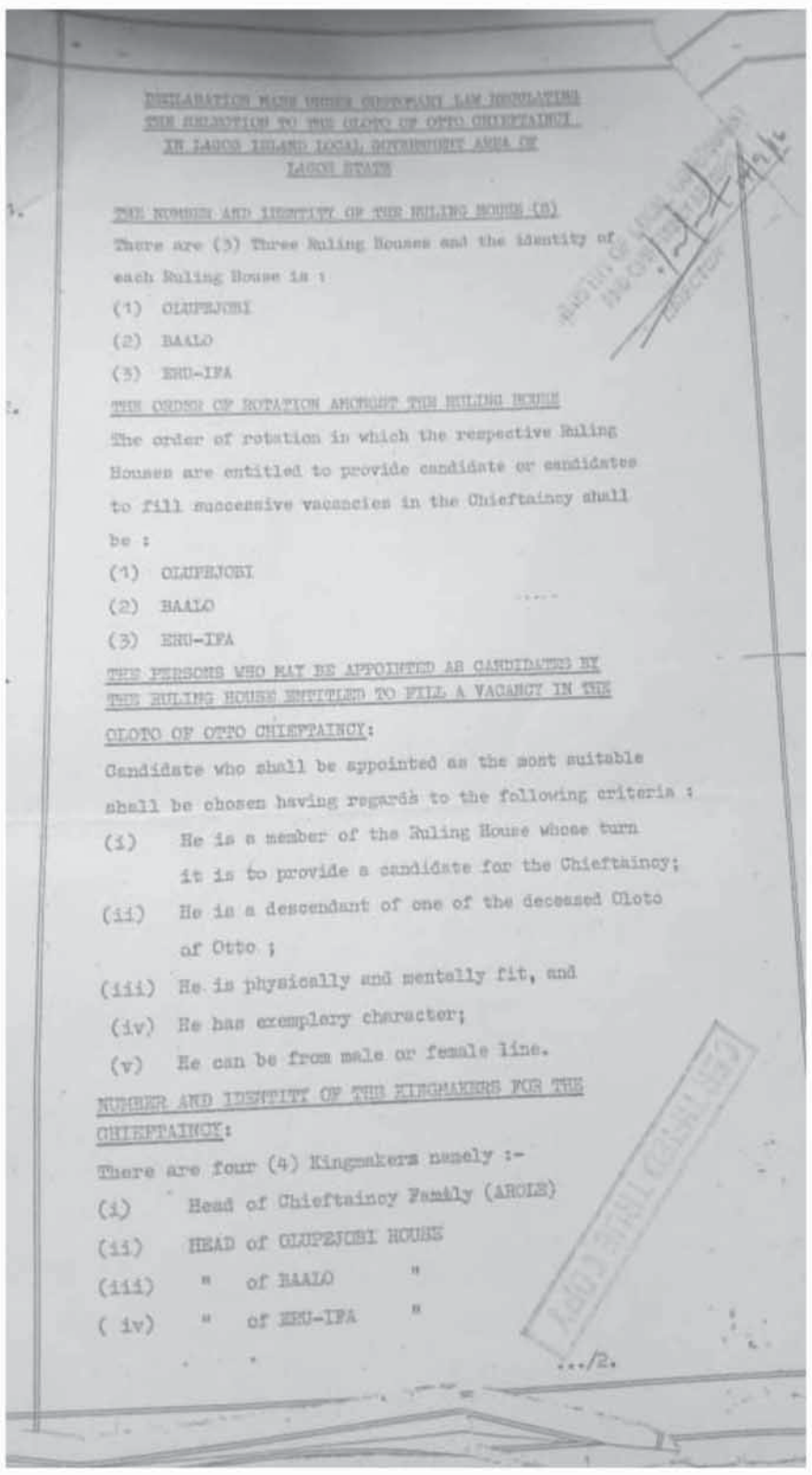
We therefore consider it important to request that Lagos State Government makes a public statement on its position on the vacant Oloto stool, while also reiterating its commitment and respect for the rule of law.

It is by doing so that the government can douse the tension already generated by rumours going round.

This will help restore public confidence in the Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu led administration in the state.

We are also calling on Security agencies and other relevant authorities to be on red alert and also invite this impostor for questioning with a view to ensuring that public peace is not breached over his seeming lust for power at the detriment of law and order.

We maintain that without peace, there cannot be progress, growth and development in any kingdom or society.



DECLARATION MADE UNDER CHIEFTAINCY LAW REGULATING THE SELECTION TO THE OLOTO OF OTTO CHIEFTAINCY IN LAGOS ISLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF LAGOS STATE

THE NUMBER AND IDENTITY OF THE RULING HOUSES (3)

There are (3) Three Ruling Houses and the identity of each Ruling House is :

(1) OLUFEJOBI
(2) BAALO
(3) EKU-IFA

THE ORDER OF ROTATION AMONGST THE RULING HOUSES

The order of rotation in which the respective Ruling Houses are entitled to provide candidate or candidates to fill successive vacancies in the Chieftaincy shall be :

(1) OLUFEJOBI
(2) BAALO
(3) EKU-IFA

THE PERSONS WHO MAY BE APPOINTED AS CANDIDATES BY THE RULING HOUSES ENTITLED TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE OLOTO OF OTTO CHIEFTAINCY:

Candidate who shall be appointed as the most suitable shall be chosen having regards to the following criteria :

(i) He is a member of the Ruling House whose turn it is to provide a candidate for the Chieftaincy;
(ii) He is a descendant of one of the deceased Oloto of Otto ;
(iii) He is physically and mentally fit, and
(iv) He has exemplary character;
(v) He can be from male or female line.

NUMBER AND IDENTITY OF THE KINGMAKERS FOR THE CHIEFTAINCY:

There are four (4) Kingmakers namely :-

(i) Head of Chieftaincy Family (AROLE)
(ii) HEAD of OLUFEJOBI HOUSE
(iii) " of BAALO "
(iv) " of EKU-IFA "

.../2.

SIGNED

Baalo Ruling House



ROYAL ENDORSEMENT FOR ABIODUN...

L-R: Ogun State Deputy Governor, Noimot Salako-Oyedele; Governor Dapo Abiodun and the Awujale of Ijebuland, Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona during the presentation of the communique/resolution of endorsement of Ijebu Traditional Council for the Governor's second term ambition after the meeting of the 52 Royal Fathers in Ijebuland at the Awujale's Palace in Ijebu-Ode on Thursday

Adesina Calls for Transparency in Public Loan Management

AfDB, partners plan $20bn investments to generate 10,000 megawatts of solar power across 11 countries

Ugo Aliogo in Abidjan

The President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr. Akinwunmi Adesina has called for more transparency, accountability and efficiency in the management of public loan in Africa, saying the bank does not encourage countries using their natural resources to back up infrastructure loans.

He also stated that all public infrastructure financing should be competitive, while pricing should be done in such a way that it gives value for money to those countries, adding that there must be transparency and efficiency in the use of public resources for infrastructure.

Adesina, who made the call yesterday at the ongoing African Investment Forum, with the theme: 'Economic Resilience Through Sustainable Investments' at Abidjan, Cote D' Ivoire, expressed concern that rising public debts due to unsustainable public infrastructure financing plans would mortgage the future of some countries in the continent.

"All public infrastructure financing should be transparent and competitive pricing should be done in such a way that it gives value for money to those countries. There must be transparency and efficiency in the use of public resources for infrastructure," he stated.

He noted that public financial efficiency and financing were important, adding that the focus should not be on financial commitments deployed into infrastructure, but the efficiency of the expenditure.

The AfDB president further explained that the bank and its partners have embarked on three major areas of priority which he said would promote the economic transformation of the continent. These he listed to include agriculture, electric car manufacturing and renewable energy.

Adesina disclosed that in the area of agriculture, the bank would work collectively with its partners to support the various Special Agro-industrial Processing Zones (SAPZs) across Africa, adding that they are doing a lot in that regards.

According to him, "Everywhere we are, we want to turn around agriculture into a wealth sector. We will change the face of rural agriculture and we have committed ourselves to that.

Continued on page 50

Lawmakers Bemoan Security Agencies' Refusal to Buy Ammunition from DICON, Summon Heads

Defence agency DG laments 58yr non-upgrade of machines

Udora Orizu in Abuja

The House of Representatives Committee on Defence has frowned at the refusal of security agencies in the country, aside the Nigerian Army, to buy arms and ammunition from the Defence Industry Corporation of Nigeria (DICON).

Consequently, the Committee chaired by Hon. Babajimi Benson (APC, Lagos) resolved to summon heads of security agencies to explain reason for their disobedience to Executive Order 5, which recommends that preference should be given to indigenous companies in government procurement.

The summon followed the disclosure by DICON Director General, Major General HG Tafida, during the agency's 2023 budget defence.

The Major General had while responding to questions by the lawmakers, said for many years only the Nigerian Army patronises them, in terms of ammunition and other products.

According to him, there's a perceived notion by most of the security agencies that DICON was only meant for the Army and so they go outside to purchase ammunition and others equipment.

He appealed for DICON's budget to be jacked up, lamenting that machines installed since the agency's inception in 1964 have not been upgraded.

The DICON DG said, "So the budget needs to be taken up. The Executive order has permitted DICON to bring in other investors, most especially indigenous ones who can also go into Defence production because government can't cope with the high cost of machines.

"DICON from its Act was actually designed to produce ammunition for the armed forces of federal republic of Nigeria, including other security agencies. But by error or design, DICON was limited to only provide products to the armed forces and security agencies and not beyond the borders of Nigeria.

"So by so doing, its capacity was limited to just selling in house to our security agencies. If we do that we always calculate their interest not to put them under pressure. Our cost of production is relatively higher when you compare it with the ones imported they are using modern machines that are computerised.

"Private sector participation became necessary; they will now be the back bone of production then we can now export. On the Executive Order 5, for now only the Nigerian Army is patronising us. Even the Army go outside to augment what they get from us, because of the state of the machine.

"Machines installed since 1964 have not been upgraded. So right now the production capacity is about five million instead of 20 million ammunition per year. We have a robust business department that has been going from one service to another but it is true that it's the capacity. If we have the modern machine, we will be exporting excess."

In his address, the Committee Chairman, Benson said there was need to first source arms and ammunition locally before going outside.

He also said the parliament would give it a legal tooth compelling all security agencies to buy arms and ammunition from DICON.

The lawmaker however said their 2022 performance would be thoroughly reviewed and 2023 proposal painstakingly scrutinised before making conclusions.

Benson said, "For instance, in 2021, the Brazilian defence industry saw a surge in its export reaching an all-time high of $1.35 billion. A large amount of this came from the government-owned defence industries.

"Today Brazil and other Middle Income Countries (MICs) compete favourably with several world powers in the defence sector. This Committee is convinced that if DICON effectively leverages on the provisions of Executive Order 5 which recommends that preference should be given to indigenous companies in government procurement, the agency will be self-sufficient and generate adequate revenue to fully fund its activities.

Emirates Suspends Flights to Nigeria Indefinitely over Blocked Funds

Chinedu Eze

The United Arab Emirates' mega carrier, Emirates Airlines has suspended flight operations indefinitely to Nigeria over its trapped funds.

The airline had earlier announced that it would suspend its operations from October 29, 2022, over the failure of government to make dollars available to the foreign carriers to repatriate their revenue during a meeting held at the National Assembly recently between the legislators, the Minister of Aviation and aviation stakeholders, including airlines and travel agents.

Emirates operated twice daily to Lagos and once daily to Abuja, recording 21 flights every week with high load factor. But an attempt to book flight from its portal between Dubai and Abuja or Lagos failed because the airline did not indicate that it still operates to those destinations and had kept mum after that initial announcement during aviation stakeholders meeting in Abuja.

However, in a statement by Emirates yesterday, the airline said it had no option but to suspend flights to/from Nigeria from 29 October 2022, to mitigate against further losses moving forward.

According to the airline, "Emirates has continued to actively seek a solution for the repatriation of the remainder of its blocked funds in Nigeria. We were encouraged by the Central Bank of Nigeria's efforts of reviewing our request and considered that this critical issue would be swiftly resolved with the subsequent clearance of our remaining funds.

NEWS



TOURING OF FLOOD RAVAGED SECTION OF EAST-WEST ROAD...

L-R: General Manager, Corporate Services, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Mr. Dan Esueme Kikile; Minister of State Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva and NCDMB's Executive Secretary, Engr. Simbi Wabote, during a tour of the flood ravaged section of the East-West Road in Rivers State…yesterday

113 Days to 2023 Polls, INEC Reiterates Loyalty to Nigeria, Allegiance to Nigerians

●*Deploys new RECs, counsels them not to visit government houses*

Chuks Okocha in Abuja

One hundred and thirteen days to the next general election, yesterday, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) reassured the country of its dedication to a transparent election, saying its loyalty remains to Nigeria and Nigerians. Chairman of INEC, Professor Mahmood Yakubu, gave the assurance in Abuja during the swearing-in and deployment of 19 new Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs).

The commission urged the new RECs not to visit government houses or hold unofficial meetings with politicians after official hours.

Yakubu told the new electoral commissioners, "With exactly 113 days to the 2023 general election, we are aware that the task ahead of us is not easy, but we must never disappoint Nigerians.

"Our loyalty is to Nigeria and our allegiance is to Nigerians. Only their votes should determine winners in the 2023 elections. Nothing more, nothing less. There should be no deviation from this path of honour and integrity."

He said the commission had worked tirelessly to reform the electoral process and introduce many innovations that were generally acknowledged to have improved the electoral process.

According to the INEC chairman, "In doing so, we will continue to acknowledge the sacrifice and dedication of our hardworking staff. As you are deployed to the states of the federation, you will be responsible for human and material resources.

"Work with the staff and be guided by the provisions of the law and our various regulations and guidelines."

Yakubu also counselled the RECs on the various stakeholders they would meet in the line of duty, saying, "You should maintain the established practice of consultation with them. However, in dealing with the general public, you should be guided by the provisions of the Commission's Code of Conduct. You should not be visitors to government houses and must never hold unofficial meetings with politicians, even after official working hours.

"All matters pertaining to official responsibilities should be conducted in the office attended by the relevant staff and properly documented. This is your best protection against mischief. Do not compromise the neutrality of the commission or create the perception of partisanship.

"In discharging your responsibilities, you must at all times be transparent and non-partisan while remaining firm and courageous. You owe nothing to any individual but owe everything to the Nigerian people. We must continue to ensure that the choices they make on Election Day prevail. It is their decision. We are only administering the process in trust supported by technology.

"On this note, let me once again emphasise that the only means of voter accreditation during the 2023 general election is the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) while results will be uploaded to the INEC Results Viewing Portal (IReV) in real-time on Election Day as provided by law.

"In line with the commission's current practice, Resident Electoral Commissioners are deployed to states within their geopolitical zones. However, no one will serve in his/her state of origin throughout your tenure."

The 19 RECs were deployed as follows: Professor Uzochukwu I. Chijioke was posted to Abia State, Barrister Nuhu Yunusa was posted to Adamawa State, Mrs Queen Elizabeth Agu was sent to Anambra State, while Mohammed Bulama Nura was posted to Bauchi State.

The others were Professor Samuel G. Egwu, who was posted to Benue State; Yomere Gabriel Oritsemolebi, Cross River State; Onyeka Pauline Ugochi, Ebonyi State; Obo O. Effanga, Edo State; Professor Ayobami Salami, Ekiti State; Umar Ibrahim, Gombe State; Professor Sylvia Uchenna Agu, Imo; Professor Muhammad L. Bashar, Jigawa State; Amb. Abdu Abdussamadu Zango, Kano State; Professor Yahaya Makarfi Ibrahim, Katsina State; Ahmed Yushau Garki, Niger State; Dr. Agboke Mutiu Olaleke, Osun State; Dr. Agundu Oliver Tersoo, Plateau State; Dr. Nura Ali, Sokoto State; and Ibrahim Abdullahi, Yobe State.

$6bn Mambilla Project: Arrest All Power Ministers from 2017 Till Date, HURIWA Tasks EFCC

Alex Enumah in Abuja

A civil rights advocacy group, the Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) yesterday tasked the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to arrest and probe all power ministers from 2017 till date over alleged controversy surrounding the $6 billion Mambilla Project.

The group predicated its charge on the grounds that nothing had been achieved for several years despite the outrageous amounts spent on the project.

HURIWA's National Coordinator, Emmanuel Onwubiko, who gave the charge said, "all those involved in the misappropriation of funds for the White Elephant project which has not been realised for years must be brought to account for every stolen penny."

The Minister of Power, Abubakar Aliyu few days ago said the EFCC was investigating the $6 billion Mambilla Power Project despite the legal tussle on it.

The minister, who spoke when he appeared before the Joint National Assembly Committee on Power to defend 2023 budget, had said, "EFCC has stepped into the matter and we have given them information about it, we have given them history of the power project, our lawyers have interfaced with the anti-graft agency, unless we are able to pull out of litigation, we can't do anything."

In his reaction however, Onwubiko described the Mambilla power project as a, "White Elephant" project that has become another pipeline for grand corruption.

"The 3,050 MW hydroelectric power project in Kakara village, in Taraba State, has now become one of the poster failures of the regime of President Muhammadu Buhari which Nigerians won't forget in a hurry," it stated.

The statement noted that the country's power generation was still far below 5,000MW while the National Grid continues to collapse multiple times and subjecting over 200 million Nigerians and businesses to gross darkness and blackouts.

"Electricity bills have jumped by over 100 per cent despite the unavailable power forcing entrepreneurs out of businesses and more into the poverty pool.

"HURIWA demands the swift arrest of all power ministers from 2017 and directors accused of misappropriation in the Mambilla project as well as contractors collecting funds and disappearing into thin air having cronies and proxies and godfathers in high places in government.

"It is unfortunate that the Mambilla project like the Ajaokuta Steel Company remain White Elephant projects with horns that have not been confronted or overcome. Like Mambilla, the Buhari regime allocated N20.4 billion to the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited from 2016 to 2021 despite the company's idleness and failure to produce a single iron.

"What corruption in broad day light! What shenanigan! The EFCC must investigate these grafts!"

FG Approves N48.5bn Contracts for Urgent Repairs of Roads Nationwide

●*Move will improve conditions of federal roads, says Fashola*

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved contracts for urgent repairs and special general maintenance of some roads nationwide worth N48.519 billion.

A statement from the Ministry Of Works and Housing, signed by the Special Adviser, Communications, Hakeem Bello, said the move was in pursuance of the federal government's commitment to developing the nation's road network in the six geopolitical zones.

It quoted the Minister of Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN) as explaining that the aging state of federal roads nationwide warranted the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to 'procure' the projects in its amended 2022 appropriation.

He added that the projects would enhance federal government's objective of restoring the nation's road network as part of the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2021 -2025.

The roads for which the minister got approval for the award of contracts for urgent repairs, and special general maintenance included the Gorgaram - Guri Road in Yobe state, valued at N40.907 billion, with a completion period of 36 months and the rehabilitation of the 90 kilometre Buni Gari - Gulani road also in Yobe state in the sum of N4.785 billion with a completion period of 36 months.

Approval was also received for the reconstruction of Water Corporation Drive and Trinity Avenue in Victoria Island, Lagos State. This was approved in the sum of N2.826 billion with a completion period of 36 months.

The approvals, which were sequel to the memoranda submitted to the council by the Minister of Works and Housing, Fashola, showed that the construction of Gorgaram - Guri Road in Yobe state will be executed by Messrs Mothercat Limited.

It added that the Buni Gari - Gulani road will be rehabilitated by Messrs Hikam Engineering and Consultancy Limited, while the reconstruction of Water Corporation Drive and Trinity Avenue will be carried out by Messrs Wizchino Engineering Limited.

In terms of creating job opportunities, it noted that due diligence and post qualification checks were carried out, which showed that the companies have the capability to execute the contracts with a substantial number of jobs generated for Nigerians.

Advancing reasons for seeking the approvals, the minister explained that "these roads have been reported to be in very bad condition and requiring urgent intervention to enable road users' access to economic activities along the routes."



STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT...

L-R: Director, Regulations and Database, BPP, Mr. Aliyu Aliyu; Lead Consultant for Project and Procurement Expert, Chibuzor Ekwekwuo; Representative of Director-General, Bureau Of Public Procurement & Director Special Procurement (BPP), Engr. Eze J. Obasi; Head, Civil Infrastructure, Engr. Nasir M. Bello, and Project Coordinator, Mr. Chinedu David Njoku, at a two-day Stakeholders' Engagement for the Development and Revision of Public Procurement and Standard Bidding Documents, South-south & South East Zone, Port Harcourt, Rivers State... yesterday

Tinubu Pledges to Tackle Perennial Flooding in Kogi, Benue States

●More 1.3m children affected by flood in Nigeria, says Save the Children International ●Declare national disaster in Nigeria, Catholic church tells FG ●Isoko Rep candidate, others sue federal govt for negligence ●Demand N100bn compensation

Alex Enumah, Onyebuchi Ezigbo, Adedayo Akinwale in Abuja and **Ibrahim Oyewale** in Lokoja

The All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate, Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu has assured the people of Kogi and Benue states of his commitment to combat the perennial flooding confronting the two states if voted in the 2023 general elections

Tinubu who made the pledge while speaking to a large crowd of APC supporters at Muhammadu Buhari Civil Centre in Lokoja, Kogi State capital yesterday.

The APC presidential flag bearer who was represented by the Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello, stated that the problems of flooding would be tackled headlong and the people of the affected areas would have sigh of relief.

"Let me assure you that one of the very first things we will tackle is the perennial flooding in Kogi State. Flooding is a big problem in Kogi perhaps because of its strategic location as the confluence between Rivers Niger and Benue.

"This state has particularly been ravaged this year by flooding. You have lost precious lives; you have lost properties; you have lost farmlands. Part of the reasons we have put together this special walk for Tinubu/Shettima is to draw attention to this flooding problem.

"I want to tell you today that flooding will be a thing of the past when we get to office. We will work with the Kogi State Government to devise a permanent solution to this problem. The blessings of God exemplified in torrential rain should not be a curse on us.

"Secondly and more importantly, as I have stated clearly in our Action Plan tagged, 'Renewed Hope,' we will work assiduously to confront security, revamp the economy, target double-digit GDP, increase megawatts of electricity to power the industries, businesses and homes, and empower our people through creation of jobs for our people, affordable loans to our people and mortgages to help those who desire to acquire their own homes," he said.

On electricity supply, Tinubu stressed that with improved and increased megawatts of electricity, noting that his administration would generally work towards the industrialisation of the country.

"In the area of agriculture and infrastructure delivery, particularly railways and road networks, we will continue the successes recorded by President Muhammadu Buhari's administration and also move to improve on them.

"We will do even more. The details of our agenda are contained in our Action Plan. I make bold to restate that we will tap and develop the abundant resources available in Kogi State in conjunction with the Kogi State Government for the benefit of the people of Kogi and Nigeria.

"I assure you, this state will not be surcharged in the scheme of things. With me as your president, you will get what is due to you," the APC standard bearer said.

SCI: More 1.3m Children Affected by Flood in Nigeria

Meanwhile, the Save the Children International (SCI) has revealed that more than 1.25 million children have been affected by flood.

The organisation in a statement issued yesterday and signed by its Global Director Child Poverty, Climate and Urban, Yolande Wright, also revealed that about 250 schools have been destroyed, while millions of people were forced to flee their homes.

It added that widespread flooding over the past three months have thrown the lives of about 19 million children off course in the top five most impacted countries, including Pakistan, Nigeria, India, Chad and South Sudan.

It stressed that flooding in the five countries affected a total of 38.7 million people, according to the International Disasters Database, with thousands of people killed and millions displaced.

SCI added that water flowing above dangerous levels left a trail of destruction in each country, with homes sub-merged, crops destroyed, and schools forced to close – jeopardising the education of thousands of children.

It said the five countries most affected by flooding with available Acute Food Insecurity Data all suffer from high levels of food insecurity, stressing that the countries were in the grips of a hunger crisis being accelerated by climate disasters.

It stated: "In Nigeria, where about 19 million people were already experiencing crisis-levels of hunger or worse, extreme flooding has destroyed hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland.

"More than 1.25 million children have been affected by the worst floods to hit Nigeria in a decade. With at least 250 schools destroyed and millions of people forced to flee their homes, flooding has taken a serious toll on children's learning."

In Nigeria, SCI said it was providing children and families affected by flooding with life-saving food, safe drinking water, cash assistance, mattresses, blankets, mosquito nets, child protection services and emergency shelter kits.

It said it was supporting 36,000 children and 18,000 families in the most affected areas in six states of Jigawa, Benue, Borno, Yobe, Kogi, and Oyo.

Flooding: Declare National Disaster in Nigeria, Catholic Church tells FG

In a related development, the Catholic church in Nigeria has asked the federal government to declare the devastating flood that ravaged a lot of communities across country a national disaster.

It said government should use the opportunity to, "to seek for ways and means to forestall future occurrence or a timeous arrest of the ravaging effect should the menace seem intractable."

The suggestion came just as the Knights of St John International, Nigeria said they have donated N6 million to flood victims across the country.

A statement issued by the Secretary General of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, Padre Mike Nsikak Umoh, stated that apart from declaring the ugly occurrence as a national disaster, the church was urging government to muster appropriate action to cushion the ravaging effects as well as invite international communities and humanitarian organisations for speedy interventions and aids.

In a letter, dated November 1, 2022, to the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), Most Rev. Lucius Iwejuru Ugorji, and signed by the trio: the Supreme Subordinate President, Major General Remy Uche, the Supreme subordinate Treasurer, Brig. Gen. Solomon Obeakameh and the Supreme subordinate Secretary, Brig. Gen. Cletus Ntong, the Order expressed "deep sympathy with all the victims of the flood disaster that recently ravaged many communities within our territorial Jurisdiction."

In response to the devastating consequences of the flood currently ravaging many cities across Nigeria, the Knights and Ladies of the Ancient and Noble Order of the Knights of St. John International in Nigeria said they have donated N 6 million "in the first instance," to the victims through six Dioceses, based on "the cardinal objective of our Order on Charity."

The letter also said, "We very much appreciate their pains which visibly manifested in the loss of life, valuable property, and displacement of abode."

The Order urged the federal government of Nigeria to "declare this ugly occurrence as a National Disaster and muster appropriate action to cushion the ravaging effects as well as invite international communities and humanitarian organisations for speedy interventions and aids."

Besides seeking for aids, the body of Catholics also urged the federal government of Nigeria "to seek for ways and means to forestall future occurrence or a timeous arrest of the ravaging effect should the menace seem intractable."

Court Affirms Akpoti-Uduaghan as Kogi Central Senatorial District Candidate

The Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja yesterday dismissed the appeal filed against the candidature of Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan.

The Court presided by Justice Gafai upheld the argument of J.J. Usman on behalf of Akpoti-Uduaghan held that the Deponents of the affidavits in support of the originating summons who were not delegates could not challenge the delegate election.

The Court held further that the handwritten purported delegate list by the appellant lacked evidential value. Relying on the certified true copies of the delegate election results and the primary election tendered by Akpoti-Uduaghan, the court held that the election of Akpoti-Uduaghan was upheld, the appeal lacks merit and was dismissed.

Agro Cargo Airport: Ogun to Turn Sod of $800m SAPZ Today

●Mulls resuscitation of Gateway Hotel

The Ogun State governor, Dapo Abiodun, has disclosed that his administration would turn the sod of the $800 million Special Agro-Processing Zone (SAPZ) to be sited at the Agro-Cargo Airport in Ilisan-Remo today.

Abiodun disclosed this on Wednesday at the Treasury Board Meeting, held at Obas Complex, Oke-Mosan, Abeokuta.

He added that the project which would be executed by Arise Integrated Company, would be the biggest Investment in Nigeria as it would provide between 15,000 to 20,000 jobs for the people.

He explained that the turning of sod, which would mark the beginning of the first phase of the multi-million dollars investment, would take place today, while construction of structures for the project would commence in the first week of December.

"By the grace of God, we are going to do the ground breaking of the first Special Agro Processing Zone in the country, the very first. The first phase is a $400 million investment and it is going to be in two phases. This has never happened before in this country.

"Construction is going to start first week in December. I am aware that Nigeria Customs Service also wants to start construction immediately in the same aerotropolis.

"That place promises to employ between 15,000 and 20,000 people in the first phase," Abiodun stated.

According to the governor, the siting of the project was an indication of how viable the airport would be on completion, expressing optimism that the Nigerian Air Force, the Customs Service, multi-nationals and investors that had indicated interest in the airport would soon follow suit.

In a related development, the governor expressed the readiness of his administration to resuscitate the moribund Gateway Hotel, Ota.

Responding to the presentations by the officials of the Ministry of Housing and related agencies at the Treasury Board Meeting, the governor described the current state of the once viable hotel as an eyesore, saying something urgent must be done to address the situation.

Abiodun who decried the total abandonment of the hotel despite its strategic location, said his administration was poised to rehabilitate and bring it back to its former state, as demanded by the people of Ota, during the town hall meeting on the 2023 appropriation budget.

The state helmsman, however, expressed displeasure that the hotel which was once a pride of the state is now a den for criminals, directing the Ministry of Housing to include the total rehabilitation of the edifice in its budget proposal for necessary action.

NEWS



STATE HOUSE WEEKLY BRIEFING...

L –R: Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management & Social Development Hajiya Sadiya Umar-Farouk; Director General of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr Mustapha Habib Ahmed and Director of Relief and Rehabilitation NEMA, Alhassan Nuhu, during the State House weekly briefing held at the Presidential Villa, Abuja... yesterday GODWIN OMOIGUI

Remove Sex Education from Basic Curriculum, FG Tells NERDC

Blames state govs for rising out-of-school children

Adamu admits failure over his inability to eradicate menace of out-of-school children in the country

Kuni Tyessi in Abuja

The federal government has directed the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) to exclude sex education from the basic education curriculum.

The Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, who gave the directive in Abuja, yesterday, also admitted that he has failed Nigerians over his inability to eradicate the menace of out-of-school children in the country, in keeping to his vision. He also said reducing out-of-school to the barest minimum was one of his key priorities when he was appointed by President Muhammadu Buhari more than seven years ago.

Adamu spoke while declaring open the Ministerial Session of the 66th National Council on Education (NCE) meeting in Abuja, with the theme: "Strengthening of Security and Safety in Nigerian Schools for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda."

He noted that immediately he saw Sex Education in the curriculum, he called the attention of the NERDC Executive Secretary to see that it was expunged, arguing that sex education should be left in the hands of parents and religious institutions and not to be taught in schools in a manner that would further corrupt little children who are already having access to phones and technologies.

He emphasised that Nigeria was a religious country and as such the morals and values taught in the Church and Mosque in addition to efforts of the parents were enough to bring up a child with solid character.

"When my attention was drawn to the document, I called the Executive Secretary of NERDC and ask him why did I see this again, because immediately I saw this i called him and he assured me that he was going to act on it," Adamu stated.

The minister noted that the choice of the theme was very right, considering the prevailing security situation and the inevitable challenges it poses to the public and private sectors alike.

He said even before he became the Minister, one issue that bothered him most was the large number of Nigerian school age children roaming the streets.

Adamu said in order to improve access to quality basic education in 2015, the Federal Ministry of Education under his watch developed a document titled 'Education for Change; A Ministerial Strategic Plan' (MSP) (2018-2023).

He said one of the focal areas of the document addresses the challenge of out-of-school children through several programmes, one of which was the Accelerated Basic Education Programme (ABEP), an alternative basic education programme for out-of-school children and youth (10 to 18 years) in Nigeria.

"The specific goal of the programme is to reduce the number of out-of-school children to the barest minimum among the ranks of the disadvantaged, the marginalised and those affected by crises, disasters and other socio-economic factors," he said.

The minister, however, lamented that after over seven years not much has been achieved because states were not complementing the federal government's efforts in tackling the menace.

Adamu called for collaborative efforts to provide secured environment for leavers and teachers in the face of threatening challenges.

He also advocated for the Ministry of Skill and Entrepreneurship and three Ministers of Education, to pilot the affairs of the Federal Ministry of Education.

"I recommended to the President that there should be two Ministries of Education, Ministry of Basic Education and Ministry of Higher Education. And if they don't want to create another ministry, at least they should have two Ministers of state- one Basic Education, one should be in charge of higher education.

"I hope whoever is heading the next government will see the sense to create the ministry of skills and entrepreneurship and if it will not be created there should be three Ministers of state in the ministry of education. We need a ministry for that.

"Also I want to tell states that they are not doing enough on schools' safety. I know it is a general menace but states should start doing what ministry of education is doing," he said.

While saying it was the responsibility of governments to uphold the right to education for all by ensuring that all barriers are removed, he said all hands must be on the deck to strengthen the security system of the educational institutions.

On Safe School Declaration, Adamu said the federal government had carried out effective sensitisation on the implementation of the Safe School Declaration (SSD) Initiative and a secured $20 million for accelerated emergency funding for the north east zone from Global Partnership for Education.

He added that government had also conducted vulnerability survey on schools in order to devise robust security strategies, constructed perimeter walls around schools, installed alarm systems in schools, and made others.

He said while the federal government and some states and the FCT had done their best to arrest the situation, several other states were lagging behind.

He, therefore, called on all states to rise up to their responsibilities, and provide a safe and secure learning environment for both students and teachers.

The Chief Education, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Nigeria, Dr Saadhna Panday-Soobrayan, in her remark said attacks on schools and violence in and around schools were having devastating short and long-term consequences on the wellbeing of children and communities.

Buhari Canvasses Good Neighbourliness among African Nations to Boost Security

Inaugurates Nigeria/Cameroon joint border post

Deji Elumoye in Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari has called for more neighborliness and mutual understanding between African countries in order to enhance trade, security and promote development of the continent.

The president, represented by the Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Zubairu Dada, at the inauguration of the Nigeria/Cameroon Joint Border Post and Bridge in Mfum, Cross River State, yesterday, said the 1.5 kilometre project would enhance the interconnectivity of, "our people and communities, improve living standards, reduce barriers to inter-regional trade and strengthen border security."

He said: "It is with great sense of satisfaction that we are witnessing the official Joint Commissioning of the Mfum/Ekok 1.5km Bridge and Joint Border Post (JBP). Let me begin with commending the Leaderships of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the government of the Republic of Cameroon that worked closely to realise this project, as well as the African Development Bank (ADB) that provided funding for the execution and completion of this 1.5km Joint Border Project."

Buhari noted that the projects would deepen the inextricably linked cultural and traditional fraternal bonds that already exist between Nigerians and Cameroonians living around the border communities.

"Let me also underscore that in order to maximise the benefits of these projects, the Nigerian and Cameroonian officials that would be saddled with the responsibility of manning the Joint Border Post, in particular, must act in the most professional manner, as well as in line with the global best practices, effective from today," he said.

The president affirmed that the completion of the project had made both Nigerians and Cameroonians living around the area jubilant.

"Such excitement symbolises the resolve of our people and governments to remain connected in spite of our seemingly artificial boundaries.

"The completion and commissioning of this project could not have come at a more auspicious time than when Nigeria has signed and ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. Therefore, we expect that the commissioning of this Joint Border Bridge and Post will not only strengthen the existing cordial relations between Nigeria and Cameroon, but also enhance cooperation between the ECOWAS and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

"Under the AfCFTA, this project has the potential to enhance the volume of economic activities in our regions, as well as facilitate the free movement of persons, goods and services within the countries, along the corridor. It would also serve as a vital link between the West and the Central African regions.

2023 Budget: State House to Spend N7.2bn on Facilities' Maintenance

To purchase vehicles with N1.96bn

Seeks N644m to maintain Lagos liaison office, guest houses

Sunday Aborisade in Abuja

The State House has earmarked N7.20 billion for the maintenance of Villa facilities out of its N21.137 billion total budgetary proposal for the 2023 fiscal year,

It also plans to spend N1.96 billion on vehicle purchase in the fiscal year.

In addition, it would spend N644 million to maintain the State House Lagos Complex and Guest Houses.

The Permanent Secretary, State House, Tijjani Umar, stated this yesterday, while defending the budget before the Senate Committee on Federal Character.

He, however, said the proposals and projections, were inadequate.

He said total budget size of N21.137 billion for the State House in 2023 was N19.010 billion less, when compared to the N40.148 billion appropriated for it in the 2022 fiscal year

The N7.20 billion earmarked for maintenance of Villa Facilities, he explained, formed the critical component of the capital expenditure segment of the proposed budget

He said, "The facilities under this heading include but are not limited to electrical/mechanical installations, buildings and infrastructures in the President's and Vice President's residences, offices, State House Auditorium, Presidential and Ministerial Airport Chalets, etc

"These commitments usually take about 65 per cent of the total appropriation of the State House. In order to keep the facilities in optimal working condition, the sum of N7.20 billion has been proposed for year 2023 against the sum of N7.76 billion in 2022."

He added that 2023 being an election year, the sum of N1.96 billion earmarked for vehicle purchase was inadequate.

He also said the provision of N59 million for the maintenance of State House Lagos Complex and Guest Houses, was grossly inadequate.

The Permanent Secretary said, "The provision of N59 million for maintenance of State House Lagos Complex and Guest Houses was inadequate, requiring an estimated sum of N644 million for upgrade of the facilities.

"It is also instructive to note that the provision of N1.96 billion in the 2023 proposal for purchase of vehicles would still be inadequate to meet existing requirements, 2023 being an election year which entails frequent travels with associated costs as well as the replacement of vehicles by incoming administration," he said.

The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Abba Moro (PDP Benue South), said the slash in the State House budget for 2023 fiscal year , was not peculiar as other MDAs were also affected .

He assured the Permanent Secretary that the committee will work on it.



COURTESY VISIT TO NCC...

L – R: Assistant Director, Human Capital, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Miss Ifeoma Ifezulike; , Chairman, SOM Sickle Cell Foundation, Mr. Shehu Olaitan Mohammed; , Head Human Capital, NCC, Ms. Hafsat Lawal; , Assistant Director, NCC, Mr. Shafi'i Ndanusa , and Director Project, SOM Sickle Cell Foundation, Mr. Friday Agboseina, during a courtesy visit to the Commission's Head Office... yesterday

Adebanjo to Nigerians: You'll Suffer If You Vote for Tinubu

Acting Leader of the South-west renowned socio-political group, Afenifere, Chief Ayo Adebanjo, has warned Nigerians against voting for the Presidential Candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, in the 2023 presidential poll, saying they would suffer if they made such a mistake.

Speaking on ARISE News Channel, Adebanjo said, at 94, he might not be alive to witness it but was certain Nigerians would live to suffer if they voted for any presidential candidate other than Mr. Peter Obi of the Labour Party (LP).

Adebanjo's advice came in the wake of the seeming fraction in Afenifere, after Chief Reuben Fasoranti, a former leader of the group, and other prominent Yoruba leaders, reportedly endorsed Tinubu ahead of the 2023 presidential election.

"As you can see, the trend, the approval and the acceptability. You could see what happened when Tinubu came to meet me in Akure. The media carried the whole thing. Adebanjo does not have the capacity to warn me not to welcome Tinubu. Can he do that successfully?

"What happened was that Adebanjo took a stand and I took a stand. I didn't call him and he didn't call me. We never spoke about the visit. As you saw yesterday, it goes without saying that Jagaban was accepted. Obi has no stand in our mind at all," Faroranti had said.

But Adebanjo, while reacting, faulted Fasoranti's statement, saying they were waiting to see, who would attend any Afenifere meeting in Akure, Pa Fasoranti's hometown.

"No problem. Let them hold the meetings in Akure and see the number of people that will attend. I am the leader of Afenifere. They are just trying to cause confusion and I won't help them to do that. If he says people should not come," Adebanjo said.

However, reacting to the interview, a concerned Nigerian @ Icebabio on Twitter wrote: "Mehn, Pa Adebanjo made me shed a tear. Pls Nigerians vote wisely. He says you all will suffer if you choose wrong while I enjoy in the grave. At 94, I have nothing to lose. Pls, Northerners and southerners, I beg you, don't sell ur conscience for pottage

Another Tweep, @Strong Truth, wrote, "Pa Adebanjo makes me so proud to be a Yoruba man, I pray Obi emerge as the president of Nigeria come 2023. God bless you sir for speaking the truth to Nigeria."

Also, @Yufsci, tweeted, "Pa Adebanjo at 94 is the only sensitive and sensible living Yoruba, all others are just foolish bigot. I go survive if Batiku becomes president. My problem is just d rebirth of new euphoria in Nigeria politics will be postponed, where we choose the best over religion and ethnicity."

...Fasoranti Denies His Alleged Removal as Afenifere Acting Leader

Fidelis David in Akure

A former leader of Yoruba Socio-political group, Afenifere, Pa Reuben Fasoranti, yesterday, dismissed reports making the rounds that Chief Ayo Adebanjo was no longer the acting leader of Afenifere and that all future Afenifere meetings should henceforth hold at his residence in Akure, the Ondo State capital.

Some reports had it that leaders of the group would no longer converge on Isoya Ogbo, Ijebu home of the acting leader and that Adebanjo might have ceased to be acting leader.

This followed the recent pitching of tent with the national leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and presidential candidate of the party, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu by Afenifere leaders led by Fasoranti, which has continued to be mired in a heated controversy.

However, Fasoranti, the frontline educator and Second Republic Commissioner for Finance in Ondo State, in a statement by his Personal Assistant, Adedapo Abiola, described the news as a calculated attempt, designed to cause confusion and polarise Afenifere.

The statement titled, 'Misinterpretation in the Media' read: "It has come to Papa R.F. Fasonranti's knowledge that some sections of the media, especially, the social media, have been ascribing to him false statements designed to cause confusion and polarise Afenifere. I have Papa's permission to say that he has not said Chief Ayo Adebanjo is no longer the acting leader of Afenifere or that all future Afenifere meetings should henceforth be held at his residence in Akure.

"Papa's main concern is the interest of the Yoruba in the complex political situation in Nigeria. It is also his concern that Afenifere should survive in dignity and remain a purveyor of the interest of the Yoruba race. It is hoped that this information will be adequately circulated," he added.

Fasoranti, who was made the leader of Afenifere in November 2008, stepped down for Adebanjo in 2021, albeit, in acting capacity.

AirSmat Partners Sterling Bank to Increase Crop Yield Ratio for Farmers

AirSmat has announced a partnership with Sterling Bank to enable farmers increase their output by leveraging quality farm data and AI-generated recommendations.

In the partnership, AirSmat would deliver enabling technology capabilities for Sterling Bank to monitor farm activities throughout the planting season and help farmers improve their productivity and secure the supply chain of the future.

In a statement released by the company, AirSmat with its technology would deliver unique agronomic insights alongside remarkable acre-by-acre to drive efficiency in farm activities reporting for Sterling Bank and farmers that are direct customers of the bank.

Sterling Bank's team of experts would access the farm data through AirSmat's in-house-built application, FarmManager, to deliver valuable insights to the bank's Agric Desk team, stakeholders, and shareholders.

AirSmat CEO & Co-founder, Soji Sanyaolu stated, "With drone and satellite technology, soil-level, and IoT sensors, we are helping to transform the way farmers and other stakeholders in the value chain collect, manage, and interpret farm data.

"We are helping farm owners and farmers across Nigeria to eliminate guesswork and drive day-to-day farm operations decisions with precision."

He further explained that "... precise, accurate farm data enables everyone in the value chain, such as banks and insurance companies, make data-driven decisions to support farmers and growers with loans and insurance cover."

In a recent statement, Group Head of Agricultural Finance and Solid Minerals at Sterling Bank, Dr. Olushola Obikanye, had stated: "If the bank wants farmers to be able to repay loans taken, the bank needs to have a presence in their immediate communities for effective monitoring and coordination of farming activities; this partnership was created to create a strategic partnership that would, among other things, enable Sterling Bank to fulfill its commitment to its shareholders."

According to Sterling Bank's CEO, Abubakar Suleiman, "It is difficult to operate in a country and ignore a sector like agriculture that accounts for so much employment and adds so much output to the country's gross domestic product.

Despite Funding Irrelevances for Attention, Wike Owes Teachers Six Years Salaries

Blessing Ibunge in Port Harcourt

Despite sowing the seeds of Rivers' patrimony in many parts of the country, whether or not the cause directly affected an average Rivers person, Governor Nyesom Wike of the state is said to be owing teachers in Rivers State salaries for an upward of six years.

This came to the fore, yesterday, when teachers of primary and secondary schools as well as Rivers State owned Tertiary Institutions pleaded with Wike to consider their plight and pay their six years unpaid salaries.

Some of the teachers, who spoke with journalists in Port Harcourt, lamented that they had been denied their salaries for over six years, even when they were still in active service.

They claimed they were staff teachers of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education Demonstration Secondary School, Ndele and Seashell Model Primary School, Port Harcourt, Rivers State University International Secondary and Staff Schools, Port Harcourt and Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic Comprehensive Secondary School, Bori in Khana Local Government Area.

Speaking, Mr Olu Ikulghan, a teacher with Ignatius Ajuru University Demonstration School, Rumuolumeni, lamented that he and his wife who was also a teacher in the same school were suffering hardship.

He lamented that his children in higher institutions had dropped out of school, because they could not pay their fees, adding that others in secondly school were at home as they could not afford their tuitions.

"I was employed to teach right from 1991. When I was employed I was just a young man, married somebody, a female teacher from same school. With the recent development, both of us are affected and our children are badly affected.

"Our children in higher institutions, a boy and girl could not continue their education, because we cannot afford their tuition fees. Then the two other ones in secondly school are also at home, dropped out of school," Ikulghan lamented.

Enefaa Georgewill, Chairman, Rivers State Civil Society Organisations (RIVCSO), pleaded with Wike to consider the hardship the teachers were into and save them.

Georgewill said, "For us in the Rivers State Civil Society Organisations, we want to plead with the Rivers State government, to in good conscience consider the position on the non-payment of teachers of Rivers State Demonstration Primary and Secondary schools for about seven years now.

"We are making this plead because we know the governor is one who in recent times have carried out certain level of philanthropic act, even to persons who are outside our state. We want to call you on the governor to end his tenure in clean sheet and not to go down to history as someone who end the salaries of these teachers."

NEWS



THE CHALLENGES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE PETER OBI FACTOR...

L-R: Labour Party Governorship Candidate, Lagos State, Mr. Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour; Representative of Vice Presidential Candidate of Labour Party, Mr. Abiodun Dabiri; Afenifere Leader and Special Guest of Honour, Chief Ayo Adebanjo;Chairman of the Occasion, Oluwadurotimi Olulana; Representative of the Labour party Presidential Candidate, Clara Eromosele; and National President, Igbo Women Assembly, Mrs. Nneka Chiimezie, at the public presentation of the book; The Challenges of Good Governance and Leadership in Nigeria; The Peter Obi factor by Alaigbo Development Foundation in Lagos...yeserday ETOP UKUTT

Crisis over Oloto Stool as Remi Tinubu Allegedly Imposes Aide

There's a simmering crisis over the Oloto stool in Lagos as the Senator for Lagos Central, Oluremi Tinubu, has been accused of attempting to impose one of her aides as successor to the throne.

One of the interested parties, Dr. Akinlade Babafemi, who raised the alarm, said the meddlesomeness of the former first lady of the state, has begun to cause uneasy calm and might escalate if not promptly addressed.

According to Babafemi, "The news broke yesterday night that a courier and government official brought a well-protected memo to the palace at Ijora and that what many suspected had eventually been penned. It was a specific one.

"An unknown man said to be a courier gave the phone to many senior officials and many we hear were forced to attend to this document. We have been alerted since February 2022, to this unseen hands seemingly forcing the hands of many supposedly senior government officials and traditional rulers alike.

"The name on the lips of many pulling the strings at the other end of the phone was alleged to be Senator Oluremi Tinubu. She is alleged to be interested in the Oloto of Otto stool for an aide of hers. We had alerted the government to the outright contempt of such a desperate act with the existence of many court orders and rulings on the matter.

"The main nerve of the Oloto Royal family called Oloto Royals took to Punch newspapers on February 14 2022 to enlighten the government on the issues involved if it refused to read its own rules."

To this end, Babafemi claimed, "The next in line to produce the Oloto of Otto is the Baalo Ruling House. It is a government white paper and law in Lagos State. Why will a Senator of the federal government and Nigerian nation embark on such a travesty and desecration of the judgment of their Lordships and seek to impose her aide on the Oloto Royal family.

"This particular aide is not even a member of the Baalo Ruling House, hence, unqualified to represent the Baalo Ruling house. We can't say more other than wonder why government will choose to break the law of the state. The Senator needs to clear the air. She has been mentioned and touted in this act as the main promoter of the intended illegal imposition

"It must have been hard for many good people to say no to these schemes. The Oba of Lagos must be commended for being the only one, who has reportedly dared the voice at the other end of the courier's phone that he is not in support of the evil plot. He was quoted to have said that Oloto family, has laws guiding it and he will never be a part of the criminal act of imposition of an outsider on the Otto stool."

Babafemi, therefore, explained that, "The danger at this point is in the high tension silently being built by the persistence of those involved in evil act. It is spreading fast and civility is being eroded.

"Why will government choose such illegal path, when it even knows the details of the contempt proceedings that may likely follow. Otto has a bad security report. The state government is aware of this. It is a melting point of many area zealots.

"The government knows the attendant security issues if a public protest against the planned illegal imposition is carried out. The youths of Otto were the ones, who resisted the destruction wave of mindless protesters during the ENDSARS protests ably courted by government at that period.

"That defence is worth a book on its own. These youths defended the sensitive government interests from LAWMA, NIPOST, Iddo market, and police formations in the area. The reader should imagine what could have been the consequences if Otto goes into turmoil.

Are they not reading these files. Why will impunity be a method of the law keepers?

"This illegal move will also awaken the other aborigines of the state as to the nature of governance in Lagos State. Why will a state government choose anarchy and impunity in a matter like this. Oloto of Otto stool is the most ancient stool in Lagos state and the biggest land owning family in Lagos. We can read in-between the lines as to the motives of those pushing this criminal act.

"Lagos State indigenous peoples have been the big base of the Asiwaju Tinubu Presidential bid. We do not want to be a factor of its fall. We have employed civility in rejection of the illegal move. We will continue to do so. I can, however, not vouch for anyone. The government should blame itself for any eventual breakdown of law and order."

Okowa Inaugurates PDP Campaign Council, Says Only the Party Can Reset Nigeria to Work

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) vice presidential candidate and Governor of Delta State, Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, yesterday said the All Progressives Congress (APC) has led the country into becoming world poverty capital.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Delta State PDP Campaign Council in Asaba, Okowa said only a party with relevant experience like the PDP could truly rescue, rebuild and reset the country into working again for the good of citizens.

He said that with the very poor state of the country only experienced leaders like Atiku Abubakar could bring Nigeria out of the current state of despondency caused by the incompetent and inept APC led Federal Government.

"There is only one team that can deliver Nigeria out of where we are and that is the Atiku-Okowa ticket.

"I have looked at all of them and ordinarily they would have been capable in a country that works but we are now in a country that is not working so you need those who know what to do.

"It is the Atiku-Okowa ticket of the PDP that can take us out of where we are and move us forward.

"PDP won't lie to Nigerians, we have a difficult task but working with Nigerians we will get the country working again," he said.

He said the APC had led the country into a downward slide and assured the people of PDP's mission to rescue and rebuild the nation.

"The APC has not done well for this nation, they have taken us into troubled times, they have made our people lose jobs, our people have lost their businesses, they have led us to insecurity.

"The only way they can possibly find a pathway to campaign is to lie but it is not good when people come out to lie in such a manner that even the blind will know that they are lying.

"They lied that we haven't done anything in Asaba what about the storm drainages that prevented flood water from taking over people's houses like it used to be in the past?

"What about the State Secretariat which is the best and most functional we have seen in the country.

"What about the Dennis Osadebay University, the Film Village and Leisure Park that will be inaugurated in January by our Presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar? It will attract a lot of tourists to this state but they can't see it.

"What about the roads, the flyover and interchange that we are helping the Federal Government to build?

"What we need to do is to pray for them that they may see because apparently they are blind and they are not seeing but if you pray for them they will start to see.

"So let us go put there and convince the people to vote for us because it is a great opportunity to rescue this country and take it up into greater heights.

"They have driven us down the valley, we want to rise, its a tough task but Atiku Abubakar and I have accepted that working with all PDP members and all stakeholders in Nigeria including the organised private sector collectively we are able to take Nigeria back out of that valley and take it to greater heights," Okowa stated.

Governorship candidate of the party and Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Chief Sheriff Oborevwori commended Okowa for his political sagacity and adroit leadership skills which he had deployed in managing the affairs of the party since 2015.

He said the massive achievements of Governor Okowa had made campaigns easier for the party in the state.

He took a swipe at Omo-Agege, saying his tenure as Secretary to the State Government was characterised by parochialism, greed, abuse of power, and undemocratic tendencies.

Deltans do not need a despot like Omo-Agege, but a liberal, broadminded, and selfless leader like myself who stands for equity and fairness.

He said his M.O.R.E Agenda: Meaningful Development, Opportunities for All, Realistic Reforms, and Enhanced Peace and Security was geared towards consolidating and extending the gains of the current administration.

"It is designed to continue and expand the infrastructural and human capital development programmes of the Okowa administration.

"The vision is to keep Delta State ahead in all aspects of social and economic well-being and it is my promise to all Deltans that I will listen more, do more, and achieve more," he stated.

State Chairman of the party, Chief Kingsley Esiso said the ceremony marks the commencement of the party's campaign to the Presidency and Government House Asaba.

He slammed the Deputy President of the Senate and APC Governorship candidate Senator Ovie Omo-Agege for not using his acclaimed capacity to influence the reconstruction of the various federal roads in the state.

ADESINA CALLS FOR TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC LOAN MANAGEMENT

"We will put our technical resources together to make electric cars in Africa a reality. On the issue of renewable energy, the bank and its partners would be making $20 billion investments to generate to 10,000 megawatts of solar power across 11 countries that would provide electricity for 250 million people in Africa.

"Presently, we have already started that. We will manufacture our own solar panels in Africa and this is a different way of working together."

Earlier in his remarks, the President and Chairman of Board of Directors, African Export-Import Bank, (Afreximbank), Prof. Benedict Oramah, said the recurrent global shocks, currently unleashed by the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing Ukraine crisis and the intensification of geo-political tensions were reshaping the world in a way not previously imagined.

He also stated that although shocks have adverse ramifications for African economies, they could also serve as a springboard and present enormous opportunities for Africa to rethink, reimagine and re-write their stories in a positive manner that would endure.

Oramah, who spoke on the theme: 'Trade and Investment – How can Africa be More Competitive in a Global Context,' said at the height of the pandemic in 2020, the continent's average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by only 1.6 per cent against world average of 3.3 per cent, with several of its economies recording positive growth.

He further explained that notwithstanding the observed resilience and robustness of its economies, it was sad to note that over 56 per cent of African countries rated by at least one of the major global rating agencies, were downgraded, compared to 9.2 per cent in Europe and 28 percent in Asia.

The Afreximbank president remarked that the effect of the inexplicable mass downgrade was to precipitate far-reaching economic crises as African bond prices crashed and made it difficult for most, if not all, to access the international debt capital markets, pointing out that most ended up at the doors of International Monetary Fund (IMF), with their heads bowed and unsure of how to manage mass anger at home.



DUCHESS HOSPITAL MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY...

L-R: Chairman, Duchess International Hospital, Dr. Yemi Onabowale; Representative of Lagos State Governor/Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akinola Abayomi; Chief Executive Officer, Duchess International Hospital, Dr. Adetokunbo Shitta-Bey; General Manager, National Health Insurance Authority, Dr. Olufemi Akingbade, and Executive Secretary, Health Facilities Monitoring and Accreditation Agency (HEFAMAA), Dr. Abiola Idowu, during an inspection tour at the first year anniversary of the Duchess International Hospital in Lagos… yesterday ABIODUN AJALA

Banditry on the Rise in Niger Communities

Laleye Dipo in Minna

Following the cessation of rains terrorism and banditry have regained prominence in some Niger state communities in the last two weeks. At the peak of the rainy season the rivers overflowed their banks making it impossible for the gunmen to cross from Kebbi and Kaduna states into communities in Niger state sharing boundaries with these states.

Investigations, however, revealed that the water levels of the rivers have reduced considerably making it possible for the gunmen to have easy access the state.

In the last two weeks not less than 11 people have been killed and more than 30 abducted.

Some of those killed are men of the local vigilance group invited to counter the bandits.

Unconfirmed reports also have it that the bandits went haywire in Kuchi area of Munya Local Government Area kidnapping no less than 30 villagers.

The report continued that the bandits were fueling their motorcycles from a burst fuel pipeline at Sakpe not too far from Kuchi town.

At Garin -gabas in the Rafi Local Government area no fewer than 40 bandits riding on motorcycles killed six local vigilance and abducted still unknown number of travelers going to Kontagora. The commuters were said to be in five commercial vehicles when they ran into an ambush by the bandits. It was however learnt that eight of the gunmen were killed by the local hunters

In Kundu town near Zungeru in the Wushishi Local Government Area last Tuesday six suspected local hunters were killed by bandits who, however, reportedly eliminated eight of the gunmen.

THISDAY learnt that the terrorists operating in the Wushishi local government area have reopened their routes through which they invade communities in the area.

Those killed, according to reports, were buried according to Muslim rites while those injured are either at Zungeru or Wushishi general hospitals.

However, the police could not reached to confirm these latest developments.

How PwC Delivered Transformative Impacts on Clients, Stakeholders in H1, 2022

Peter Uzoho

Global professional services firm, PwC has said its investment and priority in key areas has enabled it to deliver transformative impacts on the company, its clients and stakeholders across Africa in the first half of 2022.

In its PwC Africa Annual Review 2022, which was sent to THISDAY, yesterday, the firm said disruption came in many forms during the last financial year and that it invested in key areas which drove quality and sustained outcomes for the firm and its clients and stakeholders.

The first PwC Africa Annual Review 2022 report narrated the story of a remarkable year for the company, focusing on impact, value creation, strategy and related performance for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

The firm explained that the report was a reflection of how their network of firms had navigated complexity, responded to change and emerging challenges and new opportunities across the African continent.

According to the Chief Executive Officer, PwC Africa, Dion Shango, "Disruption is the new normal. As PwC Africa, we provide solutions to help manage disruption and identify new opportunities. Over the last year, we have focused on delivering quality services that build trust, deliver sustained outcomes and help our clients to manage change. The PwC Africa Annual Review 2022 describes many of the ways that we deliver transformative impact and also where we're headed as a business."

BASL, Labour Resolve Dispute, Recall Sacked Workers

Chinedu Eze

Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Limited (BASL) has announced that it has reached a resolution with the Air Transport Service Senior Staff Association (ATSSSAN) and has recalled the workers whose sack prompted labour to picket its terminal, MMA2 on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Head of Corporate Communications at Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Limited, BASL, Oluwatosin Onalaja, said that early in the morning on Tuesday November 1 2022, an unannounced protest was staged at the Murtala Muhammed Airport Terminal Two (MMA2) by members of aviation unions and stressed that this impacted heavily on scheduled flights and other operations, with early morning passengers left stranded.

BASL stated that the union barricaded the entrance and exit gates of the terminal and prevented customers, concessionaires and other members of staff from gaining entry, "an act that industry watchers described as high-handed and unlawful."

"BASL remains alarmed by the unlawful conduct of the union members who were able to disrupt the legitimate business operations of a major public institution without due notice. They disregarded appeals from the Nigerian Police Force and an existing court order restraining them from doing so.

BASL disclosed that in a letter written to the company's management, the unions alleged that their members were laid off without regard to due process, but BASL said that it has always adhered strictly to global best practices and the rule of law.

Police Order Arrest, Prosecution of Female Genital Mutilation Offenders in Ekiti

Victor Ogunje in Ado Ekiti

The Ekiti State Police Command, yesterday directed his men and officers to henceforth begin aggressive arrest and prosecution of female genital cutters in the state, describing it as illegal and gross violation of human rights.

The Commissioner of Police, Ekiti Command, Mr. Morounkeji Adesina, gave the directive in Ado Ekiti, during a capacity building workshop organised by Hacey Health Initiative for Law Enforcement Officers on Female Genital Mutilation.

The workshop was attended by the officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force, Amotekun Corps, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps and community leaders.

The CP, represented by the Command's spokesman, DSP Sunday Abutu, described female genital mutilation (FGM) as a violation of the State's Child's Rights Act and the gender based violence and Prohibition Law 2019 as amended, enacted by the state government.

Adesina said the scourge had destroyed many homes and lives and that security agencies as enforcers of the laws would not allow the illegality to continue in Ekiti unabated.

He said: "This workshop is a welcome development because it deals with stopping Female Genital Mutilation, one of the bad practices in our society. The practice had caused permanent injuries and disabilities to many women , which was unlawful and this must be discouraged.

NPC Launches Online E-Recruitment Portal for 2023 Exercise

Onuminya Innocent In Sokoto

The National Population Commission (NPC) Sokoto State has officially launched online E-recruitment portal for the 2023 population and housing census.

Launching the portal, the Federal Commissioner, Representing Sokoto State, Chiso Abdullahi Dattijo, said ahead of 2023 census there is needs for recruitment of manpower that will carry out the excercise.

He added that the launch of the E-Recruitment Portal for 2023 census at the headquarters marks the beginning of the process whereby all Nigerians from all demography and gender can apply and get themselves registered to be recruited by the commission.

"Let me use this opportunity to assure Nigerians that the bulk of personnel for 2023 census will be drawn from the communities where they are resident he stated. This will remove the huge logistics of moving personnel across the country," he added.

"Consequently, every community will have the opportunity of contributing to the census workforce thereby ensuring that the people are adequately counted," Dattijo noted.

He assured the people of Sokoto State that the commission is on course and continue to be fair and transparent as 2023 Population and Housing census is approaching.

Dattijo maintained that that the commission through the online recruitment process request for applicants from the following categories, Facilitator, Training Centre Administrators, Monitoring and Evaluations Officers, Data Quality Managers, Data Quality Assistants, Supervisors and Enumerators.

UNICEF: Over 14 million Children in Nigeria Face Acute Malnutrition

Onyebuchi Ezigbo in Abuja

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has alerted the federal government that an estimated 14.7 million children under the age of five are currently under the threat of severe malnutrition.

The Fund said that a good number of these children may become wasted if urgent measures were not taken to arrest the situation.

UNICEF Chief of Nutrition in Nigeria, Nemat Hajeebhoy said the recent massive flooding which led to the destruction of farms and agricultural products across as well as inflation are bound to worsen the nation's food security and increase malnutrition in 2023.

The nutrition officer, who made this known at a high level roundtable meeting on nutrition in Abuja yesterday organised by the National Council on Nutrition (NCN) and other stakeholders lamented that children are likely to bear the brunt of the impending food crisis.

"Without urgent action, UNICEF estimates that 13 million children will suffer moderat malnutrition and 1.7 million children will suffer severe acute malnutrition this year (2022)," she said.

Hajeebhoy also disclosed that almost 100 children under the age of five die of malnutrition in Nigeria every hour, and 12 million children are living in severe food poverty.

According to her, food prices has risen by 23 percent in the last one year, making it difficult for families to provide nutritious meals for their household. She said 1 in 3 household cannot afford the lowest cost nutritious diet in the country.

Imo Launches Industrial Policy, Sets for Business

Amby Uneze in Owerri

Governor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State has launched the Imo Industrial Policy, saying that the state is now ready for national and international economic businesses that go with industrialisation.

According to the governor, the Industrial Policy would "serve as the State's strategic master plan to stimulate the growth and development of all sectors of the economy of Imo State, identify and prioritize the low hanging fruits for immediate harvesting."

He said that the government has set out to identify all the economic potential where Imo State has comparative advantage with the aim of clearly outlining how the potentials can be harnessed into going enterprises in the form of countless small and medium scale enterprises.

The governor used the occasion to call on investors to take advantage of the robust and friendly investment climate that his administration has deliberately put in place, to invest in different areas of the economy in Imo state, particularly in digital economy, agro industry, tourism, oil and gas, mining, fabrication and in the allied industry that will be thrown up from the Imo State Green Revolution Initiative (ISGRI).

He described the launching of the Imo Industrial Policy as yet "another audacious step in Imo State government's determination to put the State firmly on the road to economic growth and prosperity."



DEVELOPING AFRICAN TRADE...
L-R: National President, Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), John Udeagbala (left), and President, African Export–Import Bank (Afreximbank), Dr Benedict Oramah, during a meeting on plans for Nigeria to host Intra-African Trade Forum (IATF) in Cairo, Egypt…recently

Abia Pensioners Protest 45 Months' Unpaid Pensions, Gratuity Arrears

Emmanuel Ugwu-Nwogo in Umuahia

Abia pensioners yesterday commenced a two-day protest across the state to draw attention to their sufferings as a result of 45 months of unpaid pensions.

The pensioners under the aegis of Concerned Abia Pensioners also complained of gratuities that were last paid 22 years ago as well as non-harmonisation of pensions from 1998 to 2022.

Clad in all black attire scores of the senior citizens marched through the streets of Umuahia with placards in languid and mournful mood, evoking pity and sympathy. They sang solidarity song with much efforts.

Some of the inscriptions on the placards read: "Ikpeazu, why are you insensitive to pensioners' conditions;" "Ikpeazu, pay us our over 22 years gratuity;" "Ikpeazu, be informed that many pensioners can no longer get medical care due to lack of money"; "Ikpeazu, why should we vote your candidate in the midst of your wickedness to pensioners"

On reaching the NUJ Press Centre Umuahia, the pensioners stopped and cried to journalists to help plead with the state governor, Dr Okezie Ikpeazu "to stop starving us".

Coordinator of the Concerned Abia Pensioners, Emeka Okezie, lamented that the senior citizens have been left to their plight as the Ikpeazu government has not seen the need to pay the arrears of pensions and gratuities.

Sanwo-Olu Visits Late Archbishop Olumakaiye's Family

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday paid a condolence visit to the family of the former Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Lagos, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), Most. Rev. (Dr.) Humphrey Bamisebi Olumakaiye at the Diocese of Lagos Bishop's Court, Marina.

Governor Sanwo-Olu and his team, which included the Commissioner for Home Affairs, Prince Anofi Elegushi and some Lagos State Government top officials, were received by the widow of the deceased, Prof. Motunrayo Olumakaiye, including family members, Bishop of the Diocese of Ilesa, The Rt. Revd (Prof.) Dapo Asaju and priests.

While consoling the widow, the deceased family and the church, Governor Sanwo-Olu, said he was saddened to hear the news of Archbishop Olumakaiye's passing at the age of 53.

"Rest in peace my brother, my adviser, my Bishop, my Diocesan. You were a great man of God. We will miss you greatly," Governor Sanwo-Olu wrote in the condolences register.

Police Arraign Ex-Banker for Alleged N205m Fraud

Wale Igbintade

Men of the Police Special Fraud Unit (PSFU), Ikoyi, Lagos have arraigned a former staff of Stanbic IBTC Bank Nigeria, Ajayi Olusola, for allegedly defrauding the bank of the sum of N205 million.

Olusola, who now operates a limited liability company, Abel System Services Limited, was accused of committing the alleged fraud between 2015 and 2021, while still working with the bank.

He was also alleged to have committed the fraud alongside one Ayodele Olaogun, and Hakeem Adisa Abdulhadi, (now at large).

The former banker and his company, Abel System Services Limited, were arraigned before Justice Abimbola Awogboro, on a three count-charge of conspiracy, obtaining by false pretence and unlawful conversation.

The prosecutor, Mr. Sylvester Azubuike, told the court that the offences committed by the former Stanbic-Ibtc staff contravened Sections Section 8(a) and 1(1)(a) and Punishable Under Section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act No 14 of 2006.

Ronchess Celebrate Gov El-Rufai's Award

Following the conferment of the prestigious Commander of the Order of the Niger(CON) national honour on the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, the Board of Ronchess Global Resources Plc, have paid courtesy visit on the governor to congratulate him on the honour.

"Board of Ronchess Global Resources Plc, led by its Chairman Adeolu Adeboye, the Vice Chairman Captain Niyi Ogunmowo and the Chief Executive Jackson Ukuevo.

The governor confirmed this via his official Twitter handle @ govkaduna where he tweeted yesterday that the board of Ronchess paid him a courtesy call at the government house in Kaduna State.

Adeboye thanked the governor for the opportunities given to Ronchess as a key developmental partner in the Kaduna Urban Renewal project, and promised to deliver all ongoing projects at different completion stages.

Budget Defence: House Committee Promises Improved Funding for NDLEA to Contain Drug Cartels

Juliet Akoje in Abuja

The House of Representatives' committee on drugs and narcotics yesterday has promised to increase the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency's (NDLEA) 2023 budget estimate to enable it perform optimally.

The Chairman of the committee, Hon. Francis Agbo stated when the Executive Chairman of the NDLEA, Brigadier General Buba Marwa (rtd) appeared before it for the agency's budget defence.

Agbo, who noted that the NDLEA was understaffed, reiterated that the agency needs adequate funding to enable it build its barracks for the safety of its staff considering the risk involved in fighting drug cartels, adding that the arms being used by NDLEA needed to be replaced because they are obsolete.

When i visited the agency's headquarters i could not find a single sniffer dog which ought not to be considering the nature of the job," he said.

Marwa in his response said adequate funding and increase of personnel to 15,000 was required for the agency to carry out its mandate effectively.

"A sniffer dog cost about $15,000 to $20,000 dollar each, arms and ammunition are very critical component for the agency.

Start-up Act: Abdullahi Calls for Amendment to Include Youth Ministry

Hammed Shittu in Ilorin

Former Minister of Youths and Sports Development and Kwara Central Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) senatorial candidate for the 2023 election, Malam Bolaji Abdullahi, has called for the amendment of the recently signed Nigeria Start-up Act to include the Ministry of Youth Development in the council for digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

Abdullahi in a statement issued yesterday in Ilorin said without such amendment, the Act would be missing the coordinating power of the youth ministry which is critical to the effective implementation of the new law.

The former minister, while commending President Muhammadu Buhari for his assent to the law, noted that the act would open the country for greater investment in the digital economy, and unleash the huge potential of the youths for greater competitiveness.

Abdullahi, a former editor with THISDAY Newspaper, said: "I commend President Buhari for his assent to the Start-up Act. I am delighted that the country has embraced such legislation at this crucial time when we are at a crossroad on how to boost national productivity.

"This Act has the capacity to unlock the huge potential for entrepreneurship and digital innovation in Nigeria.

"However, I consider the exclusion of the youth ministry from the Council for Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship, as provided for in the Act as an omission which if not immediately redressed can impair the full implementation of the law."

Gombe Gov Proposes N173.697bn Budget for 2023

Segun Awofadeji in Gombe

Gombe State Governor, Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, yesterday presented the proposed budget for the 2023 fiscal year estimate of N173,697,242,000.00 to the state House of Assembly.

While presenting the proposal tagged: 'Budget of Further Consolidation' at the Assembly, the governor said: "This is in line with our desire to continue offering our service to the people of Gombe State beyond 2023. I wish the Assembly God's guidance in your deliberations."

Presenting the budget, the governor explained that N71.8 billion representing 41.4 per cent of the budget was earmarked for recurrent expenditure while the sum of N101.8 billion representing 58.6 per cent was designated for capital expenditure.

According to him, "The government envisages to generate the sum of N100.6 billion as recurrent revenue and N74.7 billion as capital receipts and an estimated closing balance of N1.6 billion.

"Hon. Speaker, members, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to continue providing for the developmental needs of the people of the state in the 2023 fiscal year, we proposed a budget in the sum of N173,697,242,000.00. This is made up of N71,856,492,000.00 only for recurrent expenditure representing 41.4 percent, and N101,840,750,000.00 for capital expenditure, representing 58.6 percent of the total budgeted sum'.

"We envisage to generate the sum of NGN100,615,640,000.00 only as recurrent revenue, and the sum of N74,700,000,000.00 only as capital receipts. Our estimated closing balance for 2023 is expected to be N1,618,398,000.00.

Lagos APC Inaugurates Campaign Committee

Segun James

As campaigns towards the 2023 general election commenced seriously, the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Lagos State has inaugurated the committee to coordinate the party's election process in the state.

The state Chairman of the party, Pastor Cornelius Ojelabi, told the committee which has Senator Ganiyu Solomon as director-general, and Mr. Fouad Oki as secretary, that the party presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, is expecting nothing less than five million votes in the forthcoming general election from the state.

Ojelabi told the state APC Campaign Committee, which was held at the party secretariat in Ogba, Ikeja, that the Election Management Committee is to be assisted by 11 directorates which include Secretariat; Planning, Research and Strategy; Budget and Finance; Mobilisation; Transport and Logistics; Strategic Communications; Volunteer/Support Group; Legal; Information and Technology; Religious; Ethnic Nationalities; Women; Youth and Student Affairs; Security; Organising; and Special Duties.

The campaign committee is headed by the state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, while the state Chairman of the party, Ojelabi, is the deputy chairman, and the deputy governor is the vice chairman.

NEWS XTRA

FG Pays ASUU Half Salaries for October

The federal government only paid lecturers under the aegis of the Academic Staff Union of Universities for 18 working days in the month of October, some lecturers and senior members of ASUU, who got their bank alerts said yesterday.

ASUU had called off its eight-month-old strike on October 14, 2022 and lecturers were encouraged to resume back to work by the union on that same day. The lecturers had hoped that their full salaries for the month of October and other arrears would be paid.

However, the lecturers said they received on half salary, a development that has led to complaints.

A lecturer said: "We were only paid for the days after the strike. I received a half salary. Other members are angry right now, they are blaming the NEC for calling off the strike."

Similarly, another lecturer said: "Yes, it is true, I received half salary. It seems the government is set to kill unionism in the country but we are ready for them."

Cargo Tracking Policy: Act in Nigeria's Interest, Group Tells FG

Alex Enumah in Abuja

A civil rights group has urged the federal government not to compromise the Public Procurement Laws with regard to the implementation of the International Cargo Tracking Note (ICTN) aimed at improving the country's security as well as boosting its revenue base.

The group, Citizens Advocacy for Social and Economic Rights (CASER), argued that only strict compliance with relevant laws and a deep sense of patriotism can ensure accurate and efficient collection of imports from the new policy regime.

The Executive Director of the group, Mr. Frank Tietie, who gave the charge in a statement yesterday also pleaded with Ministries of Transportation, Finance, Petroleum; the Office of the National Security Advisers and that of Chief of Staff to the President to act in the national interest on the issue of Cargo Tracking policy.

Specifically, the rights group canvassed that the ministries and the affected government agencies must resist opportunists by ensuring total compliance with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act in the matter.

The group noted with displeasure that the implementation of such an all-important national security project with high revenue-yielding potential has suffered massive setbacks on account of unscrupulous businessmen and Nigerian public officials who were determined to circumvent the public procurement guidelines.

Among the setbacks, the group disclosed that illegal weapons are daily streaming into Nigeria undetected through its ports while import and export agents are shortchanging the Nigerian Government of accruable revenue from correct charges.

NPC Reiterates Commitment to Delivering Credible Census

Yinka Kolawole in Osogbo

The National Population Commission (NPC) yesterday presented the compendium of localities to stakeholders in all the 30 local government and one area office in Osun State.

The commission presented 2223 localities to stakeholders at a two-day workshop on Compendium of Localities in collaboration with Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), National Orientation Agency (NOA) held in Osogbo, Osun State capital.

Speaking, the Chairman, NPC, Nasir Isa-Kwarra, reiterated its commitment in delivering a reliable and acceptable in 2023 Population and Housing Census that will drive towards sustainable national development.

Isa-Kwarra, who was represented by the Osun State Honourable Federal Commissioner Senator Mudashiru Hussien, said that the commission organised the workshop with other National Stakeholders to finalize and present to the grassroots the final list of localities for the 2023 Population and Housing Census.

He said the commissioncollaborated with the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Local Government Chairmen and Stakeholders to have a successful census.

He further said that the 2023 Population and Housing Census results will be released up to the lowest level of the census entities.

He charged the Nigerians to join hands with the Commission in the bid to have a reliable demographic data through the forthcoming 2023 census.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and addressed as OFFOR IRENE CHIZARAM now wish to be known and addressed as IRENE C. OBINNA-OKECHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as EZEOBI UKAMAKA LILIAN, now wish to be known and addressed as OLUBIYI UKAMAKA LILIAN. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as DAVID CLEMENT, now wish to be known and addressed as DAVIES BASSET EKOK. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ELIZABETH ANE OCHEME, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ELIZABETH ANE ONWUKA. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as JEGEDE OLATOKUNBO ELIZABETH, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ADEKUNLE OLATOKUNBO ELIZABETH. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I formerly known and addressed as UBA NGOZI, now wish to be known and address as UBAHA-HUKANWA ELIZABETH and my correct DoB is ***18th February 1974***. All former documents remain valid the general should pls take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as GRACE ANGO, now wish to be known and addressed as GRACE ASHIYA OGUNBAYO. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

Abia APC Candidate Hails Mbazulike's Legacies

Emmanuel Ugwu-Nwogo in Umuahia

Governorship Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Abia State, High Chief Ikechi Emenike, has said that Chief Mbazulike Amechi left good legacies that could be used as fertiliser to grow Nigeria's democracy.

He stated this yesterday while reacting to the transition of the nonagenarian, describing him as one of Nigeria's foremost nationalists, who faithfully served the nation with all his strength.

Emenike listed Amechi's legacies that could be beneficial to the growth of Nigeria's democracy to include selfless leadership, well-grounded ideology, patriotism, standing for social justice and inclusive governance.

"While we mourn him, we should not fail to appreciate his contributions to national development right from a young age," he said, adding that even at the ripe age of 93 Amechi never abandoned the good principles and ideology that he stood for.

The Abia APC governorship hopeful expressed sadness over the transition of first republic aviation minister, saying that Nigeria has lost a great nationalist and a fearless crusader of justice, equity and fairness.

Amechi, who was the last of the members of the famous Zikist Movement that successfully fought for Nigeria's independence, later became the country-s first aviation minister during the first republic.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS OKORIE CHINOMSO VERA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS UDUGBOR CHINOMSO VERA. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MR EMEKA EMMANUEL NWAGBARA, now wish to be known and addressed as MR EMEKA EMMANUEL GODWIN. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as INNOCENT CHIMAOBI MAXIMUS, now wish to be known and addressed as AJIEERE CHIMAOBI MAXIMUS. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

WORLD OF ISLAM

Edited by: MJO Mustapha Email deji.mustapha@thisdaylive.com

Why Humanism is Problematic (2)

Spahic Omer/IslamiCity

(continued from last week)

Greek Humanism

Protagoras as the father of Greek humanism – and humanism in general - is reported to have said: "Man is the measure of all things, of the things which are, that they are, and of the things which are not, that they are not." This maxim became the mantra of humanism in all times and places. Protagoras became its biggest prophet, an idol.

The meaning of the maxim is that man and nobody else is the source of the import, purpose and legitimacy with regard to himself, life in general, knowledge (epistemology), values (axiology) and beauty (aesthetics). Man is the master of his own existential and also civilizational destiny. There can be a silver lining in whatever happens: things are based on human freedom and choice, which are not merely acknowledged, but as well glorified. Initiatives and executions are human-centric, and that is what matters the most. As a result, man is set but to improve and "grow". There is no limit to human optimism and hope. Obeying deities could lead a person towards one direction only, that is, towards those deities, but living freely and following one's amazing capabilities could lead a person anywhere.

The above maxim of Protagoras exemplified a profound philosophy, while at the same time condensing its remarkable complexity. Thus, Protagoras was regarded as the first professional sophist or teacher, about whom, nevertheless, Plato and Aristotle said that he did not seek the truth but only victory in debates and was prepared to use dishonest means to achieve it (Britannica).

However, there was more to the criticism of Plato and Aristotle of Protagoras than meets the eye. The problem was Protagoras' penchant for a defiant humanism which was generating all sorts of philosophical, social and religious difficulties. According to Ugo Zilioli, Plato interpreted Protagoras' maxim that "man is the measure of all things" as "implying that each perception and even each belief is true for the one who has it. Were this true, Plato asks through Socrates, what sense is to be made of Protagoras' teaching? What would he be able to teach if each of us were the sole judge of his own private and unerring perceptions? Socrates polemically asks: 'How on earth can it be the case that Protagoras is wise, so that he can justly think himself fit to be a teacher of others at high fees, whereas we are more ignorant, and have to go to his lessons, though each of us is himself the measure of his own wisdom?'" It is no coincidence that Plato emphasized that it was God, and not man, who was the measure of all things.

Renaissance Humanism

In the wake of the establishment of the Roman Empire and its adoption of Christianity as an official imperial creed, the significance and jurisdiction of religion, on the whole, took a new turn. A new hope was given. The ultimate victory of heaven and its calling was deemed nigh. All forms of paganism, mythology and falsehood overall were no match for the sweeping spiritual force of Christianity. The global and highly proselytizing character of the new religion was proving exceptionally profitable.

However, just like its distorted counterparts in history, Christianity, too, quickly degenerated into a historical and civilizational liability. As a religious potency, it started to decline and its attractiveness faded away as much in the arena of world religions as in the eyes of its followers. The emergence of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) as the final messenger of Allah to mankind - who restored the altered teachings of Prophet 'Isa (Jesus) and at the same time abrogated them – and the subsequent rapid spread of Islam all over the world, spelled disaster for any future globalized prospect of Christianity.

Consequently, Christianity was assailed more and more from the inside as well as outside. The assaults varied and were ever more ideologized, bearing upon the very essence of the Christian faith. The process culminated in the advent of the Renaissance in the 15th and 16th centuries that marked a transition from the Middle Ages to modernity. It also served as a prelude to the Enlightenment and, by extension, to the modern materialistic civilization whose benchmarks from the very beginning were scientific discoveries, technological innovations and material progress.

Another characteristic of the Renaissance is that it strove to revive the spirit and achievements of the classical Greco-Roman antiquity (from 8th century BC to 6th century AC), elevating them to a whole new level in the light of the exploratory disposition and prevalent discoveries of the day. There was a surge of interest in classical scholarship and values, which was preceded by a long period of cultural decline and stagnation. The interest connoted a reaction to the recurring failures of the political and religious leaderships to lead the way amid the mounting challenges that undermined political and religious legitimacies. The situation was so dire that people were pessimistic about the future.

No answers were forthcoming; therefore, the best way was to look for potential solutions in the past. Thus, "renaissance" means "rebirth", that is to say, the classical era or antiquity was reborn after a long hiatus and was robbed with the mantle of the existing cultural and intellectual tides. The blame was laid mostly at the door of Christianity and its institutions. Among other things, there was the increasing failure of the Roman Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire to provide a stable and unifying framework for the organization of spiritual and material life (Britannica).

The legitimacy and power of the Church and the legitimacy and power of its Bible were shaken and compromised, first by the split of European Christianity and, second, by the uneasy relationship between faith and the fast-emerging empirical science. Certain religious beliefs were likewise proven empirically flawed or, at best, seriously questionable. Christians often found themselves "on the back foot", as they attempted to respond to such alarming developments. Seyyed Hossein Nasr said that predominantly these factors were decisive in the emergence of the Renaissance as a reactive force, which in turn was a main reason why Christianity lost the world to science, and why the Christian view of the order of nature was eclipsed by the scientific worldview during the ensuing Scientific Revolution.

Martin Luther (d. 1546), the seminal figure in the Protestant Reformation, was of those who did not mince his words when it came to criticising the religious state of affairs in Christendom and passing judgments on the blameworthy parties. He, for instance, said about the pope, his bishops and the complete body of clergy, that they were unbelievers and non-Christians. He even called the pope "Antichrist". Martin Luther wrote in his "On War against the Turk": "And if the emperor were to destroy the unbelievers and non-Christians, he would have to begin with the pope, bishops and clergy and perhaps not spare us, or himself; for there is enough horrible idolatry in his own empire to make it unnecessary for him to fight the Turks for this cause".

One of the central concepts of the Renaissance was Greek humanism. This was the case because virtually all failures and negativities were associated, one way or another, with the futile religious thought and the corruption of the complex pyramid of its clergies, whereas all successes and positivities - like those connected with philosophy, science and technology - were associated with the free and inquisitive spirit of man. All hope seemed to be in the hands of free and enlightened man, whereas all forms of despondency, in contrast, seemed to be inextricably linked to the religious sphere. Nobody doubted that the two ranges were moving in opposite directions.

People stood at a crossroads. Some hard choices had to be made, and it was anything but hard to guess correctly what people were made to be inclined to. The competences and prospects of man were acclaimed across all fields at the expense of the waning benedictions of God and His religion. The latter did not have to be discarded altogether, nonetheless, but was spontaneously side-lined and was put in the shade by the rising brilliance of the former.

Admittedly this was the first phase in the evolution of the phenomenon of irreligion or non-religion as the ethos of modernity and its affiliative worldviews. The process eventually gave rise to such sophisticated and extreme systems of thought as atheism, secularism, agnosticism, nihilism and hedonism. Religion became the bane of modern materialistic (irreligious) civilizational existence. The feeling morphed into what could be described as ubiquitous religiophobia, which continued to plague the modern man and his domains up to the present time.

Concluded

FRIDAYSPORTS

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Pique Calls Time on His Illustrious Career

"And now that all that kid's (himself) dreams have come true I want to tell you I have decided that now is the time to bring this journey to its end"

Barcelona defender Gerard Pique announced yesterday that he is to retire from football after his final game at the Nou Camp on Saturday.

The 35-year-old, who came through the ranks at Barcelona and had a four-year spell with Manchester United, made the announcement in a video posted on social media.

Barca will play Almeria in La Liga for Pique's last match.

"I've always said that there would not be any other team after Barca and that's how it will be," he said.

Pique was a youth player with Barca until 2004 when he signed for Manchester United.

He was a fringe player for the Red Devils when they won the Premier League and Champions League in 2007-08, and rejoined the Catalan giants in 2008.

During his time at Barcelona he has played more than 600 games and won 30 trophies, including eight La Liga titles, three Champions League trophies and seven Copa del Rey titles.

This season Barcelona have crashed out of the Champions League and are second in La Liga, one point behind Real Madrid.

Pique retired from international football in 2018 after winning 102 caps for Spain, and claimed the 2012 European Championship and 2010 World Cup.

He added: "Football has given me everything. Barca has given me everything. You, culers (fans), have given me everything.

"And now that all that kid's (himself) dreams have come true I want to tell you I have decided that now is the time to bring this journey to its end."

He also teased he would return to Barca's famous ground, saying: "You know me, sooner or later I will be back. I'll see you at Camp Nou. Long live Barca. Always."



Gerard Pique... calls time on his football career

EUROPA LEAGUE (Results)

Sociedad	0-1	Man Utd
Sherrif	0-1	Omonia
Midtjylland	2-0	S' Graz
Olympiacos	0-2	Nantes
Qarabag	1-1	Freiburg
Monaco	4-1	C' Zvezda
Trabzonspor	1-0	Ferencvaros
Feyenoord	1-0	Lazio
Arsenal	1-0	FC Zurich
Bodo/Glimt	1-2	PSV
D'Kyiv	0-2	Fenerbahce
Rennes	1-1	Larnaca
Betis	3-0	Helsinki
Roma	3-1	Ludogorets
Braga	2-1	Malmo
Gilloise	0-1	U'Berlin

NGF Unveils World Handicap System

Olawale Ajimotokan in Abuja

After several years of trying, Nigeria will for the first time officially unveil the World Handicap System (WHS) that will provide golfers in the country with a unified and more inclusive handicapping system.

The initiative is the outcome of the effort of the President of the Nigeria Golf Federation (NGF) Otunba Olusegun Runsewe and members of board of the federation.

The WHS is developed by the United States Golf Association (USGA) and Royal and Ancient (R&A) in close collaboration with existing handicapping authorities.

It will provide all golfers with a consistent measure of playing ability, with handicaps calculated in the same way whether they are in Nigeria or any part of the world.

The WHS will enable golfers to transport their handicap index globally and compete or play a casual round with players from other regions and clubs on a fair basis.

The 10 golf clubs already rated in Nigeria in preparation for the launch include: IBB International Golf and Country Club, Abuja, Ibadan Golf Club, Ikoyi Club 1938, Abeokuta Golf Club and Kaduna Golf Club.

Others are Rayfield Golf Club, Jos, Ibori Golf Club, Asaba, Lakowe Lakes Golf Club, Lagos, Port Harcourt Club 1928 and Ikeja Golf Club.

Runsewe harped on the key features of WHS to include allowing flexibility in the format of play and allowing both competitive and recreational rounds for handicap purpose.

In addition, he said that the WHS will enable an average based calculation of a handicap taken from the best eight out of the last 20 scores and a calculation that considers the impact that abnormal course and weather conditions might have on a player's performance each day.

Other features include timely handicap revisions, a maximum handicap limits of 37 for men and 46 for ladies that will encourage more golfers to measure and track their performance and a consistent handicap that is portable from course to course and country to country.

Runsewe highlighted the desire of NGF to work for golf and support the growth of the sport in the country as well as the development and management of sustainable golf facilities as the country rates and migrates all golf courses and clubs to WHS.



Otunba Olusegun Runsewe... NGF President

Ghana's Black Stars in Last Minute Rush to Make Impact in Qatar

AHEAD 2022 WORLD CUP

After stopping Nigeria's Super Eagles from qualifying for the 2022 World Cup starting in Qatar in barely 16 days from today, Ghana's Black Stars are plotting to make impact at this Mundial.

The Black Stars ranked at 61st by FIFA, and are the least team amongst the 32 that will line out in Qatar this winter. They are desperate to recreate their 2010 form that almost saw them reach the semi final in South Africa. In Qatar, the Black Stars will face Portugal, South Korea and Uruguay in Group H.

Former international, John Paintsil, is confident that Ghana Head Coach, Otto Addo, who plotted Eagles fall in Abuja, can make the side competitive at the World Cup in Qatar.

Since that famous strike by Arsenal man, Thomas Partey, that gave the Black Stars the lead before William Troost-Ekong cancelled it out but Nigeria still crashed based on the away goal rule, the Ghanaians have only won two out of their last 12 games, including a Group Stage exit from the last AFCON in Cameroon.

Now, to re-gig the team with fresh blood ahead of the tasks in Qatar, Coach Addo has handed debut to four players, including Athletic Bilbao forward Inaki Williams, during September's international break.

According to Paintsil, "My expectation for Ghana is very, very high," Paintsil told BBC Sport Africa.

"Otto Addo and his staff know what they are looking for. The coaches must stand firm and believe in their abilities. Every coach should know his 1st XI at this time. The little time they will have with the boys, they will do their best to blend them and become one team."

Brighton wing-back Tariq Lamptey, Southampton centre-back Mohammed Salisu and Hamburg winger Ransford-Yeboah Konigsdorffer all won their first caps in the friendlies played in the September window.

Paintsil, who amassed 88 caps for Ghana between 2001 and 2013, said the performances in those two matches indicate Addo has work to do.

"Brazil came with a game plan by building up from the back slowly and when they reach the final third, they go with speed. They are a team that are well-prepared," the 41-year-old revealed of the friendly with Brazil that exposed how poor the Ghanaians are in the rear.

Ghana will face Switzerland in a friendly in Abu Dhabi on 17 November, and the West Africans begin their World Cup campaign against Portugal seven days later.

BetKing Launches its World Cup Campaign, Set to Reward Fans

Leadingsports betting and digital entertainment company, BetKing yesterday kicked off its World Cup campaign themed #FeelItBetOnIt, designed to engage and reward BetKing customers during the 2022 FIFA World Cup games.

As part of the campaign, BetKing aims to reward its customers with several prizes worth over N400 million.

This will include an all-expense paid trip for 12 lucky customers & agents, millions in betting credits to customers and thousands of other consolation prizes ranging from TVs, smartphones, generators & BetKing merchandise.

Speaking at the unveiling of the promo in Lagos yesterday, Managing Director, KingMakers, Gossy Ukanwoke, said, "At BetKing, we are deeply committed to celebrating the spirit of football and rewarding our customers.

"The World Cup gives us an opportunity to do just that. We have leveraged all touch points to ensure we provide our customers with an unforgettable experience. Through special odds and features being rolled out, we aim to bring the thrill and excitement of this exceptional global event to football fans nationwide."

At the event, BetKing launched its new TV advert, focused on celebrating passion and expressive moments from the consumer's perspective.

The company also shared its plan for the world, which is heavily centered on bringing the thrill of the World Cup to their customers.

Commenting on the campaign, Chief Operating Officer, Adim Isiakpona, stated: "This is an opportunity for the brand to engage directly with our customers, agents, and stakeholders. From now through to December, we have a series of watch parties and roadshows planned to engage customers and give them a taste of that world cup feeling. we urge our customers to partake in the promotions as it promises to be rewarding."

The #FeelItBetOnIt promo, according to BetKing, is open to both new and existing BetKing customers.

"To qualify, punters are required to place a bet with a minimum of N500 on an accumulator with at least 5 selections at 1.20 odds per selection. BetKing remains committed to shaping the standards for sports entertainment in Africa by providing trusted and quality services to customers."



L-R: Chief Financial Officer, Kingmakers Nigeria, Dapo Olashope; Managing Director, Gossy Ukanwonke; Head of Customer Service, Ijeoma Okeke; and Chief Operating Officer, Adim Isiakpona; at the official launch of BetKing's "Feel It, Bet On It" 2022 FIFA World Cup campaign held in Lagos... yesterday

QATAR 2022 INJURY WATCH LIST

More Players Drop Out of the World Cup

With the 2022 World Cup in Qatar just 16 days to kick off in Doha, fresh Injury worries cropped up after last weekend games. These are additions to those already confirmed to miss the biggest football party in the Middle East this coming winter. Below are those in doubt to recover before November 20 kick off date:



Son Heung-min (left) being attended to by medics shortly after he was injured in Tottenham 's Champions League clash with Olympic Marseille on Tuesday. Now, he is doubtful for South Korea in Qatar



Timo Werner...injured and doubtful for Germany



Ben Chilwell...also another doubt for England's Three Lions



Japan's Yuta Nakayama...Out for rest of the season

S' Korea's Son Joins Growing List of Players to Miss in Qatar

Tottenham Hotspurs forward, Son Heung-min might not play for the Taegeuk Warriors of South Korea at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar following an injury.

Heung-min sustained an injury in a UEFA Champions League game against Olympique Marseille on Tuesday, November 1 at Stade Velodrome in France. Tottenham won the game 2-1.

Heung-min is South Korea's captain and was recently named in the provisional squad for the Qatar 2022 World Cup.

Timo Werner Out of Germany Squad

Germany forward Timo Werner is out of the World Cup in Qatar after suffering an ankle injury that will keep him out until 2023.

The 26-year-old was withdrawn after 19 minutes of RB Leipzig's 4-0 Champions League win over Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday.

The former Chelsea striker, who has returned to form this term, has scored 24 goals in 55 appearances for Germany

Germany's first World Cup match is against Japan on 23 November.

Werner was part of the Germany squad at the 2018 World Cup and Euro 2020.

Ben Chilwell Doubtful for Three Lions

England left-back Ben Chilwell is a doubt for the World Cup after suffering a hamstring injury in Chelsea's Champions League win against Dinamo Zagreb.

The defender, 25, pulled up in stoppage time after clutching the back of his leg.

He was unable to continue and was pictured leaving Stamford Bridge on crutches following the Blues' 2-1 win.

"It doesn't look positive," Chelsea boss Graham Potter said.

"It's a blow for us on an otherwise positive evening I think. It's a blow to see him pull up like that, it's not a great sight.

Japan Defender Nakayama Ruled Out

Huddersfield Town and Japan defender, Yuta Nakayama, will miss the World Cup after being ruled out for the rest of the season with an Achilles injury.

The 25-year-old had been named in his country's 26-man squadfor this month's tournament in Qatar.

However, he had to be stretchered off before half-time in Wednesday's 2-0 home defeat by Sunderland.

"It is a huge blow to lose Yuta for such an extended period," Terriers boss Mark Fotheringham said.

Bayelsa Queens Down TP Mazembe Ladies to Keep Semis Hope Alive

CAF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Nigeria's representatives in this year's CAF women's Champions League, Bayelsa Queens won their first-ever game in the competition with a 2-0 defeat of DR Congo's TP Mazembe in their second match yesterday in Morocco.

Bayelsa Queens lost their Group B opening game 2-1 to defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns before the victory yesterday.

They knew nothing short of outright victories in the remaining two marches could guarantee them passage to the semi finals of the tournament.

First half goals from Ogoma Joseph and Chinyere Igboamalu secured the important win for Bayelsa Queens.

Joseph broke the deadlock in the 3rd minute from the penalty spot before Igboamalu added the second on 24 minutes.

Bayelsa will need to also surmount the challenge posed by Egypt's Wadi Degla on Sunday to be sure of any progress.

Earlier yesterday, Morocco's AS FAR booked a semi-final spot in the Women's African Champions League as two penalties from Fatima Tagnaout gave the hosts a 2-1 comeback win over Green Buffaloes in Rabat.

The Zambians went ahead when Ireen Lungu strode on to Hellen Chanda's pass and drove a powerful shot past Khadija Er-Rmichi after 19 minutes.

Tagnaout levelled from the spot to make it 1-1 on the half hour mark, and Buffaloes conceded another penalty after the break following a poor challenge by Martha Tembo.

Morocco international Tagnaout held her nerve from 12 yards again to complete the turnaround in the 62nd minute, and AS FAR held on for their second win despite having defender Zineb Redouani sent off with 15 minutes remaining.

In Group A match on Wednesday, Tanzanian club Simba Queens recorded their first win with a 2-0 victory over Determine Girls of Liberia.

NPFL Holds Induction for Four Newly Promoted Clubs

The Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) on Wednesday held an induction course for the newly promoted teams for the 2022/2023 league season.

The event which held at the Sandrialia Hotel in Jabi area of Abuja is a seasonal orientation for clubs joining the NPFL to acquaint them with operations of the CAF Club Licensing regulations and had in attendance representatives of the clubs, namely Bayelsa United, Bendel Insurance, Doma and El Kanemi Warriors.

They were put through various sessions of the CAF Club Licensing Regulations by staff of the NPFL Secretariat which began with an opening remarks by the Head of Operations, Prince Davidson Owumi.

He told the club representatives that they are investors in NPFL and must see themselves as co-owners.

"I see you as investors in the league because you are co-owners of the product called Nigerian Professional Football League and there's no better way to identify you.

"As I welcome you to today's history-making event, I encourage you to abide by all the requirements and criteria that the CAF Club Licensing Regulations have to offer.

"The administrative success of a club in the league is determined by the level of adherence and compliance to all the criteria involved in these regulations, whereas, the failure of any club is also dependent on their inability to abide or comply to the criteria thereof", he remarked.

Owumi also told the clubs that, "We all know that our league is at a point where the only thing we need is revival, and all hands must be on deck to ensure that the right things are done; that is the only way we can make progress as one and indivisible body."

Speaking on behalf of the clubs, the Secretary of Bendel Insurance, Ihimekpen Charles, thanked the leadership of the NPFL, stating that: "There is no other route to a successful club administration outside the CAF Club Licensing Regulations.

"We are going back home to ensure that we put all that we have learned here today into practice, so that at the end of the day we will not be found wanting in any area of the regulations, in terms of compliance", he concluded.

Also responding after the session, the Chairman of Doma FC, Suleiman Umar said "as a proprietor, he has become fully tutored on what is needed to run a fully professional football side without fear of the unknown" and added that the CAF Club Licensing Regulations is a complete package for club administration.

"I am happy that this is happening at this time because we are going back to make sure that we put to practice what we got here, in order to make the necessary progress."



THISDAY

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MISSILE

Oshiomhole to FG

"As far as I am concerned, the government is only dealing with fraud in the name of fuel subsidy. So the government needs to eliminate fraud through the removal of fuel subsidies. One thing that people should learn about leadership, is that if the leader lacks the capacity to enforce the ideal objective of government, then such leader will fail in his or her leadership position" *–Former APC Chairman, Adams Oshiomhole, condemned the continuous payment of fuel subsidy by the Federal Government.*

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Gbajabiamila and Parliamentary Diplomacy

If there's one impediment which has, in the last decades since independence, mitigated the deep entrenchment of democratic institutions in Nigeria, it will be the dearth of true, progressive, and purposeful leadership.

While the nation's socio-political terrain has failed to produce many leaders who, in the true sense, can be defined as round pegs in round holes, it's not entirely a drab situation because we can boast of having seen the emergence and beautiful manifestation of certain individuals who have proven themselves to be thoroughbred public officers with the credibility and trajectory that rank them above others in the course of our national discourse.

The current Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR, deserves an honorable mention among those who can be regarded as the finest breeds of public officers that the country has ever produced since independence. He is a gentleman whose personality exudes charisma, dignity and honour. Above all, he is arguably the most colourful Speaker of the post-Awolowo era, endowed with exceptional organizational skills, administrative aptitude, uncommon problem-solving skills, masterful logic, and foresight.

Based on his trajectory, it can be objectively agreed that he is an outstanding national leader who has profoundly shaped and dictated the pendulum of Nigerian politics from the hallowed corner of the Green Chamber. Apart from these numerous aforementioned qualities which endear many to him, Gbajabiamila has successfully used parliamentary diplomacy to build bridges, solidifying them as he continues to advocate the building of strong and functional institutions which would, in the long run, sustain the commonwealth of the people.

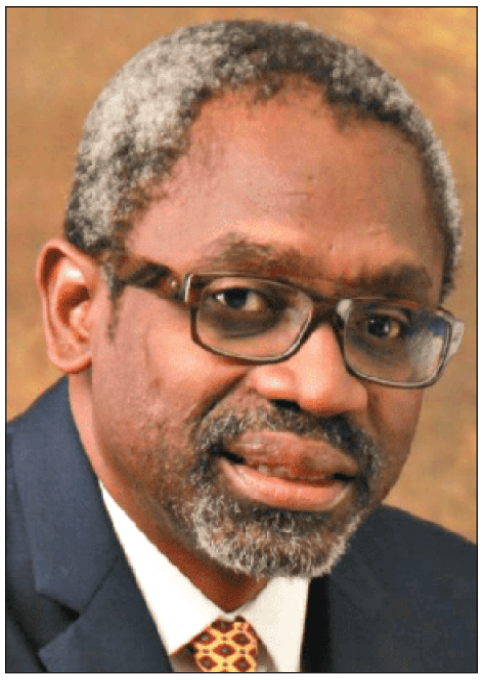
In the last few years, he has created a niche for himself as a peacemaker, a mediator, an arbitrator, and a leader across the Niger, after all it takes a man of capacious versatility to sit as the Speaker of one of the largest Parliaments in the world. This is a job that requires a top human management skill and Gbaja has not fallen short in that regard. His mantra, #NationBuilding, #AJointTask, prior to his election as the Speaker of the 9th Assembly has become an integral part of every step and move he makes. He has walked tall through murky situations unscathed and with lasting results and solutions. On numerous occasions, his timely interventions and diplomatic efforts have made the difference in helping sustain relationships between important sectors, individuals and strengthening the nation's institutions.

While it looked like academic activities may not resume on our campuses even as we round off the year, it took the intervention of the Speaker to give a scent of water to a situation that appears dead. For an uninterrupted eight months, students were made to sit at home but the popular ASUU strike was resolved once Gbaja stepped in. Gbajabiamila took it upon himself to provide the missing piece that eventually solved the puzzle. His ability to bring all warring parties to a roundtable discussion finally brokered a compromise. Does his intervention mean every issue has been resolved? No! We only see a man bold enough to take the bull by the horn to address attendant issues.

His efforts drew the praise of the Nigeria Labour Congress who extol the patriotic efforts of Gbajabiamila in resolving the strike. The NLC president, Ayuba Waba, reportedly wrote, "I must commend him for his significant contributions and important roles so that in the end it will be a win-win thing.

"I commend the wisdom of the Speaker. There is no use in using cohesion or force in solving the problem but through the provision of dialogue that will comfort everybody," he said.

Nigerians will not also forget in a hurry the efforts of Gbajabiamila in resolving the Nigeria-Ghana



Speaker, House of Reps, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila

diplomatic row. Given the closeness of both countries and their shared history, it would be a pathetic situation if both nations were not diplomatically aligned with one another. The consequences would not only affect the economies of both countries, whose people enjoy working together, but would also have a negative impact on other West African countries that look up to both but who will take up this task? Gbajabiamila, in his wisdom, led delegates from Nigeria to Ghana, where he met his Ghanaian counterpart, Mike Oquaye. The intervention of Gbajabiamila was able to resolve the then growing diplomatic spat between both nations over some actions taken by the Ghanaian government against Nigerian traders and the demolition of part of the Nigerian high commission in Ghana.

It should also be recalled that he played a similar role in the crisis with China in the year 2020. During this period, evidence suggested the maltreatment of Nigerians in China, and it was to the relief of Nigerians that they had a figure who they could count on not only to mediate on their behalf but also fight for their cause. Gbajabiamila met with Zhou Pingjian, who is the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria. He advocated that Chinese should refrain from the maltreatment of Nigerians in China. Today, China is a nation known for its economic wits and it would have been counterproductive for Nigeria as a nation to have mismanaged the situation. The nation can boast of numerous infrastructures which were facilitated with loans obtained from China. Gbajabiamila deserves credit for keeping the relationship between the two countries on a diplomatic level when it was very important and difficult to do so.

Not less than 100 Nigerians have been reportedly killed in various xenophobic attacks in South Africa in the past years. It's a barbaric act condemned by all and more sensitive in dealing with. Consistently, Gbajabiamila has thrown himself into every interaction around Nigeria's international affairs. Even as the then majority leader of the House of Representatives in March 2017, he led a delegation of members of the House on a protest visit to South Africa, where he stated that "retaliation is not the first step to diplomacy." This position he reinforced when yet another set of Nigerians were murdered in 2019 where he — now as Speaker of the House— cut short his trip to Tanzania for the 5th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting and also forced the House to abruptly end its recess to address the ugly incidents that saw Nigerians lose their lives and their properties looted. Subsequently, South Africa apologised through its envoy, Jeff Radebe. This was about the last time Nigerians suffered such attack.

Should we also forget the diplomatic efforts of Gbaja that were brought to the fore of our national discourse as he was able to excellently avert a crisis which could have turned into a national embarrassment? The aviation sector crisis had caused significant inconvenience for many, with flight ticket prices skyrocketing and many airlines ceasing operations. Even though crises are yet to be fully resolved, the speaker has continued to bridge the gap between the major stakeholders in the sector, facilitating the constructive process to reach an agreeable consensus. A few days ago, it was reported that he had scheduled a meeting with the Central Bank of Nigeria Governor, Godwin Emefiele, and the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, over the crisis in the aviation sector.

It would be recalled that in the heat of the lockdown imposed by states and the federal government in response to COVID-19, the Gbajabiamila-led House of Representatives initiated a bill that would allow Nigerians to enjoy free electricity supply for a particular period.

The lockdown, as it was anticipated, had grounded global economy and the least the government could do at that stage was to put some forms of alleviation in place, one of which would have been to take off the payment of electricity bills from the people throughout the period of the stay-at-home. How do we forget how the Speaker, in the wake of the threats of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, committed 360 members to donate two-month salaries to the fight of the pandemic?

On numerous occasions, Gbaja has proven his worth as a true elder statesman. Based on his activities, it's quite evident where his priorities lie. Isn't presiding over a house filled with intellectuals, professionals, academics, and technocrats enough task? But Gbaja diligently carries this weight upon his shoulders so tirelessly as even maintaining cordial relationship with his colleagues. With this, he has earned the respect of colleagues and admiration of the people of Nigeria.

Not forgetting his core duty as a Legislator, Gbaja, by the end of his first year as the Speaker, had already sponsored sixteen (16) bills, making him the first Speaker in the current democratic dispensation to sponsor and debate this record number of Bills in one year. He has gone ahead to sponsor so many other bills afterwards.

The Gbajabiamila-led House of Representatives 9th Assembly has sponsored far-reaching bills that are about issues bordering the ordinary Nigeria. The Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA 2020) signed by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2020 is an effort to address national economic challenges and improve the framework of doing business in Nigeria. It is basically a legislative tool to create a more friendly climate for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

After suffering setbacks that lingered for about two decades, through his legislative Diplomacy, Gbajabiamila galvanised necessary support to see that the Petroleum Industrial Bill (PIB) came to reality in this present Assembly. After it enjoyed the accent of the President, the PIA has no doubt, redefined the Nigerian oil and gas landscape through impacting on various aspects of the economy including energy, banking and insurance, among others. This is a sheer display of his knack for achieving set goals away from the usual rhetoric that lacks political will. It was as though if the PIA didn't pass, it never would have.

The Gbajabiamila speakership has seen the creation of enabling environment for startups through tax relief, Seed funding, trainings and capacity building, and regulatory assistance. The aforementioned would be taken care of by the recently signed Start Up Act 2022 that inspired by the understanding of the role of technology in the socio-economic development of Nigeria.

Amidst doubts, opposition, disbelief, pressure and intimidation, the Electoral Act, 2020 has come to stay with the potential of sanitising our political space as well as instilling transparency and accountability in the electoral system. It takes courage, resilience and patriotism to have undertaken such a task as passing the Electoral Act even as a political officer seeking re-election. It was a venture that transcends personal gains and benefits to uphold our national creed of building the Nigeria of our dream.

Today, Nigerians can vote and have assurance that their votes will count. Section 47 and 50 (2) of the Electoral Act empowers the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to electronically transmit election result. Today, voters with physical disabilities, special needs and vulnerable persons can be assisted at the polling unit thereby being part of the leadership selection process, all thanks to the Electoral Act 2020.

Should we forget the Climate Change Act 2021 which is a legal framework that will drive Nigeria towards green recovery and sustainable development and also preserving mother earth?

Should we also forget the Speaker's stance during the protest against brutality, popularly called the #Endars protest? He didn't just add his voice but went as far as insisting on not approving the proposed 2021 budget if adequate provision was not made for the compensation of those who had suffered violence and brutality by the police.

Should we also forget the National Security Summit convened by the House of Representatives in 2021 which deliberated on security issues and articulated recommendations and legislative action? Should we also forget how the current assembly has remained consistent in its promise to commit to the January to December budget circle?

In the midst of his availability when occasions demand in mediating in national interest, he has given the people of Surulere Constituency 1 reasons to adore him more aside being an illustrious son. He's facilitated projects that are ground-breaking and enduring, from infrastructure to education, empowerment to human capital development.

He's blazed the trails where younger generations can thrive bigger and better. He is preparing the next generation for public sector governance through his Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI). It takes a man willing to leave eternal legacy to understand that, "the quality of our decision-making in politics and governance will define the course of our country. Whether we achieve progress, prosperity, peace, and security for all our people depends entirely on the capacity and competence of our political leadership," as submitted by the Speaker at the opening of the programme recently.

While there are numerous instances where Gbajabiamila has risen to the occasion to provide much-needed diplomatic intervention, it is critical that we recognize the honorable contributions of a man who has risen against the odds to redefine patriotism, one who has exhibited exemplary leadership in a society that yearns for more purposeful leadership.

It's the hope of many that the coming generation of change-makers and leaders will learn from the enigma, the icon, and the diplomatic maestro named Femi Gbajabiamila.

•Hon. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo is the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission and member representing Akoko North East/North West Federal Constituency, writes from Abuja

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