

EDITORIAL: States' non-remittance of contributions to PENCOM

Recent reports indicate that 25 states of the federation are yet to remit the pension contributions of their respective workers under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS). Sadly, most of them are now battling to pay a backlog of pension arrears

amounting to four hundred billion naira (N400 billion). The reports also reveal that while seventeen (17) of the affected states have enacted the pension law in their respective domains, eight have proposed pension laws which are going through the

legislative process.

However, findings reveal that due to the inability to contribute both the employees' and employers' remittances into the Retirement Savings Accounts (RSAs) of workers, the 25 states are now in dire need of

over N400 billion to offset all pension arrears as each of them owes N16 billion in arrears. The most offensive aspect of the situation is the revelation that some states already owe workers' pension arrears of between 1 to 13 years.

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'Nigeria can shorten her worst recession in 33 yrs'

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Aerial view of ongoing construction of bridges on Bodo-Bonny Road at Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State at the weekend.

Photo: NAN.

STRIKE

Strike, protests loom as Labour walks out of FG meeting over fuel, electricity

Organized Labour under the auspices of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) yesterday walked out of a meeting with Federal Government on the increment of the petroleum pump price and hike in electricity tariff. They accused the government team of lack of sincerity of purpose.

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PROTEST

Amaechi says it's legitimate to protest, illegitimate to destroy property

Minister of Transportation Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi has said that it was legitimate to protest but illegitimate to destroy government properties during a protest.

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ASUU

ASUU spearheads banning children of office holders from studying overseas

Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) on Sunday advocated that public office holders in the country should be banned from sending their children/wards to study in tertiary institutions abroad.

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‘Nigeria can shorten her worst recession in 33 yrs’

- You have failed, hands off economy, PDP tells Buhari
- Atiku says 2031 budget not tenable
- ‘Early economic recovery programs will avert impact’
- ‘FG must incentivize SMEs, reopen land border’
- We should be out of it soon, analyst predicts

TUNDE SHORUNKE, LAGOS & TUNDE OPALANA, ABUJA

Following the announcement by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) that Nigeria has slipped into its worst recession since 1987, industry experts have outlined how the country can easily cut short the latest economic downturn.

The NBS latest figure has shown that the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in real terms contracted by 3.62 per cent (year-on-year) in the third quarter of 2020.

Analysts who spoke with The Daily Times believed that if the federal government can come up with the best of economic policies and programmes to navigate the economy, Nigeria may be out of recession in no time.

The recession which was seen as negative impacts of the pandemic is expected to abate soon as news of vaccines is becoming true, also, economic activities are picking up and oil prices are improving in the global market.

It is, however, worthy of note that the last time Nigeria recorded such cumulative GDP was 33 years ago when GDP declined by 10.8 per cent.

According to the World Bank and NBS figures analysed by The Daily Times, this is the second recession under President Muhammadu Buhari's democratic reign and his fourth as head of state.

Although, 1983 recession not directly attributed to him, since he took power on the last day of the year, while the 2016 economic recession was as a result of a massive decline in oil prices, and poor management of the currency crisis.

Responding to an inquiry posted by our correspondent, a Financial Engineer and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Wyoming Capital & Partners, Tajudeen Olayinka explained that government cannot avert a recession that is already here with us. But can work hard, by coming up with best of economic policies and programs, to navigate the economy out of recession.

According to him, when something is expected, it shouldn't be a shock to you anymore or throw you off-balance when it finally arrives. Because the recession was expected, the recession has come, and it came from an unusual source, which is known to have largely affected the global economy unevenly. So, there's no need for noise-making or condemnation of the government.

“The only problem I have with the Nigerian government is their nonchalant attitude in implementing some of the economic recovery programs they are currently running, which could have averted recession if they had commenced implementation early enough in July 2020.

“Nigeria had the latitude to avert a looming recession in July. Regrettably, they commenced implementation in mid-September when it was already too late. All the same, the magnitude might reduce in the 4th quarter of 2020; that is if it becomes a U-shaped recession.”

Speaking further, he noted, “Globally, stock markets are seen to be the barometers of the economy, and so, the Nigerian stock market had factored impact of the recession on stock prices and market indices, even before the arrival of recession; the same way it is happening all over the world. The fact that the Nigerian stock market is still largely undervalued, attests to the fact that we should be out of recession soon.

“You can also, see what to expect from the results announced by public companies in their third-quarter accounts. Those were comparatively excellent results, because of the unusual operating environment they had to navigate in the course of the global pandemic

and total lockdown. We should be out of recession soon,” he added.

Also, in an exclusive interaction with the Head, Investment Research & Business Development, PAC Holdings, Moses Ojo, pointed out that the recession is not expected to last long with the news of the availability of vaccines are becoming true, adding that the federal government should ensure incentives to Small Medium Enterprises and reopening of the land border.

“Firstly, we need to understand that the current recession was due to the pandemic. Therefore, it is not expected to last long; with the news of the availability of vaccines are becoming true. The negative impacts of the pandemic including economic recession are expected to abate. As economic activities are picking up and oil prices are improving in the global market, the recession will also abate.

“The policymakers are expected to embark on expansionary fiscal policies through infrastructural spending in order to pull the economy out of recession on time.

“Moreover, there's a need to provide incentives to SMEs to reduce the impacts of the recession on the small businesses which may include the opening of the land border,” he added.

Meanwhile, in an open letter to President Muhammadu Buhari, the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has asked the President to put the country's resources at the service of human rights and to support the less well-off to enjoy an adequate standing of living through cutting the cost of governance and implementing bold transparency and accountability measures in your government's response to Nigeria's second recession in five years.

In the letter dated 21 November 2020 and signed by SERAP deputy director Kolawole Oluwadare, the organization said: “This economic crisis provides an opportunity to prioritise access of poor and vulnerable Nigerians to basic socio-economic rights, and to genuinely recommit to the fight against corruption. The country cannot afford to get back to business as usual.”

“As the National Bureau of Statistics stated, the country's GDP recorded negative growth of 3.62 per cent in the third quarter of 2020. The country had earlier recorded a 6.10 per cent contraction in the second quarter.”

“SERAP, therefore, urges you to prioritise citizens' socio-economic rights and undertake comprehensive reform to stem grand corruption including in MDAs, hold corrupt electricity contractors to hold, fully recover all stolen public funds, and life pensions collected by former governors and their deputies, and ensure transparent and accountable spending of any recovered public funds on projects that will directly benefit poor and vulnerable Nigerians.”

Meanwhile, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has asked President Muhammadu Buhari and the All Progressives Congress (APC) to accept their failure and allow competent, transparent and honest hands to effectively manage the economy, as that is the only way to save the nation from an imminent economic collapse.

The PDP asserted that the report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) that the economy has plunged into another recession under the APC confirms its stand that the Buhari Presidency and the APC lack the competence and integrity to run a national economy.

The party said the report shows that the Buhari administration and the APC “have been lying to Nigerians with false performance claims when they know that they have, in a space of five years, wrecked and plundered our economy,



Buhari

which was rated as one of the fastest growing economies of the world, when they took over from the PDP.

“Indeed, President Buhari will be the first President, in our history, to score a hat-trick, in plunging his nation into economic recession, both as military and civilian leader.

“The economic recession we face today is a fallout of President Buhari and APC's restrictive, vindictive and anti-trade policies, bizarre foreign exchange controls and monetary policies that impede growth, an over-bloated public sector that encourages waste and incurable corruption, reckless treasury looting and failure to decisively deal with the escalated insecurity, which has destroyed economic activities in most parts of our country.

“While the Buhari Presidency pretends to be running a free market economy, it is in reality, running a corrupt exclusionist market economy tailored to service the interest of a selfish few while frustrating millions of hard working Nigerians with restrictive policies, lack of access to incentives and support as well as high taxes and levies.

“This has crippled domestic production and competitiveness, eroded investors' confidence and occasioned a dearth in foreign direct investment, leading to the economic contraction we have continued to witness under Buhari's watch.”

The PDP asked President Buhari to end the corruption and divisive tendencies of his administration and allow a free market economy so that more Nigerians will actively participate in the economic space to boost our productive sectors and bring our economy back to its feet.

Party's National Publicity Secretary, Kola Ologbonidiyan in a statement Sunday said “presently, over 60 million hard working Nigerians have been rendered redundant by the harsh economic policies, including cumbersome protocols and high taxes foisted by the APC administration.

“The failure by the Buhari administration to heed to demands by Nigerians to rejig our security architecture has also worsened the level of insecurity in many parts of our country leading to the closure of millions of businesses, with over 30 million of our farmers abandoning their farmlands, while commercial activities on our trade corridors have been destroyed.

“Besides, our party had cautioned against the increase in fuel price, which has impacted negatively on the disposable incomes of Nigerians. We however insist that poor management and not the high cost of crude oil in the international market is responsible for high costs of domestic price of fuel.

“This is because, in its laziness, the Buhari administration failed to put structures in

place to boost domestic competitiveness for favourable market forces-induced pricing before the so called deregulation of the oil sector.

“Also, we note the negative impact of the closure of our borders by the Buhari administration, without encouraging local production, just to create an impression of food sufficiency, when it knows that it has not achieved any improvement in food production.

“If the Buhari Presidency had listened to wise counsel by well-meaning Nigerians, including our party, to end its corruption, lift its restrictive policies, reduce taxes and state imposed prices, and get more competent hands to tackle insecurity, our nation would not be in this dire strait.

“Moreover, if the over N14 trillion oil money as well as the billions of naira stolen in the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and other MDAs by APC leaders are recovered and injected into our economy, our nation would not be in such bad shape.”

The party asked Nigerians to hold the Buhari Presidency and the APC responsible for the hardship they suffer today.

Also, former vice president, Atiku Abubakar has raised the alarm that the Federal Government may be unable to implement the 2021 budget which he described as untenable.

He emphatically said the country is broke and needs critical leadership to guide her back to the path of economic sustainability.

The presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2019 general election regretted that Nigeria slide into a second recession in five years but insisted that the situation could have been averted should the government acceded to economic advises.

Atiku in a personal statement on Sunday blamed the Nigerian government for failing to cut the cost of governance, saving for a rainy day, and avoiding profligate borrowing.

He also said “the COVID19 pandemic has exacerbated an already bad situation, however, we could have avoided this fate by a disciplined and prudent management of our economy”.

To revamp the economy, he charge government to act now, by taking necessary, and perhaps painful actions.

Proffering solutions, he said “for a start, the proposed 2021 budget presented to the National Assembly on Tuesday, October 8, 2020, is no longer tenable. Nigeria neither has the resources, or the need to implement such a luxury heavy budget.

“The nation is broke, but not broken. However, if we continue to spend lavishly, even when we do not earn commensurately, we would go from being a broke nation, to being a broken nation.

“As a matter of importance and urgency, every non essential line item in the proposed 2021 budget must be expunged. For the avoidance of doubt, this ought to include estacodes, non emergency travel, feeding, welfare packages, overseas training, new vehicle purchases, office upgrades, non salary allowances, etc.

“Until our economic prospects improve, Nigeria ought to exclusively focus on making budgetary proposals for essential items, which include reasonable wages and salaries, infrastructural projects, and social services (citizenry's health, and other human development investments).

“Additionally, we have to stimulate the economy, by investing in human development, and increasing the purchasing power of the most vulnerable of our population. Only a well developed populace can generate enough economic activity for the nation to exit this recession.

“We must invest in those most likely to be impacted by the effects of the recession, the poorest of the poor. As well as stimulating the economy, this also ensures that they do not slip further into extreme poverty.

“For example, a stimulus package, in the form of monthly cash transfers of 5000 to be made to every bank account holder, verified by a Bank Verification Number, whose combined total deposit in the year 2019 was lower than the annual minimum wage.

“Now, how will this be funded? By more profligate borrowing? No. I propose a luxury tax on goods and services that are exclusively accessible only to the super-wealthy. A tax on the ultra wealthy to protect the extremely poor.

“A practical approach to this is to place a 15% tax on all Business and First Class tickets sold to and from Nigeria, on all luxury car imports and sales, on all private jets imports and service charges, on all jewellery imports and sales, on all designer products imported, produced or sold in Nigeria, and on all other luxury goods either manufactured, or imported into Nigeria, with the exception of goods made for export. The proceeds of this tax should be exclusively dedicated to a Poverty Eradication Fund, which must be managed in the same manner as the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, or the Ecological Fund”.

Atiku further proposed that a one percent poverty alleviation tax to be legislated by the National Assembly on the profits of every International Oil Company operating in Nigeria, and international airlines doing business in Nigeria, which should also go towards the proposed Poverty Eradication Fund.

He argued that it is inhumane for us as a nation to increase the cost of goods and services that affect the poor, while keeping the cost of luxuries fairly stable. We must flip this, and flip it immediately.

The politician cautioned government to stop borrowing for anything other than essential needs, stressing that borrowing to pay salaries, or to engage in White Elephant projects, is not an essential need.

He said “this is particularly important as we need cash at hand, because the world and our economic and development partners are also focused on helping their home economies overcome the effects of COVID19. We must be our own saviours.

“The more we borrow, the more we will need cash to make interest and principal payments, and the less cash we will have to make necessary investments in our economy and our people. If we keep borrowing, we stand the risk of defaulting, and that will make recession a child's play, because we will lose some of our sovereignty.

Atiku urged the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari “to swallow its pride, and accept its limitations, so that they can open their minds to ideas, without caring who the messengers”.

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OUR POSITION

States yet to remit contributions to PENCOM

Continued from page 1

To address and eliminate the problems associated with such schemes in the country, the federal government enacted into law the Pension Reform Act No 2 of 2004. Under the Act (Contributory Pension Scheme), an employee compulsorily pays a fraction of his/her monthly salary into the scheme. On 1st July 2014, then President Goodluck Jonathan signed into law, the new Pension Reform Act 2014. It repealed the Pension Reform Act of 2004 and clearly states that any interests, profits, dividends, investments, and other income accruable to pension funds or assets are not taxable.

However, checks have revealed that the Pension Reforms Act (PRA) 2014, which originally applied to any employee in public service of the federation, Federal Capital Territory, states, local governments and the private sector when it was in the bill stage, was tampered with. Before being passed into law, state governors mobilised representatives of their states in both chambers of the National Assembly to remove employees of states and local governments from the bill before it was passed into law.

The above makes it difficult for the affected states to be charged for contravening the PRA 2014, which requires that employees should remit eight per cent of their monthly salaries as monthly pension contributions. Their employers were expected to add 10 per cent, thereby making 18 per cent joint monthly pension contributions that are expected to be remitted into the Retirement Savings Account (RSA) of the workers, not later than a week after their salaries have been paid. The non-remittance of workers' pension contributory deductions is worrisome as the future plans of workers are being subjected to uncertainty by some employers. This undoubtedly is impacting negatively on the growth of the employees' RSAs.

We call on the employers including states that have withdrawn the employees' contribution from their respective salaries, and have failed

to remit the same into their RSAs, thereby shortchanging the workers, to promptly do so. Failure to do these contradicts the provisions of the PRA 2014 which state in Section 11 subsection 3(b) that "the employer shall not later than seven working days from the day the employee is paid his salary remit an amount comprising the employee's contribution under paragraph (a) of this subsection and the employer's contribution to the Pension Fund Custodian specified by the Pension Fund Administrator of the employee."

We urge the states that are yet to join the CPS to speed up the process of domesticating the PRA 2014 in their respective state laws for easy transition to the new scheme. We call on the Centre for Pension Right Advocacy (CPRA) and the unions in the public sector to rise to the plight of the workers by compelling the defaulting state governments to remit the monthly pension contributions of their employees promptly as non-remittance of pension funds is a crime against the rights and privileges of Nigerian labourers in all sectors.

We urge the federal government to emulate other countries like South Africa and Ghana where workers' pensions and gratuity are paid promptly within 15 days after retirement from service. This is unlike what obtains in Nigeria where retirees must wait for more than twelve months to access part of their pension.

We call on the National Assembly to amend the National Pension Act to allow retirees to access up to 80 per cent of their savings after retirement. The National Assembly Committee on Pension should be alive to its responsibilities in oversight functions to states in making sure that workers deductions are promptly paid to CPS.

Finally, we urge the Federal Government to know that it is criminal to borrow money from workers' pension scheme without making efforts to repay the loan. It puts the future of retirees in jeopardy.

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Cartoons from our Archives



Pictures from our Archives



The General Manager of the Ondo Water Corporation Mr I.O. Alabi (4th from left) discussing with Hon. Smart Omodunbi (2nd from left) of the Ondo State House of Assembly. (April 1980)

Words on Marble



C. S. LEWIS
You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.



AMBY BURFOOT
Running has taught me, perhaps more than anything else, that there's no reason to fear starting lines...or other new beginnings.



RALPH WALDO EMERSON
For every minute you are angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness.

Matawalle secures release of 11 kidnap victims

■■■ A total of 11 kidnap victims were on Saturday night rescued from their abductors by officials of the Zamfara State government, a statement issued by Jamilu Iliyasu, the Press Secretary to Governor Bello Matawalle, has said.

Iliyasu said the unconditional release of the victims, who hail from Bukkuyum local government area of the state, followed the 'carrot and stick' approach initiated by Matawalle.

'Carrot and stick' is a metaphor for the use of a combination of reward and punishment to induce a desired behavior.

Iliyasu explained that government officials started negotiations with the bandits immediately after they received distress calls that the victims had been abducted.

He quoted the governor

as saying the peace accord remained the most viable approach to banditry in the state because peace was gradually being restored while kidnap victims were released without any form of ransom or conditions.

The governor who appealed to unrepentant bandits in the state to surrender their weapons and be good citizens, however, warned those who refuse to embrace peace would face the full wrath of the law if they are caught.

While presenting the kidnap victims to the governor, the state Commissioner for Security and Home Affairs, Alhaji Abubakar Dauran, reiterated that many of the bandits are now repenting from their criminal ways and accepting the peace and reconciliation accord introduced by the governor.

Dauran assured that his



Matawalle

ministry will continue to partner with security agents to bring lasting peace to the state.

He said the victims will undergo medical checks at the state government's facility after

which they will be reunited with their loved ones.

The kidnap victims, 10 males and one female, thanked the governor for facilitating their freedom.

Amaechi says it's legitimate to protest, illegitimate to destroy property

■■■ Minister of Transportation Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi has said that it was legitimate to protest but illegitimate to destroy government properties during a protest.

Amaechi in a statement on Sunday said that those who took advantage of the #EndSARS protest to vandalise and loot government property should be made to face the full wrath of the law.

He stated this during an assessment tour of the NPA headquarters Lagos, to ascertain the level of damage caused by the protesters.

He said that it was not out of place to embark on a peaceful

protest, but protesters ought to have been guided by the laws of the land during the protest.

"This is completely disastrous. It is not enough to vent your anger about police brutality in this manner. How does damaging government property concern the police?"

"Whether you like it or not this will be refurbished or rebuilt with government funds.

"That means the funds also belong to those who have set this place ablaze. In governance, those who commit crime should be held liable and appropriate punishment meted out on them.

"I was a student from 1983 to 1987, and if you look at Nigeria's history, you would know that, that was a period when the Nigerian students were always out on the streets, we never burnt down anything.

"The rights to protest is defined in the laws of Nigeria, it doesn't include burning people's houses or places, it doesn't include blocking major highways or minor roads.

"The law said you should protest by the side of the road, it didn't say you should protest and block the roads because there are other road users.

"I may not like police brutality and I didn't protest, it is legitimate

to protest but it is illegitimate to take other people's rights, the rights to protest is defined in the constitution but it does not include burning people's houses and government properties.

"I still have my right to be able to drive in and out. So, if we don't punish those who caused these damages others may do it again," he said.

Amaechi said decisions had already been taken for the management of the NPA to proceed to the Federal Executive Council to ask for reconstruction of the building depending on the integrity.

TUC threatens strike over fuel, electricity tariff hike

■■■ The Trade Union Congress (TUC) is warming up to embark on a strike over the recent increase in electricity tariff and petrol pump price hike by the Federal Government.

Enugu State TUC Chairman, Igbokwe Chukwuma Igbokwe, who dropped this hint while speaking with newsmen at the weekend, said labour was following due process before they will eventually arrive at a strike action.

"We are not keeping quiet because you know labour provides leadership. In this kind of struggle, labour cannot keep quiet. We follow some processes before it can now translate to strike because the strike is not an easy thing.

"Before we go on strike, there are things we need to put into

consideration before a strike takes place," he said.

Igbokwe who corrected the wrong impression in some quarters that the organised labour may have compromised over the increases said labour was taking their time, pointing out that a strike was suspended before now over the increases but was not cancelled.

He said labour reached some agreements with the government on the issue of deregulation and the increase in tariff as well as asked the government to do something about the exchange rate of the dollar and other things needed to check the increases in pump price and tariff but wondered whether the government paid heed to their recommendations.

"There was a joint meeting with labour and the government and some recommendations were made but we are surprised that the tariff has jumped back to the suspended tariff and just last week, we are seeing a slight increase in petrol pump price. This is an increase too many," he said.

The TUC boss said their national executive will meet in December in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State to look into the issues and get to a resolution.

He said Nigerians are crying over the situation, noting that Nigerian workers are bearing the brunt and for this reason, labour will have no option other than to engage the government for a resolution after which if it fails, the suspended strike would

resume.

"I want you to know that the strike action was suspended but not cancelled. That is the position." Igbokwe lamented that the increases were coming barely weeks after the #EndSARS protests and the attendant mayhem which governments are yet to recover from.

"It is unfortunate that the government is sneaking in this type of thing at this point when the government should be sympathising with the masses and creating palliatives on how to address all the openings created by these developments. We are surprised that this type of thing is coming now that we are approaching the festive periods," he lamented.

Equities market down by 2.57% in one week

MOTOLANI OSENI

The equities market of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) at the close of trading activities for the week was down by 2.57 per cent.

For instance, the All-Share Index settled below the 35,000 psychological marks breached in the prior week, closing at 34,136.82 basis points, 2.57 per cent week-on-week (wow) from 35,037.46 basis points it opened for trading.

Activity level was mixed, as volume grew strongly by 153.8 per cent w/w while the value declined 38.7 per cent w/w.

The equities market Month-Till-Date (MtD) return moderated to 27.2 per cent while the Year-till-Date (YTD) return for index declined to 27.2 per cent. Performance across sectors was all broadly negative.

Save for the Insurance (+0.5 per cent) index that closed marginally positive, the Banking (-6.0 per cent), Oil and Gas (-4.4 per cent), Consumer Goods (-4.3 per cent), and Industrial (-0.7 per cent) indices closed in the red.

The NSE weekly market report stated that "A total turnover of 11.400 billion shares worth N35.892 billion in 39,265 deals were traded this week by investors on the floor of the Exchange, in contrast to a total of 4.509 billion shares valued at N58.733 billion that exchanged hands last week in 47,140 deals.

"The Construction/Real Estate industry (measured by volume) led the activity chart with 8.529 billion shares valued at N6.055 billion traded in 438 deals; thus contributing 74.82 per cent and 16.87 per cent to the total equity turnover volume and value respectively.

"The Financial Services Industry followed with 1.991 billion shares worth N19.933 billion in 21,725 deals.

"The third place was the Conglomerates Industry, with a turnover of 423.702 million shares worth N526.698 million in 1,962 deals.

Trading in the top three equities namely UAC- Property Development Company Plc, Transnational Corporation of Nigeria Plc and Jaiz Bank Plc (measured by volume) accounted for 9.259 billion shares worth N6.639 billion in 1,958 deals, contributing 81.22 per cent and 18.50 per cent to the total equity turnover volume and value respectively."

The report stated that a total volume of 27,920 units of 1.759% FGS NOV 2022 and 295,632 units of 2.759% FGS NOV 2023 were admitted to trading at The Nigerian Stock Exchange on Thursday 19th November 2020.

"In the short to medium term, we still see scope for expansion in valuation multiples as the depressed yield environment remain compelling for yield-seeking investors to rebalance their portfolio towards equities.

"In the week ahead, we expect a mixed market performance due to continued profit-taking activities and positioning by early birds in dividend-paying stocks ahead of FY 2020 dividend declarations.

"We reiterate the need for positioning in only fundamentally sound stocks as the weak macro environment remains a significant headwind for corporate earnings," Cordros Research analysts added.

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ASUU spearheads banning children of office holders from studying overseas

■■■ Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) on Sunday advocated that public office holders in the country should be banned from sending their children/wards to study in tertiary institutions abroad.

According to the union “such policy would reduce the decadence in the nation’s education sector.”

This was contained in a statement by the Akure zone of the union which was signed by the zonal coordinator, Prof. Olu Olu Olufayo and the FUTA ASUU branch Chairman, Dr. Olayinka Awopetu.

They said such policy would also help to rebuild the nation’s educational and health sectors. Apart from this, the union also called on the Federal Government to compel members of the ruling class and their dependants from seeking medical intervention outside Nigeria.

The statement said that “members of the ruling class and their cohorts have their wards schooling abroad, so they have no commitment to end ASUU strike since political office has become occupational rather than public service.

“Until we domesticate two very important practices as laws in Nigeria, we may not get out of this doldrums -first, an Act to compel all public office holders and government appointees to have their wards educated in Nigeria public schools from primary to tertiary level.

“Second, an Act to compel and prohibit all political office holders, their appointees and dependents

from seeking medical intervention outside the country.

“When these two laws are enacted, perhaps we will gradually see the end of needless ASUU strikes in the Country.

“Until such a time when government does the needful (our ivory towers properly funded, our withheld emoluments paid amongst other issues), the struggle continues.

“For the patriotic and hardworking Nigerian who desires a future for his/her children as well as building and developing this nation, it becomes imperative that you all call out the government to attend to issues apolitically and objectively to get the system running efficiently and effectively.”

ASUU explained that the union has been on strike for the past eight months over issues which has been ignored by successive governments in the country, saying the deplorable situation of the nation’s universities have grown from bad to worse since then.

“Lecture rooms are overcrowded and dilapidated, students hostels deplorable, departments are starved of operational requirements, physical structures are insufficient and no vote for capital projects.

“Of a fact, the trajectory of the public universities is negatively skewed and for those who understand, this is ominous. For the past three decades, the University system has suffered (and still suffering) brain drain arising from

poor infrastructural, capital and human resource development.

“We have lost a lot of good brains to more organized and purposeful countries over pittance paid to the academia in Nigeria as well as poor funding of research and patronage of research in our universities that serve as solution centres globally.

“Developed countries (as so labeled) achieved this status through research output from their ivory towers, which is why till date, University education and funding is not toyed with or mocked as we have in our dear country Nigeria.

“The only voice that has consistently risen against this onslaught overtime is ASUU and we shall continue to resist the intentional decimation of university education in Nigeria.

“Having laid this foundation, it is shameful, irresponsible, callous, demeaning and conceiting of our leaders to sway the public away from the truth about the very reasons ASUU is on strike,” ASUU said.

The union said rather than attending to the rot in the schools, policy makers were busy feeding Nigerians with lies and advising academics to take to farming, adding that “we have read with dismay, watched with exasperation as appointed ministers and technocrats feed the populace with lies.”

The union said that the scenario has become comical as three leading government representatives gave three different updated versions to the public.

Strike, protests loom as Labour walks out of FG meeting over fuel, electricity

Insists on reverting to old prices

■ UKPONO UKPONG, ABUJA

Organized Labour under the auspices of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) yesterday walked out of a meeting with Federal Government on the increment of the petroleum pump price and hike in electricity tariff. They accused the government team of lack of sincerity of purpose.

Addressing Journalists after the walk out, the organised labour leaders maintained that government must revert to the old price of petrol at the inception of the meeting before dialogue can continue.

The meeting got abrupt end when the Deputy President of NLC, Comrade Joe Ajaero, insisted on the reversal of the new increment to the old price template at the last meeting before any deliberations could continue, but the Minister of Labour and Employment, Sen. Chris Ngige, said it was part of the agenda.

The Minister maintained that no one should decide for him on how to handle the meeting as he was in charge, the statement which according to sources, infuriated the labour leaders to stage the walk out.

Despite efforts by the government team led by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Boss Mustapha and the Minister of Labour and Employment, Senator Chris Ngige,

they could not persuade the labour leaders to listen to their presentation as they had already taken a stand on the matter.

The General Secretary, Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Comrade Emma Ugbaja said, “We have had some understanding over time, but while these meetings were ongoing, we were suddenly slapped with a new increase in petroleum prices and we felt that was beyond what we had as an understanding with the government.

“And we felt that should be the first item for understanding today. But surprisingly the government team felt otherwise, they felt the issue of imaginary palliatives should be discussed before what is causing the need for the palliatives should be discussed.

“And we felt that was putting the cart before the horse. We want to address the issue on petroleum pricing before we begin to think whether there is need for palliatives or not and on that strength we felt we cannot continue with a meeting whose agenda is wrongly prioritized.

“When the Government is willing to take it the way it is, we are ever ready to engage and to have things properly determined.”

Asked on what would be the next step, he said, “We have to go back to our organs to agree on the way forward, because we have leadership, we are known and clearly with that position we have to tell our members what the situation is.”

On his part, the Trade Union Congress (TUC) President, Comrade Quadri Olaleye blaim the government for lack of sincerity and keeping to agreements, adding that the labour leaders can no longer walk freely on the roads for fear of attack as workers now accuse them of betrayal.

“Gentlemen of the press, like I mentioned at the beginning of the meeting that today’s meeting is not going to be as usual while because we have seen the insincerity of government and it is putting us at risk.

“They are taking us for a ride which cannot continue. We are on the process of discussion for over three months now and they made an announcement increasing the fuel price again and no other person than the NNPC.

“When has the authority been given to NNPC to increase the price of pms, this is unacceptable, the meeting agenda is not well prioritized and because of that we are leaving the meeting, we cant continue, we will go back to our organ and we are going to get back to you on the next of action. We can’t continue with their insincerity.”

Meanwhile, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Senator Ngige, while trying to play down on the issue, told journalists that the labour leaders went to consult with their organs.

PHOTO TIMES



Delta State Governor, Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa (right); Chairman, Ughelli North Local Government Area, Mr. Godwin Adode; his wife, Evenly, during the 10th year Consecration Anniversary and Presentation Thanksgiving of Most Rev’d Cyril Oduemu as Archbishop of Bendel Province and Bishop of Ughelli Diocese of the Anglican Communion, held at All Saint’s Cathedral, Ughelli.



Minister of Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (left); and Ogun State Governor Dapo Abiodun, during a Town Hall Meeting at Ogere end of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.



Rivers State Governor Nyesom Wike (middle) with others, during an inspection visit to Okoro-Nu-Odu Flyover.



Bayelsa State Governor Duoye Diri at the 2020 Annual Adult Harvest and Thanksgiving Service of St. Peter’s Anglican Church in his community, Sampou in Kolokuma/Opokuma local government area.

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Commission set to resolve Benue-Taraba boundary crisis in 2021

■ ■ ■ The National Boundary Commission (NBC) says it is set to resolve the crisis in grey areas of boundary demarcation between Benue and Taraba States in early 2021, and called for peaceful coexistence among the residents in the border community.

Director of Interstate Boundaries in the commission, Dr. Richard Oji, made the call on Sunday in Abuja.

Oji said the commission had done so much over the years in the demarcation of the boundary between the two states.

“But, there have been a lacuna in the process which had to do with the peoples’ perception on demarcation and disagreement between the two states.

“The legal document or instruments we used, particularly the 1923 and 1924 agreements on the boundary have equally affected the efforts of the commission.

“Also, various states creation, from North East to Gongola, Adamawa and Taraba; also from the former Benue-Plateau to Benue and other states that have been carved out have affected the

efforts of the boundary commission.

“These have equally affected the principal understanding of state creation as some feel it is to increase their territory, but boundaries are for administrative purpose and convenience.

“However, in spite of our efforts the basic disagreement with ethnic pursuits have equally affected these areas, particularly Jukuns and the Tivs; one group fall into the other state and they don’t want it and vice versa

“The issue is that each of the group wanted to be joined with their kits and kin across the boundary, but boundaries are not supposed to be so.

“We have tried as much as possible to educate the people. The state governments have also actively participated in all our efforts towards encouraging peace among their common boundaries,” Oji said.

He asserted that the NBC had traversed the boundary corridors of Benue and Taraba States preaching peace alongside the deputy governors of the two states.

“In spite of these, there had been

skirmishes by people from both states that led to the destruction of works done on the borders. We have gone ahead to monument those boundaries,” he regretted.

According to him, they refused to allow the contractors that were awarded the contract to monument the borders from doing their work, stressing that this had culminated to the wastage of funds from both federal and state governments.

“We appeal to the states and people to sheathe their swords; NBC will demarcate the boundaries; the COVID-19 lock down affected our plans to commence work in the middle of 2020

“However, we are planning to resuscitate the action in the early part of 2021. After that, we will move into those agreements areas that the states have agreed to ensure that we monument those ones fully.

“Those other disagreement areas, we will come back to them with the hope of resolving all the issues to ensure that the demarcation is completed without any issue,” Oji said.



Managing Director, Buhler Nigeria, Manuel Murrenhoff (left); Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya; Senior Partner, FAO Consulting International, Engr. Ademola Amure and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Olayiwole Onasanya, during an Inspection visit to the Imota Rice Mill in Lagos.

FG slashes import duty on vehicles from 35% to 5%

PHILIP CLEMENT, ABUJA

The Federal Government has announced plans to slash levies on imported cars from 35 per cent to five per cent.

The announcement is contained in the draft bill of the 2020 Finance Bill to be presented to the National Assembly.

The slash will however, become effective if the bill becomes law with its passage by the National Assembly and given presidential assent.

Details of the bill as shared by the Presidency also show that the import duty on tractors and motor vehicles for

the transportation of goods has also been slashed from 35 per cent to 10 per cent.

Furthermore, the bill also grants tax relief to companies that donated to the COVID-19 relief fund under the private sector-led Coalition against COVID-19 (CACOVID).

To strengthen the ease of doing business in the country, the bill also proposes that software acquisition now qualifies as capital expenditure.

Minister of Finance, Budget, and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, before now had stated that the reduction in import duties and levies is targeted at reducing the cost of transportation.

“The reason for us is to reduce the cost

of transportation which is a major driver of inflation, especially food production,” she told State House correspondents at the end of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting on November 18.

In 2019, Hameed Ali, the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service had urged the Federal Government to reduce the levy paid on imported cars to 10 per cent.

At the time, Ali argued that the levy, which is paid in addition to the 35 per cent import duty, has discouraged importers causing them to divert their importation to neighbouring countries and heightened smuggling.

Short News

NEPC, MDAs working to clear N124bn backlog of export claims

■ ■ ■ The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) says it is working with relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) for payment of N124 billion backlog of claims under the export expansion grant scheme.

Deputy Director, Incentives, NEPC, Mr. Lawal Dalhat, made this known on Sunday in Abuja.

The scheme was established through the Miscellaneous and Export Incentive Act of 1986 as one of the Federal Government’s programmes aimed at increasing volume and competitiveness of Nigeria non-oil exports through incentives granted to exporters.

While reacting to the agitation by some non-oil exporters and manufacturers on the backlog of claims, Dalhat said claims between 2007 and 2016 had been cleared, adding however, that the backlog from 2017 till date were being reviewed under the scheme.

He said that 1,415 exporting companies were shortlisted, 308 companies were qualified, while 270 were approved by National Assembly with N195 billion claims.

According to him, the remaining 38 companies out of the 308 companies have N124 billion.

“We have gotten positive response that the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning is actually working to secure approval by Federal Executive Council (FEC) and hopefully move it to National Assembly to settle debts for the remaining companies,” he said.

He said that with the review of the scheme, the claims were captured under the national debt programme where promissory notes were being issued and approval was given by FEC covering the debts of 1,415 exporting companies valued at about N350 billion.

He said that out of the total debts captured in the national debt programme, exporters’ N350 billion claims approval was given by FEC and communicated to the National Assembly as a statutory requirement.

He said out of the exporting companies, 308 companies were qualified, while 1,107 companies were dropped because they did not meet the requirements to be incorporated in the national debt programme.

“The National Assembly had its processes along the way, out of the qualified 308 companies, a substantial number of the exporters, more than 270 companies covering a debt of about N195 billion were approved and passed by the assembly.

“The balance of N124 billion was remaining for 38 companies that were not cleared by the 8th National Assembly as at that time and the 9th assembly came in.

“So, it required that they have to be cleared by the National Assembly and the procedure is that another new submission has to be made by FEC for others to be captured and sent to Debt Management Office (DMO),” he said.

He noted however, that those approved by the National Assembly went through necessary processes at the DMO and had been paid in three batches through the promissory note programme.

“At the level of the council, we carried out several advocacies and had also approached and reminded the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investments of those companies that have not been passed by the National Assembly.

“We are proposing to the ministry, the possibility of still capturing the backlog of debts under the DMO to be settled with promissory note because the budgetary provisions are inadequate to settle all the exporters’ claims for this period,” he said.

The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria Export Promotion Group (MANEG) and the Africa International Trade and Commerce Research Limited (AITCRL) had expressed dissatisfaction with the backlog of debts under the scheme.

Chairman, MANEG, Chief Ede Dafinone, said the delay in the payment of the grant and the reduced payments, in real and absolute terms resulted in exporters eventually recording losses for transactions.

“Thus there is a direct impact on the profitability of these exporting companies and as companies are discouraged from export, non-oil export revenues for the country have declined.

“This is borne out of the figures from the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics which shows a decline in non-oil export revenues for the period of 2014 to 2017, when the EEG scheme was put on hold,” he said.

Dafinone said that the unpaid claims affected exporters and manufacturers adversely, adding that those who had taken loans to expand their businesses in anticipation of the grant had in some cases folded up.

‘Lekki Deep Sea Port must be operational by 2022’

■ ■ ■ Minister of Transportation, Mr. Rotimi Amaechi, has directed its legal department to put on paper an agreement with the Lekki Port LFTZ Enterprise Limited to ensure that 2022 as the operational year of the port.

Amaechi gave the directive during a monitoring visit to the Lekki Deep Sea Port Project on Sunday in Lagos.

The Lekki Deep Sea Port project is Nigeria’s deepest sea port in the making in the heart of the Lagos Free Trade Zone.

According to him, the agreement was to commission the port in 2022 took place in Singapore, and wondered why the construction company was stating 2023.

He said that though they have had hitches including the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown, but it was important that the project becomes operational by 2022.

“The contract for the facility was launched in March 2018, and as a layman, my views might not matter, however, we must tie them to a written agreement that it must be commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2022.

“There are so many things tied to a port construction and many factors that can work against that date like force majeure issues or if anything goes wrong with the contractor.

“That is why we need to tie them to a verbal

and written agreement that by 2022, Lekki port must become operational,” the minister said.

He also said that with Lekki, Bonny and Ikom Deep Seaport, all are expected to come up stream very soon, adding that the issue of too many river ports with shallow draft would become a thing of the past in Nigeria’s maritime sector.

‘Amaechi however, declined to speak on the Lekki Port being connected by rail by 2022. I am not the minister of works, neither am I the Lagos State government, so whether there will be rail connection to Lekki port by 2022 is not what I can talk on,” he said.

The port is poised to be the most modern in West Africa, offering critical support to burgeoning commercial operation in Lagos state, across Nigeria and the entire West African region.

Presently, the port has a 35 per cent progress across the project construction.

In another development on Sunday, the minister described the October 21 attack by hoodlums, masquerading as #EndSARS protesters, on the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) headquarters as disastrous.

During a tour of the NPA headquarters, Amaechi also noted that the perpetrators of the act should be punished.

“The damage is disastrous. No matter how

you want to vent your angers over police brutality, you don’t need to destroy people’s properties. I was once a student, we did not take laws into our hands even when we were protesting.

“If you remember in 1983, during the time of Babagida and Buhari, we were always on the streets as students, we never took laws into our hands and we never destroyed people’s property.

“During the time of Tai Solarin, there were national protests, we partook in those protests but we didn’t take laws into our hands.

“It is legitimate to protest and illegitimate to hide under the guise of protests to destroy people’s public properties and the law does not allow closure of highways because there are other road users,” he said.

Amaechi pointed out that he believes this should not just end here because if some people are not punished, some others might want to repeat the crime in future.

On why it took him 32 days to inspect the carnage done to the NPA headquarters, the minister stated that there was no difference between then and now, indicating that he had been briefed by the NPA management.

“I have made decisions that with the level of damage done here, NPA should be able to come forward to cabinet to ask for funds for the reconstruction of the place,” he said.

Short News

Bauchi’s first lady demands agenda setting for women by governments

SAMUEL LUKA, BAUCHI

The First Lady of Bauchi State, Hajiya (Dr.) Aisha Bala Mohammed, has called on government at various levels to set agenda for women in order to foster accelerated growth and development in the nation.

The wife of the governor who described women as panacea to ensuring good governance, said agenda need to be set for women at the national, state and local government levels.

Hajiya Aisha while speaking on Sunday at a 2-day training workshop for the wives of commissioners and local government chairmen on the role of women in promoting good governance, urged all citizens to champion the course of women in leadership.

The workshop organized in collaboration with a non-governmental organization, Synistania Nigeria Limited, was held at the Banquet Hall of the Government House, Bauchi.

According to her, the wives of commissioners and chairmen have crucial roles to play in enlightening the people at the grassroots to embrace government policies and programmes.

The first lady urged the women to apply the knowledge acquired during the workshop to enable the present government succeed in touching the lives of people positively.

“I urge you to champion the course of peaceful coexistence amongst our people because by so doing, it will help government to attain set targets,” Hajiya Aisha said.

According to her, no meaningful development can be achieved in an atmosphere of chaos.

Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Abdulrazak Nuhu Zaki applauded the effort of the governor wife in organizing the programme.

The commissioner pointed out that the knowledge acquired during the workshop will no doubt create the needed awareness on issues of governance among the women.

Also speaking, the Chairperson of the State Orphans and Vulnerable Children Agency (BASOVCA), Hassana Arkila described the programme as timely.

“Our children need to be brought up through good governance. They need to be taught and brought up properly so that they cannot be used as thugs,” she said.

Sen Omo-Agege mourns Albert Okumagba

■ ■ ■ The Deputy President of the Senate, Sen. Ovie Omo-Agege (APC/ Delta) has expressed sadness over the death of the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of BGL Plc, Albert Okumagba.

Okumagba, a frontline economist and investment expert died on November 19, in Abuja at the age of 56.

Yomi Odunuga, the Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the Deputy Senate President, in Statement on Sunday in Abuja, said Omo-Agege in his condolence message, described the death as a colossal loss to the capital market industry.

Omo-Agege also said the demise of Okumagba was a great loss to the Urhobos, Delta State and Nigeria as a whole, and condoled with the Okumagba family of Warri, even as he prayed for the repose of the soul of the popular stockbroker.

He said: “2020 has been a tragic year for the Urhobo nation. Just when we are still grieving from the deaths of prominent Urhobo sons and daughters this year, it is truly depressing to learn yet again about the death of another prominent son of our land at this critical moment.

“It is my earnest prayer that we will never witness such a year like this where so many of our illustrious sons and daughters are lost to the cold hands of death.

“The late Okumagba was a popular economist, investment expert, stockbroker and capital market operator and member of the Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers and graduate of Lagos Business School (LBS).

“His selfless service, hard work and dedication to duty would remain evergreen in our hearts. His demise is a great loss for our people to whom he rendered unalloyed service devotedly and with a great sense of responsibility.

” It is my hope that the cherished memories of his life will help ease the pain of this loss. On behalf of myself and the people of Delta Central Senatorial District, I extend our profound empathy and heartfelt condolences to his immediate loved ones left behind.”

Police rescue kidnapped victim in Calabar, arrest 3 suspects

■ ■ ■ The Cross River State Police Command has rescued a kidnapped victim, Emmanuel Akpan-Udo, while three suspects connected with his kidnap were arrested.

In a statement signed by the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Abdulkadir Jimoh, on Sunday in Calabar, he said that the suspects were arrested on November 21 in Calabar.

Jimoh said that the victims’ vehicle was also recovered during the operation that was carried out by officers of A Division in Calabar.

“Through painstaking investigation, officers of the A Division on November 21 arrested three suspected kidnappers, rescued the victim, Emmanuel Akpan-Udo and also recovered his car.

“The suspects include Blessed Etim-Sunday, Samuel Udo-Udo, and Ime John-Effiong, a.k.a. ‘Last Born’. They have also made useful statements and further effort is still been made to arrest other gang members,” he added.



Members of Old Students Association, Ife Oluwa Co-educational Grammar School (1964-1968), Mr Oladosu Gidigbi (left) and Alhaji Liadi Tella; Governor, Adegboyega Oyetola, and others during a reception in honour of the Osun State helmsman in Oshogbo

Katsina disburses N2bn loan to traders, small businesses

■ ■ ■ The Katsina State government says it has disbursed N2billion as loan to 90,677 traders and small business owners in the state to boost economic activities.

Special Adviser to Governor Aminu Masari on Economic Empowerment, Alhaji Abdulkadir Mohammed-Nasir, made this known, while briefing newsmen on the achievements recorded by the department on Sunday in Katsina.

Mohammed-Nasir said that the N2billion was a loan secured from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Fund.

He said that according to the CBN

guidelines, the loan had an all-inclusive interest rate of nine per cent.

“The governor graciously waived the interest component so that the beneficiaries will only pay the exact amount advanced to them,” the governor’s aide said.

Mohammed-Nasir said that the loan was disbursed through 18 micro finance banks operating in the state, adding that according to the guidelines, 60 per cent of the amount was disbursed to women and 40 per cent to men.

He said that the beneficiaries included business owners under the auspices of People Living with Disability (PLWD), organised trade association, women goat breeding and unemployed graduates

Others are faith-based organisations, State cooperatives, local government cooperatives, unemployed youths and entrepreneurs.

He said that schools’ poultry and fisheries demonstration programme as well as women poultry producers also benefited, just as the programme recorded successes because most of the beneficiaries had successfully expanded their businesses.

Mohammed-Nasir said that the administration would continue to support small and medium businesses to enhance economic activities. He said that such efforts would also assist to reduce poverty among people in the state.

Fashola insists 2022 delivery date for 2nd Niger Bridge remains sacrosanct

UKPONO UKPONG, ABUJA

Minister of Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, has reiterated the Federal Government's commitment to completing and delivering the 2nd Niger Bridge by 2022.

According to a statement by the Director, Press and Public Relations of the ministry, Boade Akinola, the minister gave the assurance despite the delay caused by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and disagreement with some indigenes of communities where the project is located.

Speaking at a town hall meeting with stakeholders of the project held at the bridge site in Asaba, Delta State, Fashola said that "clearly, 2022 will be the delivery date for this project as already planned. We might miss a few weeks here and there, but nothing substantial. Let me assure you of Mr. President's commitment and the Federal Government's commitment to this."

The minister however, stressed the need for peaceful co-existence, sacrifice and patience

from communities to ensure the completion of the project.

"We need peace to finish this work; we need peaceful co-existence to finish this work. We need also some sacrifices; we have to give some things in order to get some things and we need some patience," he pleaded.

While noting that the total cost of the project is N414 billion, he explained that while the cost of the bridge is N206 billion, the 2A and 2B roads will cost N208 billion.

He said that the Buhari administration is making concerted efforts to ensure the delivery of the project despite the fall in the price of oil at the global market.

On the issue of compensation, the minister appealed to the governors of Anambra and Delta States to help engage with the communities to make it easier for the Federal Government to come to agreement with them, just as he promised that the ministry will look into the ecological and environmental consequences of the project.

Speaking on the economic benefits of the project to the people of the area, the minister

said the contractor has employed over 1, 400 workers who are indigenes of the area.

Delta State Governor, Ifeanyi Okowa, who was represented by the secretary to the state government, expressed profound appreciation to the Federal Government for the project while urging the minister to expedite action on some federal roads in the state.

The Anambra State Governor, Willie Obiano, expressed gratitude to President Buhari for keeping his words on the project and commended the minister for his commitment to the work.

Furthermore, he assured that the state government will do everything to ensure that there is peace in the state.

Earlier, the Managing Director of Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, Dr. Las Weiser, described the project as a key national infrastructure with immense economic benefits.

He expressed optimism that when completed, it will minimize traffic congestion and strengthen the region by boosting trade and commerce nationally and internationally.



R-L: Teenage entrepreneur, Kamilah Ahmed, Principal, Model secondary school, Maitama Mrs. Elizebeth Emagun and a student of Maitama Model school when the 14yr old entrepreneur donated a water tank to the school in Abuja recently

APC charges police to fish out killers of its chairman in Nasarawa

TUNDE OPALANA, ABUJA

The All Progressives Congress (APC) has urged the police and other relevant security services to fish out the killers of the party's Nasarawa State Chairman, Mr. Philip Shekwo, who was reportedly abducted from his residence in Lafia, the state capital on Saturday night and found dead on Sunday.

Mourning the late Shekwo, the party said it is a dark day for the APC family. The APC condoned with the late Shekwo's immediate family, the Governor of Nasarawa State, Abdullahi Sule, the State Working Committee, supporters and members of the party in the state over the shocking murder.

"We pray the Almighty God grants all that grieve the strength to bear this loss and also grant the late Shekwo eternal rest. We urge a thorough investigation by the police and other relevant security

services to quickly fish out the sponsors and perpetrators of this evil, heinous and barbaric crime and are made to face the full weight of the law," said a statement by the APC spokesperson, Yekini Nabena.

Confirming the murder of the APC state chairman, Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Bola Longe, told newsmen on Sunday in Lafia, that the lifeless body of the victim was found in a farm, some metres away from his Bukan-Sidi residence from where he was abducted.

According to Longe, investigation has begun to unravel those behind the dastardly act.

He said that the distance from the deceased residence to where his corpse was found, coupled with the fact that there was no demand for ransom suggest a case of assassination rather than kidnapping.

The police boss however, noted that investigation would determine whether it was assassination or not.

"The intensity of the bullet marks on the wall and the frantic effort to gain entrance into the deceased's house is pointing to the fact that it is more than a case of kidnapping. Then, where we found his body now is too close to the house.

"Usually, when kidnapping is carried out, it is for profit, but when within a twinkling of an eye the man is killed without any demand whatsoever, I think it's assassination.

"That notwithstanding, we (police) are going to carry out exhaustive investigation into the matter," the commissioner said.

Longe had earlier confirmed the abduction of the APC chieftain from his residence in Bukan-Sidi, Lafia, around 11 pm on Saturday, disclosing that the party chairman was taken away by his abductors to an unknown destination.

He said the police had deployed officers on a search-and-rescue operation only to find his lifeless body in the area.

Short News

Police shoot 1 dead, injure one other in Ekiti

AYODELE. ADESANMI ADO EKITI

Barely 30 hours after a policeman was allegedly shot dead in a police station, two persons had been reportedly shot by policemen in Ado Ekiti, the Ekiti State capital on Saturday night.

One of the victims was said to have died on the spot while the other is presently on the danger list at the emergency unit of the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital (EKSUTH), Ado Ekiti.

The incident happened at a hotel located along Ado-Ikere high way when a retired assistant inspector general of police allegedly visited the facility.

It was rumoured that the victims were shot by one of the police orderlies of the former police top brass.

Our correspondent recalls that a policeman was allegedly shot and bled to death on Friday inside the Okesa Divisional Police Station during a protest staged by the family of a motorcyclist killed by a driver.

The policeman was said to have been shot when his colleagues were dispersing the violent protesters from the police station.

Recounting the shooting incident inside the hotel, an eyewitness said: "The policemen came into the hotel with one retired police officer. They were up to five in number. As they were inside the hotel, they were shooting into the air and creating awareness. Two persons were hit by bullets in the process.

"The two policemen themselves conveyed the victims in their Toyota Hilux to the hospital, but they took to their heels moments after dumping the victims."

The police escort van used in conveying the victims to the hospital was abandoned by the policemen at the entrance of the EKSUTH emergency unit.

Substantiating how the two men were allegedly shot, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Sunday Abutu, said the policeman fingered in the shooting had been arrested and detained at the police headquarters in Ado Ekiti.

Abutu added that the policemen allegedly responsible for the heinous crime were not from the state police command, stating that "we have been able to establish that there was a shooting on Saturday night at one hotel in Ado Ekiti. Two persons were hit and one had died while the second man is receiving treatment in the hospital.

"The policeman that was responsible had been arrested and now in our custody. The commissioner of police has ordered a thorough investigation into the shooting and that we have commenced.

"We are not going to hide anything. Though those involved are not from our command, but the incident is within our jurisdiction and we promise that whoever is found culpable will be prosecuted accordingly."

He said the corpse of the deceased had been deposited at the morgue.

WFP launches campaign to lift 50,000 vulnerable FCT residents from poverty

UKPONO UKPONG, ABUJA

The World Food Programme (WFP) has embarked on a campaign to lift 50,000 vulnerable residents of the Federal Capital Territory out of poverty.

Flagging off the cash and food distribution programme across the six area councils in the FCT, the World Food Programme gave residents of Karanmajiji community of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) reasons to smile.

Addressing journalists after the symbolic presentation of food and cash to some households in the community, the Country Director, World Food Programme, Paul Howe said the programme is targeted at alleviating the condition of 50,000 vulnerable people across the FCT.

While lamenting the deplorable living condition of targeted beneficiaries occasioned by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Howe disclosed that \$1million has been budgeted for the programme in the FCT alone.

According to Howe, "cash transfer stimulates trade and economy. All the people registered and identified as vulnerable will go into our national social registry, so that they can be included for the distribution in the future.

"We will enrol people who don't have bank accounts for this initiative, to enable the programme transfer money to them."

The director disclosed that the World Food Programme targets 50,000 households with food and cash in AMAC, Bwari, Kwali, and Gwagwalada Area Councils.

Commending the efforts of the WFP and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development for bringing succour to the less privileged people of the FCT, king of Garki, Usman Ngakupi, appealed for investments in communities in order to create jobs for the youths.

The food items distributed include bags of rice, millet, guinea corn as well as cash donation to each of the households.

Gov Ortom to receive NULGE's life patron award

Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State will be honoured today as the life patron award of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE).

Benue State Chairman of NULGE, Comrade Terungwa Igbe, gave this indication in a letter of notification to the governor on Sunday in Makurdi, saying that the NULGE National President, Ahmed Lobbo, will be in the state for the award conferment.

In the letter, Igbe explained that the governor is being honoured in recognition of his support and inestimable contributions to the emancipation of the local government system.

The letter explained that Gov. Ortom actively supported the passage of the Local Government Autonomy Bill by the 7th Benue State House of Assembly.

"The NULGE family in Nigeria resolved to appreciate you with this award because you are the first governor to have fully granted autonomy to the local government in Benue State by approving their participation as union leaders, including NULGE, in the state joint account," Igbe noted in the letter.

According to the letter, the award was an initiative of the late NULGE National President, Comrade Ibrahim Khaleel, with the approval of the National Working Committee of the union before his demise.

‘Governor Umahi’s move proves that President Buhari’s message of open contest in APC is gaining more traction’

Ebonyi State Governor Dave Umahi’s recent defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) has sparked off a controversy in the polity prompting DAILY TIMES’ Group Managing Editor, EMEKA NWANKPA, to seek an interview with the Director General of the Progressives Governors’ Forum (PGF), Dr. Salihu Lukman. In his usual elements, he spoke his mind on wide-ranging issues, describing Governor Umahi’s move as another proof of the rising political profile of the APC largely because President Muhammadu’s message of open contest in APC come 2023 is gaining ground. EXCERPTS:

■■■ Expectedly, Governor David Umahi’s defection is the current conversation in the polity today. It is the hot political issue on the front burner now. Don’t you think the governor has indeed stirred the hornets’ nest?

Whatever you call it, we see it as mere hot air. But beyond that, you will agree with me that what has been the frustration in Nigeria is that real political contestations are not taking place, and in recent times APC appears to be the only party where political contestation is taking place. And I tell you whatever anyone will say of President Buhari, one positive thing he has done is to provide a level playing field in the party. Nobody can tell you that Buhari has called them aside and said this is what the party must do, which is what doesn’t exist in PDP where before you go to any meeting, you decide on what would be the decision. I dare say, as the DG PGF and this is the point people keep missing that does not happen here for which I celebrate our governors. They respect the fact that I’m a party member and they give me the recognition that I can have my own view that is independent of their own view.

That way, it’s up to me to decide whether I want to take the risk to publicize my view with the full knowledge of the danger that it may conflict with the position of some governors.

.... (cuts in) You mean some kind of maintaining a delicate balancing?

It’s a very delicate balance that can be deep sometimes. This also tasks my job description here as the intellectual think tank and situation room of the party. Most times it comes with its inherent risks so you have to do your diligent risk assessment. To that extent therefore, the call I have to make is whether the position I’m canvassing is self-serving to me or it is, in the long run, beneficial to the party I’m serving as an institution. Once I make the call that in the long run it is beneficial to the party which means every party member including the governors would benefit from that position, I can then go ahead and take the risk. It’s up to me to prove that it’s not going to be beneficial to me but I think on the whole you can easily see from the argument whether one is making a self-serving or altruistic argument.

How do you then situate this position with the current run of events in the party?

That is the issue and that is why, for instance, everybody could see that the



Lukman

place is open whether you call it with reference to 2023 or reference to any election, it’s about the fact that the spirit of political contest in the party is now very high. It means that if you want to negotiate as a good negotiator, if you want to canvass as a good canvasser for a specific interest, the party is up to you. The pertinent point to make here is that nobody can say President Buhari has decided or there is a decision on the party, this is where it would go. That is why in the whole speculation out there in the public, you’ll see that there are so many names that are being put in the public space which means that in 2023 there would be contest in APC. And if you’re a politician, what are you looking for, is it not contest? So you go to where you know that if you play your card very well, there is a 50-50 chance that you can get what you want, when you want it and where you want it. That is the message now which the President has nurtured and popularized in the APC. By extension, it serves a death

knell that marks the end of foreclosure in political contests in the Nigerian politics. What we are saying is that foreclosure in our political contests is dead.

And how enforceable is this in real practical terms?

Of course it is enforceable and it is being enforced. Sound politics is impossible where there’s a foreclosure. In APC today, I can assure you that it is not going to be where you can tell there is a foreclosure. So this is the attraction in APC and that is why it is significant for us in APC in spite of all the slander that APC is anti-South East notwithstanding all the initiative of the Federal Government in terms of the sound and credible development initiative currently in place in the South East. That is why you now see a governor of the calibre, competence and credibility of Governor Umahi in the South East saying no, no, where I am there is no justice. He has not said where he’s going he’s guaranteed of justice but

he’s absolutely sure that if he plays his card well in his new environment, there is the likelihood that he will get adequate justice.

... (cuts) Just because of the leveled playing field you’ve talked about?

Yes just because of the level playing field which our leader, the president has diligently nurtured and popularized.

...(cuts) And which you think and believe the party will abide by in the long run?

Yes, this level playing field has been well conceived, nurtured and now gaining more traction by the day. It is the result of the President’s sincere desire driven by patriotic fervor running on diligent thought and efficient and clinical execution. You will only need to watch as we progress towards 2023.

What makes you so sure about this?

I am very sure because the idea is propelled by sincerity, diligence and efficiency. Above all, it is people-oriented and that is what makes it desirable and attainable. This is the point we are making. You can only grant it to him (Buhari) after our experience in PDP where the president is everything. We have had a situation in this country where if you want to contest for house of assembly position, you had to come to Abuja and once you are endorsed by the president or the party headquarters, it’s automatic. There is no political contest whatsoever at all, your name will just be given. And in some respect bringing the matter down home now, the battle in APC against the leadership of Comrade Adams (Oshiomhole), who I must say I am close to, and you know it, was informed by that danger that already, the cardinal principle and process of political contest was being lost. When Edo was mismanaged the way it was mismanaged you could see there was the potential and fear that even Ondo was going to be mismanaged. A semblance of gate keepers were being created, structures of the party were not meeting and then you talk of party supremacy whereas party supremacy derives from the decision of organs.

So do you imply that the slogan party supremacy was a just a mere ruse and a hoax?

Why is it party supremacy when the processes that make it supremacy are missing? It is supremacy because it is the decision of organs, not the position of an individual no matter whom he is. In any case, who is the most senior person in the party? It is President Muhammadu Buhari. So who will take decision without reference to him? Now this is it, whatever anybody would say, this is the attraction in APC and for me as an individual, I see more of the potential that anybody who is courageous to take risk and can canvass for position, there is ample space for you in APC. That’s the attraction.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

But in Gov. Umahi's case, we heard that strategic stakeholders such as the senators, House of Reps members and state assembly members from that state have distanced themselves from him indicating that he is on his own. How do you explain this?

You see, for me, it even raises the profile of Governor Umahi, making it more appealing because he does not come across as a politician who has not come through as a leader who imposes himself on others. Rather, he places premium on the power of conviction which is very critical in political engineering where mass appeal is the goal.

You think so?

Yes I think so, I believe so, I see it so, and that is the message from this, that although he has taken his personal political decision, he didn't take it as a governor. He could have taken every step to ensure that he comes along with others but my view is that even those who made those declaration there is the potential that once they see how good he is managing his politics in APC they would be attracted. So it's a good development that we are seeing and I'm sure that this would go a long way in changing the dynamics and political profile of APC, not just in the South East but across the country. That is the way I see it.

But there a view being raised out there that with Gov. Umahi's defection, it is another practical evidence that your party is a power-grabbing machine and a real danger to Nigeria's democracy. How do you respond to this?

My straight answer to that is this: you see we tend to hold some views which unfortunately are not logical. What is politics without power? Politics without power content is empty. What is power, I dare ask? Power is the capacity to influence others. This is the thing. That APC is powerful to the extent that we are able to influence the decision of a nationalistic, progressive-minded, credible and leading political leader such as Governor Umahi, is a tsunami. And there is more. It is a major achievement for our party to win over such a strategic political asset who sees the party as a viable platform to canvass his politics as a leader of his people. They cannot run away from the fact that the coming of Umahi into APC is the beginning of an electoral tsunami for our party in the south east. The challenge and this is the point that stares us in Nigeria, we need to change and raise our competitive age because presently we are not competing enough we end up competing for the wrong thing. The PDP had Umahi as their governor, why should they allow themselves to lose him in such a cheap manner. It's pure management issue. In APC too, we have also had similar problem out of our own recklessness as a party that we lost governors in Benue, Kwara, Sokoto, name it.

...(cuts in) So your party has learnt its lessons and is getting its acts together?

Definitely we are still learning our lessons and getting our acts together, that's what I will say and I have the confidence that our leadership and care taker committee would take every step

'Governor Umahi's move proves that President Buhari's message of open contest in APC is gaining more traction'



Buhari

necessary to consolidate on this new development and especially now we are moving into the arena of membership registration, this is the best way to go. And we wouldn't just be registering members; we would end up registering more leaders.

What implications for the Nigerian politics generally?

My view is this, somehow, sometimes; we tend to be unnecessarily over-excited by what happens in other places. If people tell you what they go through before they get what they want, you would marvel. I can't remember now who said it, somebody made the point that if you get the full story behind success, you'll see that there's no difference between success and failure. This is the absolute truth, we may have our frustration as a nation and as an individual but I mean you and me, we know where we were coming from. I was in the trenches for more than a decade, I know what it means. When I saw young people having protests and they are talking about not trusting and that they won't trust leaders, these young people don't know they are enjoying privileges we never had. I know what it took us. I worked with NLC from 2000-2006. Every time we were having a strike, I know what it would take us to get the New Federal Secretariat shut down. Sometimes I can estimate how many hours of tear gas we have had to endure not to talk of organizing a protest. We were under same Nigeria Group. We organized a march from the Unity Fountain (near Transcorp Hilton Hotel) to the National Assembly. It took us weeks of planning underground in a democracy.

...(cuts in) Knowing full well that you

were under watch?

Yes. Now people can through the social media, call for protest and the next minute they're arriving from different corners. So we have our frustration but now we're making substantial progress. We have had a time in this country before 2011 when a general election was predictable. During the 2007 general election, if you remember, collation hadn't even been completed when results were announced. ... (cuts in) Which was why late President Yar'Adua was quick to set out an electoral reform process?

Precisely yes. Today there is remarkable progress under President Buhari. The last Ondo and Edo governorship elections, to the best of our knowledge, we had some evidence of some problems here and there but by world standard and not just by Nigeria standard. It's a remarkable improvement on what we used to have.

Our party lost in Edo and as a responsible party, we issued a congratulatory message to the PDP which had not really happened before? Even though PDP failed to do that after we won in Ondo, it's a remarkable progress that we should not make a mere light of. See, I have said it in previous write-ups, what happened in APC is remarkable. The kind of leadership crises we went through and to emerge out of it without a split, it has never happened to any political party in the history of any political movement in Nigeria, that is the truth and the mere fact that the agitation for the removal didn't start in Abuja, it started from its ward makes it even more serious. And he (Adams Oshiomhole) didn't take them serious and that consumed a whole National Working Committee of the ruling party.

Today if you ask me, if I'm a lecturer in

political science, I'll tell them rather than investing time thinking on mobilizing for some so-called regime change, I'll invest time, resources and energy to organize myself within a political party and strategize for emergence for winning election. People sometimes, out of our complexes, miss the point. It's a reflection of complex. I cannot compete because I know that you have an edge so I dismiss you. APC and PDP are the same. They're all power grabbers, they would manipulate and rig the election. If your PDP and I want to kick you out what stops me from going through the same process you've gone through and kick you out. There is no shortcut in life, that's the reality.

Even if I we want to organize a revolution in this country it's not through the social media, it can't be through the social media. Social media can have its role to play but fundamentally it's about our capacity to organize and win the minds of Nigerians. No matter how good we imagine we are to win the minds of Nigerians.

How have you fared as the DG of a Forum for your governors?

You do PR? It's an on-going progress and it's something I can tell you if anybody is interested to know the difference between APC and PDP, the Forum is one of it. All that people hear about is that the Forum is for governors, but you see unlike other parties, our governors have gone down to other levels, our Secretaries to State Governments meet on quarterly basis to develop strategies to come up with synergies in terms of response to development challenges and depending on situations, different commissioners meet. About four weeks ago, our commissioners of health met, last week Friday, our commissioners of agriculture met, about next week Friday, our commissioners of education are going to meet. It's all a concept of trying to come up with common response to malnutrition in the country.

Our commissioners of information meet on a quarterly basis to review. And I tell you now we're under strict instruction to try and ensure that there is synergy of communicative initiative not just for our states but together with the Federal Government and we're working to ensure that this happens. So it's been a learning curve and for me I think that is the important part of it which provides a lot of opening to understand the desire of our leaders to really respond to challenges facing Nigerians. The question now is whether we are adding value to them to capacitate them to be able to respond to those issues and to the best of our leaders, we try to do that. And I think notwithstanding if one is taking quite a number of political risk and our governors are closing their eyes to those issues perhaps it's also a reflection of the confidence they have in the PGF in terms of being able to facilitate this or that for the collective good of the Nigerian people.

FG set to review pension laws to accommodate new trends

DOOSUUR IWAMBE,ABUJA

In its bid to address the plight of retired civil servants in the country, the Federal Government has reaffirmed its resolve to review pension laws in order to accommodate emerging trends.

Speaking during a book presentation titled: “Retirement in Nigeria: A management approach” written by Felix Amadi, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr. Abubakar Malami (SAN), said the Buhari administration was ready to address the excruciating pains and difficulties faced by pensioners.

Malami, who was represented by by his Senior Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Dr. Jubrilu Gwandu said that the review is expected to serve the best interest of retired civil servants in view of the contemporary realities of life in modern times.

While reaffirming the commitment of the Federal Government to improve on the welfare of senior citizens across the country, Malami also

called on state governments to ensure prompt and timely payment of pensioners’ entitlements.

He said that it was unfortunate that in some developing societies, retirement is characterized by gloomy life of misfortune, poverty, sickness and vulnerability which are aggravated by physical challenges, psychological trauma and sometimes social depression.

According to the minister, retirement is expected to be a time of ecstasy and joy when senior citizens enjoy a bloomy and flourishing life - reaping the bountiful harvests of what they sowed during years of active service.

“I reiterate the commitment of the Federal Government including the office of the honourable attorney general of the federation and minister of justice to the improvement of the welfare of Nigerians, especially the retired senior citizens through adherence to what best serves the interests of citizens in the spirit of the rule of law and extant regulations.

“On this note, it is instructive to note that the present administration reviewed the Pension Laws in 2014 and the office of the attorney

general of the federation is ready for the review of pension laws whenever the need arises in order to accommodate the emerging trends with a view to serve the best interests of retired civil servants in view of the contemporary realities of life in modern times.

“To address the excruciating pains and difficulties faced by the pensioners, all stakeholders including government at state level and pension fund administrators would have to ensure prompt and timely payment of entitlements of pensioners.

“State Houses of Assembly would have to be supported to come out with laws that best serve the interest of the teeming retired personalities.

“It is also imperative to ensure timely remitting of contributions of the civil servants to the designated pension fund,” Malami stated.

Chairman of the occasion, Alhaji Dauda Birmah, a former minister of education lauded the efforts of the author in writing the book. He said that the book will go a long way in assisting civil servants on a how to go about life after service.



Kidnapped victims released unconditionally through the Zamfara State Government-initiated peace dialogue ...on Sunday.
Photo: NAN.

Army insists no contradiction in testimony as soldiers use live, blank bullets

CHIOMA JOSEPH, LAGOS

The Nigerian Army has said there is no contradiction in the evidence it has presented so far at the Lagos State Judicial Panel of Inquiry probing allegedly killings of #EndSARS protesters at Lekki Toll gate on the night of October 20.

Reacting to claims that the statement by Commander of 81 Division Military Intelligence Brigade, Brigadier General Ahmed Taiwo, on Saturday, that troops went to Lekki Toll gate with live and blank ammunitions contradicts the earlier position that troops shot blank bullets, the Nigerian Army maintained that carrying both blank and live ammunitions are part of its table of equipment for internal security operations.

According to a statement by the acting Deputy Director of 81 Division Army Public Relations, Osoba Olaniyi, it is part of the rules of engagement for soldiers on internal security operations to carry

both live and blank ammunitions as the use of any of the ammunitions depends on the level of threat at the operational area.

The statement said: “The attention of the headquarters 81 Division Nigerian Army has been drawn to news items on both the social and mainstream media insinuating that the troops of Nigerian Army contradicted its evidence of firing blank ammunition when it also carried live ammunition for internal security operations on October 20.

“We hereby state unequivocally that carrying both blank and live ammunitions is part of our table of equipment for internal security operations. It is part of the rules of engagement for soldiers on internal security operations to carry both live and blank ammunition. The use of any of these ammunitions as stated in our rules of engagement depends on the level of threat at the operational area.

“Please note that one of the principles of internal security operations is the use

of minimum force. Minimum force in itself is a function of the assessment of the commander on the ground. In this circumstances, the Lekki Toll gate, the commander on the ground assessed that there was no need to use live ammunition that was why only blank ammunition was used at the Lekki Toll gate.

“The blank ammunition was fired into the sky and not at the protesters. The results are all glaring as there was no fatality recorded - this has been corroborated by both BBC report and other reputable news media outfits. The use of blank ammunition/minimum force achieved the aim of dispersing the hoodlums and crowd.

“It is pertinent to reiterate that the Nigerian Army is a law-abiding institution that acts in tandem with her rules of engagement. We therefore, wish to advise all stakeholders to guard against being used by local and foreign agents of destabilization who do not wish this country any good.”

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Short News

N’Assembly deputy clerk backs executive, legislature synergy

TUNDE OPALANA, ABUJA

Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly, Bala Yabani has said that only a cordial relationship between the executive and legislative arms of government can engender a smooth operation of the parliament.

He called on the political leadership of the National Assembly to cooperate with the bureaucracy to create a conducive environment for the nation to thrive.

Yabani said this at the weekend during the closing ceremony of the two -day top management retreat of the National Assembly Service Commission held in Abuja.

The deputy clerk said the National Assembly can only advance and meets its mandate to the Nigerian state where there is seamless cooperation between its political leadership and the bureaucracy, otherwise it would lead to a toxic relationship among key players with a spill over effect on the workforce.

Yabani expressed concerns over the unfair treatment of staffers of the National Assembly due to lack of fair hearing in handling issues of discipline.

He said that “of all other things that is affecting the legislature, the most important thing is synergy. Synergy cannot be achieved unless you give fair hearing to that particular person that people alleged against or commented against because we are a country of gossip; a country of fake news and we are a country of claims without verifications.

“So, if somebody said something about a particular officer or person, it is incumbent upon us to give that person fair hearing, to ask if that is true or not. After fair hearing has been applied, things will now be done impartially.”

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila said he appreciated the depth of work through the brain storming session aimed at advancing the legislature, especially with the plan to deploy and grow the use of well researched data in decision making in the National Assembly.

The speaker was represented by the Chairman, House Committee on Defence, Rep. Jimi Benson.

The speaker said: “I understand the importance of organizations like this in supporting good governance by supporting us with research studies and data collection. These efforts have been the backbone of capacity building in the legislature and has provided immeasurable resource to building a better country overall.

“I congratulate you all on the successful event and I applaud the work both these organizations continue to do for their country as our government continues to develop.

“It is clear that we can only better ourselves with evidence-based research collecting data and consistent archiving and documentation. I do hope that others continue to support these efforts and see the importance.”

Clerk of the National Assembly, Ojo Olatunji Amos said the management of the National Assembly must agree that the resolutions made at the retreat would be a clarion call to the actualization of the ideals of the legislative institution.

MSMEs catalysts for national devt, says Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu

ESTHER TAIWO

To reduce the level of poverty and unemployment in the country and improve the nation’s economy, government must give adequate attention to the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs).

This was the submission of speakers at the Lagos State University, second annual research fair with the theme: “Innovation products and design for Micro, Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (MSMEs).”

According to the wife of the Lagos State Governor, Dr. Mrs Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, who chaired the occasion, the MSMEs are the catalyst for national development.

Other speakers at the event include Commissioner for Finance, Lagos State, Dr. Rabiul Olowo and the Vice Chancellor, LASU, Prof. Olanrewaju Fagbohun (SAN), among others.

Mrs. Sanwo-Olu, said taking advantage of the various opportunities in the MSMEs was a way for the youths to escape from poverty and feel fulfilled in life.

This is just as the finance commissioner said the state government had supported over 11,000 small businesses with over N7 billion through its investment trust fund.

Mrs. Sanwo-Olu, while commending the university for holding the research fair, added that small businesses were the engine of national economy.

“In the global economy, there are indeed global brands and large conglomerates, but they are not the engine room of national development. The catalysts of national development are the MSMEs which contribute as much as 48 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Nigeria.

“As part of measures to enhance profitability of MSMEs in line with the vision of the present administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Lagos State government launched its MSME hub and hosted the 5th edition of the Micro Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) exclusive fair.

“The fair was designed to equip the MSMEs with the survival strategies to beat the odds thrown up by the unanticipated and unexpected crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic,” she said.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olanrewaju Fagbohun (SAN), said the idea of the fair arose out of the need to wake up the latent entrepreneurship ideas in the students and staff of the school, describing MSMEs as the pillars of national economy.

The state commissioner for finance in his address, said for small businesses to grow, the promoters must do design thinking which should be customer-centred.

He also advised them to be ready to innovate, saying without that they would not go far.

A nation in denial

■ ■ ■ The Ostrich appears to have been inadvertently overlooked or cheated of its deserved place as one of the emblems of Nigeria's official symbol. This is because there is a striking similarity between the Ostrich and the Nigerian rulership clan – the habit of living in denial.

The practice of denial has become the art and science of incident reporting by governmental leaders and officials in Nigeria. The habit of denial is really not a new practice in Nigeria to state the obvious, it is only that it is fast becoming a statecraft now than ever. With every passing day that embraces one of Nigeria's numerous needless calamities or the other, government's spokes people weave webs of lies, half truths or doctored accounts of actual realities to try and justify the apparent continuous failure of leadership in the country or reveal the distaste for truth and accountability by Nigeria's people of power.

On Sunday 15th October, the depressing information and videos about another kidnapping incident along Abuja – Kaduna expressway took over the social media space.

It was alleged by many eye reporters that the kidnappers struck four different times on that fateful day. Eye witness accounts further reported that around fifteen people were murdered in cold blood by the kidnappers while eight students of Ahmadu Bello University were alleged to have been kidnapped. Official government statement denied that report and put the number of people killed at 'only' two.

For over forty-eight hours after the infamous black Tuesday's Lekki Toll gate shooting of 20th October 2020, the identity of the men captured on camera shooting at harmless protesters was a cocktail of denial. The army authority's initial statement claimed that the soldiers who carried out the dastardly act were not members of the Nigerian Army personnel.

When the strength of that official claim expired without holding waters, the next scene of denial brought to the

fore was on the type of bullets used and whether the army shot at the protesters or into the sky. The army insisted the shots by their men were not fired at protesters. As that denial was finding it difficult to gain currency, the denial of the issue of fatalities and casualties took over and the ping pong of denials and counter denials went on and on. Who ordered the army out that night is still an issue of denial and counter denial. The truth for now, only God knows.

With a sober face which propelled deep compassion, Governor Babajide Sanwoolu through his national broadcast on Wednesday 21st October 2020 revealed how his entourage's visit to many hospitals and the mortuaries showed that none of the protesters in Lekki toll gate was killed that night. Nearly a month later, one of the agencies of Lagos State government put out public announcement urging members of the public whose family members went missing between 19th to 23rd October 2020 to come forward and claim their corpses. Does this not reveal the truth behind the cloud of the black Tuesday? Does it not show how addicted to living in denial our government across board has become?

The Cable News Network (CNN) presented a carefully packaged report of the Lekki Toll gate shootings on Tuesday 20th October events to the world on Wednesday November 18th 2020 to allow the world see what happened and assess the veracity of Nigeria's official position. Within hours of CNN's report, Nigeria switched on the ever ready denial machinery. Alhaji Lai Muhammed, Nigeria Government's mouthpiece came out forcefully to declare the report as untrue. His decision to read a written statement as is the style in Nigeria and his failure to use visuals and scientific method to back his case might prove to be a huge weakness in their effort to refute the compelling reportage and present CNN and the report to the world as a lie. CNN ignored Nigeria's threat of sanction and released a statement that the news medium stands by its story thus putting

the burden of proof on the shoulders of Nigeria's leaders.

The strategy of denial embraced as a leadership style in Nigeria is one of the many viruses killing Nigeria rapidly. While our president is busy relying on the false assurances by his security chiefs that the nation's internal security is getting better by day, dozens of Nigerians are kidnapped daily as they travel through Nigeria's roads of agony. These incidents of kidnappings across the country debunk the claim that President Buhari has delivered on his promise to fix insecurity. Many of this kidnapped Nigerians are killed in the kidnappers' hideouts because no one could afford the ransoms placed on their heads. Many of those who manage to get out alive are battered emotionally and physically before being allowed to regain their freedom.

While our government and the security chiefs are living in denial, several battalions of murderous kidnappers are taking positions in jungles across Nigeria and strengthening their deployment and operational strategy.

As the denial of the security challenges facing the nation grows, the operations of Kidnappers in Nigeria have become so pervasive that there is hardly any Nigerian now who does not have a family, friend, colleague or acquaintance who has already fallen victim.

The claws of the habit of denial is draining blood daily out of the fragile life of Nigeria. There is hardly any aspect of governance in our country that living in denial has not become the norm.

The economy is in tatters and over 100 million Nigerians are finding it hard to survive while our President is holding tenaciously to the view that his economic strategy is working and on track to lifting 100 million people out of poverty.

Corruption has become so prevalent in Nigeria while our governmental actors are patting themselves on the back claiming they are winning the war. We behave as if all is well while we are all seating on bubble. The wanton looting after the #EndSars protest is a sneak

preview of how bad things have become in the country. It shows how fake and unreliable the economic progress reports being rolled out by the government are.

While it is clear even to the physically impaired that Nigeria is rapidly falling apart and Nigerians are becoming more sharply divided, those benefitting from the current arrangements are regaling themselves with the lie that Nigeria's unity is non-negotiable.

Nigeria has lost so much and continues to lose daily because of the leaders' love for the habit of denying reality. Living a life of denial is self defeating. There is no gain in cultivating the culture of denial or nurturing the denial malady. Unfortunately, that is one of the areas Nigerian leaders, politicians and security chiefs have built expertise and gained mastery.

In Nigeria's principle and practice of denial, the leaders are not the only actors. The followers assigned themselves leading roles as well. Expecting change from the leaders without acknowledging the decadence of character and debasement of values in our ranks and file as citizens is a master craft in the theatre of denial. Looking to God to change our country when we the people are not ready to change our ways is an exercise in denial of our duties, responsibility, self worth and sense of relevance.

Living in denial gives a false sense of satisfaction, smartness and victory. The satisfaction and victory is only temporal. The smartness is a precursor to catastrophic foolishness. The chickens will sooner or later come home to roost and the layers and layers of decay and rot coated with the paint of denial will come to the fore. There is no progress in denial. Those who embrace a life of denial take one step forward and three steps backward. Embracing the truth no matter how ugly it is and practising integrity in the true sense of it are the cure for the afflictions of denial. The Time to think and change is now.

Olanrewaju Osho is a development strategist, change architect, public affairs specialist and author.



Olanrewaju OSHO

World Toilet Day: Nigeria, sustainable toilets and climate change

In a place with mushrooming population like Nigeria, poor sanitation will invariably be at the heart of the environmental challenges confronting it. You don't even need a University degree in environmental management to know that rapid urbanisation puts pressure on already strained land and water resources – a case of Nigeria.

According to statistics from multiple credible sources, Nigeria's will become the third most populous country by 2050. With this projection, a byzantine sanitation issue – which will in turn contribute to environmental pollution and global warming – is imminent. Not just has our proliferated population caused a surge in the amount of waste we generate and pollutants we release into the environment, the level of poverty prevalent in the country has aggravated the numerous environmental challenges we face. We have the population with no means to cater to them and their basic needs. Poverty and explosive population growth are deleterious twins known to increase the rate of environmental pollution in a country and pose threat to lives of the citizens.

It will be gratuitous to form a long list of places in Nigeria where open defecation is still ubiquitous owing to a lack of proper sanitary system. Only someone living in the realm of self-illusion that will say Nigeria doesn't have

a poor sanitation issue on its hands. One in every four Nigerian practice open defecation and only 11 out of the 774 local governments in Nigeria is free from the practice of open defecation. Nigeria has consistently been behind India on the list of countries with the highest rate of open defecation. While India is gradually approaching its goal to eradicate open defecation, the Nigerian government has only been able to make two promises (2014 and 2019) in the space of six years to tackle open defecation – all of which hasn't yielded any fruit. There is a huge deficit between the promise and action.

While we are quasi-focused on gas flaring, combustion of fuels by automobiles, oil bunkering and others as the primary agents of environmental degradation and climate change, we have forgotten that there are other subtle but devastating catalysts of environmental degradation in Nigeria. This challenge is not asymptomatic to Nigeria as 4.3 billion people over the world have no access to proper sanitation. However, we cannot measure our progress using other countries as a yardstick but our capacity as a nation. Can Nigeria end poor sanitation? Yes, with a sound political will at the centre of the plan.

At the current state of Nigeria, we are in the eleventh hour of tackling the menace of poor sanitation caused by open defecation and the

lack of toilets across the country. However, the challenge isn't ineluctable. We can use 'one stone to kill two birds.' Not just should the government intensify efforts to provide a proper sanitary system across the country, sustainability and efforts to reduce climate change effects should be integrated into the toilets. There is a nexus between toilets and climate change and this must be taken into consideration when fighting the sanitary problem that has become a national spectacle. Our toilets must outstrip mere storing and disposal of organic waste products to fighting climate change – one stone to kill two birds. This phenomenon is what is commonly referred to as sustainable toilets.

Waste water and sludge from sustainable toilets produce valuable water, nutrients and energy. Composted toilet waste is suitable for soil conditioner in agriculture and urine for liquid manure in the garden. Human waste can be enriched into safe nutritious fertilizer pellets. Also, human waste via anaerobic digesters can be used to generate biogas for cooking, lighting and electricity generation. All of these are what sustainable toilets embody. Instead of employing the use of fertilizers with detrimental effects on crops and the environment they are used, sustainable toilets provide alternatives for farmers to produce healthier foods organically. Although, direct

use of these waste can be detrimental to crops, hence, the sludge must be treated. We must seek ways to turn our environmental problems to opportunities.

Sustainable toilets will and must effectively capture human waste in a safe and accessible setting. Toilet waste from a sustainable sanitary system must have the capacity to be stored for later collection or to be transported through pipes. The stuff we flush down in our toilets can be transported to a facility where it can be stored in open-air tanks for microbes to feed on, release carbon dioxide (which can be captured by plants for photosynthesis) and the residual water can then be flushed into the sea. These are systems that sustainable toilets are built on.

Any kind of waste is a resource and we must begin to see business and employment possibilities in our waste handling sector in Nigeria. Researchers are tirelessly working to convert human waste into a resource that benefits farmers, creates jobs, and generates business opportunities. While human waste management is a challenge, it also offers a business and development opportunity that could benefit millions of poor farmers. If we are serious with lifting millions of Nigerians out of poverty, this is a path we must investigate in Nigeria. Happy World Toilet Day.

Olamide Francis is a journalist and writer.



Olamide FRANCIS

NYSC dispels rumour of COVID-19 positive corps members in camp

UKPONO UKPONG, ABUJA

The Director-General, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Brig. Gen. Shuaibu Ibrahim, has refuted a media report claiming that some COVID-19 positive Corps members are currently undergoing the 3weeks compulsory orientation course at various NYSC camps nationwide.

In a statement signed by the NYSC Director, Press and Public Relations, Adenike Adeyemi, the Director-General stressed that no Corps Member undergoing Orientation Course in Bauchi State, or any of the Orientation Camps of the Scheme across the nation is COVID-19 positive.

He explained further that, all the prospective Corps Members for the ongoing programme underwent COVID-19 test, conducted by Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), which was a prerequisite condition for admission into any of the 37 camps nationwide.

He said, “The attention of Management of the National Youth Service Corps has been drawn to a media report which erroneously states that eight Corps Members currently undergoing Orientation Course in Bauchi State NYSC Orientation Camp tested positive to COVID-19.

“Management wishes to posit that at present, no Corps Member undergoing Orientation Course in Bauchi State, or any of the Orientation Camps of the Scheme across the nation is COVID-19 positive.

“It is very pertinent to note that all the prospective Corps Members for the foregoing programme underwent COVID-19 tests, conducted by Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), which was a prerequisite condition for admission into any of the 37 camps. Those that tested positive were not admitted into the camps, but were duly referred to the NCDC for treatment and management.

“Therefore, reporting that eight Corps Members undergoing Orientation Course in Bauchi State tested positive to COVID-19 is very misleading, as there is no COVID-19 positive Corps Member in Bauchi Camp, or any of the NYSC Camps.

“Management hereby restates that it will continue to prioritise the welfare and safety of Corps Members, being a cardinal policy thrust of the NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General Shuaibu Ibrahim.

“Management enjoins all Corps Members and Camp officials to remain safe, by always observing COVID-19 safety protocols as issued by the Scheme in collaboration with the NCDC,” the statement reads in part.

Stakeholders task media to strengthen fight against fake news

PHILIP CLEMENT, ABUJA

Nigerian media practitioners have been urged to strengthen the fight against fake news which has now become the order of the day.

It is believed that if left unchecked, it is capable of threatening the foundations of the country’s democracy, undermining individuals’ right as well as increasing social polarisation.

A cross section of professionals including veteran journalists, engineers, policy makers among others made the call at the 4th Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB), Nigeria media awards which held in Abuja, asserting that fake news is destructive and should be avoided.

Mr. Francis Nwosu, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Press Council in a paper at the event posited that: “Fake news is rustled up by individuals or groups to deceive the public, cause ill feelings, influence people’s views, push political agendas, cause disaffection or confusion for specific government policy, or disparage or malign a person’s character. It is indeed written and published with the intent to mislead in order to damage an entity, agency, person, and/or gain financially or politically, using sensationalist, dishonest, or outright fabricated headlines to increase readership.”

According to Nwosu in a paper entitled ‘Fake News: Why Science journalists must stay with the science’ said fake news is both anti-ethical to journalism profession and injurious to the polity.

“A cursory look at our polity will portray one at the mercy of fake news. Like in some other climes, the issue of fake news has become a serious challenge in our country. A school of thought had postulated that there has always

been fake news. The difference today is that social media platforms have enabled fake news to spread widely and more quickly than ever before. While social media is the biggest source of fake news, the media gives prominence to it through publication of fictitious stories.

“As science journalists, staying with science places you in a vantage position as specialised journalists. The public must trust that your information is correct – you must be rigorous, not necessarily the first to publish a story. You must double check your facts and present fact in layman’s terms as much as possible.

“You must continue to help in rebooting science journalism in an age of the internet and ensure that science journalism and science journalists will continue to survive in the new media ecosystem,” he added.

The Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu in his remarks called on science journalists to avoid fake news and focus on factual news that promote the deployment of technology in agriculture as the nation strategise on how to feed it’s teeming population in this COVID-19 Pandemic era.

He said biotechnological tools such as genetic engineering are assisting many countries of the world to address some of the challenges facing their agriculture.

He further challenged the media to remain focused, “while it is believed that the media has earned for itself a pride of place in the minds of the common man over the years, I strongly advise that this be maintained.”

Earlier in her address, Dr. Rose Maxwell Gidado, Country Coordinator, Open Forum On Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) in Africa, Nigeria Chapter, said Journalists to be recognised have made frantic efforts in humanising science and bringing it to the people for sustainable development in communities and the country at large.

Reps PDP caucus hails Jonathan at 63

■ ■ ■ The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) caucus in the House of Representatives has congratulated former President Goodluck Jonathan on the occasion of his 63rd birthday anniversary.

The caucus declared that ex-President Jonathan over the years has distinguished himself as a committed democrat and selfless leader with an unwavering commitment to the peace, progress and unity of Nigeria.

Leader of the caucus, Rep. Kingsley Chinda in a statement in Abuja, said that “in this special occasion, we recall with gratitude the unusual sacrifices, former President Jonathan made for the peace, progress and unity of our dear country, and his untiring efforts to deepen democracy in our nation.

“It is also on record that through his transformation agenda, the former President revolutionised the agricultural sector and introduced all season farming, revamped rail transportation, establish a university in every state so as to make university education more accessible to young Nigerians; strengthened the economy with the dollar exchanging at N180 and strengthened our democracy with very liberal human rights practices.

“Dr Jonathan is known to have initiated programmes and policies that directly impacted positively on the

lives of the ordinary citizens, stabilised the economy and enhanced transparency in governance; under him the country’s economy was rated as one of the fastest growing economies in the world.”

The House PDP caucus described Jonathan as an apostle of politics without bitterness, noting that Jonathan believes that his ambition is not worth the blood of any Nigerian and as such championed electoral reforms and restored the peoples hope in the electoral process.

“Similarly, he entrenched democratic ethos of respect for rule of law, fundamental human rights of citizens and freedom of expression.

“In a continent plagued with sit-tight leaders, President Jonathan willingly conceded the 2015 presidential election, regardless of the perceived irregularities in that election, even before the final results were declared by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

“Since his exit as president, he has remained an ambassador of peace, good governance, credible elections in the country, African and the world at large.

“On this auspicious occasion, we join all men of goodwill to celebrate the face of democracy in Africa, an icon, a global statesman, and firm believer in the unity of our country,” Rep. Chinda added in the statement.



University of Abuja
The UofA of Nigeria, The University for National Unity
(Office of the Registrar)
P.M.B 117, ABUJA – NIGERIA

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ): PROVISION OF HOSTELS ON A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP -PPP- BASIS (BUILD OPERATE AND TRANSFER MODEL) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA MAIN CAMPUS, AIRPORT ROAD, ABUJA

1.0 PROJECT BRIEF

The University of Abuja was established in 1989 with an allocation of 11,000 hectares of land for the development of its Main Campus. The University has grown steadily and at the moment, it has a student population of about 50,000. In furtherance of its efforts at fulfilling its mandate on quality teaching, learning and character molding, the University of Abuja wishes to implement a 100% residential policy for its full-time students. Pursuant to this, the University is desirous of providing hostel infrastructure through the Public Private Partnership model for the comfort, safety, convenience and well-being of its students.

2.0 PPP PROCUREMENT PROCESS (REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RfQ) AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RfP)

The PPP procurement will be a two-stage RfQ and RfP process. In line with the approval obtained from Regulatory Authorities, the University of Abuja invites reputable private developers/consortia with the requisite technical and financial capabilities, including operations and management expertise to respond to the Request for Qualification (RFQ) to undertake the development and management of students’ hostels on a Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) model on its Main Campus. The hostels shall be in the following categories;

- (a) Undergraduate Hostels - (1, 2, & 4 Bed spaces per room inclusive of toilet and kitchenette)
- (b) Postgraduate Hostels - (1 & 2 Bed spaces per room inclusive of toilet and kitchenette)

Each hostel is to be serviced with independent sewage, water supply and backup power/alternative power.

This RFQ is the qualification stage of the procurement process for the Project, and interested firms/consortia are required to meet the qualification requirements specified in the RFQ package. Only qualified parties shall be invited to the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage. Qualified parties shall execute a Non-disclosure Agreement prior to being issued the RFP bidding documents.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All interested investors are expected to prequalify by submitting copies of the following documents:

- (i) Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation issued by Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) including Form CAC 1.1 or CAC2 and CAC7.
- (ii) Evidence of Company’s Income Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years valid till 31st December 2020.
- (iii) Evidence of current Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December 2020.
- (iv) Evidence of current Pension Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December 2020.
- (v) Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December 2020.
- (vi) Copy of Company’s Audited Accounts for the immediate past three (3) years (2017, 2018, and 2019) duly stamped by certified auditors.
- (vii) Evidence of Financial Capability to execute the project either by submission of Reference Letter from a reputable commercial Bank indicating willingness to provide credit facility for the execution of the project when needed or letter of commitment from credible and verifiable financiers for funding from inception to project closure. These financiers must include their sources of funds for the project.
- (viii) A Sworn Affidavit:
 - Disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the University of Abuja or the Bureau of Public Procurement is a present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder and to confirm that all information presented are true and correct in all particulars;
 - That the firm is not bankrupt or subject to a bankruptcy application.
- (ix) A copy of Company’s Profile with the Curriculum Vitae of Key Staff including copies of Academic/Professional Certificate such as COREN, CORBON, ARCON, QSRBN etc.,.
- (x) Verifiable documentary evidence of at least three (3) previous experiences in the development of successful PPP projects in the last 10 years. The evidence should be arranged serially and each submission should include the following:
 - (a) evidence of engagement;
 - (b) brief project description;
 - (c) scope of the investment;
 - (d) facilities provided;
 - (e) cost of completion;
 - (f) timeline of execution;
 - (g) reference letter(s), and;
 - (h) evidence of completion;
 - (i) pictures of the facility

The University reserves the right to investigate the claims made interested investors.

- (xi) List of Plants/Equipment with proof of Ownership/Lease;
- (xii) Evidence of Firm’s current registration with relevant professional regulatory body(ies);
- (xiii) All documents for submission must be transmitted with a Covering/Forwarding letter under the Company/Firm’s Letter Head Paper bearing amongst others, the Registration Number (RC) as issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Contact Address, Telephone Number (preferably GSM No.), and e-mail address. The Letterhead Paper must bear the Names and Nationalities of the Directors of the Company at the bottom of the page, duly signed by the authorised officer of the firm.

4.0 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

- i) Investors are to submit the required documents in six (6) hard copies **in sealed envelopes and clearly marked "Request for Qualification for Students Hostels"**. The reverse side of the envelopes should state the name and address of the investor. Thereafter, the sealed envelope is to be addressed to **The Vice-Chancellor, University of Abuja, Abuja** and deposited in the **Tender Box labelled "B"** located at the Reception Hall of the University Senate Building, Main Campus, Airport Road not later than **12:00 noon on Tuesday, 15th December 2020**. Investors should ensure that they enter their submission(s) in the Submission Register at the venue and they obtain Submission Receipt(s) accordingly. The University of Abuja shall not be held liable for misplaced or wrongly submitted documents.
- ii) The documents shall be opened immediately after the deadline for submission at **12:00 noon on Tuesday, 15th December 2020**.
- iii) Interested applicants may obtain further information from the PPP Liaison Office from 9am - 3pm Monday through Friday (except national holidays). For further enquiries, please contact us via procurement@uniabuja.edu.ng

5.0 IMPORTANT NOTES

- (i) All documents must be in English Language and signed.
- (ii) Packages submitted after the deadline for submission shall be returned unopened.
- (iii) Only the package that fulfils the qualification criteria shall be considered further.
- (iv) All costs shall be borne by the participating investors.
- (v) Time is of the essence in the procurement of these hostels.
- (vi) Investors are excused from attending the opening of the Qualification Documents. However, representatives of relevant Professional Organisations and CSOs in the area of Transparency/Anti-corruption shall be invited to witness the proceeding, which will be captured fully on video. The recording will be made available to interested parties on written request.
- (vii) Investors will be contacted at a later date on the outcome of the exercise.
- (viii) By participating in the bid, the investors hereby grant the University the authority to verify any of their submission(s).
- (ix) Bidders can submit through Post (Courier Services);
- (x) Only shortlisted Investors will be invited at a later date for collection of Request for Proposals;
- (xi) The University is not bound to shortlist any Investor and reserves the right to annul the process at any time without incurring liabilities.

Signed
Mal. Yahya Mohammed
Registrar

Abiodun requests FG to grant Ogun special status

■ ■ ■ Ogun State governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun has called on the Federal Government to accord special status to the state owing to its peculiarities.

Abiodun made the call at the weekend while speaking at a town hall meeting with leaders and other stakeholders at Ogere/Ode Remo toll gate on the Lagos-Epe expressway, with the Minister of Works, Babatunde Fashola, in attendance.

According to him, according the state special status, particularly in terms of road construction, will not only benefit residents but will also benefit others carrying out economic activities on the Lagos-Ibadan expressway and the Sagamu-Benin Expressway.

“Every economic activity to and from Lagos must pass through Ogun. We have one of the busiest land borders to the expansive West African market and that is where we derived our appellation ‘the Gateway State’.

“Therefore, it is just right to say that Ogun deserves a special status in terms

of consideration for road constructions.

“I believe this is doable. It is not just for Ogun, it is also for the common good of all Nigerians and the continued development of our great nation,” he said.

The governor said that his administration decided to undertake the reconstruction of Ijebu-Ode-Epe road because of the pressure on the Lagos-Ibadan expressway and to ease movement of people, goods and services to and fro Lagos.

The governor explained that the road, when completed, would not only ameliorate the suffering of the people, but would also ensure the continued socio-economic development of the country.

Abiodun noted that it was delightful that the Lagos-Ibadan expressway was finally receiving Federal Governments attention, saying that the timely completion of the road would ameliorate the pains of commuters and other road

users.

In his remarks, Fashola ordered the immediate removal of the trucks and trailers parked at the old toll gate at Ogere on the Lagos-Ibadan expressway in order to give way for the ongoing reconstruction work on the road.

The minister identified indiscriminate parking of heavy duty trucks on the expressway as one of the challenges confronting the reconstruction work.

He solicited for the cooperation and sacrifice from Nigerians for the job to be completed within the stipulated time.

“Parking on the highway is a violation of Traffic Act. Pouring diesel and petrol on a highway that is being reconstructed is also abuse of the road.

“We must all join hands together to ensure that the highway is not destroyed due to our carefree attitude,” he added.

Fashola assured that the contractors working on the Sagamu-Ikorodu and Lagos-Ota road would be mobilised to sites, as soon as funds were available.



A member of Old Boys Association of Army Day Secondary School, Asokoro, Mr. Innocent Okoro (left), presenting educational materials on behalf the body to the principal, Mr. Maikeffi Zaki, during a visit in Abuja. Photo: NAN.

Policemen in trouble for making sexual advances, extorting traffic offender

CHIOMA JOSEPH, LAGOS

The Lagos State Environmental and Special Offences Enforcement Unit (Task Force), has arrested a team of policemen attached to the Agency accused of making sexual advances on a traffic offender, Didi Ekanem, and extorting her of N100,000.

According to the Agency, the team of policemen, led by Popoola Kayode, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), had gone on enforcement duty around Lekki-Ajah expressway on November 18, where Ekanem driving a Venza with registration number APP 775 GJ, was arrested for driving against traffic (one-way).

In a statement on Sunday, the Chairman of the Agency, Olayinka Egbeyemi, a Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), said efforts are on to transfer the policemen to the Lagos State Police Command

Headquarters for disciplinary actions.

The statement signed by Agency's Head of Public Affairs Unit, Adebayo Taofiq, said: “Sequel to the report on sexual advances and extortion, the Chairman of the Agency, Olayinka Egbeyemi, a Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), immediately investigated the matter and discovered that the vehicle (Venza APP 775 GJ) was arrested for driving against traffic (one-way) around Lekki - Ajah expressway by the enforcement team of the Agency on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

“The investigation revealed further that the vehicle was impounded and brought to the Agency's car park at Alausa, Ikeja. The Leader of the team DSP Popoola Kayode, collected the sum of N100,000, via bank transfer on his account before he released the vehicle to the owner, Didi Ekanem.

“The leader of the team and members

of his team have been arrested and queried by the Chairman, while they would be sent back to the Lagos Police Command for further disciplinary actions.”

The Agency also warned motorists particularly private car owners and motorcycle operators to desist from driving against traffic (one-way), as anyone caught would be charged to the Lagos State Mobile Court for prosecution.

Egbeyemi said Further: “Members of the public should stop inducing our officers with money and be reminded that both the giver and receiver are liable in Law. It is only Court that pronounces traffic fines and money paid into government purse.

“Members of the public are enjoined to always report any corrupt officer who engages in shady deals thereby spoiling the image of the Agency for disciplinary actions.”

Short News

APC governors' visit to Jonathan affirms Nigeria is better with PDP

TUNDE OPALANA, ABUJA

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Sunday asserted that the visit by governors elected on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) to former President Goodluck Jonathan has further affirmed that Nigeria, as a nation, is better under the governance of the PDP.

The party said the visit, which is a clear endorsement of the acceptability of the PDP administration, also indicates that the APC, in 2015, only created artificial symbols of mis-governance, corruption and other alleged misgivings just to discredit PDP and grab power to achieve their selfish desires.

It submitted that the Jonathan administration succeeded in office basically because the party understands the nuances of the nation, which we translated into people-oriented policies and programmes, in line with the manifesto of our party, to make life comfortable for Nigerians.

National Publicity Secretary, Kola Ologbondiyan in a statement said, “this visit to Jonathan by the APC governors is a direct acceptance of the successes recorded by our party in building a strong nation with a virile economy that was rated as one of the fastest growing economies of the world.

“The visit is therefore a subtle step by APC governors into the corridors of the PDP in agreement that our party holds the solution to the myriads of problems brought to our nation by their APC and President Muhammadu Buhari.

“The PDP therefore receives the visit by APC governors as an apology by the APC to our party and Nigerians over the lies, beguilements and other irresponsible allegations deployed by the APC to grab power, only to lead our nation on a journey to nowhere.”

JTF seizes 800 bags of contraband rice in A'lbom

ISAAC JOB, UYO

The Joint Military Task Force, the Border Drill Operations, at the weekend raided the a ‘deadly’ smugglers’ den in Unyenghe, Mbo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State and seized 800 bags of contraband rice smuggled from the Republic of Cameroon.

The raid was carried out by over 70 heavily armed security operatives drawn from the Army, Customs, Air force, Navy, Immigration and the Police.

The team was led by Comptroller of Customs and Sector Coordinator for South South and South East Zone, Shehu Abubakar at an illegal warehouse in Unyenghe, a border Community in Akwa Ibom State.

Speaking with newsmen, Comptroller Abubakar described the area as ‘smugglers haven’ for contraband rice discovered through intelligence information.

“They threatened security operatives that if they come and make seizure here, they will not go alive. But thank God, we were here day before yesterday, we were here yesterday and we are here today.

“Truck drivers refused to come to this area to convey the smuggled items back to Customs office, because of fear of attack. So we had to use our Hilux vehicles for the transportation. We have broken the jinx.

“This is the first time security operatives have come here to make seizure. I thank Component Commanders of Border Drill Operations for their synergies to make this possible.” He said.

He said the law empowers the Customs to search premises and to patrol freely, stressing that being in possession of smuggled items was an offence punishable under Customs and Excise Act.

Edo University vice chancellor charges graduands to be good ambassadors

TITUS AKHIGBE, BENIN

The Vice chancellor, Edo University, Iyamho, Prof. Emmanuel Aluyor, has charged graduands of the institution to be good ambassadors of the university wherever they find themselves in life.

Aluyor gave the charge, during the university's second convocation ceremony at the institution's campus in Iyamho, Etsako West Local Government of Edo State.

He said 51 students graduated from the institution and that of the number, four graduated with first class honours, 21 got second class (upper division), 23 came out with 2nd class (lower division) while three had third class.

Aluyor assured of the management's commitment to sustain the vision of the founding fathers in providing quality education of world class standard to the students of the institution.

He listed some of the university's achievements to include the acquisition of low and high fidelity manikins (Simman 3g) which enable the simulation of different kinds of scenarios for the training of medical and nursing students as well as admittance of d university into the consortium of new sub-saharan medical schools (CONSAMS).

On his part, Edo State governor, Godwin Obaseki, represented by the Commissioner for Education, Mr. Jimoh Ijegbai, assured of government's continued support to the university, so as to achieve its laudable objective.

Earlier, the chancellor of the University, Dr. Aderemi Makanjuola, described the university as a digital institution and a pride to Edo State and Nigeria.

While commending Governor Godwin Obaseki for supporting the institution, Makanjuola applauded the management for its innovative abilities in raising the university to an enviable height.

‘Umahi’s defection to APC will enhance national unity’

■ ■ ■ The Commissioner for Project Monitoring and Evaluation in Ebonyi State, Chief Oluchukwu Ezeali, has said that Governor David Umahi’s defection to the All Progressive Congress (APC) would enhance national unity.

Ezeali said on Sunday in Abuja that the governor’s movement from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the APC would also benefit the South-East geopolitical zone.

“For the past two months, Umahi has been in the news for good reasons. His outstanding performance has challenged the political status quo by raising salient issues of equality, fairness and justice in our nation.

“It is no longer news that the PDP is now in a battle of survival with the defection of Umahi to the APC.

“He governs one of the least populated states and receives the least allocation in the federation. One would have thought that he will be inconsequential to the

debates on expectations from the 2023 elections, but recent events have proved otherwise.

“It is clear to see that Umahi was simply being resolute in making demands from a political party that has been served by the entire Igbo nation for 22 years.

“In the absence of favourable considerations, new alliances have to be formed for the good of the people. Today, Umahi has emerged a hero of our democracy rather than the villain. Desperate and manipulative forces would have preferred to cast him as a villain which is far from the real truth.

“Umahi’s movement to APC is to attract more dividends of democracy to the entire South-East and also to enhance national unity and development in Nigeria.

“This is what the South-East wants and he has done what his people are proud of. They are very happy with his decision to join a party that will take Nigeria to the

Promised Land,” Ezeali said.

He said that it was in the interest of Nigeria that the South-East was given the chance to produce the nation’s President in 2023 to complete the official policy of reconciliation, reconstruction and reintegration.

According to him, Umahi’s demeanour has always been one of public good over individual benefit, adding that “that is why he chose to foster a cordial relationship with the President Muhammadu Buhari administration despite previously belonging to the opposition PDP.

“This candour has given him the support required to achieve much in Ebonyi and also earned him love and admiration across the country.

“As a new chapter opens in the accomplished political life of Umahi, his tall vision for a better Ebonyi, a united Igbo land and a stronger Nigeria is sacrosanct,” Ezeali declared.



Wife of the Governor/Chairman of Lagos State University second research fair, Dr Joke Sanwo-Olu (middle); flanked by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Lanre Fagbohun (3rd left) and other management staff members of the University at the event entitled: “Innovation Products and Design For Micro, Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (MSMEs),” in Lagos.

Rep urges S’East politicians to join APC ahead 2023 elections

■ ■ ■ A member of the House of Representatives, Rep. Kingsley Uju-Chima (APC/Imo), has urged politicians of South East extraction to join the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to enhance their reckoning in zoning the 2023 presidency to the region.

Rep. Uju-Chima, who made the call in a statement issued in Abuja on Sunday, said that by joining the ruling party, it would guarantee a place for the Igbo people in national power sharing.

The lawmaker, who represents Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta and Oru West Federal Constituency, commended Governor Dave Umahi of Ebonyi State for taking the bold step by joining the APC.

According to him, playing national politics is the way to go for the South East region to secure the seat of the president in 2023.

“I was elected on the platform of the

Action Alliance (AA), but I defected to the ruling party because I realised that it is the best way to go in achieving all that I desire for my people from the centre.

“We have senators from the South East extraction in APC and about six House of Representatives members. I am happy that the Igbo people are beginning to realise that being strong players at the centre matters a lot in terms of power sharing and amenities.

“The best way forward for South East presidency in 2023 is through the ruling party, hence my appeal,” he said.

According to him, the APC is repositioning to make sure that 2023 is all encompassing in terms of power sharing for all regions.

The legislator said that the South East should take advantage of the development in the party and join the power play at the centre considering

zoning.

The lawmaker however, decried the inadequate provision of essential amenities including roads, hospitals and employment for his constituents.

He appealed to the Federal Government and all stakeholders to ensure that the Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta and Oru West Constituency is taken into consideration in terms of development as oil producing communities.

“My constituency is one of the largest crude oil producing communities in Nigeria and there is currently a refinery project by Waltersmith that is ongoing in the area.

“The youth of these communities are not happy and feel marginalised. The Federal Government should speed up efforts to provide amenities to these communities and ensure jobs for its teeming youth,” he added.

Short News

Military denies motorists have abandoned Abuja-Kaduna Road

■ ■ ■ The Defence Headquarters (DHQ) says recent media reports that motorists had abandoned the Abuja-Kaduna highway because of insecurity is misleading.

The DHQ on Saturday led journalists on tour of the road from Abuja to Kaduna to ascertain the validity of the claim. During the tour, there was normal movement of various types of vehicles on the road from Zuba to Kaduna.

Coordinator, Defence Media Operations, Maj. Gen. John Enenche, said the tour was to enable the journalists have first hand information on the security situation on the road.

Enenche said the tour was to also correct the purported desertion of the road and assure motorists of their safety.

“People are being misinformed and there is no truth whatsoever that the road is deserted.

“We are telling the general public that they should have confidence in the armed forces and the operation that is going on here and go about their normal business.

“We are there to protect you and to continue to take the criminals out of their enclaves and just be waiting for them on the road,” he said.

Also, General Officer Commanding 1 Division, Nigerian Army, Kaduna, Maj. Gen. Usman Mohammed, said that the troops of ‘Operation Thunder Strike’ had continued to provide security on the highway.

Mohammed, who also doubled as the commander of the Defence Headquarters led ‘Operation Thunder Strike’, said that successes have been recorded in the fight against kidnapping in spite of the recent incident.

“Quite alright there is threat on this road sometimes as you are aware of the incident that happened here last Sunday. Even though some people were kidnapped, some were rescued while efforts are on to rescue the remaining ones,” he said.

The GOC said the operation was organised into six sectors covering the entire stretch of the road from Zuba to Kaduna to carry out mobile patrols and respond to security threats on the road.

He said the troops also carry out clearance operations to identified hideouts of the criminals with minimal presence of the troops on the highway.

He said that the strategy was for the troops to go after the criminals in their enclaves so as not to allow them have any opportunity of coming out to the road in the first place.

Mohammed said the military had put in place adequate measures to keep the road safe and free for traffic flow.

“After the last incidence, we have increased the number of troops on this road and we have added additional logistics so that people can be seeing their presence on the road.

“We are going to also police the hot spots and I want to use this opportunity to reassure members of the public that we are doing our best.

“Contrary to the report that the security were not on the road, we are doing our best to ensure that there is peace and security on the road,” he said.

Chairman, Nigeria Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Jere branch, Mr. Umar Jere, said the security agencies had been doing their best to secure the road.

Jere said that his members had confidence in the ability of the military and other security agencies to keep the road safe and secure from criminals.

He called on the security agencies to sustain the tempo of their operation to deny the criminals any freedom of action.

Truck crushes 4 to death in Ogun

■ ■ ■ Four persons were on Saturday crushed to death in an accident involving a DAF truck and a commercial bus around Capital Hotel on Ijebu Ode-Oru Road.

Spokesperson, Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE), Mr. Babatunde Akinbiyi, confirmed the incident in Abeokuta.

Akinbiyi explained that the accident which occurred around 1:15 pm was caused by excessive speeding and loss of control on the part of the DAF truck driver.

He said that six people were involved in the accident which comprised of three male adults and three female adults, saying that four persons died while two were injured.

He explained that the truck driver, due to excessive speeding lost control of the vehicle, left his lane and rammed into a bus loaded with kolanuts in the opposite direction.

“The bus was going to Ibadan from an unknown destination, while the truck was heading towards Ijebu-Ode from Ibadan axis. All the passengers in the bus, including the driver and three women died on the spot,” Akinbiyi said.

The TRACE spokesman said that the deceased have been deposited at the morgue of Ijebu Ode General Hospital, while the injured truck driver and one other were taken to same hospital.

He said that the TRACE Corps Commander, Seni Ogunyemi, commiserated with the families of the dead victims and warned drivers of articulated vehicles against reckless and dangerous driving as well as excessive speeding because of its attendant consequences.

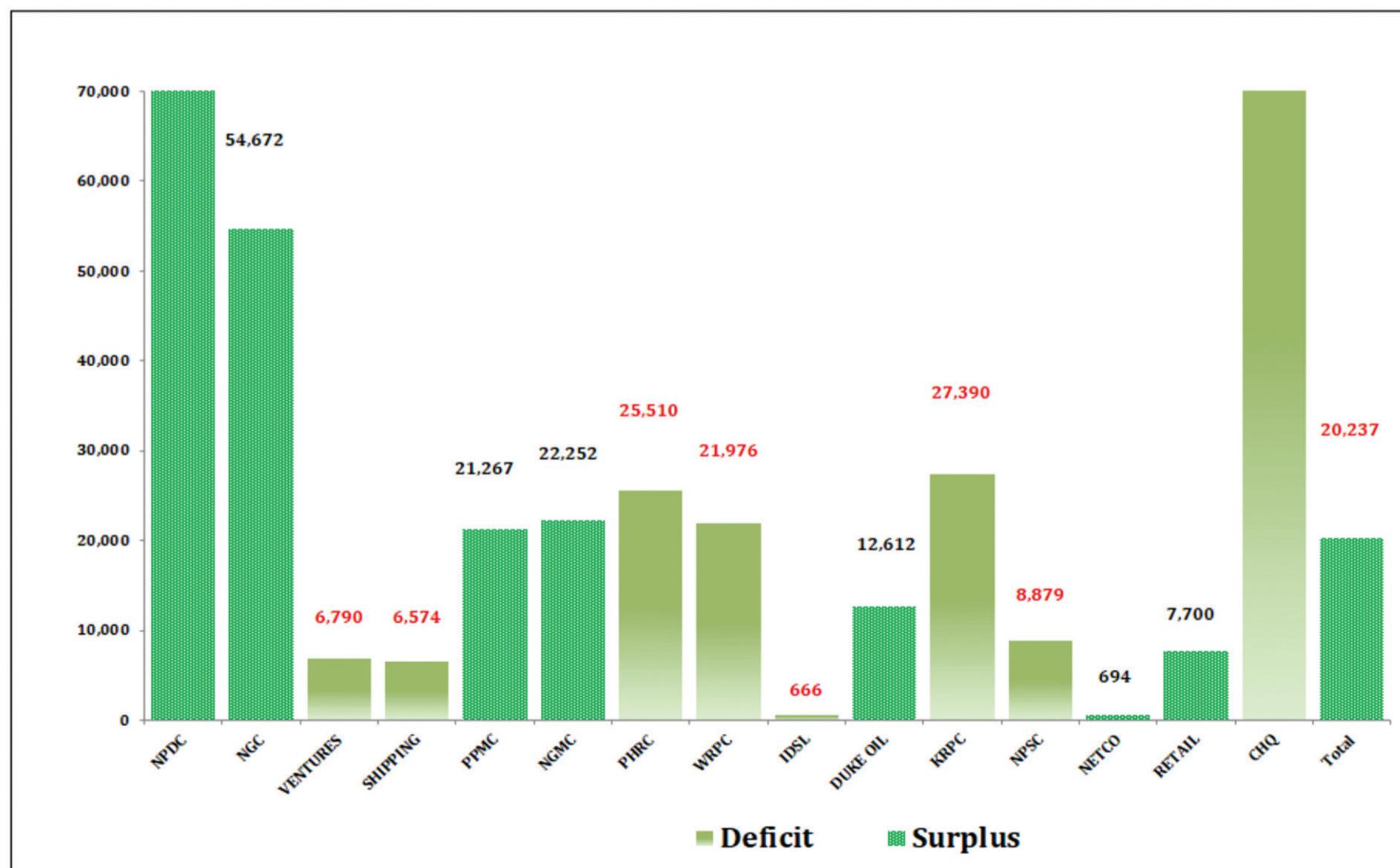


NNPC MONTHLY OIL & GAS REPORT: AUGUST, 2020



NNPC Group Financial Performance by Entity

SBU/CSU	MONTHLY BUDGET (=N= MILLION)			(=N= MILLION)			(=N= MILLION)			PTD (=N= MILLION)					
				JULY, 2020			AUGUST, 2020			2020 BUDGET			2020 ACTUAL		
	Revenue	Expense	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Revenue	Expense	Surplus/ (Deficit)
NPDC	187,866	96,814	91,052	71,884	48,257	23,627	118,160	75,252	42,908	1,502,927	774,512	728,414	557,067	471,555	85,512
IDSL	3,455	2,310	1,145	3,020	1,496	1,524	728	1,987	(1,259)	27,644	18,483	9,161	10,120	10,712	(593)
NETCO	3,434	2,995	440	1,752	1,717	35	1,564	1,691	(126)	27,476	23,956	3,519	13,297	12,729	568
Sub-Total	194,756	102,119	92,637	76,656	51,469	25,186	120,453	78,929	41,523	1,558,046	816,952	741,094	580,484	494,996	85,488
NGC	11,016	1,947	9,070	9,938	1,149	8,789	9,495	1,570	7,925	88,131	15,574	72,557	65,808	11,136	54,672
NGMC	21,919	16,166	5,753	19,336	15,632	3,704	19,195	16,502	2,693	175,350	129,328	46,022	134,679	112,427	22,252
Sub-Total	32,935	18,113	14,822	29,273	16,781	12,493	28,690	18,072	10,618	263,481	144,902	118,579	200,487	123,563	76,924
KRPC	9	2,008	(1,999)	2	2,202	(2,200)	650	2,244	(1,593)	73	16,063	(15,989)	6,219	33,609	(27,390)
PHRC	13	2,515	(2,503)	9	3,907	(3,898)	8	3,174	(3,166)	100	20,121	(20,021)	61	25,571	(25,510)
WRPC	77	1,628	(1,551)	33	2,987	(2,953)	37	2,366	(2,329)	617	13,026	(12,409)	257	22,233	(21,976)
Sub-Total	99	6,151	(6,052)	44	9,096	(9,052)	695	7,783	(7,088)	791	49,210	(48,419)	6,537	81,413	(74,876)
RETAIL	29,064	27,709	1,355	19,401	17,806	1,595	17,155	16,026	1,129	232,513	221,672	10,841	115,362	107,663	7,700
PPMC	279,313	275,120	4,193	119,026	117,853	1,173	112,007	111,087	920	2,234,501	2,200,956	33,545	1,101,064	1,079,796	21,267
NPSC	5,559	5,596	(37)	2,783	3,928	(1,146)	2,459	2,747	(288)	44,470	44,768	(298)	25,532	34,411	(8,879)
SHIPPING	10,165	9,858	307	12,384	12,188	196	6,828	9,952	(3,124)	81,322	78,865	2,458	87,810	94,384	(6,574)
DUKE OIL	73,094	72,467	627	89,535	87,988	1,547	156,712	153,481	3,231	584,756	579,739	5,017	634,631	622,019	12,612
Sub-Total	397,195	390,750	6,445	243,129	239,764	3,366	295,161	293,293	1,868	3,177,562	3,126,000	51,562	1,964,398	1,938,273	26,125
CHQ	823	19,713	(18,890)	238	10,437	(10,199)	12	16,374	(16,362)	6,585	157,705	(151,120)	368	87,003	(86,635)
VENTURES	587	3,073	(2,486)	5	1,438	(1,434)	27	986	(960)	4,694	24,585	(19,892)	345	7,135	(6,790)
Sub-Total	1,410	22,786	(21,376)	242	11,875	(11,633)	38	17,360	(17,322)	11,279	182,290	(171,011)	713	94,138	(93,425)
Grand Total	626,395	539,919	86,476	349,345	328,985	20,360	445,037	415,438	29,598	5,011,159	4,319,354	691,806	2,752,620	2,732,383	20,237



VALUE ADDITION

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NNPC MONTHLY OIL & GAS REPORT: AUGUST, 2020

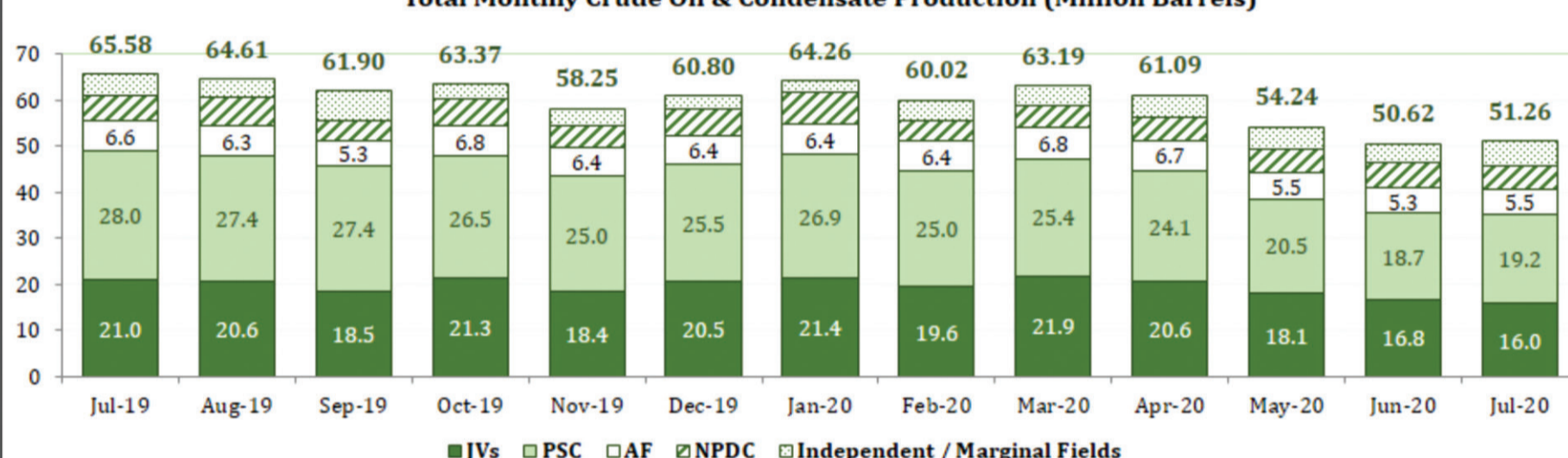


National Crude Oil & Condensate Production (Fiscalised) by Business Arrangement

Month	JVs	PSC	AF	NPDC	Independent / Marginal Fields	Total	Average Daily Production
	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels	Barrels
Jul-19	20,989,993	28,019,860	6,552,738	5,548,452	4,472,661	65,583,704	2,115,603
Aug-19	20,641,210	27,377,512	6,292,482	6,312,535	3,988,244	64,611,984	2,084,258
Sep-19	18,474,136	27,427,606	5,258,304	4,350,850	6,387,716	61,898,612	2,063,287
Oct-19	21,266,847	26,519,528	6,761,513	5,878,606	2,947,843	63,374,338	2,044,333
Nov-19	18,402,011	24,970,450	6,387,164	4,638,276	3,851,588	58,249,489	1,941,650
Dec-19	20,501,440	25,507,750	6,420,300	5,509,484	2,863,809	60,802,783	1,961,380
Jan-20	21,407,353	26,943,371	6,388,285	6,827,648	2,693,737	64,260,394	2,072,916
Feb-20	19,563,126	24,994,553	6,445,960	4,512,437	4,504,573	60,020,649	2,069,678
Mar-20	21,901,436	25,404,808	6,765,485	4,594,710	4,523,944	63,190,383	2,038,399
Apr-20	20,575,026	24,091,959	6,681,456	4,957,641	4,780,105	61,086,187	2,036,206
May-20	18,106,980	20,513,448	5,526,253	5,093,266	5,003,806	54,243,753	1,749,798
Jun-20	16,805,111	18,688,133	5,336,469	5,728,836	4,063,552	50,622,101	1,687,403
Jul-20	16,020,162	19,207,680	5,536,653	4,914,838	5,576,863	51,256,196	1,653,426
PTD	254,654,831	319,666,658	80,353,062	68,867,580	55,658,441	779,200,572	1,962,722

Note: July '20 Crude Production comprises Crude only of 41,041,905 barrels (1.32 mbd), Pure Condensate of 7,630,016 barrels & Spiked Condensate of 2,584,275 barrels.

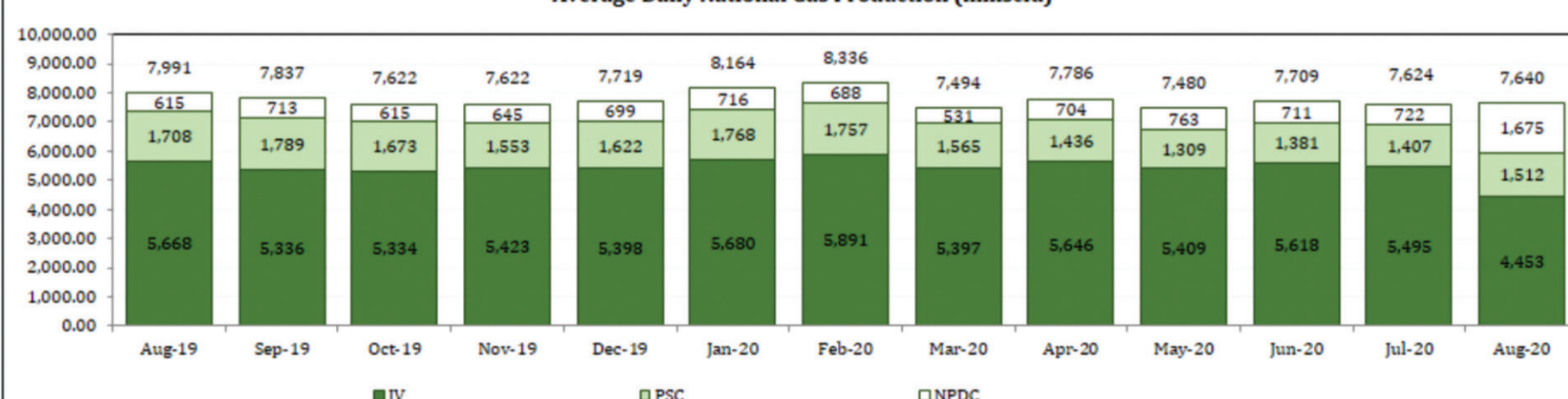
Total Monthly Crude Oil & Condensate Production (Million Barrels)



Average Daily National Gas Production

PERIOD	IV	PSC	NPDC	TOTAL
	mmscfd	mmscfd	mmscfd	mmscfd
Aug-19	5,668.22	1,708.10	614.63	7,990.95
Sep-19	5,336.22	1,788.60	712.60	7,837.42
Oct-19	5,334.00	1,673.00	615.00	7,622.00
Nov-19	5,423.06	1,553.27	645.35	7,621.68
Dec-19	5,397.90	1,621.80	699.29	7,718.99
Jan-20	5,680.18	1,768.26	715.79	8,164.23
Feb-20	5,890.92	1,756.60	688.40	8,335.92
Mar-20	5,397.33	1,564.98	531.34	7,493.65
Apr-20	5,645.78	1,436.08	704.31	7,786.17
May-20	5,408.88	1,308.79	762.70	7,480.36
Jun-20	5,617.82	1,380.62	710.94	7,709.38
Jul-20	5,495.21	1,406.78	721.99	7,623.98
Aug-20	4,452.90	1,511.63	1,675.46	7,639.99
Average	5,442.19	1,575.27	753.68	7,771.13

Average Daily National Gas Production (mmscfd)



UPSTREAM VALUE CHAIN

Disclaimer: All information contained in this report are unaudited
Full Report Available on www.nnpcgroup.com



Classified

REQUIREMENT FOR CHANGE OF NAME FOR WOMEN: MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE OR COURT AFFIDAVIT. MEN: COURT AFFIDAVIT

BANK: FIDELITY BANK
ACCOUNT No: 4011378966,
ACCOUNT NAME: FOLIO COMMUNICATIONS LTD.
Email: advertsales@dailytimes.ng;

The Daily Times

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

18

NGWU: I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS NGWU GRACE CHINAECHEREM, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS AUDOBU GRACE CHINAECHEREM. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. BANKS AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF LOSS OF ORIGINAL LAND DOCUMENT BELONGING TO ANTHONI EZEANI OF NO 21 OJA STREET COAL CAMP ENUGU. THE PROPERTY SITUATED AT PLOT 291 INDEPENDENCE LAYOUT ENUGU. THE INDENTURE OF LEASE REG NO AS 46/46/744 AND DEED OF ASSIGNMENT REG. NO AS 61/61/1666. AT ENUGU LAND REGISTRY. ALL EFFORTS TO TRACE THE SAID DOCUMENTS PROVED ABORTIVE. PLEASE IF FOUND CONTACT THE MINISTRY OF LANDS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, ENUGU.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS EZEKULIE ALFRED ICHIE, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS EZEKULIE ALFRED CHUKWUMA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. BANKS AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS NWOSU CHINYERE EDITH, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OKAFOR CHINYERE EDITH. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. BANKS AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS EMUJEDE AUGUSTINA OFURE NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ILUOBE AUGUSTINA OFURE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINS VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD NOTE.

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ESTHERAIWANEHASINOBI. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ESTHER AIWANEHI PAUL. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

CORRECTION OF NAME:
THAT MY NAME WAS WRONGLY WRITTING AS EMEKA GIFT CHIOMA INSTEAD OF ONYEKWERE GIFT CHIOMA DATE OF BIRTH 5/OCTOBER /2000 NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ONYEKWERE GIFT CHIOMA ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OLUFOWORA SELIMOT AJIBOLA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AMURE SELIMOT AJIBOLA ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID LAGOS STATE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE

FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OKEGBENRO ADETUTU OLUWABUNMI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ADEUSI ADETUTU OLUWABUNMI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE

FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS FATIMILEYIN OLUWABUNMI BLESSING NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS FATIMEHIN OLUWABUNMI BLESSING. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE

FORMERLY KNOWN AS OGILI CHINENYE MARTHA, NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESS AS EJIOFOR CHINENYE MARTHA. FCMB AND GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.

FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ODU MARTINS CHIBUEZE, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS SOLOMON MARTINS CHIBUEZE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AKABUEZE CHIKA DORIS, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS SOLOMON MARTINS CHIKA DORIS. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

REMOVAL OF NAME:
THAT I WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS NZERIBE DIVINE-FAVOUR DYMPHNA, DIVINE ONUMONU. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS NZERIBE DYMPHNA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

CONFIRMATION OF NAME:
THAT I OLOKODE DAUDA DAUDA AND OLOKODE OLAMIDE DAUDA, THAT I AM THE SAME PERSON BEARING THE NAMES. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OLOKODE OLAMIDE DAUDA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

RUKAYAT: I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ISHOLA RUKAYAT OLASUNBO. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS ALABI-ISHOLA RUKAYAT OLASUNBO. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ODDOM EMMANUEL CHIDUBEM. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS MARTINS EMMANUEL CHINENYENWA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MARTHA UCHE NWOKPORO. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS MARTHA UDOH SUNDAY. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

CONFIRMATION/ADDITION OF NAME:
IN SOME OF MY DOCUMENTS MY NAME APPEARS AS OLBOLA ABISOYE AINA WHILE IN SOME OTHER ONES IT APPEARS AS OLBOLA ADEBANKE AINA. I AM THE SAME PERSON BEARING ALL THE NAMES NOW I WISH TO ADD ADEBANKE TO MY NAME. NOW I WISH TO BE KNOWN AS OLBOLA ABISOYE ADEBANKE AINA. ALL DOCUMENTS BEARING THE NAMES REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ABIODUN JOAN OLUWASEUN. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS ADELEKE JOAN OLUWASEUN. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

I FORMALLY KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS OISA LOVETH. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS LOVETH TEMIENOR. FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMALLY KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS DANJUMA OMALE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS ALIU MOSES. FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMALLY KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS UGOCHUKWU NNADOZIE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS NNADOZIE JOHN. FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OLUISOJI TEMITAYO OLAYINKA. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS ADEOYE TEMITAYO VICTORIA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

IFEOLUWA: I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AWOGBAMI-OLUWAGBAMI IFEOLUWA AYOBAMI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ONI IFEOLUWA AYOBAMI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC KINDLY TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS GLADYS UNINI. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS GLADYS UZOAMAKA UNINI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS STANLEY UNINI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS STANLEY EBUKA UNINI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS COLLINS UNINI. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS COLLINS KELECHI UNINI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OGUNDELE ADEDOLAPO FOLAKE NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OMIYALE ADEDOLAPO FOLAKE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AKINULI OLUWASINA MICHAEL NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OLUWASIN MICHAEL. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS ISOLA OLUWASEUN SAYO HELLEN NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS OYEBADE OLUWASEUN SAYO HELLEN. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OLADIPO JULIANAH OLAYINKA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS EWUOSO JULIANAH OLAYINKA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS OGHENECHODJA JOSEPHINE IYANULUWA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS MIDE- OLOWU JOSEPHINE IYANULUWA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AZU PATIENCE UGOCHUKWU NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS ONYIEN PATIENCE UGOCHUKWU. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE

THIS IS INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THAT ON MY ACCOUNT , MY NAME APPEAR AS TEJUMOLA ABIODUN FALOLA. AND ALSO THAT ON MY BVN MY NAME APPEAR AS DAMOLA ABIODUN FALOLA INSTEAD OF FALOLA ABIORO AHMEED. THAT I NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS FALOLA ABIORO AHMEED. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS JOEL UMORUN NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ABEL EKPHA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AYINLA OLUWAMAYOWA OMOLADE ORIYOMI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AYINLA OLUWAMAYOWA ORIYOMI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY, KNOWN AS SHEHU AHMED NDAMAN, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS ,SHEHU NDAMAN, ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AGBONDELEGBE ELIZABETH IRUOBE NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OMOZOKPIA ELIZABETH OSEMEGBE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS IYAWOT VICTOR ESEME NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ESEME VICTOR JIMMY. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS SAMSON BLESSING UCHANNA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS CHUKWUEMEKA BLESSING UCHENNA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ERUKA RITA CHIDERA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ODO RITA CHIDERA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MATTHEW DORCAS OLUWAFUNMILAYO NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OGUNBO OLUWAFUNMILAYO OLUWAPELUMI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS SUMOUM AMINAT ENIOLA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS POPOOLA AMINAT ENIOLA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ADEYEMI FOLASHADE CHRISTIANA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS KOLOMI FOLASHADE CHRISTIANA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMALLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AYINLA AZEEZ ADEBAYO NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AYINLA AZEEZ ADIO. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS ADEPITAN SUSANAH BUSAYO NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS SOREMEEKUN SUSANNA BUSAYO. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AYINLA OLUWAMAYOWA OMOLADE NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS AYINLA OLUWAMAYOWA ORIYOMI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS BAKER KEMISOLA OPEYEMI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ODUSANYA KEMISOLA OPEYEMI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OLAFIMIWON TAIWO NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ADISA TAIWO OLANREWAIJU. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OBI CHINONYE NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OBI CHINONYELUM PERPETUAL. MY CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS 5/12/2000. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS OMOBANJO OLAMIDE OLUWASEUN NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS ORANAIBE OLAMIDE OLUWASEUN. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS YUNUSA SULEIMAN HARUNA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MEPAH YUNUSA SULEIMAN. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS OKESOLA FELICIA ADEBISI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS AKINWALE FELICIA ADEBISI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

EME: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS EME COSMOS EMELISI, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS EME COSMOS EMELISI UZOMA. ALL DOCUMENTS BEARING MY FORMER NAME REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

OROGHORO: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS WILLIAMS BELIEVE VICTOR, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OROGHORO BELIEVE VICTOR. ALL DOCUMENTS BEARING MY FORMER NAME REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

BABALOLA: I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS LAWANSON MODUPE ADENIKE, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS BABALOLA MODUPE ADENIKE. ALL DOCUMENTS BEARING MY FORMER NAME REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MOGEKWU CORDELIA ANN. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MOGEKWU CORDELIA AMAKA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID, GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS IBRAHEEM FATIMAT AJOKI, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS MUDASIR FATIMAT AJOKI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. NYSC, GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS UBANYI IFUNANYA CYNTHIA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OHANYIRI IFUNANYA CYNTHIA (MRS) ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE

FREE SPACE
FOR SALE

FREE SPACE
FOR SALE

FREE SPACE
FOR SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF LOSS OF THE BUILDING LEASE OF PLOT 10 PRESIDENTIAL LAYOUT ABAKILIKI ROAD ENUGU REGISTERED AS NUMBER 42 PAGE 42 IN VOLUME 203 AT ENUGU LAND REGISTRY IN THE NAME OF LATE ELIAS ANEKE CHIME AND ALL EFFORTS TO TRACE THE SAID MISSING BUILDING LEASE HAVE PROVED ABORTIVE. IF FOUND PLEASE CONTACT ENUGU STATE MINISTRY OF LANDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CSMC SABO OKOOBA ENDOWMENT FUND

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 1990.

TRUSTEES:

1. EMMANUEL ABIODUN ALOGBO
2. JONATHAN OLUWOLE COKER
3. SAMUEL OYETADE ABIOYE.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES:

1. TO HELP THE LESS PRIVILEGED IN THE SOCIETY
2. TO ASSIST THE POOR AND THE ORPHANS
3. TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT OFF AGUIYI IRONS STREET PMB 198 MAITAMA ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED BARR BAYO A. YAHAYA

PUBLIC NOTICE

RANDA FISH FARMERS ASSOCIATION

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) ABUJA, FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 1990

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. HAUWA ABDULADIR MADAKI (CHAIR PERSON)
2. UNJAR A RABIU (VICE CHAIR PERSON)
3. MUSADDIK ABDULHAMID (SECRETARY GENERAL)
4. USMAN IDRIS FARDAI (TREASURER)
5. AMINU ISHIYAKU (FINANCIAL SECRETARY 1)
6. UMUMUSSALMA ALIYU (FINANCIAL SECRETARY 2)
7. GAMBO IDRIS (AUDITOR 1)
8. SAFWAN ADAMU K (AUDITOR 2)
9. SARATU MUSAI (P.R.O 1)
10. MUHAMMAD AUWALU (P.R.O 2)

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. TO CATER FOR THE WELFARE OF ITS MEMBERS
2. TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE PEACEFUL CO EXISTENCE AND MUTUAL BENEFITS BETWEEN MEMBERS

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONS STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED : SECRETARY

FREE SPACE
FOR SALE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF THE LOSS OF THE FOLLOWING LAND DOCUMENTS:(1) ORIGINAL ALLOCATION LETTER (FHA) BEARING MUHAMMAD YAHAYA IN RESPECT OF PLOT 197 ,ALONG (1R)32 ROAD ,LUGBE ESTATE ABUJA . (2) AN ORIGINAL FHA ALLOCATION PAPERS BEARING SAIDU HYET IN RESPECT OF PLOT NO 29, 1ST AVENUE GOMBE STATE. (3)AN ORIGINAL AMAC MARKET FHA LUGBE ALLOCATION LETTER BEARING MARIA ADEBUNANLA SONAIKE ACCELERATED SHOP NO. ACC 063. WHICH BELONGS TO MR YAHAYA MUSA ARE MISSING AND ALL EFFORTS MADE TO TRACE THE ABOVE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS HAVE PROVED ABORTIVE , IF FOUND PLEASE RETURN TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION. GENERAL PUBLIC / ALL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MONICA ETUSI OKONOFUA FOUNDATION.

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION TO CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION UNDER PART C OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO1 OF 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE
1. OKONOFUA ENI CHAIRMAN
2.OJO SUNDAY SECRETARY
3.EBOHON OSARETIN BLESSING
4. SALIHU IBRAHIM MOHAMMED
5,MAC-PEPPLE SOBBA
6, MRS AGATHA OKONOFUA

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FOUNDATION ARE:
1.TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MATERNAL HEALTH ASSITANCE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
2.TO PROMOTE WOMEN AND CHILDREEN EDUCATION ESPECIALLY ORPHANS AND WIDOWS.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION 420 TIGIRS CRESCENT OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET PMB 198 MATTAMA ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE VICTORIA ISLAND LAGOS CLASS 1989(GOCovi CLASS89)

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART 'C' OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 1990, (CAP C20, LFN 2004).

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
1.ADISA OLADAPO- PRESIDENT
2.OBI-ATUGBE MICHEAL - SECRETARY
3.EBENUWA CHARLES
4.KUTI OMOBOLAJI
5 ONI OLATUNDE

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
1 A SOCIAL GROUP TO BUILD TOGETHERNESS AMONG OURSELVES,ASSISTS OTHERS AND OURSELVES.
2 ASSISTS OUR TEACHERS WHO IMPACT KNOWLEDGE ON US BACK THEN IN SCHOOL.
3 LEVERAGE ON EACH OTHER TOWARDS ACHIEVING SOME POSITIVE GOALS.
4 RENDERING ASSISTANCE TO THE SCHOOL AND OTHERS.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT , OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET , MAITAMA , ABUJA WITHIN 28DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED : SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

ILERI OLUWA INTERNATIONAL PRAYER MINISTRY

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED MINISTRY HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART"C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO. 1, OF 1990.

TRUSTEES
1 PROPHETESS OTELE SOLAPE - CHAIRMAN
2 MISS OTELE CHRISTIANAH- SECRETARY
3 MR OTELE AKINSANYA
4 PASTOR AJETUNMOBI SUNDAY
5 PASTOR EZEKIEL AYODEJI

AIM AND OBJECTIVE
1. TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE WHOLE WORLD
2. TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO THE LESS PRIVILEGE IN THE WAY OF CHARITY

ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, P.M.B. 198, GARKI, ABUJA WITHIN TWENTY-EIGHT (28) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS PUBLICATION

SIGNED: SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

KENBAZZ LEPA INITIATIVE

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART C OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 1990

TRUSTEES ARE
(1) MR KENNEDY IDEMUDIA-PRESIDENT.
2)HON.VEADAMS IGHODARO-VICE PRESIDENT
(3)HON.AGOMINI BABATUNDE MARTHINS-SEC.
(4)MR DAMIAN OJIEFO-FINANCIAL SEC.
(5)MR FESTUS OKOINEMEN-MEMBER.
(6) CHIEF HONESTY AGIMBATSE-MEMBER.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
(1)YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENTS INITIATIVE AND APPRENTICESHIP.
(2)TO ASSIST THE LESS PRIVILEGED AND THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN OUR SOCIETY.
(3) INITIATIVE OR HINTS OF SOCIAL,MORAL, ECONOMIC AND ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT OF EDOLITES.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET MAITAMA ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: MR KENNEDY IDEMUDIA-PRESIDENT/FOUNDER.

PUBLIC NOTICE

OYE IBIDAPO-OBE FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART C OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 1990

TRUSTEES NAME-
1.IBIDAPO-OBE OLUSOLA
2.IBIDAPO-OBE AKINBAMBO AYODELE

AIMS
1.TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP FOR INDIGENT STUDENT
2.TO GIVE INDIGENT STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR A BETTER LIFE.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET MAITAMA ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION

SIGNED. MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOUCH BEARERS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART"C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO. 1, OF 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:
1) ADEWUNMI BOLAJI - PRESIDENT
2) OSEWINGIE ESTHER - SECRETARY
3) BENSON AKHIGBE - MEMBER
4) GIFT BEST JNR - MEMBER
5) ODEMERHO VICTOR OGHENETEGA - MEMBER

THE AIM AND OBJECTIVES ARE:
1) RAISING TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERS IN ALL SPHERES OF INFLUENCE
2) SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF JESUS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION

SIGNED: SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

ROYAL EAGLES IN FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH C A C/IT/NO107344

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA FOR CHANGE OF TRUSTEES UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020

CHANGE TRUSTEES
1 BENJAMIN SAMUEL OLADIRAN- REAPPOINTED
2 BENJAMIN HELLEN OLUWASEUN - REAPPOINTED
3 OLUWASOLA MAGDALNEN - RESIGNED
4 AKINRINWA JOHN BAYO - REAPPOINTED
5 RUNCIE KAYODE OLUWAFEMI- REAPPOINTED
6 FATUNLA OLUWOLE PETER- APPOINTED

AIM AND OBJECTIVE
TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE WHOLE WORLD

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR - GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, MAITAMA, ABUJA.

SIGNED SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

AYERE EDUCATION CENTRE

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION TO CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION UNDER PART C OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO1 OF 1990.

TRUSTEES
1. AYERE KENNETH -CHAIRMAN
2. AYERE OBEHIOYE -SECRETARY
3. AYERE OSASERE
4. AYERE OFURE
5. AYERE ENOGUMWENGIE

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CENTRE ARE:
A. TO PROMOTE EDUCATION BY ESTABLISHING A NURSERY, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL.
B.TO TRAIN AND EMPOWER LESS PRIVILEGED PERSONS IN VOCATIONAL SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAL GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION 420 TIGIRS CRESCENT OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET PMB 198 MATTAMA ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: SECRETARY .

PUBLIC NOTICE

DISCLAIMER NOTICE:

I, DR. PATRICK ANIWETA AGBU (NNABUENYI) HEREBY DISCLAIM ONE MR CHUKWUMA MENKITI (PARADING HIMSELF AS MR CHUKWUMA AGBU FORTHWITH. THE SAID CHUKWUMA MENKITI IS NOT AND WAS NEVER MY BIOLOGICAL SON VIDE A DNA TEST RESULT OF WHICH HE AND HIS MOTHER EKWUTOSI (EKWI) MENKITI WE ARE PRIVY TO. I BY THIS DISCLAIMER DISASSOCIATE MYSELF AND THE ENTIRE AGBU FAMILY OF UMUASELE VILLAGE IN ONITSHA, ANAMBRA STATE FROM ANY ACTIVITY, CLAIMS OR BUSINESS THE SAID CHUKWUMA MENKITI CARRIES OUT OR PURPORT TO CARRY OUT IN MY NAME OR IN THE NAME AGBU'S FAMILY, THEREFROM. GENERAL PUBLIC TO PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HEALTH INITIATIVES FOR SAFETY AND STABILITY IN AFRICA CAC/RC/NO: 25453

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC), ABUJA FOR REMOVAL OF TRUSTEES UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020:

THE OLD TRUSTEES ARE:
1. DR. ROLAND ORITSEJAFOR - CHAIRMAN/PRESIDENT - RETAINED
2. OMATSOLA TAWIAH ORITSEJAFOR - SECRETARY - RETAINED
3. TUEDON UWEJA - MANAGING DIRECTOR - RETAINED
4. PAUL UGBURO - MEMBER - REMOVED
5. DR. OLATOYEAGBATOR - MEMBER - RETAINED
6. REGINA OCHUKO OMO - AGEGE - MEMBER - RETAINED
7. DEACON VICTOR AGBATEYINIRO - MEMBER - RETAINED
8. DR. GEORGE CHUKWUEDO OKOLO - MEMBER - RETAINED

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES REMAIN THE SAME

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS APPLICATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR - GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT, MAITAMA, ABUJA.

SIGNED: SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

MOG TOUCHING LIFE FOUNDATION

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART"C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO. 1, OF 1990.

TRUSTEES
1 OLUBUNMI IBITOYE - CHAIRMAN
2 EBUNOLUWA IBITOYE - SECRETARY
3 VICTORIA OLUWAKEMI IBITOYE - MEMBER
4 ROSAMOND OLUBUNMI IBITOYE-MEMBER

AIM AND OBJECTIVE
1. TO HELP THE LESS PRIVILEGE WITH HEALTH CHALLENGES IN THE SOCIETY
2. TO BRING SUCCOUR TO THE LESS PRIVILEGE IN THE SOCIETY

ANY OBJECTION TO THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA, P.M.B. 198, GARKI, ABUJA WITHIN TWENTY-EIGHT (28) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS PUBLICATION

SIGNED SECRETARY

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FREE SPACE FOR SALE

FREE SPACE FOR SALE

FG's economic crack team moves to mitigate effects of second recession

EMEKA NWANKPA, GROUP MANAGING EDITOR

Indications emerged last night that Nigeria's economic managers are rolling up their sleeves to get back to work and navigate a tough curve for the national economy in the heels of a second recession reported by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

A Nigerian Gross Domestic Product Report (Q3 2020) for the third quarter of 2020 released by the NBS indicated that the country had again entered its second economic recession in five years.

The report for the Quarter 3 capturing the 9 month-period under review curiously presented a glimmer of hope for the economy showing a cumulative GDP growth of -3.62 per cent whereas Quarter 2 had recorded a -6 percent growth.

Senior Special Assistant on Media in the Office of the Vice President, Mr. Laolu Akande who spoke last night on a Channels TV programme, Inside Politics, anchored by Seun Okinbaloye and monitored in Abuja declared that the NBS report showed that the Nigerian economy was on the rebound.

"This shows that President Muhammadu Buhari's Economic Sustainability Plan domiciled in the office of the Vice President is working. This is good for the Nigerian economy. In other words, the economy is on the rebound", he said.

The NBS report showed Q3 figure as representing an improvement of 2.48 per cent over the 6'10 per cent growth rate recorded in the quarter (Q2 2020) which it said also indicated two consecutive quarters of negative growth had been recorded in 2020.

The statistics office in the 98-page report said a total of 18 economic activities recorded positive growth in this year's third quarter, pointing to a positive response to the challenges through deliberate and determined actions of the Federal Government aimed at unlocking the economy.

Daily Times checks last night revealed that the report is receiving "deep and profound" attention at the highest level of government in Abuja. A highly-placed Presidency source said the economic team led by the Minister of Finance, Budget and National, Mrs Zainab Shamna Ahmed is billed to meet this week to deliberate on the report, among other pressing matters.

The source also told Daily Times that the economic team was elated by disclosure last Friday by the President of the Senate, Ahmed Lawan that the National Assembly will pass the 2021 budget estimates in the second week of December.

The Senate President gave the



Buhari



Lawan

assurance last Friday in Abuja at a retreat for top management staff of the National Assembly Service Commission, saying, "we are working to pass the 2021 budget by the second week of December by the grace of God. We are working assiduously, we will ensure that there is a every possible scrutiny of the budget estimates presented to us by the Executive arm of government".

He added: "So far, we achieved that in 2020 budget. We believe we did the right thing. We promised Nigerians that we will do that and it is going to be part of our legacy in the Ninth National Assembly".

Senator Lawan, who is the chairman of the National Assembly also disclosed that the 9th Assembly would ensure the passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill by the second quarter of 2021.

It will be recalled that on October 8, 2020, President Muhammadu Buhari presented N13.03 trillion as the 2021 Budget estimate to a joint session of the National Assembly.

Underscoring the importance of next year's budget to his administration, the President said:

"I fully understand the difficulties many of our people are going through with the implementation of our reform agenda. However, the measures we are implementing are necessary for sustainable public finance, better allocation of our

scarce resources and improved public service delivery. As we implement these reforms, social safety nets will be implemented to cushion the effect of the most vulnerable of our citizens as well as business owners.

"Let me re-emphasize that Nigerians expect that the 2021 Budget will contain only implementable and critical projects, which when completed, will significantly address current structural challenges of the economy, improve the business environment and accelerate economic recovery.

"In furtherance of our inclusiveness agenda, the sum of N420 billion has been provided to sustain the Social Investment Programme. N20 billion has also been set aside for the Family Homes Fund, our Social Housing Programme. We have expanded our National Social Register, to include an additional one million Nigerians following the onset of Coronavirus.

"We recently introduced the N75 billion Survival Fund Programme to support and protect businesses from potential vulnerabilities. Furthermore, the Central Bank of Nigeria is reducing the interest rate on its intervention facilities from 9% to 5% with a 1-year moratorium till 31st March 2021, to provide concessional lending of N100 billion to households and small businesses; N100 billion to the healthcare and pharmaceutical

industry; and N1 trillion to large agricultural and manufacturing businesses.

"We urge Nigerian businesses and individuals to make the most of these concessional credit facilities and other such opportunities", he said.

While concluding his address to the joint session of the lawmakers, the president expressed hope that the legislative process would be expedited to ensure its prompt passage to sustain the restoration of a predictable January - December fiscal year, adding that he had directed all ministers and heads of agencies to be personally available for budget defence.

Daily Times observes that the president's directive was largely complied with by heads of the MDAs suggesting that the implementation of the next budget would receive the deserved seriousness.

The Chairman, House Committee on Finance, Hon' James Faleke praised the leadership of the National Assembly for taking necessary steps that enabled the various committees of both chambers of the National Assembly to conclude their assignments in record time.

"As we speak, almost all the various committees have concluded their assignments regarding the budget defence. On behalf of my committee, I commend the leaderships of the Senate and the House of Representatives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

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for taking the proper and necessary steps that enabled our committees to conclude on time and get the 2021 Appropriation Bill ready for passage.

It speaks to the diligence, commitment and seriousness of our leaders and also the collective support and determination of our members to get this job done in the overriding interest and benefit of the Nigerian people who elected us. If there's any time that elected public office holders needed to work harder for the Nigerian people, it is now considering the difficult times that our people went through this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But we are looking towards next year with greater hope and expectations", Hon. Faleke told Daily Times in a phone interview last night.

On October 13, 2020, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed was joined by the Minister of State, Mr. Clem Agba and the Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika including the Director-General of Budget Office, Mr. Ben Akabueze and the his counterpart in the Debt Management Office.

Noting that President Muhammadu Buhari had presented a N13.08 trillion Budget 2021 which estimate was N2.28 trillion higher than the 2020 revised budget of N10.805trillion, she echoed the president's disclosure at the joint session that the nation's GDP growth was projected to be negative in the third quarter of this year meaning that the economy might lapse into the second recession in four years, with significant adverse consequences.

But she assured that the government was working assiduously to ensure rapid recovery in 2021 by being totally committed to implementing programmes capable of lifting 100 million Nigerians out of poverty over the next 10 years hence the tagline: "Budget of Economic Recovery and Resilience".

She said: "Total overhead costs of MDAs and Government Owned Enterprises are projected to rise to N625.50 billion in 2021, mainly due to the inclusion of the overheads of an additional 50 Government Owned Enterprises. Overhead provisions have also been made for newly created agencies.

"To keep a tab on running costs, MDAs must adhere to extant expenditure controls. An aggregate sum of N3.85 trillion is expected to be available for capital projects in 2021, as summarised below: N1.80 trillion for MDAs' capital expenditure; N745 billion for Capital Supplementation; N355 billion for Grants and Aid-funded projects; N20 billion for the Family Homes Fund; N25 billion for the Nigeria Youth Investment Fund; N336 billion for 60 GOEs; N247 billion for capital component of statutory transfers; and N710 billion for projects funded by Multi-lateral and Bi-lateral loans.

"The 2021 capital budget is N1.15 trillion higher than the 2020 provision of N2.69trillion. At 29 percent of

FG's economic crack team moves to mitigate effects of second recession



Ahmed

aggregate expenditure, the provision moves closer to this administration's policy target of 30 percent.

"Capital expenditure in 2021 remains focused on the completion of as many ongoing projects as possible, rather than the commencement of new ones. Key capital spending allocations in the 2021 Budget include: Power: N198 billion (inclusive of N150 billion for the power sector recovery plan); Works and Housing: N404 billion; Transportation: N256 billion; Defence: N121 billion; Agriculture and Rural Development: N110 billion; Water Resources: N153 billion; Industry, Trade and Investment: N51 billion; Education: N127 billion; Universal Basic Education Commission: N70 billion; Health: N132 billion; Zonal Intervention Projects: N100 billion; and Niger Delta Development Commission: N64 billion".

Ahmed remarked that the main thrust of the capital spending programme in 2021 is the completion of as many ongoing projects as possible across the country, while prioritizing projects that can be rapidly completed to benefit Nigerians.

Part of the major fallout at the respective budget defence sessions by MDAs was an announcement by the Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika that the Federal Government had concluded plans to construct 10 new airports to boost civil aviation across the country as well as a brand new national carrier.

The minister, who disclosed this



Sirika

when he appeared before the Senate Committee on Aviation, commended the Federal Government and the National Assembly for being favourably disposed to the civil aviation sector through the implementation of a roadmap since 2015 when the Buhari administration came to power.

To tap the full economic potentials in the sector, Sirika said the Federal Government decided to build new seven airports in Anambra, Benue, Ekiti, Nasarawa, Ebonyi, Gombe, among other states, adding that Kebbi, Osubi, Dutse airports had been taken over by the Federal Government while the Gombe State government had also written the federal authorities seeking to take over the Gombe Airport.

"Consequent upon that roadmap, we have seen aviation grow in 2018 to become the second fastest growing sector of the economy and by 2019, it became the fastest growing sector of the economy and increased its GDP contribution.

"During your tenure from 2015 till now, we've seen a lot of growth in civil aviation, number of airports is increasing. So far, about seven airports have been added to the map, some of them completed, some of them under construction.

"There are airports coming up in Benue, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Lafia, Damaturu, Anambra and so forth. All of these show that civil aviation is growing during this administration.

"So, we have about 10 new airports coming up, that is almost half the number of airports we used to have in



Faleke

Nigeria. So we are adding 50 per cent of the number of airports," Sirika said.

The minister also hinted that the much-talked-about national carrier, Nigeria Air, was part of the Aviation sector roadmap, which will be delivered before 2023.

"We are on it. The transaction adviser has brought in the outline business case. It is being reviewed by ICRC. Soon after it finishes, it will go to FEC and it will be approved. We will not leave this government without having it in place," Sirika said.

For the minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio who appeared before the Senate Committee on Niger Delta lamented that paucity of funds could derail Buhari's mandate for Niger Delta. He expressed fear that realizing President Muhammadu Buhari's vision for the Niger Delta region due to inadequate and dwindling budgetary allocation and releases over the years.

The minister sought the assistance of the committee in shooting up the ministry's budgetary allocation, noting that said paucity of funds was responsible for plethora of abandoned and uncompleted projects in the region.

According to Akpabio, the proposed N265.92 billion for the Ministry of Niger Delta for 2021 was meagre and significantly inadequate in the face of the mandate and goals of the Ministry to meet the yearnings and aspirations of the people of the Niger Delta region.

Oil sector contracts by 13.89% as COVID-19 plunges Nigeria's economy into recession

DOOSUUR LWAMBE, ABUJA

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Nigeria has contracted by 3.62% in the third quarter of 2020, officially indicating that Nigeria has fallen into recession as the oil sector dipped by 13.89% (year-on-year) in real term.

This was contained in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) report, released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The report indicate that the contraction in the oil sector represents 7.26% points lower than the growth recorded in the previous quarter (Q2 2020, -6.63%) while the non-oil sector contracted by 2.51% in the review quarter.

The sector contributed 8.73% to

total real GDP in Q3 2020, down from 9.77% and 8.93% respectively recorded in the corresponding period of 2019 and the preceding quarter, Q2 2020.

The average daily oil production recorded in the third quarter of 2020 stood at 1.67 million barrels per day (mbpd), or 0.37mbpd lower than the average production recorded in the same quarter of 2019 and 0.14mbpd lower than the production volume recorded in the second quarter of 2020.

On the other hand, The non-oil sector grew by -2.51% in real terms during the reference quarter, which is -4.36% points lower than the rate recorded in Q3 2019 but 3.54% points higher than in the second quarter of 2020.

In real terms, the non-oil sector

contributed 91.27% to the nation's GDP in the third quarter of 2020, higher than its share in the third quarter of 2019 (90.23%) and the second quarter of 2020 (91.07%).

The performance of the Nigerian economy in the third quarter of 2020 reflected residual effects of the restrictions to movement and economic activity implemented across the country in early Q2 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, as these restrictions were lifted in the third quarter, businesses re-opened and international travel and trading activities resumed, some economic activities have returned to positive growth, as 18 economic activities recorded positive growth in Q3 2020 as against 13 activities in Q2 2020.



General Manager, Operations, Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA), Mr. Soji Soloye (right); General Manager, Administration and Human Resources, Mr. Victor Shidok; Manager, Corporate Services, Ms. Folashade Kayode; and Regulatory Officer, Miss. Rachael Ishaiah, at a briefing by Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation in Abuja. Photo: NAN.

Niger Delta host communities demand ownership, control of PIB funds

DOOSUUR IWAMBE, ABUJA

Stakeholders in Niger Delta host communities are demanding ownership and control of the host communities trust funds proposed in the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) for the development of oil-producing areas.

The stakeholders are also calling for an increment in the contribution of 2.5 percent of the Operating Expenditure (OPEX) of companies to 5 per cent.

In a communiqué issued at the just concluded Host Community (HostCom) Colloquium organised by OrderPaper Advocacy Initiative in Owerri, the host communities noted that the PIB failed to address the fate

of impacted communities, especially those that suffer the consequences of gas flares and other environmental damages and demanded that this lacuna be provided for in the passage of the bill.

While stating that the PIB “should be designed as a tool for resolving development challenges rather than as palliatives to host communities,” the stakeholders said the PIB “must clearly define what constitutes “host” and “impacted” communities, rather than leave that to the discretion of the companies.”

On the question of ownership, the stakeholders said the Bill “should make it compulsory for members of the Board of Trustees of the Trust to come from host communities and give communities a stronger role

in the selection process, financial management and administrative procedures of operating the Trusts.”

They also said “Needs assessment, monitoring and evaluation for projects and programmes should be jointly conducted by both the communities and companies,” and that the PIB “should clearly set out timelines for implementation of projects and penalties for defaulting companies.”

The communiqué was endorsed on behalf of participants drawn from oil bearing areas by the Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), Federation of Ethnic Nationalities of Niger Delta (FENND), and Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), among a dozen other group representatives of host communities.

Short News

Nigeria is a gas nation more than oil, says NNPC

DOOSUUR LWAMBE, ABUJA

The Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Malam Mele Kyari, has said that although Nigeria was known as an oil country it is more a gas nation than oil.

Speaking with journalists over the weekend, Kyari said that the corporation had the full support of the president to operate effectively for the growth of the industry,

“I can tell you that the privilege we have today in this company of having unfettered control without any distraction or interference to make decisions and be accountable and responsible for our decisions has never happened until this government.

“I can tell you this because I have been around for 29 years and have worked closely with top management of the NNPC for about 15 years.

“This is the only president who has never asked NNPC to do something.

“I have the personal privilege to have access to Mr President, to his private audience and I can tell you that under no circumstances has he controlled what we want to do.

“He only wants to know and be sure that what we are doing is in the best interest of the country,” he said

He said that migrating to the deregulation of the downstream oil sector was a huge challenge and difficult decision for the president as he understood the pain it would put ordinary Nigerian through.

According to him, the president supported the decision because government can no longer afford subsidy with harsh economic impact of COVID-19.

The GMD said that the Corporation's new focus was on gas development as the most resilient source of energy in the energy transition process.

“The only oil and gas that survived during the COVID-19 with minimal negative change was gas. Gas will help the country out of its major challenge of electricity.

“The biggest challenge we have here is to take electricity to homes, industries and to use the resources we have to create that energy this country needs.

“Today, the two reasons we are not getting electricity because the production is low and we are not able to transmit it to those who need it.

“That means there is bottleneck in transmission and distribution system,” he said

He said that gas had a lot to offer as it created work and economy that was not existing today noting that it could create industry with many other benefits.

He assured that the Corporation would continue to work to ensure full gas development in the country for economic growth.

Group accuses DisCos, NERC of connivance to milk consumers

DOOSUUR IWAMBE

A civil society group, Civil Rights Council (CRC), has accused the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) of allegedly conniving with Distribution Companies (DisCos) to extort electricity consumers through outrageous estimated billings.

The group said NERC has failed in its mandate by allowing DISCOs to issue high and unregulated estimated bills to Nigerians.

Chairman of the CRC, Comrade Agbubi Ejovwoke, said the development has resulted in the deliberate refusal to provide prepaid meters to consumers.

Ejovwoke added that despite series of complaints launched to the commission by electricity consumers, it has failed to take a firm stand on the issue.

He, therefore, urged the Federal Government to scrap NERC over its continuous failure to execute it's core mandate.

“We want the Federal Government to scrap NERC because the commission as it is today has lost focus and is just there receiving huge budgetary allocation for doing nothing.

“Early this year, I think February, after series of complaints and protest carried out against the injustice done to consumers by the DISCOs, especially BEDC, NERC came up to say they have placed a limit on what DISCOs are to charge unmetered customers.

“They put the maximum that any DISCO can invoice a residential customer at 78kWhr x N24/ kWhr = N1,872 per month yet you see these DISCOs issuing bills as high as N28,000 for a single customer.

“The annoying thing is that when you launch a complain to NERC through their website, they only acknowledge through their automatic acknowledgment programme but never treat them”, the group said.

READ MORE ON: www.dailytimes.ng

COVID-19 cases surge amidst growing threat – WHO

More cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the past four weeks than in the first six months of the pandemic, the UN health agency chief told journalists on Friday as he launched a new report on the threat posed by antimicrobial resistance.

“Across Europe and North America, hospitals and ICU units are filling up or are full”, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) said at a regular press briefing in Geneva.

While sharing “more good news from vaccine trials, which continues to give us hope of ending the pandemic”, he upheld the need to continue to “use the tools we have to interrupt the chains of transmission and save lives”.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder of the “intimate relationship between humans, animals and the planet we share”, the WHO chief said.

“We cannot protect and promote human health without paying attention to the health of animals and the health of our environment”.

This is particularly relevant when

considering antimicrobial resistance, according to Tedros, who called it “one of the greatest health threats of our time”.

Antimicrobial resistance threatens the efficacy of the antibiotics that are key in combating HIV, malaria, neglected tropical diseases and many other illnesses.

And while antimicrobial resistance may not seem as urgent as a pandemic, it is not only just as dangerous but threatens to “unwind a century of medical progress and leave us defenseless against infections that today can be treated easily”, he warned.

Aligning with World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, which kicked off on Wednesday, the WHO chief launched a new report – along with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health – that examines international rules governing antimicrobial practices, and identifies gaps in regulations governing their use on humans, animals and plants.

The report, based on data from 136 countries, reveals that while almost 90 per cent of States have national action plans for antimicrobial resistance, only 20

per cent have identified funding for their implementation.

“To help address that gap, together we have established a trust fund to support low and middle income countries to develop a truly ‘One Health’ approach to addressing antimicrobial resistance”, Tedros asserted, thanking Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom for \$13 million in funding - the first round of support for eleven countries, and to generate more global coherence in their use.

Against the backdrop that increased political commitment at the highest levels of government was “one of the most important ways” to achieve that goal, the WHO chief announced the One Health Global Leaders Group, which will bring together prominent leaders from government, the private sector and civil society organizations “to advocate for urgent action to combat the threat of antimicrobial resistance”.

It also involves participants from agriculture, health, development and other relevant areas “to maintain urgency, public support, political momentum and visibility of the antimicrobial resistance challenge”.



Reviewer, Prof. Oladipupo Sina (left); House of Representatives member Kingsley Chinda; husband of the celebrator, Pastor Joshua; Celebrator/Protem President, Chartered Institution of Forensic Auditors (CIFIA), Dr. Victoria Enape; and Rep. Uzoma Nkem-Abonte, during the book presentation and her 50th birthday, in Abuja... on Sunday. Photo: NAN.

NGOs train women on production of sanitary pads

AGENCY REPORT

Three Non-Governmental Organisations said they have trained no fewer than 150 women and young girls on the production of reusable sanitary pads in Sabon Wuse community of Tafa Local Government Area of Niger.

They are Lola Cater for the Needy Foundation, Every Child is a Star Foundation and WaterWide organisation.

Miss Ololade Ogunnubi, Founder, Lola Cater for the Needy Foundation announced this on Saturday at a workshop organised by the organisations to promote menstrual hygiene among the women and girls in the community.

She added that the initiative was born out of preliminary research earlier carried out to ascertain the needs of the community.

Ogunnubi added that findings from the research revealed that large number of women and girls lacked adequate information on water, sanitation and hygiene

practices.

“We found that they do not have adequate knowledge on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) practices as well as how to take care of themselves during menstruation.

“We decided to come to the community to put them through and let them know that unsafe hygiene practices can put them at risk of contracting all forms of diseases.

“We are going to be talking with them on gender based violence and how to report such cases when they are violated,” she said.

Mr Wilson Atumeyi, Chief Executive Officer, Water with Development (WaterWide), noted that “it is necessary to enlighten women and young girls in rural communities on how to purify their water and how to maintain menstrual hygiene.

“We want them to understand what best WASH practices mean, as it is in line with the current coronavirus pandemic ravaging the world.

“As we all know that washing ones hands with water and soap is the first line of defence to combating the spread of the pandemic”.

He however called on the local and state governments to provide functional boreholes in rural communities in the state.

“If we keep on preaching WASH practices and the people do not get access to clean water, our campaigns will just be in vein,” he said.

The Community Head, Mr Hashimu Lawal, appreciated the organisation for their kind gesture, which he said, would go a long way in improving the health of women and girls in the community.

A beneficiary, Miss Zainab Yusuf, said the training on reusable pads had exposed her to things she did not know about menstrual hygiene.

“I now know how to take care of myself when I am having my periods,” she said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the event featured pep talks on gender-based violence and also the distribution of reusable sanitary pads to the women and young girls in the community.

The theme for the workshop is “Rural Women and Girls building resilience”.

Short News

How to take a screenshot on Samsung Galaxy phones

Usually, taking a screenshot on an Android smartphone is as simple as long-pressing the volume down button and power buttons at the same time, but that’s not the case by default on the most recent Samsung Galaxy phones.

Since the Galaxy Note 10, Samsung has decided to consolidate the functions of its side buttons, specifically merging Bixby into the new “side key.” Now, when long-pressing volume and power buttons, you instead trigger the power menu with the default behavior.

So, how do you take a screenshot on the Galaxy S20? Simply press the volume down button and side key at the same time quickly. A quick tap of both buttons at the same time will trigger the device to take a screenshot of whatever’s currently on your display.

Once you’ve taken a screenshot, an action bar will appear at the bottom of the display with shortcuts for editing the screenshot, tagging it, or sharing it through messaging, social media, and other apps on your device. This bar even contains an option for capturing an extended screenshot!

Alternatively, you can ask Bixby to take a screenshot for you! While Samsung’s voice assistant generally isn’t loved by users, it is exceptionally good at controlling device functions and settings. One of those is to take a screenshot. If you’ve not changed any settings relating to Bixby, simply long-press the side key and when Bixby starts listening, ask it to take a screenshot.

Young negotiators ‘scream’ for change

SHARON ISAALAH, LAGOS

Young activists said on Thursday they did not understand why political leaders have failed to grasp the severity of the climate crisis and respond to it with the same urgency as the coronavirus pandemic, opening two weeks of online discussions.

During the talks - in place of the virus-delayed COP26 U.N. climate summit - youth representatives from 142 countries will consider potential climate solutions and issue a legal statement with recommendations that could feed into national policies.

“If you can’t do the changes we want, we can do it and we don’t need your help. We have the capacity,” Sonali, an Indian youth activist who goes by only one name, told the opening of the “Mock COP26” talks, organised by the delegates themselves.

The discussions come as youth activists have struggled to maintain the momentum they built in 2019, when Swedish teen climate campaigner Greta Thunberg and millions of other people took to the streets globally to demand climate action, spurring promises of more rapid progress on climate threats.

Alok Sharma, Britain’s business minister and president of COP26, now set for next November in Glasgow, urged delegates to “keep up that momentum, keep showing us what is possible, keep advocating for climate action in your home countries”.

Such “absolutely vital” pressure will make it easier to win more ambitious carbon-cutting commitments, he said in a video address to the talks.

Jayathma Wickramanayake, a 29-year-old Sri Lankan who is the U.N. secretary-general’s envoy on youth, said that while the U.N. climate negotiations had been postponed, “the climate crisis cannot be postponed. It remains an urgent crisis”.

Youth organisers of the talks said they particularly hoped in the discussions to educate young people about climate change and policy options, and to paint a clear picture of the scale of the global threat, through delegates’ own personal stories.

Licypriya Kangujam, a 9-year-old Indian climate activist, spoke about how surging forest fires in Australia, California, Siberia and the Amazon had left her sleepless over the deaths of millions of trees and animals.

Communities around the world also this year were suffering from worsening hurricanes and typhoons, locust plagues, air pollution, rising seas and heatwaves that kill the poorest, she said, calling such impacts “the real effect of climate change”.

Phoebe Hanson, a British organiser of the talks, said young people found still-insufficient efforts to curb climate-changing emissions difficult to understand in the face of clear evidence of growing threats, particularly to younger generations.

“The fact that our governments and leaders and decision-makers cannot show leadership on this issue is heartbreaking as a young person, because that shows they don’t care about us,” she told the opening of the event.

“This emergency is not enough of an emergency for them to take constructive action and for them to work across borders, in the same way they have done with COVID-19,” she said - leaving young people to try to “fill the void”.

In an opening statement, the activists said the world too often turned to young people as a symbol of hope - but without following up with “concrete change”.

“This event is a scream from young people around the world. We want change. We want an inhabitable world, as do the future generations. The time to ... put our plans into practice is now,” it said.

Hanson said young activists particularly wanted to move beyond being “just a photo opportunity or a box to tick for youth representation” in events and instead have policymakers “actually listening to what we have to say”.

GAC Motor's one-of-a-kind virtual launch of the GA4 and GS3 cars!

■ ■ ■ GAC Motor is inspiring young and innovative car enthusiasts in Nigeria to 'Create the Future', with the launch of the GA4 and GS3 - her new range of automobiles designed exclusively for young and upwardly mobile Nigerians.

The virtual event, themed: Unity in Diversity was a first-of-its-kind car launch featuring an unprecedented fusion of virtual coverage, live art and theatre. The event plunged millions of excited fans on social media globally into a fully immersive blend of entertainment and technology, as they simultaneously experienced the same live event.

The highly-anticipated launch began at 2 pm West African Time on the 19th of November, 2020, with 30 VIP guests including The Lagos State Chief of Staff Mr. Tayo Akinmade Ayinde; Mr. Amaju Pinnick - President of the Nigerian Football Federation; Mr. Usen Udoh - Group Chief Human Resources Officer - Dangote Group; alongside stakeholders from major corporations and industries across Nigeria witnessing this historic event. Celebrity guests included Stephanie Linus; Richard Mofe Damijo; Dakore Akande-Egbuson; Juliet Ibrahim and many more. The GAC Experience was hosted by Stephanie Coker Aderinokun and ace comedian Bovi, who was named at the virtual car launch as Brand Ambassador for CIG Motors for the next one year.

Mr. Tayo Akinmade, speaking on behalf of the Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said "I am without any doubt in mind that these new models of cars will perform excellently well and meet the expectations of Nigerians as I have been reliably informed that they were specifically designed for Nigerians and Nigerian roads. I applaud Chief Diana Chen, the Group Chairman and all members of staff of the GAC Motors Family for all their efforts within Nigeria."

The event was hosted at the CIG Motors (sole distributors of the GAC brand in Nigeria) headquarters in Victoria Island, Lagos and was broadcast live to millions on Youtube, Facebook and Instagram. The ambience of the live event exhibited some of the most innovative advancements in art and technology, integrated into an African theme inspired by the music, arts on display and performances at the virtual launch.

Chief Diana Chen - the Chairman of Choice



L-R: Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia (Former Minister of State for Petroleum Resources and Minister of Foreign Affairs), Gen Muhammad, Mr. Linus Idahosa (MD/CEO Del-York International and Vice Chairman, Choice International Group), Chief Diana Chen (Chairman, Choice International Group), Mr. Tayo Akinmade Ayinde (Chief of Staff, Lagos State), Mr. Usen Udoh (Group Chief Human Resources Officer, Dangote Group), General, Mr. Segun Ajayi Kadir (Director General MAN)

International Group gave a stirring and motivating speech at the event, in which she highlighted the nation's strength through the theme: Unity in Diversity, as well as GAC Motors' passion to drive youth and their industry giving that the launch of the new GA4 and GS3 cars were an expressive medium to 'create their future.' Chief Diana Chen officially announced the Vice Chairman of Choice International Group, Dr Linus Idahosa, who has been a silent contributor to the growth of the Choice International Group in Nigeria.

The unveiling ceremony of the cars showcased a dynamic blend of innovation and creativity with exteriors following the unique design traditions of GAC. The interior looked and felt livelier with numerous chrome-

coated parts, and many other features created with practicality and comfort in mind for a young Nigerian audience. One of the biggest surprises of the evening was the lucky winner of a brand new GA4 Car, 19-years old Paul Ndube Idafum from Badagry, who was selected from one of the numerous live audiences of the event on social media. Participants and attendees also won several other Lontor and Gree products.


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PHOTOS FROM THE GAC VIRTUAL CAR LAUNCH



L - R: Mr Henry Ajumogobia (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs), Mr Linus Idahosa, Chief Diana Chen (Chairman, CIG motors), Mr Tayo Akinmade Ayinde (Chief of Staff Lagos State), Mr Usen Udoh (Group Director, Human Resources, Dangote group), Mr Segun Ajayi-Kadir (Director General of MAN), Mr Ademola Adebise (MD, Wema Bank)



Mr Linus Idahosa (MD/CEO Del-York International & Vice Chairman, CIG motors) announcing the winner of the GA4 during the just concluded virtual digital launch of the CS3 & GA4 cars



L - R: Bovi Ugboma, Stephanie Coker Aderinokun, Richard Mofe Damijo, Rita Dominic, Dakore Egbuson Akande, Chief Diana Chen, Juliet Ibrahim, Stephanie Linus, Mr Linus Idahosa



L - R: A Vip guest with Chief Diana Chen & Pastor Ituah Ighodalo



NITDA to support NNPC's innovation drive in oil sector

SHARON ISAALAH, LAGOS

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has reiterated its resolve to support the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to drive innovation in the petroleum sector.

Mr Kashifu Inuwa, NITDA Director-General said this when officials of the Research, Technology and Innovation (RTI) division of the NNPC visited the agency's National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR) in Abuja.

Inuwa said that developing an ecosystem was dependent on having stakeholders engaged, while the innovation ecosystem needed support from the government, academia, corporate organisations, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

"Innovation happens when you explore and you need to be an explorer

and exploiter at the same time before you become innovative as an organisation.

"Getting an idea from conceptualisation to impact is highly required to be an innovator that opens to new ideas.

"We are open to this innovation and it will be for the development of our country to drive technology innovation in the oil sector," he said.

Mrs Ugonna Amaechi, RTI Chief Innovation Officer who led the officials said the visit was to seek the support of NITDA on how to effectively drive the petroleum sector with digital technology in research and innovation.

"We also require the agency to assist us review some of our strategies, goals, priorities and progress, as well as provide guidance for success.

"Innovation is about creating new ways of doing things towards achieving performance efficiency and cutting costs.

"Innovation is something Nigeria has come to embrace and for innovation to

thrive, there must be triggers which is why the RTI was formed.

"RTI's business thematic areas include cybernetics and automation, downstream innovation, energy innovation, refining of petrochemical innovation, upstream innovation, market research and service innovation.

"The research aspects of RTI uses creative, systemic and methodological principles of knowledge to collect, organise and analyse ideas for business growth, sustain development and then solve problems within NNPC," she said.

She said that the organisation intended to embrace human-centred innovation.

"We are hoping to learn from NITDA's experience because it focuses on the area of technology to drive business efficiency, quality service and performance excellence, using advancements in applied sciences, engineering and design in line with technology trends," she said.

The RTI was created in March 2020 to handle research technology and innovation in NNPC.

Short News

Constant use of tobacco increases risk of COVID-19

SHARON ISAALAH, LAGOS

While the COVID-19 pandemic has elevated public health to a top priority in every country in the world, it has left many poorly resourced governments receptive to any and all aid that can provide immediate assistance to help their people.

The pandemic pandemonium has provided unprecedented opportunities for the tobacco industry to boost its corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities to get closer to health and senior government officials.

Using charity to gain access to senior officials, foster good ties, and gain political capital to influence and interfere with public policies is a prominent tobacco industry tactic revealed in the 2020 Asian Tobacco Industry Interference Index.

Because of the deceptive and powerful influence of CSR activities exploited by the tobacco industry, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) calls on Parties to the treaty to denormalize these activities and even ban them. Nearly all Asian countries are parties to this treaty.

The Index is a civil society report card that ranks 18 Asian governments on their efforts to protect health policies from the influence and interference of commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in line with Article 5.3 guidelines of the FCTC.

Japan, Indonesia, and China top the report's list with the highest level of tobacco industry meddling. These countries also have the largest smoking populations in the world. Brunei, Pakistan, and Nepal made the best progress to protect public policies from industry influence.

Key findings:

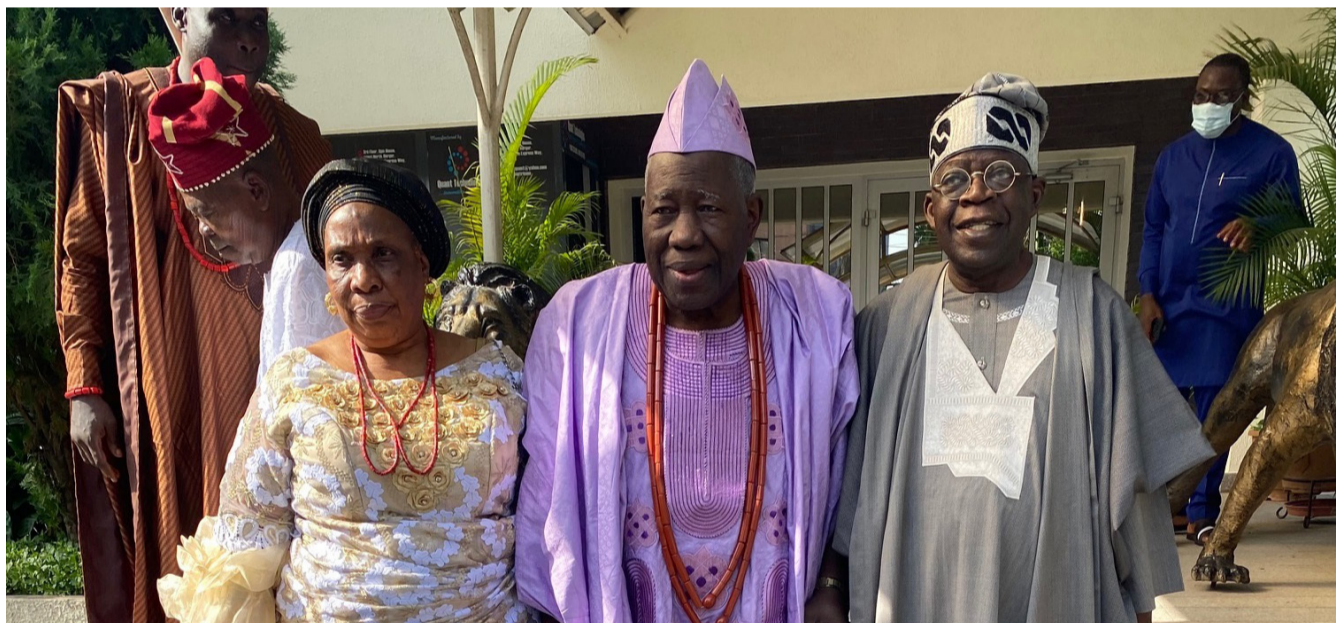
- Health policy is undermined when the tobacco industry is included in the policymaking process. Participation and influence in tobacco control policies are revealed to be the highest in China, Indonesia, Japan, and Philippines.

- Tobacco industry buys influence through CSR activities. Industry-sponsored CSR activities remain common even in countries where restrictions are in place. Funding social causes, such as sports and disaster relief, allows the industry to promote itself as a "good corporate citizen" in the eyes of governments as shown in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Pakistan and Vietnam.

- Governments give benefits to the industry. With the exception of Brunei and ignoring the devastating harms of tobacco, many governments have been persuaded by the tobacco industry on its importance for economic growth and grant it preferential treatment such as tax breaks, facilitation of trade agreements, and delayed and weakened implementation of tobacco control measures. These are detrimental to tobacco control and tend to drain national coffers of tax revenues.

- Unnecessary interactions with the industry foster government endorsement. High-level government representatives participate in events organized by the tobacco industry. Activities related to combating smuggling are common where the tobacco industry works side-by-side with governments.

- Lack of transparency in interaction with the tobacco industry. The lack of transparency in government interactions with the tobacco industry remains a problem in almost all countries. Most countries do not have a procedure for public disclosure.



Olori Rasheedat Adetunji, Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Saliu Adetunji *Aje-Ogununiso 1*, and All Progressives Congress National Leader, Asiawaju Bola Tinubu, when the monarch and his wife visited the former Lagos State governor on Sunday at his Bourdillon, Ikoyi residence.

PHOTO: TINUBU MEDIA OFFICE.

Rover that will explore Mars moon Phobos starts landing tests

■ ■ ■ The first rover to explore the moon of another planet has started practicing for its landing, even though that historic touchdown is at least six years away.

The 55-lb. (25 kilograms) robot is part of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Maratian Moons eXploaration (MMX) mission, which is scheduled to launch in 2024 and arrive at the Red Planet the following year.

In late 2026 or early 2027, the MMX Rover, which is being developed by a German-French team, will descend to the surface of the 14-mile-wide (22 kilometers) Phobos, the larger of Mars' two moons. (The smaller one, Deimos, is just 8 miles, or 13 km, across.)

The four-wheeled robot will do so in freefall, from an estimated height of 130 feet to 330 feet (40 to 100 meters) — a dramatic drop that mission team members have begun simulating at the German Aerospace Center's Landing and Mobility Test Facility in Bremen.

"Under laboratory conditions, we drop the preliminary model of the MMX Rover from a height of five centimeters [2 inches] onto a changeable surface at various angles," test

manager Michael Lange, from the DLR Institute of Composite Structures and Adaptive Systems, said in a statement. (DLR is the German acronym for the German Aerospace Center.)

"In this way, since Phobos has only approximately two thousandths of Earth's gravity at its surface, we can simulate the intensity of the impact for the rover structure," Lange said.

That impact could hit the MMX Rover in pretty much any orientation and may include a collision with a jutting rock, mission team members stressed. So that changeable surface is getting a workout.

"The exact location of the landing on the surface of Phobos is a matter of chance. and we are using these analyses to prepare for the various possible scenarios," Michael Wrasmann, from the DLR Institute of Space Systems, said in the same statement.

The rover team's touchdown prep also includes computer modeling. Such work, combined with the drop tests, will help inform the final design on the MMX Rover, which will be less than 2 feet (0.6 m) long.

The MMX mission aims to clarify the origin and evolution of Phobos and Deimos, which remain shrouded in mystery. For example, some researchers think the two moons are captured asteroids, whereas others posit that they're former pieces of Mars blasted into space by powerful impacts.

MMX is a sample-return effort. The mission's primary spacecraft, a Mars orbiter, will snag a sample from Phobos and return the material to Earth. The MMX Rover won't be part of the return cargo; the little robot will gather data on the moon's surface for about 100 Earth days and remain there after its operational life has ended.

The MMX Rover continues the extensive collaboration among JAXA, DLR and the French space agency, CNES. DLR and CNES also contributed the Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout (MASCOT) lander to JAXA's Hayabusa2 mission, which explored the near-Earth asteroid Ryugu in detail. MASCOT beamed home up-close imagery of Ryugu's rugged surface, and the Hayabusa2 mothership collected samples from the asteroid that are scheduled to land on Earth this December.

NCDC launches COVID-19 Nigeria Stories blog

■ ■ ■ Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) says it has launched a #COVID19NigeriaStories blog to document Nigeria's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Director General of the centre, Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu, made this known in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Saturday in Abuja.

He advised Nigerians to log on to — covid19blog.ncdc.gov.ng — to read about the people behind the response.

Ihekweazu added that as Nigeria continued to respond to the novel Coronavirus pandemic, it was important to document the process and inform the public.

He said "we cannot handle future public health emergencies without applying lessons learnt from the current pandemic.

"This is why documenting #COVID19NigeriaStories is important."

According to him, many sectors have worked with great coordination to develop and implement Nigeria's COVID-19 response.

The NCDC boss, who explained that "the #COVID-19NigeriaStories explores different state level responses to COVID-19", added that "it is interesting to learn how different states are responding toward tackling the pandemic."

Ihekweazu noted that the blog documentation project was being handled by Nigeria Health Watch, with support from Ford Foundation.

Umahi dissolves boards, commissions in Ebonyi

■■■ Governor David Umahi of Ebonyi State has dissolved all Boards and Commissions untenured by law in Ebonyi State.

Umahigavethedirectiveforthedissolution in a statement by Mr Kenneth Ugbala, the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) and Coordinating Commissioner.

The statement said the dissolution of the boards and commissions by the governor was in a bid to reposition the government.

He said that the exercise was carried out to promote inclusiveness and enhance service delivery in the state.

“In effort of the state government to reposition the administration, promote inclusiveness and enhance service delivery, immediate dissolution of all boards and commissions, untenured by law, should be carried out.

“Sequel to this effect, all former officials affected by this announcement are directed to hand over all government property in their possession to the SSG on November 23.

In a related development, the governor has sacked four of his technical assistants for dereliction of duty.

The sack is contained in a statement signed by Dr Kenneth Ugbala, Secretary to the State Government (SSG), and made available to reporters at the weekend.

The affected officers, according to the statement, include Cletus Ogbonna, John

Osi, Tochukwu Ali and Olachi Arua.

“All affected officers are directed to handover all government property in their possession to the SSG before the close of work on Monday, Nov. 23.

“The officers are to comply strictly with this directive,” the statement said.

The governor had on November 20, sacked some categories of aides from Ohaukwu Local Government Area in order to do what he called ensure greater participation of Ebonyi people in governance.

The affected officials included all local government development centre coordinators, executive assistants, senior technical assistants, technical assistants, liaison officers and management committee members of development centres.

Meanwhile, the state Commissioner for Water Resources, Chief Sunday Inyima, has debunked insinuations of his resignation from Gov. Umahi’s cabinet, saying that he cannot resign on Facebook.

Social media, especially Facebook was recently awash with reports of Inyima’s resignation occasioned by Umahi’s defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Inyima, a former Chairman of Ohaukwu Local Government Area made the declaration at the weekend while addressing newsmen.

“I cannot recollect collecting my appointment letter from facebook or the

radio station where I purportedly announced my resignation. I instead collected my appointment letter from the governor through the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) and will follow such channel if I intend to resign.

The former commissioner for lands and housing said that he did not attend the last state Executive Council meeting because he was attending a World Bank regional water conference in Enugu.

“My absence possibly fueled speculations of my resignation, but the trip to Enugu for the conference was approved by the governor. It is unfortunate that our people engage in gossip and back-biting and this was engineered by a particular political office holder from the area.

“The fake news of my resignation, however, showed me that I am still relevant and important and I am gratified over it,” he said.

He declared his support for the governor’s defection to the APC, noting that it signified a new dawn for the state.

“It is time to connect Ebonyi and the South East zone to the national ‘grid’ (centre) and make it available where things are shared to other states and zones.

“We are now operating on an electric high tension and Ebonyi and the South East zone are qualified to produce the president of the country,” he said.

Short News

Ebonyi State stakeholders slam Umahi for dismissing appointees

■■■ Key stakeholders in Abakaliki metropolis have said that the decision of Gov. David Umahi of Ebonyi State to reposition the government is in the right direction, but said they are worried over the sacking of his political appointees.

The stakeholders shared their views on Sunday, while reacting to the governor’s action.

The governor had between November 20 and 21 dismissed his political appointees, boards, and commissions in the state, after his defection to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Mr Alex Nnachi, described Gov. Umahi’s actions as contradictory, especially now that the people were already pleased with his defection.

“You do not force people to accept your decisions, instead you can woo them to your side,” Nnachi said.

Another stakeholder, Mr Samuel Ogodo, stated that the development will automatically give birth to antagonism.

Ogodo explained, “if the governor wanted his political ambition to move forward and promote inclusiveness, as well as enhance service delivery in the state, there should not be any substitute to development no matter the party affiliation.

“Generally, he has given reasons for his defection, but those he sacked have automatically become his enemies,” Ogodo said.

Miyetti Allah partners IPAN for national peace

■ JOHN NDU, AWKA

Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN), South East zone has vowed to work harmoniously with the Igbos for a Progressive Nigeria (IPAN), in promoting peace in Nigeria, especially in the South East.

MACBAN noted that it is determined to actualise national unity and peaceful co-existence for sustainable developments.

The South East Chairman MACBAN, Gidado Siddiki, who disclosed this, noted that herdsmen in Anambra State had been enjoying unprecedented collaboration with the state government, by creating friendly policies that enhances value for life.

Alhaji Siddiki made the emphasis when a delegation from IPAN paid a courtesy visit at his Office, Awka.

Siddiki during the visit outlined the various peace initiatives put in place to ensure timely resolution of conflicts between herdsmen and farmers in many communities, such as the establishment of the Farmers-Herders Conflict Resolution Committee by Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo and Abia states.

Saddiki said: “This committee in every state usually has clergymen, traditional rulers, representatives of the police, representatives of the state government, representatives of Miyetti Allah and others as members.

“Take for instance in Anambra State, in the event of destruction of farmland by cattle or killing, the culprit herdsmen or cattle owner would be fished out by the Miyetti Allah leadership and made to pay reparations to the affected farmer, after verification of the alleged destruction by the committee.

“Failure to identify the culprit means the Miyetti Allah leadership would have to pay instead. The same is applicable in a situation where cows belonging to herdsmen or even herdsmen themselves are killed.

“In this case, the President General of the community provides those responsible so that they would pay the compensation or if they couldn’t provide the culprits, the President General is made to pay the affected cattle breeder.

“Since I assumed office as the South East leader of Miyetti Allah, I have been very proactive in nipping confrontations in the bud with the support of many state governors, especially Gov Willie Obiano of Anambra State and Gov Dave Umahi of Ebonyi State who appointed me as a Technical Adviser,” Saddiki pointed.

He therefore sought the collaboration of Igbos for a Progressive Nigeria (IPAN) to help the association in preaching peaceful coexistence in the nation.

Responding, the leader of the delegation, who is also the National President, IPAN, Comrade Lawrence Onuzulike, further expressed the readiness of IPAN to build bridges of trust with non-Igbos carrying out legitimate businesses in Igbo land.

Comrade Onuzulike while appreciating Alhaji Siddiki for the warm reception, disclosed that IPAN would always stand for Justice, and would always promote unity and national integrity.

Imo Assembly seeks synergy with other arms of govt

■ VAL OKARA, OWERRI

The newly elected Speaker of Imo State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Paul Emeziem has assured that the state House of Assembly under his leadership would work in synergy with the other arms of government for the advancement of the state.

The Speaker reiterated his commitment to run an all inclusive government that would encourage every member of the House to contribute their individual quota for overall development of the state.

Hon Emeziem gave the assurance when he led other principal officers of the House on a courtesy visit to the Chief Judge of the state, Justice Ijeoma Agugua, in Owerri, last Saturday.

In her remarks, Justice Agugua applauded the visit, describing it as unprecedented and pledged to corporate with the leadership of the House and ensure that the three arms of government work harmoniously for the general well-being of the people and state.

With the Speaker on the visit were the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Amara Iwuanyanwu, the Chief Whip, Hon. Arthur Egwim, the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon. Eddy Obinna, Hon. Johnson Duru (Ideato South), and Hon. Ekene Nnodumele (Orsu).

Hon Emeziem representing Onuimo state constituency was installed as the new Speaker of the House last week after the impeachment of the former Speaker, Chiji Collins (Isiala Mbano) on charges of financial misconduct.



Special Assistant to the Director-General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Group Capt. Suleiman Idris (left); the DG, AVM Muhammadu Muhammed (rtd); and Special Assistant to the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Social Affairs and Disaster Management, Alhaji Musa Bungudu, during a review meeting of the management and staff members of the body in Abuja.

Photo: NAN.

Enugu tasks residents on cleanliness to check yellow fever

■ AHERHOKE OKIOMA, YENAGOA

The Enugu State government has advised residents to embrace cleanliness to halt the spread of yellow fever in the state.

Dr George Ugwu, Executive Secretary of Enugu State Primary Health Care Development Agency, gave the advice in Enugu on Sunday.

He said, “The state government places lots of emphasis on cleanliness as a preventive measure and not as a curative measure,” he said.

Ugwu advised anyone with yellow fever symptoms to go to the nearest government health facility for immediate medical care rather than resorting to self-medication or erroneous superstitious beliefs, which could

result to complications.

He urged residents not to allow stagnant water in their neighbourhoods as it is the breeding place for vector-carrying mosquitoes that transmit the disease.

“We expect residents to embrace the state government’s preventive healthcare approach by ensuring strict environmental cleanliness to stop the breeding of mosquitoes.

“Residents should ensure they put mosquito nets on their doors and windows; spray their homes with insecticides and possibly sleep under insecticide-treated nets.

“Communities and neighbourhoods should cut down overgrown grasses and open up blocked drains and waterways to allow for free flow of water. They should also fill any stagnant pool of water with sand,” he

advised.

Yellow fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic disease transmitted by infected mosquitoes. The ‘yellow’ in the nomenclature refers to the yellow colouration of some patients’ eyes.

Igboeze North, Nsukka and Isi-Uzo Local Government Areas of Enugu State recorded 30 deaths traceable to yellow fever recently.

The state government already started massive yellow fever vaccination of about one million residents aged between nine months and 44 years in the affected areas.

Government equally fumigated the affected council areas.

Initial symptoms of yellow fever include headache, jaundice, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting and fatigue. Serious cases may cause heart, liver and kidney conditions.

Gov Makinde to use LAUTECH to jump start industrialisation agenda

STEPHEN GBADAMOSI, IBADAN

Following the termination of the joint ownership of the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, by the Oyo and Osun states governments, Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State has declared that the state now has the opportunity to restore the lost glory of the university.

The governor also maintained that the real work to reposition the university and take it back to the glorious days when it was adjudged the best state-run university had just begun.

The governor stated this while speaking on a programme of an Ibadan-based radio station monitored by our correspondent at the weekend.

Chief Press Secretary (CPS) to the Governor, Taiwo Adisa, added that Governor Makinde appreciated his Osun State counterpart, Governor Gboyega Oyetola, for his cooperation all through the discussions.

He also stated that with the amicable ending of the joint ownership, a situation that had bogged down the university for years, he was ready to reposition the institution in line with his campaign promise.

He added that Oyo State, under his watch, would readily reposition the school for excellence, noting that his administration’s drive to industrialise the state would get the much needed boost with an effectively run technology university like LAUTECH.

He said: “Now, the real work starts because we have to ensure that the university is properly funded so that it will be contributing to the economy of Ogbomoso in particular and Oyo State in general. If we are saying we want to industrialise the state and we have a university of technology adding value in Ogbomoso, the industrialisation effort can proceed very quickly.”

The governor further maintained that Oyo

State was ready to fully shoulder the financial responsibilities of LAUTECH, as it has been doing since the beginning of 2020.

He said that the state government had appropriated enough funds to the institution in the 2021 budget, adding that his administration would continue to discharge its responsibilities on the institution.

According to him, his administration is renowned for putting its money where it’s mouth is, revealing that “the arrangement that we met when we came in May 2019 was that Oyo State usually would fund the university from January to June and then, Osun State would take it from July to December. We had to intervene a couple of times last year; and between May and December, we had to intervene to get the university running.

“I, already, indicated that we wanted to take it over and because of that, Osun felt why should they be putting their money and negotiation was still on? So, for 2020, Oyo State has been funding LAUTECH alone. After our January to June, from July, we have been funding LAUTECH alone basically and we appropriated enough money in the 2021 budget to continue doing that. So, we anticipated that we were going to get to this position and we are putting our money where our mouth is,” he said.

Makinde, who described Oyetola as a statesman, equally said there was neither victor nor vanquished in the arrangement that had seen the National Universities Commission (NUC) transfer LAUTECH’s ownership solely to Oyo State.

He added that the situation was a win-win for both states, even as he urged staff of the university never to discriminate against members of the workforce who are of Osun State extraction, saying: “Now, there is no Oyo Forum or Osun Forum anymore; it is LAUTECH Forum and it should be focused on the output and growth of the university.”

The governor added that the winners in the latest development were the students of the institution and its stakeholders who can now have a stable environment that is conducive for learning and research, stating that he would visit Ogbomoso soon to meet with the stakeholders.

“Well, the only victors now are the students and the stakeholders of the university, because they can now get a stable university environment that is conducive for learning and research. So, they can go ahead and do that. But between Governor Oyetola and I, there is no victor, no vanquished. We just want our children to be able to go to school and also contribute their quota to the development of the state and our country.

“It is a win-win for everybody; for the students, lecturers and stakeholders. Now, the major issue has been removed. So, they do not have any reason not to excel anymore.

“I will also use this opportunity to thank my brother, the governor of Osun State, for his cooperation and for being a statesman. When we were campaigning, I remember that my opponent then said that higher education should not be something you won’t pay for and that it should be commercialised. It was a major point of disagreement between us then and we maintained - and we are still of the view to date - that higher education should be affordable.

“So, when we came in on May 29, 2019, we found out that LAUTECH students, instead of spending four or five years for a programme, they had spent almost double of that and it was not the students’ fault but because of some people who benefit from a bad system.

“I appealed to my brother [Governor Oyetola] and told him that we needed to resolve this problem. Let us keep our egos aside. University is from the name universal; I told him that we needed to let the institution live up to its name. He saw reasons with me and we were able to come together and resolve it.”



A two storey building at Balogun market, Tom-Jones Bus-stop, Lagos Island, gutted by fire...at the weekend.

Lagos gives tank farms marching order on planning permit

BENJAMIN OMOIKE

The Lagos State government has declared that it will, this week, commence Physical Planning enforcement on all Tank Farms illegally operating in the state.

The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Idris Salako, who disclosed this during a stakeholders’ meeting held in Alausa at the weekend, expressed displeasure at the unapproved and illegal operations of many Tank Farms in the state, saying that no such facility should operate without Planning Permit.

He noted that the indiscriminate

operations of Tank Farms has negatively impacted host communities and rendered residents helpless, saying “In most cases, the road capacity is inadequate for the activities of the Tank Farms, whose operations have led to the collapse of road infrastructure, rendered critical social amenities, such as schools and hospitals inaccessible and created urban squalor of the host communities.”

Salako averred that the deliberate neglect of host communities by Tank Farms operating in the state, despite unhonoured government overtures, was regrettable, especially when viewed against the backdrop that most of the outfits creating these problems were not only

unapproved but also not paying taxes to the state.

The Physical Planning Commissioner maintained that there is no going back on the plan to start enforcing the extant Physical Planning Laws on all erring Tank Farms as from this week, since the ultimatum given had lapsed.

Recall that the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development had met with Tank Farm Operators earlier in the year and issued a week ultimatum to regularise their operations, which was followed by an additional two-week extension, a month after the first ultimatum had expired.

Short News

Fayose advises ex-Ondo State deputy governor to rejoin PDP

STEPHEN GBADAMOSI, IBADAN

Former governor of Ekiti State, Ayodele Fayose, has urged the deputy governor of Ondo State and Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) candidate in the Ondo State governorship election, Agboola Ajayi, to return to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), saying he will be more useful to his state and Nigeria in the umbrella party.

According to a statement by Fayose’s spokesperson, Lere Olayinka, at the weekend, the former governor made the call when the deputy governor visited him in his Afao-Ekiti country home on Friday night.

Fayose was quoted to have said “it is important for him (Ajayi) to put the past behind, return to the PDP and join hands with other leaders in the state to rebuild the party.”

Fayose said there was no denying the fact that Ajayi was a force to be reckoned with in the politics of Ondo State, adding that the deputy governor would thrive better politically in a mainstream and liberal political party like the PDP.

“What I can tell you like a brother is that the past should be put behind you and the future should be focused on realistically.

“The best option before you now is to return to the PDP and I am encouraging you to give it a consideration because you need the party and the party too needs a strong political character like you.”

Responding, the deputy governor commended Fayose for his credible leadership in the South-West and the country as a whole.

He described Fayose as a clear-minded personality, who would express his mind not minding whose ox is gored.

“I have come to Afao-Ekiti at this hour of the day to wish a friend, brother and leader a happy birthday at 60.

“Fayose is one person I have great respect for and I will continue to relate with him because he is not someone who will not tell you A when he means B. His yes is yes and when he says no, he means no,” Ajayi said.

The deputy governor of Ondo State had moved to the PDP when he was denied participation in the All Progressives Congress (APC) primaries, prior to the October governorship election.

He also defected from the PDP when he failed to get the party’s ticket to contest for the governorship before finally berthing in the ZLP where he was given the ticket to contest. He, however, lost the poll, alongside the PDP candidate, Eytayo Jegede, to the incumbent Rotimi Akeredolu of the APC.

Oyo shuts six gaming centres over underage patronage

■■■ The Oyo State Gaming Board has shut down six gaming centres for admitting underage gamers and students who were in school uniform during school hours and admitted by the patrons.

The state government had engaged in campaigns against people less than age 18 being involved in different kinds of nettings in games; it declared it as illegal for anyone under 18 years to participate in gaming.

The board had also warned that any gaming centre without proper registration would be sealed.

Director-General of the board, Mr Olajide Boladuro, said in an interview with journalists in Ibadan, the state capital, at the weekend that there was need for gaming centres in the state to cooperate with government by complying and remitting their dues.

He said most of the centres had been served warning letters to desist from allowing underage players in their premises.

Boladuro said, “most of the operators are aware that the state government frowns at underage gaming, but most of them, despite having being warned, still persist in allowing in under-18 persons.

“Some of these children go to the centres with their school uniforms when they should be in school learning, while some have turned those places to hideouts, instead of going to schools or being at home to help their parents.

“We have many illegal gaming centre operators that are yet to register with the board and, thereby, operating without license. There are some that refused to pay up their levies and dues.

“For government to fulfill all its financial obligations, all gaming centres need to remit their levies as their civic duties. We implore the convened gaming centres to cooperate with the government by fulfilling their statutory obligations.”

UBEC donates sports kit to 1,000 Lagos public primary schools

BENJAMIN OMOIKE

The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), has presented different sporting kits to Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board for redistribution to 1,016 public primary schools across the 20 Local Government Education Authorities in Lagos State.

Receiving the items on behalf of the state government at a brief presentation ceremony held within the premises of LASUBEB in Maryland, the Chairman of Lagos State Universal Basic Education, LASUBEB, Hon. Wahab Alawiye-King, assured the representative of UBEC that the items would be used for the intended purpose and would be handed over to the sports representatives of each of the beneficiary schools.

Alawiye-King informed that the donated items, which include Table Tennis boards, High Jump and Landing, Scrabble, Chess, Jerseys, Footballs, Skipping Ropes and many others, were part of the several interventions by UBEC, aimed at promoting co-curricular activities among school pupils.

The Permanent Board member in charge of co-curricular activities, Mrs. Sherifat Abiodun Adedoyin, said that LASUBEB desires mental alertness for all school children, saying that for children to assimilate well or even study, they must be mentally and physically fit.

She expressed the hope that when children are fit there will be improved performance, saying, “We want them to be active, strong and healthy and sporting activities is one of the ways through which these can be achieved.”

*Celebration of
Life*



Funeral Activities

TUESDAY: 24th November 2020

Dedication of Chapel @4pm

Venue: Chapel of Adoration

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ifite Nteje.

Vigil Mass at her residence

Ichie Anugwa 1's compound, Akamanato
Ifite Nteje, Oyi LGA, Anambra State.

Wednesday 25th November 2020

Brief stop at her father's house,
Igwe P.D. Ajulu Royal Palace, Nkwelle
Ezunaka Oyi LGA, Anambra State.

8am: Lying in state at her residence

10am: Funeral mass at

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ifite Nteje

Interment follows at her residence

Entertainment of Guest and Condolences

Thursday 26th November 2020:

Condolences

Sunday 29th November:

10:00am - Mass

Outing Service at Chapel of Adoration,
St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Ifite Nteje.

Time: 10:00am

*May her soul rest in
perfect peace.*

Amen



**IYOM JUSTINA
CHIBUOGWU
OZUAH**

(Nee Ajulu) Nne Ijele

25TH SEPT. 1940 - 1ST SEPT. 2020





L -R, Executive Commissioner Legal and Enforcement Securities and Exchange Commission Mr Reginald Karawusa, Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Capital Market Hon Babangida Ibrahim and Executive Commissioner Corporate Services, SEC Mr Ibrahim Boyi during a Public Hearing to Investigate the Rising Value of Unclaimed Dividends, Unremitted Withholding Tax on Dividends and their Attendant Effects on Nations Economy at the National Assembly at the weekend.

UBA posts N90.4bn PBT in Q3 2020

TEMITOPE ADEBAYO

United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc has reported a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of N90.4 billion in its unaudited 2020 Third Quarter (Q3) Financial Results compared to N98.2 billion recorded at the end of the third quarter of 2019.

The lender, also, grew its Gross Earnings, which rose to N454.4 billion, up from N428.7 billion recorded in September 2019.

According to the report filed with the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), UBA reported an after-tax net profit of N77.1 billion, thus putting its annualised return on average equity at 16.4 per cent, while its operating income also improved by 10.4 per cent year-on-year to close at N293.7 billion, up from N265.9 billion achieved in the corresponding period of 2019.

The Bank continues to maintain a very strong balance sheet, with Total Assets of N7.1 trillion, a 26 per cent increase over the N5.6 trillion recorded at the end of December 2019.

The bank's shareholders' funds remained very strong at N655.3 billion rising by 9.6 per cent from N598.0 billion recorded in December 2019, thus reflecting a strong capacity for internal capital generation and growth.

Commenting on the results, the Group Managing Director/CEO, UBA Plc, Kennedy Uzoka, said, "Despite the current turbulence in the operating environment, occasioned by the global pandemic, we have continued to record significant progress in our business segments.

"Notably, our innovative financial inclusion propositions have helped us moderate cost-of-funds to 3.2 per cent (4.0% in FY 2019), as low-cost deposits (which accounts for 76.2 per cent of our customer deposits) grew 40.8 per cent by the end of the third quarter.

"Our Direct Sales Agents, Agency Banking Network, and Digital Banking propositions have positioned us at the forefront of financial inclusion across geographies where we operate," Uzoka stated.

He pointed out that during the period under review, the Bank was able to provide support to customers across its footprint, assisting them to navigate the negative impact that Covid-19 pandemic has had on livelihoods, businesses and social life.

Recession: Why Senate must pass 2021 budget without delay - Expert

PHILIP CLEMENT, ABUJA

For the economy to commence recovery, there is an urgent need for quick passage of the 2021 Budget which is currently before the National Assembly, an economist and President, Association of Capital Markets Academics of Nigeria (ACMAN), Prof. Uche Uwaleke has revealed.

Reacting to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reports by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), which saw Nigeria sliding into another recession after recording two consecutive negative growth, representing Nigeria's worst

economic downturn since 1987.

The NBS report indicated that the GDP in real terms declined by -3.62 per cent (year-on-year) in the third quarter of 2020, as the contraction starts a full-blown recession and second consecutive contraction from -6.10 per cent recorded in the previous quarter of this year.

According to Uwaleke, the contraction is a reflection of the negative impact which Covid-19 has had on Nigeria's economy.

He said while the economy may have gone into recession, the Federal Government could quickly kickstart the process of recovery through the speedy implementation of the 2021 Budget.

President Muhammadu Buhari had

presented a budget proposal of N13.08 trillion up by 22.9 per cent from the N10.8 trillion 2020 budget, with revenue projected at N7.5 trillion, while the deficit amounted to N5.21 trillion.

The President had said the proposed N13.08 trillion expenditure comprises Capital Expenditure of N3.85 trillion, Non-debt Recurrent Costs of N5.65 trillion; Personnel Costs of N3.76 trillion; Pensions, Gratuities and Retirees' Benefits of N501.19 billion; Overheads of N625.5 billion; Debt Service of N3.124 trillion; Statutory Transfers of N484.49 billion; and Sinking Fund of N220 billion to retire certain maturing bonds).

He said, "The NBS Q3 real GDP number is a confirmation of the fact that in terms

of economic contraction occasioned by COVID-19, Q2 2020 represents the worst experience for Nigeria.

"Compared to a contraction of 6.10 per cent in Q2 of this year, it is an improvement reflective of the ease in lockdowns and movement restrictions, the reduction in the cases of COVID-19 and the gradual return of investors confidence in the economy.

"However, the performance of the Agriculture sector in real terms which came in at 1.39 per cent was disappointing. This corroborates the high food inflation rate now above 17 per cent caused in large part by insecurity in many parts of the country.

Currency in circulation hit N2.497trn in October

MOTOLANI OSENI

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has disclosed that the naira in circulation rose by three per cent to N2.497 trillion in October from N2.39 trillion reported in September 2020.

The Executive Vice Chairman, Highcap Securities, Mr David Adonri, said the increase in currency in circulation for October could be due to the Ember months spending

and Federal Government's implementation of the 2020 budget with more funds released to finance key projects.

Currency in circulation rose by N56.44 billion in one month from N2.369 trillion as of the end of August to N2.426 trillion as of the end of September.

The figure, which stood at N2.35 trillion as of the end of May, rose to N2.39 trillion as of the end of July.

The currency-in-circulation on quarter-on-quarter basis fell by six

per cent to N2.29 trillion at the end of March 2020, compared with a decline of 7.5 per cent at the end of the first quarter of 2019.

He said, "If the apex bank decided to buy financial instruments from authorised dealers. The CBN can pump money into the economy which can increase the volume of physical currency in circulation.

"Also, If the banks are giving out loans and advances to their customers, it is expected to increase the currency in circulation."

Also, the Managing Director, Cowry Assets Management Plc, Mr Johnson Chukwu, said "Banks customers may be shifting from online payment to cash. That is the only thing I know could be a leading factor to increase the currency in circulation for October."

The Chief economist/head of research at PAC research, Mr Moses Ojo attributed the hike in the currency in circulation to ember month spending, stressing that the CBN's cashless policy of 2002 had worked in the movement of physical currency.

ANAP warns against financing Chinese loans with 4 intl. airports revenue

CHUKWUMEKE IWELUNMO

The Association of Nigeria Aviation Professionals (ANAP) has warned the management of Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and all its four regional managers of the international airports in the country not to use revenue generated

by airports to finance the Chinese \$500m loan

ANAP secretary-general, Comrade Abdulrasaq Saidu who gave this warning in his office at the Murtala Mohammad Airport Ikeja revealed that there was a secret plan by the aviation ministry directing regional managers to commence payment of the Chinese loans by remitting all

revenue generated from their airports into the Chinese account

Saidu revealed that the union was yet to the agreement on the Chinese \$500 million loans which was granted to the country through aviation and finance ministries during the tenure of Stella Oduah as the aviation minister.

Saidu explained that aviation

union during the just concluded public hearing on aviation called on the committee to order the former aviation minister to release documents in which the loan was obtained. "We cannot wait and watch them turn Nigeria into Chinese slaves. That is the reason we are saying until we see the agreement, nothing should be done on the airport concession"



L-R: Morolake Dairo, Product Marketing Manager, Verve Digital Tokens & Verve Life; Ajagbe Oluwaranti Isaac and Gideon Nnaji, during the Verve Good Life Dummy Card presentation in Lagos State...recently

FBN Holdings records 31.7% increase in profit to N68.2bn

TUNDE SHORUNKE

FBN Holdings Plc has reported a 31.7 per cent increase in profit after tax to N68.2 billion in its nine months unaudited results for the period ended September 30, 2020, as against N51.7 billion reported in nine months ended September 30, 2019.

The Holdings financial institution in its unaudited results to the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) on Friday reported profit before tax of N63.3 billion, up 16.2 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) as against N54.5 billion reported in nine months ended September 30, 2019.

The group's gross earnings gained 5.1 per cent to N439.3 billion, up 5.1 per cent y-o-y (Sept 2019: N417.9 billion)

Commenting on the results, U.K. Eke, the Group Managing Director of FBN Holdings said, "In the quarter under review, there was a gradual relaxation of the lockdown and measured resumption of economic activities.

"Our nine months financial results validate our investment to diversify revenue towards non-capital consuming transactions and non-funding transactions. This has broadened our earnings base as we continue to innovate and extend our proposition to the customers through electronic banking offerings.

Despite the challenging operating environment, our results reaffirm our resilience, focus on enhancing shareholder value and capacity to deliver on long-term goals. The steady growth in our performance with profit after tax up 31.7 per cent y-o-y reflects the strength of our organisation to continually navigate the tough operating market conditions."

CIBN 55th Dinner: Emefiele to present banking industry's scorecard amid fresh economic downturn

Sanwo-Olu, Dangote, Elumelu, other dignitaries confirm attendance

MOTOLANI OSENI

The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr Godwin Emefiele will be delivering a keynote address at the 55th Annual Bankers Dinner organised by The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN).

Mr Godwin Emefiele, who is the chief host of the industry based event on Friday, November 27, 2020, is expected to present the Banking Industry's scorecard for the current year as well as provide economic insight into the monetary policy and regulatory

direction for the coming year.

The event, which will strictly adhere to the protocol against the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, will also be transmitted simultaneously through Zoom teleconferencing to accommodate participation across the globe.

The organizer of the annual industry event, The CIBN, through its Head, Marketing/ Corporate Communication & External Relations, Nelson Olagundoye, at the weekend, noted that the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu and other state Governors are

expected to grace the occasion as special guests of honour.

Other top dignitaries expected at the Occasion include Alhaji Aliko Dangote, GCON, President/ Chairman, Dangote Group; Mr Fola Adeola, Chairman, Fate Foundation, Mr Abimbola Ogunbanjo, President, Nigerian Stock Exchange; Chief Michael Ade-Ojo, Chairman, Elizade Nigeria Limited; Dr Tony Elumelu, Chairman, Heirs Holdings; Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim, FCIB, Managing Director/Chief Executive, NDIC; all Deputy Governors and Directors of Central Bank of Nigeria; all Chairmen and

Directors/CEOs of banks; Mr Wale Tinubu, Chairman, Oando Plc; Mr Segun Ogunsanya, Managing Director/ Chief Executive, Airtel Nigeria Ltd among others.

Mr Bayo Olugbemi, FCIB, President/Chairman of Council, CIBN, will deliver the Welcome Address while Mr. 'Seye Awojobi, FCIB, Registrar/CEO, CIBN give the vote of thanks.

The Organising Committee of this year's edition of the Dinner is Chaired by the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Sterling Bank Plc, Mr Abubakar Sulieman.

Bank customers to pay for failed direct debit transactions

TEMITOPE ADEBAYO

Bank customers will now pay a charge for failed direct debit transactions.

According to the Guide to Charges by Banks, other financial and non-financial institutions published by the Central Bank of Nigeria, the charge will only apply to transactions that fail due to the account being unfunded.

Customers will be required to pay either one per cent of the amount or N5,000 (whichever is higher) as the penal charge.

Direct debit is an arrangement made with a bank that allows a third party to transfer money from a person's account on agreed dates

Stanbic IBTC notified customers of the penal charge through email last week.

"In line with the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) Guide to Charges, a failed direct debit transaction resulting from an unfunded the account is liable to a charge of one per cent of the transaction amount or N5,000 - the higher amount is applicable," the email read.

"While this penal charge is only applicable if a customer's account is insufficiently funded at the time of the transaction, the qualifying amount shall be debited to customers account once it is funded.

"We, therefore, wish to advise that you ensure your account is adequately funded at all times to facilitate a successful transaction, especially if you activate any form of direct debit instruction on your account."

SON to discontinue registration of cloned products

PHILIP CLEMENT, ABUJA

As cloned products flood major markets and take significant market share and equity from original manufacturers, the Standards Organisation of Nigeria on Over the weekend, read the riot act to promoters of cloned brands in a bid to check fake and substandard goods in the country.

The Director-General, SON, Mallam Farouk Salim, maintained that the agency would discourage the registration of any product that has a similar business name

with an existing brand or those hidden under the names of successful brands to short-change unsuspecting consumers.

Salim stated this during a courtesy visit of the Alaba International Market Associations to SON office in Lagos.

He said, "The issue of cloning brands cannot be handled alone by SON, but going forward, we are going to audit the products we register and certify. Anytime a new product comes and looks similar to another registered product that is already popular in the market, we will try to

discourage the registration of that product with such a name, so that other product would be identified properly.

In the main time, the Director-General announced plans to increase its level of engagement with stakeholders in the country, including Alaba International Market, noting that the move by the agency would help protect the interest of the business community while also safeguarding lives and property.

He said the standards body would work with stakeholders to sensitize the business community

on the need to ensure safety and standards, warning that unscrupulous individuals would be prosecuted.

"We are here to work with them and to make their job easy while also to protect their interest because they are Nigerians employing people and they are doing what needs to be done.

"We are looking forward to cooperating with them to ensure that every other individual in their association not doing the right thing is encouraged to doing the right thing in the future", the SON boss added.

Amuneke should replace Rohr as Super Eagles' coach, says Sule



Ilaboya bags award for job creation, youth empowerment



Enyimba will force anyone to be successful, says Fatai Osho



Beyond dreams: Okotie and succession crisis in Celestial Church of Christ

ROVING PERISCOPE

HOPE O'RUKEVBE EGHAGHA



■ ■ ■ The calm, often ebullient and rather confident yet humble (Dr.) Wisdom Okotie of Christ the King Miracle Church based in Tulsa, Oklahoma United States of America contends in his book, *Beyond Dreams, Prophecies and Visions*, that he is the rightful, spirit-filled, anointed, and Holy Spirit-chosen successor to the Founder and Pastor of Celestial Church of Christ, Papa S.B.J. Oshoffa who passed away some thirty five years ago. Okotie passionately believes that Pa Oshoffa blessed and ordained him when in 1985 he Okotie visited with the Founder in Lagos and boldly but humbly shared his personal revelations with the founder which points in the direction that he had fulfilled all the conditions which the pastor had declared would follow his God-ordained successor. In the book, Oshoffa is said to have acknowledged to the hearing of everybody present, 'Ooto oro ni omo yii so' (translated as 'he is speaking the truth')!

At the core of this ten-chapter, 209-page book, is Dr. Okotie's belief and conviction that even before Baba SBJ Oshoffa passed, he had been identified, acknowledged, ordained, and recognized by the actions of the founder. Okotie visited with SBJO in Ketu International headquarters of the Church on Thursday and Friday March 28 and 29, 1985 and had a similar spiritual encounter as Joshua had with Moses and Elisha had with Elijah. Roughly six months after this encounter, the founder was called home into Glory.

Reading through the book, I wondered

what gave Okotie, a young man and the Shepherd of CCC Uniben Parish, Benin City the courage to travel all the way from Benin to Lagos and tell that highly-placed man that he was the successor whom SBJO had talked about. There is no doubt that such boldness and courage were made possible through the power of the Holy Spirit, which Okotie claimed was the drive behind his actions.

To some degree, Dr. Okotie has received the blessing of some influential leaders both inside and outside CCC. This is the core of Okotie's contestations in the well-written book, *Beyond Dreams*. For example, he has consulted and revealed the exactitude and spiritual implications of his encounter to such persons as Baba J.K.J. Owodunni, Baba EMF Oshoffa, Baba Benoit Adeogun, Baba Samson Banjo, Mommy Edith Oshoffa (SBJ's daughter), Baba David Okunlola, Baba Ajayi, Professor S.O. Odeyemi, Evangelist Peter Zinsu -Center Pillar, Evangelist Jacob Oshoffa, Evangelist Frederic Oshoffa, former President Olusegun Obasanjo (a family member), and many others. The real crux is whether the powers-that-be in the CCC Movement will succumb to the overwhelming evidence which Dr. Okotie has presented, both privately and in public.

Church history is replete with movements that deviated from their founding principles and core values and so lost the original vision. Okotie documents the history of Herbert Armstrong of Worldwide Church of God that lost focus after the death of

the original visionary. Okotie contends that a similar fate has befallen the CCC because the persons who became successors to the throne were not chosen by the Holy Spirit. Pastor Oshoffa had declared, according to Okotie, that none of his aides at the time should succeed him. In an apparent fulfillment of the consequences of deviation, those who occupied the throne did not last long. This disobedience by the leadership, according to Okotie, is the main reason the Church has many factions today. Okotie is of the opinion that once the leadership can examine and confirm his submitted evidence, the unity and glory of the CCC will be restored.

Okotie's spiritual journey to the throne started in the 1980s. As a young man worshipping in the CCC in Sapele and Benin respectively, dreams and prophecies about a crown of leadership turned into reality when he visited with Founder Oshoffa in 1985 and his revelations were accepted. He dreamt, and fellow worshippers and prophets within the CCC Movement prognosticated on the destiny ahead of him. He kept recording the dreams, prophecies, and divine encounters for a period of over 40 years and those revelations are still in their original format and ready for thorough scrutiny by the authorities. He soon relocated abroad, also a fulfillment of a prophecy where he took degrees up to PhD and successfully pastored a church. Having established himself, he said the spirit moved him to reveal his identity and narrate his story to all who are willing to listen. His first stop was his visit to Beulah Parish, the home Church of Edith Oshoffa in the month of September 2018.

One of the conundrums of the situation is the occupant of the Pastor seat in the person of Baba EMF, biological son of SBJO. To resolve this, Okotie quotes Baba SBJO as narrated by some of his confidants when he once asserted after sighting a 'disabled young usher with chronic hunchback burning incense in the inner altar' that they should 'never allow the disabled man to go near the altar again because scripture forbids that'. Pursuing this further, Okotie asserts in his book that 'Baba EMF was called as a place

holder, forerunner and the stub of Oshoffa. He was not called to carry out priestly duties or even go near the altar'. Okotie quotes Leviticus 21:18-21 which states that "no one who has a defect qualifies, whether he is blind, lame, disfigured ...No descendant of Aaron who has a defect may approach the altar to present special gifts to the Lord", to support his viewpoint.

In *Beyond Dreams*, Dr. Okotie provides an answer to the question - what is the solution to the succession crisis? - which he poses in the main body of the book. He states that 'the Holy Spirit-chosen successor has finally emerged. The truth has finally prevailed. Light has triumphed over darkness' and minces no words in letting the world know that he is the anointed one. This is a bold declaration by Okotie, stating that he is the promised successor to SBJO. It is now left for the existing hierarchy to examine his assertions and confirm if they are true.

Succession to the topmost spot in most religious bodies appears to be a weak link in structural arrangements. This is especially so because of the role which God ought to play in appointing a successor. But in most cases, human factors play a great role and people in the corridors of power want to play God. Personal ambition often comes into the equation. On the political sphere, succession has always been an issue even in the so-called advanced democracies, as America is currently displaying to the world.

But if church leaders realize that the church is all about God and not their personal glory, then they would subject themselves to the dictates of the Holy Spirit. Dr. Okotie stresses the power of the Holy Spirit on succession matters. He therefore calls on all stakeholders to examine his proof of evidence conscientiously and fervently, a combination of proclamations, dreams, prophecies, and revelations. Once confirmed, they should waste no time in installing Okotie as the Pastor of CCC Worldwide. Only time will tell what the leaders will do!

Hope Eghagha can be reached on 08023220393 or heghagha@yahoo.com

Lasena

Artesian Natural Alkaline Mineral WATER

...direct from nature to you

Natural pH

7.78

Alkaline

WEATHER REPORT				
ABA 27° celcius	ABEOKUTA 27° celcius	ADO EKITI 26° celcius	CALABAR 29° celcius	UYO 24° celcius
IFE 27° celcius	ILESHA 25° celcius	KANO 27° celcius	LAGOS 29° celcius	OGBOMOSHO 26° celcius
ONITSHA 28° celcius	OYO 26° celcius	PORT HARCOURT 28° celcius	ZARIA 28° celcius	MAIDUGURI 29° celcius
ABUJA 23° celcius	KADUNA 25° celcius	ENUGU 28° celcius	IBADAN 26° celcius	OSHOGBO 26° celcius