

Petrol Price to Remain at N165 Per Litre, NMDPRA Insists

● *Queues to disappear in few days, NNPC assures* ● *Depot owners lament, say N165 per litre unsustainable*
● *House summons national oil company, downstream regulatory authority, marketers over fuel scarcity, soaring diesel, gas prices*

Peter Uzoho and Gilbert Ekugbe price for petrol in the country was unsustainable following long queues that have surfaced in some cities across the country, the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) yesterday maintained that the pump price for premium motor spirit (PMS) remains at N165 per litre. This was just as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) yesterday assured Nigerians that it has over two billion litres of PMS that would last for the next 34 days in the country, adding that there was enough stock to meet the nation's demand.

Continued on page 47

World Bank Commends Nigeria on National Social Register... Page 46

THIS DAY

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Obi Must Agree to Be Kwankwaso's Deputy as Condition for Coalition, Says NNPP Spokesman... Page 48

President Seeks Senate's Nod for Seven Ministerial Nominees

● *Red chamber gets new minority leader, whip* ● *House steps down motion to override Buhari's veto on statutory delegates* ● *APC loses three more senators to opposition parties*

Sunday Aborisade and Udora Orizu in Abuja President Muhammadu Buhari has asked the Senate to confirm the appointment of seven new ministerial nominees. The request was contained in a letter, which was read during plenary yesterday. The new nominations came as the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) caucus in the red chamber appointed Senators Phillip Aduda (FCT) and Chukwuka Utazi (Enugu North) as the new Minority Leader and

Continued on page 47

Buhari Defends Emefiele, Says CBN Governor's Unorthodox Policies Best for Economy

● *Insists subsidy removal good on paper, but has huge human consequences* ● *Reveals N152bn, \$386m, £1.1m, €157,000, others recovered in 2021* ● *Alleges IPOB lobbying US Congress with millions of dollars, must be declared terrorists* ● *Declares EU's trade policies rigged against Nigeria, other African countries* ● *On blasphemy, president insists no one has right to break the law*

Emmanuel Addeh and Kingsley Nwezeh in Abuja with agency report

President Muhammadu Buhari, yesterday, defended the policies being implemented by Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Godwin Emefiele, saying rather than follow textbook solutions developed in the more advanced climes, which may not be suitable for Nigeria, the apex bank's head has rightly resorted to "unorthodox" measures in trying to resolve the country's economic challenges.

In his written responses to Bloomberg's interview questions, Buhari said the accusations against Emefiele by detractors, including being labelled as "political", had more to do with the methods he was deploying to try to revamp the Nigerian economy, rather than the substance of the allegations.

The president maintained that every country should have the right



UNVEILING NEW LAGOS POLO HOUSE...

L-R: Chief Executive Officer, MRS Holdings Company, Alhaji Sayyu Dantata; Chief Executive Officer, Chapel Hill Denham, Bolaji Balogun; President, Lagos Polo Club, Mr. Ayo Olashoji; Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Hamza Obafermi; Group Managing Director, Access Corporation, Mr. Herbert Wigwe; Chairman, Caverton Offshore Support Group, Chief Remi Makanjuola, and Trustees, Lagos Polo Club, Sen. Tokunbo Ogunbanjo, at the unveiling of new Lagos Polo House in Lagos... yesterday

PHOTO: ETOPUKUT

Continued on page 47



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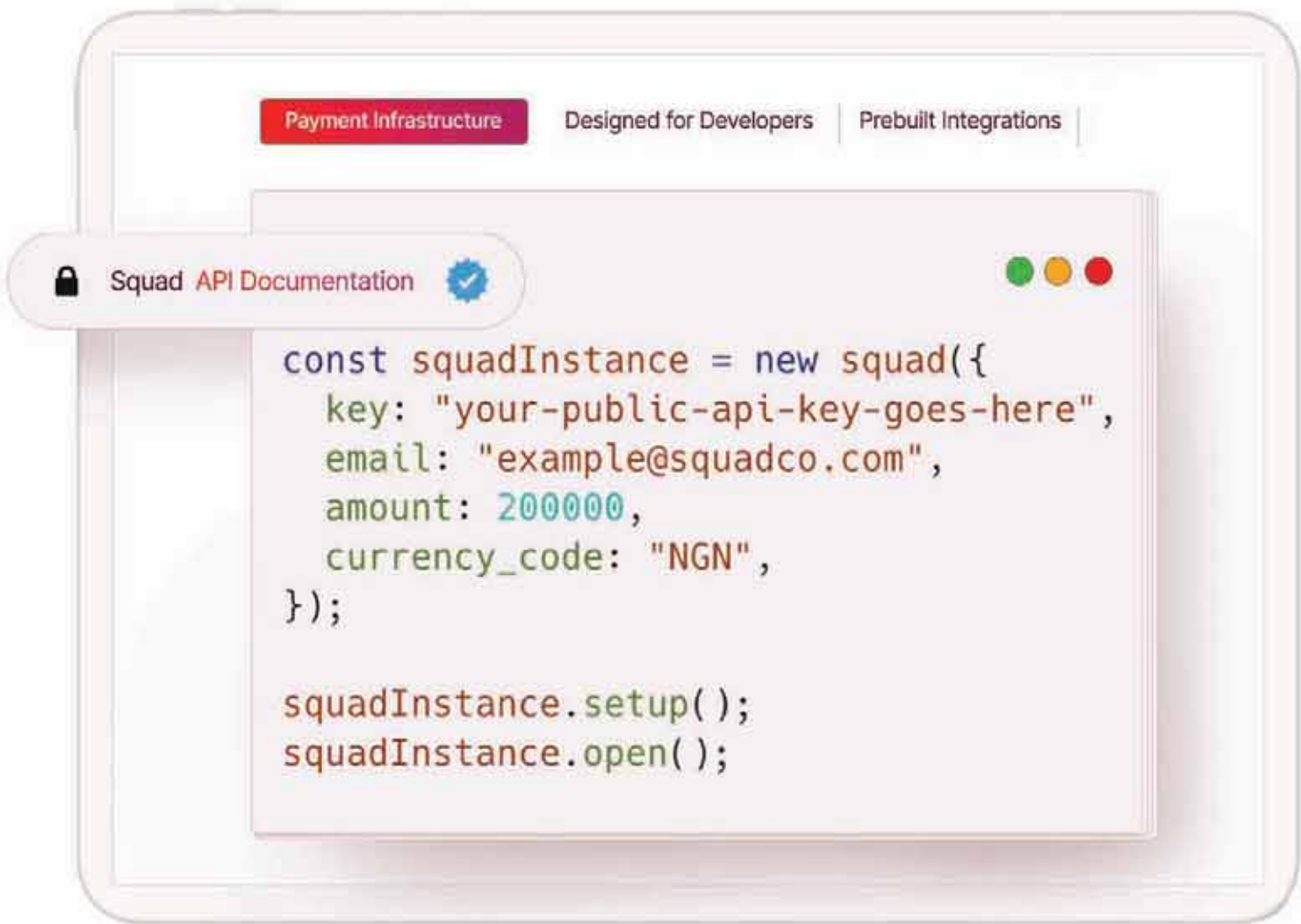
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INTERVIEW

Buhari: We'll Leave Nigeria in Far Better Place Than We Found It

In this written response to questions posed to him by Bloomberg News, President Muhammadu Buhari insists that he has largely delivered on his campaign promises to Nigerians. Among several challenges besetting the nation, the Nigerian leader explains why he has continued to retain the controversial petrol subsidy regime and why those who criticise his handling of the country's finances, especially its growing debts, miss the point altogether. He also tells the international news outlet what he's doing to resolve Nigeria's energy crisis as well as the country's infrastructure deficit. **Emmanuel Addeh** brings you excerpts...

You campaigned for office with a pledge to fight corruption, secure the country and fix the economy. How would you rate your performance in fulfilling those pledges during your eight years in office? Why has insecurity been so hard to tackle? Are you making headway?

We leave Nigeria in a far better place than we found it. Corruption is less hidden, for Nigerians feel empowered to report it without fear, while money is returned; terrorists no longer hold any territory in Nigeria, and their leaders are deceased; and vast infrastructure development sets the country on course for sustainable and equitable growth.

In 2015, Boko Haram held territory the size of Belgium within the borders of Nigeria. Today they are close to extinct as a military force. The leader of ISWAP was eliminated by a Nigerian Airforce airstrike in March. The jets acquired from the US and intelligence shared by British were not provided to previous administrations and stand as testament to renewed trust re-built between Nigeria and our traditional western allies under my government.

We urge those same international partners to take additional steps costing them nothing, by proscribing another group – IPOB – as a terrorist organisation. Their leadership enjoys safe haven in the West, broadcasting hate speech into Nigeria from London, spending millions lobbying members of the US Congress, and freely using international financial networks to arm agitators on the ground. This must stop.

My administration is the only in Nigeria's history to implement a solution to decades-long herder-farmer conflicts, exacerbated by desertification and demographic growth. The National Livestock Transformation Plan, putting ranching at its core, is the only way to deplete the competition for resources at the core of the clashes.

Governors from some individual states have sought to play politics where ranches have been established; but where they have been disputes have dramatically reduced.

For years, we have been criticised by the likes of the FT, the Economist, and others for supposedly mistaken attempts to de-globalise and re-localise food production and boost manufacturing.

Now with the war in Ukraine breaking global food supply chains "Davos Man" is in retreat as the energy crisis makes countries everywhere think again about energy independence and security.

We have spent our two terms investing heavily in national road, rail, and transport infrastructure set to unleash growth, connect communities, and lessen inequality. This is structural transformation. It may not show on standard economic metrics now, but the results will be apparent in good time.

Starting with our Whistleblowing Policy enacted in my first year in office, hundreds of millions in stolen funds have been returned within Nigeria.

Working with our international partners, hundreds of millions of various currencies have been returned from abroad – primarily from the UK, US, and Switzerland – and used as social and welfare funds distributed directly to the poorest during the Covid pandemic and the provision of long-delayed infrastructure-roads, bridges, rail, and power.

As an illustration, monetary recoveries (January-December) 2021 show that more N152 billion has been recovered. Dollar recoveries for the year amount to over USD 386 million; GBP, more than 1.1 million; Euro, about 157,000; Saudi Riyals about 1.7 million some more in Digital and other currencies.

Those partners refused to return these monies held for decades to previous Nigerian administrations in the certainty they would simply be re-stolen.



President Buhari

They changed their approach with us because they knew my administration could be trusted.

Food inflation has risen by double digits since 2015, despite the government's efforts to boost agricultural production. Why has your administration battled to counter pricing pressures? What will it take for Nigeria to achieve food security? How concerned are you about food shortages in Nigeria and the broader region, given the drought that it is currently experiencing?

We can only imagine what food inflation would be today had we not initiated organised programmes to boost domestic production. And still, we do not grow enough domestically.

Initiatives such as the Nigeria Anchor

Borrower's programme, helping farmers compete against artificially lowered imports has boosted rice production to 9 million metric tonnes in 2021 from around 54 million metric tonnes in 2015. Even in the years of drought, rice production outstripped pre-2015 levels. Imports have fallen to near zero. We are making progress.

Against these advances international trade remains rigged against food security in Africa. The EU's policies in particular (see: It's time for a new economic deal between the EU and Africa) are all rhetoric of open trade – yet their Common Agricultural Policy subsidy programmes and export of those subsidised goods create dependence, undermine Africa's self-sufficiency, and cause food poverty and starvation.

If only out of enlightened self-interest the

West – and particularly Europe – must step up. The moral if not economic case for doing so is unarguable. Do nothing, and more migrants from across the Sahel will attempt dangerous journeys to reach Europe.

Nigeria continues to confront electricity shortages, and your government has faced calls to modernise the grid, or make the sector economical for stakeholders up and down the chain. Do you think you have done enough to address the nation's energy shortfall? What else needs to be done?

First, we need for more input. Our legislative framework has been a drag. The landmark PIA (see later answers) will bolster input, raise capital, and bring transparency to the system.

Continued on page 6

INTERVIEW

It Would Help If Our Western Allies Designated IPOB a Terrorist Group, Given Their Complicity in Damage to Pipelines and Infrastructure

On grid modernisation, there are hundreds of ongoing projects and initiatives attracting funding from investors. Take my Presidential Power Initiative (PPI), a government-to-government initiative between the Governments of Nigeria and Germany, with Siemens AG, to upgrade the electricity grid with a \$2 billion investment.

Once signed into law the constitutional amendment bill – recently voted through parliament – will allow state governments to generate and transmit their own electricity, further facilitating investor participation in our market and enabling states and local businesses to transmit excess supply to the grid.

We are also decentralising the national grid through renewable driven mini-grids. The \$550 million Nigeria Electrification Project has deployed more than 20,000 Standalone Solar Systems (SHS), as well as Solar Hybrid mini-grids in over 250 locations.

The IMF and World Bank and many leading economists have urged you for years to remove the fuel subsidy and to unify the exchange rate. Why have you not heeded such calls?

Most western countries are today implementing fuel subsidies. Why would we remove ours now? What is good for the goose is good for the gander!

What our western allies are learning the hard way is what looks good on paper and the human consequences are two different things. My government set in motion plans to remove the subsidy late last year.

After further consultation with stakeholders, and as events unfolded this year, such a move became increasingly untenable. Boosting internal production for refined products shall also help. Capacity is due to step up markedly later this year and next, as private players and modular refineries (Dangote Refinery, BUA Group Refinery, Waltersmith Refinery) come on board.

The exchange rate is still susceptible to external shocks that can suddenly and severely affect Nigerian citizens. As we step up domestic production – both in fuel (enabled by PIA) and food (agricultural policies) – the inflationary threat shall diminish, and we can move toward unification.

The sharp rise in borrowing since 2015 has left the country now spending almost all of its revenue servicing debt. What will that level of debt servicing costs mean for the country going forward? Do you think you have done enough to try and bring debt under control?

A narrow focus on debt misses the point. What it fills is Nigeria's longstanding infrastructure deficit by constructing a foundation for sustainable growth – spreading opportunity to ensure no part of the country is left behind, which has led to insecurity in the past.

Our infrastructure developments have been the most ambitious since Nigeria's independence. Over 800 federal roads are being constructed or undergoing rehabilitation and 650km of rail line have been laid, helping alleviate food inflation pressures, given most food is produced in the north.

Had the infrastructure gap not been filled it will only grow, become more costly to repair what little we have while lacking more on infrastructure on which to build growth, negatively impacting progress towards UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Nigeria has one of the lowest tax-to-revenues ratios in the world. Is there more your administration could have done to boost tax collection?

Though we have the largest economy in Africa, it is true that translating that wealth into revenue generation is challenging.

We raised VAT in 2020, and the IMF wanted us to raise it further, but this is a complex issue that cannot be addressed by tax hikes alone. Around 80 per cent of Nigerians work in the so-called informal economy – a situation exacerbated by the pandemic. It is difficult to tax the informally employed, and no country has yet found an adequate solution.

Still, we are striving to find one, including the roll out of a national ID card which has grown from 7 million in 2015 to between 90-100 million today – including a tax code and, at the same time combined with access to various government services.

In 2016 I launched the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), making Nigeria an easier place to start and grow a business. PEBEC's policies, as with our national ID card rollout help integrate the informal sector.

We also work closely with ECOWAS to implement initiatives like the Support Programme for Tax



President Buhari

Transition in West Africa (PATF), improving the management of domestic taxation and ensuring better coordination of taxation in the ECOWAS and West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) regions.

You serve as oil minister in addition to president. Why has the country's crude production been slumping, with Nigeria unable to meet its OPEC quota for almost a year despite elevated prices? What are you doing to bolster output?

Four years ago, we unveiled plans for a new gas pipeline connecting Nigeria to Europe. Last week (2nd June) – in record time – the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) entered into an agreement with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for its construction.

Concurrently on 1st July the NNPC will become a Limited Liability Company and be subject to more robust auditing and commercial disclosure obligations. It will help stimulate investment and boost transparency, where corruption has deterred the former and stymied the latter.

My administration is the first to pass this landmark reform our oil and gas sector, after two decades of predecessors' failure to do so – no doubt due to vested interests.

Criminality and terrorism in oil-producing regions hamper production, and it would help if our western allies designated IPOB as a terrorist group, given their complicity in damage to pipelines and infrastructure.

We have invested in our security forces, including the \$1 billion military deal with the US for the acquisition of A-29 Super Tucano aircraft. These efforts are making an impact: wells that had to be closed due to criminality have now re-opened. With these efforts, OPEC has raised our quota for next month.

What is Nigeria doing to take advantage of the gas supply crisis in Europe? How fast do you think Nigeria will be in a position to fill in on some of the European demand?

We need long term partnership not inconsistency and contradiction on green energy policy from the UK and European Union.

Investment is hampered by their broad-brush moratorium on overseas gas projects, while at home the same projects are classified as green. It does not help their energy security, it does not help Nigeria's economy, and it does not help the environment. It is a hypocrisy that must end.

To change, the UK and EU countries should invest in our planned 4000 km pipeline to bring Nigerian gas – the largest reserves in Africa – via Morocco, then onto Europe.

Are you concerned about the debate around the central bank's independence following the governor showing interest in running for president? How are you going to resolve that?

The CBN governor is appointed by the president. But this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Nigerian Senate. Ultimately, it will be for the CBN's board of directors to determine whether a CBN governor's actions have fallen foul of the laws in place to ensure he can most effectively carry out his duties.

But there is a subtext to the accusations. Because the governor follows a model outside of the economic orthodoxy, he is labelled political. But the orthodoxy has proved wrong time and again.

Instead, the governor is following an alternative economic model that puts people at the heart of policy. Nigeria should be free to choose its development model and how to construct our economy, so it functions for Nigerians.

Do you plan to endorse a candidate for president? If so, who?

Yes. I will endorse the APC candidate for president.

You have suggested that members of the Commonwealth, who are due to meet in Rwanda next month, cooperate more closely on matters of defence and security. What do you have in mind?

African nations make up the largest contingent of Commonwealth members. There is no reason why one of the world's foremost arms manufacturers should not sell more widely to this club – a group of

allies. If they don't get them from Britain, they shall necessarily get them from elsewhere. This only creates a mosaic of different systems across Commonwealth members on the continent.

Instead, we should aspire to interoperability, which would have a material impact the ground. Commonwealth members in Africa often find themselves in the same missions. Operating with the same hardware and systems, collaborating troops would be more effective. Such collaboration could also open doors to deeper intelligence sharing.

I also believe the club can be used far more effectively as a voting bloc at intergovernmental bodies to deliver outcomes for the whole of the Commonwealth – and individual members when they ask for backing on matters from the rest of the group on issues of importance to them.

The Non-Aligned Movement present common voting positions, and they have far less in common than Commonwealth members. Why would we not try to do this?

We can also do far more to reduce barriers to trade between members. When the UK remained in the EU that was less possible; now with the Commonwealth's largest economy able to strike trade deals of its own, much has changed. The UK's move to become the first country to sign a deal with the AfCFTA is an obvious example.

With the 19 Commonwealth African members making up the majority of the African economy, a UK-AfCFTA deal is substantially a UK-Commonwealth deal. It should act as a spur for other leading non-African Commonwealth countries such as Australia and Canada to sign compatible agreements.

Are you concerned that people accused of blasphemy still get stoned to death on the streets in northern Nigeria? What do these long-standing religious divisions mean for Nigeria's future?

No person has the right to take the law into his or her own hands.

Christianity and Islam, our two Great Faiths and their Great Books have far more in common than they have apart. Nigeria has a long tradition of tolerance that we must draw on, and we must strive to find common ground.

What comes out of this tragedy is to cherish what we share, while at the same time respect our differences.



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NEWS



THE FRUIT OF LOCAL CONTENT ACT...

L-R: Lee's Italian Technical Partners/Consultants, Mechanical Engineer, Jorge Munoz; Software Engineer, Fabio Pedrali; Executive Secretary, NCDMB, Engr. Simbi Wabote, Group Executive Chairman/ CEO of Lee Engineering Group and Allied Companies Ltd, Dr. Leemon A. Ikpea, and Managing Director, Sertom, Teodoro Bruno, during Wabote's tour of Lee Engineering Ultra modern Fabrication Factory in Warri... recently

Kyari: NNPC Restructuring Its Businesses to Meet Energy Transition Demands

● *Resource 'curse' can be addressed through full contract disclosures, says NEITI*

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

The Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited, Mallam Mele Kyari, said yesterday that in preparation for the much-talked-about energy transition, the oil firm

has been restructuring its business operations.

Kyari spoke at the first National Extractives Dialogue (NED) in Abuja, co-hosted by the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) and Spaces for Change (S4C), an indigenous civil

society organisation, with support from the Ford Foundation.

The programme was designed to provide stakeholders in the extractives industry a platform to discuss the issues of contract transparency, extractive resources benefits sharing and energy transition in West Africa.

Kyari, who was represented by the Group General Manager, Governance, Risk & Compliance, Mr. Chris Akamiro, noted that the aftermath of COP26 in Glasgow had shown that the world is committed to energy transition.

"I would like to assure you that

as NNPC transitions to a CAMA company, we are restructuring our businesses to take advantage of the opportunities that energy transition will bring forth," Kyari stated.

As the company commences the implementation of its revised strategy, the NNPC GMD stressed that the company will use its large gas resource as transition fuel to aid the process.

"We are committing our resources for the next decade, which is tagged the decade of gas to explore and produce more gas relative to oil, to power Nigeria and the international community as we transit away from hydrocarbons," he added.

Kyari stated that the natural resources from the extractive industries are only beneficial when they are extracted in a responsible and cost-effective manner and the revenues accruing are promptly remitted to the coffers of government.

In the past, he stressed that the opaqueness of the oil and gas industry operations in Nigeria had contributed to low performance both in terms of profitability and contribution to the economy.

He noted that this prompted the call for action by stakeholders on the need for a more transparent and accountable industry, which he said was heeded to by this present government, recognising that

transparency underpins improved performance.

Kyari posited that the NNPC has employed several strategies to actualise this goal and had begun the publication of its monthly financial performance reports and audited financial statements.

In addition, he said the national oil firm is now more responsive to audit requests and implementation of audit recommendations as well as expanding the frontiers of its engagement, by reporting information on upstream costs and revenues.

He added that NNPC in 2020 began releasing the financial statements of the group and its subsidiaries, assuring that the 2021 financial statement of the company and its subsidiaries will soon be published.

"As part of our transparency journey, we have understood that disclosing contracts supports open, fact-based dialogue that can help build trust, reduce conflict, and reinforce a company's social licence to operate.

"We have therefore, since November 2021, been working with NEITI as part of a joint committee with other stakeholders to implement contract transparency in Nigeria," he stated.

Continued on page 46

Presidency to Unveil 1,321 Legacy Projects By Buhari

● *President says FG building massive road infrastructure to boost business, tackle poverty*

Deji Elumoye in Abuja and Victor Ogunje in Ado Ekiti

The Presidency yesterday disclosed that it would unveil 1,321 legacy projects by the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration in a media campaign.

This, according to a statement issued by the Media Adviser to the President, Femi Adesina, was in continuation of the commemoration of the seventh anniversary of the president.

The campaign, to be unveiled in a series of online publications, he said, would, in collaboration with the Presidential Media Team, coordinated by Barister Ata Ikiddah.

"The aim of this awareness is to inform, educate, engage and empower Nigerians to the notable achievements and patriotic vision of the president for the country."

"The first component of this social media-driven project will be the launch of, 'Buhari's Government Has Zero Projects' with the hashtag: #BuharisGovernmentHasZeroProjects showcasing 1,321 under-reported, completed and ongoing infrastructural projects of this Administration across the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory including the 774 Local Government Areas, 8,809 wards and over 44,045 villages and communities all over the country. It is time to tell the truth," the statement added.

Buhari: FG Building Massive Road Infrastructure to Boost Business, Tackle Poverty

Meanwhile, Buhari, has disclosed that his government had been engaging in aggressive road infrastructure across the country to enhance ease of doing business and tackle the pervasive poverty ravaging citizens.

Buhari spoke in Efon Alaaye, Efon Local Government area of Ekiti State, yesterday, while inaugurating

a 22-kilometre Efon Alaaye-Iwaraja - Erinmo road constructed by his administration.

The president, represented by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment, Chief Niyi Adebayo, advised Nigerians to maintain 100 kms per hour while driving on highways as a safety measure.

The number one citizen said the completion of the road further reinforced the commitment of his administration to improving road transport infrastructure, the ease of doing business and as well create jobs and prosperity that could lift the people out of poverty.

"Accordingly, for the avoidance of any doubt, I wish to reiterate that the maximum driving speed on this and other Federal Highways nationwide. We want you alive to witness and be part of the prosperity and promise of Nigeria."

"We can confidently say that as we enter the final lap of the tenure of the Buhari's administration, we are also entering a season of completion and delivery of projects."

As you can all see, we are handing over today the 22 Kilometre Road, which links the three towns of Efon Alaaye in Ekiti State and Erinmo and Iwaraja in Osun State.

"By linking Ekiti and Osun States together, this road becomes a critical component of our national road network. This road has been built to the highest quality of design and if it is well used and not abused, it should last for the designed service life."

"Road abuse takes many forms such as overloading, over speeding, pavement damage, spilling of petroleum products, which dissolves all the components and allows water to penetrate, and converting the road shoulders to permanent parking places, that brings the road failure from the shoulder."

"We must all do our best to avoid these practices, report them

when they occur and act in a lawful manner to stop them," he said.

The Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola, represented by the Director of Area Highways, Southwest, Engr. Adedamola Kuti, said Ekiti and Osun States would enjoy economic boost with the completion of the road.

Fashola said: "This road represents major investment in road infrastructure. They are visible and incontrovertible assets Nigerians are interested in. We will continue to embark on innovative action to ensure that we source money to construct more roads for the use of Nigerians."

"Let me thank all the host communities for their collaboration and strong partnership in the delivery

of the project. Road signs were put on many of these roads to reduce damage and accidents, but you know the attitudes of our people, they had been removed."

Also speaking, the Director of the KOPEK Construction Company, Mr. Issam Feghali, said the road was awarded to the firm by the federal government in 2019, at the cost of N4 billion.

He expressed commitment that road would not only improve transportation, but would boost the economic potentials of the towns around that axis.

Feghali appreciated the host community for providing security and other needed impetus to be able to complete the projects in record time.

UN: 4.1 Million in North-east Nigeria at Risk of Starvation

Michael Olugbode in Abuja

The United Nations (UN) has raised an alarm that 4.1 million people in the north-eastern Nigeria are at severe risk of severe food insecurity and starvation.

According to the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria, Mr. Matthias Schmale to avert this \$351 million was required, which he said was part of the overall request of \$1.1 billion for the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, that is severely under-funded at 19.6 per cent.

Schmale while briefing Member States of the UN in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday, on the needs, challenges and windows of opportunity in the north-east said: "I cannot emphasise enough, we need the resources today and not tomorrow."

He said as north-east Nigeria continues to face an unrelenting humanitarian crisis, 4.1 million

people in region were at risk of severe food insecurity this season, noting that people in that region are already vulnerable after struggling through 12 years of conflict.

He added that in 2022, 8.4 million people would need humanitarian assistance across Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, while describing the deteriorating food security and nutrition situation as an issue that requires immediate support.

He said: "This food insecurity is felt painfully across the region, especially as operations are so desperately in need of funding. In Yobe State, families have not received food assistance for up to eight months. Some people are left without food for days not knowing where their next meal will come from."

According to him, the March 2022 Cadre Harmonisé, a tool used to identify areas at risk from food insecurity and malnutrition in the

Sahel and West Africa, projected that between June and September, 4.1 million people would be food insecure.

Among them, almost 600,000 people were projected to be at emergency levels (Phase 4), which was characterised by large food consumption gaps reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality.

He noted that this high-risk period, the lean season, overlaps with the rainy season, a time when children are left vulnerable from disease outbreaks, with weakened resistance if malnourished, disclosing that malnutrition among children grows increasingly dangerous in the north-east.

He said approximately, 1.74 million children under five were estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition across the north-east in 2022, and of these, over 300,000 were estimated to suffer from

severe acute malnutrition and are at high risk of death if they do not receive urgent treatment.

He, however, said a multi-sector response plan had been put in place by the UN and humanitarian partners to provide life-saving aid and prevent a potentially catastrophic food and nutrition situation, stating that the plan required \$351 million, and was part of the overall request of \$1.1 billion for the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, which is severely under-funded at 19.6 per cent.

He revealed that the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan aims to assist 5.5 million people in need, describing it as a two-track process, where, "the bulk of interventions focus on emergency assistance, but at same time our approach aims to lift people out of vulnerable situations and reduce humanitarian need by increasingly focusing on durable solutions and building resilience where possible."

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L-R: Chairman, FAN MILK Plc, Mr. Olayinka Akinkugbe; Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun and the French Ambassador to Nigeria, Madam Emmanuelle Blatmann during the commissioning of the FAN MILK Danone Model Dairy Farm in Odeda, Ogun State ...yesterday

Nigeria Records Best Performance in Global Budget Survey

Ndubuisi Francis in Abuja

Nigeria has posted its best performance in the 2021 Open Budget Survey (OBS), released by the International Budget Partnership (IBP). The survey which was conducted in 120 countries saw Nigeria taking a leap from the previous 21 spot in 2019, to 45, improving by 24 points in budget transparency and public participation. This was revealed at the official launch of the Open Budget Survey 2021 Report, which was unveiled yesterday in Abuja. Nigeria, Sierra Leone and

The Gambia made the biggest improvement in the Open Budget Index, specifically on transparency, public participation and institutional oversight among 120 countries assessed. The OBS is a global, independent, comparative and regular assessment of transparency, institutional oversight and public participation in public budgets in 120 countries, and it is conducted bi-annually. Presenting the report, the Senior Programme Manager, International Budget Partnership, Sally Torbert, said Nigeria's performance was the second highest improvement worldwide.

On the survey, Torbert said: "The basis for the OBS is 145 score indicators based on international practices and standards. "These indicators measure the public availability and comprehensiveness of the yearly budget documents, the role and effectiveness of our oversight institutions and opportunities for public participation in the budget process. "We undertake a rigorous research process that is led by civil society researchers and subjected to peer review in that area. It has a long standing partnership with the budget and was led on the research proposal since 2020.

"We also invite national governments to comment on the draft results and we were grateful for the detailed feedback received from the budget office of Nigeria. "Importantly, the survey is more than a research; it is a tool for civic engagement and an exercise of citizens. And it documents the progress made in open budgeting practices and provides a roadmap for where countries can improve." Noting that Nigeria's improvement to the 45 spot was commendable, she however, stated that the country needed to accelerate progress on budget transparency and participation, and aim to hit

the 61st spot. "This shows that even as Nigeria has made much progress this round, there is still possibilities to go further. The OBS sets the benchmark for sufficient information at 61 out of 100. And there are ways that Nigeria could continue upward trend as seen in this round and aim to hit that benchmark and even surpass within just a few years. "So here are some reforms that could be considered to catapult Nigeria into the ranks of the countries that meet the benchmark for sufficient information. First is enhancing the budget proposal with additional information. "It could be simple things such as spending trends overtime so you can see how spending administrative sector is changing over the years. "It also could include performance indicators and targets and what the government hopes to achieve with public spending. She said the IBP would do whatever was required to encourage Nigeria to hit the 61st spot.

Responding to a question on the country's audit process, Torbert regretted that it was an area Nigeria needed to work very hard, adding that audit reports take over three years to be unveiled. According to her, this should be reduced to at least 18 months. She said: "Audit is an incredibly important part of the oversight of the government budget. Those audit reports are where that is documented, and the auditor general gives their recommendations and their findings when they review the government financial statements. "So yes, those reports are a really critical oversight mechanism for public spending. So in some cases, it's parliament who really needs to ensure that the auditor general has a strong legal framework for when and how they should be releasing their audit report at the end of the year. "In many countries, it starts with parliament, having both a clear

Continued on page 48

Sanwo-Olu, Obaseki, Elumelu Condole THISDAY/ Arise Group Chairman over Mum's Death

Udora Orizu in Abuja

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, his Edo State counterpart, Mr. Godwin Obaseki and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Hon Ndudi Elumelu have commiserated with the Chairman of THISDAY Newspapers and ARISE News Channel, Prince Nduka Obaigbena, over the passing of his mother, Princess Margaret Obaigbena, at the age of 88. Sanwo-Olu, in a condolence letter he personally signed, on behalf of the government and people of Lagos State, commiserated with the entire Obaigbena Royal Family of Owa Kingdom. According to the governor, Mama's passing was a stark reminder of the ephemerality of life, but also proof that despite the fleetingness of our existence as mere mortals, those who live for others are never forgotten. "As an astute public health practitioner, Mama brought a legacy of piety, love and empathy to her professional calling and by extension, the way and manner she lived her life. Mama Obaigbena was an exemplary mother to all and a devout Christian who espoused the values of humility and kindness throughout her lifetime. "She inspired all who encountered her to embrace godliness

with contentment, which was the hallmark of her life. Mama successfully raised her children to become resourceful and courageous Nigerians who have consistently made their mark in their chosen careers while contributing their quota to the growth and socio-economic development of Nigeria," the governor added. He urged the Obaigbena family to take solace in the beautiful memories shared with the deceased over the years. On his part, Obaseki, in a statement, said the matriarch of the Obaigbena family was a gracious, kind and compassionate woman, who cared deeply for her family and instilled strong values in all who encountered her. The governor noted, "I commiserate with the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of THISDAY Newspapers and Chairman of ARISE TV Network, Prince Nduka Obaigbena, over the passing of his mother, Princess Margaret Obaigbena, who passed at the age of 88. "Princess Obaigbena was a gracious, kind and compassionate woman, who cared deeply for her family and instilled strong values in all who encountered her." The statement further read: "She was a source of inspiration to many and was always available to provide guidance and direction

to all who sought advice from her. "Princess Obaigbena had an illustrious career as a nurse, rising to become the Chief Nursing Officer of the defunct Bendel State Government and later Delta State Government. As a caregiver, she was diligent and committed to her work, providing excellent service to her community. "She will be remembered for her compassionate spirit, good nature and love for others." Elumelu in a condolence message also commiserated with members of the Royal Family of Owa Kingdom and the government and people of Delta State. He described the late Margaret as an exceptionally illustrious daughter of Delta State, a gracious personality and unique epitome of courage, humility, industry, motherly love, selfless service and faith in God, who touched the lives of everyone that came in contact with her in many special ways. According to him, as a Chief Nursing Officer and later Special Assistant to three Governors of Delta State, the late Princess Obaigbena displayed an outstanding commitment to duty and left an unbeaten legacy of selfless service towards the wellbeing of the people, Nigerians and humanity at large. Elumelu said, "May I convey my deepest condolences to you, the Chairman/Editor-in-Chief of

the Thisday/ Arise Group, Prince Nduka Obaigbena, over the death of your loving mother and Matriarch of the Obaigbena family, Princess Margaret Obaigbena (Nee Usifoh). The death of Princess Obaigbena is a big blow not only to the Obaigbenas and the Owa Royal Family but also to the entire people of Delta State. Indeed, her exit, even at the age of 88 is very painful to us and we will miss her wise counsel, prayers and soothing presence. "Nevertheless, we take solace in the fact that she lived fulfilled, finished the race as a devout servant of God with many resounding legacies including bequeathing to us a patriot and statesman in your good self. "I must salute your courage particularly in effectively and fearlessly deploying the THISDAY/ Arise Group as the voice of the voiceless in fighting for justice, fairness and demand for entrenchment of Rule of Law, accountability and good governance in our country." "I charge you to remain steadfast in this course for the task ahead. I deeply commiserate with you and pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to comfort you, the entire Obaigbena family as well as the Government and people of Delta State in faith that the Faithful Departed, rests in joy in His Glorious Bosom. Be Comforted and God bless."

Ekiti: National Peace C'ttee Demands Prosecution of Vote Buyers

Onyebuchi Ezigbo in Abuja

The National Peace Committee (NPC), has asked the security agencies to ensure that perpetrators of vote-buying during the June 18, 2022 governorship election in Ekiti State were prosecuted and brought to justice. Chairman of the National Peace Committee, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, in a statement issued in Abuja, yesterday, said the practice of vote-buying undermined the values, which underpinned the democratic life of the country. The former head of state also said vote-buying reduced the privileged selection of those, who steward the commonwealth through the electoral processes, as being transactional. "We strongly decry the incidence of vote-buying recorded during the elections and urge the security agencies to ensure that investigations are conducted, that all perpetrators of these anti-democratic acts are prosecuted and brought to justice with the provisions in the electoral law.

"The practice of vote-buying undermines the values, which underpin our democratic life. It reduces the privileged selection of those who steward our commonwealth through our electoral processes, as being transactional. "We must hold to account, all who would muddy the springs from which we as a people seek to drink from collectively by such actions of bribery – both the giver and receiver," Abubakar said. The committee, however, congratulated the people of Ekiti State over their peaceful conduct during the election. "We want to particularly, thank the people of Ekiti for the turnout recorded during the election, despite recent increasing levels of insecurity. Your commitment to fulfilling your civic responsibilities by casting your votes in a peaceful and orderly manner, sets an example for your compatriots in the upcoming Osun State Governorship Election and Nigeria as we move towards the general elections in 2023.

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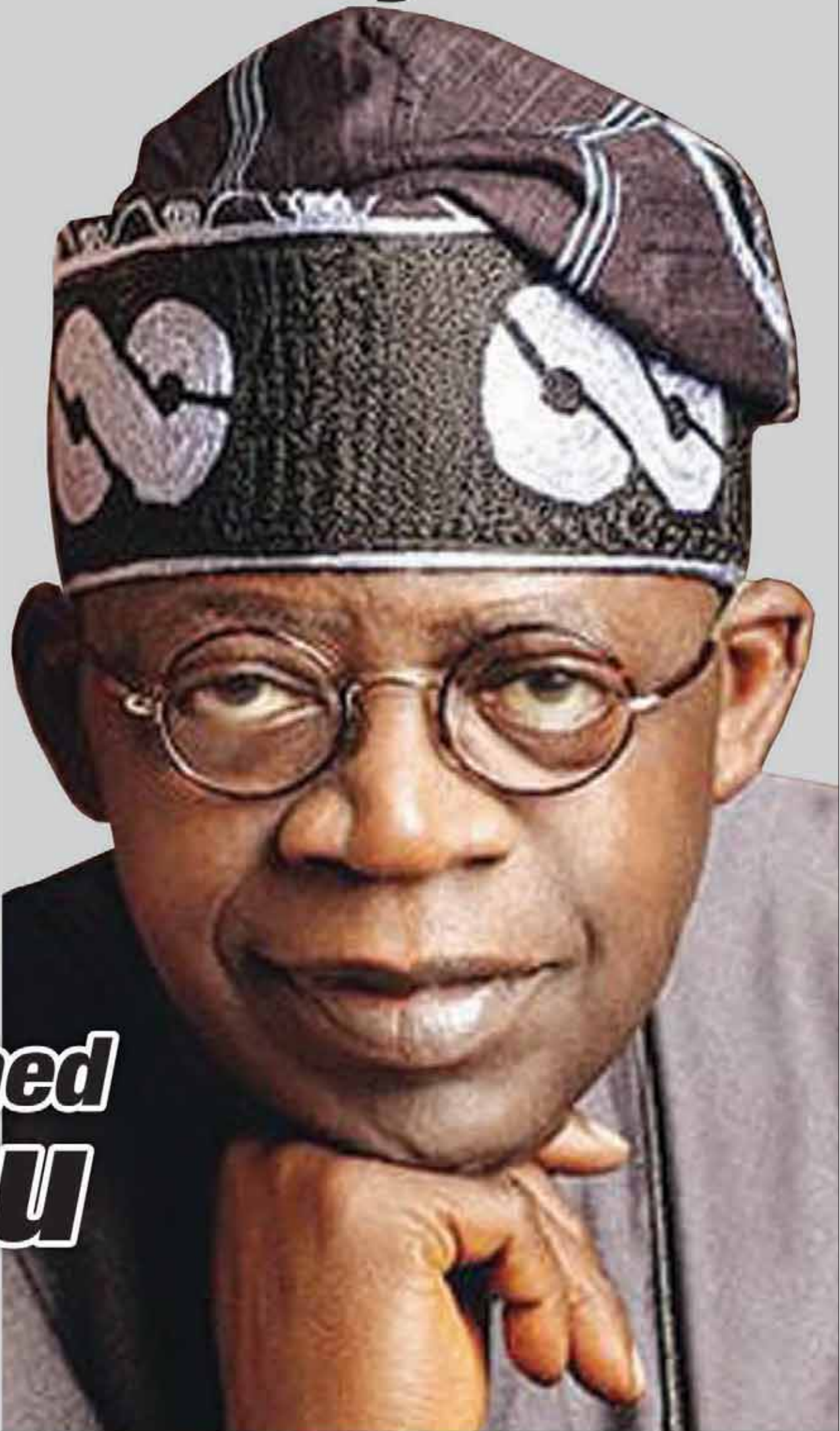
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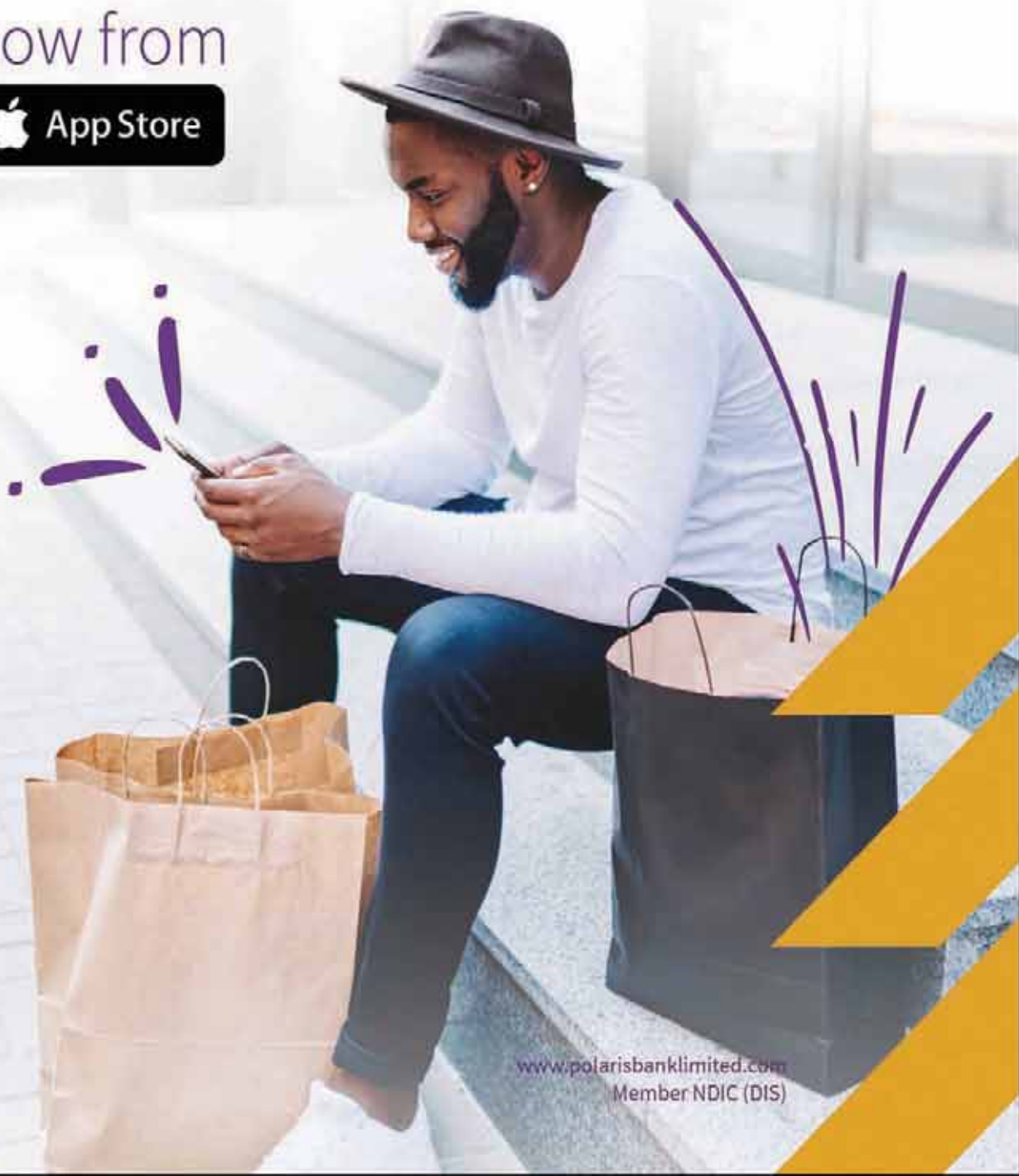
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WELCOMES

Engr. Simbi K. Wabote *(FNSE)*

The Executive Secretary,
Nigerian Content Development & Monitoring Board (NCDMB)



The entire staff and management of Nivafer Engineering and Construction Limited (NIVAFAER) Welcomes Engr Simbi. K. Wabote, the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring Board(NCDMB) to a tour of **NIVAFAER facility and The Unveiling and Load-Out of HP Fuel Treatment Skid** on Wednesday June 22,2022

Signed:
for: Nivafer Engineering and Construction Limited

Management

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Olajide Oyewole LLP

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM
DLA PIPER AFRICA, NIGERIA (OLAJIDE OYEWOLE LLP)
LAGOS OFFICE, AT A PRIVATE BOARDROOM EVENT
WHERE AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP OF EMINENT
DIRECTORS AND CHAIRMEN SHARED
INSIGHTS ON THE FAST-EVOLVING
INTERNATIONAL ESG LANDSCAPE
WHICH HELD ON 2ND JUNE 2022.**



At the Lagos office (L-R): Boye Olusanya, Oscar Onyema, Ese Nkadi, Ngozi Edozien, Bola Tinubu, Bidemi Ademola, Muyiwa Adeseyoju, Wale Tinubu

**IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ABOKUTA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABOKUTA, OGUN STATE
ON TUESDAY THE 21ST DAY OF JUNE, 2022
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP HON. JUSTICE O. D. OGUNTAYINBO**

SUIT NO. PHC/ABCS/96/2022

BETWEEN:
MR. OLUBISI OTEGBAYE
(A.K.A. B.O.T.)

PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT

AND

1. INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)
2. ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS (APC)
3. PRINCE ADEBAYO ABOUDU

DEFENDANTS

ORDER

UPON THIS MOTION EX-PARTE dated and filed on the 2nd day of June, 2022 coming up before this Honourable Court today for hearing and praying for the following orders:

1. AN ORDER of Court granting leave to the Applicant to serve the Originating and other processes in this suit on the 1st Respondent by substituted means by posting on his known address at the Ogun State APC Secretariat located at 15, Moshood Abiola Way, Oshogbo, Abokuta.
2. AN ORDER granting leave to the Applicant to serve the Originating and other processes in this suit on the 2nd Respondent through the Chairman or any

executive committee member or any adult at the Ogun APC Secretariat located at 15, Moshood Abiola Way, Oshogbo, Abokuta

OR

3. AN ORDER granting leave to the Applicant to serve the Originating and other processes in this suit on the 1st Respondent by advertisement in a national daily newspaper.
4. AND for such further or other Orders as the Honourable Court may deem fit to make in the circumstances.

UPON READING the Affidavit in Support of the Application sworn to by one Moses Lapele, Male, Nigerian, Christian, Litigation Clerk of Osh, Wale Taiwo Close Off PSSDC Road (By Grandview Plaza Junction) Magodo GRA Phase II Shangisha, Lagos and filed at this Court's Registry on the 20th day of June, 2022.

AND AFTER HEARING Chief Wale Taiwo SAN (with Prof. Yemi Oke Esq.) of Counsel for the Plaintiff/Applicant having adopted the Written Address in Support of the Application moves in terms of the motion papers; urged the Court to grant same as prayed.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the order is granted as prayed.
2. That leave be and is hereby granted to the Plaintiff/Applicant to serve the Originating and other court processes in this suit on the 1st Respondent by substituted means by posting on his last known address at the Ogun State APC Secretariat located at 15, Moshood Abiola Way, Oshogbo, Abokuta.
3. That in the alternative; leave is granted to the Plaintiff/Applicant to serve the Originating and other court processes in this suit on the 1st Respondent either through the Chairman or any Executive Committee member or any adult at the Ogun State APC Secretariat located at 15, Moshood Abiola Way, Oshogbo, Abokuta.
4. That leave is also granted to the Plaintiff/Applicant to serve the Originating and other court processes in this suit on the 2nd Respondent by advertisement in a National Daily Newspaper.
5. That the matter is adjourned to Tuesday 28th June, 2022 for Report of Service.

ISSUED AT Abokuta, Under the Seal of the Court by the Hand of the Presiding Judge this 21st day of June, 2022.

[Signature]
JUDGE

[Signature]
REGISTRAR

**IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT
HOLDEN AT ABOKUTA**

SUIT NO.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 1999 (AS AMENDED)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ELECTIONAL ACT 2022

BETWEEN:
MR. OLUBISI OTEGBAYE
(A.K.A. B.O.T.)

APPLICANT

AND

1. INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)
2. ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS (APC)
3. PRINCE ADEBAYO ABOUDU

RESPONDENTS

ORIGINATING SUMMONS

BROUGHT PURSUANT TO ORDER 3 RULE 9, FEDERAL HIGH COURT (CIVIL PROCEDURE) RULES 2019; SECTIONS 40 & 182 (1) (a) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 1999 (AS AMENDED); SECTIONS 29(1), (2) (b) & (4) (b) & (14) OF THE ELECTIONAL ACT 2022, AND UNDER THE INHERENT JURISDICTION OF THIS HONOURABLE COURT

LET THE PARTIES CONSIDER:

- 1st Respondent: Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of Nigeria Headquarters, Plot 434, Zamboni Crescent, Maitama District, FCT Abuja (NDC) (Office, Abokuta, Ogun State).
- 2nd Respondent: All Progressive Congress (APC) of Nigeria, 15, Moshood Abiola Way, Oshogbo, Ogun State.
- 3rd Respondent: Prince Adebayo Aboodu of 33, Old Station Road, Iperu Iperu, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Within Thirty (30) days or such shorter period of days that might be permissible under the law or any rules of Court after service of this summons on them including the day of such return (now as appearance to be entered for

deaf in this summons which is served upon the application of the Applicant, for the determination of the following questions, to wit:

1. WHETHER the Applicant did not vote, obtain and/or get one (1) vote in the total votes cast by delegates and thus the runner-up in the Primary election conducted by the 2nd Respondent and supervised/monitored by the 1st Respondent on the 26th of May 2022 to select/elect the 2nd Respondent's flag bearer for the 2023 general election into the office of the Governor of Ogun State.
2. WHETHER the final results as declared by the Chairman, Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election Committee which states that the Applicant scored, obtained and/or got nil vote was not falsified and/or doctored.
3. WHETHER the 2nd Respondent, who was announced as the winner of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election conducted on the 26th of May 2022 was, at the time of the said primary election not disqualified from contesting as an aspirant for the office of the Governor of Ogun State having made false declaration on Oath contrary to the provisions of Section 182(1)(g) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and Section 29(1) and (5) of the Electoral Act 2022.
4. Whether by virtue of the provisions of Section 182(1)(g) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Section 29(1) and (5) of the Electoral Act 2022, the 2nd Respondent is not legally inhibited from forwarding the name of the 3rd Respondent as its candidate for the 2023 General Elections into the office of the Governor of Ogun State.
5. If the answers to questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 above be and are answered in the affirmative, whether the Applicant should not be declared the winner of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary election conducted on the 26th of May 2022 and thus, the flag bearer of the 2nd Respondent for the 2023 General Elections into the office of the Governor of Ogun State.

AND UPON the determination of the questions, the Applicant claims the following reliefs:

1. A DECLARATION that the Applicant scored, obtained and/or got one (1) vote in the total votes cast by delegates and thus the runner-up in the Primary election conducted by the 2nd Respondent and supervised/monitored by the 1st Respondent on the 26th of May 2022 to select/elect the 2nd Respondent's flag bearer for the 2023 General Elections into the office of the Governor of Ogun State.

AND for such further or other orders as this Honourable Court might deem fit and convenient to make in the circumstances of this case.

THIS ORIGINATING SUMMONS was taken out by CHIEF WALE TAIWO, SAN, FCA, of 58, Wale Taiwo Close, Off PSSDC Magodo GRA, Phase II, Shangisha, Lagos (NDC) 10, 145 Avenue, Oshogbo, Ogun State, Nigeria, for and on behalf of the named Applicant.

NOTE:

1. The Respondents may appear herein by entering appearance personally or by a Legal Practitioner acting by writing in the appropriate form duly completed at the Federal High Court, Ogun State Registry at the following times to that effect by post.
2. A DECLARATION that the final results declared by the Chairman, Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election Committee which states that the Applicant scored, obtained and/or got nil vote was falsified and doctored.
3. A DECLARATION that the Applicant was the runner-up in the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election conducted on the 26th of May 2022 by the 2nd Respondent having scored one (1) vote and second to the 3rd Respondent, who scored 1168 votes and was declared the winner of the said election.
4. A DECLARATION that the 2nd Respondent, who was announced and declared as the winner of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election conducted on the 26th of May 2022 by the 2nd Respondent was, at the time of the election not qualified to so contest and thus disqualified.
5. A DECLARATION that upon the disqualification of the 2nd Respondent, the Applicant who was the runner-up in the said election is the authentic winner of the said election and flag bearer of the 2nd Respondent for the 2023 General Elections into the office of the Governor of Ogun State.
6. AN ORDER of this Honourable Court compelling the 1st and 2nd Respondents to recognise the Applicant as the winner of the APC Governing Primary Election conducted on the 26th of May, 2022 and second the Applicant all the rights and privileges accruable to the winner of the said primary election including the recognition of the Applicant as the 2nd Respondent's flag bearer for the 2023 general election into the office of the Governor of Ogun State.

FOR SERVICE ON:

- 1st RESPONDENT
INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)
PLOT 434, ZAMBONI CRESCENT
MAITAMA DISTRICT
FCT, ABUJA
- 2nd RESPONDENT
ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS (APC)
15, MOSHOOD ABIOLA WAY
OSHOGBO, OGUN STATE

[Signature]
CHIEF WALE TAIWO, SAN, FCA, of 58, Wale Taiwo Close, Off PSSDC Magodo GRA, Phase II, Shangisha, Lagos (NDC) 10, 145 Avenue, Oshogbo, Ogun State, Nigeria, for and on behalf of the named Applicant.

[Signature]
PROF. YEMI OKE, FCA, FRC, of 10, 145 Avenue, Oshogbo, Ogun State, Nigeria, for and on behalf of the named Applicant.

[Signature]
J.K. AWORINDE, ESQ., of 10, 145 Avenue, Oshogbo, Ogun State, Nigeria, for and on behalf of the named Applicant.

[Signature]
ELLAS AJADI, ESQ., of 10, 145 Avenue, Oshogbo, Ogun State, Nigeria, for and on behalf of the named Applicant.

[Signature]
BANKOLE O. SODIYE, ESQ., of 10, 145 Avenue, Oshogbo, Ogun State, Nigeria, for and on behalf of the named Applicant.

[Signature]
WALE TAIWO & CO., APPLICANT'S COUNSEL
58, WALE TAIWO CLOSE
OFF PSSDC ROAD
(BY GRANDVIEW PLAZA JUNCTION)
MAGODO GRA PHASE II
SHANGISHA, LAGOS
TEL: 08164444444, 08164444444
E-MAIL: waletaiwo@waletaiwo.com.ng, waletaiwo@waletaiwo.com.ng
www.waletaiwo.com.ng

OR

[Signature]
NO. 1, BUA AVENUE
OLUDUNGBA OSHAGBO HILLTOP GRA
OLUDUNGBA QUARTERS
OFF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OGUN STATE
ABOKUTA

**IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT
HOLDEN AT ABOKUTA**

SUIT NO.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 1999 (AS AMENDED)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ELECTIONAL ACT 2022

BETWEEN:
MR. OLUBISI OTEGBAYE
(A.K.A. B.O.T.)

APPLICANT

AND

1. INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)
2. ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS (APC)
3. PRINCE ADEBAYO ABOUDU

RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF ORIGINATING SUMMONS

OLUBISI OTEGBAYE, Adult, Male, Politician, Christian, Nigerian
Citizen of Ogun State, Ogun State, Nigeria, Ogun State do hereby make oath and say (that):

1. I am the Applicant in this case and a member of the 2nd Respondent in the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election by virtue of which I am sworn of the facts herein reported to, I am fully informed as to "B.O.T." being the acronym of my name: Bp. Otegbaye.
2. I am otherwise engaged; I make this deposition from facts within my personal knowledge, information and belief.
3. The 1st Respondent is a statutory body vested with the responsibility of conducting elections in various Executive and Legislative offices/positions in Nigeria.
4. The 2nd Respondent is an organization duly registered as a political party in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, while the 3rd Respondent is otherwise known as "Bodur", "Dipo", "Dipo Bodur", "Prince Dipo" and was said to have been counted and credited to the 3rd Respondent.
5. During the counting of votes, the 3rd Respondent was seriously referred to and called as "Bodur", "Dipo", "Dipo Bodur", "Prince Dipo" and was said to have been counted and credited to the 3rd Respondent.
6. During the counting of votes, all the votes cast for and credited to the 3rd Respondent were handed over to his (3rd Respondent's) agent who was present at the venue of the election.

After the election, votes of delegates were counted and announced at Local Government Areas and the total results by the Chairman of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election Committee, it was said that I scored nil vote and the final result was declared that:

1. Prince Adebayo Aboodu: 1168 votes

2. Mr. Olubisi Otegbaye: 0 vote

3. Mr. Remi Bakare: 0 vote

4. Mr. Adesola Alakinde: 0 vote

5. Mr. Ademola Alakinde: 0 vote

6. Mr. Modupe Shandura Yusuf: 0 vote

7. I was informed by Mr. Olubisi Otegbaye, my agent who was at the election venue to monitor the election on the 26th of May 2022 at about 6:00pm, in my house at Abokuta, Ogun State and I verify before him that:

8. After the election, votes of delegates were counted and announced at Local Government Areas and the total results by the Chairman of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election Committee, it was said that I scored nil vote and the final result was declared that:

1. Prince Adebayo Aboodu: 1168 votes

2. Mr. Olubisi Otegbaye: 0 vote

3. Mr. Remi Bakare: 0 vote

4. Mr. Adesola Alakinde: 0 vote

5. Mr. Ademola Alakinde: 0 vote

6. Mr. Modupe Shandura Yusuf: 0 vote

9. Being aggrieved by the result of the election as declared, I made a petition to the Chairman, Ogun State Primary Election Appeal Committee via a letter of 26th May 2022 wherein I stated the correct details of the result of the election that:

1. Prince Adebayo Aboodu: 1168 votes

2. Mr. Olubisi Otegbaye: 0 vote

3. Mr. Remi Bakare: 0 vote

4. Mr. Adesola Alakinde: 0 vote

5. Mr. Ademola Alakinde: 0 vote

6. Mr. Modupe Shandura Yusuf: 0 vote

10. Mr. Olubisi Otegbaye: 1 vote

11. Mr. Remi Bakare: 0 vote

12. Mr. Adesola Alakinde: 0 vote

13. Mr. Ademola Alakinde: 0 vote

14. Mr. Modupe Shandura Yusuf: 0 vote

15. The petition to the 2nd Respondent dated 26th May 2022 is herewith attached and marked Exhibit B072

16. I am the person referred to as "B.O.T." when the results of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election conducted on the 26th of May 2022, which is the acronym of my name Bp. Otegbaye.

17. I am the person referred to as "B.O.T." when the results of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election conducted on the 26th of May 2022, which is the acronym of my name Bp. Otegbaye.

18. I am the person referred to as "B.O.T." when the results of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election conducted on the 26th of May 2022, which is the acronym of my name Bp. Otegbaye.

19. I am the person referred to as "B.O.T." when the results of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election conducted on the 26th of May 2022, which is the acronym of my name Bp. Otegbaye.

20. I am the person referred to as "B.O.T." when the results of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election conducted on the 26th of May 2022, which is the acronym of my name Bp. Otegbaye.

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**IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT
HOLDEN AT ABOKUTA**

SUIT NO.

IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 1999 (AS AMENDED)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ELECTIONAL ACT 2022

BETWEEN:
MR. OLUBISI OTEGBAYE
(A.K.A. B.O.T.)

APPLICANT

AND

1. INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)
2. ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS (APC)
3. PRINCE ADEBAYO ABOUDU

RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF ORIGINATING SUMMONS

OLUBISI OTEGBAYE, Adult, Male, Politician, Christian, Nigerian
Citizen of Ogun State, Ogun State, Nigeria, Ogun State do hereby make oath and say (that):

1. I am the Applicant in this case and a member of the 2nd Respondent in the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election by virtue of which I am sworn of the facts herein reported to, I am fully informed as to "B.O.T." being the acronym of my name: Bp. Otegbaye.
2. I am otherwise engaged; I make this deposition from facts within my personal knowledge, information and belief.
3. The 1st Respondent is a statutory body vested with the responsibility of conducting elections in various Executive and Legislative offices/positions in Nigeria.
4. The 2nd Respondent is an organization duly registered as a political party in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, while the 3rd Respondent is otherwise known as "Bodur", "Dipo", "Dipo Bodur", "Prince Dipo" and was said to have been counted and credited to the 3rd Respondent.
5. During the counting of votes, the 3rd Respondent was seriously referred to and called as "Bodur", "Dipo", "Dipo Bodur", "Prince Dipo" and was said to have been counted and credited to the 3rd Respondent.
6. During the counting of votes, all the votes cast for and credited to the 3rd Respondent were handed over to his (3rd Respondent's) agent who was present at the venue of the election.

After the election, votes of delegates were counted and announced at Local Government Areas and the total results by the Chairman of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election Committee, it was said that I scored nil vote and the final result was declared that:

1. Prince Adebayo Aboodu: 1168 votes

2. Mr. Olubisi Otegbaye: 0 vote

3. Mr. Remi Bakare: 0 vote

4. Mr. Adesola Alakinde: 0 vote

5. Mr. Ademola Alakinde: 0 vote

6. Mr. Modupe Shandura Yusuf: 0 vote

7. I was informed by Mr. Olubisi Otegbaye, my agent who was at the election venue to monitor the election on the 26th of May 2022 at about 6:00pm, in my house at Abokuta, Ogun State and I verify before him that:

8. After the election, votes of delegates were counted and announced at Local Government Areas and the total results by the Chairman of the Ogun State APC Governing Primary Election Committee, it was said that I scored nil vote and the final result was declared that:

1. Prince Adebayo Aboodu: 1168 votes



**Borderless Growth.
Boundless Opportunities.
The Future Reimagined.**

Theme:
**The Power of Global
Interconnection**

Date:
**Thursday,
June 23rd, 2022**
Time:
10:00 am

Keynote Speaker



Judith Gardiner
VP Growth and Emerging Markets,
Equinix

Panel discussion: **Unlocking Growth through an Interconnected
Global Digital Infrastructure**

Moderator

Panelists



Martin Atkinson
Senior Manager,
Peering & Interconnection
EMEA, Equinix



Kendall Ananyi
Founder/CEO, Tizeti Networks



JP Attueyi
Chief Information Officer,
Eko Electricity Distribution Company



Nikhil Khandelwal
Chief Technology Officer,
Lagos Free Zone



Ben Ryall
Edge Strategy Manager,
Sub Saharan Africa, Meta

Panel Discussion: **Maximizing Business Efficiency and Minimizing
Talent Drain and Rising CAPEX through IT Outsourcing**

Moderator

Panelists



Funke Opeke
CEO, MainOne



Eunice King
Head, Technology Infrastructure,
Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System



Adebowale Shonekan
Head, Network Operations
(Group & Subsidiaries), Access Bank



Ifeyinwa Kojo
Country Manager, Hewlett Packard
Enterprise (Operated by Selectium)



Oluwale Oyeniran
Partner, Enterprise Technology &
Performance Leader, Deloitte

To register: bit.ly/NerdsUnite2022



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Is INEC Ready for 2023 General Elections?

Emameh Gabriel interrogates INEC's readiness for a hitch-free general elections next year.



Yakubu



Okoye

Political parties in the country recently held their primary elections for various elective positions as the nation move towards another election circle. The public exchange of taunts and dares between supporters of candidates for the election have taken a new dimension just as the biles and bites among opposition party's faithful have also been raised to the bar.

While all of these would linger till the general elections are over next year, attention has however been shifted to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as stakeholders interrogate the Commission's readiness to conduct a hitch free election come 2023.

All this comes against the backdrop of the rise of a Third Force led by youth across regional divide in the country, a movement that has put the Commission under pressure to register more Nigerians ahead of the election.

Consequently, Nigerian Labour Party has called on the Commission to do everything possible to ensure that prospective voters are not disenfranchised in next year's polls.

National Chairman of the party, Julius Abure, commended the Commission for the progress recorded in the last few months in addressing some of the technical challenges witnessed during the Anambra State governorship election late last year and the FCT council polls in February, this year.

He said: "We need to improve on continuous voters registration because a lot of young people who want to register have not been able to register in the past two weeks across the country."

"You know registration is the Commission's precedent for people to have their PVCs and then to be able to participate in the election."

"We want to appeal to INEC that they should deploy more officials to the field to continue with the registration of prospective voters."

Abure who gave a pass mark to the Commission, said, "I have confidence in INEC that they would not be overwhelmed in terms of their preparation for the 2023 general elections. I know that INEC is prepared for the election. I know part of the defaults we noticed in the Anambra and FCT elections were corrected. But I am sure that it's going to be put to test in the Ekiti and Osun elections."

The Independent National Electoral Commission had at different fora cleared all doubts about its readiness for the 2023 general elections.

Analysts, however, believe that the outcome of next year's polls would have far-reaching implications for the country beyond 2023. They have, therefore, appealed that INEC must be at its best this time, warning that poor results could affect democratic transition in the country.

The analysts further submitted that the electoral body must do all it takes to preserve not only its integrity, but also to sustain the existing political stability in the country by conducting a free, fair and credible elections to the satisfaction of the Nigerian public and the international community.

Several stakeholders, including civil society organisations are skeptical about the elections given the irregularities that characterised political parties congresses in most states and challenges connected with the deployment of technology.

In its review of the 2019 general elections, INEC confessed that the deployment of technology in the electoral process came with challenges. The Commission also disclosed that it recorded over 1,689 litigations arising from the 2019 elections.

This was not only the challenge, logistic and operational plans also came up as a result of shortage of voting materials, especially ballot papers in many states.

The National Peace Committee led by General Abdusalami Abubakar, has also expressed fear that the forthcoming 2023 general election could not meet the expectations of Nigerians for a free, transparent and credible electoral process.

In a recent statement signed by the former Head of State, the peace committee said, "judging from the experience at the recent party primaries, where politicians monetised the entire process, the hope of ordinary Nigerians that their interest and aspirations will be reflected in the outcome of the 2023 general election may be lost."

"We are aware that the 2023 election may not be the best – as can be attested to by the monetisation of the process, the acrimonious conduct of the recent party primaries, and the elevation of the 'delegate position' over and above the welfare of ordinary Nigerians," the committee said.

INEC which had come under public criticisms over failure of the technology the Commission deployed during last year's governorship election in Anambra State and the February FCT local government polls, was also criticised when the Chairman of the Commission, Prof. Mamood Yakubu, who was perceived to be under pressure from the ruling party, extended the deadline for party primary elections in a bid to give the parties enough time to prepare for the exercises.

The decision did not go down well with the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) who accused INEC of altering the goalposts in the middle of the game, emphasising that election certainty is the backbone of democracy.

President Muhammadu Buhari had on 25 February 2022, signed the Electoral Bill into law. The law has now toughened the country's electoral laws, adding to the tension and signalling that it could,

for the first time in years, have elections that could widely be considered credible.

Provisions in the new law give the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) more decision-making powers and set aside early funding for it to avoid embarrassing technical and logistic lags that have characterised past elections in the country.

The INEC had in February this year disclosed that it has received substantial amount of funds for the election, this was even before the signing of the electoral law.

Similarly, the law also gives legal backing to the use of electronic card readers for voting and electronic methods for transferring results for collation, to the disappointment of some politicians who had argued that the state of the country's telecommunications network system could hinder voting in some areas.

With barely nine months to the general elections, civil society organisations have advised that beyond the new Electoral Act that gives more power for the country's electoral umpire, the INEC has the duty to purge itself off moles in its midst across the country.

On its part, Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) has maintained that for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct a free and credible elections in 2023, it must summon the courage to dismantle its current technical department to consolidate on its ongoing reforms.

The group also warned that if the advice was not heeded, INEC would continue to harbour moles just as it would continue to experience technical hitches that might cause the Commission serious embarrassment that could put its credibility into question.

Chairman of the group, Auwal Ibrahim Musa, raised the alarm that despite ongoing reform efforts by the Commission, Nigerians were still skeptical of the credibility of next year's election due to several allegations of manipulation of sensitive electoral materials, especially BVAS by staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to favour selected political actors during election.

Auwal said the very reason why election in Nigeria was a do or die affair, was

because "some politicians and some security agencies as well as some officials in the electoral body have turned election into a money making business".

He explained that although there have been improvement in the electoral process by the way of reforms, however civil society organisations would continue to support INEC and provide them with credible information on how to improve on the electoral process in the country.

According to him: "We have seen that transformation since Attahiru Jega came into INEC and this current INEC has also consolidated on those achievements."

"We will urge the leadership of INEC to carry out a kind of deployment of some people within INEC headquarters because part of the observation that many people have made is that when you have some people sitting in a particular department, especially departments that has to do with logistics, they are used to this arrangement that continue to fail."

"So it's important that INEC leadership redeploy and reorganize sensitive staff who have stayed long and whose contributions have not helped improve the electoral process. By so doing, the allegations made against these people would have been addressed."

"There are allegations that politicians have individual contacts in INEC. If you are able to reorganise the place, do some deployment, bring some staff from the headquarters to other places. I think it would also allay the fear that many people are having that one of the reasons why we continue to have logistics challenges, procurement failure is because some people have entrenched themselves in a particular department or location. So there is need to unbundle that and do redeployment and also have new orientation for the staff there. Also contractors who have been there need to comply with Public Procurement law."

"This is the only explanation on why these machines continuously refuse to work. If there is no manipulation or deliberate attempt to shortchange the electoral process, why is that we are having issues with these machines and why is that we have not sufficiently trained the electoral officials to handle these machines very well? This why I said the technical department also needs reform."

"Deployment is part of the technical issue in INEC, especially dealing with the BVAS which is one of the departments INEC must unbundle because there appear to be allegations of manipulation in that process. If we want to have a better election, that department would have to be dismantled. There is no way you will continue with the way things are structured there. BVAS would come and they would not be working and people complain. So where are the technicians."

"I think it's important we take this very seriously because if we want to really see a better election in 2023, we need to take into consideration all these issues that I have just pointed out otherwise we would continue to have a repeat of these problems without solutions", Auwal advised.

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

The Independent National Electoral Commission had at different fora cleared all doubts about its readiness for the 2023 general elections. Analysts, however, believe that the outcome of next year's polls would have far-reaching implications for the country beyond 2023. They further submitted that the electoral body must do all it takes to preserve not only its integrity, but also to sustain the existing political stability in the country by conducting a free, fair and credible elections to the satisfaction of the Nigerian public and the international community

Yobe North: Anxiety as Lawan, APC await Machina's Next Move

The winner of the primary election conducted by the ruling All Progressives Congress in Yobe North Senatorial District, Bashir Machina, has vowed to contest the substitution of his name with that of the President of the Senate, Dr Ahmad Lawan, who, he maintained, did not participate in the poll. **Sunday Aborisade** examines the implications of Machina's planned action and how it would affect the chances of Lawan's return to the 10th Senate.



Machina



Adamu



Lawan

It is a known fact that Senate President, Ahmad Lawan, actively participated in the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Primary election but lost to the flagbearer, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu. At about the same time, a member of the APC in the Yobe North Senatorial District, Bashir Machina, contested the primary in the constituency and won. After Lawan lost the attempt to make him the consensus presidential candidate of the APC and invariably humbled by Tinubu at the primary convention, the Senator who has been hibernating in the National Assembly since 1999, decided to return to the 10th Senate despite the fact that he did not take part in the Yobe North Senatorial District primary that produced Machina. While Machina was expecting the publication of his name on the website of the Independent National Electoral Commission, the Senator Abdullahi Adamu-led APC national executive, forwarded Lawan's name to INEC as the candidate of the party for Yobe North. Last Thursday, the APC wrote the INEC, informing the electoral body that Lawan, who is the Senate President since June, 2019, will be its nominee for the district. The National Chairman of the party had also granted an interview confirming that Lawan actually participated in the Yobe North Senatorial District and emerged victorious. However, Machina who contested the primary in Yobe North senatorial district and won, had vowed to go to court to challenge the alleged attempt to steal his mandate following INEC's recognition of Lawan as the candidate of the APC for the Senatorial district. He wondered why Lawan's name instead of his own, was uploaded on the commission's server alongside other senatorial candidates across the country. Machina, who spoke with newsmen in Abuja at the weekend, pleaded with the APC to correct the anomaly because he would have no option than to seek legal redress if his name remained substituted with that of Lawan. He insisted that he was the validly elected candidate, and that he had not withdrawn for any other person. Machina vowed not to withdraw because the mandate was freely given to him by party members and the delegates. The politician said he decided to address the issue because an abnormality and illegality was about to take place in the ruling party. He said, "In the list sent to INEC, my name was found to be misrepresented. I don't know whether it was erroneous, my name was not in the list of the names that was said to be presented to INEC. "For the avoidance of doubt, I remain the candidate duly elected for APC Yobe North zone C senatorial zone. "I am the elected candidate; I did not with-

draw for anybody and will not withdraw because as a matter of right that is the mandate given to me by members of our great party, the delegates. "So, surreptitiously removing my name, I consider, is very undemocratic, illegal and of course inhuman. "Insha Allah, I will take measures, first by reminding and appealing to my party that if this action is truly done, it should be corrected, especially if it is erroneously done. "We are actually seeking for redress from the National Working Committee of our party under the able leadership of Senator Abdullahi Adamu, the national chairman, that there is an anomaly and we need it to be corrected. "I remain the candidate and it remains so. I hope our leadership will take the necessary measures. We will work hard to exploit and explore all the necessary channels as provided by our guideline. "In the event of the contrary, as Nigerian citizens and as law abiding citizens, the constitution of our country being the overall law above every aspect of our lives as Nigerians, I would have no choice but to resort to court (legal) action. "This is what I intend to inform Nigerians through this medium, that an abnormality and illegality is about taking place, and it is undemocratic. "This is a democratic party. It is always the will of the people that is supreme and the greatest justification of the will of the people is by casting their votes, as they did to elect me.

"This is a confidence reposed in me by the electorate in my senatorial district and this is the most minimal challenge I will face to defend their right." INEC has, however, explained the only way the Senate President could return to the Senate in 2023. According to the electoral umpire, Lawan or any individual in his position is left at the mercy of the candidates who have been legally and constitutionally nominated by their political parties. INEC's National Commissioner for Information and Voter Education, Festus Okoye, gave the clarification when he appeared on Arise TV this week. He nevertheless, explained that he had yet to see the names of candidates submitted by political parties, despite the fact that media reports indicated that APC Yobe North Senatorial District has replaced the name of Machina with that of Lawan. Okoye further assured Nigerians that the Commission monitored and had the reports of all the Senatorial and House of Representatives primaries. Henoted that properly nominated candidates, whose nominations were being challenged must write to INEC with a sworn affidavit, asking for a fresh primary, which would be conducted within 14 days before a replacement can be made. The INEC Commissioner then advised Machina and others whose mandates have been taken from them to approach a well-constituted court of law to seek redress since INEC already has the reports from the primaries. Okoye said: "I completely agree with you that someone who has not contested party's primary should not be in a position to be nominated as party's candidate. "But now, the Independent National Electoral Commission is not in a position as at now to make a determination in relation to what you're saying or to make a determination in relation to

whose name was submitted by a political party. "The Commission monitored the primaries of different political parties. Their senatorial and House of Representatives primaries and we have our reports. "Moreover, what the law provides is that at the end of the nomination process, if any of the candidates that have been properly and constitutional nominated withdraws in writing and sworn affidavit that the 'political party that nominated me must and shall conduct fresh primaries within the period of 14 days and then make such replacement.' "Then the person must do this through a letter submitted to the political party that nominated him with an affidavit indicating that he or she has voluntarily withdrawn. So that is the state of the law as at today." Machina could not be reached as of the time of filing this report to confirm or deny rumours that he had already, had an agreement with Lawan to surrender his mandate. Commenting on the issue, an Abuja based lawyer, Messrs Kayode Ajulo, emphasised that only Machina could challenge the nomination of Lawan in court based on the provisions of the new Electoral Act. He said, "The moment, Machina failed to approach the Court within 14 days of the publication of Lawan's name on the website of INEC, the electoral umpire would have no choice but to present the Senate President's name as the Yobe North Senatorial District candidate." Also reacting, the Peoples Democratic Party Legal Adviser in Kwara State, Mr. Michael Aborisade, however, said Lawan and the APC still had another critical legal hurdle to cross even if they convinced Machina to willingly surrender his mandate. The legal practitioner told THISDAY that candidates of other political parties also have the right to challenge the nomination of a total stranger on the INEC list as their fellow contestants. According to him: "Even if the APC and Lawan are able to pacify Machina to drop his mandate, I will encourage the PDP candidate in the Yobe North Senatorial District to approach the Court to challenge the illegal smuggling of a total stranger by the APC in the list published by INEC. "The law did not stipulate that only the aspirants of the affected political party could challenge an improper nomination of a candidate, stakeholders from other parties who are also participating in the election could also take the same legal action." Many experts in the legal profession, political science as well as other interested parties in the case are keenly watching the events as they unfold, and expecting what would happen within the 14 days window open for Machina and other political parties' candidates to seek legal redress.

Even if the APC and Lawan are able to pacify Machina to drop his mandate, I will encourage the PDP candidate in the Yobe North Senatorial District to approach the Court to challenge the illegal smuggling of a total stranger by the APC in the list published by INEC. "The law did not stipulate that only the aspirants of the affected political party could challenge an improper nomination of a candidate, stakeholders from other parties who are also participating in the election could also take the same legal action.

FEATURES

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Nigerian Navy @66: Reinforced Commitment to Maritime Safety

Blessing Ibunge writes that the 66th anniversary of the Nigerian Navy afforded it the opportunity to show how they have reinforced maritime security, especially in tackling piracy, pipeline vandalism and other forms of criminalities. To mark the momentous anniversary, the navy played host to 29 navies across the Gulf of Guinea at the International Maritime Conference held in Rivers State

As part of activities to commemorate the Nigerian Navy 66th Anniversary celebrations, an International Maritime Conference was organised at Onne, Rivers State. Hosting about 29 navies from across the Gulf of Guinea (GoG), some of the highlights include free medical services delivery conducted for host community and sea surveillance on the sea to ensure the safety of maritime ways, among others.

The maritime conference was organised with the aim of proffering important solutions to the myriad of challenges confronting navies in Africa in pursuit of sustainable maritime security and effective maritime governance in the Continent.

The conference witnessed the presence of over 300 delegates and 900 participants from 29 countries including heads of navies and coastguards in Africa, the EU and other allied friends of the Nigerian Navy from Brazil, South Korea, China and USA among others.

Other participants include eminent retired and serving senior military officers, accomplished scholars on maritime security, captains of industry, international maritime partners as well as relevant local and international maritime stakeholders.

THISDAY observed that this year's conference, upwhich was at its 4th iteration, for the first time, expanded the proceedings beyond member states of the Gulf of Guinea to the entire African continent, including states along the East African coastline.

The conference discussed two main papers titled 'Building International Collaborative Capacities for Sustainable Maritime Security in the GoG' and 'Effective Maritime Governance in the GoG: A Panacea for Sustainable Blue Economy'.

Declaring the conference open, President Muhammadu Buhari noted the commitment of the Nigerian Navy in ensuring safety of the nation's waterways.

Represented by the Minister of Defence, Bashir Magashi at the conference, President Buhari stressed that the Nigerian Navy partnering other Navies across the Gulf of Guinea was in right direction for credible capacity that will guarantee a collective maritime defence.

He acknowledged that the conference would fashion out the best way forward for collaboration among security architecture and curb maritime crime in the collective maritime environments.

He said: "To this end, we owe a strong reason to support the Nigerian Navy and I make bold to commend the Nigerian Navy for their giant strides in maritime security operations, which resulted to several arrests of economic saboteurs, perpetrators of illegal bunkering, smugglers, pipeline vandals, and other miscreants in the fight against illegality in the gulf of guinea maritime domain."

"The efforts has brought about decline in piracy and ultimately delisting of Nigeria from the international maritime Bureau of piracy list in March 2022. The Nigerian Navy is the pertinent agency in the marine sector that has the responsibility in the constitution to check threats in the maritime threats."

"These threats have become transnational and beyond the scope and capability of one nation to deal with. The situation therefore calls for international collaboration and this conference therefore symbolizes strategic collaborative initiative between the Nigerian Navy and other international maritime stakeholders, to mitigate the increasing vulnerabilities in African water especially in the Gulf of Guinea."

Noting that the Gulf of Guinea region is very rich and endowed in living and non living resources, the President said the economic opportunities therein as well as the strategic problems cannot be over emphasised.

In his remarks, the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Gambo, noted that this year's international maritime conference with the theme "Optimising International Collaboration for Maritime Security and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development in Africa", was apt and timely.

Gambo noted the increasing demand for effective collaboration in maritime policing, stressing that the current security threat in the Gulf of Guinea is of serious concern to the larger Africa and global communities.

"Typically, maritime threats within the gulf of guinea have become transnational and are evolving beyond the scope and combat capability of one nation."

"One of the major implications is the increas-



Minister of Defence, Gen Lucky Irabor; Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Gambo; NOWA National President, Hajia Nana Gambo and other Navy Chiefs across the Gulf of Guinea at the International Maritime Conference in commemoration of the 66th Anniversary of the Nigerian Navy held at Onne, Port Harcourt, recently

ing demand for effective collaboration in maritime policing, the present situation calls for greater international collaboration as well as intelligence cooperation within states."

The CNS also regretted that in the past decade, a huge capacity gap has emerged among the Gulf of Guinea of Navies at Portugal in efficient discharge of its mandates.

He added that the objective of the conference was to elicit proper understanding and develop strategies that will enhance collective preparedness to meet present and emerging maritime challenges.

"No single navy can do it alone, it therefore urges us all to be frank and sincere in our deliberation in proffering solutions that are implementable in their immediate, short and long terms", the CNS added.

Resolutions

At the conference, parts of the 36 resolutions reached include; that the Gulf of Guinea states should ensure the operationalisation of the maritime zones within their respective regions in line with the Yaounde Code of Conduct (YCC) framework;

That the member states should facilitate the speedy domestication of the legal framework for the Yaounde Code of Conduct architecture and ensure that it is binding on all member states through appropriate enactments by parliaments of member states;

That GoG states should develop and strengthen their surveillance capabilities in order to enhance effective information sharing among navies of the GoG;

As part of their ship renewal initiatives, African nations should leverage the shipbuilding capabilities of member countries such as Nigeria to enhance their platform holding. African states should carry out flag showing visits with vessels locally built in the GoG to showcase shipbuilding capacity;

Navies of African states should also consider acquisition of dedicated training ships that would be tailored towards their operational needs, particularly at

the tactical level;

African states should leverage the comparative advantage of each country particularly in the areas of platforms, manpower, resources and training for efficient cooperation;

African states should put in place mechanisms to ensure that resources which are illegally harvested in the Region such as stolen crude oil, fish and other resources are confiscated and returned to originating countries;

That Heads of GoG navy were enjoined to lobby their governments to establish special courts to prosecute cases of piracy, sea robbery and other related offences to ensure speedy dispensation of maritime crimes while emplacing measures to build capacity and sensitize the judiciary on relevant legislations;

African states should formulate national Blue Economy policies that are uniform in sustainability across the continent, also engage in focused Blue Economy research and development. African states should consider establishing National Marine Spatial Planning Authorities/Agencies; and

Also, that GoG states should deepen bilateral engagements, raise awareness and sign memorandum of understanding (MoU) to check Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF) in African waters, especially in the GoG, among other resolutions.

Medical Outreach by NOWA

As one of the highlights of the anniversary, the Naval Officers Wives Association (NOWA) organised a free medical outreach and no less than 2000 persons in Onne community, Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State, benefited.

THISDAY at the scene of the outreach observed that beneficiaries had free check up for malaria, blood sugar, blood pressure; free malaria treatment, hypertension, diabetes, HIV testing, and free eye glasses, others.

Speaking during the exercise, the President of NOWA and wife of the Chief of Naval Staff, Aisha Nana Gambo, said: "The event, which seeks to further strengthen the relationship between the Nigerian Navy and our host communities, is one

in the series of civil-military relations, usually embarked upon by the Nigerian Navy as part of its constitutional responsibility of securing Nigeria's maritime environment."

The Director of Medical Services, Nigerian Navy, Surgeon Captain Mohammed Salihu, noted that they had free HIV testing and blood glucose, adding that dental department were also on ground to offer thorough dental care to patients.

Represented at the event by Surgeon Captain Ugochi Nzeribe-Abangwu, Salihu said: "We are here today as part of our corporate social responsibility, particularly to the communities where we operate. We are here today to offer free consultations, free laboratory investigations, in areas of hepatitis, malaria, HIV testing, blood glucose."

"We also offered free COVID vaccination to the community for those that are yet to be vaccinated. We also have over 500 eye glasses to give out today. The eye department is fully on ground to assist them in that area. We also have the dental department checking the all-round needs of the community. We have toothpastes, toothbrushes and many procedures."

The King of Orne Community, HRM, Dr Emere Johnson Nkporomwi, on behalf of the beneficiaries, commended the NN and NOWA or choosing Orne community for the free medical rhapsody.

Dr. Nkporomwi also appealed for the consideration of Orne youths in Navy recruitment and in every other naval activity that would impact positively on the community.

Ways to Improving Performance of the Nigerian Navy

At the Ceremonial Sunset, which marked the end of the anniversary celebration, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Lucky Irabor, assured the NN that the federal government has begun efforts to recapitalise her fleet for improved performance.

Irabor noted as very crucial, the support of the NN in securing the vast strategic resource and opportunities in Nigeria's maritime domain, adding that she has proven to be a tireless and vigilant custodian of country's maritime environment, as well as giving the dependence on oil revenues, the NN is indisputably a critical contributor to the mainstay of the nation's economy.

Therefore, he urged men and officers of the NN not to relent, but to redouble their efforts, in order to build a navy that all Nigerians will be proud of.

He added, "On this note I must commend the untiring efforts of the Nigerian Navy and indeed members of the armed forces in general, which has seen to the reduction of crude oil theft, violent crimes and other illegalities in the nation's maritime domain. It is gratifying to equally note the zeal to the internal security duties on the hinterland and the nation's adjoining waterways."

"The doggedness of officers and men of the Nigerian Navy in synergy with other security agencies have significantly contributed to instilling the peace and tranquility in most riverine and coastal communities."

To this end, we owe a strong reason to support the Nigerian Navy and I make bold to commend the Nigerian Navy for their giant strides in maritime security operations, which resulted to several arrests of economic saboteurs, perpetrators of illegal bunkering, smugglers, pipeline vandals, and other miscreants in the fight against illegality in the gulf of guinea maritime domain"

Efayomi Carr: Accelerating Financial Inclusion through the Use of Embedded Finance

Efayomi Carr

Until a few years ago, getting a loan from a bank was quite an arduous task. The banking and financial industries have traditionally interacted with customers face-to-face in physical branches. Performing basic transactions often involved commuting to a bank and filling out countless forms, a tedious process where a successful transaction was not guaranteed.

New fintech solutions have disrupted the banking industry. Start-ups and small businesses have decoupled some of the core banking services and consumers can now access quick loans, bank accounts, savings and investment products, or payments from a range of providers without setting foot into a bank. This is a boom to a growing tech-savvy audience, both banked and unbanked.

Embedded finance, or the integration of traditional retail financial services into platforms that consumers use on a daily basis, has gathered momentum during the pandemic. These companies are meeting consumers where they are, be it a corner store, a pharmacy, or even a restaurant. By offering solutions like digital credit and savings products at highly frequented merchants, consumers can unlock a range



Efayomi

of financial services that were previously unreachable. Start-up entrepreneurs and early-stage investors have redoubled their efforts in this area and – judging by the recent fundraises from companies like Wasoko, Marketforce 360, and Kibanda Top-Up – investors have taken notice. The rapid global development

and acceptance of embedded finance can be felt significantly on the African continent where until a few years back, financial inclusivity was a distant reality, and traditional financial institutions couldn't reach remote areas. However, digitalization has empowered the African population and allowed the region to become financially independent and empowered. A significant portion of people now have access to a variety of financial products not only through their bank but also through other applications.

Fintech startups are starting to bundle together banking services and this competition is making banks up their game. The banking sector is having to refine their own services in order to keep up with the rapid pace of fintech. Through this development, the dominant tech platforms are now leaning more heavily into the sub-sector and challenging to maintain their position as the dominant distributors. Before, one would access financial services through their bank or through an agent but today that is increasingly happening through mobile devices with the advent of mobile banking and internet banking applications.

Within our own portfolio at Flourish Ventures, we are seeing the growth of startups with very unique models aimed at reaching the most underserved customers where they are. Many are actually

introducing bank accounts as a means of accessing the customers across multiple segments. Startups will start with lending then transition to bank accounts, a debit card and additional services. This is the next generation of what the fintech giants of the continent will look like. They will no longer be specialists in doing one service particularly well, but they'll actually be able to aggregate more products and provide a multitude of services to the customer.

Embedded finance now looks set to transform industries and this demonstrates an opportunity for fintechs, banks and lenders to create more tools and resources for those that may not have access to traditional banking and financial services.

We expect many more use cases to come. It's a great opportunity for start-ups, SMEs and large corporations to create more client value while capturing new revenue lines. It's also a good reason for incumbents to partner with fintech startups to accelerate initiatives that offer more support to the underserved and underbanked. Banks and financial businesses can save money, resources, and time by leveraging non-financial companies and their infrastructures to offer their financial tools.

-Carr is the Principal of Flourish Ventures.

Steve Babaeko: The African Communications Industry is in Need of an Overhaul. Here's How it Can Be Done

Steve Babaeko

In the last decade, advertising has taken several unprecedented turns. The disruptions caused by digitalisation, technology, and unnatural incidents on the practice as we knew it, have been immense. Also, a drastic change in consumer habits over the years has been no less impactful on how advertising is practised globally.

We continue to witness how a constant shift in digital innovations prompts the biggest advertising companies around the world to scramble to adapt and adopt new strategies to reach consumers. The recent metaverse rave, for instance, currently presents advertisers with a chance to market to consumers as they interact and socialise in virtual spaces.

We also can't ignore how the Covid-19 pandemic has added to the dynamics of our practice. Digital streaming reigned supreme as consumers stayed at home and became committed to watching more videos and other forms of media consumption, necessitating swift actions to meet them where they are most comfortable.

It should be clear by now that advertising has become more complex than ever before, as it is a common prediction that we are yet to see the last of these types of disruptions - digital or otherwise. These indicators are why it is a special time in the history of advertising to forge and introduce strategic adaptations that will keep us a step ahead and mitigate the impact of possible disruptions in the future.

An outstanding factor we must consider in developing workable strategies to confront peculiar challenges presented by these sweeping changes in our industry is how the consumer market continues to expand, especially in Africa.

Africa, with a potential market of 1.7 billion people, is one of the fastest-growing consumer markets in the world. Consumer expenditure on the continent has grown at a compound annual rate of 3.9 per cent since 2010 and reached \$1.4 trillion in 2015. This figure, to echo McKinsey & Company, is projected to reach \$2.1 trillion by 2025 and \$2.5 trillion by 2030.

The World Bank also projects that by 2030, the largest consumer markets in the world will include Nigeria, Egypt, and South Africa, while similar lucrative opportunities



Babaeko

will arise in Algeria, Angola, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Tanzania, and other African countries.

Of this market size, the youth population in Africa makes a significant number. Young people account for 60% of the continent's population according to UNESCO. By 2030, there are expected to be 350 million young people aged 15-24 on the continent.

Due to their nature, developing strategies to cater to this demographic is becoming a more challenging task with each passing year. Compared to a decade ago, the younger generation, with access to the latest technology tools and information at lightning speed, react and consume differently.

Young consumers' demand and affiliation for brands that show concern for their struggles mean that it has become even more pertinent to understand them, know their interests and wants, and continuously develop strategies that align with their needs.

As such, serving a community of consumers in a multi-channel world requires the adoption of smart digital tools, the adaptation of informed social insights and verifiable data, and a deeper understanding of psychology.

These rapidly changing market dynamics are why how we do advertising must evolve. Companies like Apple, Dunkin', Tupperware, and Domino's that have hitherto foreseen the necessity for the evolution of advertising have done so by either making new tweaks or by way of a total rebrand.

It is important to note, however, that in adopting new advertising tactics to meet consumer demands, companies must get it right.

The world will remember how, in its bid to revamp its service for consumers in 2013, Yahoo! came under public scrutiny and heavy criticism for failing miserably in its attempted rebrand with a shoddy switch up of its logo. The rebrand fail ultimately resulted in the company's loss of hundreds of millions of dollars a year in advertising revenue.

For X3M Ideas, our understanding of the advertising industry's current reality in relation to the young consumer base in Africa ignites our desire to proffer solutions that will satisfy brand and client demands as we move on to our next chapter.

After 10 years of being a one-stop-shop marketing communications company that's 100 per cent built on ideas and leveraging partnerships that, backed by sound strategy and unique thinking, seek to deliver the most effective results, we are adopting a new proposition named 'Finding X'.

Our adoption of this unprecedented actionable framework aims to provide unique solutions to the constantly changing consumer demands and habits in the advertising landscape. By design, our new Finding X framework, categorised into an adaptable A, B, and C formula, will unearth transformative products and services necessary for providing existing and future clients with a competitive edge and also advance global advertising practice.

With Finding X, our goal of redefining the way advertising is practised and perceived in Nigeria and Africa remains. Only that this time, we will rev up our strategy of studying and understanding the consumer. We will

further expand our reach through digital and interactive media, and measure the impact of every campaign for further improvement.

Strategically, the significance of the Finding X framework is what inspires a rebrand of our logo and website, with the X in the X3M emblem now more pronounced than ever.

So, what is our X? What unique brand values do we intend to communicate? And what is our modus operandi for the next decade? The answers lie therein.

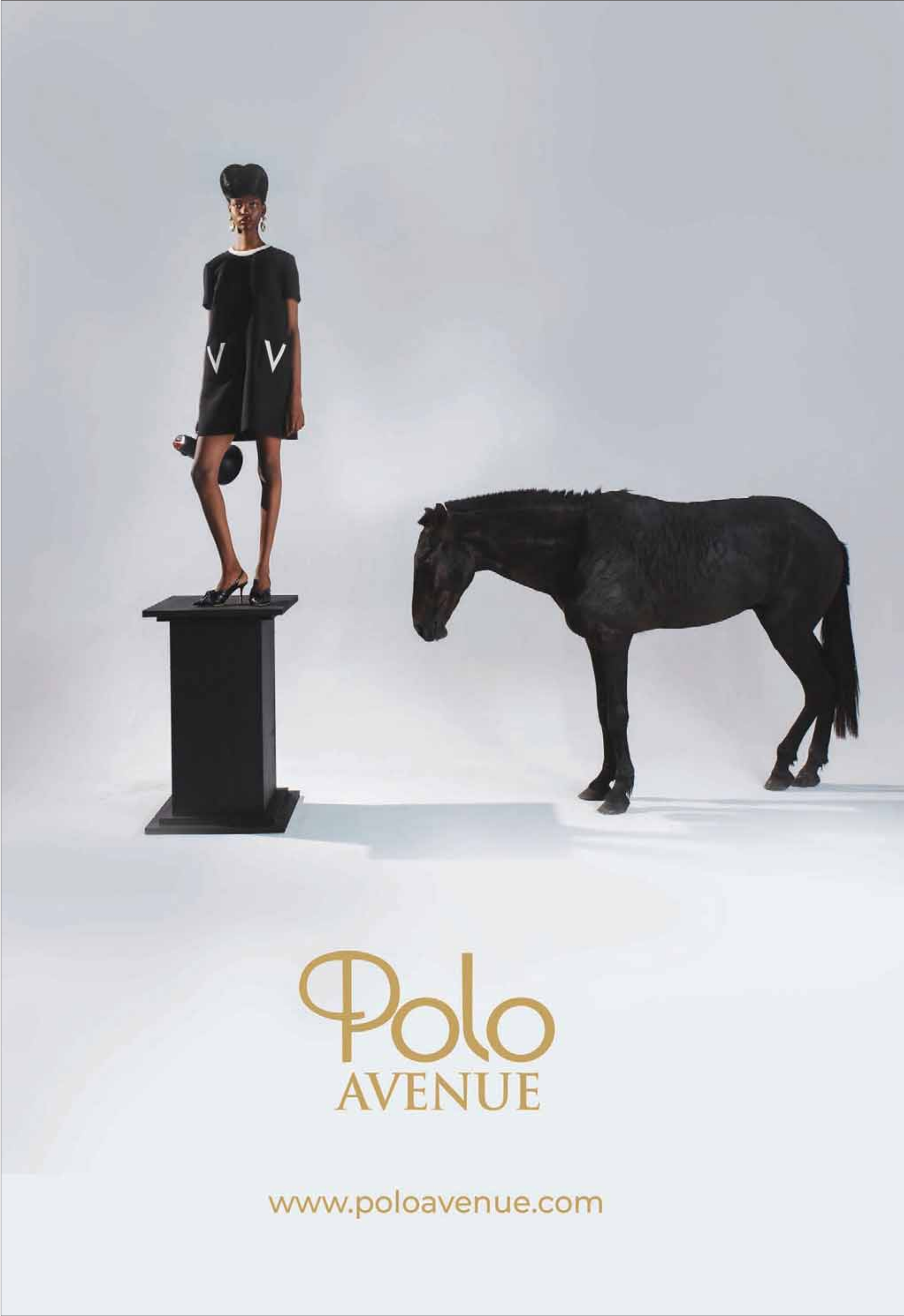
The X in X3M represents many things. The unknown - the X-files; the hidden treasure - X marks; the spot and; the magic ingredient - the X factor. We can use it in all these ways. And Finding X is tantamount to finding gold; the gold of consumer engagement. The discovery tool will allow us to find the X for our existing and future clients in the representation of their brands, products or services and by such, give them an edge over their competitors. It is a logical step, backed by research and knowledge of human behaviour, to arrive at idea spaces unique to each brand.

This framework will also prove a distinctive blueprint for advertisers in and outside Africa to maximise the continent's consumer market potential over the next decade.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the African ad market to contract by nearly a quarter according to market research data. Africa was also the smallest regional ad market worldwide within the period with a \$5 billion investment after advertising spending on the continent shrunk by over 23 per cent from \$6.52 billion a year earlier. Projections indicate positive but low growth rates on the continent in upcoming years, with the decline unlikely to change soon.

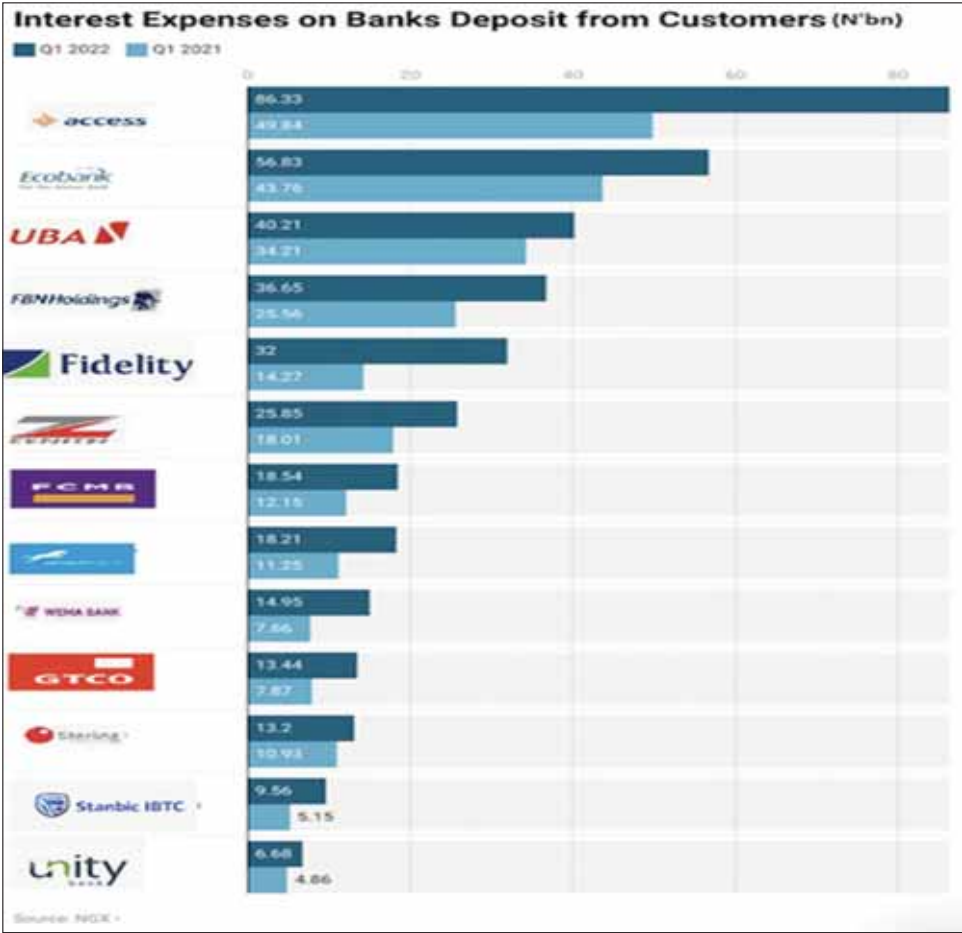
Understanding the fastly changing market dynamics in relation to consumer engagement and satisfaction and designing strategies tailored to meet their needs will offer a sustainable pathway to turn the tides in no distant time.

X3M Ideas' Finding X framework and rebrand are borne out of the burning desire to provide brands, clients and advertisers with these necessary creative solutions. And our commitment to further innovations and collaborations to impact the world, while staying true to the values that set us apart, is solidly unshaken as we turn the book to our next chapter.



R A T E S A S A T J U N E 2 1 , 2 0 2 2							
MONEY MARKET		REPO		S & P INDEX		S & P INDEX	
OPR	11.25%	CALL	10.25%	INDEX LEVEL	613.31%	1/4 TO DATE	-0.85%
OVERNIGHT	11.50%	1-MONTH	9.56%	1-DAY	0.16%	YEAR TO DATE	7.64%
		3-MONTH	10.52%	MONTH-TO-DATE	0.44%		
						EXCHANGE RATE	
						N416.86/1 US DOLLAR*	
						*AS AT LAST FRIDAY	

Access Holdings, ETI, Others See 52% Increase in Interest Expense as Customers' Deposit Soar



Kayode Tokede

Nigeria's tier 1 & tier 2 Deposit Money Bank (DMBs) saw a combined 52 per cent increase in interest expense on customers' deposits to N372.45 billion in first quarter (Q1) ended March 31, 2022 from N245.53 billion reported in Q1 2021.

The tier 1 DMBs are; Access Holdings Plc, Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI), United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA), Zenith bank Plc, Guaranty Trust Holding Plc (GTCCO) and FBN Holdings Plc.

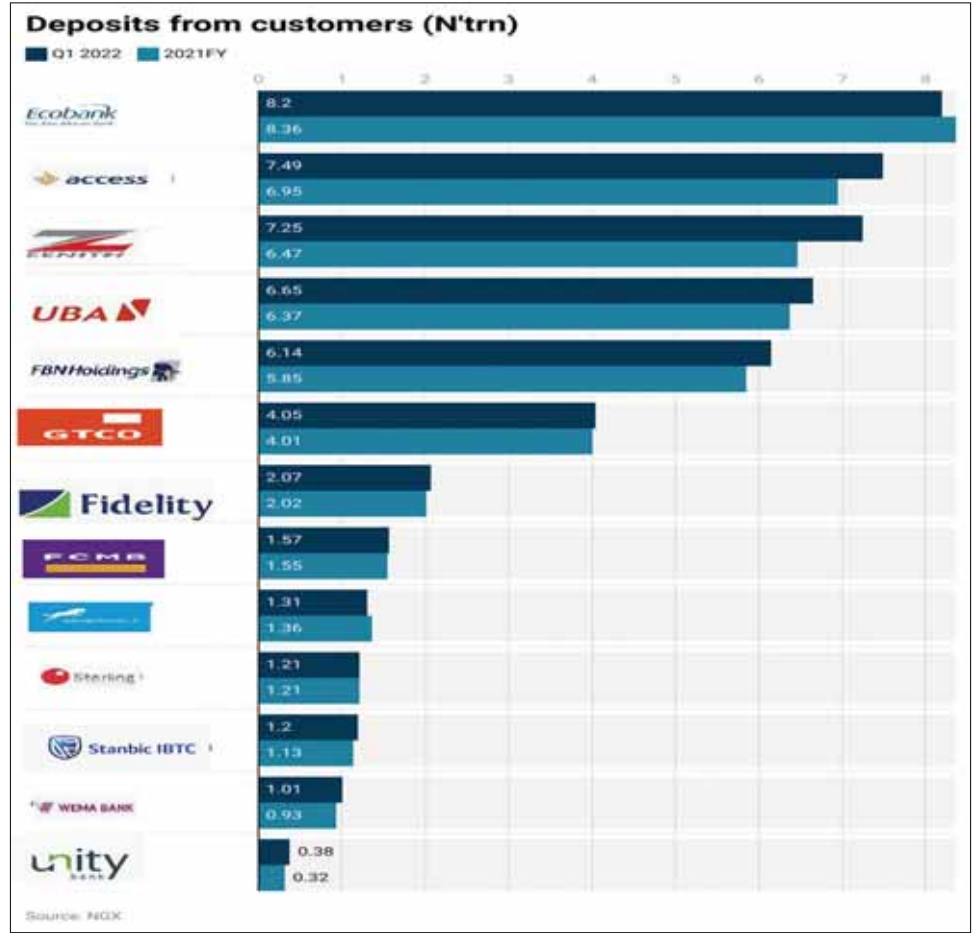
Tier 2 DMBs are; Fidelity Bank Plc, Unity Bank Plc, Union Bank for Nigeria Plc, Wema Bank Plc, Sterling Bank Plc, FCMB Group and Stanbic IBTC Holdings Plc.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) 'money market indicators' data showed a 0.03 basis points increase in saving deposit to 1.28 per cent in March 2022 from 1.25 per cent reported in January 2022.

According to the apex bank, interest on one-month deposit in Year-on-Year performance moved to 3.33 per cent as of March 31,

2022 from 2.06 per cent reported in March 2021, while interest on three-month deposit gained 1.36 basis points to 4.41 per cent as of March 31, 2022 from 3.05 per cent reported in March 2021.

Extracts from unaudited financial result and accounts of listed DMBs on the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) revealed that Access Holdings with its expansion in over 10 African countries, the UK and UAE with three representative offices in China, India and Lebanon paid the highest interest on customers deposit in the



period under review.

Access Holdings reported 73.22 per cent increase in interest expenses to N86.33billion in Q1 2022 from N49.84billion in Q1 2021.

This represents an increase of 73 per cent, driven primarily by interest expenses paid to customers with savings accounts. Interest expenses on saving accounts customers moved to N53.84 billion in Q1 2022 from N21.03 billion reported in Q1 2021.

Meanwhile, Access Holdings grew its deposit to N7.49 trillion as of March 31, 2022, representing

an increase of 7.5 per cent from N6.95 trillion reported in 2021 full year results.

ETI's interest expenses also grew by 29.8 per cent to N56.83 billion in Q1 2022 from N43.76 billion in Q1 2021, while UBA reported 17.5 per cent growth in its interest expenses to N40.21 billion in Q1 2022 from N34.21 billion reported in Q1 2021.

Interestingly, Fidelity Bank and Wema Bank grew interest expenses on customers deposit by 124.29 per cent and 95.23 per cent respectively in Q1 2022, the highest percentage

reported by the 13 banks, according to THISDAY findings.

As Fidelity Bank reported N31.99billion interest expenses on deposit from customers in Q1 2022 to N14.27billion in Q1 2021, Wema Bank reported N14.95billion interest expenses on deposit from customers in Q1 2022 from N7.66billion reported in Q1 2021.

Analysts attributed the growth to increase in deposits from customers on the heels of CBN's 65 per cent

Continued on page 24

GTCCO, Zenith Bank, Others Refund N36.12bn to Customers in 2 Years

Nume Ekeghe

Following the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) guidelines on the resolution of customers' complaints, a total of nine banks refunded N36.12 billion to their customers between 2020 and 2021, THISDAY findings has revealed.

The nine banks are; Zenith bank Plc, Access Holdings Plc, United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc, Guaranty Trust Holding Plc (GTCCO), and Fidelity Bank Plc.

Others include; Unity Bank Plc, Wema Bank Plc, Sterling Bank Plc, and FCMB Group Plc.

The apex bank had disclosed that cumulative refund by banks to customers as of December 2021 was at N95.2 billion and advised customers to allow banks resolve their complaints within two weeks.

"If after lodging your complaint and your bank fails to engage you and resolve the complaint within two-week as provided for in the ATM help desk Circular, you have

the right to escalate your complaint to the Consumer Protection Department (CPD) of the CBN.

"You can only direct your complaints to CPD upon the failure of your Bank/Financial Institution to resolve your complaint within the two-week timeline given by the CBN," the CBN said.

The data collected from the banks' financial statements showed a significant increase in the number of settlements by the nine banks within the period under review.

According to THISDAY findings, the nine banks in 2021 refunded a total of N17.43 billion to customers from N18.69 billion reported in 2020.

However, the Year-on-Year (YoY) refund by the banks dropped by 6.7 per cent between 2020 and 2021 as complaints about issues like disburse errors, controversial deductions are among issues customers continued to trend within the banking industry.

The breakdown revealed that Zenith Bank followed by UBA refunded the highest amount to

customers in the two years under review.

As Zenith Bank reported an increase of 88.34 per cent in customer refund to N7.01billion in 2021 from N3.72billion in 2020; UBA announced a sum of N3.58 billion refund in 2021, a decline of 4.42 per cent from N3.75 billion in 2020.

Similarly, Access Holdings reported 15.7 per cent drop in customers' refunds to N2.74 billion in 2021 from N3.25 billion in 2020.

On its part, of GTCCO Holding

reported N363.3 million total refund in 2021 from N75.99 billion in 2021, representing an increase of 381.4 per cent YoY.

Similarly, Fidelity Bank refunded N1.72 billion to customers in 2021 from N595 million in 2020 while Unity Bank reported N583.08 million refunds to customers in 2021, an increase of 48.8 per cent from N391.8 million reported in 2020.

Wema Bank refunded to its

Continued on page 26

MARKET DATA AS AT TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022																		
BONDS					BILLS					CPS					OTC FX FUTURES			
DESCRIPTION	Price	Yield	Change (%)	Updated Time	MATURITY	Dis-count	Yield	Change (%)	Updated Time	MATURITY	Discount	Yield	Change (%)	Updated Time	CONTRACT TENOR (MONTH)	Contract	Current Rate (\$/N)	Updated Time
14.20 14-MAR-2024	109.71	8.10	0.22	June 16, 2022 ▲	NTB 14-Jul-22	3.00	3.01	-0.25	June 16, 2022 ▼	TRBHC PV 26-JUL-22	11.55	11.70	-0.19	June 16, 2022 ▼	1	NGUS JUN 29 2022	427.24	June 16, 2022
13.53 23-MAR-2025	108.02	10.12	0.00	June 16, 2022 ▬	NTB 11-Aug-22	3.70	3.72	0.00	June 16, 2022 ▬	FSDH CP VI 1-AUG-22	8.09	8.17	-0.16	June 16, 2022 ▼	2	NGUS JUL 27 2022	428.93	June 16, 2022
12.50 22-JAN-2026	106.45	10.30	-0.02	June 16, 2022 ▼	NTB 8-Sep-22	3.45	3.48	0.00	June 16, 2022 ▬	NENL CP I 24-OCT-22	15.17	16.03	0.26	June 16, 2022 ▲	3	NGUS AUG 31 2022	430.63	June 16, 2022
16.2884 17-MAR-2027	120.20	10.74	0.00	June 16, 2022 ▬	NTB 13-Oct-22	3.90	3.95	0.00	June 16, 2022 ▬	FSDH CP VII 27-OCT-22	9.48	9.82	0.27	June 16, 2022 ▲	4	NGUS SEP 28 2022	432.32	June 16, 2022
13.98 23-FEB-2028	113.20	10.80	0.00	June 16, 2022 ▬	NTB 10-Nov-22	3.90	3.96	0.00	June 16, 2022 ▬	SIBP CP III 27-OCT-22	8.67	8.95	0.27	June 16, 2022 ▲	5	NGUS OCT 26 2022	434.02	June 16, 2022



L-R: Managing Director Nigerian ports, Mohammed Bello Koko, Director General Ghana Ports and Habours Authority and President Port Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA), Michael Luguje, Secretary General (PMAWCA), Jean Marie-Koffi and Director General Port of Guinee Conakry, Mamadou Biro Diallo at the opening ceremony of the Board of Directors meeting of the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA), holding in Tema, Ghana

NBS: Retail Price of Diesel Rose by 181% as Gas Soar in May

James Emejo in Abuja

The average retail price of Automotive Gas Oil (Diesel) paid by consumers increased by 181 per cent from N238.82 in May 2021 to N671.08 in May 2022, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has said. Month-on-month, the average retail price increased from N654.46 in April 2022, indicating a rise of 2.54 per cent when compared to the average retail price paid in May. The spike in the price of diesel had been partly blamed for the rising inflation in the country, occasioned by the global supply gaps from the Russia- Ukraine war. According to the NBS, the average diesel price was higher in Ekiti at N716.15, followed by Osun and Oyo with N716.00 and N707.33 respectively. The Automotive Gas Oil (Diesel) Price Watch (May 2022) further showed that the lowest average retail price of diesel was recorded in Yobe with N560.00, followed by Bauchi and Delta with N570.00 and N624.44 respectively. In addition, the zone analysis showed that the average price of diesel was highest in the South-West with N705.60, while the North-East had the lowest price with N639.00. Also, the average price for refilling a 5kg Cylinder of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Cooking Gas) stood at N3921.35 in May 2022 from N3800.47 in April, showing an increase of 3.18 per cent month-on-month. However, on a year-on-year basis, the average retail price for Cooking Gas increased by 89.28 per cent from N2,071.69 in May 2021. The highest average price for refilling a 5kg Cylinder of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Cooking

Gas) was recorded in Gombe with N4,366.67, followed by Bayelsa with N4325.00 and Adamawa with N4250.00. On the other hand, Yobe recorded the lowest average price with N3200.00, followed by Ogun and Ondo with N3450.00 and N3480.77 respectively.

Similarly, the average price for refilling a 12.5kg Cylinder of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Cooking Gas) increased to N8,726.30 in May from N8,164.37 in April, representing a 6.88 per cent month-on-month increase. Year-on-year basis, the average retail price for refilling a 12.5kg

cooking gas increased by 103.46 per cent from N4,288.95 in May 2021. The state comparisons showed that the highest average retail price for the refilling of a 12.5kg of cooking gas was recorded in Abuja with N9,308.00, followed by Ekiti with N9209.09 and Oyo,

with N9184.06. Conversely, the lowest average price for the refilling of a 12.5kg Cylinder of cooking gas was recorded in Yobe at N7,500.00, followed by Kano and Kogi with, N8,175.00 and N8,200.00 respectively. The average retail price of a 12.5kg cylinder of

cooking gas by zones showed that the average retail price was highest in the South-West with N8,916.10 followed by the South-East and South-South with N8885.54 and N8857.09 respectively. The North-East Zone recorded the lowest price with N8423.44.

Report: Mining to Boost Nigeria’s GDP by 23% in 2025

Nume Ekeghe

A report by Pan Africa creative agency, Arden & Newton Limited has stated that the inclusion of Women With Disabilities (WWDs), in mining communities can help boost Nigeria’s growing GDP, which is projected to increase by 23 per cent in 2025. The agency, through its social responsibility arm, The Good Partner with the funding support of one of the world’s largest donor

organisations, Ford Foundation embarked on 18 months two-part study and report on the resilience of women with disabilities in resource-producing communities. The report, “Discrimination Against Women With Disabilities in Resource-Producing Communities in Nigeria,” surveyed Bayelsa, Benue, Delta, Ebonyi, Kogi, Niger, Osun, and Zamfara. The report gathered that a larger percentage of the respondents who

are unemployed identified, “lack of opportunities, disability, lack of support from government/ oil companies, corruption, unfair employment practices, lack of education, societal neglect, inconclusive skill acquisition programmes, remoteness of the location and lack of finance.” On legislative reforms, the report said, “The government should pass legislation outlawing discrimination against disabled women in any

manner. It should then follow up with education on equitable chances in education, employment, and involvement in resource extraction and exploitation.” Speaking on the impact of this research, the Chief Executive Officer, Arden & Newton, Perez Tigidam said: “We are confident that the key issues highlighted in the reports and the solutions proffered can help policymakers make informed decisions and shape policies that will

protect the rights of women living with disabilities and foster societal inclusion. This is in line with the national and global efforts to ensure Sustainable development.” In a related development, the second part of the published report, “A Critical Discourse and Narrative Analysis of Female Disability Representation in Nollywood and Other Cinemas,” critically examines the misrepresentation of women with disabilities in the movie industry.

Stakeholders Harp on Sustainability, Building Family Businesses of Future

Kayode Tokede

A Next-gen session organized by PwC’s in Lagos has revealed how the experiences of the next generation of business executives and leaders of family businesses can serve as an invaluable resource for other family-owned businesses. Speaking at the session, “Today and Beyond: The Next Generation Challenges Family Business Status Quo,” the Head of Corporate Services at Honeywell Group, Tomi Otudeko shared how joining the

family business brought the stakes into close focus and improved her work ethic further. “I understand that I am not just fighting for my family; I am fighting for employees with families. I am fighting for the community that I am in. It’s important to me and It is not just a job!” Otudeko further gave some insights on how family businesses can attract excellent investors and ensure long-term impact while focusing on sustainability in line with Environmental,

Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria. She went on to explain what the ESG framework is and how Honeywell Group is using it to enhance its position in the investment community. The Head of School, Ikoyi Campus, Greensprings School, OluRanti Bankole mentioned that there were integral lessons to be learned from the current generation’s leadership such as the power of good communication. According to her, “Communication is the most

important lesson I’ve learned from my mother. I’ve learned how to articulate my ideals and ideas in a more concise and effective manner.” She went on to explain how this important ability has helped her improve her business operations and greatly strengthened her ability to add value to the business. In terms of identifying what counts and what may appear to be a pain point for next-generation business leaders, Managing Partner, VYBROS Invest BV, Guy Vande Vyvere believe that, “We all have

great ideas and are eager to put them into action. “However, what good are our great ideas as ‘next-gens’ if they are not well executed? Yes, the goal is to execute all of our incredible ideas; however, rather than having ten great ideas with a 50per cent-win rate, next-generation business executives should focus on executing these ideas one at a time and ensuring that there is one brilliant idea that achieves a 100per cent-win rate every time.”

Lafarge Africa, Others to Champion Construction, Real Estate Sector Policies

Kayode Tokede

Lafarge Africa Plc has said it is set to hold its public policy thought-leadership series, Concrete Ideas 5.0, which is scheduled to take place in Lagos.

Now in its 5th year, Lafarge’s Concrete Ideas series have become not only a high-profile platform for the discussion of construction and real estate sector policies but also deliberations on broader public policy problems.

The concrete ideas platform embodies Lafarge Africa’s thought leadership interventions and has become a catalyst for the attainment of sustainable change, continuous improvement and commercial success within

the sector. Since its launch in October 2020, the sessions have been attended by leaders of several professional bodies in the construction sector as well as senior government officials including the

Honourable Minister for Works and Housing, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN who has participated in three sessions and the Honourable Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Arc. Olamilekan Adegbite.

ACCESS HOLDINGS, ETI, OTHERS SEE 52% INCREASE IN INTEREST EXPENSE AS CUSTOMERS’ DEPOSIT SOAR

Loan-to-Deposit (LDR) policy and interest payable by DMBs on deposits. The vice president, Highcap Securities Limited, Mr. David Adnori attributed the growth to aggressive deposits from banks’ customers amid meeting CBN’s 65 per cent LDR policy and interest rate DMBs are paying for savings and term depositors. According to him, “One major factor that triggered the increase of interest on deposit was growth recorded by DMBs in customers deposits.” The President of the Association of the Capital Market Academics in Nigeria (ACMAN), Professor

Uche Uwaleke, had said hike in deposit rate is meant to attract deposits and let DMBs remain competitive. “It is the competition that is pushing up interest on deposits in the banking sector,” he added. In his reaction, Head, Financial institutions, Augusto & Co, Mr. Ayokunle Olubunmi said, “The growth recorded by banks on their interest expenses showed a reflection of what is happening in the economy, coupled with the rising inflation rate. “Banks customers are asking for higher interest and for banks to keep those funds, they had to pay higher interest rate. Inflation

rate has appreciated recently and prices of goods & services have increased significantly. If that is that case, it is not out of place for investors to ask for higher interest rate on their savings/term deposit they keep in the bank.” He noted that demands by bank customers forced CBN to increase its Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) to 13 per cent in May from 11.5 per cent it was over two years. The apex bank had reacted to rising inflation in Nigeria, which stands at 15.92 per cent as of Q1 2022. The CBN’s action is consistent with those of the central banks of leading economies globally such

as the US and the UK. The Federal Reserve increased interest rates in the US to 0.75per cent – one per cent, the highest in the past two decades. Also, the Bank of England raised its interest rate for the fourth consecutive time since December to one per cent. These actions are coming on the heels of rising prices of goods and energy globally. Adnori added that, “Most of the times, when the CBN bank feels there is too much money in supply, it increases the interest rate to encourage people to save. Ideally, an increase in interest rate by the central bank should sound as good

news to saving account holders or fixed deposit account holders. However, that is not the case for Nigerian savers. “With an inflation rate of 15.92 per cent in Q1 2022, nothing much will come out from savings. Although it will raise the amount in interest bank savers currently get, it won’t do much in the real world as inflation eats up a sizeable chunk of savings. “For fixed deposit holders, there is already a fixed rate of interest which does not change. However, for new fixed deposit accounts, the interest rate will be higher than what is previously available.”

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Towards Achieving RT200

Nume Ekeghe writes on the steps taken by the Central Bank of Nigeria to realise the projected \$200 billion non-oil inflow through the RT200 initiative

In February this year, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced plans to achieve \$200 billion non-oil export foreign exchange inflow as part of efforts to shore up the country's foreign reserves and reduce the shock of external pressures occasioned by the fluctuating price of oil on the economy.

The Nigerian economy has been challenged on many fronts in recent years due to a combination of local and global factors. Disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, delays in global logistic value chains and local security challenges have exerted undue pressure on the Nigerian economy, making macroeconomic management very difficult.

These factors impacted oil production and prices, disrupted trade and exports, reduced capital inflows, and impacted food production. They also exposed the fragility of the Nigerian economy and the need for a more diversified economy.

While crude oil is a major dollar earner for the country, history has shown that it is unpredictable and unreliable, opening up the economy to external shocks; hence the drive of the government to diversify the economy and depend less on oil earnings.

As demand for dollar continue to rise amidst a dwindling inflow, the CBN had taken several steps to manage the dollar shortage in the country. However, as the helmsman of the apex bank, Mr Godwin Emefiele noted, "Monetary Policy alone cannot bear all the burden of the expected adjustments needed to manage these difficulties. These problems call for urgent design and steadfast implementation of other supportive, structural, and complementary policies that are broad based, coordinated and focused on complementing the work of the monetary authority."

SETTING A \$200BN TARGET

Thus, at the end of the February 2022 Bankers Committee meeting, the CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele had announced the commencement of the RT200 FX programme which is a drive to meet up with the target of \$200 billion through exports within a time frame of three to five years.

According to the CBN governor, the programme was borne out of the realization that most of the nation's current sources of foreign exchange inflows were unreliable, and perennially prone to exogenous vicissitudes of global economic developments.

"We have all been witnesses to the ever-changing fortunes of oil-exporting countries. Even those that have been reputed to manage their oil proceeds well also suffer from major shocks once oil prices plummet. In order to avoid these sudden adjustments to our economic life, we needed to focus on strategies that can help us earn more stable and sustainable inflows of foreign exchange. We would need to follow the best practices of other countries and ensure that we protect ourselves a little bit from factors that are beyond our immediate control," Emefiele stated.

BUILDING RT200 PILLARS

The RT200 initiative is hinged on five pillars namely Value-Adding Exports Facility, Non-Oil Commodities Expansion Facility, Non-Oil FX Rebate Scheme, Dedicated Non-Oil Export Terminal and Biannual Non-Oil Export Summit.

The Value-Adding Export Facility is expected to provide concessionary and long-term funding for businesspeople who are interested in expanding existing plants or building brand new ones for the sole purpose of adding significant value to our non-oil commodities before exporting same.

There is also the Non-Oil Commodities Expansion Facility, which will also be a concessionary facility designed to significantly boost local production of exportable commodities. This facility will be designed to ensure that expanded and new factories that are financed by the Value-Adding Facility are not starved of inputs of raw commodities in their production cycle.

Also announced was the Non-Oil Export proceeds repatriation Rebate Scheme, a special local currency rebate scheme for non-oil exporters of semi-finished and finished produce who show verifiable evidence of exports proceeds repatriation sold directly into the I&E window to boost liquidity in the market.

The rebate scheme, according to the CBN, is designed to incentivize exporters in the Non-Oil export sector to encourage repatriation and sale



of export proceeds into the forex Market and had attracted an inflow of \$60 million in two months from 150 exporters who jointly earned a rebate of N3.5 billion.

Under the rebate scheme, exporters who are eligible would get a rebate of N65 for every \$1 repatriated and sold at the I&E Window for other thirty party use, and N35 for every \$1 repatriated and sold into 1&E for own use on eligible transactions only.

IDENTIFYING EXPORTERS' CHALLENGES

However exporting products from Nigeria is still riddled with many challenges. This was the focus of the maiden edition of the Biannual Non-Oil Export Summit held in Lagos recently. Stakeholders in the export value chain had gathered to discuss and seek out a way out of the various dilemmas exporters in the country are facing.

Emefiele whilst speaking at the summit had said, "We have heard of people who want to export their goods queuing for weeks or months before their goods can go out. So because time is against us, in the short run, let us work on what the NPA (Nigerian Ports Authority) and customs do for the exporters. Whether they want to create a set of dedicated route from which they can easily export their goods.

"It is sad that because of the problem of finding an easier route for goods to be exported out of the country, Nigerian exporters prefer to transport by road or sometimes barges from Lagos to Accra or republic of Benin to export from there. Doing these, we lose the opportunity to earn export proceeds."

On his part, the Managing Director of the NPA, Mohammed Bello-Koko noted that part of the challenges of speeding up the process of exporting is automation of the process.

"The problem with the automation is that each of the stakeholders is working in silos. So the level of automation of the NPA is not the same with the customs and the shipping line. The second problem is that when we all automate will we be able to integrate the system." The NPA boss noted.

TAKING THE STEPS FORWARD

To address this, the CBN governor alongside the Group Managing Director of Access Corporation, Herbert Wigwe, who is also the Chairman of the Committee of Bank CEOs supported by bank chiefs and other stakeholders in the export ecosystem had made major decisions.

One of such was the agreement that the bankers committee will work with the export ecosystem to help integrate the automation system in the export value chain to cut short the time that goods spend at the ports while heading to their destination and make the process less cumbersome.

Aside this, the Governor of the CBN, who stated that the country has reached a stage where non -oil exports proceeds is "badly needed" said "I want to appeal to the Nigerian Ports Authority and the Nigerian Customs that we establish a working group comprising the bankers committee, NPA, the Nigerian Customs and maybe a shipping line to resolve these issues.

"In the short run let us look at how do we immediately create a dedicated export route for exporters, so that their goods can leave. Many of those containers that bring goods into the country go out empty because of these problems. Let us work on finding a dedicated route where exports can go out easily.

"In the long run we can talk about how do we work on the Lagos free trade zone and create a road that will take the goods though an express road. The Lekki port has a blueprint of a road that goes to Ondo, which is about 50km.

"The Infracorp is ready to fund that if those of us can yield in. Because what I find is that instead of yielding to doing what is for the good of our country, people want to own colonies because they believe it is their exclusive responsibility. We are talking about how we can work together now. In the long term we can talk about Badagry, Bonny and Ondo ports.

Meanwhile, the Lagos state Governor, Babajide Sanwoolu said by the end of this year, there will most likely be a reduction in the number of containers heading to the Apapa port, as the Lekki ports will be open for use by the end of this year.

He said: "I'm happy to inform us that before the end of the year, Lagos should be handing over the Lekki ports for the use of all Nigerians. The Lekki ports would be the biggest

and deepest seaport in the whole of West Africa if not in Africa. And that will give an opportunity and choices to export producers and people in that space. And can also confirm that even the Badagry ports, we are waiting to get Federal Executive Council (FEC) approval so that the eastern part of Lagos in another couple of years should have a Badagry port. All this is to reduce the pressure in Apapa and Tincan ports in Lagos."

Determination to Achieve \$200bn goal While the goal of \$200 billion non-export earnings may seem unattainable to some at the moment, the CBN governor is quite optimistic of meeting target over the next three to five years saying "I am resolute and determined that we can achieve it.

"Many countries that are much less endowed than Nigeria are doing it. Consider for example that agriculture exports alone from the Netherlands was about \$120 billion last year. Yet, Netherlands has a land mass of about 42,000 square kilometers, which is much smaller than the land mass of Niger State alone, which sits on over 76,000 square kilometers."

He expressed confidence that the decisions reached at the end of the summit would be invaluable in helping Nigeria reach our ultimate goal of achieving \$200 billion in non-oil exports over the medium term.

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
HEARING NOTICE
JUD. CI
SUIT No. AK/AB/16/2022
Between MRS. OLATINKA SHERIFAT EWEJE Plaintiff
and
ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS & ANIOR
TO DPO OLUSEGUN ABEDUN. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,
OGUN STATE SECRETARIAT, OKE-MOYAN, ABK, OG/STATE
2ND DEFENDANT
the above-named
This cause will be transferred from the General Cause List to the Hearing Paper for MONDAY the 27th day of JUNE 2022 at 10:00AM o'clock in the forenoon, and will come on to be heard on that day if the business of the Court permits or otherwise on some adjournment day of which you will receive no further notice.
If either party desires to postpone the hearing he must apply to the Court as soon as possible for that purpose; and if the application is based on any matter of fact, he must be prepared to give proof of those facts.
The parties are warned that at the hearing they are required to bring forward all the evidence by witnesses or by documents which each of them desires to rely on in support of his own case and in contradiction of that of his opponent. The proof will be required at the hearing, and not on a subsequent day, and parties failing to bring their evidence forward at the proper time may find themselves absolutely precluded from adducing it at all, or at best only allowed to do so on payment of substantial costs to the other side, and on such other terms as the Court thinks fit to impose.
Parties desirous to enforce the attendance of witnesses should apply at once to the Court to issue one or more summonses for the attendance of the witnesses required. It is indispensable that the application should be made so as to allow time for reasonable notice to the witnesses required.
If the witness is required to bring books or papers, they must be particularized in the summons sufficiently to enable him to understand what is meant.
Any party summoning a witness through the Court, thereby becomes liable to pay such witness reasonable sum of money to be fixed by the Court for his expense and loss of time.
The Court may refuse to enforce the attendance of a witness unless such sum has been fixed and deposited in the Court.
If either party desires to use in evidence at the hearing any book or document in the possession or power of the other party, he must give the other party reasonable notice in writing to produce it at the hearing, failing which he will not be allowed to give any secondary evidence of its contents.
DATED at ABOKUTA this 25th day of JUNE 2022
By Order of the Court.
Rose
Registrar

MacTay, NECA Partner to Boost Nigerian Workforce Employability Development

Oluchi Chibuzor

In its continued support for workforce employability, Mackay, a management consulting firm, has partnered with Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA) to boost Nigeria's workforce development. The partnership with NECA will stir conversations around creating enabling environments for businesses.

NECA is the umbrella organization of employers in the Organised Private Sector in Nigeria and provides a platform for private-sector employers to interact with the Government, Labour, Communities, and other relevant institutions in and outside Nigeria for the purpose of promoting a harmonious business environment that will engender productivity and prosperity for the benefit of all.

Through the partnership also, Mactay will be interacting with the government and consulting with private sector employers on socio-economic and labour policy issues on how to better Nigerian workers.

Commenting on the collaboration, Head, Business Growth and Strategy, MacTay, Mr. Chigbo Okeke, said, "The Private Sector is a critical engine for National Development and we are delighted to support initiatives that speak to this passion point. Manpower support and Development solutions are what we have been doing at MacTay for the last 40 years and we have constantly improved performance through our outsourcing, business process, and learning solutions amongst others. It is important for the organized private sector to join

hands together to manage talents to create a multiplier effect. The future is a choice and multi-stakeholder collaboration is now more important than ever."

President, NECA and Chairman, Organized Private Sector of Nigeria (OPSN) Mr. Taiwo Adeniyi said, "The wealth of a nation is built by business organizations and its level of development and prosperity can

easily be linked to the health of its Private Sector. Therefore, a buoyant Private Sector is indispensable to the growth and economic well-being of a country. There is an urgent need to establish a credible private sector national advocacy platform on which the nexus between a healthy private sector and sustainable inclusive growth is promoted."

ICSAN Calls for Probe of Key Sectors of Nigerian Economy

Kuni Tyessi in Abuja

The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria (ICSAN) has called for the probe key areas that contribute to the growth of the Nigerian economy.

It says the dwindling reserves have continued to led to the rise in unemployment and the loss of jobs as the ability to make purchases has become extremely difficult with the average Nigerian being the victim.

President of the council, Gbenga Taiwo Owokolade who stated this during a briefing to commemorate 50 years of the existence of ICSAN, said the cost of production will remain terrible once the dollar continues to soar against the naira.

With the celebration titled, "External reserves Dynamics and governance challenges," Owokolade lamented that the falling reserves have a huge implication on the economy.

He said if small businesses don't contribute considerable to the economy, the nation's foreign reserves will continue to fall, "and as such, there's

need to make lots of money from small businesses.

External reserves keeps coming down and this has huge implication in the economy. It will affect individuals as well. Compare the rate if the naira to the dollar. Many are saying it might rise to a thousand or a thousand and five hundred naira to a dollar. What's the implication on the average person?"

"Imagine people depending on generator and diesel for their businesses. This only shows how difficult it will be for the manufacturing sector. Having access to the final products will also be difficult. If small businesses don't contribute considerable to the economy, then the foreign reserves will continue to fall. We can make lots of money from small businesses.

"Critical issues like that if subsidy is affecting the external reserves. So this theme is at the heart of the survival of the average Nigerian. Government's efforts are not best enough. This is not about criticising its policies, but critiquing it," he said.

GTCO, ZENITH BANK, OTHERS REFUND N36.12BN TO CUSTOMERS IN 2 YEARS

customers rose significantly by 128.2 per cent to N1.25 billion in 2021 from N546.5 million in 2020, while Sterling Bank reported N157 million refund to customers in 2021 from N6.34 billion reported in 2020, representing a decline of nearly 98 per cent.

In addition, FCMB Group refunds remained flat at N25.58 million between 2000 and 2021.

Meanwhile, stakeholders have described the frequency of customers refund as an indication of the timely response of banks to their customers' complaints; although some argued that banks were merely paying for their inefficiency by setting aside a huge amount of money to settle customers since the need for refund wouldn't have arisen if banks had done their homework very well.

Speaking with THISDAY, Vice President, Highcap Securities Limited, Mr. David Adnori said banks' response to customers' complaints is a good omen to the industry given the attendant rise in customers' confidence, which the bank's response would engender.

He maintained, however, that the banks don't have anywhere to hide anymore given the strict monitoring and supervision of the CBN.

According to him, "Any bank that defaults in this regard already knows it has the apex bank to contend with. He added that many banks see the settlement of complaints as a way to market themselves as responsible institutions."

He said some customers might not be impressed with the huge amount of money set aside for settlement because some of the complaints are time wasting and

avoidable.

"Things have changed now as many customers have resorted to mounting serious media campaigns against any defaulting banks. Many customers now rush to Twitter to call out any of the erring financial institutions and since banks wouldn't want to be trolled on the social media, they have to make provisions for a quick refund," he added.

Meanwhile, some of the banks said efforts are being put in place to attend swiftly to customers' complaints as competition favours banks with quality service.

For instance, the management of Access Bank said it is fully committed to its core value of passion for customers, stressing that it prides itself on providing exceptional services to customers at all times.

According to Access Bank, "At the same time, given the number and complexity of financial transactions that take place every day, the bank recognizes that there will inevitably be occasions when mistakes and misunderstandings occur.

"In these situations, Access Bank encourages customers to bring their concerns to the attention of the bank for prompt resolution. We handle customer complaints with sensitivity and in due regard for the needs and understanding of each complainant. Efforts are made to resolve customer's complaints at first level."

In the same vein, the management of GTCO said it is committed to effective complaint handling and values feedback through complaints when they arise.

GTCO in its 2021 financial year

report explained, "The complaints and feedback structure ensure the prompt resolution of customers' complaints. The Complaints Units GTBank Limited is charged with the responsibility for oversight of the resolution of customers' complaints. It also serves as the liaison between the Bank and its customers as well as regulatory authorities. Complaints received are given a unique identifier number for tracking purposes, acknowledged and addressed promptly.

"Where a resolution can be provided immediately, the customer is provided with feedback, if not, the issue raised is referred to the appropriate team in the bank for prompt resolution. The customer is kept informed throughout the process until final feedback is provided and resolution attained. The complaint is then marked as closed."

Almost daily, bank customers have one complaint or the other regarding their banking experience. Greater number of consumer complaints about banking services relate to excess charges, Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) issues, Point of Sale (PoS), Bank Verification Number (BVN), cheque-related issues, and fraud among others.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, which forced banks to review their operations, complaints about the associated delays in banks have continued to rise.

However, the reality is that some banks' ATM galleries are always packed full with people spending hours on end just to withdraw cash from the machines.



ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ECNBA)

ECNBA Secretariat, 1st Floor, Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abuja Trade & Convention Centre, KM 8 Umaru Musa Yar'adua Express Way, (Airport Road), Abuja
info@ecnba.ng

INFORMATION RELEASE

FINAL REMINDER - FULL LIST OF MEMBERS QUALIFIED TO VOTE

The ECNBA pursuant to the provisions of the Second Schedule Part IV (9) and V (4) of the Constitution of the Nigerian Bar Association 2015 (as amended), released information pertaining to the full list of members qualified to vote on 31 May and 6 June 2022 respectively. Please see these documents at <https://www.ecnba.ng> or www.nigerianbar.org.ng.

1. This serves as a reminder to members of the Association that paid their bar practising fee (BPF) as of 31 March 2022 (Eligible Voters), to confirm the accuracy of their emails and phone numbers on the NBA website on or before **Monday 27 June 2022**. Please note that this verification process is important, as unique voters' credentials will **ONLY** be sent to valid phone numbers and email addresses.

2. Thus, Eligible Voters are expected to verify their BPF contact information. Please follow the step-by-step process below:

- Visit the NBA website: <https://nigerianbar.org.ng>
- Click on the Membership tab and then scroll down to "BPF Payment Status"; https://nigerianbar.org.ng/nba/bpfv2/check_status
- Type in your enrolment number (SCN), and
- Click on "Verify" and the one-time password (OTP) will be sent to **your phone and email**.
- Type in the "OTP" and
- click "Validate" and your contact information will be successfully validated.

3. Eligible voters that encounter difficulties in receiving OTP on their phones may need to temporarily disable the Do not Disturb (DND) mode following any of the steps below:

- a. 9mobile (Etisalat) numbers, Text START to 2442.
- b. MTN numbers, Text ALLOW to 2442.
- c. Glo numbers, Text CANCEL to 2442.
- d. Airtel numbers, Text ALLOW to 2442

4. Kindly send an email to omittedbpf2022@nigerianbar.org.ng if you experience any challenge(s) in the use of the online BPF payment status. For further inquiries or support call/WhatsApp: 08111071626.

5. **PLEASE TAKE NOTE** that the list to be published by the ECNBA after this notice shall be the Final List. Hence, failure to identify any error as regards the names, phone numbers, and email addresses, Supreme Court Number, or omission of names from the list by an **Eligible Voter before 27 June 2022 can no longer be rectified and will remain the same.**

Dated 20 June 2022

Ayodele Akintunde, SAN, C.Arb
Chairman, ECNBA

Mabel Ekeke
Secretary, ECNBA

OPINION

www.thisdaylive.com

opinion@thisdaylive.com

NITDA'S NEW CODE AND ONLINE PRIVACY

The code may threaten individual and corporate freedoms in Nigeria, writes SONNY ARAGBA-AKPORE



See page 28

PUBLIC OFFICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN NIGERIA

OMALE OMACHI SAMUEL writes that occupying public office comes with a lot of responsibilities

See page 28

FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

Corruption cannot be fought without institutional and attitudinal reforms as well as personal example, contends FREDRICK NWABUFO



See page 29

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE POST-COVID PANDEMIC

CARL UMEGBORO argues that revitalising primary healthcare will drive economic recovery



See page 29

EDITORIAL

CHINA AND 'RACISM FOR SALE'

See page 30

ELEWECHI OKIKE canvasses the need for government to put structures in place to facilitate a closer relationship between NIDs and the country



NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA AND NATION-BUILDING

We are all probably familiar with the saying 'there's no place like home'. This is true. After a long day's work, most of us look forward to the prospect of returning to our homes. In fact, it is said that 'the English man's home is his castle'. There is no feeling as awful as finding the prospect of returning home after work, daunting. Yet this is the reality of many men and women, who have serious challenges in their homes and other nexus of relationships.

Sadly, this analogy epitomises the situation that many distinguished Nigerians scattered across the globe find themselves. They find the prospect of returning to their homeland daunting because of the political, economic, and social malaise in the country. The society is ridden with corruption at the highest levels and criminal activity is rife. The political climate is very unstable and tribal and religious conflicts are always looming on the horizon. The infrastructure is very poor or in some cases non-existent. The safety of life and/or property is never guaranteed, even though the country is endowed with so much in terms of natural and human resources. Besides, it is the largest producer of oil in Africa.

Whilst this article explores the benefits of building a new Nigeria that will bring back most Nigerians in diaspora (NIDs), it is not possible to present what this 'new Nigeria' would look like and all the potential benefits that would accrue to Nigeria when most NIDs return to the country. Nevertheless, it presents some of the most cogent reasons why an extra-ordinary number of Nigerians are in diaspora and how their return to the country will bring about noticeable positive change and economic and social development in the country.

Are Nigerians in diaspora out of the country by choice or by default? There are not many NIDs, who do not love their country. It is usually the case that during festive seasons it is sometimes difficult to find seats on planes scheduled for Nigeria. Although the political, economic, and social environment of Nigeria prevent many Nigerians in diaspora from making the final return back to the country, many still like to visit home. Even whilst in diaspora, many Nigerians have close family, friends as well as investments and other developmental projects in Nigeria. In 2012, Nigerians in the Diaspora contributed more to Nigeria's economy than 34 of the 36 states, having remitted the sum of \$12 billion. Only Lagos and Rivers States had higher GDP's[1].

Nigeria has so much to offer in terms of natural and human resources. It is endowed with every type of resource that most countries only dream about. Even the weather is favourable for all types of agricultural and socio-economic development. Yet, despite these natural endowments, many Nigerians find the prospect of returning to their homeland daunting. Majority would

like to return to their country to contribute to its economic and social development if the environment was conducive and enabling.

Most NIDs who left the country to study did so not with the intention of staying away indefinitely, but rather to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills, including the expertise in their various disciplines to enable them to return and contribute to the development of their country. Some of these people were beneficiaries of scholarships from either the federal government of Nigeria, when the economy was buoyant, or beneficiaries of other scholarship schemes, including those of the Commonwealth. These scholarships were awarded to scholars and academics, who had distinguished themselves in their academic disciplines, to enable them to study abroad and return to Nigeria and contribute to its growth and development.

In the days when the country's environment was stable, conducive, and enabling, some of these scholars after successfully completing their studies did not stay back, not even to attend the graduation ceremonies of the institutions they attended. They were keen and enthusiastic to return home to the task of nation-building. But not so now! With an environment that is mostly unstable, bedevilled with all sorts of vices, including the insecurity of life and property, many have been forced to stay back against their will.

Some were forced to leave the country in search of green pastures under the various military dictatorships, as living in the country became unbearable for them. Since attaining independence in 1960, Nigeria has grappled with the problems and crisis deeply rooted in religious, tribalism and other ethnic tensions. These tensions led to successive military coups, including tribal and religious unrests. In addition, the country has had a long history of gross mismanagement of the economy, with endemic corruption at all levels of government. Hence, despite the country's potential for wealth, the country was ranked 152nd in the Human Capital Development Index in 2014, and 161 out of 189 countries in 2019, and thus one of the poorest countries in the world. In 1997, the ranking was 141st. This is despite the fact that the country is Africa's largest producer of oil and boasts of the richest man and the richest woman in Africa.

Besides political instability in the country, and endemic corruption, there is also the problem of the lack of integrity in leadership, leading to the lack of transparency, poor accountability, and governance in the management of the nation's economic resources. The consequence of this situation is the inability of the government to provide essential services to aid the economic and social development of the country. The wealth of the nation has for long been in the hands of a few elites, leaving majority of Nigerians in abject poverty. Lack of adequate infrastructure,

poor and/or inadequate supply of energy, housing and transportation challenges, a declining educational system, poor medical facilities, little or no opportunities for growth and personal development across all levels of society, the lack of discipline amongst most Nigerians, little or no regard for the rule of law and order, an unreliable judicial system, resulting in weak or non-existent law enforcement and the insecurity of life and property are some of the conditions making it difficult for many Nigerians in diaspora to return to their homeland to contribute to the task of rebuilding the nation.

This situation is the reason for the massive 'brain drain' from Nigeria[2], and most of these brains have gone ahead and distinguished themselves in all fields of human endeavour across the globe. Many of them have become the best medical doctors, lawyers, accountants, pharmacists, professors, engineers and so on in different countries around the world, including the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, France, to mention just a few. The list of such Nigerians is endless. In the USA, Nigerians are the most educated ethnic group, at 60 percent, beating the national average of most Americans, which is 30 percent. In most of the Ivy League schools in the US, Nigerians are leading the rest in educational attainments. In the UK, the Imafidon family has been named the smartest in the whole country.

Whilst not every Nigerian in diaspora can return home, the onus lies with the Nigerian government to find the best possible way to tap into the resourcefulness of these Nigerians so that they can make meaningful contributions to the development of the nation. There are currently many strategy toolkits that set out practical advice for governments, foundations, corporations and individuals who wish to engage and harness the power of their diaspora. The Nigerian government can take advantage of these toolkits to identify how best to engage meaningfully with NIDs and harness their wealth of experience and expertise.

NIDs have a lot to contribute to nation-building and would love to return to their homeland to help lift the country out of the conundrum in which it has found itself over the years. As a matter of fact, Okoli (2015) notes that time is of the essence in getting Nigerian professionals in diaspora back to aid the country's development because, according to him 'Nigerian professionals in Diaspora who would play an active role in the rebuilding process only have a few years of usefulness left in them'.

Professor Okike
is Director, International Centre for Training, Research and Audit of Governance (CENTRAG), Washington, UK

The code may threaten individual and corporate freedoms in Nigeria,
writes **SONNY ARAGBA-AKPORE**



NITDA’S NEW CODE AND ONLINE PRIVACY

It is not yet clear what the new code being introduced by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) hopes to achieve, but preliminary insight into the code suggests that computer interactions and online privacy will be threatened.

With lawful interception of communication regulations already in the kitty of government, the new code of practice for interactive computer service platforms by NITDA may signal the end of privacy for online platforms in Nigeria.

This code is certainly in tandem with a statement credited to Information and

Union, and United Nations.” a statement by Hadiza Umar, in charge of Corporate & External Affairs at NITDA said.

The statement further claims that the Code of Practice was developed in collaboration with the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), as well as input from Interactive Computer Service Platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Google, and Tik Tok amongst others. Other relevant stakeholders with peculiar knowledge in this area were consulted such as Civil Society Organizations and expert groups. “The results of this (sic) consultations were duly incorporated into the Draft Code of Practice.”

The new global reality is that the activities conducted on these Online Platforms wield enormous influence over our society, social interaction, and economic choices. Hence, the Code of Practice is an intervention to recalibrate the relationship of Online Platforms with Nigerians in order to maximise mutual benefits for our nation, while promoting a sustainable digital economy.

Additionally, the Code of Practice sets out procedures to safeguard the security and welfare of Nigerians while interacting on these Platforms. It aims to demand accountability from Online Platforms regarding unlawful and harmful contents on their Platforms. Furthermore, it establishes a robust framework for collaborative efforts to protect Nigerians against online harms, such as hate speech, cyber-bullying, as well as disinformation and/or misinformation.

Similarly, to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice, NITDA also wishes to notify all interactive Computer Service Platforms/Internet Intermediaries operating in Nigeria that the federal government has set out conditions for operating in the country. These conditions address issues around legal registration of operations, taxation, and managing prohibited publication in line with Nigerian laws. The conditions are as follows:

One, establish a legal entity i.e., register with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC); two, appoint a designated country representative to interface with Nigerian authorities; three, abide by all regulatory demands after establishing a legal presence; four, comply with all applicable tax obligations on its operations under Nigerian law;

Five, provide a comprehensive compliance mechanism to avoid publication of prohibited contents and unethical behaviour on their platform; and six, provide information to authorities on harmful accounts, suspected botnets, troll groups, and other coordinated disinformation networks and deleting any information that violates Nigerian law within an agreed time.

If the NITDA code of practice survives then what happens to the lawful interception of communications regulations managed by the NCC? That piece of legislation of January 2019 is clear on its mandate.

Aragba-Akpore
is a member of THISDAY Editorial Board

OMALE OMACHI SAMUEL
writes that occupying public office comes with a lot of responsibilities



PUBLIC OFFICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN NIGERIA

Sometimes, people in position of authority tend to get annoyed when citizens approach them or demand information about the resources or the office entrusted to them for the citizens. Some public officers hate to see the freedom of information requests in their offices, especially when it has to do with the accountability of public resources utilisations, or how they excise the power and authority given to them. Some even ignore, or refuse to respond to the Freedom of Information (FOI) request issued to them because they feel not obligated to do so, in flagrant disobedience to the law.

It is important we get this message clear. Nobody has the right to investigate your private life if you are not working for or depending on the government for daily survival. Just like the man that subjects his private car for commercial purposes. For that period of time, he has commercialized some parts of his rights. The passengers have the right

Going into public office is a tradeoff of private life or secrecy to some extent, which many people occupying public offices fail to understand

to ask him to wind down the glass or reduce the audio volume if he is playing music because they paid money, and it is expected they enjoy the ride. But some tenacious ones will say ‘this is my car, and I decide whatever happens’, and possibly refuse to listen to the demands of the passengers; forgetting that he has commercialized some part of his rights by collecting their money. In the same way, the citizens have the right to investigate and ask questions, if the government is paying for your feeding, medical bills, kitchen bills, house bill, electricity bills, or water bills. Public monies are people’s money, and people deserve the right to know how it is being used. Public office holders should know that they are holding the office in trust for the people, and it is not their personal property.

It is a choice whether to remain in the private life or to come into the public office and start living on people’s expenses. Living a private life and taking care of personal expenses are decisions that many people have made over time, who do not want interference with their private lives. People like Dangote, Tony Elumelu, Jim Ovia, Femi Otedola, and a host of others have made such decisions and nobody cares where they receive their medical care, how much it cost them, or whether it is budgeted for or not because they are using their own resources to carter for themselves.

Occupying public office and living on people’s money comes with a lot of responsibilities. Going into public office is a tradeoff of private life or secrecy to some extent, which many people occupying

public offices fail to understand. The scrutiny started even before they assume office, by compulsory filling of the Asset Declaration Form by the Office of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB). They voluntarily fill out the compulsory form and are expected that they declare all that they have and worth, which is expected to be investigated and validated with their submissions. It is a signal that they are no longer living a private life, and they ought to know and behave as such. Even the monies allocated to the public offices are voted for by the representatives of the people (legislators) and are expected to be accounted for.

Citizens investigating how they carried out their duties should not be surprised, and it shouldn’t be an offence because it is what they have signed for. They can as well decide to remain in their private lives and live on their own resources. Public exposure to private life is a price to pay for occupying public offices. It is part of the price they have to pay for the powers and authority they have and exercise, such that, they decide who gets what, when, and how. So, there must be checks and balances to ensure that absolute power does not corrupt absolutely.

Nigerian government officials should know this and remember the oath of office they took to uphold the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria and other relevant laws that govern their conduct, the office, and mode of operations. Accountability mechanisms are put in place to guide the conduct of the public officers, which also give powers to the citizens to hold the people in the position of authority accountable. Even the government envisages a situation where the occupants of public offices can be lorded over, and do as they wish, which may not be the will of the people. That is exactly what brought the issues of rules, guidelines, policies, code of conduct, and enactment of some laws to checkmate their excesses. The laws such as the Freedom of Information Act, 2011, Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, Public Procurement Act, 2007, Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, 1991, Federal Financial Regulations, Cyber Crime Act, EFCC Act, ICPC Act, and other laws across different sectors of the economy out to provide check and balances in the way public officials behave, operate, and how government businesses are being managed by the people entrusted to. The grundnorm of all the laid down procedures is the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended, upon which all other laws draw their powers, validity, and consistency. But it has been abused and disobeyed over time.

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Corruption cannot be fought without institutional and attitudinal reforms as well as personal example, contends FREDRICK NWABUFO



FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

The unravelings of the past seven years should jolt us to sombre reality, if for any reason we are still in the thrall of propagandised political chicanery. Any candidate who makes his election campaign about fighting corruption without anteceded commitment to this end and without a clear plan and strategy



is thoroughly lying. Fighting corruption takes grueling years of institutional and attitudinal reforms – beginning from the very top to the bottom. And it takes gravitas and the tearing down of the current system.

President Muhammadu Buhari came to power on a broom flight to clean up the much-noised miasma of corruption in the Jonathan administration. Settling in, the Buhari government quickly applied itself to pseudo-reformist proselytising. The government caterwauled over how the Jonathan administration magicked the public treasury into exclusive pockets. The biggest news headline at the time was – STOLEN \$2.1bn ARMS FUND.

Sambo Dasuki, former national security adviser (NSA), was the first casualty of the Buhari anti-corruption blitz. The government accused him of being the wheel from where corruption in the Jonathan administration gyrated. His office was accused of diverting \$2.1 billion earmarked for arms purchase.

The Buhari government incarcerated Dasuki illegally, denying him the right to defend himself in court. And days segued into months and months into years – they held him. It became clear that the administration's war was not against corruption but against perceived adversaries. It also became obvious that the anti-corruption crusade was only to

excite Nigerians and to deflect citizens' interrogation from the government's failings. The arms probe has now gone the way of others before it – to the netherworld of hypocrisy – where all probes go to die.

Also, as those accused of partaking in the communal sleaze under Jonathan were put in the dock, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission under Ibrahim Magu, dispatched its utilities to securing conviction in the media instead of the court. The arraignment of ex-public officers was well-noised to whet the appetite of Nigerians who were hungry to see those who stole from them chalk up time and penitence in jail. But it ended there – just noise. Some of the ex-military officers whom the anti-graft agency charged for allegedly tucking into the \$2.1 billion arms 'scam' are free men today, and even the so-called loot has been reportedly re-looted by the hirelings of the current government.

We exist in a Dickensian society. Those entrusted with securing citizens against public theft are themselves crooks in Messianic raiment. The watchdogs are themselves bloodhounds and vampires.

Where is Babachir Lawal? The case of the former secretary to the government of the federation (SGF) has been sputtering to asphyxiation in court. Lawal was accused of awarding contracts worth over N500 million to himself, but the former SGF is back in the political highlife, giving lectures on "good governance and corruption" and campaigning for politicians seeking elective office.

In October 2021, the Pandora Papers Project led by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) published grubby details of sleaze involving Nigerian public officers.

Nigerians, both current and former public officers, were named ignominiously in reports revealing how the Nigerian elite evade tax, perjure, loot, and shore up questionable wealth in tax havens.

A public servant who was recently appointed as the head of a critical government agency by the Buhari administration was reported to have purchased a piece of property worth 475,000 pounds in London, UK, after he was appointed as an executive director at the agency in 2017. The asset is said to be his largest single investment in the UK property market. This public officer was initially appointed in acting capacity, but President Buhari recently approved his appointment as substantive managing director of the agency – despite the revelations by the Pandora Papers.

The EFCC recently announced it arrested Ahmed Idris, suspended accountant-general of the federation, over alleged misappropriation of N80 billion. Idris is alleged to have purchased a stretch of property in Abuja and Kano while in office. But the trajectory of this case is clear. It will go the way of others before it – to the netherworld of official compromise and collusion.

Nwabufu is a writer and journalist

CARL UMEGBORO argues that revitalising primary healthcare will drive economic recovery



PRIMARY HEALTHCARE POST-COVID PANDEMIC

The fears and distress that followed the contagious pandemic – Coronavirus which practically crumbled the world economy cannot be forgotten in a hurry. The pandemic led to shutdown of businesses, schools, worship centres and leisure spots except essential services. An unimaginable, unprecedented global lockdown that apart from members of nuclear families, everyone isolated, restricted closeness with other persons for fear of infection. Sneezing became like a taboo let alone coughing. Wearing of face masks, compulsory hand-washing and use of hand-sanitizers suddenly became a norm. Governments and financial institutions across the globe operated skeletally with only management staff, and mostly from home digitally. The masses living on daily incomes without huge deposits in the banks were worse hit. These incidents cannot be forgotten in a hurry.

To confront the quandary squarely, nations across the globe synergized with sturdy policies, imposed travel bans on international tours, shut down airspaces, and set up jab centres for COVID vaccines. Although the concerted energies confronted severe conspiracy theories from some quarters, the fight against the pandemic was sustained. However, amid the dilemma, many people lost their lives even in the developed nations with functional primary healthcare systems including USA, Europe, among others.

Strangely, these developed nations recorded the highest casualties in the COVID deaths despite their huge commitments to the primary healthcare (PHC) compared to Africa, particularly Nigeria with meagre attention to the health sector. In fact, some estimates at the WHO believe that COVID-19 deaths have been undercounted across the globe and that the worldwide tally of nearly 6.3million deaths may actually be two times higher. Last month, May 2022, in the United States alone, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention reported that America has aggregatedly surpassed one million deaths attributed to the disease.

One could only but imagine what would have happened if the epidemic had its way at the same rate in the developing countries in deficit vis-à-vis primary healthcare. For example, all public officeholders and the affluent class in Nigeria depend on the western world for their healthcare and nuclear families. The healthcare in Nigeria is literally left in miserable conditions for the helpless masses except private hospitals, hence the tradition for government officials to always queue for foreign medical trips, sadly from tax-payers' coffers. Nonetheless, the pandemic created some emergency interventions to primary healthcare in Nigeria including setting up COVID vaccination centres by governments.

Now, in this post-COVID pandemic, revitalizing the primary healthcare (PHC) in the country should be given a priority by the authorities as what happened during the pandemic should be an eye-opener. PHC, an 'essential health care' that is based on scientifically sound and socially acceptable methods and technology is the first level of contact for individuals, family and the community with the national health

system, and addresses the main health problems in the community, providing health promotion, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services accordingly. Amongst its scope are routine medical checkups, screening for common health issues, prescribing necessary medications, treatment of minor illnesses and injuries,



managing chronic conditions, and management of acute health conditions. Health, it is held, is wealth. Thus, revitalizing primary healthcare will impel economic recovery in post-Covid pandemic.

The second reason is the alarming WHO records which reveals that about 3,000 children die each day of preventable diseases resulting from lack of primary healthcare. Bringing it home, Nigeria from the said data represents one in seven of the global maternal deaths, expressed in 119 preventable maternal deaths daily, and the impact this has on family health and child survival in general cannot be underrated. Furthermore, Nigeria is the top country in the world in terms of number of zero dose children (children who never received any single dose of vaccine since they were born). This is precarious. Necessarily, it is incumbent on the authorities to give the 'one PHC centre per ward policy' utmost commitment, alongside sensitization on child immunization.

In Lagos State recently, Mrs. Muiyiwa Idowu-Olaleye, a resident in a ward in Ifelodun LCDA narrated how an emergency call to a health worker in a PHC centre saved the life of her six-year-old kid, Sidikat from Cholera infection which began at midnight and almost dried up the child by strained vomiting and stooling in the middle of the night. She wondered what could have happened if she didn't get anticipated attention from the health worker. The above story suggests that revitalizing Primary Healthcare in every ward with efficient services is essential.

Arguably, the 'one PHC centre per ward policy' in Lagos is rapidly gathering momentum. For instance, Lagos presently, has no fewer than 392 PHC centres spread across its 377 wards – (245 wards created by federal government and 132 wards created by the state from its 37 LCDAs) and strategic places, and progressively being boosted with needed workforce.

Umegboro, ACI Arb, a public affairs analyst and social advocate writes via umegborocar@gmail.com

Editor, Editorial Page **PETER ISHAKA**
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EDITORIAL

CHINA AND ‘RACISM FOR SALE’

China is failing a simple test of tolerance and respect

In the past few weeks, a viral video redolent of abuse and discrimination has been trending on the social media. Aptly titled ‘Racism for Sale’, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) documentary highlights prejudicial and unfair treatments of African children by some Chinese for their entertainment industry. Under the guise of teaching Chinese culture and language to the locals, the children were not only exploited, but also physically abused. The offensive video content, according to the BBC, is fed back home to reinforce Chinese stereotypical attitude of the black man.

In a commendable investigative reporting, Runako Celina and Henry Mhango tracked down a Chinese video producer named Lu Ke, to a Malawian village where he deliberately weaved contorted stories about vulnerable children, some as young as three years old. In one of the viral videos, the children were made to repeat the lines in Chinese: “I am a Black devil. I have a very low IQ. Yeah!” Some agents of these Chinese filmmakers reportedly recorded up to 200 videos per day, particularly during the onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic. For all their efforts and self-abuse, the children were ‘rewarded’ with a paltry sum of half a dollar.

Expectedly, the documentary has triggered outrage across the continent. While the children abused may have been Malawians, it was obvious that the intention of the filmmakers was to demean people on the continent and the black race. The Malawian Minister of Foreign Affairs Nancy Tembo said she was “disgusted, disrespected and deeply pained.” In defence, the Chinese embassy in Malawi however tweeted that “the video was shot in 2020.”

Meanwhile, the concern is that there is a growing pattern to this sordid behaviour. While racism and discrimination cannot be described as Chinese official policies, they are increasingly becoming a problem that their authorities need to deal with. From Mainland China to Hong Kong,



available reports indicate that Africans are being subjected to humiliating police searches on the street, avoided on public transport, and often prevented from bars and clubs. At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, several Africans, including Nigerians, were openly discriminated against as Chinese businesses placed signs outside their doors that they would not serve them.

What is even more worrying is that this attitude is increasingly becoming widespread across the continent. The vast Chinese investments in many of the African countries have become avenues to perpetuate some ‘superior’ attitude. In Nigeria where China is a major financier of large projects, their state-owned multinational and other smaller companies are into roads and railways construction, airports and telecommunications infrastructure, manufacturing, among others. Some of these companies operate with little

or no respect for our country’s labour laws as cases of periodic abuses have been rife.

When citizens of a previously depressed country perceive the signs of national resurgence, prosperity, and influence, they often mismanage their relationship with others. This may be what is informing the repeated instances of racial arrogance among Chinese abroad, especially in Africa. But China’s growing global influence and economic expansion invariably dictate that they deal with other peoples with respect. Relating with Africans requires that extra caution because of the long history of racism based on skin colour.

It is indeed a blatant failure of foreign policy preparation that Beijing has not schooled its citizens on the no-go-area of racism in relating with Africans. In their interactions with people on the continent, China seems to be failing a simple test of tolerance and respect. For a country famed for its regimental discipline, such repeated public relations infractions can hardly be pardoned. China has to culturally grow up to fit into its massive wealth and global influence.

While racism and discrimination cannot be described as Chinese official policies, they are increasingly becoming a problem that their authorities need to deal with

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Letters to the Editor

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

LETTERS

OSAGIE IZE-IYAMU AT 60

Few, if any, can rival him in terms of sheer staying-power in Edo politics in the last two decades. This is because Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu (POI) wields a unique talisman: a blend of people skill and the fervour of an evangelical. That facility not only enables him to make friends easily, but also assist him connect with them to a depth that has compelled their loyalty all through the good and the bad times.

Let me illustrate with one incident. POI’s gravitational pull was on full display in 2013 when a political disagreement with Comrade Adams Oshioh mole made him exit All Progressives Congress (then ACN) upon his realization that the odds were mounting against his aspiration to succeed Oshioh mole in 2016.

POI’s thunderous exit from the APC camp inevitably triggered a bitter exchange that raged till the 2016 governorship polls. But to be honest, not a few top players in the Oshioh mole administration then harboured “secret” sympathy for POI, out of loyalty to long-standing personal friendship with him.

As Information Commissioner then, I must confess that I also had hesitation each time circumstances obliged me to sign off “harsh” media statements against a man I became friends with way back in 1999 when he was Chief of Staff to Governor Lucky Igbinedion and later Secretary to the State Government. But I am glad that whenever we met privately then, POI did not take it personally, appreciating that it was all in my official capacity.

That tells you the sort of solidarity and brotherhood POI commands in folks. It is, therefore, no surprise that, regardless of the slew of electoral setbacks down the road, POI has remained a big factor in Edo politics, even today.

His enduring appeal across Edo landscape in the last decade is, to a large extent, traceable to roots that are evidently organic. He was born and bred there. Bound there.

Part of that mystique could, in a way, also be said to have been shaped by the courage he showed at a very defining moment in Edo’s political evolution. That hour, the entire land had indeed fallen under the thumb of a ruthless political “godfather” who sought to determine the cock that crowed and the cat that meowed. But through the agency of a pressure group named “Grace Group”, POI balked with the battlerey “No Man Is God”. Their movement would become the first organized resistance against the apparition of godfatherism in Edo politics.

At 60, it will, therefore, not be an exaggeration to say POI has been a significant actor in the making of Edo’s democratic process. Here is wishing him many more years in the service of Edo State in particular and humanity in general.

Louis Odion, FNGE,
Senior Technical Assistant on Media to the President (OVP)

RE: THE KINGSLEY AND DUMEBI SHOW

The above captioned piece, published by THISDAY on Tuesday, June 20, 2022, has an egregious error. I got 589 votes in the primary. Dumebi Kachiku got 977. Chukwuka Monye, who came third, got 339 votes. So the judgment “In other words, Kachikwu got triple the number of votes that Moghalu obtained. It was, by definition, a trouncing” is erroneous as a matter of fact.

I believe this piece, just like several reactions I have received from Nigeria, shows the wisdom in my restraint in not getting down to the mud with Kachikwu.

Prof Kingsley Moghalu,
@MoghaluKingsley



L–R: Head DCM StanbicIBC Capital,Tokunbo Aturamu; CEO InfraCredit, Chinua Azubike; ED Infrastructure Tolaram Group, Navin Nahata; CFO LFZC, Ashish Khemka; Transactor InfraCredit,Osaze Osaghae; CEO StanbicIBC Capital, Funso Akere, and Publisher & CEO, EMEA Finance, Christopher Moore, at the EMEA Finance Achievement Award 2021 Charity Dinner in London, where.LFZC and InfraCredit won the EMEA FINANCE LIMITED 2021 Best Local Currency Bond in Africa award... recently

Access Bank to Reward Customers in South-South, South-East

Nume Ekeghe

Access Bank Plc has said it would be rewarding its customers in the South-South and South-East regions with millions of naira and other attractive consolation prizes in its DiamondXtra regional draw. The bank said the live draws, which have been scheduled to hold on June 29, 2022, in Owerri, Imo State will feature mouthwatering cash prizes of N1million, Business grant worth N1million, Rent for a year worth N1million, Educational grant of N500,000, and the star prize, Salary4life where a lucky customer will earn N100,000 every month for 20 years. Speaking to newsmen at the bank's head office in Lagos recently, Group Head, Consumer Banking, Access Bank Plc, Adaeze Ume, explained that the motivation behind the

regional draws in the new season of the reward scheme is the need to transform the lives of more Nigerians across the country. In her words, "To deliver on our promise to continually reward our customers for their loyalty and continued savings with our bank, we have decided to take the DiamondXtra reward scheme draws even closer to them. We intend to reward 38 lucky customers in the South-South, South- East region with juicy cash and consolation prizes in the LIVE draw taking place on the 29th of June 2022 in Owerri, Imo State. By executing live draws in the regional hubs across the country, we believe this will aid consumer participation, drive credibility of this 14 year old reward scheme and boost our relationship with our dynamic and loyal retail customer base in the various LGAs and regions across

the nation. "We continue to evolve and reflect on the various offers within the DiamondXtra reward programme, and engage our customers on what they would prefer to have as a reward. So this year, we introduced a new reward element to commemorate the launch of season 14 (tagged "ready for ore"); in line with the evolving economic climate that has seen more businesses commence trading and transactions online, we now offer digital skills training to 14,000 lucky customers as one of our prizes. This skill will empower them and enable them boost their businesses and operations as entrepreneurs leveraging the Digital Marketing platforms. This is our own little way to help build employers of labour instead of employees of labour."

Anchor Insurance Launches Local Passengers' Flight Welfare Insurance Scheme

Ebere Nwoji

Anchor Insurance has made provision for air passengers' legal liabilities need through the launch of a retail travel insurance package tagged local passengers' flight welfare scheme. The policy provides compensation for losses encountered by passengers including baggage delay, mishandled baggage and loss of baggage during air trips. It is also meant to provide financial benefits for the harm done to the health and life of the insured person or to compensate for lost wages during temporary or permanent disability as a result of unexpected and short-term external factors or unforeseen circumstances in form of accidents. The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Anchor Insurance, Augustine Ebose, speaking at the media launch of the policy in Lagos said the product has been approved by the insurance sector regulator National Insurance Commission (NAICOM). He said Anchor Insurance was

particularly glad when it received the approval as it provided a further opportunity for the company to bring its well-known customer-centric finesse to bear in driving the product to real success and for the maximum benefits of its potential customers. He said having been approved by the regulator, the protection provided by the policy to air passengers would be run according to regulator's stipulations. "This insurance protection will be run in accordance with the stipulated regulations on obligatory personal accidents insurance on transport. "According to the current regulations, passengers are considered insured from the moment of processing the check-in to the period of unboarding and receipt of luggage(s). The policy terminates from the point the passenger collects or takes his/her luggage at the arrival hall. For emphasis, the policy covers the passenger from his/her airport of takeoff to the airport of destination within the Nigerian geographical space," he said. He said for about 32 years, Anchor

Insurance has been in operation and has been remarkable for excellent delivery of services to its customers, assuring that the company would not do anything less with the new product. According to him, the policy, terminates from the point the passenger collects or takes his/her luggage at the arrival hall, adding that for emphasis, the policy covers the passenger from his/her airport of takeoff to the airport of destination within the Nigerian geographical space. Speaking, the Chief Executive Officer, Fidelity Brokers Limited, Alfred Daudu, said Anchor Insurance was a very reliable company, adding that was why his broking firm was proud to do business with it. "When we say a company is reliable, it means it has the willingness and ability to pay claims," he submitted. Daudu stated that his firm has never had any difficulty with Anchor in settling claims, stressing that he was proud to recommend Anchor Insurance to his clients.

CHI Pays N433.6mn Dividend to Shareholders

Ebere Nwoji

Consolidated Hallmark Assurance (CHI) recently put smiles on the faces of its shareholders through payment of N433.6 million divided at the rate of four kobo per share. The dividend was for 2021 financial year, which translated to four kobo per share. The underwriting firm had earlier paid N216.8 million interim dividend at two kobo per share and its expected to pay final dividend of N216.8 million amounting to 2 kobo per share as well, thereby, bringing the total dividend payment to N433.6 million.

The dividend payment, the company said, was in a bid to reward its teeming shareholders for their commitment and loyalty to the insurance firm. Addressing the shareholders at its 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Lagos CHI Chairman, Obinna Ekezie, disclosed that the company generated an all-time high Gross Premium Written (GPW) of N10.5billion in the year under review as against N9.8 billion recorded in the corresponding period of 2020, translating to 7.4 percentage growth.

The Profit Before Tax (PBT), he said, grew significantly by 26 per cent from N772.6 million in 2020 to N971.7million in 2021 while Profit After Tax (PAT) grew by 17 per cent from N678 million in 2020 to N790.6million in 2021. The insurer said it created additional value during the year by growing the Group's total assets from N14.3billion in 2020 to N15.7billion in 2021, a growth rate of approximately 10 per cent. "Also, despite the prevailing economic environment, investment income grew from N940million to N1.2billion in 2021.

IN THE FEDERAL HIGHCOURT OF NIGERIA HOLDEN AT ABUJA

SUIT NO. FHC/ABJ/PET/13/2020
IN THE MATTER OF PETITION TO WIND-UP
DEANSHANGER PROJECT LIMITED (RC No. 715734)

AND

IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED
MATTERS ACT 2004

BETWEEN

AURECON CONSULTING ENGINEERS NIGERIA LTD PETITIONER
(Rc. 954960)

AND

DEANSHANGER PROJECTS LIMITED RESPONDENT
(Rc. 715734)

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of DEANSHANGER PROJECTS LIMITED (RC No. 715734) by the Federal High Court, Abuja Judicial Division, holden at the Federal High Court, Abuja was on the13th day July of 2020 presented to the said court by AURECON CONSULTING ENGINEERS NIGERIA LTD (RC. 954960). And that the petition is directed to be advertised and set down for hearing before the Hon. Justice M. O. Olajuwon of the Federal High Court Abuja on the 6th day of October, 2022, and any creditor or contributory of the said company (DEANSHANGER PROJECTS LIMITED) desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by his counsel for that purpose, and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Signed (Name) SIR CHRIS EKEMEZIE K of C
(Address) C. CHRIS EKEMEZIE & ASSOCIATES

11, Omotayo Ojo Street,
Behind Oshoppey Plaza,
Off Allen Avenue
Ikeja, Lagos.
Tel: 0803 329 3388

Email: cekemezie@yahoo.com, mail@ccekemezie.com, www.ccekemezie.com

Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve or send by courier to the above-named, notice of his intentions so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person or if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his/their solicitor (if any) and must be served or if posted must be sent by courier in sufficient time to reach the above named not later than 48 working hours before the date the Petition is for hearing in court.

Dated this 21st day June, 2022

SIR CHRIS EKEMEZIE K of C
C. CHRIS EKEMEZIE & ASSOCIATES

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20 TO 26 JUNE 2022: SUMMER REFLECTIONS ▶

This week, as we enter the political season in Nigeria, we want to reflect on the process of democracy especially in the United States starting with the civil rights movement and the fight to eliminate slavery. We also reflect on the process that led to the election of the first Black President of the United States, Barack Obama. Stream our collection of reflective and inspirational documentary stories now, exclusively on ARISEPlay.



UNDERGROUND
Co-created by Misha Green and Joe Pokaski, Underground is executive produced by John Legend who features in the series as iconic abolitionist and orator Frederick Douglass. It is an American period drama which first aired in 2016. This series is significant, not just because it reminds us that the Declaration of Independence did not end tyranny in America.



BY THE PEOPLE: THE ELECTION OF BARACK OBAMA
As he took the podium on election night, Barack Obama made history. Few saw his unguarded moments before he addressed the nation. In this documentary, you'll meet the man and the campaign workers who helped him achieve his goal. Get behind-the-scenes footage of Obama during his campaign to become the President of the United States of America



THIS WORLD: THE BLACK AMERICAN FIGHT FOR FREEDOM
With 50 years passed since the promise of equality and the Civil Rights Act, The Black American Fight for Freedom examines key moments where America had the opportunity to become more equal and asks why that didn't happen. It is also an insight into the anger experienced by the millions who marched during the Black Lives Matter protests.

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OGUN STATE RURAL ACCESS AND AGRICULTURAL MARKETING PROJECT (RAAMP)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI) FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DESIGN AND SUPERVISION CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR BACKLOG MAINTENANCE/REHABILITATION OF RURAL ROADS IN OGUN STATE.

Reference No.: **NG-OGUN RAAMP-230437-CS-CQS**

Credit No.: **6519-NG**

Issue Date: **22 June, 2022.**

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, has received financing from the World Bank and the L'Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency or AFD) and on-lent the financing to thirteen participating States (namely Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Ondo, Ogun, Oyo, Plateau and Sokoto) toward the cost of Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the financing will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Consulting Services.

The Consulting Services ("the Services") includes:

- (i) Planning, detailed engineering design and supervision of physical infrastructure component (backlog road maintenance or rehabilitation for roughly 230 km to 250 km (approximately 12nos. contract packages) including maintenance/rehabilitation/reconstruction of related cross-drainage drainage structures following GON/IDA's guidelines which incorporates Environment, Social, Health and Safety (ESHS) measures;
- (ii) Supervising and assisting SPIU/ILO in the supervision of construction works to ensure that these are executed in accordance with the General and Particular conditions of Contract, the Technical Specification, Engineering Drawings or any amendments to items just mentioned; Assisting SPIU in all respects of procurement processes including procurement documents preparation, bid evaluation and contract awarding;
- (iii) Providing necessary support and advice to SPIU in optimizing the use of available material resources to minimize costs, achieving desirable work quality and expediting construction activities;
- (iv) Assisting SPIU in ensuring that works/contracts are constructed/completed within the agreed price and allocated time under the contract or any subsequent agreed amendments.

The Services are expected to extend over a period of 30 months, involving approximately 12 key persons as required in the TOR;

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for this assignment will be made available on our website www.ogunraamp.com.ng

The Ogun State Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) now invite eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

1. Satisfactory experience of the firm in Project Preparation Activities

such as (i) Social and Environmental Safeguards (ii) Preparation of detailed Engineering Design and Technical Specifications (iii) Procurement Support (iv) project management support, and Construction Supervision of Roads

2. Demonstration of effective organizational/managerial structure and availability of suitably experienced and qualified key personnel relevant to the assignment.
3. All interested firms are to submit the following documents:
 - i. Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
 - ii. Evidence of Company's current tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years (2019, 2020 and 2021);
 - iii. Company audited account for the last three (3) years (2019, 2020 and 2021) duly stamped;
 - iv. Well detailed company profile with managerial and technical structure, office address and functional contact details
 - v. For Joint ventures, Memorandum of Understanding must be attached.
4. Verifiable records establishing evidence of experience in design and supervision consultancy services for backlog maintenance/rehabilitation of rural roads of up to 10 references or more similar assignments;
5. Evidence of similar experience supported under multilateral donor Agency like The World Bank, AFD, AfDB, etc in the previous 10 years
6. Evidence of Firm's/ Consortium regional work experience in similar field within Nigeria and or Sub-Saharan Africa.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" November 2020 ("Fourth edition Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant's Qualification Selection (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1700 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (In person, or by mail) **not later than 12.00 noon, 13 July, 2022. Late Submissions will NOT be accepted. The Client is not bound to short-list any Consultant.**

**The State Project Coordinator,
Ogun State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU)
Rural Access and Agriculture Marketing Project (RAAMP)
Behind Block D, Government Secretariat, Oke Mosan, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria.
Telephone: +2348033440946**

List of FirstBank Delinquent Debtors

The listed debtors are hereby advised to engage the Bank for possible resolution of their unpaid obligations

S/N	NAME OF OBLIGOR	ADDRESS	DIRECTORS	TYPE OF FACILITY	DATE GRANTED	EXPIRY DATE	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING
1	EER(COLOBUS) NIGERIA LIMITED	9TH FLOOR, ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE, CATHOLIC MISSION STREET LAGOS ISLAND, LAGOS	OSAMEDE OKHOMINA, YINKA JOSEF OGUNDARE, GODWIN IMOHI, OLIVIA OKONJI, OLANIKE OLAKUNMI ANANI	TERM LOAN	28-Dec-18	24-Mar-19	23,503,709,166.57
2	STARCOMMS PLC	STARCOMMS HOUSE , PLOT 1261C BISHOP KALE VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS	CHIEF MAAN LABABIDI; LABABIDI OMAR; EDWARD PAUL; AMINU DANTATA TOJUDEEN; OGBECHIE CHRIS;	OVERDRAFT	6-Oct-2002	31-Aug-2007	24,685,344,306.43
3	NUJU TEK NIGERIA LIMITED	36, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ROAD, MAFOLUKU, LAGOS	UUU VIVIAN CHIKWENDU, NNAMDJ EMEKA OLISA, MR. J.I. OBI	TERM LOAN	2015	2016	20,685,958,313.23
4	J OLIZ ENERGY LIMITED	36, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ROAD, MAFOLUKU, LAGOS	MRS. UJU OBI, IKEMEFUNA OLISA EMEKA, NNAMDJ EMEKA OBI	IFF/SRF/PPL/FULC/ICCL, TERM LOAN	Jun-13	Dec-14	15,673,649,158.72
5	FARGO PETROLEUM & GAS LTD	NO 2 OLAMIJUYN AVENUE PARK VIEW ESTATE IKOYI LAGOS	OLUSEUN OGUNBAMBO; OLAMIDE OGUNBAMBO	OVERDRAFT	20-Dec-2012	14-Jan-2013	9,210,243,300.90
6	CONVENANT GROUND LINKS NIG	PLOT 35 ZONE 1 FINIMA BONNY	LAWRENCE ANIEKAN BASSEY	LPO FINANCE FACILITY	31-Dec-10	1-Aug-13	174,081,466.55
7	ABSAF & CO NIGERIA LIMITED	NO2 RD 2 CIRCULAR RD PRESIDENTIAL ESTATE PHC	ALHAJI MB. ABDULLAHI; HAJIYA SAFIYA ABDULLAHI; HADI ABDULLAHI; MUNLADI ABDULLAHI	OVERDRAFT	1-Apr-2013	31-Dec-2013	5,111,641,417.60
8	SAIDON AFRICA LIMITED	NO 12 APAPA OSHIDI EXPRESSWAY OLODI APAPA LAGOS	DIKEOMA OKAFOR; IVUOMAS. OKAFOR	TERM LOAN	14-May-2009	17-May-2009	4,115,445,561.87
9	NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICE MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE (PRISCO)	NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICE, PRISONS VILLAGE, BILL CLINTON DRIVE, AIRPORT ROAD, ABUJA	OCHE O MARY; ADEPOJU S. AYODEJI	TERM LOAN	8-Mar-2010	28-Jul-2014	1,594,247,498.15
10	DISCOVER & COMPANY LIMITED	2 ABA ROAD PHC	MR. OSCAR IGBOKWE; LINDA IGBOKWE; SUNDAY IKENNA IGBOKWE; NNENA ADAEZE IGBOKWE	TERM LOAN	31-Mar-2008	30-May-2008	2,384,613,579.95
11	SANOR ENGINEERING NIGERIA LIMITED	8 CIRCULAR ROAD, GRA PHASE 1 PRESIDENTIAL ESTATE, PHC	ORIANZI EMMANUEL ONDOTIMI FRANK; SALIHU ABDULLAHI OBEITOH; ANDY ENOMIE IKEKHIDE	OVERDRAFT	4-Jan-2013	31-Dec-2013	1,545,658,663.30
12	ALEX & TUBMAN NIGERIA COMPANY LIMITED	NO 13 OBIDIANSO STREET MILE 2 DIOBU PORT-HARCOURT	MR ALEX KOMBO; MR PROSPER ALEX KOMBO	OVERDRAFT	11-Jan-2013	31-Dec-2013	1,518,249,203.77
13	ARIA COMMUNITY CITI BANK LIMITED	OLD ENUGU/OSHA ROAD BOX 2959 ENUGU	CHIEF OBINNA M. J. EZEFOR; BEN ALAKWU	TERM LOAN	8-Feb-2007	31-12-2009	1,366,539,095.00
14	EGBEDA LGUBEA	EGBEDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNINVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION AUTHORITY IBADAN	OLADEPO SEGUN G AND OPAKUNLE KEHINDE M	GPLAS	OCT 2014	Oct-16	1,233,727,381.89
15	TREDAS LIMITED	1ST FLOOR, SUMMIT HOUSE , 6 AJELE STR, LAGOS	MRS. EZINNE OKOROAFOR; OBI CHRISTIANA; AUSTIN IBANGA UDO	TERM LOAN	5-Sep-2007	31-03-2008	1,085,873,014.66
16	GREAT BRAIN RESOURCES	JAMES AKPOMIMIE HOUSE NO 6 POWELL STREET AKA AVENUE EFFURUN	ILOLO GIFT AMAKINO	TERM LOAN	29-Jul-2009	28-Oct-2009	1,046,320,784.80
17	ELENWO BESTMAN	15,AKWOR STREET RUMUOMO; 4,EJIM STREET RUMUOMASI	NOT APPLICABLE	OVERDRAFT	1-Jul-2013	31-12-2013	120,470,759.21
18	MPN & EEPNL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY LTD	20 RCC ROAD EKET, UYO	MKPAORO ISRAEL	TERM LOAN	17-Mar-2014	30-Apr-2015	981,872,861.78
19	F.M.P.H J VENTURES	200 BONNY STREET NEWLAYOUT PHC	MRS. BLESSING OFORIBO	TERM LOAN	5-Oct-2009	5-Oct-2011	891,770,078.64
20	AREBS RESOURCES	95,MISSION ROAD BENIN CITY	ONORIBHOLO OKPAIBHELE; BOSE OKPAIBHELE	OVERDRAFT	15-Aug-2011	16-Aug-2011	871,507,500.45
21	SOMAFALL SERVICES LTD.	NO 5 ,B OROMENIKE STREET D/LINE	HORSFALL SOIBBO ; OKHAIMOH MATTHEW; EFEREBO BLESSING; HORSFALL DAKIO; IYALLA OWUNARI;	OGCF	2012	2012	815,824,852.74
22	CITY SYSTEMS GENERAL MERCHANTS	38 WAREHOUSE ROAD YINKA FOLAWIYO PLAZA,FOURTH FLOOR APAPA LAGOS	ALHAJI MOAMMED ABDUL AHMED	TERM LOAN	23-Oct-2008	24-Oct-2011	709,720,888.78
23	ROYAL CAT INTERNATIONAL NIG. LTD	NO. 459, NNEBISI ROAD ASABA	ENGR. (CHIEF) EFEKODHA ANTHONY ONOMUEFE	TERM LOAN	10-Mar-2010	5-Mar-2011	671,528,068.40
24	ARCHKEN LIMITED	SAMCO HOUSE MBIOHO- OKU, UYO AKWA IBOM STATE	EMGR. ARCHIBONG EKENG; MR. KESTER JONAH	OVERDRAFT	7-Jan-2013	31-Dec-2013	659,303,072.38
25	DUAL TRANSACT GLOBAL SERVICES LIMITED	FLAT 2 ALIOLU ESTATE MANGROVE LANE WOJI	PAUL DUNIA; MRS. IBIENE FAVOUR DUNIA; PAUL DUNIA JNR.	TERM LOAN	11-Aug-2009	11-Aug-2010	564,512,963.08
26	JEFFLOC SERVICES NIGERIA LTD	KM 16 PH -ABA EXPRESSWAY CESIDE CRUSH ROCK PHC	CHINDA UCHENNA JEPHET CHIZI WILLIAMS; CHINDA PRINCE OCHIZICHIBUIKE UCHE WILLIAMS; CHINDA OSARUCHI FLORENCE UCHE WILLIAMS(MRS.) CHINDA CHIOMA JUDITH UCHE WILLIAMS	TERM LOAN	29-Jun-2012	17-Jul-2012	572,604,349.05
27	SHOSKY TECH INTER LIMITED	2 UDOFIA STREET EKET AKWA IBOM	OLUSEGUN SOKAN	TERM LOAN	20-Aug-2010	20-May-2011	118,544,852.82
28	SSANIPIREE	OSUN STATE POLYTECHNIC IREE	BISIRIYU SAAD	GPLAS	25/05/2014	24-9-2017	598,463,339.07
29	NIGERIA UNION OF LOCAL GOVT.EMPLOYEE,OSE LOCAL GOVT.CHAPTER	OSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, IFON	COMRADE ADESUNLOYE IDOWU (NULGE CHAIRMAN), COMRADE DISU RASAQ (SECRETARY)	GPLAS	2011	2014	50,467,470.82
30	VALTRIF STONES & MABLE LTD	FLAT 2,AB MARTINS EST,205 OLD ODUKPA NI RD.	FRANKIE EYAMBA	TERM LOAN	3-Aug-2007	26-Mar-2010	558,517,014.28
31	FRONTIER MERCHANTS NIGERIA LIMITED	AZ 44 BAKORI ROAD KADUNA	IBRAHIM USMAN; HAWA MOHAMMED DAHIRU	TERM LOAN	19-Dec-2013	18-Dec-2013	519,100,369.55
32	AJAKUTA LGA STAFF MPCS	AJAKUTA LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ADOGO, AJAKUTA	YUSUF MUSA, ISMAILA SULEIMAN, ADEMOH OKINO	GPLAS	September 12, 2015	September 12, 2015	290,458,758.21
33	EFON LOCAL GOVT SEC SCHL STAFF COOPERATIVE MULTIPURPOSE SOCIETY EFON-ALAAYE	EFON SECONDARY SCHOOL, EFON ALAAYE	AKOSILE OLUBUNMI	GPLAS	4/1/2012	3/1/2015	197,458,698.56
34	FIRST GROUP ASS	OFFICE OF THE STATE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, ADO EKITI, EKITI STATE	1. OLORUNYOMI SEGUN OMOTAYO; 2. ONI AYODIMEJI OLORUNFEMI; 3. OGUNYEMI E. KAYODE	GPLAS	4/1/2013	4/1/2016	526,056,408.47
35	POMO WORKS AND SERVICES	NO 46 AIRPORT ROAD EFFURUN	OKORODUDU ISAAC AKPOS	OVERDRAFT	25-Jan-2013	31-Dec-2013	484,510,094.70
36	FULLHAM INTEGRATED CO. LTD	13 DDPA HOUSING ESTATE OGBORIKOKO WARRI	ILOLO GIFT AMAKINO	TERM LOAN	21-Jul-2010	21-Oct-2010	489,136,393.70
37	CHOKO WORKS & SERVICES	6 POWELL STREET OFF AKA AVENUE WARRI	OKORODUDU ISAAC AKPOS	TERM LOAN	21-Jul-2010	21-Oct-2010	481,995,157.10
38	TIMELY-LV NIGERIA ENTERPRISES	NO 4 EMORE STREET OFF AIRPORT ROAD EFFURUN	OGAGA OGBAKPAH	OVERDRAFT	25-Jan-2013	31-Dec-2013	481,360,740.62
39	EFON IFEOLUWA CMS	APPOSTLE BABALOLA MEMORIAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL EFON ALAYE	1.AKOSILE STEVEOLU , 2. BAMIDELE ELIZABETH	GPLAS	7/1/2014	6/1/2017	489,768,517.23
40	INTERIORTRONIX NIGERIA LIMITED	5 OIL OF JOY CLOSE WILSON DRIVE BOROKIRI PHC	ORUBO IBINABO JACK; MBAAL LAWRENCE KELLY ORUBO; INYECHIKA DOREEN IBINABO JACK; RACHEAL IBINABO JACK	TERM LOAN	28-Aug-2014	28-Sep-2014	478,979,516.94
41	DE-SHADOW ASSOCIATES NIG LTD	PLOT 78 RALPH SHODEINDE STREET B.C.A, ABUJA ABUJA	JOHN SADO MAJI; MRS. UNEKWU MAJI	OVERDRAFT	9-Dec-2011	31-Jan-2012	356,540,184.01
42	1ST MEK GLOBAL SERVICE LTD	21, AGBOOLA STR MAFOLUKU OSHODI	IPINMORITI OLUYINKA ANIKE; IPINMORITI FELICIA ANJOLA; IPINMORITI ESTHER FOLAKE; IPINMORITI VICTOR GBOYE	TERM LOAN	11-Feb-2013	10-Apr-2013	440,167,514.78
43	IBADAN NORTH LGUBEA	IBADAN NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION AUTHORITY IBADAN	ADEBIYI AKEEM GBOLAGADE AND AKINRINOLA TIMOTHY SUNDAY	GPLAS	Oct-14	Oct-16	439,522,598.96
44	VERSETECH TECHNICAL SERVICES LIMITED	28, OMASI RD, RUMUOMASI PORT HARCOURT	IGBINOSA AIFUWA DOUGLAS, IGBINOSA NGOWARI ROSELYN, IGBINOSA IYIOSAYI PETER	TERM LOAN	27-Nov-2014	27-Dec-2014	430,148,097.73

S/N	NAME OF OBLIGOR	ADDRESS	DIRECTORS	TYPE OF FACILITY	DATE GRANTED	EXPIRY DATE	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING
45	SKILL ASSOCIATES LIMITED	173 TETLOW ROAD OWERRI.	UKAH GERALD; UKAH CAMILLIUS; UKAH LOUIS	TERM LOAN	23-Mar-2015	25-Apr-2015	419,928,543.34
46	CRITICAL CARE MANAGEMENT COMPANY LTD	T3 MARIMPEY IMPERIAL GARDEN ESTATE WORKS YARD RD, GRA IKEJA, LAGOS	DR. ADEKUNLE TINUBU; TINUBU TITILOLA	TERM LOAN	17-Dec-2012	16-Jan-2016	180,303,980.68
47	GODEL ENTERPRISES	35 CEMENTARY ROAD, PO BOX18, OMOKU, RIVERS STATE	ELEMCHUKWU IDU	TERM LOAN	21-May-2012	30-Aug-2012	416,956,308.15
48	ALH. ABDULLAH IBRAHIM & SONS LTD	No. 20, PANTAMI NEW EXTENSION, ABUJA QUARTERS, GOMBE	ABDULLAH IBRAHIM	OVERDRAFT/TERM LOAN	28/02/2013	28/01/2014	405,391,157.19
49	FAZIG GLOBAL PROSPECT LIMITED	NO 1 JUSTUS OJIKA AVENUE PHC	OJIKA JUSTUS, OJIKA CHARITY	TERM LOAN	29-Dec-2014	28-Jan-2015	403,360,835.96
50	MORG-LIS SERVICES	13B WALLE ESTATE OFF DSC WAY EKETE -UDU DELTA STATE	AKPEH UFUOMAS	TERM LOAN	19-Mar-2012	14-Jun-2012	402,011,529.76
51	WESTWINDS ENGINEERING SERVICES	NO.13 ORAZI ROAD OFF EBONY JUNCTION RUMUOLA PH	ADELEKE ADENIYI	TERM LOAN	24-Sep-2014	23-Oct-2014	395,956,018.43
52	SILK STRUCTURES NIGERIA COMPANY	43 FUTEB PLAZA, EFFURUN, WARRI, DELTA STATE.	OMOTADE BIMBO	OGCF-LPO TECHNIX/SPDC	2011	2012	393,698,184.30
53	ULAYIN MICRO-FINANCE BANK	18 OKENYIMI STREET ADO-EKITI	DR OPEYEMI AKEJU; MR LOLA OLUJOBI; HON SEGUN OLA; MR TOPE OMOJOLA	OVERDRAFT	24-Oct-2012	31-Oct-2012	390,660,040.65
54	EXMATSUR OILFIELD SUPPORT LIMITED	2, ORIANWO LANE, ,NKPOGU RD, ARSBBY PLAZA, PORT HARCOURT	ADAMS IDAKWO AKPAI, TOJU ADAMS IDAKWO, ARIDA TOJU ADAMS	TERM LOAN	27-Oct-2014	28-Nov-2014	374,297,965.47
55	KENY CREST ENERGY & LOGISTICS LTD	ANSBBY PLAZA, 2 ORIANWO LANE NKPOGU ROAD PHC	IDAKWO ADAMS AKPAI	TERM LOAN	11-Nov-2014	12-Jan-2015	374,096,909.08
56	DOREMA TRADING LTD	SUITE 9 MMA SHOPPING MALL 8 OLD ABA ROAD ABA, PORT HARCOURT	MUYIWA ODEINDE	LPO FINANCE	26/07/2015	25/11/2015	372,354,576.44
57	TODAH EXPERTISE LIMITED	28, OMASI RD, RUMUOMASI PORT HARCOURT	IGBINOSA AIFUWA FAITH, NGOWARI ROSELYN LAWSON, TABA JULIET HART	TERM LOAN	28-Nov-2014	27-Dec-2014	348,871,334.48
58	GENUINELYNSS OUTLOOK	56, ABEOKUTA STREET, ANIFOWOSE IKEJA	YETUNDE MOGAJI; ABIMBOLA KUDIRAT ADENEKAN	TERM LOAN	15-Jan-2013	22-Apr-2013	348,781,101.63
59	WEDACOSERV GLOBAL LIMITED	ANSBBY PLAZA 2 ORIANWA LANE NKPOGU RD PHC	IDAKWO ADAMS AKPAI, TOJU ADAMS IDAKWO	TERM LOAN	28-Oct-2014	30-Jan-2015	348,329,904.88
60	BEAVER-MARK NIGERIA LIMITED	NO 1, THIRA CEMENTRY ROAD NEW-BENIN, B/C	ENGINEER IKPONWOSA OSUNDE	TERM LOAN	18-Sep-2007	27-Oct-2007	355,903,738.86
61	RANGANIS LTD	51 LOCAL GOVT. SHOPPING COMPLEX	1. DR. ASHRIEL A ZABSS; 2. DILHATU ASHRIEL; 3. CHONGMOBNU ASHRIEL	OVERDRAFT	13-Mar-02	31-Mar-2003	357,972,083.76
62	FLOWROCK INTERNATIONAL L TD	NO.77 ADA GEORGE ROAD, PORT HARCOURT	JACKS BECKY IBIBA; WILLIAM WHYTE ZOE; WILLIAM WHYTE VERA; WILLIAM WHYTE WILLIAM	TERM LOAN	28-Nov-2014	27-Dec-2014	342,885,043.04
63	NULGE IKOLE LG	NULGE OFFICE, IKOLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, IKOLE EKITI, EKITI STATE	1. OGUNLEYE OLABODE; 2. OLOKO OLUMIDE BAYODE; 3. AJIBOYE JIMOH	GPLAS	11/1/2017	1/1/2017	356,225,703.27
64	DESIGN CARDINAL LIMITED	92 OLD ABA ROAD, PORT HARCOURT	MR. JUSTUS OJIKA, OKWUDIRI GIFT, MICHEAL ODUNZE	TERM LOAN	28-Nov-2014	30-Dec-2014	335,934,101.99
65	ADO L.G.E.A TEACHERS	ADO LOCAL GOVT EDUCATION AUTHORITY OKESA ADO EKITI	1. OMOYENI ADEOLA TAYE; 2.ADEBOYE ELIJAH OLUBUNMI	GPLAS	2014	2016	333,933,340.23
66	BAUNA GLOBAL INVESTMENT LIMITED	34, IDORO ROAD, UYO AKWA IBOM	BASSEY AKPAN UDOUNWEM; MBOTIDEM BASSEY UDOUNWEM	TERM LOAN	5-Dec-2013	7-Feb-2014	325,471,626.21
67	REBOSA QUEST LTD	28, OMASI RD, RUMUOMAZI, PORT HARCOURT.	AIRUEGHIAN JOHN, AIRUEGHIAN JOYCE	TERM LOAN	12-Nov-2014	11-Jan-2015	323,772,300.56
68	JAMESCO AND SONS SERVICES NIG LTD	299/301 ABA OWERRI ROAD, OWERRI	ADAJUE A CHRISTOPHER; CHRISTOPHER O ADADJUE	TERM LOAN	22-Sep-2014	23-Oct-2014	310,893,340.74
69	SUEGS SERVICE LIMITED	33 ORON RD UYO	ELDER SAM INYANG, ELDER SUNDAY USEN	CONTRACT FINANCE	14-Apr-14	31-Dec-16	305,957,875.64
70	NIGERIA UNION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AC 2	IBADAN NORTH LOCAL GOVT. SECRETARIAT, AGODI, IBADAN	KAYODE AKANDE (CHAIRMAN), ADEREMI BIOKU (SECRETARY)	GPLAS	2011	2013	302,556,189.07
71	AJORO INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT NIG LTD	NO 17 A BOSTWANA CRESCENT BARNAWA KADUNA	MOSES A OJO; AYANLEYE OJO; DANJUMA MOHAMMED	OVERDRAFT	9-Dec-2011	31-Jan-2012	300,942,698.61
72	CHAR AND TEL NIGERIA VENTURES	92 OLD ABA RD PORT HARCOURT	OJIKA JUSTUS	TERM LOAN	17-Dec-2014	16-Feb-2015	299,957,786.70
73	PETROLEUM PLUS SOLUTION LIMITED	416 OIL MILL STREET LAGOS ISLAND LAGOS	OMOTAYO KUFORIJI	TERM LOAN	8-Feb-2007	31-12-2009	299,367,350.18
74	EFON LGOVOT WELFARE	EFON LOCAL GOVERNMENT	SAMUEL VINCENT	GPLAS	10/1/2012	9/1/2015	302,556,189.07
75	JORAN VENTURES	1 OSIVHEMU STR AGBARHO DELTA STATE	ANTHONY EDEDJOR	TERM LOAN	9-Dec-2014	8-Feb-2015	296,054,963.21
76	OGHOMWEN GLOBAL RESOURCES LIMITED	28, OMASI ROAD 1, RUMUDMASI, PORT HARCOURT	OMORUYI JANE E, LAWSON NGOWARI E	TERM LOAN	13-Oct-2015	15-Feb-2015	295,911,954.43
77	SHELTER AND ROADS CONSTRUCTION LIMITED	SUITE 1, BASEMENT. NO.4, THAM BEKI CLOSE. OFF TY DANJUMA STREET. ASOKORO, ABUJA.	1. IGE OLADIPO; 2. ALHAJI MOHAMMED JIBRIN AHMED; 3. ENGR. ELE-AMEEN MOHAMMED JIBRIM	INVOICE DISCOUNTING FACILITY (IDF)	6/6/2014	4/9/2014	294,754,412.43
78	TWIN SAM NIGERIA COMPANY	NO 188 P.T.I ROAD, EFFURUN, DELTA STATE.	CHIEF SAMUEL ARHERE; CHIEF DUKE ARHERE	TERM LOAN	23-Jan-2015	14-Mar-2015	294,309,749.90
79	HENBOB ENTERPRISES	12,MILVERTON AVENUE, ABA	HENRY BOBBY ADJEBREFE	OVERDRAFT	28-May-2014	27-May-2015	293,757,361.75
80	TRISTART INTEGRATED SERVICES LTD.	20 SALVATION CLOSE OFF ADA GEORGE PHC	MRS. EFE OSAZUWA	TERM LOAN	10-Feb-2016	9-Mar-2016	292,003,137.86
81	AFLACORP NIG LTD	39 LAGOS ST, PORT HARCOURT	AFIBEBOALA DIMITEIN	TERM LOAN	18-Sep-2014	18-Dec-2014	291,250,484.58
82	LOVOTEX RESOURCES LTD	2 EJEKWU CLOSE OFF RUMUMINI RUMUOKUTA PH	LOVE AJOKU	TERM LOAN	29-Sep-2014	28-Oct-2014	287,447,367.76
83	ISABEL & J INTEGRATED SERVICES LTD	140 AIRPORT ROAD.EFFURUN WARRI DELTA STATE	OKORODUDU ISAAC AKPOS	OVERDRAFT	25-Jan-2013	31-Dec-2013	282,956,668.33
84	BERTHDOM LIMITED	NO.87 HIGH TENSION LINE, ANUA, UYO	ELD EFFIONG NYA UDO	TERM LOAN	30-Dec-2013	29-Jan-2014	281,421,905.33
85	DEVON ENERGY	NO. 295A SURULERE WAY DOLPHIN ESTATE, IKOYI, LAGOS.	CHUIJOKE CHIEDU IYIZOBA; EBUBECHUKWU IYIZOBA	TERM LOAN	5-Dec-2013	4-Jan-2014	279,872,191.44
86	ZOPHIM CORPORATE SERVICES	NO 1 AKA AVENUE EFFURUN WARRI DELTA STATE	ILOLO GIFT AMAKINO	TERM LOAN	27-Dec-2009	28-Mar-2010	278,138,834.98
87	CSK WORKS & ALLIED CO LTD	6 POWELL STREET OFF AKA AVENUE WARRI DELTA STATE	ILOLO GIFT AMAKINO	OVERDRAFT	25-Jan-2013	31-Dec-2013	271,876,049.54
88	JOPAL CONTRACTING COMPANY	77B WOJI RD. GRA PHASE II PORT HARCOURT	OJIKA JUSTUS	TERM LOAN	30-Oct-2014	29-Jan-2015	262,519,471.90
89	TONY-ARIES NIGERIA ENTERPRISE	NO 236 WARRI SAPELE RD, WARRI	ANTHONY EDEDJOR	TERM LOAN	25-Sep-2014	4-Feb-2015	260,334,720.34
90	BESAN AJAKUTA	SHUAIBU AUGUSTINE. BUHARI SHAFIU. SANNI DAN YAKUBU	SHUAIBU AUGUSTINE; BUHARI SHAFIU; SANNI DAN YAKUBU	GPLAS	MAY 8, 2013	MAY 8, 2016	136,492,654.21
91	FANRI EXTOL SOLUTIONS LIMITED	PLOT 27 TRANS-AMADI IND LAYOUT, PORT HARCOURT	DOUGLAS IGBINOSA	TERM LOAN	13-Nov-2014	12-Jan-2015	259,334,804.04
92	CUTECH NIGERIA LIMITED	SURULERE, ITIRE, LAGOS	MR. BRIGHT EKURUME	CONTRACT FINANCE FACILITY	2015	2016	254,687,000.12
93	AZIMAVETH MADRECK NIG LTD	NO 22 MANNS STREET OWERRI	CHUKS KIZZITO UGOCHUKWU; UDOGU DANIEL ORJICHUKWU	TERM LOAN	18-Feb-2015	17-Apr-2015	251,108,371.21
94	HORN BIRD NIG COMPANY	KM 4 NPA EXPRESS WAY OPPOSITE NIGERCAT, EKPAN DELTA STATE	MR. OGHENOV O.OLORI	TERM LOAN	26-Jan-2015	23-Feb-2015	250,767,659.70
95	KUBITO TECHNICAL SERVICES LTD	98, NSIKAK EDUOK AVENUE, UYO	PRINCE AKPAN OKON	CONTRACT FINANCE	27-Mar-14	20-Nov-15	249,439,824.05
96	AGROGFEEN RUBBER PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (WEST AFRICA) LTD	116 CHOBANTARD, PHC	IFEANYI OGBONNA	TERM LOAN	18-Nov-2014	17-Jan-2015	247,327,102.42
97	NUT ILESA WEST	83 NUT HOUSE, IKOTI, ILESA, OSUN STATE	MRS ODEBODE AND MR ABIONA	GPLAS	1, DEC 2013 2. NOVEMBER 2016	1 MARCH 2014 2. FEBRUARY 2017	248,056,747.36
98	NON-ACADEMIC STAFF UNION,U.I.,IBADAN	6 MELLANBY BUILDING UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN	1. AROJO OLUSEGUN AKINTUNDE. 2. OLAKANMI SAMSON 3. ISIAQ BUSAYO	GPLAS	17/06/2014	28/09/2018	81,139,503.78
99	YERI MUSA MADUGU	PATHEI COMP NIG LTD MICHIKA, ADAMAWA STATE	YERI MUSA MADUGU	OVERDRAFT	26-Aug-99	24-Jun-2012	240,734,570.91
100	FIMARC UNIVERSAL SERVICES LTD	116, NTA ROAD CHOBA MGBOUBA PHC	IFEANYI OGBONNA	TERM LOAN	18-Nov-2014	17-Jan-2015	237,046,931.58
101	D SW DYNAMICS LIMITED	ANSBBY PLAZA, #2 ORIANWO LANE NKPOGU, PORT HARCOURT	ADAMS IDAKWO AKPAI; ARIDA TOJU ADAMS	OGCF	2014	2014	234,834,614.87
102	DALDNA SYSTEMS LIMITED	18 BEN UDO STR, UYO	NELSON AGHOGU	SECURED OVERDRAFT	24-Nov-09	1-Dec-11	232,374,685.8
103	BLISSCOM SERVICES	MOSHESHE ESTATE, AIRPORT ROAD, EFFURUN, WARRI, DELTA STATE.	OBI NKEMDILIM	OGCF-IDF	2015	2016	231,884,756.46
104	GARTEN ENERGY COMPANY	18 ITU ROAD UYO	NIMITEIN AFIBEBOALA	LPO FINANCE FACILITY	12-Sep-14	31-Dec-16	221,117,601.21
105	OBOENTE ENTERPRISES LTD	4, ITUAK ABANG ROAD, IKOT EKPENE	ELD. EDEME E. OBOT; MR. ITORO E. OBOT; IDARAE. OBOT	OVERDRAFT	19-Dec-12	19-Nov-13	218,586,287.19
106	JOMEG NIGERIA COMPANY	10 AKUKWOT STREET, ORON	MERCY IFIM AKPAN	OGCF	17-Nov-08	1-Sep-11	210,545,083.80
107	HOMELAND EXPRESS RESOURCES	95, TETLOW STREET OWERRI IMO	AROGUNYO ISAAC; ADEMOLA ADEOSUN; VICTOR ADEBAYO	OVERDRAFT	29-Jul-2015	28-Jul-2016	209,151,076.85
108	KOLAWOLE ATOLAGBE ENTERPRISES LIMITED	39 DOSUMU STREET LAGOS ISLAND, LAGOS.	KOLAWOLE ATOLAGBE	OVERDRAFT	1-Sep-2010	1-Sep-2011	208,622,300.16

S/N	NAME OF OBLIGOR	ADDRESS	DIRECTORS	TYPE OF FACILITY	DATE GRANTED	EXPIRY DATE	AMOUNT
109	FITZPATRICK CONTINENTAL LIMITED	21 AJANAKU STR OPEBI IKEJA, LAGOS	MR. PATRICK ADEKUNLE & DR. CHARA ADEKUNLE.	TERM LOAN	25-Nov-2014	22-Jan-2016	276,025,668.14
110	NYONG AND NYONG ARCHITECTS LIMITED	188 ORON ROAD UYO	JOHN UBIT NYONG	CONTRACT FINANCE	19-Dec-14	31-Dec-16	202,581,083.69
111	NSYKPAN NIG ENTERPRISE	NO. 4 ITUAK ABANG ROAD, IKOT EKPENE, AKWA IBOM STATE	AKPAN NSIDIBE OKON	CONTRACT FINANCE	20-Mar-14	31-Dec-16	201,303,182.20
112	FULAKU NIGERIA LIMITED	ALONG KWADON ROAD GOMBE GOMBE STATE	AL H. ABUBAKAR ARAWA, ABDULLAH ABUBAKAR	TERM LOAN	26-Jan-12	8-Sep-12	199,692,938.12
113	INIEM INTEGRATED CONCEPT LTD	11 MBARAJA STR, RUMUOLA RD/11 INDUSTRY RD., PORT HARCOURT	1. MBOHO INIOBONG ERNEST; 2. MBOHO ANIEFIOK ERNEST; 3. MBOHO ENO ERNEST	OVERDRAFT	22-Oct-2014	29-Oct-2016	200,833,892.21
114	RIMROCK INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	2,2ND AVE FEDERAL HOUSING ESTATE PHC	IBIBA JACKS	LPO FINANCE FACILITY	16-Mar-15	31-Dec-16	196,076,099.18
115	KENT-REUBYS MILLS LIMITED	KLM 2, IJEBU IGBO ORU ROAD, IJEBU IGBO, OGUN STATE	KUNLE OLOYEDE; YOMI OGUNTUYINBO	TERM LOAN	10-Nov-2014	2-Feb-2016	197,720,183.51
116	EKITI STATE AGRIC DEV PROGR	20, MOFERERE STREET, ADO EKITI	FADAHUNSI OMOTAYO	GPLAS	28-02-2017	28-02-2017	345,285,345.09
117	OLUDITIS NIGERIALIMITED	13B, NWAOMA CLOSE, OFF ADA GEORGE RD, PHC	OLADUTI OLALEKAN – PRIME MOVER; OLADUTI AYOMIDE; OLADUTI YETUNDE	OVERDRAFT	30-Dec-2015	29-Dec-2016	184,503,674.22
118	PHI-VIC/ISAM GLOBAL RESOURCES NIG	47 AKPAPAN STREET UYO	VICTOR MATTHEW	LPO FINANCE FACILITY	4-Mar-11	1-Aug-16	170,988,580.51
119	BOSSLINKS COMMUNICATIONS VENTURES	16 ATABONG ROAD, EKET, AKWA IBOM STATE	ISAAC IBANGA, ABRAHAM UDOH	LPO FINANCE FACILITY	29-Nov-14	31-Dec-16	162,840,152.12
120	NATHEC ENGINEERING SERVICES	1 LOUIS ATING STREET, ORON LGA	NATHANIEL ASUQUO IMAH	CONTRACT FINANCE	30-Nov-12	7-Dec-14	162,518,494.28
121	MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS SERVICES	GROUP MEDICAL BUILDING, QUEEN ELIZABETH ROAD MOKOLA, IBADAN, OYO STATE	TER. KUNLE OLAJIDE	MORTGAGE FINANCE	1-Nov-2011	1-Oct-2015	153,745,623.72
122	NPHARO ABEOKUTA	NEUROPSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, ARO, ABEKUTA	MR. O.B FASONRANTI/MRS. F.F. ONABIYI	GPLAS	2014	2017	147,792,418.26
123	NULGE IRE	IREPODUN IFELODUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, IGEDE EKITI	AJIBADE CHARLES	GPLAS	8/1/2012	7/1/2015	150,807,880.30
124	MATTID SANJO NIGERIA LIMITED	6 AWOSEYIN LANE OFF MKT STR SHOWOLU LAGOS	MATHEW OLUWASANJO IDOWU, ABIOLA IDOWU , OLALEKAN IDOWU,OLAIDE IDOWU	CONTRACT FINANCE	24/07/15	21/10/15	146,845,294.41
125	MESSIAH OIL AND GAS	18, NWANIBARA ROAD, UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE	ANIEFIOK BASSEY UFOT	LPO FINACE FACILITY	22-12-2014	21-3-2015	137,473,053.21
126	GLEEBON TECHNICAL AND INTERNATIONAL LTD	OBONG UYOM CLOSE, OFF BANKING LAYOUT, UDO-UDOMA	INIOBONG JACKSON USEN	LPO FINANCE FACILITY	31-Dec-14	31-Dec-16	134,085,135.69
127	MONTYGOLD ENTERPRISES	PLOT 5, LANE K, ELIMINIGWE ESTATE, PHASE 1, PORT HARCOURT	CHIMA UZOMA	LPO FINACE FACILITY	23-01-2015	22-4-2015	132,770,744.18
128	CIVIL SERVANT COMPUTER AQUISITION SCHEME(AKS)	OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE	ELDER MRS GRACE ANWANA	ASSET ACQUISITION FINANCE	18-Dec-08	1-Sep-11	132,399,003.88
129	TOLUWALASE COOP	EKITI STATE TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION, ADO-EKITI	MRS.ELIZABETH OGUNYEMI (CHAIRMAN) & MRS CHRISTIANAH FADAKINI (TREASURER)	GPLAS	11/1/2012	11/1/2015	205,209,834.33
130	HOUSE OF STONES AND CERAMICS LTD	81 UDO EKPO MKPO STR, UYO	EDET ETIM SAMUEL	SECURED TERM LOAN	3-Jul-08	1-Sep-11	128,590,242.51
131	EFON ALAYE(EKITI) IBUKUN	ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL, EFON-ALAYE	FAWIBE BABATAYO; ODUNAYO AKINYELE MICHAEL; EDAFE OGEDENGBE STEPHEN	GPLAS	JUNE, 2013	MAY, 2016	132,193,116.56
132	OLA OLUWA CICS	C/O OLA OLUWA LGA VIA IWO, OSUN STATE	1. SHITTU KAZEEM; 2. MR. ALAJE DAVID KOLAWOLE	GPLAS	07/04/2014 & 12/09/2014	28/03/2017 & 28/08/2017	123,874,952.33
133	IILG SEC.SCHL. STAFF CMS	IREPODUN IFELODUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, IGEDE EKITI	ONI ELIZABETH	GPLAS	9/1/2012	8/1/2015	125,329,379.18
134	IDO-OSI LGEAU	OFFICE OF THE EDUCATION SECRETARY, IDO/OSSI LGEA, IDO EKITI	1. OWOSENI KAYODE R; 2. FADIPE RICHARD FOLUSO	GPLAS	2/1/2014	2/1/2018	120,330,003.28
135	IB NORTH-WEST LGEA	OYO STATE SUBEB, AGODI, IBADAN.	HON. ADEDUNTAN TAOFECK; MRS LAMOYERO SADIAT	GPLAS	JULY 2013 & SEPT 2014	JULY 2015 & SEPT 2016	116,386,152.04
136	NDUDI COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE	367 OKENE KABBA ROAD, LOKOJA, KOGI STATE	CHUKWUKA AGODI	CEMENT DISTRIBUTION FINANCE (CDF)	19/6/2014	18/6/2015	104,437,349.81
137	RIGHT OPTION CMS	10 OBADA ST OKESA OPP AREA COMMAND, ADO-EKITI	ARIYO VICTOR ADEBAYO; AJAYI ILESANMI; DUROSOMO FOLASADE; OJO ANDREW	GPLAS	MAY, 2014	APR., 2017	109,394,645.04
138	OGO-OLUWA CMS EKITI	OKE AYINRIN, IJERO EKITI	OMOTOSO JOHNSON	GPLAS	3/1/2014	2/1/2017	96,064,567.92
139	UCHECHUKWU GAEME ENTERPRISES	10 OBINNA IKENZE CRESCENT IKENEGBU OWERRI	NWAEKE NNAMDI	CEMENT DEALERSHIP FINANCE	18-11-2014	18-11-2015	78,915,945.84
140	CUNK GLOBAL VENTURES	14 LAKE NWAEBERE STREET WORL BANK OWERRI.	UCHEGBULAM CHIDI	CEMENT DEALERSHIP FINANCE	22-9-2014	22-9-2015	82,983,187.02
141	KAMCHOB VENTURES	20B UMUAHIA STREET ALADINMA OWERRI	OBINNA UCHEENNA	CEMENT DEALERSHIP FINANCE	31-7-2014	31-7-2015	82,801,295.33
142	SAPELE LGC	SAPELE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL, SAPELE , DELTA STATE	COMR (DN) STANLEY O. AKOGBA; COMR. EJIRO ODEBALA	GPLAS	FEBRUARY 2014	15/04/2017	79,422,607.32
143	OMOKORE OLAJIDE JONES	9 TURNBULL STREET KOVI LAGOS	N/A	Visa Infinite Card (Credit card)	17/09/2012	09/06/2016	63,765,915.40
144	NULGE OKPE	OKPE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SECRETARIAT, OREROKPE, DELTA STATE	JOSEPH E EGBO; SOLOMON OCHUKO OBOVWEMU; OKWIEKWE SAMUEL	GPLAS	11/06/2017	11/06/2017	70,622,440.40
145	LIFETIME CARING INTL FOUNDATION	NO.19 PEACE CRESCENT WOJI NEW LAYOUT	REV. (AMB.) LUCKY SUANU ABADAN	E-BUSINESS FRAUD ON A DOMICILIARY ACCOUNT.	N/A	N/A	51,572,353.83
146	ESTIGE NIGERIALIMITED	6 UMULE STR BY FAULK'S ROAD ABA	OSHIOBOR JUSTINA AMAKA	OVERDRAFT	May-12	Oct-14	61,129,190.98
147	AGBARA ESTATES LIMITED	AGBARA ESTATES LIMITED, WING A, 3RD FLOOR, MOTORWAYS CENTER, NO 1, MOTOWAY AVENUE, IKEJA, LAGOS.	1. KOLAPO LAWSON 2. PAULO CRUZ 3. TUNJI LAWSON	TERM LOAN	11/12/2020	11/12/2024	6,447,034,955.79
148	NWAFOR ORIZU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NSUGBE	NWAFOR ORIZU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NSUGBE	EMMANUEL NWAGALAKU, MOSES O A UGWU	GPLAS	15/11/2015	27/04/2023	307,417,793.17
149	CENTIGRADE RESOURCES	101 B OMUMA ROAD ABA ABIA STATE	IZUCHUKWU OKEKE & EMMANUEL OKEKE	CDF	2014	2017	118,116,311.88
150	CHRISMAY GLOBAL LINK LIMITED	78 HOSPITAL ROAD ABA ABIA STATE	CHRISTAIN ONYEABOR OKOLO	CDF	2014	2015	76,807,700.85
151	DIVINE AND CHIDOR LINKS NIG LTD	45 MCC ROAD BY TORONTO JUNCTION OWERRI	OLUCHI AJAKEMO, NWAMARA DAVID	CDF (OVERDRAFT)	10/6/2014	10/5/2015	70,254,487.18
152	FMT AND AGRO INDUSTRIES LTD	101 B OMUMA ROAD ABA ABIA STATE	IZUCHUKWU OKEKE & EMMANUEL OKEKE	CDF	2014	2015	68,989,841.46
153	CIVIL SERVICE UNION KEYROCK AFRICAN LTD LOAN SCHEME	26 OLD MARKET ROAD OWERRI IMO STATE	COOPERATIVE EXCOS	GPLAS	2014	2017	65,850,839.30
154	ABUBAKAR BELLO KURI	NEAR POLICE STATION, YELENGURUZA QUARTERS, GOMBE. GOMBE STATE.	ABUBAKAR BELLO KURI	SECURED OVERDRAFT	11/12/2012	11/12/2012	63,575,473.82
155	IPJ GLOBAL LOGISTICS LTD (NON CHEQUEING)	101 B OMUMA ROAD ABA ABIA STATE	IZUCHUKWU OKEKE & EMMANUEL OKEKE	CDF	2014	2015	58,569,604.13
156	ADEDOYIN OLADELE DAVID	R14 D SOUTHERN VIEW ESTATE AGBORAGAN AREA, LEKKI, LAGOS	ADEDOYIN OLADELE DAVID	HOME LOAN-MORTGAGE	Jan-15	Jan-35	53,457,277.77

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EDUCATION

Celebrating CMS Grammar School Founders' Day to Impact Lives

Amid CMS Grammar School Bariga 163rd founder's Day celebration featuring the inauguration of various projects by the Old Grammarians' Society, executive members, who spoke to **Funmi Ogundare**, explained that the initiative was aimed at impacting the students so that they can do the same for others who would be admitted in future

CMS Grammar School, Bariga Lagos, no doubt, is Nigeria's oldest mission secondary school, founded in 1859. At some point, it was taken over by the government, but since its return, the Old Grammarians' Society (OGS) has made it a duty to uphold its sound tradition and values; and restore the school to its old glory. Through different class sets projects over the years, the old boys have impacted the teaming population of students. This year, the school is celebrating its 163rd founder's anniversary themed, 'Burning Brightly Ever'. To commemorate the celebration, the old boys set aside \$2 million on various projects such as computerisation, solarization of its perimeter fence, kitchen, ICT and training centre, among others.

The President of OGS, Mr. Olu Vincent, who expressed excitement about the Founder's Day, told THISDAY that since the return of the school to the mission by the state government, the old boys have developed a special passion for seeing its restoration to its former glory.

"Whether it is the private sector or old boys, we must work together with the government. Education is very expensive. You can see the various projects within the school," said Vincent.

He noted that education could change any nation's GDP and that it was why all old boys are being encouraged to do something about it, as government alone cannot bear all the burden.

He thanked the old boys for their contributions, adding that plans are underway to institute a proper endorsement fund to ensure the sustainability of the projects.

The President of OGS America, Chief Akin Popoola, who explained some of the projects, said the old boys realised that computerisation means a lot, and if there is no power, the students may not be able to go far or achieve much.

"We have four pillars for the project. The first is to have a computerised system and have an internet connection within the school



Some executives of the Old Grammarians' Society, CMS Grammar School, Bariga, during the Founder's Day celebration in Lagos... recently

so that the students can log on. The second one is to ensure an effective electronic learning system, as well as an intercom for easy communication," said Popoola. "The third pillar is the ICT so that 100 per cent of our students who are not college-bound can be technologically prepared to learn soft skills, as well as an uninterrupted power supply."

He disclosed that the OGS would be working with university lecturers to ensure that the students are ready for higher institutions.

Popoola noted that a portion of the money would be saved for the replacement and maintenance

of the projects while expressing hope that the school would also contribute toward it.

He described the solarisation and computerisation project as the best in Nigeria and Africa, saying that even children of the poor could attend the school to have access to it.

"Our students can always have access to their teachers online, in real-time and study; and even go back to recorded messages to enable them to pass their exams. It will make our students better," Popoola added.

He said the OGS would buy the equipment to achieve the project sustainability, adding that the school must also be committed to the project.

The Chairman of OGS UK and Europe, Mr. John Emore, added that the solarization project is for the students to be able to study at any time rather than having to depend on power

from electricity distributing companies (DISCOS).

He added that it would also save the school from buying diesel to power their generator or spending money on the electric power supply.

The President of 1982 set, Mr. Barnaby Ephraim, emphasised his set projects, including introducing the game of cricket to the students in November 2021, when over 200 students signed up to be part of the program.

"The coach in charge is Mr. Ingram Jose. The school team had its first competitive game against Kings College, Lagos in February 2022. Equipment worth over N3 million was donated by an old boy, Mr. Femi George, explained Emore. "The school ground was also used by the club cricket committee for its division two league matches to give more exposure to the students."

The Principal, Reverend Jacob Ogunyinka, described the OGS and the school as one, saying that it has had a great impact on the members, which is the reason why they are giving back to make lives better for the current students so that they can, in turn, do the same in the future for the school.

Asked how the school intends to sustain projects commissioned, he said, "We already have a solid maintenance unit in the school saddled with the responsibility of taking good care of such projects. I believe having that will enable us to take good care of the projects so that they can serve for a very long time."

On how the school has ensured that the students imbibe its legacy, Ogunyinka said, "Every student of the school is deeply rooted in the tradition and values of the school. Once they are admitted into the school, they learn the school song, and thereafter, we organise orientation programmes for them to familiarise themselves with various rules and regulations, as well as special programmes. As they do all these, the tradition is passed onto them, and more important, the celebration of the school's founder's day is such that the students are seriously wishing to be part of."

UCMAS Championship: Fine-tuning Schoolchildren's Brains with Mental Arithmetic

Children who performed exceptionally well in the recently concluded national TV competition organised by the Universal Concept of Mental Arithmetic System have been rewarded. **Mary Nnah** reports

UCMAS is a globally established mental mathematics programme for children between the ages of 5 and 13, using Abacus to improve schoolchildren's mathematics skills and brain capabilities.

Twenty-seven children were awarded in various categories during the grand ceremony held in Lagos. The overall winner received N500,000 while the first and second runners-up got N300,000 and N200,000, respectively.

UCMAS Education Nigeria Limited's Country Manager, Stephen Ofori, said the champions emerged from the 2,700 children who participated in an audition for the national TV competition across Nigeria, from which 27 children qualified for the TV show.

The award event held recently was to reward these 27 children that participated in the show; from these 27 emerged the three exceptional winners who have rewarded with cash prizes plus other incentives, while 17 children each got an educational investment of N50,000. Out of the 27, nine children from the semi-finalist got N100,000 each, while three finalists got second runner-up of 200,000 educational investment plus a cash prize of N200,000. First, the runner-up got 300,000 educational investments plus a N300,000 cash prize. The grand winner got 500,000 educational investment plus N500,000 cash prize, all courtesy of the brand sponsor Indomie and Cowrywise.

"For the past seven years that we have operated in Nigeria, we have seen an outstanding jump in numbers. Currently, we have over 5,000 children that we are working with, and I believe more



Celebrating the champions

parents are buying into the Mental Arithmetic that can champion the growth of their children's mental ability to enhance their education particularly," said Ofori.

He said the benefits derived from mental arithmetic included enhanced photographic and memory skills, great listening skills, enhanced concentration, excellent presentation skills, good imagination and creativity, speed and accuracy, etc.

Speaking on the impact of the

awards on the children, Ofori said, "If a child gets a reward certificate on an event they have been able to achieve, it improves their confidence, which is part of the learning process that we try to imbibe in the children."

Ofori also revealed that more awards would come in other competitions and events in that we would be engaging more children.

"As we are talking now, we are preparing to have the biggest private-sector competition, which is hosting close to 1,500 children in Lagos," he explained.

Speaking during the event, Senior Special

Assistant on Education to the Governor of Lagos, Ms Adetola Salau, said UCMAS was a programme that every child should be encouraged to take part in.

"Mental arithmetic is something that we should incorporate, and Lagos State is open to talking about collaboration and partnership with organisations that are doing things like this," she stated.

CEO Gemseed Children Academy, Gbagada, Mary Ohagwasi, said the UCMAS concept is a whole-brain development programme.

"I have worked with them for five years, and I have seen visible changes in the lives of the children, especially in the area of gadget substitution. Children are addicted to gadgets, and this is a way to help them demystify the fear of Mathematics, which has been a problem for our generation," said Ohagwasi. "Now, our children feel at home with numbers, and you could see hope for technology in Nigeria with this kind of children coming up. They are comfortable and feel at peace with numbers. So, there is hope for our country, especially in the area of technology. This will help our children to lay a solid foundation for their tomorrow, so I am saying that UCMAS is for forward-looking schools."

She said, however, that the reception to this arithmetic solution has been gradual.

While encouraging parents to put their children in the UCMAS programme and watch them grow, Customer Experience Lead at Cowrywise, Basirat Adebisi said that mathematics is very important in every sphere of life and that UCMAS is currently empowering children in that regard.

NewGlobe Tasks FG on Innovative Education Solutions to Tackle Learning Challenges

Funmi Ogundare

The Group Managing Director (GMD) New Globe Nigeria, a technology-driven educational service provider, Mrs. Omowale David-Ashiru, has called on the federal government to ensure the incorporation of innovative education solutions into the system to tackle the learning challenges among school children in the country.

David-Ashiru said this recently while briefing journalists in Lagos on how a Nobel Prize-winning professor’s report on an education methodology already being used in states like Edo, Lagos and Kwara, as well as some parts of Africa, is delivering value.

She said the study led by the 2019 Nobel prize-winning Economists, Prof. Michael Kremer suggests that children living in underserved African communities could receive 53 per cent more learning in schools supported by Nigerian government partner NewGlobe throughout their early childhood and primary schooling through grade 8.

According to her, the holistic methodology studied by Michael Kremer and his co-authors was exported from Kenya. It largely underpinned Nigeria’s state-wide Lagos (EkoExcel), Edo (EdoBest) and Kwara (KwaraLearn) public transformation programmes.

She added that the integrated methodology used within the NewGlobe programme produces better academic performance and fairer educational outcomes, adding, “the methodology focuses on standardisation and holistic approach which ensures continuous teacher development and support, deployment of the teacher guide and instructional design based on scientific pedagogy.”

The GMD expressed concern that as Nigeria approaches its election season, tackling learning poverty is a big challenge, adding that those who are aspiring for leadership positions should know that innovative education solutions that are proven to be effective at scale will define the prosperity, growth and security of our global future.

Psychometrics Centre Awards Scholarship to 20 Undergraduates

Kemi Olaitan in Ibadan

About 20 students from different tertiary institutions have benefited from the International Psychometric Centre (IPCentre) scholarships.

The Chairman of IPCentre Governing Council, Otunba Abimbola Davis, who disclosed this in Ibadan, said the scholarship fulfilled the initial set goal by the centre to encourage students who emerge as the best in the Psychometrics studies across all the institutions offering the course in Nigeria.

He added that the scholarship was to encourage and facilitate the study of Psychometrics as it would ginger more students to study the course, stating that Psychometrics is a new phenomenon in the Nigerian educational system.

According to him, the awards are with the support of the University of Cambridge. Federal Ministry of Education and other stakeholders.

“The IPCentre’s primary focus is on the tertiary education sub-sector of the Nigeria education sector, where it designs and integrates detailed psychometric studies curricula as separate General Studies (GS) courses into the

existing benchmark minimum academic standards for all classes of tertiary institutions in Nigeria,” he explained.

Davis added, “It is also a strategic network, dedicated to research, teaching and product development in both pure and applied psychological assessments with emphasis on the online environment and impart practical knowledge of psychometrics in different disciplines.”

Davis, who disclosed that presently over 100 schools and 100,000 students have keyed into the course, stressed further those efforts were in place to introduce psychometrics in secondary schools in Nigeria.

He also mentioned that the advocacy to enlighten Nigerians about psychometrics’ numerous advantages is ongoing, stating that a magazine (The Genius) has been launched to disseminate information about psychometrics and the educational system in general.

He added that by September this year, the publishing partner of the centre would launch a portal known as The Ripsnorters, an online platform where citizens can get to meet people from different spheres of life.

The Ultimate Guide for International Students to Work and Study in Australia

Olufolakemi Adeniyi

Nigeria prides itself with a collection of top universities that have produced global talents from our prestigious Obiageli Ezekwesili to business tycoon Godwin Emefiele and notable novelist Chinua Achebe. In the World University Ranking annual report for 2022, the University of Ibadan (UI) was ranked best university in Nigeria and at 1172nd in the world. It was followed closely with the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) which was ranked 1775 globally and second in Nigeria. Likewise, the University of Lagos was rated 1924 in the world and third in Nigeria.

Despite the country’s pride in these top universities, they do not contend fairly with the universities from other African countries like Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa. This is not a compliment to a country hailed as African’s “giants” because of the vast riches it possesses. To say that Nigeria’s education industry is struggling is an understatement. According to Economic survey, percentage of the national budget spent on education has been less than 8% in the last seven years with this year’s budget being the lowest at 4.30%. The demand for the government to invest more in education has been a nationwide struggle with Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) choosing a stubborn and frustrating line of battle.

Every seven in 10 of Nigerian students are now in search of stable and quality education abroad as the country remains a promising market for international universities. Unlike its popular rosy reputation, studying abroad comes with a fair share of challenges. Financial concerns remain a top of mind concern as many Nigerians may not have the



Adeniyi

opportunity to study abroad in the near future without financial support. While studying abroad can be exhilarating, it also presents some harsh realities of responsibilities along the line of expensive cost of living, high rail fees, high food costs and high rents.

Fortunately, there are numerous scholarship alternatives available to assist international study aspirants to Australia. The bulk of these scholarships are merit-based (based on academic achievement), country-based (primarily for students from developing countries), or privately funded (sponsored by individuals usually for a specific area of study). To increase one’s chances of winning one of these coveted scholarships, it is important to know where to look, plan ahead of time, and stand out among other applicants. Mel Educational advises applicants to plan six-months before their application is lodged as this gives them enough time to work with the resources they have. As trusted educational consultants, some of their partnering universities grant 25% scholarships and it is granted simultaneously with an offer.

Applying to Australian universities is straightforward, albeit it will need some effort and careful planning. The first step is to

conduct thorough research on the courses, institutions, and their locations. QUT is located at the heart of Brisbane, a welcoming, modern and multicultural city and the capital of Queensland, Australia. Queensland University of Technology is an ambitious and collaborative institution that embraces new technology, has a global outlook and a practical real-world focus. Known for its world class standards, QUT’s degrees and connections with are internationally recognised and their students and research programs have had a consistent global impact.

Once a decision has been made on a course and an education provider, your application will be evaluated and you will be notified of the outcome. If your application is accepted, an offer letter should be expected. The offer letter should be read carefully before acceptance. A student visa can then be applied for using your Confirmation of Enrollment (COE). A visa interview and/or a health check-up might be required based on the location of choice. Once a visa has been approved, you must arrive in Australia by orientation week of your study. As the visa process usually takes around 4-6 weeks, the applicant’s readiness is crucial to help them secure their visa in time to join the resumption.

It can be challenging to navigate the document verification, university and visa application process through to the finalisation of travel plans as there are different types of visas and various application options available based on your situation and nationality. Making a choice is based on available required document will ease your application. Mel educational assists clients in selecting relevant

colleges and courses, assisting with educational planning, providing tuition fee guidance, and following up on students’ welfare once they have been admitted.

Aside the issue of integration, overseas students do not need to worry about finding a secure employment in their field following graduation. International students with a valid student visa can work up to 20 hours per week while school is in session, and there are no restrictions on how many hours an international student can work during approved school holidays. The student’s weekly work limit of 20 hours does not apply to any labor required as part of his or her education or training. Unlike in several other English-speaking countries, student visa does not grant automatic right to stay and work in Australia after completing a degree. With student visa, the government allows you to come in on a temporary basis to study with the understanding that you will leave when you are done with your study.

Australia continues to be in need of foreign talents, employees, and students. There are various different visa categories available to international students, and Australia offers a simple points-based system for obtaining permanent residency. If you wish to continue working after you graduate, you must apply and obtain a work visa. Mel Educational’s mission is to assist individuals and groups from Nigeria and Ghana who desire to study and work in Australia; they provide all required information and support on visa requirements, working permissions and how to land a job in Australia.

-Mrs Adeniyi is the founder/ CEO of MEL Education Services based in Queensland, Australia

Teach for Nigeria, Dow Partner on STEM Education

A non-profit organisation, Teach For Nigeria, has partnered Dow, a global materials science leader to promote STEM education in Nigeria.

The project is aimed at equipping and inspiring a ready workforce by preparing the next generation of disruptors and cultivating a mindset that fosters innovation.

Through this partnership, Dow will collaborate with Teach for Nigeria to sponsor STEM teacher recruitment, professional

development, and placement in underserved Lagos schools. Nine Teach for Nigeria fellows, nine schools and at least 3,600 students in Lagos will be directly impacted by the project.

Country Manager, Dow Nigeria, Adebisi Adeoti said, “One of the goals of this partnership is to develop students into leaders who are creative, collaborative, and inclusive, as well as equipped for future STEM employment. To be successful, we have to start with the teaching community

by providing the right training, tools and resources.”

Speaking about the partnership, the CEO Teach for Nigeria, Folawe Omikunle said: “We are thrilled to have Dow join our national effort for educational and social equity. This important partnership will give the students we serve a chance to learn the STEM skills they will need to solve the challenges of the future, as well as improve their daily lives.”

Thus far, Teach For Nigeria

has recruited, trained and placed the nine fellows in underserved schools in low-income communities in Lagos state. The fellows will be provided with continuous support to be able to play their role as STEM teachers while continuously improving the learning outcomes of children in low-income communities.

They will go on to continue making a lasting impact in the communities they serve while inspiring and preparing students for future work in STEM.

World Junior Tennis Championship: Greensprings Student Qualifies for Morocco 2022

Following her team’s victory in the qualifier of the West and Central African Junior Championship (Girls U-14), Ndidi Osaji of Greensprings School has emerged as one of the Nigerian flag bearers in the upcoming World Junior Tennis Championship.

The qualifying matches were played in Lome, Togo, where she and her team triumphed over the host country, Ghana, and Cameroun.

Pleased with the team’s performance, Head Coach, Junior Team of the Nigeria Tennis Federation, Ubale Abdullahi Mohammed, expressed hope that the girls will make Nigeria proud at the world championship.

Also, the Head of Department, PE and Sports at Greensprings, Lekki campus, Mr. Yusuf Ojeyinka, said he is proud of Osaji, attributing her achievement to the school’s commitment to extra-curricular activities,

including sports.

“At Greensprings School, we take sports and other extra-curricular activities seriously, so we are happy that our commitment continues to make our students excel in non-academic competitions,” he said. “I believe Ndidi will make us proud at the World Junior Tennis Championship, as she is not only technically good but also exudes self-confidence in defeating her opponents.”

Ndidi Osaji gained public attention after her recent outstanding performances at various junior tennis championships, including the Central Bank of Nigeria Tennis Championship, FAAN Championship, and SNEPCo/NNPC Competition.

The World Junior Tennis Championship provides the opportunity for junior tennis players to be ranked. This year’s championship will hold in Morocco on a yet-to-be-announced date.

CITYSTRINGS

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As Destiny Beckons on Okowa

Jackson Ekwugum argues that Delta Governor, Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, is the perfect choice as running mate to Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Government on account of his sterling performance in public office

The electioneering season in Nigeria is never in short supply of intrigues and drama. Events leading to the announcement of Alhaji Atiku Abubakar's running mate were no exception. The anxiety was palpable as many Nigerians waited in bated breath to know who his choice as PDP vice-presidential candidate will be. With the South-South and South-East zones jostling for the position, it was uncertain where the pendulum would swing.

However, with Peter Obi already flying the flag of the Labour Party, it seemed less likely that the South-East would be favoured. The premature announcement of Governor Nyesom Wike as Atiku's running mate, presumably because of a mock vote by an internal committee of the party and the subsequent rebuttal by the PDP hierarchy, only heightened the suspense and exacerbated the tension.

The formal announcement of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa twenty fours later as the PDP Vice-presidential candidate by the presidential flagbearer, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, finally put paid to two weeks of speculation, uncertainty, political horse trading, and media propaganda. Political pundits, analysts, and commentators will have a field day dissecting the factors that favoured Governor Okowa but as one of his senior aides in the last seven years, his emergence was a no brainer.

Governor Okowa has the temperament, depth of knowledge, administrative acumen, and political savvy required for the office; he possesses the time-honoured attributes of loyalty, competence, and character. Okowa's political sagacity would certainly be an asset to the ticket as the PDP battles the APC for the presidency. A man with rich legislative and executive experience, the PDP and Atiku can count on his consummate political skills and uncanny ability to cultivate friendships and build bridges across ethnic and religious divides. As the governor of a multi-ethnic state like Delta, regarded as a microcosm of Nigeria, he has been able to ensure peaceful co-existence and harmony among the diverse ethnic nationalities with his adroit handling of sensitive issues and exemplary leadership.

Born 63 years ago, Okowa cut his political teeth in the Social Democratic Party of the 1990s and, in the current political dispensation, made a mark nationally as Chairman Senate Committee on Health, where he spearheaded the promulgation of the National Health Act. The National Health Act provides the legal framework for the regulation, development, and management of the National Health System, setting standards for the rendering of health services in the Nigerian federation. Prior to the Act, there was no health legislation describing the national health system and defining the roles and responsibilities of the three tiers of government and other stakeholders in the health sector.

Upon his election as Governor of Delta State in 2015, Okowa was confronted with the task of keeping intact a political family that was not used to being in the opposition. To make matters worse, the economy was in a tailspin. It was a situation that tasked his political ingenuity and resourcefulness. Governor Okowa managed the difficult situation with great wisdom, tact, humility, and maturity. He ensured that the party chieftains, especially those aggrieved with developments in the party before he came into office, were treated with dignity and respect. Even the few that jumped ship soon made a comeback when they saw the disposition of the governor towards peace, reconciliation, and unity. As a result, the PDP in Delta



Okowa

State has remained a strong, cohesive unit.

Governor Okowa has been an influential figure in the PDP. He is the current Chairman of South-South Governors Forum. As Chairman of the Special National Convention PDP in 2018, Governor Okowa conducted what was then the freest, most transparent presidential primary election that produced Atiku Abubakar as the PDP presidential flagbearer for the 2019 election. Prior to that he also served as the Chairman, Special Non-Elective National Convention Committee of the PDP in 2017.

Ever respectful of elders, he is very civil and courteous in the way he speaks to and relates with people, including his peers and the younger generation. As a person and a leader, I can testify that Governor Okowa is loyal to a fault. He does not forget people he met or worked with in his professional and political careers. Even when sometimes some people he helped along the way turned against him, he remains loyal to them, sometimes to the chagrin of those around him who want him to wield the big stick.

If you are looking for

honesty and transparency in governance, Governor Okowa fits the bill. Despite his long public service career which dates to 1991, Dr Okowa has distinguished himself as a man of uncommon simplicity and unassailable integrity. During this period, in which he has served as secretary of local government, local government chairman, three-time commissioner, Secretary to the State Government, Senator, and now governor, it is noteworthy that he has not been tainted with corruption. He is a man of deep spiritual convictions, driven by the biblical injunction that a man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.

A man of unpretentious mien, he is not carried away by the privileges of position and power. For a very long time as the state chief executive, he was being chauffeured in the SUV he used as a Senator instead of putting more pressure on the already stressed finances of the state by buying a new car. Similarly, it was the Mercedes Benz car that was used by his predecessor in the Abuja Liaison Office that he rode in whenever he was in Abuja. A new car was recently purchased while the Mercedes was refurbished and still in use. Except it has changed in the last few months, he also has no official car at the Lagos Liaison Office preferring to ride in his friend's car each time he was in Lagos, whether for official or private engagements.

Governor Okowa insists on transparency in public communication. He frowns at any attempt to exaggerate things or

embellish his achievements. From the vantage position of working closely with him, I have seen him question figures supplied by ministries/agencies and insisted that they presented the true picture to the public. "I have promised that I would not lie to the people," he would say. Indeed, I recall a former Commissioner of Information once expressing joy and gratitude for "never being made to lie" on behalf of the government.

Calm, levelheaded, and unflappable even in moments of crisis, Okowa is a silent achiever. He has a voracious appetite for work, and if there is any man who knows how to turn a bad situation around, it is Okowa. The parlous state of the economy he met as governor was enough to make him walk back on his electoral promises. But with unmatched courage, he embarked on cost cutting measures and plugged leakages in the system.

Of course, there were those who were not impressed – and certainly not happy – with the new regime of fiscal discipline and the need for the political class to curb its appetite for instant gratification. But with the passage of time, the Governor was vindicated.

Delta State under him has continued to wax strong in all indices of socio-economic development. As evidence of the economic impacts of Okowa's youth entrepreneurship development programmes. Delta was ranked the Best State in Human Capital Development in the 2017 states peer review by the National Competitiveness Council of Nigeria.

In 2020, Delta was adjudged to be the Second Least Poor State, coming only after Lagos, Nigeria's business capital, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). This achievement is better appreciated when juxtaposed with the fact that Delta State was the 12th poorest state in Nigeria as at 2010 in the NBS ranking.

The state also won Outstanding State Government Healthcare Programme in 2017 and National Award of Excellence 2018 as the state with the most people covered under its State Social Health Insurance Scheme with a Focus on the Poor and Vulnerable Population in Nigeria.

It is because he is not given to self-adulation in the form of paid advertisements and self-congratulatory messages that many tend to overlook his phenomenal achievements in Delta State. But nonetheless, he has consistently received plaudits from leaders across board.

At the commissioning of the ultra-modern Prof. Chike Edozien Central Secretariat Complex, the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo said: "There is more for which Okowa deserves commendation. Despite dwindling revenue receipt and severe resource constraints across all levels of government, he has been able to provide funding for this project."

At another event, Sokoto State Governor, Aminu Tambuwal lauded Governor Okowa for "providing good leadership in all aspects of governance." And while commissioning the Teachers Professional Development Centre, Governor Okezie Ikpeazu of Abia State described Okowa as "a man who tackles issues with principle."

As Nigerians look forward to rescuing the country from the ineptitude of APC leadership, they can bank on the fact that Okowa will be a great asset to an Atiku presidency which obviously will be driven by competence, free market ideas, and value-based leadership.

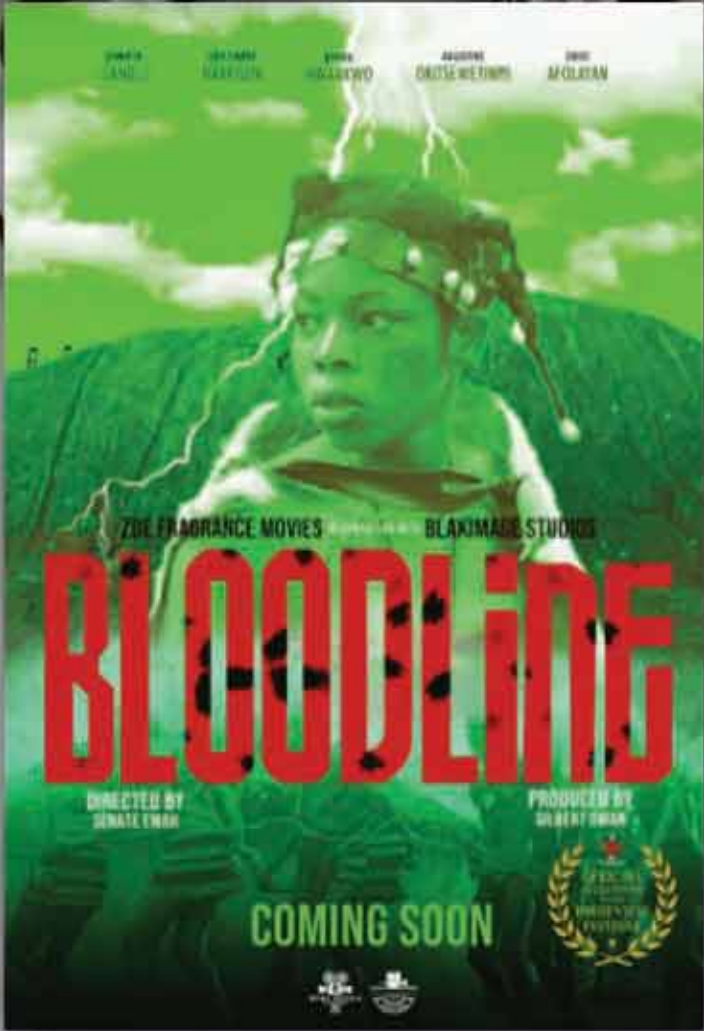
-Ekwugum is Communications Manager to Governor Okowa.

Calm, levelheaded, and unflappable even in moments of crisis, Okowa is a silent achiever. He has a voracious appetite for work, and if there is any man who knows how to turn a bad situation around, it is Okowa



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CBN Guarantees N5.95bn Loan for 31,666 Small-scale Farmers

Nume Ekeghe

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has said a total of 31,666 loans valued at N5.92 billion were guaranteed under the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (ACGSF).

Speaking at the ACGSF Farmers Awards ceremony held at the CBN office in Lagos, the Branch Controller, Mr. Koyor Baribokola said the CBN also awarded the top three farmers who utilised their funds suitably as well as the best performing financial institution in supporting small-scale farmers.

Represented by the Assistant Director, Lagos Branch, Mr. Nnaemeka Ukanyirioha added that despite the challenging times the country has faced in recent times, it has continued to ensure facilitating access to finance for operators in the agricultural sector.

He said: “A total of 31,666 loans valued at N5.92 billion in 2021. The CBN through the Development Finance Department continues to design and implement measures to improve food security by facilitating access to finance to the agricultural sector, we are confident that farmers will

continue to grow and scale their businesses over time.”

He explained that the award was to reward participants under the scheme who have shown exceptional promise and dedication to growing our agricultural sector despite the numerous challenges faced.

“The previous year was particularly difficult with businesses trying to recover from the after-effects of a global pandemic. This further underscored the importance of a nation’s ability to feed itself. It is evidence that our commitment in rebuilding our agricultural might as a nation is crucial not only for our subsistence but also our economic relevance on a global scale,” he said.

Three farmers had emerged as winners in the award. A poultry farmer, Tolulope Ogunimo won the first prize, while Chima Elijah, a fish and ugwu farmer, and Mrs. Joy Njoku a snail and pig farmer won the second and third prizes. LAPO Microfinance Bank also won the best participating financial institution. Responding to the award, Ogunimo who won the second prize in 2021, appreciated the efforts of the

CBN in growing the capacity of operators in the agricultural sector through access to finance.

He however urged the apex bank to increase the amount that can be accessed under the scheme saying inflation had eroded the value of the amount that they are currently able to access.

Meanwhile, representative of the Lagos state government Agric Business Department, Mr Olushina Shobande, noted that the CBN Development Finance Department, have continuously partnered with the state in its struggle to “ensure that we close the gap between the production local production and the consumption in Lagos state.

“Lagos State is limited by land mass. So it is virtually impossible for us to produce everything that we eat in Lagos state. So we are currently on 20 per cent of our total consumption.

“We are striving by implementing agricultural roadmap within the year 2021 and 2025 to ensure that we are up to 40 per cent while we ensuring that we give our farmers and other stakeholders the needed input at subsidised rates, through our employment programme.”



L-R: Head, Category and Onboarding, Clickafix, Mr. Kelvin Osazevbaru; Head, Partnership, Precious Akpan; Co-Founder/Director, Mr. Pawam Bhandari; Founder, Mr. Arun Goswami; Head, Customer Success, Mr. Ifeanyi Nwoke; and Co-Founder, Arusha Goswami, at the launch of Clickafix in Lagos recently

ETOP UKUTT

MARKET INDICATORS

MONEY AND CREDIT STATISTICS (MILLION NAIRA)	
	JANUARY 2021
Money Supply (M3)	38,779,455.43
-- CBN Bills Held by Money Holding Sectors	1,039,129.55
Money Supply (M2)	37,740,325.88
-- Quasi Money	21,779,302.69
-- Narrow Money (M1)	15,961,023.19
---- Currency Outside Banks	2,364,871.13
---- Demand Deposits	13,596,152.06
Net Foreign Assets (NFA)	7,414,275.50
Net Domestic Assets (NDA)	31,365,179.93
-- Net Domestic Credit (NDC)	42,916,586.63
---- Credit to Government (Net)	12,304,773.44
---- Memo: Credit to Govt. (Net) less FMA	0.00
---- Memo: Fed. and Mirror Accounts (FMA)	0.00
--- Credit to Private Sector (CPS)	30,611,813.19
-- Other Assets Net	3,892,112.74
Reserve Money (Base Money)	13,264,585.14
-- Currency in Circulation	2,831,167.19
-- Banks Reserves	10,433,417.96
-- Special Intervention Reserves	317,234.17

• Source - CBN

Money Market Indicators (in Percentage)	
Month	March 2018
Inter-Bank Call Rate	15.16
Minimum Rediscount Rate (MRR)	
Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)	14.00
Treasury Bill Rate	11.84
Savings Deposit Rate	4.07
1 Month Deposit Rate	8.82
3 Months Deposit Rate	9.72
6 Months Deposit Rate	10.93
12 Months Deposit Rate	10.21
Prime Lending rate	17.35
Maximum Lending Rate	31.55

• Monetary Policy Rate - 13%

OPEC DAILY BASKET PRICE AS AT MONDAY MAY 30, 2022

The price of OPEC basket of thirteen crudes stood at \$118.84 a barrel on Friday, compared with \$116.50 the previous day, according to OPEC Secretariat calculations.

The OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Djeno (Congo), Zafiro (Equatorial Guinea), Rabi Light (Gabon), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

AIO President Commends Govt of Cameroon

Ebere Nwoji

The President African Insurance Organisation (AIO) Mr. Tope Smart, has commended the Cameroonian Head of State President Paul Biya, for revision of the headquarters agreement between the government of the Republic of Cameroon and the AIO. Smart in a brief remark to this effect noted that in its 50 years of existence as regional insurance body, the headquarters of AIO has been in Cameroon for 38 years.

He said, “We are particularly touched by the several advantages the government of the Republic

of Cameroon is granting our organisation in this agreement.”

He enumerated benefits accorded to the organisation over these years as holding of funds in local currency or hold foreign currency bank accounts, the possibility to transfer AIO funds or currencies or convert any currencies held by us into any currency, tax exemptions, immunity and protection of our expatriate staff, advantages to local staff among others.

He said the list was long, adding and for this, we remain very grateful,” Smart said.

He said the African Insurance

Organisation (AIO), established in 1972, was an international organisation recognised by 48 African governments including the Government of the Republic of Cameroon where its headquarters was located.

He said the AIO has 446 members from 48 countries in Africa and 14 associate international members from 9 countries, adding that membership was open to actors from the insurance industry, regulatory/supervisory authorities, insurance training centres, national and regional insurance associations and insurtech companies.

Nigerian Startup Wins Visa Competition

Technology-driven agricultural start-up, ThriveAgric, has emerged as the winner of the Central Europe, Middle East, and Africa (CEMEA) Visa Everywhere Initiative (VEI), a global innovation program and competition for start-ups

and fintech companies.

With this win in the CEMEA region, ThriveAgric will receive a monetary prize and a spot in the Global Finale scheduled to hold in Qatar, in November 2022. Carepay, another Nigerian fintech also made it to the final

five and won the Audience Favourite Award. More than 1,300 applicants entered the competition from across the region, each with solutions aimed at delivering innovative payment and commerce solutions to consumers and businesses.

FBNQuest Affirms Commitment to Stakeholders

In furtherance of its commitment to supporting its clients and stakeholders with wealth management solutions that move them towards their goals, FBNQuest, the investment banking and asset management business of

FBN Holdings Plc recently launched a campaign themed ‘Powered by People’.

The campaign successfully establishes the organisation’s understanding of the challenges and motivations that drive clients to the business

while also reaffirming its commitment to always deliver excellent service. Mirroring scenarios and circumstances that are relatable to the upward-mobile Nigerian, the campaign creates an emotional connection that everyone is bound to remember.

LEAP Africa Hosts a Private Stakeholder Engagement

On Thursday 9th June 2022, LEAP Africa hosted a Private Stakeholder Engagement and Cocktail event at the Netherlands embassy in Lagos, Nigeria. The event which was organised to reflect on the success of LEAP Africa over the last 20 years, recenter the vision and aspirations, as well as secure support towards scaling its programmes and building the LEAP Leadership Institute was the flagship event for the 20th Anniversary

of LEAP Africa.

Speaking at the event, LEAP Africa’s Board Chair and Managing Director of SO&U, Mr Udeme Ufot (MRF) expressed his delight at being on the LEAP Africa Board since 2006 as a member and Chair of the Board for two consecutive tenures. He thanked partners and sponsors for their continued support to the organisation. He also implored everyone to partner with LEAP Africa in order to build an evidence-based

centre of excellence, relevant to activating and scaling youth leadership development on the African continent.

Delivering the opening remark at the event, Mr Michel Deelen, Consul-General Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, pledged the support of the Kingdom of Netherlands through its Embassy in Nigeria and applauded the tremendous impact LEAP Africa has had in the youth ecosystem in Africa.

MARKET NEWS

Stock Market Rebounds after Days of Profit-taking

Kayode Tokede

Breaking from five-day consecutive sessions of losses, the stock market of the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) yesterday appreciated by N181 billion following investors bargain hunting in Dangote Cement Plc and 13 other stocks on the bourse.

Precisely, the NGX All-Share Index inched higher by 335.01 basis

points or 0.66per cent to close at 51,091.75 basis points, while the overall market capitalisation value gained N181 billion to close at N27,544 trillion.

Consequently, the stock market in its Month-to-Date loss moderated to -3.6per cent, while the Year-to-Date return increased to 19.6per cent. The market gain was driven by price appreciation in large and medium capitalised stocks amongst

which are; Dangote Cement, MRS Oil Nigeria, Nigerian Aviation Handling Company (NAHCO), SEPLAT Energy and Oando.

However, market sentiment, as measured by market breadth closed negative as 22 stocks lost, relative to 14 gainers. Livestock Feeds recorded the highest price gain of 10 per cent to close at N1.32, per share. MRS Oil Nigeria followed with a gain 9.80 per cent to close

at N16.25, while Dangote Cement appreciated by 8.30 per cent to close at N270.00, per share.

NAHCO rose by 7.69 per cent to close at N8.40, while Royal Exchange appreciated by 5.56 per cent to close at 95 kobo, per share. On the other hand, Leam Africa and BUA Foods led the losers' chart by 10 per cent each to close at N2.25 and N49.50 respectively, while Japaul Gold and Ventures followed with a

decline of 9.68 per cent to close at 28 kobo, per share.

GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Nigeria (Glaxosmith) declined by 9.22 per cent to close at N6.40, while NASCON Allied Industries depreciated by 8.56 per cent to close at N11.75, per share.

Meanwhile, the total volume of trades fell by 51.60 per cent to 166,969 million units, valued at N2,740 billion, and exchanged

in 4,398 deals. Transactions in the shares of Transnational Corporation of Nigeria (Transcorp) topped the activity chart with 19,338 million shares valued at N24,392 million. United Bank for Africa (UBA) followed with 17,590 million shares worth N131.213 million, while Guaranty Trust Holding Company (GTCO) traded 17,287 million shares valued at N365.183 million.

PRICES FOR SECURITIES TRADED AS OF 21/06/2022

MAIN BOARD		DEALS	MARKET PRICE		QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE TRADED (N)	
FINANCIAL SERVICES							
S/N	BANKING	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
1	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	256,495.66	7.50	-0.67 ↓	221	29,498,774	
2	ZENITH BANK PLC	690,722.86	22.00	2.80 ↑	424	7,831,867	
BANKING					645	37,330,641	
S/N	OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
3	ACCESS HOLDINGS PLC	334,125.12	9.40	-1.08 ↓	163	21,905,461	
4	FBM HOLDINGS PLC	323,057.64	9.00	-7.22 ↓	261	12,574,329	
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					424	34,539,790	
FINANCIAL SERVICES					1,069	71,870,431	
ICT							
S/N	TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
5	MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC	4,498,347.38	221.00	-	343	918,993	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES					343	918,993	
ICT					343	918,993	
INDUSTRIAL GOODS							
S/N	BUILDING MATERIALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
6	DANGOTE CEMENT PLC	4,248,198.50	249.30	-10.00 ↓	126	460,028	
7	LAFARGE AFRICA PLC	428,467.36	26.80	-4.66 ↓	94	763,528	
BUILDING MATERIALS					220	1,233,556	
INDUSTRIAL GOODS					220	1,233,556	
OIL AND GAS							
S/N	EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
8	SEPLAT ENERGY PLC	758,799.26	1,289.50	-	18	959	
EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION					18	959	
OIL AND GAS					18	959	
AGRICULTURE							
S/N	CROP PRODUCTION	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
9	ELLAH LAKES PLC	8,000.00	4.00	-	18	3,453	
10	FTM COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	704.00	0.32	-8.57 ↓	12	374,367	
11	OKOMU OIL PALM PLC	184,581.59	193.50	-	44	31,298	
12	PRESCO PLC	166,800.00	166.80	-	72	465,686	
CROP PRODUCTION					146	874,804	
S/N	LIVESTOCK/ANIMAL SPECIALTIES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
13	LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	3,600.00	1.20	-9.77 ↓	45	5,264,944	
LIVESTOCK/ANIMAL SPECIALTIES					45	5,264,944	
AGRICULTURE					191	6,139,748	
CONGLOMERATES							
S/N	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
14	JOHN HOLT PLC	276.30	0.71	-	3	2,450	
15	S C O A NIG. PLC	1,260.66	1.94	-	1	117	
16	TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION PLC	50,809.99	1.25	-1.57 ↓	157	11,565,081	
17	U A C N PLC	31,982.39	11.10	-3.48 ↓	40	423,303	
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES					201	11,989,931	
CONGLOMERATES					201	11,989,931	
CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE							
S/N	BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
18	ARBICO PLC	152.98	1.03	-	0	0	
CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE							
S/N	BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
19	INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
19	JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	43,040.00	26.90	-	44	271,211	
INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION					44	271,211	
S/N	REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
20	UPDC PLC	18,559.97	1.00	-1.96 ↓	10	655,399	
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT					10	655,399	
CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE					54	926,610	
CONSUMER GOODS							
S/N	AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
21	ON TYRE & RUBBER PLC	954.53	0.20	-	0	0	
AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS					0	0	
S/N	BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
22	CHAMPION BREW. PLC	26,620.29	3.40	-10.00 ↓	35	1,194,942	
23	GOLDEN GUINEA BREW. PLC	829.98	0.81	-	0	0	
24	GUINNESS NIG PLC	108,229.65	90.50	-	62	116,525	
25	INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	151,770.69	5.65	-9.60 ↓	98	4,005,710	
CONSUMER GOODS							
S/N	BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
26	NIGERIAN BREW. PLC	512,615.33	63.50	-	45	293,414	
BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS					240	6,619,591	
S/N	FOOD PRODUCTS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
27	BUA FOODS PLC	990,000.00	55.00	-	39	261,799	
28	DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	194,350.05	16.00	-	103	866,338	
29	FLOUR MILLS NIG. PLC	131,212.15	32.00	-8.57 ↓	90	848,455	
30	HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	25,297.33	3.19	-0.31 ↓	100	3,605,467	
31	MULTI-TREX INTEGRATED FOODS PLC	1,340.10	0.36	-	0	0	
32	N NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	1,888.92	10.60	-	4	1,076	
33	NASCON ALLIED INDUSTRIES PLC	34,045.26	12.85	-	15	31,789	
34	UNION DICON SALT PLC	2,446.38	8.95	-	0	0	
FOOD PRODUCTS					351	5,704,924	
S/N	FOOD PRODUCTS-DIVERSIFIED	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
35	CADBURRY NIGERIA PLC	32,398.99	17.25	-	70	746,977	
36	NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	1,109,718.75	1,400.00	-	37	422,910	
FOOD PRODUCTS-DIVERSIFIED					107	1,169,887	
S/N	HOUSEHOLD DURABLES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
37	NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC	1,231.72	16.20	-	0	0	
38	VITAFOAM NIG PLC	28,143.99	22.50	-	43	313,164	
HOUSEHOLD DURABLES					43	313,164	
S/N	PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
39	P Z CUSSIONS NIGERIA PLC	51,616.20	13.00	-	36	210,193	
40	UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	85,026.08	14.80	-1.33 ↓	32	717,768	
PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS					68	927,961	
CONSUMER GOODS							
CONSUMER GOODS					809	14,626,527	
FINANCIAL SERVICES							
S/N	BANKING	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
41	ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORPORATED	185,330.47	10.10	-	60	704,288	
42	FIDELITY BANK PLC	97,065.57	3.35	-0.59 ↓	98	3,693,635	
43	GUARANTY TRUST HOLDING COMPANY PLC	618,054.76	21.00	-0.24 ↓	432	11,295,618	
44	JAIZ BANK PLC	34,195.76	0.99	5.32 ↑	50	2,894,249	
45	STERLING BANK PLC	44,913.05	1.56	0.65 ↑	84	6,040,739	
46	UNION BANK NIG. PLC	157,252.07	5.40	-10.00 ↓	45	1,076,097	
47	UNITY BANK PLC	5,493.99	0.47	-	6	62,364	
48	WEMA BANK PLC	40,760.35	3.17	-	35	289,268	
BANKING					810	26,056,258	
S/N	INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
49	AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	4,117.00	0.20	-	0	0	
50	AIICO INSURANCE PLC	23,793.43	0.65	-3.08 ↓	70	6,210,762	
PRICES FOR MAIN BOARD SECURITIES							
FINANCIAL SERVICES							
S/N	INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
51	AXAMANSARD INSURANCE PLC	18,360.00	2.04	-1.45 ↓	67	4,225,154	
52	CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSURANCE PLC	7,279.06	0.68	-	5	28,091	
53	CORNERSTONE INSURANCE PLC	10,899.84	0.60	-3.23 ↓	17	1,292,272	
54	CORONATION INSURANCE PLC	9,596.67	0.40	-	22	135,815	
55	GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	909.99	0.20	-	0	0	
56	GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	1,228.00	0.20	-	1	2,500	
57	INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSURANCE PLC	487.95	0.38	-	0	0	
58	LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	1,888.59	1.03	-4.63 ↓	8	255,330	
59	LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	7,840.00	0.56	-	10	91,534	
60	MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	5,015.41	0.25	-	14	915,015	
61	NEM INSURANCE PLC	18,259.98	3.64	-1.62 ↓	12	190,010	
62	NIGER INSURANCE PLC	1,547.90	0.20	-	0	0	
63	PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	5,035.97	0.38	-	0	0	
64	REGENCY ASSURANCE PLC	1,867.25	0.28	3.70 ↑	5	500,000	
65	SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2,841.12	0.25	-7.41 ↓	2	556,203	
66	STACO INSURANCE PLC	4,483.72	0.48	-	0	0	
67	STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	2,582.21	0.20	-	0	0	
68	SUNU ASSURANCES NIGERIA PLC	2,033.78	0.35	-	5	112,500	
69	UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC	3,200.00	0.20	-	1	5,000	
70	VERITAS KAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	2,912.00	0.21	-	1	50,000	
INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES					240	14,570,186	
S/N	MICRO-FINANCE BANKS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME	
71	NPF MICROFINANCE BANK PLC	10,787.28	1.80	-	21	393,173	
MICRO-FINANCE BANKS					21	393,173	

MAIN BOARD		DEALS	MARKET PRICE		QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE TRADED (N)
FINANCIAL SERVICES						
S/N	MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
72	ABBEY MORTGAGE BANK PLC	18,276.92	1.80	- ↕	2	114
73	ASO SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	7,370.87	0.50	- ↕	0	0
74	INFINITY TRUST MORTGAGE BANK PLC	5,296.48	1.27	- ↕	0	0
75	RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	2,265.95	0.20	- ↕	0	0
FINANCIAL SERVICES						
S/N	MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
76	UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	2,949.22	3.02	- ↕	0	0
MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES					2	114
S/N	OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
77	AFRICA PRUDENTIAL PLC	11,500.00	5.75	- ↕	62	493,242
78	CUSTODIAN INVESTMENT PLC	41,173.05	7.00	- ↕	8	20,995
79	DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	300.00	0.20	- ↕	2	19,000
80	FCMB GROUP PLC	69,309.49	3.50	-2.86 ↘	67	177,592,216
81	NIGERIAN EXCHANGE GROUP	48,022.63	24.45	- ↕	38	567,744
82	ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	4,630.83	0.90	-1.10 ↘	16	788,400
83	STANBIC IBTC HOLDINGS PLC	434,707.25	33.55	- ↕	29	77,214
84	UNITED CAPITAL PLC	77,100.00	12.85	-1.15 ↘	96	2,704,834
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					320	182,253,645
FINANCIAL SERVICES					1,393	223,273,376
HEALTHCARE						
S/N	HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
85	EKOCORP PLC	2,886.90	5.79	- ↕	0	0
HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS					0	0
S/N	MEDICAL SUPPLIES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
86	MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC	2,176.16	2.20	- ↕	0	0
MEDICAL SUPPLIES					0	0
S/N	PHARMACEUTICALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
87	FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	23,367.23	11.20	-6.67 ↘	36	559,439
88	GLAXO SMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	8,430.93	7.05	- ↕	50	320,759
89	MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	6,866.43	3.98	- ↕	22	181,352
HEALTHCARE						
S/N	PHARMACEUTICALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
90	NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS PLC	2,905.71	1.53	-1.29 ↘	15	525,920
91	PHARMA-DEKO PLC	379.44	1.75	- ↕	1	3,000
PHARMACEUTICALS					124	1,590,470
HEALTHCARE					124	1,590,470
ICT						
S/N	COMPUTER BASED SYSTEMS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
92	COURTEVILLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PLC	1,669.44	0.47	-4.08 ↘	19	1,559,254
COMPUTER BASED SYSTEMS					19	1,559,254
S/N	COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
93	OMATEK VENTURES PLC	588.36	0.20	- ↕	1	1,000
COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS					1	1,000
S/N	IT SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
94	CWG PLC	2,373.34	0.94	- ↕	6	212,000
95	NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	388.80	3.60	- ↕	1	2,000
IT SERVICES					7	214,000
S/N	PROCESSING SYSTEMS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
96	CHAMS PLC	1,174.02	0.25	- ↕	21	522,191
97	E-TRANZACT INTERNATIONAL PLC	16,188.34	2.44	- ↕	5	10,010
PROCESSING SYSTEMS					26	532,201
S/N	TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
98	AIRTEL AFRICA PLC	6,557,974.37	1,745.00	- ↕	40	48,420
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES					40	48,420
ICT					93	2,354,875
INDUSTRIAL GOODS						
S/N	BUILDING MATERIALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
99	BERGER PAINTS PLC	1,985.29	6.85	- ↕	12	60,800
100	BUA CEMENT PLC	2,514,428.29	74.25	- ↕	17	19,347
INDUSTRIAL GOODS						
S/N	BUILDING MATERIALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
101	CAP PLC	14,306.91	18.15	- ↕	14	81,020
102	MEYER PLC	1,482.15	2.79	- ↕	2	52
103	PREMIER PAINTS PLC	1,230.00	10.00	- ↕	0	0
BUILDING MATERIALS					45	161,019
S/N	ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
104	AUSTIN LAZ & COMPANY PLC	2,192.12	2.03	- ↕	1	500
105	CUTX PLC	8,383.89	2.38	-1.24 ↘	37	1,079,972
ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS					38	1,080,472
S/N	PACKAGING/CONTAINERS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
106	BETA GLASS PLC	30,718.28	51.20	- ↕	10	5,843
107	GREIF NIGERIA PLC	232.39	5.45	- ↕	0	0
108	TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC	470.21	0.95	- ↕	4	2,783
PACKAGING/CONTAINERS					14	8,626
S/N	AGRO-ALLIED & CHEMICALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
109	NOTORE CHEMICAL IND PLC	100,754.14	62.50	- ↕	0	0
AGRO-ALLIED & CHEMICALS					0	0
INDUSTRIAL GOODS					97	1,250,117
NATURAL RESOURCES						
S/N	CHEMICALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
110	INDUSTRIAL & MEDICAL GASES NIGERIA PLC	4,570.37	9.15	- ↕	5	2,847
CHEMICALS					5	2,847
S/N	METALS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
111	ALUMINIUM EXTRUSION IND. PLC	1,563.68	7.20	- ↕	0	0
METALS					0	0
NATURAL RESOURCES						
S/N	MINING SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
112	MULTIVERSE MINING AND EXPLORATION PLC	852.39	0.20	- ↕	0	0
MINING SERVICES					0	0
S/N	PAPER/FOREST PRODUCTS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
113	THOMAS WYATT NIG. PLC	77.00	0.35	- ↕	0	0
PAPER/FOREST PRODUCTS					0	0
NATURAL RESOURCES					5	2,847
OIL AND GAS						
S/N	ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
114	JAPAUJ GOLD & VENTURES PLC	1,941.44	0.31	3.33 ↗	20	873,342
ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES					20	873,342
S/N	INTEGRATED OIL AND GAS SERVICES	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
115	OANDO PLC	68,372.77	5.50	-1.79 ↘	94	1,919,983
INTEGRATED OIL AND GAS SERVICES					94	1,919,983
S/N	PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTORS	MARKET CAP(Nm)	PRICE	%CHANGE	TRADES	VOLUME
116	ARDOVA PLC	17,583.49	13.50	- ↕	28	89,611
117	CONOIL PLC	19,985.82	28.80	- ↕	21	9,061
118	ETERNA PLC	9,781.08	7.50	- ↕	18	221,300
119	MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	4,510.84	14.80	- ↕	12	38,699
120	TOTALENERGIES MARKETING NIGERIA PLC	79,617.87	234.50	- ↕	51	51,587
PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTORS					128	410,258
OIL AND GAS					242	3,203,583



Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Thisday Afrinvest 40 Index Advanced 2bps

The Thisday Afrinvest 40 index advanced 2bps to 2,418.60 index points due to bargain hunting on **DANGCEM** (+8.3%), **ACCESSCORP** (+0.5%), and **TRANSCORP** (+3.2%). Cumulatively, these stocks account for 6.5% of the index.

Bargain Hunting Drives Positive Performance... ASI gains 0.7%

In line with our projection on Tuesday, the domestic bourse halted a 5-day bearish run yesterday following bargain hunting in **DANGCEM** (+8.3%), **UBN** (+4.6%), and **OANDO** (+5.1%). Against this backdrop, the benchmark index rose 0.7% to 51,091.75 points, YTD return improved to 19.6% (previously: 18.8%) and market capitalization gained ₦180.6bn to ₦27.5tn. Meanwhile, market activity was mixed as volume traded fell 14.9% to 167.0m while value traded rose 9.4% to ₦2.7bn.

Mixed Sector Performance

Across our coverage sectors, performance was even as 3 indices gained while 3 lost. Leading the advances, the **Industrial Goods** gained 3.9% on the back of price appreciation in **DANGCEM** (+8.3%) and **CUTIX** (+0.8%). Similarly, buying interest in **OANDO** (+5.1%), **MRS** (+9.8%), and **UBN** (+4.6%) drove the **Oil & Gas** and **Banking** indices north, up 0.7% and 0.4% respectively. Conversely, the **AFR-ICT** index fell the most, down 0.4% due to selloff pressure on **MTNN** (-0.9%). Also, the **Consumer Goods** and **Insurance** indices lost 0.1% apiece, following price decline in **BUAFOODS** (-10.0%), **NASCON** (-8.6%), **AIICO** (-1.5%), and **REGALINS** (-3.6%).

Outlook

Investor sentiment, as measured by market breadth, strengthened to -0.12x from -0.31x as 14 stocks gained, 22 declined while 69 closed flat. In the next trading session, we expect the market to sustain the mild gains due to improved investor sentiment.

THISDAY AFRINVEST 40 INDEX

Fundamental Performance Metrics for THISDAY AFRINVEST 40 Index											
Ticker	Current Price	Previous Price Change	Current Weighting	Price Change YTD	Price Change Index to Date	ROE	ROA	P/E	P/BV	Dividend Yield	Earnings Yield
THISDAY AFRINVEST 40	2418.60	0.02%		30.4%	141.9%	21.6%	5.6%	4.9x	0.8x	6.4%	18.6%
1 Airtel Africa PLC	1,745.00	0.0%	46.4%	82.7%	82.7%	18.2%	6.2%	Not Applicable		1.2%	
2 MTN Nigeria Communications PLC	219.00	-0.9%	7.5%	11.2%	11.2%	105.6%	13.9%	13.8x	17.1x	6.0%	7.2%
3 BUA Cement Plc	74.25	0.0%	6.3%	10.7%	10.7%	23.3%	12.1%	27.9x	6.3x	3.9%	3.6%
4 Guaranty Trust Holding Co PLC	21.00	0.0%	4.4%	-19.2%	-19.2%	19.8%	3.2%	3.5x	0.7x	14.3%	28.9%
5 Zenith Bank PLC	22.00	0.0%	4.3%	-12.5%	-12.5%	20.6%	2.6%	2.8x	0.5x	14.1%	36.1%
6 Dangote Cement PLC	270.00	8.3%	3.8%	5.1%	5.1%	37.7%	16.4%	12.2x	4.5x	7.4%	8.2%
7 Nestle Nigeria PLC	1,400.00	0.0%	2.6%	-10.1%	-10.1%	112.8%	16.1%	24.3x	28.3x	3.6%	4.1%
8 FBN Holdings Plc	8.40	-6.7%	2.1%	-26.3%	-26.3%	20.1%	1.9%	1.8x	0.3x	4.0%	55.1%
9 Lafarge Africa PLC	26.50	-0.4%	3.0%	10.6%	10.6%	15.5%	11.1%	7.2x	1.1x	7.6%	13.9%
10 Access Holdings PLC	9.45	0.5%	2.3%	1.6%	1.6%	17.9%	1.6%	2.1x	0.3x	7.4%	48.4%
11 United Bank for Africa PLC	7.50	0.0%	1.7%	-6.8%	-6.8%	15.6%	1.4%	2.2x	0.3x	13.3%	46.5%
12 Stanbic BTC Holdings PLC	32.20	-4.0%	1.2%	-10.6%	-10.6%	15.6%	2.1%	6.8x	1.1x	9.3%	14.7%
13 Nigerian Breweries PLC	63.50	0.0%	1.7%	27.0%	27.0%	10.5%	3.9%	27.3x	2.7x	2.8%	3.7%
14 SEPLAT Energy PLC	1,290.00	0.0%	2.6%	98.5%	98.5%	7.5%	3.6%	13.2x	1.0x	3.2%	7.6%
15 Ecobank Transnational Inc	10.10	0.0%	1.3%	16.1%	16.1%	18.4%	1.0%	2.2x	0.4x	6.6%	46.4%
16 International Breweries PLC	5.65	0.0%	1.1%	14.1%	14.1%	-9.9%	-3.4%		1.1x		-9.5%
17 Okomu Oil Palm PLC	193.50	0.0%	1.2%	36.3%	36.3%	43.6%	25.5%	10.1x	4.2x	4.1%	9.9%
18 Flour Mills of Nigeria PLC	32.00	0.0%	0.9%	12.9%	12.9%	15.9%	4.5%	4.9x	0.7x	6.7%	20.4%
19 Fidelity Bank PLC	3.35	0.0%	0.7%	31.4%	31.4%	13.3%	1.2%	2.5x	0.3x	10.4%	39.3%
20 AXA Mansard Insurance PLC	2.04	0.0%	0.4%	-12.1%	-12.1%	2.9%	0.9%	19.5x	0.6x	12.3%	5.1%
21 Dangote Sugar Refinery PLC	16.00	0.0%	0.4%	-8.0%	-8.0%	16.7%	6.6%	8.6x	1.4x	6.3%	11.6%
22 FCMB Group Plc	3.50	0.0%	0.4%	17.1%	17.1%	10.7%	1.1%		0.3x	5.7%	
23 United Capital PLC	12.75	-0.8%	0.4%	28.8%	28.8%				3.2x	11.8%	
24 Guinness Nigeria PLC	90.50	0.0%	0.7%	132.1%	132.1%	17.8%	8.1%	13.5x	2.2x	0.5%	7.4%
25 Transnational Corp of Nigeria	1.29	3.2%	0.4%	34.4%	34.4%				0.5x	1.6%	
26 Presco PLC	166.80	0.0%	0.5%	90.0%	90.0%			7.8x	4.7x	4.1%	12.8%
27 NASCON Allied Industries PLC	11.75	-8.6%	0.2%	-11.0%	-11.0%	18.5%	5.7%	11.8x	2.1x	3.4%	8.5%
28 AIICO Insurance PLC	0.64	-1.5%	0.2%	-8.6%	-8.6%	21.1%	3.6%	26.0x	0.5x	3.1%	3.8%
29 TotalEnergies Marketing Nigeri	234.50	0.0%	0.2%	5.7%	5.7%				1.7x	8.1%	
30 Custodian and Allied Insurance	7.00	0.0%	0.2%	-11.4%	-11.4%	19.5%	5.5%	4.1x	0.8x	7.1%	24.3%
31 Vitafoam Nigeria PLC	22.50	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	50.3%	19.0%	4.2x	2.1x	7.2%	23.9%
32 Unilever Nigeria PLC	14.80	0.0%	0.1%	2.1%	2.1%	8.8%	5.4%	28.9x	1.3x	3.4%	3.5%
33 Julius Berger Nigeria PLC	26.90	0.0%	0.2%	20.4%	20.4%	18.1%	2.3%	6.0x	0.8x	9.3%	16.7%
34 Union Bank of Nigeria PLC	5.65	4.6%	0.1%	-4.2%	-4.2%	6.1%	0.7%	8.9x	0.6x		11.2%
35 Oando PLC	5.78	5.1%	0.1%	30.8%	30.8%	14.5%	2.6%	2.5x	0.3x		40.2%
36 Wema Bank PLC	3.15	-0.6%	0.0%	337.5%	337.5%	15.7%	0.9%	11.6x	1.7x	7.6%	8.6%
37 NEM Insurance PLC	3.64	0.0%	0.1%	-19.1%	-19.1%	22.3%	12.9%	3.8x	0.7x	6.0%	26.6%
38 Sterling Bank PLC	1.55	-0.6%	0.1%	2.6%	2.6%	9.9%	0.9%	1.9x	0.3x	6.5%	52.0%
39 Notore Chemical Industries Ltd	62.50	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	-17.7%	-4.1%		1.8x		-9.5%
40 Transcorp Hotels Plc	6.25	0.0%	0.0%	16.2%	16.2%				1.0x	1.1%	

Top 10 Gainers		
Ticker	Price	Price Chg %
LIVESTOCK	1.32	10.0%
MRS	16.25	9.8%
DANGCEM	270.00	8.3%
NAHCO	8.40	7.7%
ROYALEX	0.95	5.6%
OANDO	5.78	5.1%
UBN	5.65	4.6%
CORNERST	0.62	3.3%
TRANSCORP	1.29	3.2%
NEIMETH	1.56	2.0%
Top 10 Losers		
Ticker	Price	Price Chg %
LEARNAFRCA	2.25	-10.0%
BUAFOODS	49.50	-10.0%
JAPAUFGOLD	0.28	-9.7%
GLAXOSMITH	6.40	-9.2%
NASCON	11.75	-8.6%
FBNH	8.40	-6.7%
CWG	0.88	-6.4%
ABBEYBDS	1.70	-5.6%
IKEJAHOTEL	1.15	-4.2%
JAIZBANK	0.95	-4.0%

Top 10 Trades by Volume		
Ticker	Volume	Price Chg %
TRANSCORP	19.3	3.2%
UBA	17.6	0.0%
GTCO	17.3	0.0%
ZENITHBANK	12.8	0.0%
FBNH	11.3	-6.7%
STERLNBANK	8.9	-0.6%
NGXGROUP	7.1	0.6%
INTBREW	5.5	0.0%
AIICO	5.1	-1.5%
CHAMS	4.2	0.0%
Top 10 Trades by Value		
Ticker	Value	Price Chg %
SEPLAT	556.0	0.0%
GTCO	365.2	0.0%
ZENITHBANK	281.9	0.0%
MTNN	236.2	-0.9%
DANGCEM	232.5	8.3%
NGXGROUP	171.1	0.6%
UBA	131.2	0.0%
FBNH	95.4	-6.7%
NESTLE	79.7	0.0%
DANGSUGAR	48.5	0.0%

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FOCUS

Adeduntan Sustains His Winning Streak, Pioneers Leadership Excellence in Banking

Oluchi Chibuzor highlights the recent special recognition and honour bestowed on the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of First Bank Nigeria Limited by Cranfield University

Since his appointment as Managing Director/CEO of First Bank of Nigeria Limited in 2016, Dr. Adesola Adeduntan has completely transformed the financial institution and has made it attractive to every strata of the society.

From an institution that used to be perceived as an old-generation bank, FirstBank is now a darling to all as it leverages latest digital tools to meet its customers' needs.

Also, under Adeduntan's leadership, the 128-year old bank has made huge contributions to national development, thereby stimulating development, setting standards and motivating excellent output across sectors.

Clearly, these contributions to national development were what endeared Adeduntan to President Muhammadu Buhari who recently saluted him on his recognition by Cranfield University, UK, one of the most prestigious citadels of learning in Europe. Adeduntan will on Wednesday, June 22, be conferred with Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa and he would be delivering an address to the graduating class of the university. This feat, the president in a statement by his Special Adviser (Media and Publicity), Femi Adesina, described as, "another testament to the fact that Nigeria is blessed with the brightest and the best in all areas of human endeavor."

Buhari lauded Adeduntan for being a role model to the younger generation, showing that hard work pays, and with resourcefulness and doggedness, great heights are achievable.

Adeduntan holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Ibadan, Master's in Business Administration from Cranfield University, and is Fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), as well as Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN).

The president sent best wishes to Adeduntan and family as he hoisted Nigeria's flag proudly to receive an honor Cranfield University said was in recognition of his outstanding contribution to business.

Incidentally, Buhari's commendation came on the day the bank successfully held its AGM which showed a stellar performance in its financials, a transformational result that put the bank on course to reclaiming its leadership position of the financial sector.

Adeduntan has a distinguished career in finance having held senior positions at Citibank Nigeria, KPMG and Arthur Andersen Nigeria. He studied at Cranfield University as a British Chevening Scholar, achieving an MBA in 2005.

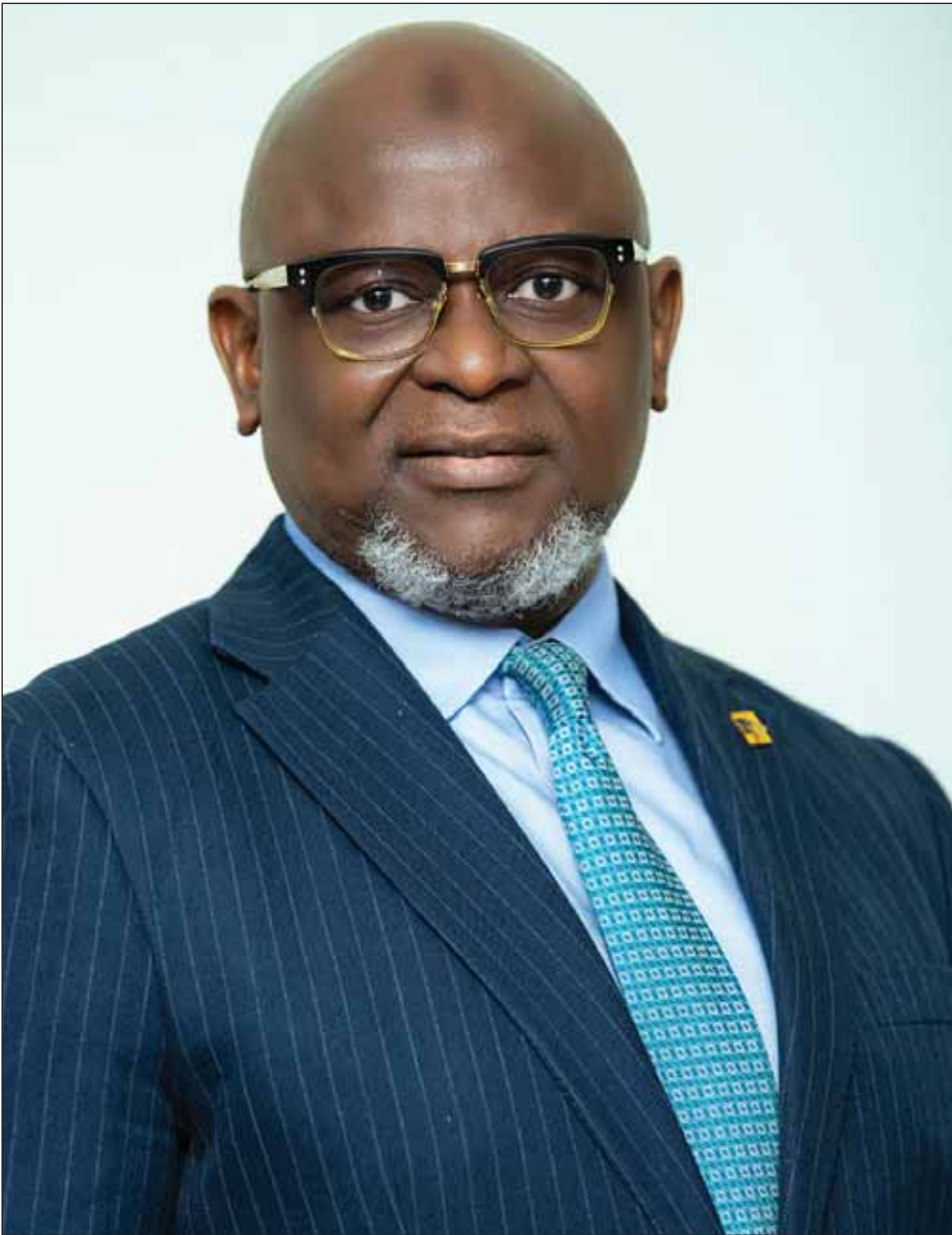
Commenting on the honour by Cranfield University, the FirstBank boss said: "I am extremely humbled and most grateful to the university for this recognition. My time at Cranfield served as a catalyst for my professional and personal development propelling me to the leadership position I occupy today."

"I am a firm believer in talent management, being vital to further accelerate Africa's growth to enable it to benefit from its demographic dividend and the opportunities therein. I look forward to sharing my experiences with the students on the universal applicability of the skills the Cranfield MBA provides to positively impact the world."

On his part, the Chief Executive and Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield University, Professor Karen Holford CBE FREng also congratulated Adeduntan, saying: "It is an honour to welcome Dr Adeduntan back to Cranfield to recognise all his professional achievements in this way. His own experience at Cranfield University has propelled his career forward and this serves as a true inspiration for our graduates both this year and in the future."

Indeed, Adeduntan is an accomplished professional with distinctive international and domestic experience in commercial and investment banking, development finance, audit, and consulting; a philanthropist and leader with keen interest in providing platforms for the development of other young leaders.

The FirstBank Group, the commercial banking arm of FBN Holdings Plc, which he heads is made up of First Bank of Nigeria and subsidiaries including FBNBank



FirstBank CEO, Dr. Adesola Adeduntan

UK, FBNBank DRC, FBNBank Ghana, FBNBank Senegal, FBNBank Guinea, FBNBank Gambia, FBNBank Sierra Leone and First Pension Custodian as well as Representative Offices in France and China.

Adeduntan is overseeing one of the most extensive transformation programmes in sub-Saharan African financial services industry, with the goal to reposition FirstBank Group to market pre-eminence.

He is leading FirstBank Group on the journey to win the most significant emerging business opportunities in the financial services industry through the development and execution of a digital-led strategy that has established FirstBank as the dominant player in digital banking.

FirstBank Group's transformation programme, under the leadership of Adeduntan has enabled the bank to grow customer accounts from about 10 million in 2015 to over 36 million (including digital wallets), become the second largest issuer of cards in Africa with over 11.8 million issued cards, onboard over 18.6 million active customers on FirstBank's digital banking platforms, and initiate and grow the most expansive bank-led Agent Banking Network in Africa with over 170,000 agents.

His career in banking and finance, spanning almost three decades, has earned him various recognitions and awards including Forbes Best of Africa – Outstanding Leader in Africa, Distinguished Alumnus Award by both the Cranfield University's School of Management and the University of

Ibadan, African Banking Personality of the Year, African Banker of the Year Award; Banking Icon of the Decade by the Sun Newspapers and induction into the African Leadership Magazine (ALM) Hall of Fame, Honorary Citizenship of the State of Georgia and Congressional Commendation Award from the Georgia Senate – USA, Bank CEO of the Year by the AES Excellence Club and several other awards.

He has attended various executive and leadership programmes at Harvard Business School (USA), Wharton School (USA), London Business School (UK), IESE (Spain), University of Oxford (UK), University of Cambridge (UK), CEIBS (China) and INSEAD (France). He is a fellow of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN).

Adeduntan's leadership drive also reflected in First Bank Nigeria Limited's recently released full year 2021 financial statement. The results clearly showed the strength and resilience of the iconic African elephant as well as the financial institution's leadership in the industry. The impressive results were a reflection of the robust strength and growth of the iconic African elephant, showing that the bank has taken its rightful position among the industry leaders.

In addition, it showed the level of work the current board, management and staff of the bank have put in to turn the tide in the 128 years old institution with entrenched corporate governance.

The full year 2021 performance by the bank represented a shift in the financial institution's performance trajectory and

was made possible through its undeterred commitment in pursuing its transformational agenda; cutting across customer-led innovation, building a digitalised bank, culture change, reinventing the bank's workplace and safeguarding its assets for the digital age.

For the first time, FirstBank Group posted the best result in more than a decade history of the bank by crossing the N100 billion profit line. Specifically, in the full year 2021 financial statement, the FirstBank Group reported a 73.9 per cent growth in its profit after tax to N117.8 billion, as against the N67.8 billion recorded as of December 2020, just as its profit before tax stood at N130.9 billion, which was a significant rise by 77.9 per cent year-on-year, as against the N73.6 billion it was as of December 2020.

FirstBank's gross earnings also increased by 30.3 per cent to N716.8 billion in 2021, up from N550.3 billion it was as of December 2020. Also, it recorded non-interest income of N342.2 billion in the year under review, which was 106.4 per cent higher than the N165.8 billion recorded as of December 2020. As a result of years of strategic restructuring of its balance sheet and operations, its gross earnings also moved northwards by 30.3 per cent, its total assets was up 15.9 per cent to N8.5 trillion as of the end of 2021, as against the N7.4 trillion recorded the previous year, just as its customer deposits also climbed by 19.5 per cent to N5.6 trillion, up from the N4.7 trillion recorded the previous year. The bank's customer loans and advances also improved by 28 per cent to N2.8 trillion in the year under review, up from N2.2 trillion the previous year.

FirstBank has shown innovation, resilience and commitment to growth by significantly reducing its non-performing loans (NPL) from 25% in 2016 to an acceptable level of 6.1% in 2021.

To demonstrate that the bank's performance in 2021 was not a fluke, the Bank equally performed excellently well in Q1 2022. FirstBank recorded 32% increase in gross earnings to N180bn in Q1'22 from N136.6bn in Q1'21. Profit after tax was up 108% to N32.4 billion (Q1'22) relative to N15.6 billion (Q1'21). This impressive performance is hinged on robust loan portfolio, effective cost structure and increased digital services.

FirstBank recorded the highest decline in its cost-to-income ratio in Q1 2022, dropping from 79.5% recorded in Q1 2021 to 67.03% amongst tier-1 Banks in the review period.

With FirstBank under Adeduntan, the safety of customers and the security of their transactions come first. This has ensured the bank keeps the trust of Nigerians gained over the many years of its enduring legacy of safety and security.

The bank also delivers unique and bespoke financial services solutions across all customer segments underpinned by its commitment to innovation and the customer experience. It also leverages its strong investment banking capabilities to support clients in defining and executing innovative debt solutions as well as offer strategic advice at the highest level, arrange tailor-made financing structures, manage risk and ultimately help clients to realise their aspirations.

Since its establishment in 1894, FirstBank has consistently built relationships with customers focusing on the fundamentals of good corporate governance, strong liquidity, optimised risk management and leadership.

Over the years, the bank has led the financing of private investment in infrastructure development in the Nigerian economy by playing key roles in the federal government's privatisation and commercialisation schemes.

With its global reach, FirstBank provides prospective investors wishing to explore the vast business opportunities that are available in Nigeria, an internationally competitive world-class brand and a credible financial partner.

It is expected that the leadership excellence and recognitions accorded to Adeduntan would continue to reflect positively on the FirstBank brand and fundamentals of the bank so that the elephant will continue to stand 'gidigba.'

NEWS



SIGNING MOU BETWEEN UNILAG AND JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITY...

L-R: Consulate General, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Frankfurt, Germany, Amb. Wahab Adekola Akande, Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos (UNILAG), Prof. Oluwatoyin Ogundipe, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Development Services (UNILAG), Prof. Ayo Atsenuwa, during signing of MoU between University of Lagos and Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz at the recently held Partnership for Change Summit at Goethe-University, Frankfurt Germany.

PHOTO: FUNKE OLAODE

World Bank Commends Nigeria on National Social Register

● Coverage reaches 752 LGs, 48m individuals

Ndubuisi Francis in Abuja

The World Bank has commended Nigeria for prioritising the National Social Register (NSR), describing the country as one of the few in the world with comprehensive catalogue of its poor.

The multilateral institution stated that the NSR remains a credible building block for social intervention, noting that it was committed to partnering with the Nigerian government to strengthen the Register.

The Regional Director, Human

Development, Rena Ringold, who spoke in Abuja, yesterday, at a National Safety Nets Project (NASSP), National Social Safety Nets Coordinating Office (NASSCO)/World Bank Stakeholders Outreach on the National Social Register, applauded Nigeria over the social

register which captures over 50 per cent of the poor in the country.

She stated that the register provides a potent tool for other countries to study and emulate.

In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and

Social Development, Dr. Nasir Sani Gwarz, said the NSR is a national asset, adding that it provides a basis for intervention.

According to him, every poverty-related intervention should benchmarked by the NSR.

Also speaking at the event, the Special Adviser to the President on Social Investments, Mrs. Maryam Uwais, said the NSR is the springboard in addressing poverty.

Uwais stressed that it provides a potent mechanism of achieving President Muhammadu Buhari's target of taking 100 million Nigerians out of poverty.

Presenting an update on the social intervention programmes, the National Coordinator, NASSCO, Mr. Iorwa Apera said the NSR has

covered over 48 million individuals, more than 11.6 million households, 134,103 communities, over 8,000 federal electoral wards as well as 752 local governments across the country.

Based on the estimated number of poor Nigerians in the country, he said the register had captured over 70 per cent of them while only 22 out of the 774 local councils are yet to be captured.

While applauding the World Bank for its supportive efforts, he stated that the NSR had become a reference point globally.

Apera said NASSCO had touched and continues to touch the lives of millions of poor Nigerians across the country particularly with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

APBN: Inflation, Insecurity, Fuel Scarcity, Others Bane of Nigeria's Economic Growth

Michael Olugbode in Abuja

The President of Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN), Akin Oyejobola has blamed the nation's stunted economic growth on high inflation, insecurity and perennial fuel scarcity.

He stated this during a press conference on the second APBN 2022 board meeting held in Abuja, yesterday.

Oyejobola said, companies and factories have or were on the verge of shutting down as a result of the high cost of fuel.

He said: "In recent months, we have experienced continuous astronomical increase in the cost of diesel as well as scarcity of petrol in some major cities. While we have no problem with the excuse offered by the government for cause of the scarcity and price hike, its effect on the economy can only be imagined.

"This re-emphasises the need for local production of petroleum products. We must revive our refineries. We believe this is the way out of the incessant cases of petrol scarcity.

"The economic losses due to high cost of diesel is massive. Inflation is very high, many companies, factories and airlines have or are at the verge of shutting down due to unsustainable cost of fuel."

Oyejobola lamented the depreciation of the naira and the security situation and their impacts on the nation's economy.

"The issue of insecurity has remained major concern to us. You would recall that one of the issues that came up at the board's last meeting, which formed a major thrust of the board's last deliberations.

"The nation's economy is being stunted, and may not attract the much needed investments as long as there are these palpable feelings of insecurity in the land. The board urges the federal government to sustain its onslaught against bandits, kidnappers and criminal elements

across the country.

"For the naira, while we are aware that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is doing its best to get the naira stable, we see the situation as a very worrisome one," he added.

He used the opportunity to call both the federal and state governments to engage APBN members for the development of the nation.

"Any economy that wants to develop must find a way to enlist the services of its professionals. We

believe the Nigerian governments (national and sub-nationals) are not doing that enough.

"The board will therefore like to call on those in government to begin to look inwards for assistance. APBN boast of an array of qualified professionals that can rub shoulders with their peers anywhere in the world, and we are very ready for national assignments."

On diversifying the nation's economy, he said Nigeria must move from mere slogans to practicalise its diversification drive.

UK Firm Glencore Pleads Guilty to Bribing Nigerian Officials, to Pay US \$1.5bn

A British subsidiary of mining and trading giant Glencore, yesterday formally pleaded guilty to seven counts of bribery in connection with oil operations in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and South Sudan.

At a Southwark Crown Court hearing in London, Glencore Energy admitted to paying more than \$28 million in bribes to secure preferential access to oil and generate illicit profit between 2011 and 2016. The company will be sentenced on November 2 and 3, the UK Serious Fraud Office, or SFO, said.

Glencore, a Swiss-based multinational, already said it expected

to pay up to \$1.5 billion to settle bribery and market manipulation allegations. Three subsidiaries in the United States, Brazil, and Britain have now pleaded guilty to criminal offences.

US authorities will see the bulk of those funds after Glencore agreed to a \$1.1 billion US settlement last month to resolve a decade-long scheme to bribe foreign officials across seven countries — and separate charges alleging a trading division manipulated fuel oil prices at US shipping ports.

But the guilty plea by a corporate heavyweight in London is a much-needed boost for the SFO, which has faced sharp criticism and

awaits the outcome of a "forensic" government-ordered review after senior judges overturned two convictions in its Unaoil bribery investigation because of disclosure failings.

"The SFO's success with Glencore will certainly not protect it from any flak that comes its way," said Syed Rahman, a partner at Rahman Ravelli. "But the result it has in this case is an indicator of what the agency is capable of when it does not make mistakes."

Helen Taylor, a legal researcher at pressure group Spotlight on Corruption, urged the SFO to investigate and prosecute senior executives who had condoned the wrongdoing.

KYARI: NNPC RESTRUCTURING ITS BUSINESSES TO MEET ENERGY TRANSITION DEMANDS

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary, NETI, Dr. Ogbonnaya Orji, stated that the involvement of the organisation in the programme was in line with its objective of deepening engagements with credible civil society organisations.

"The dominant philosophy of the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which NETI implements, is the belief that the phenomenon of the resource curse can be addressed through regular disclosures of extractive information and effective citizens' participation in resource governance in ways that foster accountability and shared prosperity," he added.

The EITI 2019 standard, he said, requires implementing countries, including Nigeria, to disclose any contract(s) and licences that are granted, entered, or amended that set out the terms and conditions for the exploration and exploitation of oil, gas, or minerals from January 2021.

"The Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021 also mandates the Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) to publish the texts of any new license, lease or

contract, or amendment immediately following the granting or signing of such texts," he noted.

Considering the multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary nature of energy transition, he opined that NETI will seek to galvanise inter-agency cooperation, promote public dialogue and foster national consensus on the discourse.

Also speaking, Executive Director, Spaces for Change, Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri, explained that Nigerians have always clamoured for reforms, especially in the oil and gas as well as in the mining industries, expressing joy that the legal reforms needed were taking place.

Through the reforms, she said that lessees, licencees and permit holders are now required to furnish and publish specified information relating to upstream petroleum operations which shall be published in the national data repository of the NUPRC.

"Joining the global campaign for a transition away from fossil fuels, we have taken steps to ensure that communities get on board the energy transition discourse," she stressed.

PRESIDENT SEEKS SENATE'S NOD FOR SEVEN MINISTERIAL NOMINEES

Minority Whip, respectively.

Meanwhile, three senators from APC resigned their membership of the ruling party and joined the opposition. They are Senators Ahmad Babba Kaita (Katsina North), Lawal Yahaya Gumau (Bauchi South), and Francis Alimikhena (Edo North). While Kaita and Alimikhena defected to the opposition PDP, Gumau defected to the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP).

In another development, the House of Representatives, yesterday, stepped down a motion seeking to override Buhari for failing to assent to Section 84 (8) of the Electoral Act (Amendment) bill, 2022, which provides for statutory delegates.

The ministerial nominees whose names were sent to the senate for confirmation included Henry Ikechukwu Ikoh – Abia State; Umana Okon Umana – Akwa Ibom State; Ekumankama Joseph Nkama – Ebonyi State; and Goodluck Nana Opiah – Imo State.

Others were Umar Ibrahim El-Yakub – Kano State; Ademola Adegoke – Ondo State; and Odum Odi – Rivers State.

They would replace ministers, who resigned their appointments in the wake of the APC presidential primary election recently.

Senate President Ahmad Lawan read Buhari's letter requesting confirmation of the nominees on the floor of the Senate during plenary.

Buhari state in the letter that the confirmation request was in accordance with the provisions of Section 147 subsection 2 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended.

Meanwhile the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) caucus in the red chamber has appointed Senators Phillip Aduka (FCT) and Chukwuka Utazi (Enugu North) as the new Minority Leader and Minority Whip respectively.

Lawan read the letter from PDP on the choice of new Minority Leader and Minority Whip at the start of plenary. National Secretary of PDP, Senator Samuel Anyawu, signed the letter.

Aduka's nomination was sequel to the resignation of the former Minority Leader, Senator Enyinaya Abaribe. Abaribe announced his defection from PDP to the All

Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) last week.

PDP, in its letter to the senate president, explained that Utazi's nomination as new Minority Whip was as a result of the elevation of Aduka to the position of Minority Leader.

House Steps Down Motion to Override Buhari's Veto on Statutory Delegates

The House of Representatives stepped down a motion seeking to override Buhari for failing to assent to Section 84 (8) of the Electoral Act (Amendment) bill, 2022, which provides for statutory delegates.

The move to override the president's veto followed the failure of majority of lawmakers currently serving in the Senate and House of Representatives to secure their return tickets at the party primaries held last month. The mass failure was blamed on the ad hoc delegate system of candidates' selection.

Two members of PDP, Deputy Minority Leader, Hon. Toby Okechukwu, and Hon. Ben Igbakpa, who were among those that failed to get tickets to seek re-election, had protested on the floor of the House last Wednesday.

The National Assembly passed and transmitted the proposed legislation to the president about 30 days ago, the window within which the legislature could veto the president's decline of assent to the bill.

Igbakpa, who represents Ethiopian Federal Constituency of Delta State, had at the plenary last week raised a constitutional point of order, citing Section 58 (8) of the 1999 Constitution, which empowers the National Assembly to enact laws and also override the president with two-thirds majority of the members' vote.

Speaker, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, who affirmed that Mr. President was in breach of the 30 days provided to communicate his decision to withhold assent, urged Igbakpa to formally present a motion in that regard.

Presenting the motion, titled, "Need to Invoke Section 58(5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to Pass

Again the Electoral Act, 2022," at plenary, Igbakpa noted that the time frame for the president to assent or decline assent to the bill elapsed since June 11.

He lamented that the inability of the president to perform his constitutional duty was an affront on Section 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, which empowered the National Assembly to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the federation or any part thereof.

Igbakpa said the continued inaction of the president in either assenting or vetoing the bill had left a lacuna in Nigeria's constitutional democracy, which portended danger for the 2023 electoral process and other subsequent staggered elections of some states. This left the congresses of political parties in the hands of ad-hoc delegates to the detriment of statutory delegates.

The lawmaker prayed his colleague to invoke Section 58(5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999

(as amended) with respect to the bill and communicate the position of the House of Representatives to the senate for concurrence.

However, after presenting the motion, Deputy Speaker, Hon. Idris Wase, who presided over the session, said according to the House rules, a motion could not be used to override a bill, hence the lawmaker should step down the motion and liaise with the chairman, Rules and Business, Hon. Hassan Fulata, to do the needful.

Reacting, Igbakpa reminded the deputy speaker that the speaker, Gbajabiamila, was the one who directed him last week to bring the matter in form of a motion.

Speaking, also, on the matter, Chairman, House Committee on Navy, Hon. Yusuf Gagdi (APC, Plateau), said if the motion mover would be able to instigate the National Assembly to have the required 240 members that would vote yes to override the president on that law and if the intention of overriding him was to address that

lacuna then he would support it.

APC Loses Three More Senators to Opposition Parties

Three APC senators resigned their membership of the ruling party. Senators Ahmad Babba Kaita (Katsina North), and Francis Alimikhena (Edo North) defected to PDP, while Lawal Yahaya Gumau (Bauchi South), joined the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP).

The notice of their resignation and defection was contained in three separate letters read during plenary by Lawan yesterday.

Kaita's letter read in part, "As senator representing Katsina North Senatorial District, I write to formally notify you of my resignation from the APC, and registration declaration for the PDP.

"My resignation from the APC was born out of the marginalisation of critical stakeholders by the state government and leadership of the party in Katsina State, where small people like me do not have a chance.

"I have since been joyful and graciously accepted into the fold of the PDP in Katsina State."

Alimikhena, on the other hand, explained that his decision to resign from APC was the result of "continuing and multifaceted crisis that has bedevilled the APC", especially in his senatorial district. "That has created parallel executives that has undermined internal discipline, cohesion and focus," he said.

The defection of the three lawmakers reduced the total number of APC senators from 64 to 62 in the upper chamber, while PDP has risen from 39 to 41. Also, the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) now has two, Young Progressive Party (YPP), one, and All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) one.

The remaining two seats are vacant due to the positions of National Chairman and Deputy National Chairman of APC now occupied by Senators Adamu Abdullahi (Nasarawa West) and Abubakar Kyari (Borno North).

PETROL PRICE TO REMAIN AT N165 PER LITRE, NMDPRA INSISTS

Ogbugo Kalu, who spoke at a media briefing said the Authority was ever ready to enforce the price on independent marketers who are planning to increase pump price to N180 per litre.

"PMS is a regulated product. The price is fixed and the ex-depot price is known. The pump price remains at N165. So we continue to urge Nigerians to keep within these operating rules," he explained.

According to him, in the next three days, the Authority would focus its energy in making sure that the marine stock would be translated into inland stock to get petroleum products across the country.

He added: "Within a very short while, we will see the fuel queues pale out. So that is what our focus in the Authority and for the next few days we urge every operator and indeed even assure the public that whatever glitches and supply gaps that have been observed will disappear shortly.

"So we do not encourage any panic buying. We urge Nigerians to be calm as these things will be

resolved very easily."

Meanwhile, the Group Executive Director, NNPC, Adeyemi Adetunji, said over two billion litres of PMS that would last for the next 34 days was in country, adding that there was enough stock to meet the nation's demand. He assured that NNPC was working with the entire operators and stakeholders in the downstream sector to ensure that petroleum products get to distribution channels and filling stations across the country.

"With all the apparatuses put in place, we can assure that all the fuel queues will disappear in the next few days. Nigerians will continue to enjoy the free flow of petroleum products," he added.

The Managing Director, Petroleum Pipeline Marketing Company (PPMC), Isiaku Abdullahi, said all hands were on the deck to support its marketers and transporters to ensure that petroleum products get to where they are needed.

He said there were about three vessels in the Apapa jetty waiting to offload more than 60 million metric tonnes, adding that in due course, the potential and imagined fuel crisis in Lagos would be over.

On his part, the Managing Director, NIPCO Plc, Suresh Kumar, said his company was receiving 18 million litres of the 90,000 metric tonnes waiting to be offloaded at the Apapa jetty.

"I am happy to announce that we have another 32 million to be received from the vessels which are coming. So, with that in picture, you know, the supply gap or the supply logistic challenges which was there has been addressed.

"So, the products are there with us, we can see that the trucks have started coming up. The Authority has given us the first approval to see that these products of about 30 to 40 million litres should be dispensed on a 24-hour basis," he said.

"So, what I can categorically assure all Nigerians is that the product is there and it is going to flow into the trucks and they are going to move from here to the stations. So, they have to be rest assured they should not panic, panic is a problem, it will create high demand.

"So without panic and if this normal situation functions, then everybody should be getting product in the next couple of days," he averred.

Depot Owners Lament Unsustainable N165 Per Litre Petrol Pump Price

However, DAPPMAN, in a statement issued last night, said the on-going Russian/Ukraine War had adversely affected the whole world, including the downstream oil and gas sector in Nigeria, impacting negatively on global and local fuel and food supply.

It said the international prices of these items had risen astronomically and had more than doubled their old rates since the beginning of the war, thereby causing extreme increases in local prices.

By extension, DAPPMAN said the local running costs of operating their various fuel depots had gone up astronomically, adding that the petrol they supply was sourced, solely from Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited's marketing subsidiary, Petroleum Products Marketing Company Limited (PPMC) for sale to the public at the regulated price of N165 per litre. It explained that this purchase was made by depot operators with funds sourced with high bank interest charges, alongside increased costs of hiring vessels, with which they deliver the fuel cargoes to their depots.

According to the statement, "These costs have doubled within the period of this Russian/Ukraine war.

Added to this is the scarcity of bunkers (ship's fuel). We also experienced astronomical increases in the cost of diesel used to power equipment and machinery in our various depots and our retail outlets.

"Depot Owners and the government have continued to struggle over time to sustain supply of PMS at the current pump price of N165 per litre despite the huge subsidy cost to government and abysmal margins to the Depot owners."

The marketers' association observed that if not for its suspension, the implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021 would have provided an ideal enabling environment by creating the free market in which demand and supply would affect fuel pump price.

"We hereby assure the public that Depot Owners, working in concert with NNPC Limited, through its marketing subsidiary, will continue to work hard to ensure availability of products nationwide," the statement added.

House Summons NNPC, NMDPRA, Marketers over Fuel Scarcity, Soaring Diesel, Gas Prices

The House of Representatives has summoned stakeholders in the Nigerian downstream oil and gas sector to appear before it today over the resurgence of petrol scarcity and queues in some parts of the country and the galloping rise in the prices of diesel and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

The lawmakers in a letter signed by the Chairman of the House of Representatives Joint Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) Hon. Mahmud Gaya, invited the heads of the stakeholder organisations and institutions in the Nigerian downstream petroleum sector.

Those invited, in the letter seen by THISDAY, yesterday, included the Chief Executive Officer of the NMDPRA, the Managing Director of the Nigerian Gas Company (NGC) and that of the Nigerian Gas Marketing Company (NGMC), two subsidiaries of NNPC Limited.

Others were the Chairman of

BUHARI DEFENDS EMEFIELE, SAYS CBN GOVERNOR'S UNORTHODOX POLICIES BEST FOR ECONOMY

to choose its economic model and policies, insisting that the CBN chief is facing criticisms because he is not following traditional methods, which have failed in the past.

Buhari stated, "But there is a subtext to the accusations. Because the governor follows a model outside of the economic orthodoxy, he is labelled political. But the orthodoxy has proved wrong time and again.

"Instead, the governor is following an alternative economic model that puts people at the heart of policy. Nigeria should be free to choose its development model and how to construct our economy, so it functions for Nigerians."

Responding to a question on the independence of the office of the CBN governor, given Emeffiele's alleged interest in the just-concluded presidential primaries of the All Progressives Congress (APC), the president said if there were inflections, the board of the apex bank was better placed to sanction the governor.

He said, "The CBN governor is appointed by the president. But this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Nigerian Senate. Ultimately, it will be for the CBN's Board of Directors to determine whether a CBN governor's actions have fallen foul of the laws in place to ensure he can most effectively carry out his duties."

A critical actor in the federal government's efforts to boost local food production, the CBN has provided loans to farmers and restricted access to foreign exchange for importers of dozens of products, actions for which it has received flaks.

But Buhari insisted that food price inflation in the country could have been worse if Emeffiele had not initiated organised

programmes to boost domestic production, stressing that even at that, Nigeria still does not grow enough domestically.

He pointed out that initiatives, such as the Anchor Borrower's Programme, boosted rice production to nine million metric tonnes in 2021, from around 5.4 million metric tonnes in 2015.

"Even in the years of drought, rice production outstripped pre-2015 levels. Imports have fallen to near zero. We are making progress," he declared.

On why he had continued to retain subsidy on petrol, the president noted that even most Western countries were currently implementing fuel subsidies.

"Why would we remove ours now? What is good for the goose is good for the gander!" he stressed.

According to him, while the removal of subsidy may look good on paper, the impact on Nigerians would be largely negative and unbearable.

"What our Western allies are learning the hard way is what looks good on paper and the human consequences are two different things," the president maintained.

Buhari added that while his government had put in motion plans to remove fuel subsidy late last year, after further consultation with stakeholders, and as events unfolded this year, such a move became increasingly untenable.

While internal production for refined products would help mitigate the effect of subsidy removal, the president projected that capacity would increase markedly later this year and next, as private players and modular refineries come on board.

Buhari posited that he was winning the war against corruption, starting with the Whistleblowing Policy enacted in his first year in office, revealing that hundreds of

millions in stolen funds have been returned within Nigeria.

He stated that the monies had now been deployed as social and welfare funds distributed directly to the poorest during the COVID-19 pandemic and the provision of long-delayed infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, rail, and power.

He explained, "As an illustration, monetary recoveries (January-December) 2021 show that more than N152 billion has been recovered. Dollar recoveries for the year amount to over \$386 million; GBP more than 1.1 million; Euro, about 157,000; Saudi Riyals about 1.7 million, some more in digital and other currencies."

In the past, Buhari had said international partners refused to return funds they held for decades to previous Nigerian administrations in the certainty they would simply be re-stolen.

"They changed their approach with us because they knew my administration could be trusted," he said.

Buhari said that his successor would inherit a far more resilient economy, thanks to investments in infrastructure and policies that he said had bolstered local production.

On security, the president reiterated that the military had recovered all territories previously held by Boko Haram, repeating his often-held position that terrorists no longer hold any territory in Nigeria while their leaders are now deceased.

Buhari said, "In 2015, Boko Haram held territory the size of Belgium within the borders of Nigeria. Today they are close to extinct as a military force. The leader of ISWAP was eliminated by a Nigerian Air Force airstrike in March."

He stated that jets acquired from the US and intelligence shared by British were not provided to

previous administrations. He said these stood as testament to new trust re-built between Nigeria and its Western allies.

The Nigerian leader urged its international partners to take additional steps costing them nothing, by proscribing the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) and designating them as a terrorist organisation.

"Their leadership enjoys safe haven in the West, broadcasting hate speech into Nigeria from London, spending millions lobbying members of the US Congress, and freely using international financial networks to arm agitators on the ground. This must stop," the president stated.

He added, "My administration is the only in Nigeria's history to implement a solution to decades-long herder-farmer conflicts, exacerbated by desertification and demographic growth. The National Livestock Transformation Plan, putting ranching at its core, is the only way to deplete the competition for resources at the core of the clashes.

"Governors from some individual states have sought to play politics where ranches have been established; but where they have been disputes have dramatically reduced."

He further opined that international trade remained rigged against food security in Africa, explaining that while the European Union's policies are all rhetoric of open trade, their common agricultural policy undermines Africa's self-sufficiency and grows poverty.

On the rising spate of religion-related killings, especially regarding the question of alleged blasphemy, the president declared that no one has any right to break the law and urged Christians and Muslims to respect each other's differences.



INAUGURATION OF PASSPORT PRODUCTION CENTRE...

L-R: Comptroller of Immigration Service, Edo State Command, Rabi Garba; Acting Comptroller General, Nigeria Immigration Service, Isah Jere Idris; Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola; Edo State Governor, Mr Godwin Obaseki, and Assistant Comptroller General, Zonal Co-ordinator Zone G, Benin, Dominic Asogwa, during the roll-out of the Enhanced e-Passport and inauguration of the Central Passport Production Centre, in Benin City,... yesterday

CJN Replies Colleagues, Says Supreme Court Not Immune to Nigeria's Economic, Socio-political Environment

●Body of Benchers wades into impasse, sets up advisory committee

Alex Enumah in Abuja and Wale Igbinade in Lagos

The Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Ibrahim Muhammad, yesterday told his colleagues on the bench of the Supreme Court that the judiciary was not immune to the prevalent economic and socio-political conditions of the country.

Fourteen justices of the Supreme Court had protested against the poor working conditions at the apex court as well as their welfare packages which has remained the same despite the harsh economic reality in the country.

Their grievances which were contained in a letter to the CJN however went viral, insinuating that all was not well with the third arm of government which is usually seen as the last hope of the common man.

Reacting, Justice Muhammad remarked that it was unfortunate that such issues which ought to be dealt privately had become something of public discourse.

In a statement by his media aide, Mr. Ahuraka Isah, the CJN, however blamed the current challenges at the Supreme Court on the prevalent realities in the country.

In the statement titled, "Re: State of Affairs in the Supreme Court and Demand By Justices of the Supreme Court," the CJN while confirming receipt of the letter written and addressed to him by his brother

Justices of the Supreme Court Bench, said the development was, "akin to dancing naked at the market square by us with the ripple effect of the said letter."

He said that, "The Supreme Court definitely does not exist outside its environment; it is also affected by the economic and socio-political climate prevailing in the country. Besides that, the Apex Court has to a larger extent, been living to its constitutional responsibility."

The CJN explained that a budget usually contains two sides - the recurrent and the capital - adding that all the two are broken down into items.

"The federal government releases the budget based on the budget components. And it's an offence to spend the money meant for one item for another," he said.

He was of the opinion that the letter by the angry justices in summary was that, "more or all ought to have been done and not that nothing has been done; which is utopian in the contemporary condition of our country."

He stated that before eight new Justices were appointed in 2020 onto the apex court bench, there was no additional budget to provide new chambers with equipped library, legal assistants, residential accommodations and logistics.

He also explained how the death of two Supreme Court Justices and the retirement of four others

impacted on the budget of the apex court.

"Two weeks ago, eight Supreme Court Justices were nominated for a workshop in London as the court cannot take all of them there at once otherwise the job would suffer. They would be going in batches.

"Accommodations are being gradually provided for the few that are yet to get. There is none of the Apex Court Justices without SUV and back up cars. If any of them were purchased but refurbished, the external and internal auditors are here in the court to take those that bought them up over it.

"The high cost of electricity tariff and diesel are national problem. The Chief Registrar might have budgeted for N300 per litre but diesel is now selling for over N700 per litre and therefore has to find a way around it without even bringing it to the attention of the CJN. But there is no way the generator would be put off if the Court is sitting.

"The amendment of court rules is on the process, it has to be critically reviewed to avoid conflict with the constitution and other extant laws.

Not all the CJN has reviewed the rules in the past.

"Within the three years his brother Justices mentioned came the pandemic and the judiciary workers' strike", the statement read in part.

He also disclosed that the internet services which his colleagues complained of have been restored to the residences and chambers of the justices just as some allowances have been paid to them.

He also claimed that a meeting with his brother Justices was held last Thursday, and another one was due to hold this week with a view of resolving the crisis.

"The general public should be rest assured that there's no hostility or adverse feelings amongst the Justices of the Supreme Court, as everyone is going about his normal duty", he said.

Body of Benchers Wades into S'C Justices, CJN Impasse

Meanwhile, the Body of Benchers after an emergency meeting held yesterday has set up a Body of Benchers Judiciary Advisory

Committee to interface on the matter with a view to finding a solution to the problem.

Chairman, Body of Benchers, Chief Wole Olanipekun, disclosed to THISDAY yesterday, that everything must be done to bring about an amicable resolution of the matter.

Olanipekun disclosed that the Advisory Committee would be headed by a former Justice of the apex court and would have as members, the Chairman Body of Benchers, its Vice Chairman, and other eminent members of the legal profession.

According to him, the Committee is to work out an acceptable or reasonable package for every Justice of any superior court in Nigeria, starting from the high court to the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

He said "The Committee has been mandated to foray into what packages are available to their counterparts all over the world, particularly starting from Africa, that is from nearby Ghana, Gambia, South Africa, Cameroon, then to United Kingdom, France, Canada, United States of America,

Australia, and Germany.

"We will now compare and confront the authority whether at the state or federal level, with all these packages and place before them and ask them, these and these are the packages available to their counterparts elsewhere, why should theirs be different. There should be a conducive working environment for judges all over the country.

"We are also going to address their tenure and what happens to them after retirement. A situation where Judges don't pick their pensions and gratuity as at when due is not acceptable. It is not right.

"So all these things, the Body of Benchers is addressing and the package would be made known to the Federal government and the State government as the case may be. We believe that the National Judicial Council cannot tackle this problem. It is not a problem NJC can tackle and that is why we have taken it up.

"Good enough, the Body of Benchers is made up of all representatives and representations of the legal profession, namely, the Bench, the Bar, and the Academia."

NIGERIA RECORDS BEST PERFORMANCE IN GLOBAL BUDGET SURVEY

policy, a clear legal framework and also then holding the government to account when the parliament receives the audit report every year for discussion.

"They are the main recipients of that report. When that happens, they can ask is this published? Is this available? So, I think there's work to be done probably by the auditor general but also within parliament to really ensure that that document gets into the public domain."

In his address at the event, the Director General, Budget Office of the Federation, Mr. Ben Akabueze expressed optimism that Nigeria would surpass the performance when the 2022 OBS

is conducted.

He said, "Government has over the past several years undertaken a number of reforms in the public finance management (PFM) space which have culminated in the significant improvements we can now report.

"Nigeria posted its best performance in the open budget survey, improving by 24 points for transparency in the latest Open Budget Survey.

"We remain committed to all the different moving parts of our PFM reform agenda. Central to this is our bullish domestic revenue mobilisation effort as well as efficiency in revenue and expenditure management.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has expressed delight over the emergence of Mr. Ifeanyi Ossai, a young and brilliant lawyer, as the running mate to the party's governorship candidate in Enugu State, Mr. Peter Ndubuisi Mbah.

The party stated that the joint ticket would guarantee the sustenance of the legacies of Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi's administration anchored on peace, security and good governance.

In a statement by the Chairman of the PDP in Enugu State, Mr. Augustine Nnamani, the party congratulated Ossai on his emergence as the party's deputy governorship candidate, and went further to commend Mbah for his forthrightness and wisdom in choosing him based on his integrity, competence and commitment.

The PDP State Chairman thanked Ugwuanyi for his effective leadership role which he (Nnamani) said was responsible for the peaceful conduct of the PDP primary elections in the state and the emergence of Mbah, and other standard bearers of the party.

Nnamani stated that the party was convinced that Mbah, as a humble, peaceful, visionary, God fearing and young entrepreneurial intellectual would sustain the legacies of Ugwuanyi who he (Nnamani) said had done a lot to entrench peace and good governance in Enugu, in spite of the nation's economic, security and public health challenges.

He expressed optimism that Mbah as a brilliant lawyer and dedicated party man would uphold the manifesto of the PDP and the policy thrust of the present admin-

istration, if elected as governor of Enugu State.

"The PDP leadership in Enugu State is delighted at the nomination of Ifeanyi Ossai, another young and brilliant lawyer and dedicated party man as the running mate to our governorship candidate, Peter Ndubuisi Mbah.

"We are delighted because Ossai's emergence will boost the resolve of our governorship candidate, Barr. Peter Mbah, to sustain the enduring legacies of our leader and Governor of Enugu State, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi.

"We deeply appreciate the sacrifice and steadfastness of our governor in ensuring that the people of Enugu State, including those in the rural areas, enjoy peace and good governance in spite of the numerous challenges confronting our country.

"The PDP family commends Mbah for his choice of running mate. We congratulate Ossai on his emergence which is well deserved and we profoundly appreciate the leader of our great Party in Enugu State, Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi for his effective leadership role in the emergence of our governorship candidate and other party's candidates for the 2023 general elections," Nnamani said.

Mbah had in his acceptance speech as the PDP governorship candidate promised to build on the achievements of Ugwuanyi's administration and serve the people of Enugu State with humility and moderation, openness and inclusiveness, simplicity and forthrightness.

He had equally expressed gratitude to Ugwuanyi for enhancing the democratic process of his emergence.

Enugu 2023: Mbah/Ossai Ticket will Sustain Ugwuanyi's Legacies, Says PDP



REVENUE ASSURANCE SOLUTION FOR TELECOM INDUSTRY...

L-R: Special Duties, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Mr. Reuben Muoka, Director; Chief Executive Officer, 3R, Mr. Raymond Wodi; Executive Vice Chairman/CEO, NCC, Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, Director, Internal Audit, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission, Mr. Togunde Dada-Hammed; Managing Partner, Afe Babalola & Co, Mr. Kehinde Ogunwumiju; Director, Financial Services, NCC, Mr. Yakubu Gontor, and Director, Public Affairs, Dr. Ikechukwu Adinde, during the signing of a Public-Private Partnership agreement on the execution of Revenue Assurance Solution for telecom industry in Abuja...recently

Obi Must Agree to Be Kwankwaso's Deputy as Condition for Coalition, Says NNPP Spokesman

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

National spokesman of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Mr Major Agni, yesterday said that the only condition for a coalition with the Labour Party (LP) is for the former Governor of Anambra state and presidential hopeful, Mr Peter Obi to agree to be running mate to ex-Governor Rabiul Kwankwaso.

Speaking on Arise Television, THISDAY's broadcast arm, the NNPP spokesman stated that of the 18 presidential candidates at the conclusion of the nomination exercise, Kwankwaso stands out and remains the preferred potential Nigeria's president.

He insisted that the party has

continued to receive calls that Kwankwaso must not step down for Obi, maintaining that the only acceptable conclusion is that Obi should accept to be Kwankwaso's deputy.

He opined that Kwankwaso has affected the lives of ordinary people, stressing that his antecedents speak for him and therefore should be allowed to head the LP/NNPP arrangement.

"We have continued to receive calls. A lot of people have called to say, no, we will not accept that. That the only thing we want you to arrive at is a conclusion that Peter will be deputy," he maintained.

Agbo argued that although Obi is a "nice man", who has also done

well, it is unacceptable that he should lead whatever political agreement is reached as it concerns the 2023 presidential election.

On the argument that Kwankwaso is only restricted to Kano and perhaps Jigawa, the party spokesman said those who believe that were being misled, insisting that the party has existed for 21 years.

"For anybody to quickly dismiss the NNPP as being in one or two states is not correct. What I can tell you is that the party is heavily on ground and we have our structures everywhere," he maintained.

He added: "For anybody to try to dismiss us as existing in one or

two states, I think that the person is speaking out of ignorance," he explained.

He also dismissed insinuations that the NNPP/LP planned alliance, was just a distraction for the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), noting that the parties were ready to take over government.

Last Saturday, the presidential candidate of the NNPP, Kwankwaso, had admitted that his party was negotiating a possible alliance with the LP leadership and its candidate, Obi.

In the interview with BBC Hausa, the former Kano State governor was said to have hinted that if the

merger pulls through, the choice of deputy should be based on seniority, but noted that such a decision would be left to the leaders of both parties.

"That is what we are deliberating on. But based on how it is all panning out, the older person would take the lead in the arrangement.

"If they (party stakeholders) check and determine who the senior is, then they would elect such a person; then the younger person would be the running mate," he stated.

Osinbajo: Professionals Need to Play Active Roles for Impactful Govt's Housing Scheme

Deji Elumoye in Abuja

Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo, has stressed the need for professionals like architects to play active roles in the execution of federal government's social housing scheme for it to impact on the people.

Osinbajo stated this when he played host to members of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) led by its President, Enyi Ben-Eboh, at the State House, Abuja.

According to a release issued yesterday by his media assistant, Laolu Akande, the vice-president said, "when we developed the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP), it was part of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We were very concerned about social housing, not just as a way of providing cheap housing for the poorest among us, but also as a way of providing jobs and

job opportunities. But I am not so sure we got much response from NIA.

"One of the advantages of professional bodies like yours is to make it possible for a vast majority of our people to get decent housing for instance, finding the cheapest ways of building 300,000 affordable houses."

Osinbajo further noted that, "For the vast majority of Nigerians, the relevance of our professional institutions, especially, when it comes to the design and building, must be felt when it comes to the basics. I certainly will like to see what sorts of contributions the NIA will make in developing policies around social housing."

He, thereafter, commended the Institute for coming up with the Integrated Infrastructure Research for Development Conference as its contribution to the country's National Development Plan, noting that situating architecture in the creative industry is apt.

The vice-president also emphasised the need for the building sector to drive the industry and its operations as much as possible, noting that, "it is very important that the sector itself drives reforms, regulation and policy."

Earlier, President of NIA, Ben-Eboh, while soliciting Osinbajo's support for the body, commended the federal government for its contribution to the growth of Nigerian professionals by the signing of Executive Order 02 in 2017.

He said: "Without doubt, Executive Order 2 laid the foundation for the gradual take-off of our nation's envisioned industrial diversification and self-sustaining economy with 100% in-country capacity utilisation and development."

NGE, NPAN, NUJ, Others Insist on Self-regulatory Framework

● *Restate commitment to defending media, freedom of expression*

Media stakeholders, yesterday, said a regulatory framework led and driven by media professionals represented the most effective guarantee of media freedom and the independence of the media, in line with regional and international norms and standards.

The stakeholders with representatives from the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE), Newspapers Proprietors Association of Nigeria (NPAN), the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Media Rights Agenda (MRA) and the International Press Centre (IPC), as well as media managers, met in Lagos, at a one-day strategic meeting of media stakeholders to deliberate on a framework for Media regulation in Nigeria.

The meeting, which was supported by the United States of American Embassy in Nigeria, was convened by the NGE in continuation of an ongoing initiative, which included a series of town-hall meetings and capacity-building workshops for editors in Nigeria, also reinstated the commitment of media stakeholders to defend freedom of expression, media freedom and independence as well as the public's right to know.

In a communique issued at the end of the meeting and signed by Mustapha Isah, the President, NGE; Feyi Smith, Executive Secretary of NPAN; Chris Isiguzo, President of NUJ; Edetaen Ojo, Executive Director of MRA; and Lanre Arogundade, the Executive Director of IPC, the participants resolved to

pursue a self-regulatory framework to ensure improved standards in the Nigerian media, as well as to protect the media sector from interference, control and repression by government.

The meeting agreed that, consistent with regional and international norms and standards, a media regulatory framework led and driven by media professionals, represents the most effective guarantee of media freedom and the independence of the media.

"The stakeholders also resolved to effectively implement the existing

Code of Ethics for Nigerian journalists while the process of updating same is on. The participants also resolved to work together as a sector for the betterment of the journalism profession as well as media business," the communique stated.

The meeting, therefore, commended media houses that have already appointed local Ombudsmen in their organisations and called on those that have not appointed or designated such mechanisms to take urgent steps to do so, while the community

worked on the institution of a global arrangement.

The meeting also set up a committee made up of representatives of the different stakeholder groups to develop a framework for self-regulation by the media in Nigeria, which will be presented to a larger meeting of media stakeholders.

Stakeholders were, however, mandated to look at all the reports of various committees set up to review the laws guiding the practice, the profession and the business of the media as a guide to a final position.

Terrorists' Enclaves Now in Kwara, Niger, Senate Alerts Military

Sunday Aborisade in Abuja

The Senate, yesterday, alerted the Nigerian military that terrorists' enclaves had been identified in communities within three local government areas of Kwara and Niger States.

The upper chamber of the National Assembly, therefore, urged the military to carry out a comprehensive onslaught against bandits and criminal elements within Kainji Lake National Park and the identified communities.

The names of communities given by the chamber included Kaiama, Karonzi-Yashikira in Baruten local government as well as Wawa and Babanna areas in Niger State.

These formed part of resolutions reached by the Senate after it considered a motion on the "worsening insecurity in Kainji Lake National Park and existential threat to communities in Kaima, Baruten and Borgu Local Government in Kwara and Niger States."

The motion was sponsored by Senator Sadiq Sulieman Umar (Kwara North), and Co-sponsored by the Deputy Whip, Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi (Niger North).

In his presentation, Umar noted that, "Kidnapping and other forms of criminality are becoming a recurrent decimal in communities close to Kainji Lake National Park particularly Nanu, Nuku, Woro, Kale in Kaiama and Yashikira in Baruten Local Government

of Kwara State and some part of Borgu Local Government in Niger State.

"This has led to people living in perpetual fear of either being kidnapped and or Killed by kidnappers suspected to be armed bandits. The Kainji Lake National Park covers an area of about 5,341km square with deep forest Vegetation. This park which is reserved for tourism is becoming fort-filled in harboring bandits and other forms of criminals."

Also, he noted that rangers meant to man the park could no longer protect the forest reserve as they had lost control of the park to terrorist, even as he expressed worry that people living in these communities were

predominantly farmers and their means of livelihood was threatened by the activities of these criminals.

"Many are leaving their villages and farms to seek refuge in the towns that will soon be threatened as well if nothing is done about this insecurity situation. In fact, some communities have started paying the criminals some sort of tax to be allowed to stay safe."

The Senate, in its resolutions, mandated the Committees on Defence; Finance and National Planning to jointly interface with the Ministry of Defence to determine status of the establishment and funding of Army Barrack in Kaiama and Forward Operation Base (FOB) in Babanna in Kwara and Niger States.

NEWS



SENSITISATION ON VOTER CARD REGISTRATION...

L-R: The Programme Manager Democracy and Rule of Law, Laolu Olawumi; the FCT Residence Electoral Commissioner Yahaya Bello, the Yiaga Representative Samson Itodo and INEC representative Dr. Rotimi Oyekanmi, during a press briefing and awareness on voters card registration and Youth Vote Count Mega Rally in Abuja... yesterday.

PHOTO: KINGSLEY ADEBOYE

Catholic Church Disapproves of PVC Registration by Compulsion

●Lists ways to tackle voter apathy ●Berates FG over lingering ASUU strike

Onyebuchi Ezigbo in Abuja

The leadership of the Catholic Church in Nigeria, has advised its priests against compelling adherents to obtain Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) ahead of the 2023 general election.

The church also bemoaned the continued shutdown of the nation's public owned universities due to the inability of the federal government to resolve the dispute with members of the Academic Staff Union of

Universities (ASUU).

While calling for the active participation of all citizens in the tedious electoral process, the Church said utmost care must be taken not to deprive the people of those means that Christ, through the Church, made available for the nourishment and salvation of their souls.

Some priests had been seen in recent viral videos warning their parishioners on the consequences of not getting their PVCs, including outright prevention from attending

church services.

In a statement jointly signed by Secretary General of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, Rev. Fr. Zacharia Nyantiso Samjumi; Director, Church and Society, Rev. Fr. Uchechukwu Obodochina and the Director, Pastoral Affairs and Executive Secretary, Caritas Nigeria, Fr. Michael 'Leke Banjo, the church said denying the faithful opportunity to receive Holy Communion or any of the Church's sacraments on the grounds of non-possession

of the PVC violated the tenets of the church.

"The Church, therefore, does not approve of the practice according to which pastors of souls prohibit Christ's faithful from public worship on account of not having their PVCs. The faithful must not be denied Holy Communion or any of the Church's sacraments on the same ground.

"Priests, who act this way violate the laws of the Church, which clearly define those circumstances

under which the faithful may be legitimately deprived of such spiritual goods (cf. canon 915). In other words, when genuine situations demand that the exercise of the right to worship be justly limited, this is to be done not arbitrarily but in accordance with the law promulgated by the competent legislator.

"Parish priests, their equivalents and their assistants, pure as their intention may be, do not have the authority to create impediments to the free exercise of the right to worship and to receive the sacraments of the Church (cf. canon 912)."

On the other hand, the church commended those priests who, through different legitimate means, have vigorously encouraged the faithful entrusted to their care to acquire their PVCs.

"We ask such priests not to relent. However, in our bid to encourage all to obtain their PVCs, utmost

care must be taken not to deprive the people of those means that Christ, through the Church, has made available for the nourishment and salvation of their souls.

The Church leadership also hailed the June 20, 2022 decision of the Federal High Court in Abuja to stop the INEC from ending voters' registration on June 30, 2022, even as it listed some of the ways the parishes could mobilise members through continuous Voter education.

It said priests should facilitate continuous citizen mobilisation at different levels and should teach the people about the need to fulfil their civic duties.

It said high-profile religious leaders should take to the social media with messages that underline the centrality of the PVC while Nollywood actors and actresses and musicians should be encouraged to produce films and music to reach out to the people through some type of meta-advocacy.

Senate Okays Establishment of Four Medical Centres, Amends Teaching Hospitals Act

Sunday Aborisade in Abuja

The Senate yesterday passed four bills to establish Federal Medical Centres in four states across the country.

The medical centres would be established in Osogbo, Osun State; Onitsha, Anambra State; Gada, Sokoto State; and Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, respectively.

The passage of the bills to establish the Medical Centres followed the consideration of four separate reports by the Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary).

The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Yahaya Oloriegbe (APC, Kwara Central), in his presentations, said the medical centres would be equipped with facilities for diagnostic treatment and rehabilitation

at the tertiary levels.

Oloriegbe said the centres would also serve as facilities for training of health professionals and conduct advance health research.

In a related development, the Senate yesterday passed a bill to amend the Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Boards, etc.) Act 2004.

Oloriegbe, in a separate presenta-

tion on a report by the Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary), explained that the amendment to the Teaching Hospitals Act, seeks to give full legislative recognition to the Federal University Lokoja Teaching Hospital.

He said, "Every Institution needs to be backed by an enabling law. "It is against this background that this bill is before the chamber.

"As of today, training facilities in the health sector are inadequate for the current population and projected population growth for Nigeria, currently out at 3 per cent per annum.

"Therefore, establishing the Federal University Lokoja Teaching Hospital will address this gap among others," Oloriegbe added.

He added that the bill seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Principal Act to include the Federal University Lokoja Teaching Hospital.

"By this amendment, it creates a legal backing for the Federal University Lokoja Teaching Hospital," he said.

The four bills to establish the federal medical centres, and the Bill to amend the Teaching Hospitals Act 2004, were all passed by the chamber during plenary, after a clause-by-clause consideration by the Committee of the Whole.

PETROL PRICE TO REMAIN AT N165 PER LITRE, NMDPRA INSISTS

the Major Marketers Association of Nigeria (MOMAM), President of IPMAN and Chairman of DAPPMAN.

"Your various Memoranda should be forwarded to the Committee's secretariat in 60 print copies and a soft copy at the House of Representatives Complex on or before Wednesday 22 June, 2022.

"As we look forward to receiving you, please accept the warmest assurances of the Joint Committee's highest esteem," the concluding page of the letter read.

For the past few months, Nigerians have been going through difficulties to get petrol, diesel and cooking gas due to the scarcity and astronomical increase in the prices of the products, which are all imported.

The hike in the prices of the

petroleum products, just like other commodities, has been blamed on the ongoing oil price rally, exacerbated by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the resultant trade sanctions against Russia, a major global supplier of refined petroleum products.

A litre of diesel in Nigerian is currently selling for above N800 while a 12.5 kilogram of cooking gas is being sold for over N10,000 in some locations. This has pushed many users of the two products into using alternative sources like petrol generators, solar, inverters, firewood and charcoal.

However, petrol that is still selling cheaper despite the global hike in prices, owing to the huge subsidy the country is spending to keep the pump price at N165 per litre, far less than the actual landing cost, is now

becoming scarce and unavailable in some states including Lagos, Oyo, Ogun and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The Chairman of IPMAN, Lagos Satellite Depot, Mr. Akinrinade, had lamented the shortage of petrol in their depot, stated that since December 2021, not a litre of petrol had been lifted at the NNPC satellite depots at Ejigbo.

This, he noted, had left independent marketers at the mercy of private depots, whom he accused of hiking their ex-depot prices to a level no longer sustainable to sell petrol at N165.

The IPMAN chairman said based on current economic realities, the sustainable pump price for petrol in the country should be at N180 per litre.

Maid to Die by Hanging for Killing Ex-Gov Igbinedion's Mother

Adibe Emenyonu in Benin

An Edo State High court, has ordered a maid, Dominion Okoro, to die by hanging for killing Madam Maria Oredola Igbinedion, mother of former Governor of Edo State, Chief Lucky Igbinedion.

The 25-year-old convict murdered the deceased, who was her Madam with a stool with intent to rob her of the sum of N100,000 on December 1, 2021, at her residence in Ugbor Community, Oredo Local Government Area of the state.

The trial Judge, Justice Efe Ikponmwoba, who gave the verdict on Monday, held that the convict, after committing the act, also used cotton wool to stoke the nose of the deceased and thereafter, called a cab man to escape from the house early the following morning.

The convict confessed to the police that she bought Indian hemp, which she uses in preparing meal for the deceased in order to weaken and kill her without a struggle, according to the court.

The judge, therefore, held that with the evidence of the pathologist on the cause of death, evidence of other prosecution witnesses in addition to the convict's confessional statement, it was safe for the court to send the convict to the gallows.

On the case of Patience Okoro, elder sister of the convict in the case, the Court noted that the only evidence linking her with the case was that Dominion called her to inform her after committing the act.

Patience was, therefore, discharged and acquitted of the charge of offence of accessory after murder, accordingly.



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NDLEA Seizes 1,804kg Drugs, Arrest 227 Suspects in Kogi, Sokoto

Ibrahim Oyewale in Lokoja

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has arrested 227 suspects with a total of 3,804kg of assorted hard drugs between January and June in Kogi and Sokoto States. While Kogi accounted for 2,699kg of drugs and 149 suspects, Sokoto recorded 103 kg of drugs and 78 suspects. Speaking at a press briefing in Lokoja yesterday to mark the beginning of a week-long activities in celebration of the 2022 United Nations Day Against drug Abuse and trafficking, the Kogi State Commander NDLEA, Mr. Abdulkadir Abdullahi Fakai, said pointed out that 149 drug suspects made up of both males and females were arrested with the 2,699kg assorted drugs within the period under review include codeine, Methamphetamine, Exol-5, Diazepam, tramadol, Cannabis sativa, Pentazocine amongst others. The NDLEA boss stated that the agency recorded the highest seizure of 948.956kg in April followed by 307.815kg in May while the list of 59.973 kg was

recorded within June. He said that already the command has tried and convicted 29 accused persons while other cases are still pending at the Federal High Court, Lokoja.

“The drug situation in Nigeria and indeed Kogi is disturbing, especially being a microcosm of Nigeria, and as a federating unit, Kogi cannot stand alone in the face of this ominous threat of drug abuse

and trafficking. “The implication on security, economic and the general wellbeing is dire. Statistics and empirical facts from NDLEA operations indicate clearly that the drug

problem is mutating into a colossal social problem. “It has become an issue linked beyond doubt to the escalation of insecurity and its attendant effects on peace and economy across the country,

“ he said. He said that the debilitating effects of armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry, rape and other violent crimes against humanity were contesting for the soul of our nation.



FBN HOLDINGS’ 10TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING...
L-R: Chairman, FBN Holdings Plc, Alhaji Ahmad Abdullahi; President, Association for the Advancement of the Rights of Nigerian Shareholders (AARNS), Dr. Faruk Umar; Managing Director/CEO, First Bank Nigeria Limited, Dr. Adesola Adeduntan, and Group Managing Director, FBN Holdings, Mr. Nnamdi Okonkwo, at the 10th Annual General Meeting of the company in Lagos...recently

Rail Tracks to Apapa Ports to Be Completed in July, Says FG

Sunday Okobi

In order to quicken the evacuation of goods through the rail line from Apapa port terminals in Lagos to other parts of the country, the federal government has promised that the standard gauge rail track to the port terminals will be completed in July, 2022.. The Minister of State for Transportation, Senator Gbemisola Saraki, gave the assurance during her inspection of the rail track at Apapa recently. The minister, who was in Lagos to inspect projects under her ministry, was at the Apapa port accompanied by the Managing Director of the Nigerian

Railway Corporation(NRC), Mr. Fidert Okhiria, top officials of the NRC, and the Project Manager of the China Civil Engineering Construction Company, Mr. Xia Lijun. She said the Nigeria Customs Service Scanner Centre and whatever structures obstructing the rail track will be pulled down. According to Saraki, “We are here to look at the issues affecting activities to connect the rail to the Apapa seaport. As you can see, the construction of this standard gauge has been ongoing for more than two years, and I came here to inspect the activities.

Youths Protest, Demand More Machines for Voter Registration in Enugu

Gideon Arinze in Enugu

Youths in Enugu, yesterday, held a protest against what they perceive as a deliberate ploy by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to disenfranchise voters in the South-east region. The protesters in their thousands marched from Okpara Square to the state office of the INEC, where they demanded for the deployment of more machines to allow people to register and have their Permanent

Voters Cards (PVCs) ahead of the 2023 general elections. As they marched towards the office of the commission, the protesters were heard chanting “INEC, give us more machines,” “PVC is our right,” “INEC has been joking with us, the registration is slow.” Some of those who spoke to THISDAY said that it had become clear that the INEC intended to disenfranchise many Nigerians, particularly, those from the South-east.

FG Flags off Federal Civil Service Bus Scheme

Olawale Ajimotokan in Abuja

The federal government has flagged off the pilot phase of the Federal Civil Service Bus Scheme. The Head of Service of the Federation, Dr. Folasade Yemi-Esan yesterday inaugurated the bus service in Abuja. The pilot phase will take off with 20 high-capacity buses that will be deployed to cover four major routes within the FCT. The routes are Kubwa, Nyanya, Airport Road and Gwagwalada. According to her, although the phase of the scheme is starting on a small scale it is expected that coverage would be expanded to access more routes.

She noted the assurance is premised on the expectation that more private sector operators will key into the scheme for the benefit of greater number of civil servants within the FCT and its outskirts. She said the service is aimed at providing efficient transportation system for workers living within the FCT and its outskirts. Yemi-Esan stressed the overarching goal of the scheme is to increase the disposable incomes of civil servants within the FCT, by reducing the cost of transportation to and from their workplaces.

Bandits Attack Intending Pilgrims, Kill Three Police Escort in Sokoto

Onuminya Innocent in Sokoto

The terrorists operating at eastern part of Sokoto State have attacked the motorcade of intending pilgrims from Isa Local Government, leaving three police escort dead. The intending pilgrims were coming to Hajj camp in Sokoto for airlift to Saudi Arabia when the bandits ambushed them, according to a source who spoke on condition of

anonymity. According to the source, the terrorists went away with scores of the intending pilgrims and some security agents. However, respite had come the way of 21 intending pilgrims from Sokoto State that were kidnapped by suspected terrorists. The Permanent Secretary of Sokoto State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mr. Shehu Muhammad Dange, confirmed to THISDAY

that the victims were kidnapped at Gundumi village alongside security escort and some members of their families who accompanied them. The Commissioner for Information, Mr. Isah Bajini Galadanci, who further confirmed the incident in a press statement, said: “The victims and security men escorting them were held up by suspected bandits operating on the corridor linking the eastern

part of the state. “However, all the 21 intending pilgrims and the security escort as well as their relatives were rescued. The intending pilgrims were received by government officials and they are now waiting for their scheduled flight.” The statement did not reveal who were responsible for their rescue nor, disclose if ransom was paid or not.

FG to Address 17m Housing Deficit Before May 2023, Says FHA MD

Enameh Gabriel in Abuja

Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Housing Authority of Nigeria(FHA), Senator Gbenga Bareehu Ashafa, has disclosed that the federal government would leave no stone unturned to address the estimated 17 million housing deficit in Nigeria before the end of the current administration on May 29, 2023.

This is as he said that there was no actual data of the housing deficit in Nigeria, adding that the Buhari administration has committed a lot of resources to reduce the level of housing deficit in the country for both low and high income earners. Ashafa made the disclosure yesterday at the soft launch of Expressview Estate Lugbe, a partnership project between Mixta Africa and the FHA in

Abuja. According to him, the data of housing deficit in Nigeria do not always capture unoccupied houses, just like the one flagged off in Lugbe which is sitting on a 1.5 hectare of land where 58 flats and might not be captured upon completion. The FHA MD, who said the agency has just completed about 300 houses in Zuba for the low income earners, added

that a lot of houses have been delivered to Nigerians within a short period of time. “What the Honourable Minister of Work and Housing have been saying right from onset, we’ve not been able to come up with a specific figure. However, look at the project we are embarking on now. Are we counting it? Look at the number of unoccupied houses. Are we counting them?

Osinachi’s Husband Disallowed Our Mother from Visiting Her When She was Ill, Singer’s Twin Alleges

The twin-sister of late gospel singer, Osinachi, Amarachi Ezeh, yesterday alleged Peter Nwachukwu refused to allow their mother to visit her sick sister. Ezeh, 42, testified for the prosecution before a Federal Capital Territory High Court, Abuja in the alleged culpable homicide case against her late sister’s husband, Nwachukwu.

“Pastor Becky Enenche of Dunamis Church, Abuja, intervened before Nwachukwu allowed our mother, Caroline Madu to visit. “He sent our mother out of his house after two weeks. “A woman from Delta took our mother in and allowed her to stay in her house for one month. That was the last time our mother

visited Osinachi,” she said. Ezeh alleged that Nwachukwu beat her sister when she was pregnant. The witness narrated a particular incident where someone gave Osinachi N40,000 and on getting home, she said the defendant opened her purse, took the money, called her a thief, a prostitute and still beat her up.

The witness in her testimony corroborated most of the allegations earlier given by her mother and sister, Favour on Monday. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), reported that in their earlier gave testimonies on Monday, they alleged that the late singer never helped her family because the defendant prevented her from doing so.

2022: Oyetola Urges EFCC to Investigate Adeleke, PDP over Voters’ Inducement

Yinka Kolawole in Osogbo

The Re-election Campaign Council (RCC) of the Osun Governorship Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), has urged the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), to investigate the candidate of the Peoples’ Democratic Party (PDP), Mr. Ademola Adeleke, over his

comment that he would induce voters before and during the forthcoming gubernatorial election in the state. The RCC said that it is pertinent to draw the attention of the EFCC to the unguarded comment in order to challenge Adeleke and the PDP to explain what he meant by that he had arrived with hard currencies to prosecute the election and to

approach it “fire for fire.” Addressing a press conference at the Ilerioluwa Campaign Office yesterday, the Director General of the Osun APC Campaign Council, Senator Ajibola Basiru, argued that for an individual to have declared publicly that he would financially induce electorate needed to be investigated and prosecuted in order to stop him

from compromising the electoral process and fledgling democracy. Basiru called on the EFCC and other anti-graft agencies to beam their search light on the matter and summon the PDP candidate for a thorough investigation and questioning to unravel what he meant that he has brought pounds, dollars, euros and other hard currencies to buy vote.

NEWSXTRA

Keyamo: Paucity of Funds Hampering East-west, Other Federal Roads

● *FG inaugurates 7.85km Isoko ring road in Delta*

Omon-Julius Onabu in Asaba

President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday inaugurated the N2 billion Section II, Uzere-Aviara Ring Road in Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State built by the federal government, assuring of his administration's commitment to completion and delivering of ongoing infrastructural projects across the country.

Represented at the ceremony by the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Festus Keyamo, the president said that many parts of the country would have been touched by his administration's infrastructure development but for paucity of funds, noting that he had to go beyond the traditional source of funding so as to ensure timely completion of the second Niger bridge.

Inaugurating the Uzere-Aviara road, which links every major part of agrarian Uzere community with the neighboring Isoko community of Aviara, President Buhari said: "Our commitment to improving road transport infrastructure, our determination to improve the ease doing business, create jobs and prosperity to lift people

out of poverty brings us here today because the results of our investment are manifesting.

"I can confidently say that as we enter the final lap of the tenure of the tenure of this

administration, we also entering a season of completion and delivery of projects", saying that the 7.85 kilometer Uzere-Aviara Road, by the inauguration, "becomes a critical component

of our national road network," he said.

He enumerated some of the economic and social benefits of the Uzere-Aviara Ring road, including reduced financial, time

and safety costs of transportation, saying that employment of local people in building the road "is also a story of the capacity of our people."

"This road is also a statement

of economic efficiency and ease of doing business. This is because the travel time before construction has now reduced since the completion of the road.



MARKING FOREIGN LANGUAGE DAY...

L-R: Chairman, Parents, Teachers Association (PTA), Grace Schools, Mr. Omoriyi Edoigawerie; Representative of Nigerian Association of French Teachers, Mr. Salami Saidi; Chinese Director, Confucius Institute, University of Lagos, Prof. Zhao Hongling; Head of School, Grace Children School Gbagada, Dr. Olanike Ekundayo, and Supervisor, Grace Children School, Mr. John Ibe, at the Grace School's foreign language day in Lagos... yesterday

ETOPUKUTT

Delta Monarchs Urge Citizens to Embrace PVC Registration

Sunday Okobi

Monarchs in Delta State, under the aegis of Delta North Traditional Rulers Forum, have called on Deltans to embrace the ongoing voters' registration exercise across the state and the country in order not to be disenfranchised in the 2023 general elections.

The royal fathers in a communique signed by its Chairman, His Majesty, the Obi of Owa, Dr. E.O Efeizomor, and

made available to THISDAY, said the continued voter registration exercise has become necessary because it will enable more eligible Deltans to register and participate in elections.

King Efeizomor, who stated this during a meeting of the traditional rulers at the palace of the Obi of Owa, noted that the right to vote is critically important to the health and legitimacy of Nigerian democracy as well as its electoral integrity.

Ondo: Police Parade 14 Suspects for Armed Robbery, Cultism, Stealing

Fidelis David in Akure

The Ondo State Police Command has arrested 14 suspects for alleged terrorism and other crimes ranging from armed robbery, cultism and stealing in the state.

Parading the suspects yesterday at the command headquarters on Igbatoto Road, Akure, the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Funmilayo Odunlami, said the arrests were part of the

achievements of the Command since the beginning of June.

The PPRO noted that among the suspects, there is a serial armed robber and a burglar, Tosin Omoniyi, who attempted to rape a housewife after robbing her.

She said: "We have the mother of the suspect, Mrs. Tale Omoniyi, who also aid and abet his son. She's aware that her son is a serial armed robber and has been into it for a while with his mother as his backbone.

DSS Arrests INEC's Security Official over Extortion in Rivers

Blessing Ibunge in Port Harcourt

Operatives of the Department of State Security (DSS), have arrested a security guard attached to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Rivers State, over alleged extortion from members of the public.

THISDAY gathered that the official was arrested over the alleged offence at the INEC office in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of the state.

Public Affairs officer of INEC in the state, Geraldine Ekelemu confirmed the arrest.

Ekelemu, who spoke on behalf of the state Resident Electoral Commissioner, Obong Efang, said, "INEC in Rivers State can confirm that one of its security guards attached to its Obio/Akpor area office, has been arrested by agents of the Department of State Security on allegation of extortion of money from members of the public.

EU: Why We're Interested in Nigeria's Voter Registration

Chuks Okocha in Abuja

The European Union (EU), yesterday, explained that its interest in the ongoing campaign for voter registration in Nigeria was not more than getting more youths participate in electioneering and governance matters.

Also, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has alerted prospective registrants that, there would be no issuance of new Permanent Voter Cards till January next year, although election

starts in February, adding that, its immediate concern at the moment was the distribution of PVC of those that registered since 2019.

At the same time, the Executive Director of Yiaga Africa, Samson Itodo, has said if 60 percent of Nigerian youths, which consists of 29 million registered voters, voted in next year's elections, they would determine the new set of leaders by 2023.

Speaking at the preconcert briefing of the Youths Vote Count Conference taking place at the old

parade ground, Area 10, Abuja, the Programme Director, of the EU, Laolu Olawumi, said they had no partisan interest, but only to ensure that youths got involved in areas of governance.

The EU Director of Programme said at the press conference that, "We only want people to get their PVCs and vote in subsequent elections. We have no partisan interest."

She further said the European Union was standing with INEC and government of Nigeria by

ensuring that the 60 per cent of the youth, which consisted more than 29 million voters, was to ensure that the youths were captured in the voter register and vote at subsequent elections

"We want the young people to be engaged during electioneering processes. Our action is non-partisan but to get the youth in issues of elections and possibly, governance. Let's help the youth get their permanent voters card (PVC) and let them come out and vote during election.

Buhari Writes N' Assembly, Seeks Business Facilitation Bill Passage

Udora Orizu in Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari, has written to the National Assembly, seeking speedy consideration and passage of the Business Facilitation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2022.

In a letter, dated June 17 and addressed to the

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, the president said the Bill sought to promote the ease of doing business in Nigeria by amending relevant legislation.

The letter, which was read by the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Idris Wase, who presided

over plenary session, read in part: "Pursuant to Sections 58(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), I forward herewith the Business Facilitation (Miscellaneous Provision) Bill 2022 for the kind consideration of the House of Representatives.

"The Business Facilitation

(Miscellaneous Provision) Bill 2022 seeks to promote the ease of doing business in Nigeria by amending relevant legislation. While hoping that this submission will receive the usual expeditious consideration of the House, please accept, Rt Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration."

Aregbesola Launches 10,000 e-passport Platform in Edo, Warns against Sharp Practices

Adibe Emenyonu in Benin City

The Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola, yesterday, warned men of the Nigeria Immigration Service, Edo State Command, to shun tendencies capable of jeopardising federal government's efforts in ensuring that Nigeria could procure travelling passports with ease.

He said the ministry under his watch would not spare the rod in dealing decisively with any officials of the service engaged in any illegal practices, noting that President Muhammadu Buhari was desirous of improving service delivery in the country.

Aregbesola spoke at the official roll-out of the enhanced e-Passport in Benin, Asaba & Warri, even as the

commissioning of the Passport Production Centre announced that 10,000 e-passports were available on the platform for applicants and n that the ministry was committed to changing the perception of service delivery for the better.

This is as a former Inspector General of Police, Dr. Solomon Arase, in league with seven other indigenes of the state, Monday, donated Security

kits and accoutrements to the seven local government areas of Edo South senatorial district to community policing.

However, speaking at the commissioning, Aregbesola said, "For our men, who are quick to tell people that there are no passports just to exploit them, those who give unkind and harsh treatment to passport seekers will be dealt with henceforth.

2023: Plateau PDP Guber Candidate Picks Female Running Mate

Seriki Adinoyi in Jos

The gubernatorial candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Plateau State, Caleb Mutfwang, has picked Mrs. Josephine Piyo as his running mate ahead of the 2023 general election.

Piyo was unveiled at a brief ceremony held at the state PDP secretariat in Jos yesterday.

Piyo, a grassroots politician, is a former chairperson of Riyom Local Government Area of the state and a former lawmaker in the state House of Assembly.

Mutfwang said the choice of Piyo is about giving a voice to the voiceless.

He said: "It is pertinent to mention that since my election as the party candidate, I have taken the responsibility of

providing leadership seriously. I have begun by talking with, and where possible, visiting my fellow contestants. I am very grateful for their sportsmanship and solidarity thus far. The discharge permits to place on record the unflinching support I have enjoyed from the leadership of our party across the state, elders, stakeholders, and supporters since I emerged

as our gubernatorial candidate.

"Today is a day of history. I must begin to demonstrate my capacity for leadership by taking a very tough decision-the choice of a deputy governorship candidate for our great party. Fortunately for me, I have an array of qualified men and women to choose from. Ironically, it is a difficult one since it can only be one person!

Napoli Under Investigation over Suspected Fraud in Osimhen's Transfer Deal

Kunle Adewale with agency report

Napoli are being investigated for potential false accounting in the transfer deal which brought Nigeria's striker, Victor Osimhen to the Serie A club, prosecutors confirmed on Tuesday in Italy. Prosecutors in Naples said in a statement that Italian finance police searched Napoli's Castel

Volturmo and Rome offices to collect documents regarding Osimhen's €70 million (\$73.9 million) move from Lille in 2020. They added that the searches come following requests from both Italian and French judicial authorities, with Lille having been also been the subject of a search in last month. Italian media report that club

owner, Aurelio de Laurentiis, was also under investigation. Osimhen's transfer was one of dozens of suspicious deals by Italian Football Federation (FIGC) investigators are probing into for alleged inflated transfer values designed to artificially boost clubs' balance sheets. The deal stood out as it involved four players valued

at just over 20 million euros moving to Lille as part of the deal. Three of them never played for the French club and are now in Italy's lower divisions. One of the latter trio, Luigi Liguori, told Italian daily La Repubblica in December that he "never went to Lille" — not even to sign the contract — after being

sold for four millions euros. Movie mogul De Laurentiis was one of 61 people, including a raft of Juventus directors, who were acquitted of any wrong doing by the FIGC's own tribunal in April.

The defendants successfully argued there was no objective way to gauge a player's worth after prosecutors had based their own valuations on data from popular website Transfermarkt.



Victor Osimhen's move from Lille of France to Napoli has come under scrutiny again

Golden Eaglets Qualify for Africa U17 Cup of Nations

●Defender Michael wins third consecutive Man-of-the-Match award

For the second time in less than one month, Nigeria underscored her stature in youth football on the African continent as five-time world champions Golden Eaglets reached the finals of the 2023 Africa U17 Cup of Nations in style. Two goals by deadball expert, Emmanuel Michael, and a glancing header by Abubakar Idris Abdullahi condemned the U17 boys of Cote d'Ivoire to a 1-3 defeat in the first semi final of the ongoing WAFU B U17 Championship in Cape Coast, Ghana. Yet, the Eaglets uncharacteristically conceded first when Yan Diomande scored from the penalty spot in the very first minute after a foul in the Nigerian box. The Nigerian boys launched onslaught after onslaught and were rewarded on the half-hour mark when Emmanuel Michael, who scored a spectacular goal from a 22-yard free-kick in the opening match against hosts Ghana, found the range off another free-kick from the right wing. Thirteen minutes later, Nigeria



Emmanuel Michael...wins Man-of-the-Match for the third consecutive time in Golden Eaglets 3-1 victory over Côte d'Ivoire

were ahead for the first time in the encounter when Michael, again from a free kick at the edge of the box, blindsided goalkeeper

Mohamed Cisse with an intelligent attempt that swept past the static wall. The Ivorians came into the second

half determined to browbeat the Eaglets with their size and stoutness, but they were pegged further back on the hour mark when Abubakar Idris Abdullahi found the net with a glancing header. Four minutes later, the Ivorians were down to 10 men after Makhete Moustapha N'diaye was shown the red card. Another free-kick by Emmanuel Michael in the 77th minute missed target narrowly, and Precious Tonye Williams came very close with four minutes left after a brilliant team move set him up with a clear chance. In Friday's final, the Eaglets will take on the winner of the second semi final between hosts Ghana and Burkina Faso. However, victory over the Ivorians mean they will be one of the eight participating teams at next year's Africa U17 Cup of Nations in Algeria. Defender and deadball prodigy, Emmanuel Michael, was presented with the Man-of-the-Match award, for the third consecutive match.

Joshua Brands Himself 'Comeback King' Ahead Usyk Rematch

Anthony Joshua has branded himself the "comeback king" before his heavyweight rematch against Oleksandr Usyk in Saudi Arabia on 20 August. Joshua came face-to-face with Usyk for the first time since losing his WBA (Super), IBF, and WBO titles in London in September. At a media conference, Joshua was full of confidence as he aims to become a three-time world champion. "If you know my story, you

know I'm the comeback king," Joshua, 31, said. "You can put me down, but it's difficult to keep me down." The press event in Saudi Arabia was heavily saturated with praise for the host country, which has faced accusations of human rights violations and is currently launching a military operation in Yemen that has caused a humanitarian crisis. Joshua, who praised members of the Saudi royal family in his first answer, had his new head

coach by his side, Robert Garcia. The switch of trainer is one of many changes the Watford-born fighter says he has made for the rematch. "In the fight in September, I was wrong and he (Usyk) was right," said Joshua who added that he had to "take that defeat like a man as well, I have to be accountable". He added: "Definitely the hunger is still there. Blips happen, things happen in life, but resilience, mental toughness and consistency will

always prevail." Usyk has spent time in Ukraine helping the war effort against Russia and earlier in the summer it appeared the rematch would have to be postponed. But the 35-year-old Ukrainian was given permission to leave the country in March to train for his second fight with Joshua. Unbeaten in 19 professional fights, Usyk did not say much, only that he was fighting for Ukraine.

Sadio Mane Completes Bayern Medical, to Be Unveiled Today

Sadio Mane has completed the first part of his Bayern Munich medical in Germany after jetting in from Majorca on Tuesday as the forward edges closer to a move to the Bundesliga giants. Liverpool agreed a £35.1million deal with the German club for the 30-year-old last week and he touched down at Munich Airport yesterday morning. The star forward arrived in Bavaria on a private jet from Majorca with his advisor Bjorn Bezemer and then went on to Barmherzige Bruder hospital to undergo his medical. Later on, Mane emerged from the medical facility wearing Bayern Munich training gear and posed for pictures with fans outside. The star forward is expected to be unveiled by the Bundesliga champions today at the Allianz Arena. The Reds had been reluctant to lose their star forward this summer, but a move became almost inevitable when the Senegalese international, who is in the final year of his contract, confirmed his desire to quit Anfield. Having already rejected two offers including what were considered unrealistic bonuses, Liverpool finally agreed a fee of £27.4m with an additional £5.1m based on appearances and £2.6m based on individual and team achievements. Bayern's Sporting Director, Hasan Salihamidzic, led negotiations well aware that Mane was committed to joining the German champions and determined to get a deal done for under Liverpool's £42.5m asking price. Mane's Anfield exit sees Liverpool close edger to an end of an era as he is the first of Jurgen Klopp's original famed front three to leave the club.

Alongside Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino, Mane helped the Reds win their sixth Champions League and end their 30-year wait for a Premier League title. He joined Liverpool for £31m plus £2.5m in add-ons from Southampton in 2016 and quickly became an integral part of Klopp's revolution on Merseyside. Across his six-year spell at the club, the Senegalese international scored 120 goals in 269 appearances in all competitions. He has enjoyed an exceptional year so far, winning the Africa Cup of Nations with Senegal before helping Liverpool win the Carabao Cup and FA Cup and finish runners-up in the Premier League and Champions League. While Mane is heading for the exit, Liverpool have already secured his replacement, signing Darwin Nunez from Benfica for a potential club record of £85m. The Reds have also secured the signings of Fabio Carvalho and Calvin Ramsay as they wrap up their summer business.



Sadio Mane in Bayern Munich training gears after completing his medicals... yesterday

Former Champion Babalola Coming with Another 'Serena'

MTN JUNIOR TENNIS

Iconic former national tennis champion, Abdulmumuni Babalola, winner of over 15 singles and doubles titles, yesterday in Lagos introduced his daughter Blessing, 10, to her first tennis competition. Blessing, whose birthday fell on her debut, did not get the birthday present she had wished for as she got upstaged by a more steady opponent, Rose Nana from Lagos 9-2. The result did not matter to her father who hugged her and encouraged her to take the defeat as a challenge to work harder. "This is a first step in a long journey to stardom" Babalola winner of six CBN Open Senior

Singles and 12 doubles titles said. Adding, "She will have all the advise, training and resources I did not have and hopefully she will go further than I did to become a successful professional tennis player." The Ibadan-based champion said. In other matches in the Girls 10, Joy Emmanuel beat Teniola Adebayo 9-0 while Mabubat Rasaki beat Gertrude Holzenhoff 9-3. In the Girls 12, Lorelay Holzendoff gave her dotting mum, Patience from Benin, something to cheer as she made up for Gertrude's loss by beating Sarah Adisa from Ekiti 9-0. The weeklong tournament is programmed to end on Saturday.

Arsenal Complete Vieira Signing in £34.2m deal



Fabio Vieira...has completed his switch from FC Porto to Arsenal

Neymar Unharmred after Private Jet Makes Emergency Landing in Brazil

Neymar's private jet had to make an emergency landing on Tuesday morning at an airport in the northern Brazilian city of Boa Vista.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward was on board the aircraft, a Cessna 680 Citation model built in 2008 and owned by Neymar Sport E Marketing, that was travelling to Brazil's capital Sao Paulo from Las Vegas.

Neymar had left Las Vegas on Monday afternoon and the aircraft had made a couple of stops, first in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and

then Barbados, before heading to Brazil.

The emergency landing was due to technical problems and everyone on board escaped unharmred.

Later on Tuesday, Neymar's agency released a statement which read: "Due to a small problem in the windshield wiper of the plane of the NR Sports plane, in which

the athlete Neymar Jr, his sister Rafaella Santos and Bruna Biancardi were traveling, the pilot decided, as a measure of precaution, to make an early landing this Tuesday (21) in Boa Vista, in Roraima, so that the problem could be resolved.

"We would like to say that all the passengers are fine and waiting to continue the voyage."

The Brazil international was on holiday in the United States with his girlfriend, Bruno Biancardi, and sister Rafaella Santos, until Monday when he posted an aerial photograph on Instagram stories showing that he was flying over Miami Beach.

The plane, which has an estimated market value of £17m, will undergo repairs before flying to Sao Paulo.

Despite the scare, Neymar posed for photographs with airport staff.



Neymar (left) and his family made an emergency landing in Brazil yesterday following a mechanical problem in his aircraft

Oliseh Appointed Coach in Germany

Former Super Eagles Head Coach, Sunday Oliseh, has been appointed new head coach of German Regionalliga West club Sav Straelen.

Oliseh, according to a report in waz.de, will pen a one-year contract with the fourth tier club.

"Yes, Sunday Oliseh will be our new coach. A good 14 days ago we had delicious asparagus at the Straelener Hof," president of the club Hermann Tecklenburg was quoted by waz.de.

"That was a good conversation. In the last 24 hours we were also able to discuss an employment contract until June 30, 2023. On Wednesday 21 June, Sunday will lead the first practice session. We look forward to working together."

The 47-year-old last managed Eredivisie club, Fortuna Sittard.

He has also managed Belgian club, Royal Cercle Sportif Vervietois and the Nigerian national team.

Iwobi Craves to Re-enact His Late Everton's Form in New Season

Alex Iwobi has admitted that the final weeks of the 2021-2022 season were his best moments as an Everton player since his big-money move from Arsenal in the summer of 2019.

Iwobi was having a poor season until that late surge. He was one of the most maligned Everton players at the time, but he picked form just in time to help his side.

The Nigeria international was the only Toffees player to start Everton's final 12 games of the season and he highlighted his fitness by going the distance in each match.

In fact, the Super Eagles star soon became one of the most popular names at Goodison Park.

On the international stage, the Hale End Academy product completed 90 minutes in each of the four matches played by the Super Eagles this summer, including two 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

Things have not been all rosy since the versatile winger arrived at Goodison Park as he struggled in his first two seasons, so much so that pundits and fans alike were of the opinion that Everton paid over the odds to sign him.

The Merseysiders looked down and out with about ten games left in the Premier League. But a late surge saved their blushes.

Ahead of the new season, Iwobi says he is keen on replicating his

impressive displays in the last few months of the 2021-2022 campaign.

"My first couple of years here weren't the greatest but this (the final weeks of the season) was my best period at Everton," the Super Eagles star told Everton's official website.

"I want to use it as a platform to kick on and make more positive memories with this club."

"I am youngish and have a lot of time ahead."

"I want to win something with Everton – and do my best for the Club."

Iwobi and his Everton teammates begin the Premier League season with a tough clash against Chelsea at Goodison Park.

TRANSFER NEWS

Championship.

He scored six goals and provided a league-high 14 assists in 27 Primeira Liga outings last season as he helped Porto claim the top-flight title in Portugal.

"Fabio is a player with special qualities who is comfortable with the ball in the final third of the pitch," added Arsenal Technical Director Edu.

"We are all looking forward to working with him and enjoying his future contribution to Arsenal."

"We will now continue to work hard and are looking forward to finishing this transfer window as strongly possible."

Vieira has become the Gunners' third summer arrival, following

USA goalkeeper Matt Turner and teenage Brazilian forward Marquinhos.

He says he has spoken to Arteta, but has yet to meet the Spaniard in person.

"This is an important step forward in my career," Vieira told the club's official website.

"It certainly was a fast process. It was something that I was drawn to. Meeting the people at the club was a real positive for me. I'm loving it here and I'm here to give the team my all."

"I'm an attacking player who looks to find space between the lines, to be able to finish off moves either with assists or by scoring goals."

"I think those are the main attributes that Arsenal fans can expect from me."

Inter Agree Lukaku Season-long Loan Deal with Chelsea

Italian club Inter Milan have agreed a deal to sign striker Romelu Lukaku on a season-long loan from Chelsea.

The Blues signed the 29-year-old from Inter for £97.5m in August 2021, but he will return to the Serie A side having struggled last season.

The loan fee for Lukaku is about 8m euros (£6.9m).

The Belgium international scored 15 goals in all competitions for Chelsea last season, with eight in 26 Premier League appearances.

It is understood Lukaku was willing to take a pay cut to rejoin Inter, who won the Serie A title

in 2020-21 with him leading their attack.

The Italian club's financial situation meant it was impossible for them to match Lukaku's wages or buy the frontman outright.

However, president Steven Zhang got involved personally in the negotiations on Monday, which was viewed as significant.

Lukaku, who left Chelsea to join Everton for £28m in 2014, returned to the Stamford Bridge side last summer on a five-year deal for a club-record fee.

However, he apologised for an interview during the season where he said he was not happy with his role under Blues manager Thomas Tuchel and wanted to return to the Italian club in the near future.

Lukaku scored only three times in his final 15 top-flight outings of the season as Chelsea's season fizzled out.

Tuchel's side finished third in the Premier League, while they were beaten by Liverpool on penalties in both the FA Cup and League Cup finals.



Romelu Lukaku...set to return to Inter Milan on loan Deal from Chelsea

NFF Believes Hard Work, Team Spirit Will Take Super Falcons to New Heights

President of the Nigeria Football Federation and FIFA Council Member, Mr Amaju Melvin Pinnick has stated that he has no doubt that with hard work, diligence, focus, team spirit and oneness of purpose, the Super Falcons will successfully retain their African title at the 12th Women Africa Cup of Nations holding in Morocco 2nd -23rd July this year.

Pinnick spoke on Monday in Abuja after a meeting he held with the nine-time African champions, in which he asserverated the need for unity and indivisible team spirit in the squad as Head Coach Randy Waldrum and his assistants prepare the ladies for the task of winning a World Cup ticket and retaining their continental crown.

"Nothing can undermine a team that is fully focused, united in aspiration, and working and walking on the same wavelength. I want you to go to Morocco as one indivisible force, allow your passion to be fueled by patriotism and be good ambassadors of our

great nation.

"You all have a responsibility to be good role models and great motivators to our younger players (in the youth teams). Beyond all, you must be bacons of discipline and dedication, and exhibit exemplary conduct on and off the pitch. We won the trophy at the last tournament in Ghana and I believe we have the team to retain it. The NFF will continue to support and encourage the team with the best of preparations, conducive environment and a comfortable stay at the championship in Morocco."

Meanwhile, the camp of the nine-time African champions swelled to 28 on Monday, following the arrivals of defender Ashleigh Plumptre, midfielder Halimatu Ayinde and forward Francisca Ordega.

Midfielder Ngozi Okobi-Okeoghene and forwards Vivian Ikechukwu and Ifeoma Onumonu were being expected yesterday evening, while forward Anam Imo is expected to hit town today.



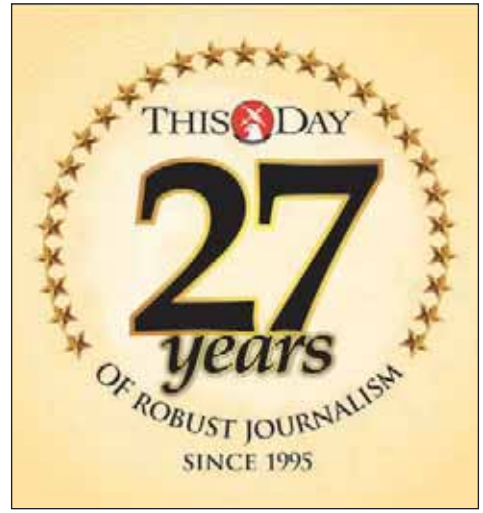
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MISSILE

CJN to Supreme Court Justices

"Judges in all climes are to be seen and not heard... This was akin to dancing naked at the market square.. with the ripple effects of the said letter" – Chief Justice of Nigeria Ibrahim Tanko Mohammed responding to a protest letter from his colleagues at the supreme court on poor working conditions.

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Lumumba's Golden Tooth

Two days ago, Belgian authorities returned a relic of the murder of Patrice Lumumba to his family in a private ceremony in Brussels. It was a gold-capped tooth, the only remnant of the body of the heroic Congolese leader at independence.

The gold-crowned tooth in a blue box is now contained in a casket that would be finally laid to rest at a memorial site in Congo next Monday, the 62nd anniversary of the independence of Congo from colonial Belgium, which today is the de facto capital of European Union.

Following the burial, three days of "national mourning" will be observed in Congo, a country that has hardly known peace in his largely tumultuous history.

Doubtless, Lumumba's place in the history of Africa's struggle for total liberation will remain in gold while the role of western imperialists and their local collaborators in his murder will always be recalled as one of history's worst infamies.

The Belgian police officer who supervised the bestiality of Lumumba's murder, Gerald Soete, said the gold-capped tooth "is a hunting trophy," but decent observers have described it as one the "macabre mementoes" kept for 61 years. The return of Lumumba's tooth is a chilling reminder of one of the most brutal footprints of western imperialism and neo-colonialism on the African continent.

The first Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lumumba, was captured, tortured and executed by firing squad on January 17, 1961.

Trouble started three months after Lumumba formed the first post-independence government in Congo. The government was overthrown and he and two others – Maurice Mpolo (a minister) and Joseph Okilo (a senator) – were arrested. Lumumba's body was reportedly first buried in a shallow grave. But the Belgian colonialists did not want any trace of Lumumba in history. They were not satisfied with killing Lumumba; they foolishly resolved to even deny him martyrdom. So Belgian officers ordered that his body should be dug up. The body was dismembered and dissolved in acid.

Only the teeth survived the cruelty.

This horrific event took place in the second half of the 20th Century, 16 years after the end of World War II and hundreds of years after the same Congo was an infamous source of slaves shipped to the West.

So much for the civilising mission of the Europeans in Africa!

After Lumumba, other revolutionaries and radicals have also been victims of the inherent wickedness of imperialism. The body of the great Argentine Marxist revolutionary, Ernesto Che Guevara, was similarly treated in a bestial manner by his captors, the American-backed Bolivian forces, on October 9, 1967. Guevara was executed a day after his capture. His hands were cut as "proof of death" and the remains were buried in an unmarked grave. It took 30 years before the grave was discovered and a proper burial was done in Cuba. The most recent display of this act of barbarism was in Libya in 2011 when the country's leader for 42 years, Muammar Gaddafi, was brutally killed and his body was kept in a shopping centre freezer before burial. These horrific acts, grossly in violation of basic human dignity, decency and international laws, were perpetrated by those the West supported in their war of "freedom and democracy" in Libya. The same West is today lecturing the rest of the world about "war crimes," "human rights" and "democracy."

The half-hearted regrets so far expressed by the Belgian government should be put in the context of its shameful past. About six years ago, the Lumumba family lodged an official complaint against the



Lumumba

daughter of the Belgian police commissioner keeping Lumumba's tooth, Soete. She inherited the golden tooth from her savage father. Soete, of course, regarded Lumumba as a game only fit for hunting. Whatever happened to the humanity of the colonial agents?

Belgian officials did a good thing by seizing the tooth from Soete's family.

The process of Belgium confronting its past probably begun earlier this month with the country's King Philippe expressing his "deepest regrets" for his country's atrocities in Congo.

On Monday, Belgium formally accepted moral responsibility when its Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said inter alia: "It isn't normal that Belgians held on to the remains of one of the founding fathers of the Congolese nation for six decades."

"I would like, in the presence of his family, to present in my turn the apologies of the Belgian government..." "A man was murdered for his political convictions, his words, his ideals."

Besides, Belgium has also taken symbolic steps at honouring the imperishable legacy of Lumumba by naming a square in Brussels after the icon of African revolution.

In a joint statement, Belgian social justice activists and organisations aptly called the events of the last few days in memory of Lumumba a "historic turning point." In the statement published in the Belgian newspaper, *Le Soir*, they said: "Lumumba will bring back with him his noble political struggle: the defence of national interests, fair distribution of wealth, peace for all, the memory of the past, and the light of the flaming torch of Africa shining across the world."

Although only two of the officers involved in the murder are still alive, an investigation has been launched for "war crimes" for what happened in Congo in the days of Lumumba.

The history of Belgium's relations with Congo has been defined by a litany of acts of inhumanity. From 1885, Belgian King Leopold II ruled the Congo Free State for 23 years from Brussel as a personal estate. In those terrible 23 years, about 10 million people died of starvation, disease and abject poverty. Several others were killed by the Belgian police while some were maimed for not working hard

enough in extracting resources for the King. It was not until 1908 that the country changed from being a personal estate of the King to a colony of Belgium. So the colony of Belgian Congo was born.

In their moments of needless self-flagellation, liberal African scholars are wont to say in the discussion of "post-colonial" problems of the continent that Africa should stop blaming its present troubles on its colonial past. This seeming rationalisation of the enormity of the inhumanity of the African colonial experience is sometimes intellectually overplayed. It is based on an unfortunate short view of history of colonialism and its consequences. The story of Congo is a proof that the role of imperialism and neo-colonialism cannot be discounted in properly diagnosing the contemporary African condition. Today's troubles of Congo have much to do with its colonial history.

The first president of Ghana, Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah, wrote a book on this question. It is entitled *The Challenge of Congo*. And 55 years after the publication of that book, Congo has remained a huge challenge! In his time, Nkrumah defined that challenge as the achievement of an All-African Government that could muster sufficient resistance against foreign intervention and manipulation on the continent. Nkrumah, the greatest African of the 20th Century, was convinced that without such a political unity the victory of the African revolution would be "incomplete." What with Katanga secession, political instability of immediate post-independence years, repeated foreign military interventions, the monumental failure of the United Nations' operations, the murder of Lumumba, the Mobutu 32-year disastrous dictatorship and the crises thereafter, Congo has been a troubled nation.

At independence in 1960, Congo was already a theatre of the Cold War. The West was determined to prevent the mineral-rich central African country from being in the orbit of the Soviet Union. Uranium, in particular, was a point of attraction in Congo.

From the progressive tone of Lumumba's response to the address of the Belgian King on the day of his inauguration, it was clear that he would be a marked man in the book of the West. During the ceremony, Belgian King Baudouin praised his predecessor, King Leopold II, who once owned Congo exclusively, as the "civiliser" of the plundered country. Lumumba replied the King trenchantly amidst applause saying that instead of Belgium bringing civilisation to Congo, what actually happened was "the humiliating slavery that was imposed on us by force."

And Lumumba paid the supreme sacrifice for that audacity.

Shortly before his death, Lumumba wrote a letter from custody to his wife, Pauline Opango. Below is the conclusion of the letter:

"Neither brutality, nor cruelty nor torture will ever bring me to ask for mercy, for I prefer to die with my head unbowed, my faith unshakeable and with profound trust in the destiny of my country, rather than live under subjection and disregarding sacred principles."

"History will one day have its say, but it will not be the history that is taught in Brussels, but the history which will be taught in the countries freed from imperialism and its puppets. Africa will write her own history, and to the north and south of the Sahara it will be a glorious and dignified history."

"Do not weep for me, my dear wife. I know that my country, which is suffering so much, will know how to defend its independence and its liberty."

"Long live the Congo! Long live Africa! PATRICE"

The tragedy of Congo, nay Africa, 61 years after is that that the fervent hope expressed by Comrade Lumumba in captivity is yet to be realised.

Worse still, the history which Lumumba wrote about in the letter to his wife is hardly being taught in independent African countries.

Adieu, Segun Sango

By Femi Falana

When our set in the Alliance of Progressive Students (ALPS) left the Obafemi Awolowo University in June 1981, I was confident that Segun Sango and other comrades in the student movement would keep up the struggle. As expected Segun and other leading cadres rebuilt the ALPS into a more formidable force. Even though he did not hold any position in the student union he provided effective leadership from the rear guard.

Under his leadership, the ALPS collaborated with other radical student groups at the national level to strengthen the Patriotic Youth Movement (PYM). At the material time, cadres like Abdulraman Black, Chris Mammah, Ngozi Iwere, Lanre Arogundade and Comfort Ogunye ensured that the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) protected the interests of students and other Nigerian youths.

Segun's selfless leadership of the Democratic Socialist Movement and Socialist Party of Nigeria confirmed his unalloyed belief in the socialist reconstruction of the Nigerian society. He dedicated every day of his life to the struggle for the liberation of the oppressed people of

Nigeria. As a lawyer, Segun understood the limits of bourgeois legal practice. He always reminded me that the struggle for a just rule of law and a just socio economic order has to be waged outside the court rooms.

Segun was in the forefront of the struggle for the defence of progressive students who were rusticated or expelled by authoritarian campus authoritative. He was also involved in defending workers who were victimised in the public and private sectors. However, Segun was very critical of some labour aristocrats who betrayed the working class and other oppressed people in the society.

In Yoruba mythology, whenever the powerful Oba Sango was angry, fire and thunder came out of his mouth. In like manner whenever Segun spoke about the Nigerian revolution, he usually spat fire. Hence, comrades gave him the sobriquet "Sango". He was highly principled and totally committed to the struggle for the socialist reconstruction of the Nigerian society. In Segun Sango's death the Left has lost one of its finest comrades.

Instead of mourning Segun Sango's transition to eternity, his comrades should resolve to be fully committed to the task of mobilising the Nigerian working class and allies to intensify the struggle to take back the country from imperialism and its local lackeys.