

# \$5bn Train-7 NLNG Project Reaches 52% Completion Level

● Company says project now employs 8,300 persons ● Decries waning feedstock availability on rising sabotage  
 ● Avuru: Nigeria needs about \$7.6bn investments to return oil production to 2.1mbpd in two years

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja and Peter Uzoho in Lagos  
 The Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Limited (NLNG), yesterday, stated

that the ongoing construction of the \$5 billion Train-7 project being undertaken at Finima, Bonny Island, Rivers State, was at 52 per cent completion rate and currently

engages 8,300 Nigerians. This was revealed when the management of NLNG, led by its Managing Director, Dr. Philip Mshelbila, held an engagement session with Executive

Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Simbi Wabote, at the gas company's operational base in Bonny Island.

The engagement came as renowned oil and gas expert and Executive Chairman of AA Holdings Limited, Mr. Austin Avuru, for the umpteenth time, called

for measures to retool the ailing Nigerian petroleum sector. Avuru stated that investments worth about

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**NEITI Report: We Are Working to Reconcile Areas of Discrepancies, Says NNPC... Page 5**

# THIS DAY

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President, Transcorp Group and Honouree, Mrs. Owen Omogiafo; Governor of Edo State, Godwin Obaseki; Honouree and Co-founder and Partner of Verod Capital Management Limited, Eric Idiahi, during the conferment of Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration on Omogiafo and Idiahi, at the 5th Convocation Ceremony of Edo University, Uzairue, Edo State... recently

**Produce Emeziele in Court or Release Him Unconditionally, Judge Restates Order to EFCC**

Alex Enumah in Abuja  
 Justice Olukayode Adeniyi of a High Court of the Federal Capital Territory

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# Obi: S' Court's Affirmation of Tinubu is Beginning of Our Quest for Better Nigeria

● Says apex court exhibited disturbing aversion to public opinion in affirming Tinubu's election  
 ● Advocates five-year rotational presidency  
 ● Says purchase of SUVs, yacht amid multi-dimensional poverty gross act of insensitivity ● Presidency to Obi: stop casting aspersion on Supreme Court  
 ● Insists judicial pronouncements based on evidence, precedent, rule of law

Deji Elumoye, Chuks Okocha and Adedayo Akinwale in Abuja  
 The presidential candidate of Labour Party (LP) at the last presidential elec-

tion, Mr. Peter Obi, yesterday, reacted to the Supreme Court judgement that affirmed Mr. Bola Tinubu as

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**UTM OFFSHORE IN STRATEGIC COLLABORATION WITH UAE GOVT...**

Chief Executive of UTM Offshore Limited, Julius Rone (left) and UAE's Ambassador to Nigeria, Salem Saeed Al-Shamsi, during Rone's visit to the ambassador for strategic collaboration at the UAE Embassy in Abuja ... yesterday

**Court Clears Mbah of Certificate Forgery, Lashes NYSC for 'Fraudulent Design, Suppression, Misrepresentation of Facts' ... Page 33**

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**MTN MANAGEMENT VISITS AKPABIO...**

L-R: MTN Company Secretary, Uto Ukpana; MD/CEO of MTN, Mr Karl Toriola; President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio; Deputy Senate President, Jibrin Barau and Senate Leader, Opeyemi Bamidele, when the MTN Management team paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Senate..... yesterday

# NEITI: \$20bn Required Annually to Bridge Nigeria's Gas Infrastructure Gap

● *Seeks revised national policy on gas utilisation* ● *Says oil theft now national emergency*

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

The Executive Secretary, Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), Dr Ogbonnaya Orji, yesterday said that Nigeria will need an estimated \$20 billion annually to bridge the widening gas infrastructure gap in the country.

Orji spoke at the Nigeria International Pipeline and Security Conference in Abuja, organised by the Pipeline Professionals Association of Nigeria (PPAN) as well as Energy and Corporate Africa.

He spoke on the theme: "Bolstering Security, Protecting Petroleum Industry Assets for Improved Economy".

The executive secretary explained that oil theft and losses in Nigeria had become a national emergency that poses serious threat to oil exploration and exploitation with huge negative consequences on economic growth, business prospects and profit earnings by oil companies.

Quoting from NEITI's 2021 Oil and Gas Industry Report, he explained that the sector accounted for 72.26 per cent of Nigeria's total export and government's foreign exchange, 40.55 per cent of government revenue and provided 19,171 jobs.

However, he noted that despite the strategic contributions, the country is yet to derive optimal benefits from its oil and gas resources due to oil theft and losses through pipeline vandalism, pipeline integrity compromise, outright sabotage, and

general insecurity in the region. From NEITI's reports over the years, and recently insights from its membership of the special investigative panel on oil theft and losses, Orji noted that the criminal exploits take place most times in atmosphere of communities' complicity and conspiracy of silence.

"It is also a matter of fact, that many of your members are directly and indirectly involved in providing the skills and knowledge required to perpetrate oil theft. As you are aware, illegal connections, pipeline clamping etc cannot be done by just anybody.

"And so, your association is largely complicit by failing to put in place stringent regulation and appropriate sanctions to check involvement of your members," he added.

From empirical data of oil theft and losses, Orji reiterated that 619.7million barrels of crude, valued at 46.16billion or N1625 trillion was heisted between 2009 and 2020.

In addition, Nigeria, he said, lost 42 billion litres of petroleum products from refineries, valued at \$1.84 billion at the rate of 140,000 barrels per day, from 2009 to 2018.

"Thus, the total value of crude losses between 2009 and 2020 is higher than the size of the country's foreign reserves and almost 10 times Nigeria's oil savings in Excess Crude Account (ECA)," Orji stressed.

He also disclosed that in the last five years, 2017 to 2021, Nigeria recorded 7,143 cases of pipeline

breakages and deliberate vandalism, resulting in crude theft and product losses of 208.639 million barrels valued at \$12.74 million or N4.325 trillion.

According to him, during the same period Nigeria spent N471.493 billion to either repair or maintain pipelines.

Stressing that curbing oil theft and pipeline vandalism was necessary to restore investors' confidence and rebuild trust in the industry, he argued that the economy cannot grow in an atmosphere of oil theft, pipeline vandalism, and general insecurity in the oil producing communities.

At 200 trillion cubic feet, Nigeria,

he said, has the largest gas reserve in Africa and the 9th largest in the world.

"We recommended to government to urgently put in place a revised national policy on gas utilisation. Such a policy needs to be clear on the specific roles of the industry, government and investors in the implementation of the plan.

"Similarly, the gas utilisation plan should show the market-driven opportunities that would successfully translate the gas plans into sustainable economic growth.

"And for the gas utilisation policy to work, there is a compelling need for deliberate, ambitious investment

in gas infrastructure, especially gas pipelines to provide connectivity across upstream facilities to processing and power plants and access the potential huge market. To achieve this, an estimated investment of \$20bn annually is needed to bridge Nigeria's gas pipeline/infrastructure gap," Orji added.

Describing the discourse as momentous, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr Tajudeen Abbas, said that the National Assembly will continue to create a sound legal framework for the oil and gas sector.

He stressed that it was the reason the lawmakers made the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) a reality, explain-

ing that although not perfect, the document now provides clarity for the industry.

Abass noted that there's now a special committee of the National Assembly on oil theft because of the seriousness the House of Representatives attaches to the sector which bears a huge percentage of the country's revenue.

While calling for collaboration, Abass who was represented by the Chairman, House Committee on Petroleum (Upstream), Alhassan Doguwa noted that anybody found culpable of oil theft or vandalism should be punished to act as a deterrent to other criminals.

## NEITI Report: We Are Working to Reconcile Areas of Discrepancies, Says NNPC

● *Insists it was owed N4.2tn, while it owed federation N2.8tn*

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja and Peter Uzoho in Lagos

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) yesterday, said it was working with the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) and all relevant stakeholders to resolve the areas of disagreement in the 2021 report released by the initiative.

A statement by the Chief Cor-

porate Communications Officer, NNPC, Olufemi Soneye, said the NNPC would work closely with the Reconciliation Committee set up by President Bola Tinubu to investigate, review and reconcile the financial records on alleged indebtedness to the Federation by both NNPC and the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC).

The response came against the backdrop of calls by a non-

governmental organisation for a probe of several monies allegedly owed the federation by the national oil company.

"NNPC Ltd states that the claims by the NGO were baseless, considering the fact that NEITI itself had dismissed many of the allegations in the said 2021 report, following a series of engagements with NNPC Ltd.

"NNPC Ltd states that at the outset of President Bola Tinubu's administration, it was made to sell Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) imported into the country at one third of its value, a development that gave rise to an average of N400 billion monthly subsidy bill, which subsequently put a strain on its revenues and finances.

"NNPC Ltd further states that that subsidy bill accumulated to up to N3.736 trillion as of May 31st 2023," it stated.

With respect to gas-to-power debts, the non-payment of NNPC share of upstream joint venture gas supplied to the government-owned plants, Soneye said, had led to the accumulation of indebtedness of N174.07 billion by the federation.

Similarly, the NNPC noted that the receivables due from the federation to NNPC Exploration & Production Limited (NEPL) as of 31st May 2023 amounted to \$712 million (equivalent to N309.07 billion at N434.08/US\$1) for revenues not

remitted to NEPL but paid into the federation account.

"While the federation owed NNPC the sum of N4.207 trillion as net indebtedness, the company was only indebted to the federation in the sum of N2.852 trillion, made up mainly of outstanding Good and Valuable Consideration (GVC) in respect of government upstream divestments, royalties and Petroleum Profit taxes (PPT)," the NNPC spokesman said.

The NNPC also used the opportunity to clarify that over the years, its relationship with NEITI had been very cordial, as seen in August 2020, when it became an EITI supporting company.

At the time, it said that it joined a group of over 65 extractives companies, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), commodity traders, financial institutions and industry partners committed to observing the EITI's supporting company expectations.

"Indeed, aside being a signatory to several EITI's global ethics and standards, NNPC Ltd had on the sidelines of the United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA) in Washington DC, in September this year, signed up to the United Nations Global Compact on human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption, thereby becoming the first state-owned oil company to join the global initiative.

## Tinubu, Sanwo-Olu Mourn Death of Soludo's Father

● *President grieves over demise of Sheikh Yusuf Ali*

Deji Elumoye in Abuja and David Chyddy Eleke in Awka

President Bola Tinubu and Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, have sympathised with Governor of Anambra State, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, on the demise of his father, Pa Simeon Soludo, aged 92.

The President, according to a statement issued yesterday, by his Media Adviser, Ajuri Ngelale, described Pa Soludo, as a dignified and charitable family man, who lived a fruitful life that was exemplified in the achievements, personal quality, and sterling records of his son, Governor Chukwuma Soludo. "I pray the Almighty God grant

your beloved father eternal rest. He lives through you still; in your sincerity, good works and deeds," President Tinubu said

The President encouraged Soludo and the good people of Anambra State to take solace in the excellent legacy of the departed nonagenarian.

Pa Soludo was said to have died in the early hours of yesterday.

A short press statement by the Press Secretary to the governor, Mr. Christian Aburime announced the death.

Aburime said: "Pa Soludo is survived by seven sons, eight daughters-in-law, 22 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. "Governor Soludo noted that his

late father lived a fulfilled life and died at the ripe age of 92. Further information will be communicated to the public in due course."

However, Sanwo-Olu commiserated with his Anambra State counterpart on the death of his father.

Sanwo-Olu, in a statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Gboyega Akosile, noted that Pa Soludo lived a fulfilled life.

He urged Governor Soludo, the deceased family, friends and associates, as well as indigenes of Umueze, Isuofia community and the entire people of Anambra State to immortalise the good name of the late nonagenarian.

Continues online

## NEWS



## NIGERIA RAW MATERIAL EXPO CONFERENCE...

L-R: Director Corporate Service Division, Manufacturer Association of Nigeria (MAN), Mr. Ambrose Oruche; Director General, MAN, Mr. Segun Ajay-Kadir; President MAN, Francis Meshioye; Director, Raw Materials Research Development Centre, Mr. John Obekpa; and the Project Manager, Bunmi Aliyu at a press conference by MAN alongside with other stakeholders on the 7th edition of the MAN and the Nigeria Raw Material Exhibition Expo, held in Lagos.... Yesterday

PHOTO: SUNDAY ADIGUN

# With Passage of N2.17tn Supplementary Budget, FG Upbeat on Intervention in Critical Sectors

● Assures Nigerians, foreigners of protection; highlights successes against terrorists ● Seeks media support in development programmes

Iyobosa Uwugiare in Abuja

The federal government, yesterday, said the accelerated consideration and approval of its N2.17 trillion 2023 Supplementary Budget by the National Assembly would guarantee the liquidity needed for critical interventions in road infrastructure, agriculture, student loan schemes, health, security, housing, social investment, among other critical areas of national need.

Addressing a press conference along with some senior presidential aides in Abuja, Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris, also stated that President Bola Tinubu was dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all Nigerians and visitors to the country.

The Senate recently approved the N2.17 trillion supplementary budget for the 2023 fiscal year, as proposed by the president. However,

the House of Representatives, scrapped the budgetary allocation of N5.095 billion for the purchase of a controversial presidential yacht in the 2023 supplementary budget.

Explaining the significance of passage of the supplementary budget, Idris said the action of the National Assembly would guarantee adequate funds for Tinubu's interventions in critical sectors for the benefit of Nigerians. He stated, "The president is

pleased with the quick and decisive response of the National Assembly in passing the 2023 supplementary budget. Note also that work is ongoing on the 2024 Appropriation Bill, which is going to be the first full-year budget of the Tinubu administration."

On security, the federal government's spokesman said the security agencies had been very busy, doing their best to keep everyone safe. He said, "I will highlight just

a few of those successes in recent days: in various parts of Kaduna State, seven bandits were neutralised in various operations between the 1st and 3rd of November.

"In Kano State, on November 3, a joint operation by troops of the Nigerian Army and the Department of State Services carried out a dawn raid operation on terrorists' hideout in Gezawa Local Government Area, successfully averting an imminent attack on Kano by insurgents.

"The operation recovered AK 47 Rifles, AK 47 Rifle Magazines, a Rocket Propelled Gun (RPG), RPG Bombs, Hand Grenades, Improvised

Explosive Device (IED)-making materials, among others."

In Katsina, the minister explained that the two National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members abducted by bandits were successfully rescued, adding that the Nigerian Air Force had also been very busy, with several successful airstrikes on bandits' and terrorists' camps and hideouts in Katsina, Zamfara and Borno states.

According to the minister, the Air Force has also recently taken delivery of four new aircraft, to strengthen the fight against banditry and terrorism.

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## Alake: Technology Will Play Crucial Role in Sanitising Mining Sector

Folalumi Alaran in Abuja

The Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dele Alake, has emphasised the significance of technology in sanitising and repositioning the mining sector for greater productivity.

Speaking while playing host to

the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Uche Nnaji, Alake noted that technology in the solid minerals sector will be useful in areas such as scientific geo-data generation, addressing security challenges and all other ancillary matters around the mining value chain.

"The security architecture that we

are rejigging, we are going to inject a large measure of technology into it. Where else to go but the science, innovation and technology Ministry, to assist us in this regard.

"That's why my brother minister has come in and we are consolidating, discussing, and moving the issue forward to ensure that at the end of the day there is synergy in all our operations.

"That was part of the essence of the ministerial retreat we had last week. So the visit is in furtherance of our collaborative efforts to ensure that the solid minerals ministry is a beneficiary of all the innovations that will be pushed out," the minister added.

In his remarks, Nnaji affirmed

the imperative of partnership to assist the solid minerals ministry to take advantage of innovations that will keep the minister abreast of activities within the mining sector.

"We have a lot of innovations in science and tech. We have a satellite approach to what they do in solid minerals ministry such that even on the minister's desk here, he can see all the licenses they have issued.

"Then he is able to monitor whenever there is intrusion into a mining area or someone is mining illegally. All these, he will be able to decipher from his desk. That is part of the discussion we have held and how to actually be in consonance with the renewed hope agenda," the minister asserted.

## Don't Let Nigeria Down, Defence Chief Charges Commanders, Troops

Kingsley Nwezeh in Abuja

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Gen. Christopher Musa, yesterday charged commanders and troops of the Nigerian Army not to let the nation down in the ongoing efforts to quell emerging security challenges across the country.

This came as he enjoined the military to provide support to the police in the forthcoming off-cycle polls in Imo, Kogi and Bayelsa States.

The defence chief gave the charge after he was briefed on operational engagements of troops in various theatres of operations in the country at the Army Headquarters Operations Centre during a visit to the Army Headquarters in Abuja yesterday.

Speaking after receiving a comprehensive operations briefing, Musa commended the Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen Taoreed Lagbaja, principal staff officers, field commanders and troops for their dedication and sacrifice, adding that military service remained a selfless service to humanity and must statutorily support civil authorities.

The defence chief admonished commanders at all levels to be focused, committed and professional in steering the affairs of their various commands to expedite the restoration of peace and stability in the country.

He charged them to lead by example and provide result oriented leadership and mentorship to the junior leaders of the Nigerian Army.

Musa urged the troops of the Nigerian Army to remain resilient and ensure inter-agency cooperation in the conduct of their operations to mitigate security challenges. He assured the troops of the support of President Bola Tinubu.

He appreciated the president for his interventions in enhancing the capacity of the Armed Forces of Nigeria since his assumption of office.

"We have a task ahead and we cannot afford to let our country down. We have the support of Mr President and the nation at large," he said.

He further charged the troops to support the lead agency in the forthcoming elections and strictly adhere to the codes of conduct guiding troops' roles during polls.

## Dangiwa Lauds Tinubu for Prioritising Housing, Urban Devt

The Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Ahmed Musa Dangiwa, has applauded President Bola Tinubu, for demonstrating strong political will to back his bold and visionary Renewed Hope Agenda for housing and urban development in Nigeria.

Dangiwa stated this in his response to the N100 billion 2023 supplementary budget voted for the Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and approved by the National Assembly last week.

"I sincerely believe that under the leadership of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Nigerian housing and urban landscape will witness a historic turnaround. As a Ministry, we are excited because Mr. President understands the magnitude of the housing challenge that the country faces, he has outlined a bold vision towards fixing it in ways never done

before and is willing to provide the political will to back it up," a statement quoted the president to have said.

The Minister explained that the N100 billion Supplementary Budget was only part of broad Financing Plan that would involve a blend of budgetary allocations, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), housing construction finance from the federal housing agencies including the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) and Federal Housing Authority (FHA) towards delivering the Renewed Hope Agenda for Housing and Urban Development.

"The provision of the N100 billion in the 2023 Supplementary Budget gives us the leverage to kickstart Phase 1 of our nationwide Renewed Hope Housing Projects and Slum Upgrading Programme before year end.

## Naira Stable, Closes at N1000/\$ on Parallel Market, Depreciates Marginally to N808/\$ on I&E

Nume Ekeghe

The naira remained stable against the dollar on the parallel market where it exchanged at N1000 yesterday, same amount it closed last Friday.

But on the Investors and Exporters' (I&E) Forex Window, the naira closed at N809.02/\$, slightly lower than the N776.14/\$1 it closed on

Friday. However, intra-day trade from the data obtained by FMDQ showed that the highest spot rate exchanged was at N1100/\$ while the lowest spot rate recorded was N720.50/\$1.

The official I&E window reported a daily volume turnover of \$87.65 million representing an 11.31 per cent decline compared to the \$98.82 million, it recorded on Friday.

"This reflects the urgency that Mr. Presidents accords to providing quality housing to all Nigerians," he said.

The Renewed Hope Cities would have inclusivity at their core. Phase 1 of the project aims to deliver 34,500 housing units in a mix of 1, 2-, and 3-bedroom affordable bungalows in Nigeria's thirty (30) states; multi-level flats to cater to low-medium income earners and terrace and detached bungalows and duplexes for the high-income earners in select state capitals including Lagos, Kano, Borno, Nasarawa, Rivers, Enugu, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

"The high-end buildings would be sold at commercial rates towards cross-subsidising the cost of the units targeting low-income earners," the statement added.

To ensure affordability and quick offtake of the houses by

Nigerians, the Ministry outlined mix of ownership options for potential beneficiaries. This includes mortgage loans for low, medium, and high-income earners, rent-to-own, public rental, and outright sale.

"Under the Phase 1 of the Slum Upgrading Programme, the Ministry plans a total of 26 sites nationwide. This includes four sites in each of the six regions of the country totaling 24 and two in the FCT.

"The key services to be provided at the identified sites will include water supply, solar street lights, rehabilitation of access roads, construction of drainages and waste management and sanitation services amongst others.

"Our aim under the Slum Upgrading Programme is to improve the living conditions of residents of the identified slum project sites by making them livable and habitable," he added.



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## NEWS



## PSC HONOURS OSAYANDE, NAMES AUDITORIUM AFTER HIM...

L-R: Former Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC) and Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Parry Osayande (rtd), Chairman, Police Service Commission, Dr Solomon Arase, while showing the former Chairman round the new office complex of the commission in Jabi, Abuja and an auditorium named after him... yesterday

# Tinubu: It's New Dawn for Agriculture, Era of Business as Usual Over

James Emejo in Abuja

President Bola Tinubu yesterday promised a new era in the country's agricultural sector, vowing that it would no longer be business as usual as his administration seeks to boost food security as well as diversify the economy from over-reliance on petroleum.

Speaking at the opening of the 6th Africa - Wide Agricultural Extension Week (AAEW), with the Theme: "Harnessing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services in Scaling Regenerative Agriculture and Nature-Based Solutions for Food System Transformation in Africa", the president emphasised the huge potential of agriculture as a key driver of the economy.

Represented by the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, Tinubu also maintained that agriculture remained a potent tool to fight unemployment, hunger and poverty.

He said it was against this background that his present administration unveiled an 8-point agenda which include food security; poverty eradication; growth, job creation and access to capital among others.

The president reiterated his commitment to restructuring the economy from unnecessary borrowing to finance government programmes as well as create jobs, achieve economic growth, end poverty and ensure prosperity for all Nigerians.

He said going forward, agriculture must now be market-oriented, and move away from the subsistence farming culture currently being practiced by smallholder farmers.

To achieve this, he stated that the government came up with programmes including the National Agriculture Growth Scheme-Agro-pocket, where millions of farmers are supported through training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), certified inputs such as improved seeds and organic and inorganic fertilizers and irrigation equipment at highly subsidised prices to enhance their production, increase productivity and ultimately higher incomes to farmers.

The president specifically noted that agricultural extension plays a critical role in bringing relevant and improved technologies developed by National Agricultural Research Institutions (NARIs), inputs suppliers and marketers to farmers. He said to strengthen agricultural

extension delivery services in the country, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has put together the first ever Harmonised Extension Manual in Nigeria and National Agricultural Extension Policy - both of which he also launched during the event.

He explained that the harmonised extension manual focuses on how to effectively disseminate and deploy agricultural innovations/technologies to end-users using appropriate extension methods.

He said the document would be of great benefit to extension administrators, subject matter specialists, extension agents as well

as farmers along the agricultural value chains.

Similarly, the agricultural extension policy seeks to provide a pragmatic, effective and efficient demand driven plurastic, ICT-enabled and market-oriented extension service to all stakeholders including youths, women, and people with special needs to optimally use resources to promote sustainable agriculture and socio-economic development of the country.

Tinubu, also reassured Nigerians of his government's renewed commitments towards attaining food security in line with the Renewed

Hope Agenda.

He said, "Our resolve is to develop the agricultural sector towards the attainment of the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially those of zero hunger and to improve agriculture and rural productivity.

"Nigeria's current plan is to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and reduce dependency on food imports."

He added that the present administration remained open to suggestions that could, "enhance our efficiency and effectiveness in repositioning Nigeria agriculture and I hope this conference will

come up with actionable solutions to agricultural challenges in Nigeria."

He hailed the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) for coming up with the conference as well as development partners including USAID, GIZ, IFPRI, among others for their support to creating a platform where African countries interact to channel the best course of action aimed at agricultural extension service delivery for agricultural prosperity.

He also commended their efforts that culminated in the production of Harmonised extension services manual and policy framework.

## FG Inaugurates Stakeholders' Meeting on Policy Oversight for Electoral Integrity

Olawale Ajimotokan in Abuja

The federal government has inaugurated the stakeholders' Meeting on Policy Oversight for Electoral Integrity in Nigeria. The Secretary to the Government

of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, convened the meeting yesterday, in collaboration with the African Electoral Integrity Initiative.

He said the federal government was committed to fair, transparent

and accountable electoral system, as foundation of democracy in the country.

The SGF noted that the gathering represented the convergence of the nation's collective interest with a shared vision to uphold the sanctity of its electoral processes.

"It signifies a critical milestone in our collective pursuit of a free, fair, transparent, and equitable electoral system," he said.

"We have gathered here as unified assembly of stakeholders, representing Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and other election management bodies, political parties, civil society organisations, law enforcement agencies, media, international development partners, and distinguished ladies and gentlemen with a common goal to hone and fortify our democracy," he stressed.

He added that the mandate of the forum was to scrutinise the country's existing electoral legislations and endeavour to identify best practices that will serve as guidelines for free, fair and transparent elections.

He assured that more efforts would be put in place to make Nigeria elections more effective and

efficient by adopting technological tools in the electoral processes.

In his words: "I want to emphasise that the responsibility for safeguarding the integrity of our electoral processes rests not only with the government but on all of us. Let us work together to uphold the principles of free, fair and transparent electoral system, for the benefit of all Nigerians and the sustainability of our democracy."

The SGF, who expressed gratitude of the federal government to the Director of the African Electoral Integrity Initiative, Dr. Daniel Omofoman, for his unwavering dedication to the cause of political integrity in Nigeria, charged participants and all Nigerians to join hands in ensuring a brighter and more transparent electoral future for the country.

Speaking on behalf of the inaugurated Stakeholders Round-Table Meeting, Omofoman assured that the meeting would accord them the opportunity to explore workable solutions and suggestions that would strengthen and revolutionise the nation's electoral processes thereby deepening democracy.

## Tinubu Sympathises with Canadian Govt as Embassy's Inferno Kills Two Nigerians

Deji Elumoye, Michael Olugbode and Olawale Ajimotokan in Abuja

President Bola Tinubu has sympathised with the Canadian government, diplomatic community, and all persons affected by a fire incident which occurred yesterday, at the Canadian High Commission in Abuja.

The President, in press statement issued yesterday, by his Media Adviser, Ajuri Ngelale, assured the Canadian authorities of the full support of the Nigerian government in the aid of diplomatic and local staff of the High Commission who were particularly affected by the incident.

Tinubu prayed for the repose of the departed souls and wished all injured persons a rapid and full recovery.

The affected office is situated at 13010G, Palm Close, Diplomatic Drive, Central Business District in Abuja. It was gathered that the fire which broke out on Monday morning, led to the evacuation of staff from the building.

The fire outbreak left two Nigerian citizens dead and two hospitalised at the National Hospital Trauma Centre with severe burns.

The fire was triggered by a diesel tank explosion in the generator house at the Canadian Embassy.

FCT Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) said the incident happened at about 10:45am today.

Reports noted that the two Mikano engines were being serviced by a five-man team from JMD company when it exploded.

One of the power generating sets was said to be working, while the other one was being serviced.

The fire occurred when the tank of diesel in the generator house, containing 2000 litres of diesel exploded.

Two of the personnel servicing the generator were fatally injured and two persons survived and were placed on admission at the National hospital trauma centre with severe burns.

FEMA's Head, Public Affairs, Nkechi Isa, said the FCT Fire Service which was mobilised to the scene contained the fire around 12:30 pm.

Ambulances from the Ministry of Defense ship house, Abuja Federal Fire Service ambulance and FCT Emergency Management Agency FEMA were on hand at the scene of the incident.

Reacting to the incident, the Acting Director General of FEMA, Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim Sabo, urged caution in the handling of petroleum products, particularly with the onset of the dry season.

He appealed to residents to always use the 112 emergency toll free number in the event of a disaster.



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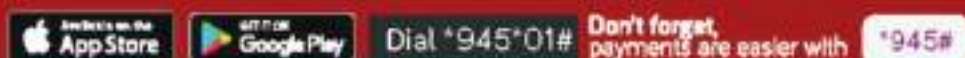
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**THURSDAY**  
9th Nov, 2023

CITY TOUR 10:00 AM  
RHYTHMS & COCKTAIL 5:00 PM @ Secretariat Civic Center Rooftop

**FRIDAY**  
10th Nov, 2023

THE EDO SUMMIT 9:30 AM  
JUM'MAT PRAYERS (Afternoon)  
STATE DINNER(BALL) 6:00 PM

**SATURDAY**  
11th Nov, 2023

GOLF TOURNAMENT 7:00 AM  
FOOD FAIR:THE EDO MARKET 8:30 AM  
YOUTH CONCERT: THE CREATIVES 5:00 PM  
Launch of the Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub studios

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# POLITICS

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## Is INEC Ready for Nov 11 Guber Poll in Bayelsa, Imo, Kogi?

A total of 5.2 million voters will file out on November 11, 2023 to elect governors in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi states. **Adedayo Akinwale**, examines the level of preparation of the electoral umpire, the Independent National Electoral Commission.

**A**s the November 11 governorship election in Bayelsa, Kogi and Imo states draws nearer, a total of 5,409,438 registered voters in the three states are gearing up to elect new chief executive officers of the three states.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) said out of the 5,409,438 registered voters, 5,169,692 have collected their Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs). It added that eligible voters are expected to vote in all the 10,510 polling units across the three states.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, during a Quarterly Consultative Meeting with leaders of political parties last week, also revealed that there are two polling units in Bayelsa State and 38 in Imo State without registered voters, and as such, elections will not take place in the said polling units, the list of which he said was available on the commission's website.

Also, election results would be collated in 649 Registration Areas/Wards, 56 Local Government Areas and three State collation centres.

According to him, this gives a cumulative figure of 11,178 voting and collation locations to deploy security personnel in the three States.

The INEC chairman noted that 18 political parties participating in the elections are deploying 137,934 agents made up of 130,093 polling and 7,841 collation agents.

He pointed out that the commission was finalising arrangements for vehicles and boats for land and maritime movement of personnel and materials.

Yakubu noted the electoral body had so far accredited 126 national and international organisations collectively deploying 11,000 observers for the election.

He revealed that the updated statistics of the commission showed that 94 media organisa-



Yakubu



tions, deploying 1,255 personnel, have been accredited for the elections.

Nevertheless, the commission has expressed concern about the spate of recent judgements and orders of court in respect of the nomination, substitution or disqualification of candidates after all the sensitive materials have been printed as the November 11 governorship elections in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi states draw closer.

It decried that the reprinting of the materials in compliance with court orders within a short period of time was not only expensive but the management of the process was very challenging.

Yakubu noted: "On the issue of candidature, the Commission is concerned about the spate of recent judgements and orders of court in respect of the nomination, substitution or disqualification of candidates after all the sensitive materials have been printed.

"Although the Commission has already published the final list of candidates for the three States, four recent court orders have compelled us to review the list. These changes have been reflected in the updated list of parties and candidates on our website.

"However, this decision is without prejudice to any pending appeal by the affected candidates or their political parties."

Yakubu added that with less than two weeks to the election, the electoral body was at the concluding stages of the preparations.

Nonetheless, the Chairman has assured that INEC State offices have concluded the readiness assessment of their facilities as well as the movement of critical facilities to 56 Local Government offices across the three States.

He revealed that in the next few days, the Commission would publish the detailed distribution of agents uploaded by all political parties for public information.

For the umpteenth time, the Commission said it was looking forward to improved performance of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation

System (BVAS) and result upload on INEC Result Viewing (IREV) in the forthcoming elections.

The Commission recalled that it conducted a mock accreditation involving actual voters in designated polling units in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi States two weeks ago.

It said, "By doing so, we tested the efficacy of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for both biometric authentication of voters and the upload of results to the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV). Some of you observed the mock accreditation exercise and viewed the results on the IREV portal.

"We have received no adverse report so far. By this, we are encouraged that the test was successful, and we look forward to improved performance of the BVAS in voter accreditation and result upload in the forthcoming Governorship elections and beyond."

The commission, however, clarified that it would "upload" not "transmits" polling unit results to IREV. It explained that IREV is meant to enhance election transparency and not a result collation or transmission system.

Chief Press Secretary to INEC Chairman, Mr. Rotimi Oyekanmi, emphasised that some Nigerians believed that the BVAS is an Electronic Voting Machine, while the IREV receives, collates results, and thereafter determines the outcome of an election.

Oyekanmi added that the primary purpose why INEC invented IREV is for engendering transparency in its election result management process; to give Nigerians access to polling unit results from all parts of the country on a dedicated portal that could be accessed via the internet.

NOTE: Interested readers should continue in the online edition on [www.thisdaylive.com](http://www.thisdaylive.com)

## 10th Senate and Akpabio's Leadership Scorecard

**Mon-Charles Egbo** writes about the legislative interventions of the 10th Senate under the leadership Of Senator Godswill Akpabio since its inauguration on June 13, 2023.

**F**or a valid assessment of the legislature concerning good governance, the first step is to determine the level of commitment of the executive in complementing the legislature.

Hence in this attempt at highlighting the good governance contributions of the 10th Senate so far, it is acknowledged that legislative outputs are only impactful if they are respected by the executive. By the constitution, the legislature is lacking in power and influence, particularly in the aspect of eliciting external compliance. This is common knowledge!

Nonetheless, the legislature must discharge its obligations.

Inaugurated on the 13th of June 2023, the Senate statutorily sat for 15 days before embarking on the annual vacation between August 2nd and September 25th.

Within the period and towards facilitating effective take-off of governance, the Senate screened and confirmed the military service chiefs, the board membership of the North-East Development Commission, the Central Bank Governor and four deputies in addition to the 48 ministerial nominees though it rejected three.

By the same token, it amended and passed the 2022 Supplementary Appropriation Bill "for the provisions of Palliatives and other Items to Nigerians to cushion the effect of fuel subsidy removal and Other Matters". Again, it approved the presidential request for "Additional Financing of the National Social Safety Net Programme through a facility secured from the World Bank".

It also processed petitions from constituents who were various victims of injustice at the hands of private and public entities.

Then, of course, motions were considered and bills introduced, which justifiably form the major bulk of this work.



Akpabio

To begin with, the Senate, overwhelmed by the horrible state of the roads, raised a motion on the "Collapse of Road Infrastructure In Nigeria". The outcome was the setting up of "an Ad-hoc Committee to come up with a compendium of all the affected Federal roads and erosion sites across the country either awarded but abandoned by contractors or have not been awarded at all, to be forwarded to the Executive Arm for urgent intervention".

But before this one-off approach, it had considered several motions variously demanding interventions on some specific roads. For example, on the "166 Kilometer Abuja-Kaduna Expressway whose contract also provided for increased "Security Surveillance through Deployment of more Personnel and Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) such as Drones, Radars and Scanners",

the Senate recommended a comprehensive analysis of "all funds released for this important project from the award date to the present with the aim of finding out the reason for the delay in completing the project".

It also resolved "to accord similar attention on all other road networks suffering from same conditions".

On the Umuahia-Umudike-Ikot-Ekpene, Aba-Ikot-Ekpene and Aba-Ossisioma to Port-Harcourt Roads (connecting three states and two geo-political zones), the Senate called for the urgent intervention of the federal government supported by an "investigation of the award of the contracts with a view to identifying the factors contributing to the unaccounted delays in the execution".

Again, the Senate constituted an Ad-hoc Committee "to investigate the reasons for non-completion of the East-West road and the Eleme-Ogoni corridor in Rivers State" and variously called on the federal government to: urgently "commence repairs" and "provide adequate funding to complete the reconstruction" of the Benin-Auchi-Lokoja Road; "review the on-going contract for the rehabilitation of the Calabar-Oban-Ekong Road (in Cross River State) awarded to Setraco Nigeria Limited and fund for the project to enable the contractor to commence and complete the rehabilitation works" and also "commence repairs and reconstruction of the affected parts of the Onitsha-Owerri Federal Road and particularly, the sections between Upper Iwaka Roundabout in Onitsha and Oba in Idemili South L.G.A of Anambra State which span about six kilometres in addition to urgently fixing "the erosion menace in Ovom, Ogbor-Hill, Aba (Abia State)".

Quite instructively, the Senate recommended "regular surveillance of Federal highways to

identify and nip erosion threats to Federal roads in the bud and also for "the SGF (Secretary to the Government of the Federation) Office to constitute a team of Engineers to tour around and have an overview of erosion sites, design a template for possible control of erosion sites".

Then on "the Obodoukwu, Uruala, Akokwa, Umumaisiaku, Umuchima and Umueshi Gully Erosion Sites in Ideato South LGAs, Imo State", the Senate urged "the Ecological Fund Office and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to jointly and urgently engage relevant experts, including geologists, hydrologists, and environmental engineers, to conduct the assessment and implement measures such as slope stabilization, gabion installations, terracing, re-vegetation, and construction of retaining walls to prevent further losses and minimize the risks to nearby infrastructure, communities, LGAs and states".

Still on erosion control, the Senate called for the collaboration of federal agencies, namely "the Federal Ministry of Environment, Ecological Fund Office and the Federal Ministry of Works towards tackling the menace of erosion devastation in Edo Senatorial District" and also specifically asked the federal government to "carry out emergency works on Ekpoma (Uhiele, Ujoelen, Ukpenu, Borehole Road & Emuhi), Irrua (Uwasan and Ikekato), Ewu (Egare and Uzogholo), Uromi (Efandion, Eguare & Uzegwa), Udo and Illushi; and then "set up NEMA stations in Edo Central to assist residents in the event of emergency that could lead to loss of lives and properties".

-Egbo writes from Abuja

NOTE: Interested readers should continue in the online edition on [www.thisdaylive.com](http://www.thisdaylive.com)

# One Year in Office, Gov Oyebanji Gets Ekiti Stakeholders' Nod for Second Term

**Gbenga Sodeinde** writes about the recent endorsement of Governor Biodun Oyebanji of Ekiti state for a second term in office by politicians across party divides including three former governors of the state.

In what appeared like mysterious handshakes across party lines, Governor Biodun Oyebanji of Ekiti state secured unusual endorsements for 2026 governorship poll on Sunday, October 22, during an occasion marking his first year in office.

Pundits and ardent watchers of Ekiti political trends branded this as stunning, unusual, unimaginable, and unprecedented in the history of the state. Though series of endorsements had been made for former occupants of the plum seat in the past but it was rare and enigmatic for Ekiti past governors to have spoken beyond party lines and unanimously declare support for the second term bid of an incumbent governor who has only spent one year in office.

The thanksgiving service of the Oyebanji's first anniversary was held at Emmanuel Cathedral Church in Ado Ekiti. For Governor Oyebanji, it was just a Church Service to thank God for his first year as Governor of Ekiti State and for what he has done since he assumed office. Though the presence of the trio of former Governors Adeniyi Adebayo, Ayodele Fayose and Kayode Fayemi made the Governor got more than he probably bargained for, and that was endorsement by his predecessors.

In another breath, the Senate Leader, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, who had earlier given his remarks before the former governors, said political leaders and people of Ekiti are proud of the performance of Oyebanji and what God is doing in the state through the Governor adding that "Ekiti is set for the next level under Oyebanji.

Bamidele said: "Governor Oyebanji is entrenching the culture of respect and the culture of performance. He is lucky to have Governors Fayose and Fayemi as mentors and advisers. What he is doing differently is that he is giving the state a new political order, uniting various groups where youth, women, civil societies consider themselves as stakeholders.

"You are an example of being in power and humble. I am here because of your humility and because you are real. If you are not real, I will keep a distance. When you become a second term Governor, you will be the most ranking progressive Governor and the most ranking Governor in Nigeria.

"I am looking forward to being the chairman of your re-election campaign, if Jesus Christ carries in His coming and God sparing our lives."

Also like an endorsement from the pulpit, in his elaborate sermon at the anniversary service, Bishop of the Diocese of Ekiti, the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, Rt. Revd. Olusola Ajayi, hailed Governor Oyebanji for making positive impact in the lives of the people of the state within the last one year.

Revd. Ajayi said it was astonishing that Governor Oyebanji executed and delivered 295 projects for the use and benefit of the people of the state under one year through the instrumentality of the six-pillar agenda of his administration.

Beyond his political party, the All Progressives Congress (APC), the former governor, Mr. Fayose, a People's Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain, openly declared support and endorsement for his second term in office. This has actually elicited so much fuss, for Fayose looks like the heart and brain of the main opposition party and this position must have signed a death knell for his party ahead of the forthcoming poll.

At the event, Fayose gave his support in a lucid fashion. He was clear and unambiguous that the 2026 poll is for Oyebanji. A brazen and ebullient politician, Fayose said: "We are all together for Biodun Oyebanji. I am not a member of your party (APC) and I will not be. I am with you (Oyebanji) hundred per cent. We are going to support you. You have come to visit me at my house seven times. You are doing it differently and you will get a different result. This church will pray for you and you will do it (governorship) a second time," Fayose said in the presence of a surprised congregation.

Buttressing Fayose's well articulated position, former governor Adebayo, succinctly and laconically described Fayose's assertion as "the position of we, the former governors" and simply said "Thank you very much."

For Fayose, a PDP leader, who has maintained that he will never for any reason join the ruling party, APC, it was a rare demonstration



Oyebanji

of statesmanship. It was a major way of showing that it should always be Ekiti first.

And for who Fayose has always been, he did not act alone. Otunba Bisi Kolawole, the PDP candidate who contested against Oyebanji in the last year's gubernatorial election was fully in the picture. Kolawole also attended the thanksgiving service and was there when the three former governors spoke in unison, adopting Oyebanji for a second term.

So what earned Governor Oyebanji the endorsements of the big three? What kick-started the second term campaign for a governor who has spent just one year in office?

Some of the people who spoke with THISDAY on what might have earned Governor Oyebanji the unprecedented second endorsements said "the Governor had done roads, paid salaries regularly and has been paying attention to the retirees entitlements promptly, but his recent "State-of-emergency" declared by the Governor in electricity sector is commendable", Ekiti PDP Chieftain, Oladapo Akinyemi had said.

The Governor had recently reconnected electricity to two local government areas of Ekiti state, Gboyin, and Ekiti East Local governments where expression of joy from the people knew no bound.

Residents of the two Council areas went into a frenzy of celebration as the Governor switched on the light at the two local governments in the state. Ojo Adekunle, a welding technician in Omuo Ekiti said he is hopeful his

business that has gone down would bounce back with the restoration of electricity in the area.

Another beneficiary of Governor Oyebanji's electricity projects from Gboyin Local government, an electrical Engineer, Dada Adekola, described the Governor's gesture at restoring electricity to Omuo Ekiti, headquarters of Ekiti East Local Government Council, the 33KV electricity network extended to communities in Ayekire and Gbonyin Local Government Areas in a about eight communities, that had been in total black out for over a decade as commendable.

The Engineer who said the Governor's gesture will not only assist the economy of the state to grow but will also improve the social activities in the state, and particularly in the area which had been disconnected to National grid for about 15 years.

While recently inaugurating the electricity projects in the state, Oyebanji said: "I have signed a new bill into law that will make it impossible for anybody to cheat electricity users. Let me also say openly here that the reconnection project was fully funded by the state government, the BEDC didn't play any role in it.

"It is very bad that you were made to be in darkness for over a decade. We know the importance of light, we are not unaware that being cut off from the national grid can hinder economic growth of our communities.

"We did this because if we are able to solve the problem of electricity, our dams are functional and it will be easy for us to pump water into our reservoirs. There is a connect between the two".

The Governor said the restoration of electricity in some of the communities would aid the provision of portable water by the government. According to him, government had rehabilitated three major dams but could not put them to proper use because of the absence of electric-

ity. "So, aside boosting economic activities, electricity will also boost water supply to our communities" the Governor said.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Media, Yinka Oyebo said, "aside, this electricity restoration showed that Governor Oyebanji places high priority on promoting industrial development and commitment to attracting investments to Ekiti to boost the economic prosperity that would improve the standards of living of the citizens, and most especially the water project the Governor had embarked upon will be easily distributed effectively without hindrance".

Also passing a verdict of good performance on the Governor, a member of the House of Representatives, representing Ekiti South Federal Constituency 2, Hon. Femi Bamisile, said Oyebanji was able to restore electricity to some sections of Ekiti due to hardwork and dedication to duty.

Tactically endorsing the governor for a second term, Bamisile added: "You have just spent one-year, it remains seven years for you. The governor has done good, all of us as Ekiti are going to repay him with support and votes".

Also speaking, APC State Chairman, Paul Omotoso, who is from that axis of Ekiti, revealed that Oyebanji has been able to demonstrate the essence of existence of government and leadership, saying the entire Gbonyin, Ekiti East and Ayekire council areas encountered harrowing experiences while in darkness for about 13 years.

"Some people said politics is about lies, but Governor Oyebanji has been able to show that governance is about prioritising the welfare of the people and that is exactly what our governor is doing. So, let us continue to support him. He has not disappointed us. The governor has not requested for a second term, but his second term is sure".

Applauding the Governor particularly on the electricity projects, and for his recent accomplishments in that area, the Olomuo of Omuo Ekiti, Oba Noah Omonigbehin, revealed that all the traditional rulers in Ekiti would continue to support the Governor, not for partisanship, but for what he has done to liberate the people from sufferings and anguish.

Reiterating the commitment of the Oyebanji administration to the general well-being of people in the State, the Commissioner for Information, Hon. Taiwo Olatunbosun, disclosed that Ekiti State Independent Power Project (IPP) which has commenced operation with test running as part of efforts at addressing the shortage of electricity supply to the State, was one in the series of interventions to address inherent challenges in electricity supply to the State.

Olatunbosun stressed that the IPP is currently guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply to the Governor's Office, Government House, State Secretariat Complex, House of Assembly Complex, Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital, (EKSUTH) and streetlights along major roads in the metropolis, among others.

According to him, the development is geared to boost industrialization and socio-economic development as well as enhance good governance, noting that doing away with the hitherto ubiquitous generators with attendant huge cost of diesels and environmental pollution used to power public facilities like streetlights and government offices would block a lot of wastages.

Olatunbosun noted that the completion of the Power plant came in the heels of several other similar interventions including the restoration of electricity at Ekiti East and Gbonyin (Ayekire) Local Government Areas within his one year in office after 15 years of blackout.

The Commissioner disclosed further that the tourism hub in Ikogosi, Erijinyan and Ipole-Iloro axis has also been connected back to the National grid through a dedicated feeder line from the 132/33KVA power substation at Omisanjana in Ado Ekiti after almost two decades of power outage.

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**Bamidele said: "Governor Oyebanji is entrenching the culture of respect and the culture of performance. He is lucky to have Governors Fayose and Fayemi as mentors and advisers. What he is doing differently is that he is giving the state a new political order, uniting various groups where youth, women, civil societies consider themselves as stakeholders. You are an example of being in power and humble. I am here because of your humility and because you are real. If you are not real, I will keep a distance. When you become a second term Governor, you will be the most ranking progressive Governor and the most ranking Governor in Nigeria".**



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- (vi) Science Laboratory Technologist.

#### 2.3 Registry Department

##### 2.3.1 Human Resource

- (i) Administrative Officer
- (ii) Clerical Officer/Senior Clerical Officer/Assistant Executive Officer

##### 2.3.2 Academic Office

- (i) Administrative Officer
- (ii) Senior Clerical Officer/Assistant Executive Officer/Confidential Secretary/Clerical Officer

##### 2.3.3 Students' Support Services

- (i) Administrative Officer
- (ii) Clerical Officer/Senior Clerical Officer/Assistant Executive Officer

#### 2.4 Bursary Department

##### 2.4.1 Bursar's Office

- (i) Accountant I
- (ii) Clerical Officer (Accounts)/Senior Clerical Officer (Accounts)/Assistant Executive Officer (Accounts)

#### 2.5 University Library

- (i) Assistant Library Officer (Academic Librarian, Senior Library Officer or ICT Librarian) (ii) Higher Library Officer
- (iii) Library Officer

#### 2.6 Vice Chancellor's Office

- (i) Executive Assistant to Vice Chancellor
- (ii) Administrative Assistant
- (iii) Clerical Officer/Senior Clerical Officer/Assistant Executive Officer/Confidential Secretary

#### 2.7 University Health Centre (Clinic)

- (i) Medical Doctor
- (ii) Registered Nurse
- (iii) Pharmacy Technician
- (iv) Medical Laboratory Technician

#### 2.8 Directorate of Information & Communication Technology

- (i) Network Engineer
- (ii) Software Developer
- (iii) IT Laboratory Technician

#### 2.9 Academic Planning Unit

Senior Planning Officer

#### 2.10 Internal Audit

Senior Internal Auditor

### 3 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

#### 3.1 Faculty of Management and Social Sciences

##### 3.1.1 Professor

- Candidates should possess PhD from a recognized institution in any of the following areas: Sociology, Criminology, Security Studies, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Intelligence, Mass Communication, Management, Accounting, Business Administration, Taxation, Finance, Investment Management, Securities and Investment Management, Political Science, International Relations and Diplomacy OR related areas of specialization, with at least twelve (12) years of cognate experience in teaching and research, preferably in a university system or similar institutions;
- Successful candidates should be able to develop new programmes, conduct research independently and have proven supervisory and administrative capabilities and must also show evidence of acceptable scholarly publications in reputable National and International journals;
- Computer knowledge and application are mandatory;
- candidates are expected to have excellent knowledge about the operation of a university system; and
- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

##### 3.1.2 Associate Professor

- Candidates should possess PhD from a recognized institution in any of the following areas: Sociology, Criminology, Security Studies, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Intelligence, Mass Communication, Management, Accounting, Business Administration, Taxation, Finance, Investment Management, Securities and Investment Management, Political Science, International Relations and Diplomacy OR related areas of specialization, with at least ten (10) years of experience in teaching and research, preferably in a university system or similar institutions;
- Successful candidates should be able to develop new programmes, conduct research independently and have proven supervisory and administrative capabilities and must also show evidence of acceptable scholarly publications in reputable National and International journals;
- Computer knowledge and application are mandatory;
- candidates are expected to have excellent knowledge about the operation of a university system; and
- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

##### 3.1.3 Senior Lecturer

- Candidates should possess PhD from a recognized institution in any of the following areas: Sociology, Criminology, Security Studies, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Intelligence, Mass Communication, Management, Accounting, Business Administration, Taxation, Finance, Investment Management, Securities and Investment Management, Political Science, International Relations and Diplomacy OR related areas of specialization, with at least seven (7) years of experience in teaching and research, preferably in a university system or similar institutions;
- Successful candidates should be able to develop new programmes, conduct research independently and have proven supervisory and administrative capabilities and must also show evidence of acceptable scholarly publications in reputable National and International journals;
- Computer knowledge and application are mandatory;
- candidates are expected to have good knowledgeable about the operation of a university system; and

- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

##### 3.1.4 Lecturer I

- Candidates should possess Master's Degree from a recognized institution in any of the following areas: Sociology, Criminology, Security Studies, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Intelligence, Mass Communication, Management, Accounting, Business Administration, Taxation, Finance, Investment Management, Securities and Investment Management, Political Science, International Relations and Diplomacy OR related areas of specialization, with at least three years post qualification experience and should demonstrate ability to carry out research in their areas of specialization.
- Possession of a PhD is an added advantage.
- Computer knowledge and application are mandatory; and
- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

##### 3.1.5 Lecturer II

- Candidates should possess Master's Degree in relevant areas with at least two (2) years Teaching/Research experience.
- Computer knowledge and application are mandatory; and
- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

##### 3.1.6 Assistant Lecturer

- Candidates should possess Master's Degree in relevant areas with at least one (1) year Teaching/Research experience.
- Computer knowledge and application are mandatory; and
- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

#### 3.2 Faculty of Science and Computing

##### 3.2.1 Professor

- Candidates should possess PhD from a recognized institution in any of the following areas: Computer Science, ICT, Cybersecurity, Software Engineering, Physics, Electronics, Forensic Science OR related areas of specialization, with at least twelve (12) years of cognate experience in teaching and research, preferably in a university system or similar institutions;
- Successful candidates should be able to develop new programmes, conduct research independently and have proven supervisory and administrative capabilities and must also show evidence of acceptable scholarly publications in reputable National and International journals;
- Candidates are expected to have fair knowledge about the operation of a university system; and
- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

##### 3.2.2 Associate Professor

- i. Candidates should possess PhD from a recognized institution in any of the following areas: Computer Science, ICT, Cybersecurity, Software Engineering, Physics, Electronics, Forensic Science OR related areas of specialization, with at least ten (10) years of cognate experience in teaching and research, preferably in a university system or similar institutions;
- ii. Successful candidates should be able to develop new programmes, conduct research independently and have proven supervisory and administrative capabilities and must also show evidence of acceptable scholarly publications in reputable National and International journals;
- iii. Candidates are expected to have fair knowledge about the operation of a university system; and
- iv. Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

##### 3.2.3 Senior Lecturer

- Candidates should possess PhD from a recognized institution in any of the following areas: Computer Science, ICT, Cybersecurity, Software Engineering, Physics, Electronics, Forensic Science OR related areas of specialization, with at least seven (7) years of cognate experience in teaching and research, preferably in a university system or similar institutions;
- Successful candidates should be able to develop new programmes, conduct research independently and have proven supervisory and administrative capabilities and must also show evidence of acceptable scholarly publications in reputable National and International journals;



# ADVERTISEMENT FOR ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC STAFF POSITIONS

- Candidates are expected to have fair knowledge about the operation of a university system; and
- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

### 3.2.4 Lecturer I

- Candidates should possess Master's Degree from a recognized institution in any of the following areas: Computer Science, ICT, Cybersecurity, Software Engineering, Physics, Electronics, Forensic Science OR related areas of specialization with at least five (5) years cognate experience and should demonstrate ability to carry out research in their areas of specialization.
- Possession of a PhD is an added advantage.
- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is also an added advantage.

### 3.2.5 Lecturer II

- Candidates should possess Master's Degree in relevant areas with at least two (2) years Teaching/Research experience.
- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

### 3.2.6 Assistant Lecturer

- Candidates should possess Master's Degree in relevant areas with at least one (1) year Teaching/Research experience.
- Membership of professional bodies (where applicable) is an added advantage.

### 3.2.7 Science Laboratory Technologist I

A candidate shall possess any of the following requirements:

- A HND with a minimum of Lower Credit in relevant area obtained from a recognized institution, and evidence of computer literacy, plus a minimum of 3 years relevant experience, OR
- A minimum of Third Class degree in relevant area obtained from a recognized institution, and evidence of Computer Literacy, plus a minimum of 3 years relevant experience.

In addition to (a) or (b) above, a candidate will be subjected to competency examination and interview.

### 3.3 Registry Department

#### 3.3.1 Senior Administrative Officer/Executive Assistant to Vice Chancellor

Candidate shall possess any of the following requirements:

- LL.M. degree obtained from a recognized institution, NYSC Certificate and evidence of Computer Literacy, plus at least 3 years post qualification experience, preferably in the administrative cadre of any public/private university or similar institutions.
- A Master's degree in Humanities obtained from a recognized institution and evidence of Computer Literacy, plus at least 3 years post qualification experience, preferably in the administrative cadre of any public/private university or similar institutions.

Strong organizational skills that reflect the ability to perform and prioritize multiple tasks seamlessly with excellent attention to details is a requirement. Proficiency in written and oral English is an added advantage.

Candidate shall be subjected to interview that may require writing and ICT competency examination.

#### 3.3.2 Administrative Officer I

Candidate shall possess any of the following requirements:

- A Master's degree in Humanities obtained from a recognized institution and evidence of Computer Literacy.
- LL.B. with a minimum of Second Class Honours (Lower Division) obtained from a recognized institution and evidence of Computer Literacy.
- A minimum of Second Class Honours (Lower Division) degree in Humanities obtained from a recognized institution and evidence of Computer Literacy with a minimum of 2 years relevant experience.

Proficiency in written and oral English is a requirement. Candidate shall be subjected to interview that may require writing competency examination.

#### 3.3.3. Administrative Assistant

Candidate should possess a minimum of Second Class Honours (Lower Division) degree in Humanities or any other qualification approved by the Rayhaan University obtained from a recognized institution, NYSC Certificate and evidence of Computer Literacy. Candidate shall be subjected to interview that may require writing and ICT competency examination.

#### 3.3.4 Clerical Officer/Senior Clerical Officer/Assistant Executive Officer/Confidential Secretary

- For Senior Clerical Officer/Assistant Executive Officer, a candidate should possess a Diploma in Office Management, Public Administration or equivalent.
- For Confidential Secretary, candidate should possess a minimum of Diploma in Office Management or equivalent, plus at least 80/35 WPM certification
- For Clerical Officer, candidate should possess a

minimum of a certificate in office management or equivalent.

### 3.4 Bursary Department

#### 3.4.1 Accountant I

Candidate shall possess any of the following requirements:

- Master's degree in Accounting & Finance obtained from a recognized institution; or
- A minimum of Second Class Honours (Lower Division) degree in Accounting & Finance obtained from a recognized institution; plus at least two (2) years cognate experience.

In addition to a) or b) above, evidence of Computer Literacy is mandatory. Possession of any professional qualification in Accounting (ICAN, ANAN, ACCA, CPA, etc.) is an added advantage.

Candidate shall also be subjected to interview that may require writing competency examination.

#### 3.4.2 Clerical Officer (Accounts)/Senior Clerical Officer (Accounts)/Assistant Executive Officer (Accounts)

- For Clerical Officer (Accounts), candidate should possess a minimum of certificate in Accounting and Auditing or equivalent;
- For Senior Clerical Officer/Assistant Executive Officer (Accounts) candidate should possess a minimum of Diploma in Accounting and Auditing or its equivalent.

In addition to a) or b) above, evidence of computer literacy is mandatory. Candidate shall also be subjected to interview that may require writing competency examination.

### 3.5 University Library

#### 3.5.1 Senior Library Officer

Candidate shall possess a minimum of Second Class Honours (Lower Division) degree in Library and Information Science, Library Science Management or equivalent obtained from a recognized institution, plus a minimum of 3 years cognate experience. Candidate shall be subjected to interview that may require writing competency examination.

#### 3.5.2 Higher Library Officer

Candidate shall possess a minimum of Second Class Honours (Lower Division) degree in Library and Information Science, Library Science Management or HND in Library Science or equivalent obtained from a recognized institution, and be conversant in Information Technology (IT). ICT competency is compulsory.

#### 3.5.3 Library Officer

Candidate shall possess a minimum of Diploma in Library and Information Science Management, Library Science or equivalent obtained from a recognized institution and evidence of Computer Literacy.

Candidate shall be subjected to interview that may require writing competency examination.

### 3.6 University Health Centre (Clinic)

#### 3.6.1 Medical Officer

Candidate shall possess MBBS degree obtained from a recognized institution, a minimum of one year internship training, NYSC Certificate, full registration with Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) and evidence of Computer Literacy.

Candidate shall be subjected to interview that may require writing and ICT competency examination.

#### 3.6.2 Staff Nurse (Nursing Officer II)

Candidate shall possess registered Nurse certification plus full registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) and evidence of Computer Literacy.

Candidate shall be subjected to interview that may require writing competency examination.

#### 3.6.3 Medical Laboratory Scientist II

A candidate shall possess any of the following requirements:

- A HND with a minimum of Lower Credit in Medical Laboratory Sciences or relevant areas obtained from a recognized institution and evidence of Computer Literacy; plus at least one-year relevant experience.
- A degree in Medical Laboratory Sciences or any other relevant degree obtained from a recognized institution, and evidence of Computer Literacy; plus at least one-year relevant experience.

In addition to (a) and (b) above, a candidate shall be subjected to an interview that may require writing competency examination.

#### 3.6.4 Laboratory Technician

A candidate shall possess OND in relevant area obtained from a recognized institution and be conversant with knowledge of Information Technology (IT).

### 3.6.5 Pharmacy Technician

A candidate shall possess any of the following requirements:

- A OND in Pharmaceutical Studies obtained from a recognized institution and be conversant with Information Technology (IT).
- A Pharmacy Technician Certificate obtained from a recognized institution, Registration with the Pharmaceutical Council of Nigeria (PCN) and be conversant with Information Technology (IT).

In addition to (a) or (b) above, a candidate will be subjected to competency examination and an interview.

### 3.7 Directorate of Information & Communication Technology

#### 3.7.1 Network Engineer

A candidate shall possess any of the following requirements:

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or any relevant discipline with a minimum of second class lower division obtained from a recognized University with at least two (2) years relevant experience in networking, or
- Any relevant and recognised entry-level network certifications such as CISCO, HUAWEI, Mikrotik, etc. with at least two (2) years relevant experience in networking

In addition to (a) or (b) above, a candidate will be subjected to competency examination and an interview.

#### 3.7.2 Software Developer

A candidate shall possess any of the following requirements:

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or any relevant discipline with a minimum of second class lower division obtained from a recognized University with at least two (2) years relevant experience in software development, or
- Any relevant and recognised entry-level software certifications such as IEEE's Certified Software Developer, Microsoft Certified Software Developer, etc with at least two (2) years relevant experience in software development.

#### 3.7.3 Computer Operator (Laboratory Technician)

A candidate shall possess a minimum of a 2 year recognized Diploma in computer science or any relevant professional certification in related areas obtained from a recognized certification body, plus three (3) years relevant working experience.

### 3.8 Academic Planning Unit

#### Academic Planning Officer I

A candidate should possess any of the following qualification:

- Master's degree in Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science, Education Administration and Planning or any related area obtained from a recognized institution with at least three (3) years post qualification cognate experience, plus evidence of Computer literacy.
- First Degree not below second class honours (lower division) in Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science, Education Administration and Planning or any related area obtained from a recognized institution, with at least five (5) years post qualification cognate experience, plus evidence of Computer literacy.

In addition to a) or b) above, a candidate shall be subjected to an interview that may require writing competency examination.

### 3.9 Internal Control (Audit) Unit:

#### Internal Control Officer I

A candidate shall possess any of the following requirements:

- A minimum of Second Class Honours degree (Lower Division) in Accounting and Professional Qualification in Accounting obtained through qualifying examination (ICAN, ANAN, ACCA, CPA) and evidence of Computer Literacy;
- A Master's degree in Accounting obtained from a recognized institution, and evidence of Computer Literacy;
- A minimum of minimum of Second Class Honours degree (lower division) in Accounting obtained from a recognized institution and evidence of Computer Literacy with a minimum of 3 years relevant post-graduation experience.

In addition to a), (b) and c) above, a candidate shall be subjected to an interview that may require writing competency examination.

### 4. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested and qualified candidates, who meet the conditions as stated above should visit <https://hr.rayhaanuniv.edu.ng/recruitment> and follow the instructions to apply.

Applicants are advised to request their referees to send their reports to the following emails: [recruitment@rayhaanuniv.edu.ng](mailto:recruitment@rayhaanuniv.edu.ng) and [info@rayhaanuniv.edu.ng](mailto:info@rayhaanuniv.edu.ng)

### 5. CLOSING

Closing date for applications is **23rd November, 2023**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

For further inquiry, please send email to [info@rayhaanuniv.edu.ng](mailto:info@rayhaanuniv.edu.ng)

(Signed),  
University Authority

**Federal roads will continue to fail until fundamental errors in design are corrected, argues LAMBERT EZEAJUGHI**

## NIGERIA'S ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT

Since the assumption of office by the Minister for Works David Nweze Umahi, the road construction industry has been abuzz with expectations of what is to come. The expectations are not unconnected with the unparalleled level of infrastructure development witnessed in his eight-year tenure as the governor of Ebonyi State and the enthusiasm with which he has embraced his new role as minister. His enthusiasm to get things done and done properly may have informed his highway inspection tours across the states. A step in the right direction Mr. Minister as the tours would have provided you with a firsthand knowledge of the dire conditions of the state of our road infrastructure. A sector of Nigerians in the road space myself inclusive have watched and followed the tours albeit remotely with a view to



finding out what the minister's stake will be on the level of decay in the sector and how he intends to bridge the huge road infrastructure deficit. Deficit driven by incessant premature failures despite the unending huge budgetary provisions that run into trillions, inflated contracts, never-ending contract scope creep, the associated variations, and consequent financial losses. Since the completion of the tours, his observations on the dearth of Nigerian road infrastructure may have informed his immediate actions and pronouncements in respect of contract scope creep and associated variations and more importantly the proposed shift from flexible (asphalt surfaced) to rigid (concrete) pavements. It is not in doubt that he may have leveraged on his experiences in Ebonyi State for the push for concrete (rigid) pavements. Welcome to Nigeria's federal roads His Excellency.

Since your pronouncements on a potential shift from flexible to concrete roads, the discussions that trailed the Lokoja – Obajana – Kabba – Ilorin Road when concrete pavement was first proposed has been re-ignited. It is no doubt that the level and rate of collapse of our roads may have informed such push. It is obviously a good call to want to look at the possibility of a shift from the status quo (asphalt roads) with a view to mitigating serious failure challenges facing the Nigerian road asset. With monies running into trillions of Naira spent in the road sector, yet several sections of Nigerian 'Highways' are in dire straits. The footages from the minister's tours makes one wonder which of the national highways is performing well. Some of the highways are only a figment of the true meaning of the word highway. Some of the highways have long been abandoned because they have become either overgrown by weeds or they have become littered with mosquito breeding ponds in the wet season or dust chambers in the dry season causing irrecoverable health hazards to the communities where they were once road corridors. Some of the highways have become borehole fields rather than potholes if I may paraphrase the minister. The rate at which our roads fail is unbelievable. A classic example is the several failed sections of the re-constructed old Enugu – Onitsha Road which failed just under three years after reconstruction. The reconstruction was meant to complement

the abandoned Enugu – Onitsha Expressway but it never lasted two decent cycles of rainy season. At the rate of the documented failures and as showcased by the minister's tours, this is nothing but a crisis. With your zeal His Excellency, the question in everyone's mind is, can you re-invent the magic you left in your home State? Can federal roads witness sustained, long-term performance which has been at the core of a myriad of factors driving Nigeria's road infrastructure deficit?

To tackle significant underperformance driving the huge deficit concerns in the road sector, we must use a different cookbook from what is currently being used. It is on this background that it is imperative that we must firstly articulate the issues and then find answers to the issues driving the never-ending causes of premature failures of our road assets. Should we succeed in finding the answers, this may throw a light on whether the push for a shift from flexible to rigid pavement alternative would be a panacea to the failure crisis and therefore has merit. Before casting my dragnet in search of answers, I deem it worthy to express my sincere thanks to the minister for the path so far taken in steering his ministry within the short time he mounted the saddle. Firstly, for the understanding and enthusiasm shown in identifying the likely causes of the unending crisis in the road infrastructure space and making pronouncements on potential alternative solutions. It is humbling and gut wrenching to witness roads fail woefully just few years after construction despite gulping funds that run into millions. Secondly, for seeing the problems and calling them by their names and shifting blames appropriately where they rightly belong rather than play the chameleon or hide under political correctness at the expense of haemorrhaging road sector. The directors and their staff in the Ministry and the contractors, home grown, or expatriates have not been left out in the minister's search for answers. Thirdly, but by no means the last, the minister's stand on contract scope creep and associated variations in prices. How can a contract initially awarded at 10 billion Naira end up at 100 billion and yet nothing tangible can be shown for the huge expense, but rather abandoned contracts. I will prefer to stay away from discussions on these matters as they are mostly outside my sphere of competency and the scope of this write up. These issues, however, do point to the fact that there are minefields on the path of running the Nigerian road sector. Sir, I can only wish you luck as you sojourn in your very demanding portfolio.

The first cab off the rank among the issues that may have been driving the under performance of the Nigerian road assets would be what Duro Onabule in his article on "before Buhari's budget on roads" published in the Sun Newspapers of September 2015, referred to as lack of sincerity in the preparation and execution of the road budgets. Duro opined that if only ten percent of the sincerity with which the budgets were prepared existed and translated to implementation, that Nigeria would have been better off in terms of overall development. Over the years, budget preparation and implementation had become more of a ritual without any true meaning attached. To drive this home, a former works minister was questioned by a senator during screening regarding why a road in his constituency was abandoned for two years. The minister replied that when they got to the site, they discovered that there was water at the site, hence work had to stop.

**Engr. Ezeajughi,**  
Civil Engineer, Geotechnical Engineering  
Consultant and COREN registered writes from  
Brisbane



**FREDRICK NWABUFO** writes that  
interagency cooperation and coordination is  
pivotal for securing the country

## SECURING NIGERIA PLUCK BY PLUCK

Excellence needs no hype, makeover, or agitprop. Good work manifests itself in palpable reality. The security bent of the Tinubu administration is an exercise of deliberate, coordinated, meticulous and prescient deployment of strategies and actions to secure Nigeria. It is securing Nigeria pluck by pluck – with inexorable courage, purpose, and urgency.

A large part of success in security operations lies in ICC – interagency cooperation and coordination. What more demonstrates this plank than the synergised effort between the Department of State Services and the army in precluding what could have been a devastating blow, with a sludge of casualties in Kano?

On November 3, the symbiotic effort of the Nigerian Army and the DSS led to the successful foiling of an attack on Kano by insurgents. The insurgents had been machinating a marquee attack, that could, perhaps, dampen citizens' confidence, on the State. A detachment of soldiers and DSS operatives swooped on the sanctuary of the subversives in a dawn blitz in Gezawa Local Government Area of Kano State, arresting the henchmen.

The joint team recovered five AK-47 rifles, five AK-47 rifle magazines, one rocket-

troublers of our nation.

In the north-west, the air component of Operation Hadarin Daji on November 1, conducted a slew of successful air strikes in Kankara Local Government Area (LGA) of Katsina State, targeting the hermitage of a terrorist kingpin, who is responsible for a chain of terrorist acts and banditry across Kankara and adjacent LGAs in the state.

The air strikes removed clusters of refuge used as hideaways by the kingpin and his gang, effectively dismantling their base of operation. Only very few survivors escaped the fury of the Nigeria Air force.

In the north-east, precision air strikes by the air component of Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK) on November 3, led to the elimination of several terrorists at their rendezvous, near Degbawa in Goza Local Government Area of Borno State. The terrorists were responsible for the recent attack on some locals in Geidam on October 31, and had planned to meet to review the attack as well as the next line of onslaught on innocent Nigerians and other vulnerable targets.

In the south-east, security agencies have sustained incisive operations, rooting out units of IPOB/ESN terrorists from the area. Peace and normalcy are returning, just as citizens' confidence is witnessing a reinforcement. For instance, On October 5, troops of Operation UDO KAI II conducted raids on the haven of the terrorists around Ihiom-Ihittenansa in Orsu Local Government Area and Okigwe-Umulolo in Okigwe Local Government Area of Imo State.

The operational base and shrines of the subversives were erased, two suspects arrested, and a cache of arms recovered. This includes ammunition, one PKT machine gun barrel, one locally made rocket-propelled launcher (Ogbunigwe) and IED making materials. In many other operations, imminent attacks had been thwarted, IPOB/ESN terrorists removed and arrested; criminal hermitages destroyed, hostages freed, and arms and ammunition recovered.

Further operations are in progress in the north-central, south-south, and south-west. Across these zones, criminal hideouts have been extirpated, threats neutralised, arms and ammunition recovered, suspects arrested, and kidnap victims rescued.

These sustained efforts, successes, cooperation, and coordination among the security agencies clearly say there is a responsible, and strategic national security leadership. There is purpose, there is direction; there is commitment, there is the will and the way, and there is a sense of urgency.

Securing Nigeria is a principal objective of the Renewed Hope charter. The Tinubu administration has exercised responsibility with significant gains in the sphere of security since assumption of office. Although there is more to be done and will be done, the administration is wholly committed to removing security threats and securing law-abiding Nigerians anywhere in the country.

**Nwabufo**  
is the Senior Special Assistant to the  
President on Public Engagement



propelled gun (RPG), five RPG bombs, six hand grenades, five pairs of desert camouflage uniforms, 10 pairs of magazine pouches and some improvised-explosive device (IED) making materials.

Obviously, the success of this operation is implicit in the cooperation and coordination between the army and the DSS, as well as in the actioning of intelligence. What imperils security anywhere in the world is, partly, interagency rivalry and the absence of coordination – when intelligence is available, but actioning is a challenge owing to some contentions.

On November 2, the allied effort of the army and the police resulted in the rescuing of two corps members. Bandits had kidnapped the corps members who were transiting from Edo State in Yargoje community, Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State. But the purposive and united endeavour of the security agencies led to the safe return of the hostages.

Interagency cooperation and coordination (ICC) is pivotal for securing Nigeria. It is elemental for achieving the priority objective of the administration, which is strengthening national security for peace and security.

Since July 2023, the security forces have chalked up reasonable gains against subversives without a noising of the winnings. There is a fillip in security operations across the country. Since the past week, for instance, there has been intensive air strikes against the

Editor, Editorial Page **PETER ISHAKA**

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# EDITORIAL

## THE CBN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

**The independence of the central bank is vital for economic growth and stability**

**T**wo amendment bills recently scaled second reading at the Senate. The first bill, titled 'A Bill for an Act to amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act and for Other Related Matters', is being sponsored by Senator Darlington Nwokocha while the second, 'A Bill for an Act to amend the Central Bank (Establishment) Act 2007', is sponsored by Senator Sunday Karimi. The key amendments that the two bills, which have been consolidated by the Senate, are proposing include prohibiting the use of foreign currency in local transactions in Nigeria, ban on partisan politics for CBN governor and deputies, reconstitution of the board of CBN, subject remuneration of CBN staff salaries to the Salaries and Wages Commission and cede the position of board chairman to an external person.

The overriding aim of the two bills, according to the promoters is to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) operations and whittle the powers of its governor. The Senate Committee on Banking and Finance is expected to report back to plenary tomorrow on the bill and we hope that they will be mindful of the importance of the apex bank. Whatever may have been the misgivings against the involvement of the former CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele, in partisan politics, that should not be an excuse to rewrite the law to cripple the most critical financial institution in the country. While banning CBN governor and deputies from partisan politics is proper, the idea of imposing on the board a chairman from outside is not necessary.

The Maastricht Treaty of 1992, which enshrines the independent status of the European Central Bank (ECB) and the EU national central banks has in many countries become the preferred means of providing an institutional framework for monetary policy. The current president of ECB is the chairman



**The CBN is central to the economy and tampering with its autonomy could hamper the effectiveness of monetary policy and the management of the macro-economic framework**

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of the board of the bank owned by the 27-member central banks of the EU. The United States Federal Reserve (Fed), the equivalent of our own CBN, is independent and its chairman also chairs a seven-member board.

Former Managing Director/CEO of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), Ganiyu Ogunleye, who had also previously held the position of CBN Director of Banking Supervision, once argued that the National Assembly should not use their power to make or amend laws to weaken critical institutions. "The legislature is enjoined to deploy its enormous oversight powers to ensure that the CBN is accountable in the exercise of its autonomy. Independence without accountability

is a recipe for disaster. Where there is misconduct or dereliction of duty, it is the officials involved that should be sanctioned. The bank should not be the villain," said Ogunleye.

The CBN is central to the economy and tampering with its autonomy could hamper the effectiveness

of monetary policy and the management of the macro-economic framework. Such move is also not investor friendly as few would have faith in a central bank controlled by politicians. We understand that the involvement of Emefiele in partisan politics may have provided justification for the proposals. But those who are insisting on weakening the administration of the CBN are not assisted by history.

When this same idea was first mooted in 2012, two former CBN Governors joined the then incumbent to warn against the idea. The late Mallam Adamu Ciroma and Mr. Joseph Sanusi insisted that the move to whittle down the independence of the bank and weaken its leadership was unwarranted. Across the world, there is a growing recognition that the independence of central banks is necessary for economic growth and stability. We urge the Senate to consult widely with critical stakeholders before amending the CBN Act.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:opinion@thisdaylive.com) along with photograph, email address and phone numbers of the writer.

## LETTERS

### A LOOK AT ZAMFARA FROM THE OUTSIDE

Zamfara State has a sweet-bitter story: massive reserves of mineral resources including gold, iron ore, granite, limestone, chromite, etc., but illegal mining of gold and other minerals has led to making the state a hotspot of banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria.

Zamfara occupies a very important spot in the history of northern Nigeria, being one of the regions in the old Hausa Kingdoms and one of the roots of the Usman Danfodio Jihad of 1804. But its current story is mostly associated with senseless insecurity and bad news.

Zamfara has produced some prominent people who have served Nigeria and humanity well, but nowadays, one cannot talk of misgovernance in northern Nigeria without also pointing at Zamfara State as well.

One cannot talk of the rich culture and important towns in northern Nigeria without mentioning Zamfara. Zamfara hosts some prominent towns in northern Nigeria: Gusau, Kauran Namoda, Anka, Gummi, Talata Mafara, etc. Some 12 years ago, Zamfara State began to have its fair share of banditry and poverty in Northern Nigeria. There are 8.33 million out-of-school children in northwest Nigeria. When Governor Dauda Lawal took over the state's affairs, Zamfara accounted for a significant number of this figure. Insecurity, kidnapping, and school closures are some of the factors responsible for the increase in the number of out-of-school

children.

In the 2023 gubernatorial election, the people of Zamfara boldly moved away from the past—it was not only surprising, but it shocked the polity. In the presidential election, Zamfara people voted for the All Progressives Congress (APC), and President Bola Tinubu won the state, but in the gubernatorial election, Zamfara voted against the ruling APC; they voted for something entirely new.

But why did the Zamfara people, for the first time in 24 years, massively vote for something outside their traditional trajectory? And why the unnecessary distraction of Governor Dauda Lawal by former Governor Bello Matawalle and co? First, let's look at the man, Dauda Lawal: He is a new breed politician but an experienced technocrat—someone who is completely outside the 'system' borrowing from the language of politicians. He twice contested the Zamfara PDP gubernatorial primary election and won it twice with a wide margin, beating all his opponents. He is the only gubernatorial candidate whose election was challenged twice in the court of law, but he prevailed. Dauda Lawal spent over 25 years in banking, reaching an executive director position at the First Bank. He has over 26 years of post-qualification experience, which covers commercial and public sector banking.

So why the distraction when Governor Dauda is trying to tack-

le insecurity, poverty, out-of-school children, misgovernance, etc? Recently, there were some shocking revelations from the state government: the Zamfara cargo airport and the uncompleted governor's lodge in the 14 local government areas of the state. Documents released by the state government showed that former Governor Bello Matawalle approved the release of over one billion naira for the fencing, landscaping, and furnishing of the governor's lodge in 14 local areas even before the projects began. Similarly, the state government also released some documents showing that the previous government spent over N4.5 billion from the abandoned Zamfara Airport Project. However, Matawalle has denied all the accusations and said that he inherited the Cargo Airport Project from the previous government, saying all the allegations against him were nothing but a calculated mischief and diversionary tactics by Governor Lawal's government.

It is obvious that the Zamfara local people's worldview on governance has changed; they are thirsty for a new beginning free from banditry, corruption, poverty, and mismanagement of the state's resources, but they also value accountability, inclusivity, responsiveness, and transparency in their aspirations and needs.

Zayyad I. Muhammad,  
Abuja

# POLITY

# Fubara vs. Wike - The Game of Thrones at Rivers State

Ayoola Ajanaku

Oil producing south-south sub national entity, Rivers State has been in the front burner of national discourse from last weekend till date, as political behemoth cum Lord of the manor, Nyesom Wike and his protege, governor Siminalayi Fubara went for the jugular. The alleged covert moves orchestrated by the honourable minister of FCT to oust the helmsman of Rivers from Government House, Forces Avenue abode came to fore in frightening fashion. It spilled into public domain at the speed of light with mockery of the tenets of democracy where a kangaroo sitting led by the pro-Wike faction (as it stands so far) removed it's Majority Leader, Edison Ehie at an improvised venue (who has now morphed into the Speaker by the pro-Fubara faction) in a move widely seen as prelude to the governor's impeachment. Twenty-four Assembly members, including the now former Speaker, Martin Amaewhule, supported Ehie's removal reminiscent of George R.R. Martin's medieval world earlier that morphed into the Games of Thrones blockbuster on HBO.

This allusion has an intricate blend with the current political crisis in Rivers State that witnessed the governor who embarked on an assessment tour of the burnt Assembly Complex a night before as tear gas, water cannons and shots were fired outside the building with the security aides of the Rivers State Governor shielding him from enemy fire. Fubara, while addressing his supporters at the Assembly Complex, stated that he has not committed any offense to warrant impeachment by the Rivers State of Assembly. "Let them come out and tell Rivers people the offense that I have committed to warrant any impeachment." Fubara said. The Governor also assured the state's citizenry of getting the dividends of democracy and noted that he would speak on the matter at the appropriate. These development occurred just hours after a fire outbreak broke out at the Assembly Complex last weekend.

The expeditious manner the imbroglio was exported to the seat of power in Abuja is stuff of legends, as the major news development that surrounded the sidelines of the Federal Executive Council meeting (FEC) on Monday with newspaper headlines, digital and electronic media agog with the latest sparks in Rivers - For much of last week Fubara has been the top trending topic on social media platforms. In a purely Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) internal matter, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Tuesday took immediate steps to end the rift between Governor Simi Fubara and his predecessor, and FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, which has snowballed into political crisis in the state.

The president used the opportunity of last Tuesday's meeting of the National Police Council at the State House, Abuja which both parties attended as members, to end the feud between the two political allies who appear to have gone southwards at this rate. Bauchi State Governor, Senator Bala Mohammed, who disclosed this while briefing newsmen on the outcome of the meeting presided over by thee president at the Council Chambers, said President Tinubu engaged in discussions with both parties with a view to restoring peace in the state. Despite their face-off, Fubara and Wike have earlier exchanged pleasantries outside the Council Chambers venue of the meeting.

Mohammed, who is Chairman of the PDP Governors Forum (PDP-GF), also disclosed that the opposition governors have resolved to work with the president because he has shown good faith by not interfering with gubernatorial uses brought before the courts by PDP members.

The meat of this treatise is hinged on the phrase "more than what meets the eye". The current situation in Rivers State is more to something or someone than what is immediately visible or apparent. It strongly suggests that there is a deeper level of complexity or meaning that is not immediately apparent. The metaphorical phrase "don't judge a book by it's cover by its cover" has come to fruition in public domain except you digest some chapter(s) to reach a conclusion. What you see is not always what you think you're getting.

This inference has manifested therein in Rivers



Fubara



Wike

State with heightened tensions that have morphed into ethnocentric dimensions and beyond with strongly worded statements by Ijaw National Congress (INC), elder statesman and nationalist, Chief Edwin Clark. The stinging treatise and submission earlier by Nigerian nationalist, Ijaw leader and politician from Delta State, Chief Clark where he urged President Bola Tinubu to intervene in the current political crisis in Rivers State. Clark's appeal specifically targeted the Minister of FCT, Nyesom Wike, while urging Tinubu to advise and caution him. Speaking at televised press briefing on last week Monday, Clark said the President should caution Wike and the security agencies in order to avert any untold crisis in the state. "I have been greatly disturbed by the reported developments in Rivers State in the last 24 hours. I have been reliably informed that there is a plot to unlawfully remove the Governor of Rivers State, Siminalayi Fubara, who has spent only about five months in office," he said. Clark claimed that the current crisis is aimed at removing the governor, force his deputy, Prof Ngozi Odu to resign, and install the Speaker of the House of Assembly. "Let me warn strongly that allow that to happen," he vowed.

Furtherance to the riposte fired earlier by the elder statesman, there are laid down laws and rules for impeachment process whereas these rules are adhered to for equity and transparency, but the antics employed by the factional members of Rivers State Assembly is from the gangster's playbook reminiscent of Mafia syndicates. If allowed, the factional members will seat and within the sitting they will skip all the 11 steps as enshrined in the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria to unseat the Governor

and pronounce him impeached. The Rivers State Elders led by Chief Ferdinand Alabraba has also fired a strong response via a press conference earlier to counter the narrative by the INC on the simmering crisis.

This latest development has rattled all and sundry with Wike excreting bricks at this rate based on his facade that looks downcast. In a long time he has not betrayed such emotions in public - The cause celebre spoke at the sidelines of the FEC meeting post press briefing for less than sixty seconds - Classic Wike waxes lyrical when he's handed the opportunity to speak in public domain with the accoutrement of his live band while he held sway as Rivers State former governor. All through the said presser he was fondling with his mobile phone to keep abreast with development in his home state. These optics exhibited by Wike betrayed emotions of a figure whose characteristic ebullience, braggadocio and bravura that he carries like a badge of honour. Wike also added that he's finished, if he loses political relevance in Rivers.

Wike is a cat with nine lives - It's a case of never say never. He will not surrender without a fight, as it's widely speculated that the Abuja meeting cum mediation earlier is a sham and only a ruse to get Fubara to drop his guard while Nyesom Wike engineers alleged subterranean moves to deliver a destructive counter blow. Wike bears petty and unforgiving characterization - It's not beyond his persona to execute such antics.

Meanwhile, Fubara has expressed optimism that the ongoing political crisis would be resolved amicably. Fubara disclosed this on last week Wednesday when the Chief of Defence State, General Christopher Musa, led a military delegation to the Government House in Port Harcourt, the

state capital. He noted that there is nothing wrong with a father having an issue with his son, saying that the political problems in the state would be resolved. His words: "For our dear state, I know everybody is wondering what's going on, what's not going on. We are okay, there is no problem. "If we have an internal issue, it will be resolved and everything will go back to normal. There is nothing wrong if a father and son have a problem if there is any problem, but I don't think there is anything, whatever it is, we will resolve the issue."

It remains to be seen if the parties will adhere to this statement by Fubara therein. In a nutshell, the advice by Lord Baelish aka "Little finger" to Sansa Stark when the various Houses in the seven kingdoms were at each other's neck for the Iron Throne applies in this situation. "Don't fight in the North, or the South. Fight every battle, everywhere, always, in your mind. Everyone is your enemy, everyone is your friend, every possible series of events is happening all at once. Live that way and nothing will surprise you."

The battle for the soul of power continues in Rivers State and it's not for the faint hearted. According to Nicolo Machiavelli, politics is a constant struggle for power. All politics is power politics. Those who wield power want to maintain it by all means possible and those who are not in power are also doing all sorts of dirty tricks as to get into power.

Politics is not a game of angels or of lesser evil men. It's a game characterized by competition, conflict, co-operation, prudence and pragmatism. Governor Fubara needs to take this mantra at heart going forward, as he navigates the complex ecosystem of managing the affairs of the oil rich treasure base of the nation laden with colossal oil and gas reserves - The goose that lays the golden egg must not be destroyed thanks to primordial dwarfism and tendencies.

•Ayoola Ajanaku is a Communications and Advocacy Specialist based in Lagos, Nigeria...

# LAWYER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

A THIS  DAY WEEKLY PULLOUT

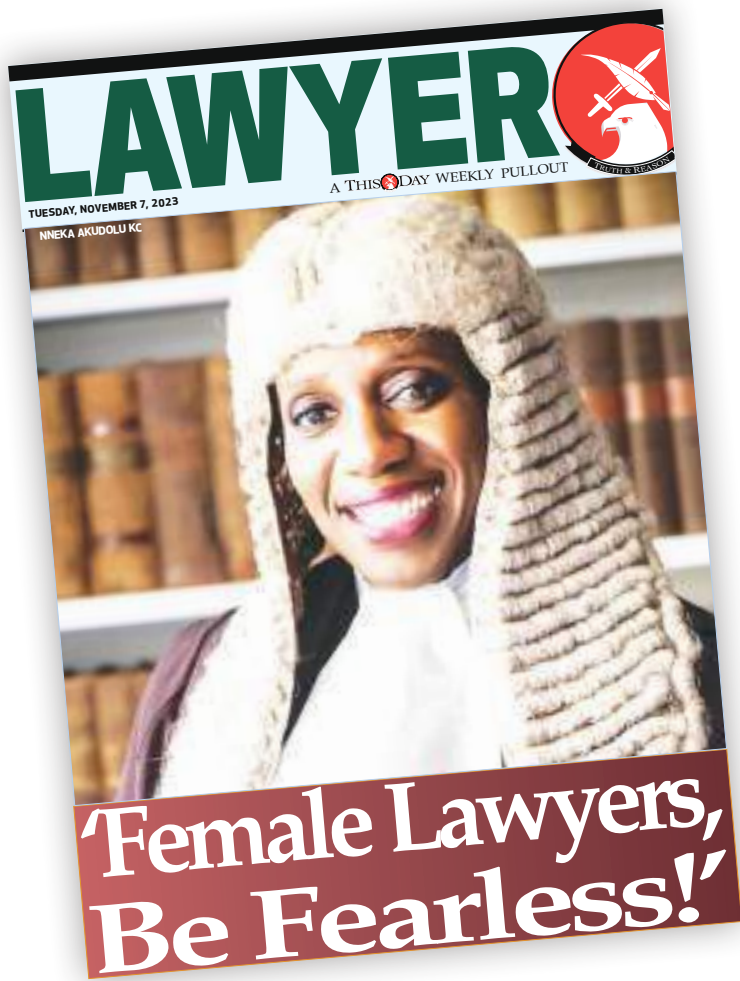


NNEKA AKUDOLU KC



**'Female Lawyers,  
Be Fearless!'**

**IN THIS EDITION**



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**QUOTABLES**



'We recorded the highest number of pre-election cases this year, 1878. The Federal High Court, for several months, couldn't handle any other cases.....In 2019, I think we had about 750 pre-election cases.' - **Femi Falana, SAN**



'It is not the job of Judges, to decide the winners of elections.'- **Yemi Candide-Johnson, SAN**

**COLUMNISTS**

**OLAWALE FAPOHUNDA, SAN**

Olawale Fapohunda, SAN is the Immediate Past Attorney-General of Ekiti State. A frequent contributor to Thisday Lawyer since its inception, he has written severally on the limitations of the administration of justice system in Nigeria, and the need for urgent reforms, He has played a leading role in several governmental and non-governmental initiatives, aimed at enabling legal, policy and administrative interventions, for managing the justice system and the institutions, that deliver justice. **SERIOUS MATTERS** aims to contribute to national discussions on law reform, institutional strengthening, and good governance across the three arms of government.



**TEMIDAYO ALADE**



Temidayo Alade is a Competition Lawyer, with a focus on competition disputes and regulatory investigations, specifically abuse of dominance class actions, merger control, and foreign direct investment analyses in London, United Kingdom. He has an LLB from the University of Lagos, and an LLM in Competition Law and Innovation from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Before obtaining his LLM, he was an Associate with the law firm, Olaniwun Ajayi LP.

# Frivolous Matters: A Case for Heavy Sanctions

## Outrageous Expenditure

I have not yet read the 2023 Supplementary budget, but the first few figures I have seen being peddled about concerning expenditure on things like State House vehicles and renovations, are simply outrageous. How can the Executive and Legislature be looking after themselves so wonderfully, while the Judiciary and the rest of Nigerians are left to their harsh fate? **US President, Joe Biden** is using the same armoured Cadillac Limousine aka the 'Beast' (American made), which Donald Trump used from 2018. The armoured Range Rover (British made) purchased in Boris Johnson's time in 2019, was also used by Liz Truss during her 45 days as British PM, and is still being used by **Rishi Sunak**. Here in Nigeria, Government makes the excuse that luxury cars like the Land Cruiser that the Senators use are sturdy and durable, yet they replace them every four years! If two American Presidents can use the same vehicle over a period of five years and still counting, what is the excuse of a country that finances its budget and does almost everything by borrowing, for living so extravagantly? It's not just the optics that are bad, the needless, insensitive and imprudent expenditure is worse. These humongous amounts could have been put to better use for the security and welfare of Nigerians, to pursue laudable goals like education, health and other social objectives contained in Chapter II of the **1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended in 2023)(the Constitution)**. It will indeed, be extremely disappointing, if it's going to be business as usual with reckless and unjustifiable expenditure under the Tinubu administration. Nigeria simply cannot continue to borrow, for needless consumption. It makes no economic sense. Which sensible country buys state-of-the-art vehicles for their Government Officials every time a new administration resumes? Certainly, not the countries where we borrow money from! It is a bad policy; a beg, stop am! The other day, I saw a video of little school children being taught standing in an uncompleted, roofless classroom with no desks and chairs. Isn't it sad that the \$150 million recovered Abacha loot should be spent on a fruitless venture like luxury vehicles for Government Officials, instead of equipping schools for the children who are our future?

## Demesuoyefa Kolomo v Timipre Sylva

Now, to the business of the day! Though the more Section 29(5) of the **Electoral Act 2022 (EA)** is tested in various electoral cases during this 2023 election season, it seems to fail, the other side of the argument is that, without it, the courts would be even more overwhelmed and overburdened with frivolous cases about constitutional qualifications and disqualifications of candidates. A recent example of a frivolous case about constitutional qualifications, is the recent one involving former Governor of Bayelsa State and now APC Bayelsa Gubernatorial candidate, Timipre Sylva.

The failure of the aforementioned Section 29(5) is as a result of the fact that when there are meritorious cases which have not been instituted the way this law provides, which is: 1) only after the Party Primaries, 2) by a Co-Aspirant who participated in the same Party Primaries, 3) instituting an action at the Federal High Court that information supplied by a co-Aspirant either in an affidavit or a document provided in relation to constitutional requirements is false; or the Candidate is not constitutionally qualified for some reason (also see Section 285(9) of the Constitution).

When such matters are not so instituted, even if the case has merit, the court rules that it has no jurisdiction to hear such a matter and dismisses it. And, truly, even though this is the present position of the law, it sometimes sounds like a cop out or excuse on the part of the court to let the Respondent get off the allegations levelled against him or her. On the issue of how matters of constitutional qualifications should be instituted, see the cases of **Akinlade & Anor v INEC & Ors (2019) LPELR-55090 (SC) per Ejembi Eko, JSC; Atiku Abubakar v INEC 2020 12 N.W.L.R. Part 1737 Page 37; Atiku Abubakar & Anor v Bola Ahmed Tinubu & Ors SC/CV/935/2023 judgement delivered on 27/10/2023.**

## Jurisdiction

Again, it is therefore, true, that the jurisdiction of a court is ousted, when such cases are not

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## The Advocate



**“It is therefore, highly unlikely that even if Mr Kolomo’s case was heard on its merits, it would have succeeded against Mr Timipre Sylva. Again, like in the case of the Presidential Election Petitions where no costs were awarded, the N1 million cost awarded against Mr Kolomo, is insufficient to act as a deterrent to the filing of frivolous and vexatious cases”**

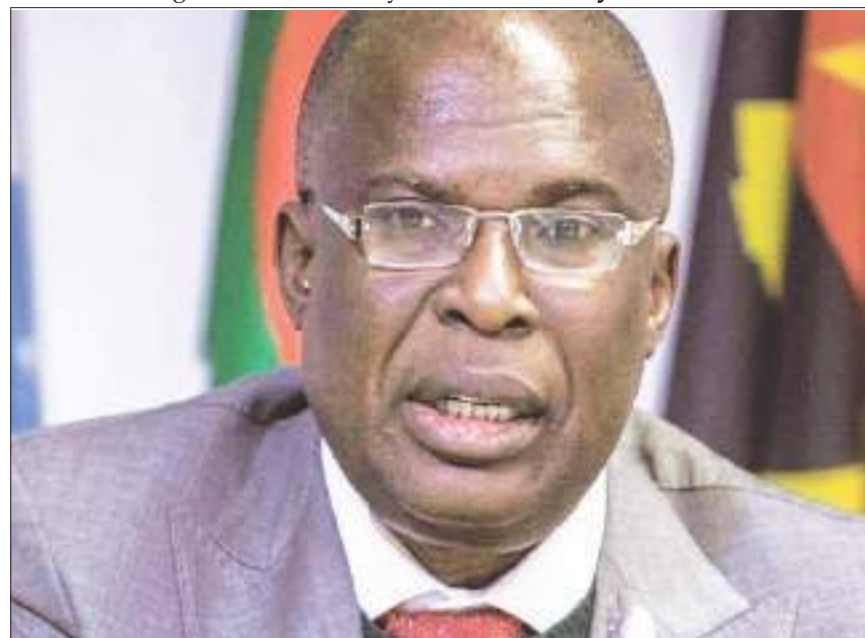
brought properly. In **Okolo & Anor v Union Bank of Nigeria Limited 2004 3 N.W.L.R. Part 859 Page 87 per Niki Tobi, JSC** the Apex Court held thus: **“Jurisdiction is the pillar upon which the entire case stands. Filing an action in a court of law, presupposes that the court has jurisdiction. But, once the Defendant shows that the court has no jurisdiction, the foundation of the case is not only shaken, but is entirely broken. The case crumbles. In effect, there is no case before the court for adjudication. The parties cannot be heard on the merit of the case. That is the end of litigation, unless the action is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction, in which case the action is resuscitated de novo”**. Jurisdiction is simply **“the power of the court to decide a matter”** - see the case **Obi v INEC (2007) LPELR-2166(SC) per Fedode Tabai, JSC**. It is trite that it is the Constitution and Statute that confer jurisdiction on courts, and that is why I have called upon the Legislature to take a second look at the Electoral Act. Until they do so, the hands of the Judiciary will remain tied. See the case of **Sylva v INEC & Ors (2015) LPELR-24447(SC); Williams & Anor v Adollo/Stamm Intl (Nig) Ltd & Anor (2017) LPELR-41559(SC) per Kudirat Motonmori Olatokunbo Kekere-Ekun, JSC**. It is also trite law that, lack of locus standi, robs a court of jurisdiction.

The public is always annoyed when a court dismisses a case without hearing it on its merit, because it lacks jurisdiction to do so. The court actually has no choice, but to do so in that circumstance. The public starts to scandalise the Judiciary with the assistance of litigation losers, and say all

sorts of unpalatable things about Judicial Officers, especially when it is a case where they believe that there is merit in the claim. It is trite law that jurisdiction is the life blood of a case, and no matter well tried a case is, if the court lacks jurisdiction to hear it, all the proceedings therein are null and void and of no effect. See the case of **Madukolu v Nkemdilim 1962 2 SCNLR 341**.

In the recent case against Timipre Sylva, brought by Mr Kolomo, a fellow APC Party member, it is surprising that Mr Kolomo's Counsel failed to inform his client that the court had no jurisdiction to hear the case, because Mr Kolomo lacked the locus standi to institute it, not being a co-Aspirant with Mr Sylva. It is trite law that a random member of the same political party does not have the locus standi to institute such proceedings. So, why do Nigerian Lawyers, both Senior and Junior, continue to deceive their clients and institute actions that the law doesn't empower them to pursue? See the case of **Wada & Ors v Bello & Ors (2016) LPELR-47015(SC)** on party members who didn't participate in the Primaries, lacking the locus standi to sue on matters of nomination and qualification. In a country like UK, Mr Kolomo's Lawyer bringing such a frivolous case which is an abuse of court process, could face the Bar Standards Board for professional misconduct. But, here in Nigeria, curiously, we blame the courts and say they are delivering technical justice, they are compromised etc, instead of recognising the fact that the law doesn't permit the action to be brought in that manner.

## Kolomo v Sylva on its Merits



APC Bayelsa Governorship Candidate, Timipre Sylva

Even though the court is not empowered to look into a matter when it has no jurisdiction to hear it, let us look into the merits of the claim against Timipre Sylva. The Claimant's case was that Mr Sylva was disqualified because he has already been sworn in twice as the Governor of Bayelsa State, from May 29, 2007- April 15, 2008 and May 27, 2008 - January 27, 2012 covering a period of almost five years, and that if he is elected again in the upcoming election, he would end up being sworn in thrice and spending more than eight years as Governor - see Sections 180(2A) & 182 (1)(b) of the Constitution.

Firstly, the fact that Mr Sylva's first election was declared null and void by the Court of Appeal, is extremely pertinent, as Mr Sylva would claim that contrary to Section 182(1)(b) of the Constitution, he has only been elected once since the first 2007 election was nullified by the court. In **Amgbare & Anor v Sylva & Ors (2007) LPELR-8089(CA)**, the Court of Appeal nullified the 2007 poll in which Mr Sylva was elected as Governor of Bayelsa State. The then Speaker of the Bayelsa State House of Assembly was ordered by the court to be sworn in as Governor, pending the conduct of a fresh election. Mr Sylva subsequently won the 2008 election, and was sworn in as Governor in 2008. In **Ladoja v INEC (2007) LPELR-1738(SC) per George Adesola Oguntade, JSC**, the Supreme Court held thus: **“It is settled law that when an act is declared null and void, the position is that from the angle of the law, the act never took place. It is completely wiped off and considered as extinct and deemed never to have existed...When an appointment is declared null and void, all it means is that the appointment was never made, and all acts of the purported appointee when he de facto held the appointment, are unlawful”**. I believe this decision is self-explanatory - that, in law, Mr Sylva's 2007 election as Governor never took place. The law only recognises Mr Sylva's election and term in office from 2008-2012, as his first and only term as Governor of Bayelsa State.

Secondly, aside from the fact that the case of **Marwa & Ors v Nyako & Ors (2012) LPELR-7837 (SC) per Walter Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen, JSC (later CJN)** which the trial Judge in the recent Sylva case relied on, seems to draw a distinction between the annulment of an election and an act being declared null and void (a story for another day), Section 180(2A) which Mr Kolomo relied on, is an alteration to the Constitution that took place in 2010, three and two years after the nullified and subsequent elections of Mr Sylva in 2007 and 2008, and is therefore, inapplicable; that is, Section 180(2A) which provides that the time spent in office before the annulment of the first election shall be taken into account, cannot be applied to events that took place before the law was enacted. It is trite that, a law cannot be retrospective. In **Adesanoye v Adewole 2006 14 N.W.L.R. Part 1000 Page 253**, the Apex Court held that **Section 4 of the Constitution empowers the National Assembly to make laws with retrospective effect and that such laws are generally not unconstitutional, but it should be stated in clear terms that the law is retrospective**. In **Afolabi v Governor, Oyo State 1985 2 N.W.L.R. Part 9 Page 734**, the Supreme Court held inter alia that **a retrospective law is prima facie questionable policy, as it deprives an individual of an accrued right**. Section 180 (2A) of the Constitution doesn't state that it is retrospective. In fact, Section 2(2) of the **Interpretation Act 2004** provides that when there's no provision as to the time an enactment is to come in force, it will come into force either when the enactment was made, or on the day it is passed. It seems more logical for it to be the day it is passed, which in the case of Section 180(2A) is 2010.

## Conclusion

It is therefore, highly unlikely that even if Mr Kolomo's case was heard on its merits, it would have succeeded against Mr Timipre Sylva. Again, like in the case of the Presidential Election Petitions where no costs were awarded, the N1 million cost awarded against Mr Kolomo, is insufficient to act as a deterrent to the filing of frivolous and vexatious cases.

Finally, the winning combination for elections in Nigeria are the enactment of good electoral laws, INEC conducting satisfactory elections, and Lawyers taking into serious consideration the laws and authorities pertaining to election matters, before they institute actions.

## LAW REPORT

# Need to Plead, Particularise and Prove Special Damages: Applicability in Arbitral Proceedings

## Facts

The Respondent, Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) and Addax Petroleum Development (Nigeria) Limited (Addax) (substituted with the Applicant) executed a Crude Handling Agreement (CHA), prescribing the method for sharing their commingled crude oil. A dispute arose on how this method was applied. A three-man Arbitral Tribunal was constituted to resolve the dispute by arbitration, namely, (i) Mr Abdul-Lateef Jinadu; (ii) Dr Tunde Ogogewo; and (iii) Babajide O. Ogundipe (Chairman). The tribunal published a Partial Final Award on 2nd September, 2020 and Final Award dated 8th October, 2020, and awarded the sum of \$170,799,382.00 to CNL, being monetary value for the 1,290,265 barrels of crude oil CNL sought in its Counter-Claim.

Addax filed an Originating Motion dated 5/11/2020, seeking to set aside the Partial and Final Awards on twelve grounds. CNL filed a Notice of Preliminary Objection dated 23/11/2020, challenging the jurisdiction of the court and a separate suit seeking to enforce the Awards.

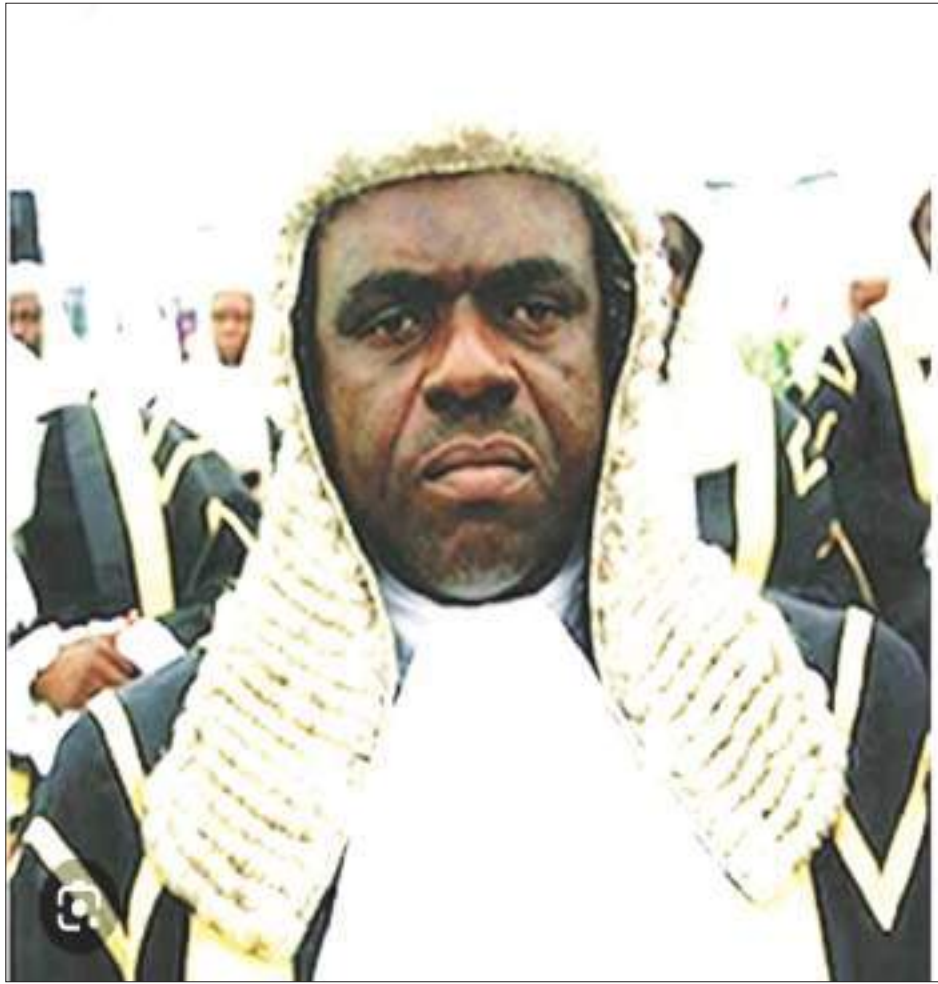
## Arguments

In support of its Preliminary Objection, CNL argued that the grounds complaining of misconduct and errors on the face of the awards are not misconducts and errors qualifying the awards for setting aside, but mere dissatisfaction with the merit of the awards and outside the scope specified by Sections 29 and 30 of the ACA. Addax countered the submission, arguing that by law once a Defendant challenges jurisdiction, he is taken as having conceded all questions of facts as contained in a claim as correct. Addax argued that CNL having taken all its twelve grounds for applying to set aside the award as true and correct for all purposes of its Preliminary Objection, it cannot subsequently argue that its allegations of misconduct and error in law on the face of the awards are outside of the law.

Arguing the substantive application, Addax submitted that CNL did not place before the tribunal, any verifiable evidence of how the 1,612,837 barrels of crude oil it claimed was calculated. The figure and the sum of US\$170,799,382.00 awarded were neither specifically pleaded with particulars, nor supported with credible evidence to merit these awards. Relying on decided authorities, Addax submitted that where there is a misapplication of the principles underpinning the grant of special damages, the award qualifies to be set aside. Addax also argued that the awards were materially plagued by inconsistencies and ambiguity; it highlighted specific instances of the awards where, according to it, the tribunal misconducted itself by dealing with points not submitted to it by the parties. Addax also alleged that the tribunal misconstrued very important and central points of dispute between the parties against it. Addax challenged the decision of the tribunal that limitation law can be waived or defeated by estoppel, arguing that this was an error of law on the face of the award.

Addax also argued that the tribunal misconducted itself, when it based its decision on a point that CNL did not raise or materially plead in its Defence and Counterclaim, but which materially affected the Partial Award in ways adverse to Addax's interest. It also challenged the Partial Award on the ground that the tribunal overlooked, ignored, or failed to consider or/and apply very material evidence on the central points in the dispute between the parties, when it held that there was no evidence that the parties agreed to modify the commingled crude oil sharing method, despite direct documentary evidence to that effect introduced before the tribunal. Addax also complained that the tribunal misconducted itself, by misstating and misapplying a fundamental legal principle on mitigation of loss, and argued that the tribunal violated Article 40 of the First Schedule of the ACA in awarding against it arbitration costs despite being partially successful at the arbitration. It also submitted that clause 19 of the agreement provided that a party can only be compensated for the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the other party, and that having found that Addax is not liable of this, the tribunal had no basis awarding 1,612,837 barrels of crude oil to CNL. Finally, Addax complained that the tribunal misconducted itself by failing to act fairly towards both parties, and that the awards were perverse, unconscionable and against public policy.

CNL very strongly opposed the application, arguing conversely that on the twelve grounds raised by Addax, there was considerable evidence including expert evidence establishing the requisite aspect



Honourable Justice Chukwujekwu Joseph Aneke

In the Federal High Court of Nigeria  
In the Lagos Judicial Division  
Holden at Lagos  
On Friday, the 27th day of October, 2023

Before His Lordship  
Chukwujekwu Joseph Aneke  
Judge, Federal High Court

Suit No: FHC/L/CS/1542/2020

### Between

Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) Applicant

### And

Chevron Nigeria Limited Respondent

(Judgement delivered by Honourable Justice Chukwujekwu Joseph Aneke)

of its claim; that the alleged inconsistencies did not establish a substantial miscarriage of justice; that the grounds predicated on "error of law on the face of the award" is no longer available as a ground to set aside an award under the ACA, and there was no substantial miscarriage of justice. CNL further argued that Addax admitted that it unilaterally suspended the CHA allocation formula; the tribunal applied the correct principles in relation to estoppel and waiver. Additionally, on agreement about the non-contractual sharing formula, CNL argued that the complaint is against the tribunal's evaluation of evidence and same must fail; on mitigation of loss, CNL argued that the tribunal applied the correct legal principles; that the findings did not affect the tribunal's central findings on liability.

Finally, CNL argued that the court cannot serve as appellate review of the tribunal's evaluation of evidence; and that "perverseness" is not a ground for setting aside an award under the ACA.

### Court's Decision and Rationale

In determining the Preliminary Objection, the court considered the twelve grounds put forward by Addax, and concluded that some of these grounds bordered on allegation of misconduct of the arbitrators. The tribunal found that, the arbitrators went beyond the scope of the matters submitted to arbitration.

Referring to the ground of CNL in support of its Preliminary Objection, where it stated that "although Addax couched the grounds in support of its Originating Motion so as to ostensibly bring them within the limited scope provided by Sections 29 and 30 of the ACA, a closer reading of the particulars of the grounds show that the grounds are outside the limited scope provided by Sections 29 and 30 of the ACA", the court found that this amounts to an admission by CNL that the grounds are within the provisions of Sections 29 and 30 of the ACA. *The particulars of these grounds cannot control the grounds, they should support the grounds, and any particular that is inconsistent with its ground ought to be struck out.*

The Preliminary Objection was accordingly struck out.

Deciding the substantive claim, the court referred to the tribunal's findings in paragraphs of the Partial Award, where it held that the evidence of CNL's losses was limited to the period between the installation of the surge vessel in 2010 and the reversion to the contractual allocation formula found in the witness statement of Eddie Agbongiator. In paragraph 28 of the said witness statement, he stated that he applied the contractual formula for the period 17 May, 2004 to 1st May, 2012 and by his calculation, CNL is owed approximately 1.6 million barrels. The tribunal found that the evidence above is the only

direct testimony on the volume of crude oil claimed. There was also the DPR-NAPIMS Report of 2014 where the loss to CNL was stated as 1,612,837 barrels. According to the court, CNL pleaded in paragraph 132 of its Amended Statement of Defence and Counter-claim that it lost 1,612,837 barrels of crude oil between May 2004 and June 2012. After this paragraph, the Respondent went on to seek reliefs in paragraph 133, where it claimed US\$170,799,382. The court held thus: "the principle of law that special damages must be pleaded with particulars and strictly proved, applies equally to Arbitration Tribunal – NNPC v KLIFCO NIG. LTD (2011) 4 SC (PT. I) 108 at 144." Juxtaposing the facts and findings of the Tribunal with law, the court held that relief(s) claimed in a statement of claim (or pleading) does not constitute facts pleaded. ... reliefs claimed are not part of pleadings. CNL did not plead the sum US\$170,799,382 awarded in its favour, as it only pleaded 1,612,837 barrels of crude oil. Further, the evidence of Eddie Agbongiator, who testified for CNL did not show the list or particulars of the daily production figures from 17th May, 2004 to 1st May,

2012 which he relied on in calculating CNL's loss, just as his calculation was not shown in his witness statement on oath. Further, his testimony that CNL is owed approximately 1.6 million barrels of crude oil is not strict proof of 1,612,837 barrels as pleaded by CNL.

On the reliance of the tribunal on the Executive Summary of DPR-NAPIMS Report of 2014 to hold that CNL lost 1,612,837 barrels, the court observed that the report was not before it. At any rate, it is the duty of the Arbitral Tribunal to show how using the particulars or subordinate facts provided by CNL, it reached the conclusion that CNL lost a total of 1,612,837 barrels of crude oil to Addax. "It is a claim for special damages and the Plaintiff must give full particulars and other facts as may be necessary to enable the court to calculate as best as accurately as it can, the actual amount of the Plaintiff's loss." Regarding the expert report of Jeff D. Makhholm Ph. D, Exhibit A13, the court found that the tribunal's acceptance of the evidence because Addax could not contradict it, is beside the point. By the decision in KLIFCO case, even if Addax admitted Dr. Makhholm's evidence, it does not relieve Dr. Makhholm of providing those values expected of him nor does it relieve the Respondent from pleading them. The court held that CNL neither specifically pleaded how it arrived at the sum of 1,612,837 barrels of crude oil, nor strictly proved same. Also, the sum of US\$170,799,382 claimed by the Respondent was neither pleaded, nor strictly proved.

The court also found that the tribunal contradicted itself when, having found in paragraph 32.12 of the Partial Award that CNL acceded to Addax applying an allocation factor of 0.97, it reversed itself by holding in the last sentence of paragraph 32.13 that Addax needed to adduce evidence to support the existence of the collateral contract. His Lordship held further that *the issue of whether CNL acceded to a new allocation factor different from that provided in the agreement is crucial, because it determines the liability of Addax to CNL.* These inconsistencies cast a doubt in the mind of the court, on the conclusion of the tribunal that the Respondent is entitled to 1,612,837 barrels of crude oil.

On Addax's allegation of misconduct on the ground that CNL did not plead waiver to be entitled to treat the agreement as continuing, His Lordship found that CNL did not plead the points considered by the tribunal.

The court found that Addax's argument that CNL's counter claim was statute barred must fail. According to the court, "an Arbitral Tribunal is the sole or final judge on questions of law or fact, except where the statute and courts have created exceptions."

The court also found that the tribunal did not wrongly apportion the costs, and complied with the agreement.

The Partial and Final Awards were set aside by the court on grounds of error of law on the face of the award, and misconduct arising from inconsistent findings on the face of the award which made the award perverse.

### Arbitral Awards Set Aside.

### Representation

Prof. B. Adaralegbe, Esq. & Ors. for the Applicant.

B. Fagbohunlu, SAN & Ors. for the Respondent.

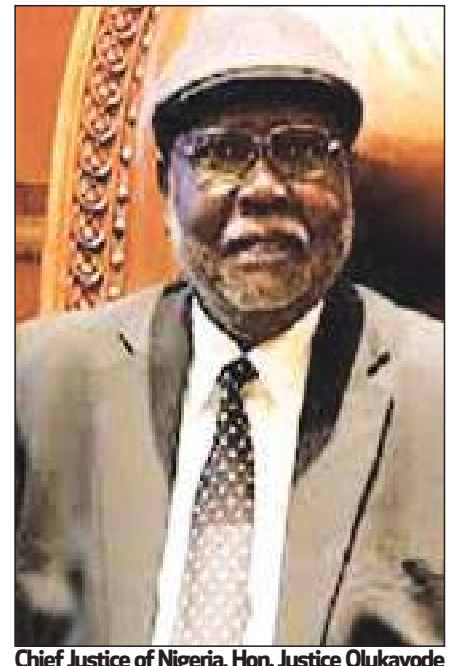
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**"...."the principle of law that special damages must be pleaded with particulars and strictly proved, applies equally to Arbitration Tribunal"**

NEWS



L-R: Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Benin, Prof Ikpomwosa Omoruyi; Guest Lecturer, 19th Justice Idigbe Memorial Lecture, Mr Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Benin and Prof Gabriel Arise



Chief Judge, FCT High Court, Hon. Justice H. B. Yusuf

Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, GCON

# Fashola Eulogises the Life and Times of Hon. Justice Chukwunweike Idigbe

## Asks Nigerians to emulate his exemplary behaviour

Adibe Emeryonu in Benin City

Immediate past Minister of Works, Mr Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN (BRF), has commended the life and times of late Hon. Justice Chukwunweike Idigbe, JSC, saying like him, Nigerians must offer service and duty in private and public capacities, before they can expect protection and assertion of rights. He described this as the proper order for the workings of the social contract, between citizens and Government.

According to BRF, the reason for the reverence and celebration of the life and in death of the late jurist, was his service and sense of duty to Nigeria and his fellow citizens. BRF spoke while delivering the 19th Justice Idigbe Memorial Lecture titled: **"Duty and Citizenship - The Social Contract"** on Tuesday, at the University of Benin (UNIBEN) Auditorium. Chukwunweike Idigbe (1923-1983) was a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. He was appointed to the position on April 10, 1964.

He later served as Chief Justice of the Mid West Region. BRF, former Governor of Lagos State, who described Justice Idigbe as a dutiful citizen and worthy Nigerian patriot, said when he was invited to intervene at memorial lecture early this year, and was asked to review the late Justice's judgment, he became delighted because Idigbe came from a family that continues to celebrate him.

Addressing the audience, the Guest Lecturer recalled with nostalgia: "I was here about three decades ago when the first Idigbe memorial lecture was delivered by no less a personage than the Honourable Kayode Eso, JSC in 1985, and I sat where many of you are seating today, listening with rapt attention to every word and made sure I did not leave the hall until I got a printed copy of the lecture which I am sure I still have, but cannot currently find".

"This is part of the contest that underpins my delight to be here today as a Lecturer in honour of a truly outstanding Nigerian, Jurist, Patriot, the late Justice Chukwunweike Idigbe, who sadly left us on 31st July, 1983, about 43 years ago.

"What then was it about this Nigerian whose legacy remains imperishable?" To answer the question, BRF said the late Idigbe was many things: one, from a family that continues to celebrate him, to colleges whose professional trust and respect he earned, to success as a professional who was fairly rewarded as a legal practitioner, as he was not poor.

"But, perhaps, the reason for Idigbe's reverence and celebration in life and in death was his service and sense of duty to Nigeria and his fellow citizens", the former Works Minister stated, declaring that was why he exercises the latitude to choose his topic, to title his speech: "Duty and Citizenship - The Social Contract", because the late Jurist was a dutiful citizen and a worthy Nigerian patriot.

He said when he was invited to intervene at the Memorial Lecture, he was also asked to review the judgement of the late Idigbe in the case of **Bucknor-Maclean v Inlaks (1980) 8 11 SC 1**, a case he enthused, demonstrated Justice Idigbe's humanity, sense of justice and fairness to his fellow citizens.

He pointed out that on the surface of it, it looked like just another case

about the interpretation of Section 14 of the Registration of Titles Act, and the matter seemed foreclosed because the Supreme Court had decided cases like **Shell BP Petroleum Company v Mammal Engineering Nigeria Ltd 1974 1 ANLR 542** and **Owunmi v Patterson Zochonis & Co Nigeria Ltd 1 ANLR 107**. These cases had decided that any transfer of title under the Registration of Titles Act shall use the Form prescribed under the Act to be valid, but people came to challenge the validity of the interest created in land under the Act. Those who came to challenge the validity of the Act, were successors of the person who created the interest. In other words, they sought to nullify an interest they had created, by relying on the non-compliance that they had been part of by collecting money which smelt of fraud at the worst and inequity at its fairest.

However, BRF said Justice Idigbe would have none of it, and proceeded to persuade a full panel of the Supreme Court to reverse their previous decisions which were binding precedents and constraints to doing justice in the case under consideration. Needless to say, "all his

brother Justices unanimously agreed with him. Idigbe, JSC enforced the law by using, and this is one of our duties as citizens".

He pointed out that just as contract, as implied, confers certain expectations and benefits on citizens, it also required in exchange, for citizens to render certain services to the State as enshrined in Chapter 2 Section 24 of the 1999 Constitution as amended.

On power, prestige and the good name of Nigeria, he observed that as citizens, we often de-market the country through cynical remarks which tend to undervalue it, by the negative conduct of some citizens.

The Vice-chancellor who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Ekhevan Campus, Prof Buniyamin Ayinde, said there was no doubt that the late Justice Idigbe contributed immensely to society and the law profession.

He said, "I appreciate the contributions of Justice Idigbe to the law profession, which we are celebrating today. In fact, he deserves to be celebrated, because he was a man of honour who stands tall, irrespective that he is no more with us today".

## FCT CJ Bemoans Shortage of Courtrooms for Magistrates

The Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf, has bemoaned the shortage of some infrastructural facilities in the nation's capital Judiciary, especially courtrooms for Magistrates.

Speaking at the opening of its 2023/2024 Legal Year, event on Monday in Abuja, Baba-Yusuf observed that despite the fact that the FCT High Court has a total complement of 58 Judges, "the courts are being overstretched to its fullest elastic capacity in terms of caseload". According to him, this situation has a way of impacting on justice delivery, as well as the wellbeing of judicial officers in the FCT.

He however, expressed hope that with support from stakeholders in the Justice sector as well as relevant authorities, the challenge can be surmounted.

"As I remarked in my speech during the 2022/2023 legal year ceremony, the work on Zone 5 Court Complex is progressing steadily. It is hoped that by the time the complex is completed, it will be able to accommodate

about seven to eight court rooms to further ease our infrastructural challenges.

"Connected to this also, is the dearth of court rooms for the Magistrates. Currently, some of our Magistrates are sharing court rooms", he said just as he added that: "We will strive in the course of the year, to open new court rooms to ensure that each of them functions maximally".

He thanked the Federal Capital Territory Administration for donating the premises that is currently housing the Garki Division of the High Court for their operations, and expressed hope that a similar intervention in respect of the Magistracy would be provided in the new legal year.

Notwithstanding the challenges, the FCT High Court CJ observed that the court performed excellently in the outgoing year, going by the number of cases completed.

He gave assurance that the Judiciary will continue to perform its primary duty in hearing cases in different parts of the territory, as demanded by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

## National Judicial Council Moves to Appoint New Supreme Court Justices

Alex Enumah in Abuja

The office of the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Hon. Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, GCON, has commenced the process of appointing 11 new Justices to the Supreme Court Bench. This move comes amidst controversy over the exclusion of some regions in the court's current composition, which has been largely unavoidable.

Currently, the Supreme Court has only 10 out of a total 21 Justices, the lowest number in

its contemporary history, according to the CJN. The retirement and death of Justices representing the South East and North Central regions, has left those zones with no representation on the Apex Court. Sources close to the National Judicial Council (NJC) chaired by the CJN, have revealed plans to fill the vacancies and bring the Supreme Court to its full complement for the first time ever. And, towards this end, the NJC is likely to elevate Justices from the Court of Appeal to fill

six slots for the Southeast and North Central.

The 1999 Constitution requires each of the six geopolitical zones to have three representatives at the Supreme Court Bench. Filling the 11 vacant positions has become urgent, to ease the workload on existing Justices and ensure regional representation. The potential appointments are crucial to restore regional balance, and promote fairness within the Supreme Court. The CJN had decreed the declining number

of Supreme Court Justices as worrisome, and promised that measures to appoint more are being taken.

The remaining ten Justices of the Apex Court are CJN Ariwoola, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, who is next in line for the position of CJN, Justice Uwani Musa Abba Aji, Justice Helen M. Ogunwumiju, Justice John Inyang Okoro, Justice Lawal Garba, Justice I.N. M. Saulawa, Justice Adamu Jauro, Justice Tijani Abubakar and Justice Emmanuel Akomaye Agim.

## PHOTO NEWS



L-R: Chris Uche, SAN; Attorney-General of the Federation & Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN and Dr Babatunde Ajibade, SAN at the 2023 IBA Conference in Paris, France last week



L-R: NBA President, Yakubu Maikyau, SAN; former NBA President, Olumide Akpata and former Attorney-General of Ekiti State, Olawale Fapohunda, SAN



L-R: Chris Uche, SAN; Yakubu Maikyau, SAN and Steve Adebi, SAN

# COMPEDIA

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## Competition Advocacy

### The Importance of Competition Advocacy

Observance of Competition law, can considerably improve a country's economy. However, the existence of a dedicated legislation for Competition law and a Regulator, is insufficient to drive Competition law compliance, particularly in developing countries. Practice of Competition law by a government, should be cultural. As such, Competition law and its Regulator must be innovative with competition advocacy strategies that ensure Competition law weaves into the fabric of economic considerations, particularly in countries transitioning from government-led economies to market-led ones. For example, efforts to transition the Nigerian economy to a market-led one are evident with the recent transition of NNPC from a national corporation to a private organisation, and the efforts to commercialise the proposed Nigerian Air.

The International Competition Network considers competition advocacy, as those activities conducted by the competition authority related to promoting a competitive environment for economic activities through non-enforcement mechanisms, mainly through its relationships with other governmental entities, and by increasing public awareness of the benefits of competition (International Competition Network (ICN), Advocacy and Competition Policy 25 (2002).

A strong competition culture helps to enhance the effectiveness of competition enforcement, and people imbibe a competition culture through competition advocacy. Competition advocacy must include educating other government agencies, the Judiciary, economic agents, and the general public about the benefits of competition to society and the role of competition law and policy in promoting societal welfare (Fels, Allan and Ng, Wendy, Rethinking Competition Advocacy in Developing Countries (2013). Competition Law and Development (D Daniel Sokol, Thomas K Cheng, and Ioannis Lianos, eds, Stanford University Press), 2013, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2674421>).

In fact, competition advocacy is so important that, in Hong Kong, there is a docudrama series which airs on TV weekly, dedicated to competition advocacy. Without effective competition advocacy, businesses will not call out other businesses for harmful anti-competitive behaviour, because of their limited understanding of what is a Competition law violation.

Currently, competition advocacy in Nigeria is reactive, whereby the relevant agency, institution, or government consults the competition authority for their input on matters that require a Competition law cherry on top of a massive policy or regulatory cake. These will include



the Competition law Regulators providing opinions and recommendations, making submissions on draft legislation and regulations, meeting stakeholders and workshops. However, these types of competition advocacy methods could be more effective in developing countries with strong political influence over the country's national laws, or against governmental institutions and agencies that prioritise the success of their objective over the overriding economic objective of the country. These type of competition advocacy strategies, for example, a recommendation or an opinion, are only good until it is countered by an existing anti-competitive legislation or a competing policy objective backed up by a solid political influence, such as government involvement in the economy through a State-backed public enterprise that has monopoly over a sector. Nigeria, for example, has traditionally based its economic policies on direct government control. This is changing slowly, however, which presents good timing for strong and speedy competition advocacy efforts.

#### An Additional Approach

Rather than general actions that competition agencies might take to influence competition divisions within the government through reactionary

consultations, competition advocacy could be a comprehensive program targeting underlying anti-competitive laws (Fels, Allan and Ng, Wendy, (Supra) Page 193).

Competition agencies could be proactive in championing projects for the reform of laws and policies that directly impact the ability of businesses to compete equally in areas such as international and inter-State trade, intellectual property, foreign ownership and investment, tax, small businesses, public and private ownership, public procurement, and bidding for monopoly franchises (Fels, Allan and Ng, Wendy, (Supra) Page 193). The Competition Regulator could structure such underlying competition review across the various levels of government, the Federal and State Government, and several sectors, against a competition checklist such as competition neutrality whereby governments ensured that their publicly owned businesses would not enjoy any net competitive advantage because of being publicly owned.

Also, the Nigerian Competition Regulator could make these reforms in light of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act objectives, which include promoting and maintaining competitive markets in the Nigerian economy, promoting economic efficiency, protecting and promoting the interests and welfare of consumers, by providing consumers with wider variety of quality products at competitive prices; prohibit restrictive or unfair business practices which prevent, restrict or distort competition or constitute an abuse of a dominant position of market power in Nigeria; and contribute to the sustainable development of the Nigerian economy.

An aspect of competition advocacy

could also champion the introduction of Competition law across Nigerian Universities as a course of study in the Law and Social Science Faculties. Many countries with active competition regimes have Competition law courses, at various levels of studies. This type of strategic advocacy will significantly increase the number of competition advocates in the country, facilitating a more robust enforcement environment.

Also, quite important is structuring the court system to deal with competition infringement actions. Because competition infringements are usually on a broad scale, harming many consumers, in the US, there is a robust competition class action regime dedicated to dealing with competition infringements on a large scale. In the UK, an emerging competition class action regime, allows many people to seek redress against anti-competitive behaviour. These types of class actions support competition regulatory efforts, through private enforcement. With the increasing growth of the litigation funding industry, this is a route to building significant traction in creating a competition-conscious environment. For example, in the UK, several class actions are challenging big tech, financial, transport, and environment companies for abuse of dominance practices causing consumers to pay excessive and unfair prices for goods and services. These actions act as a check on antitrust violators, due to the likelihood of heavy fines imposed for competition violations.

Competition advocacy has many dimensions, that could create good results. Competition advocacy strategies, will not immediately correct every anti-competitive wrong. However, it is a route through which every step taken in the right direction, will lead to the desired destination of an active competition-conscious environment with ripple effects on the economy.

**“Competition advocacy must include educating other government agencies, the Judiciary, economic agents, and the general public about the benefits of competition to society and the role of competition law and policy in promoting societal welfare”**

# SERIOUS MATTERS

OLAWALE FAPOHUNDA, SAN

08033142501 SMS ONLY



*'Mr Fapohunda, I do not think any Nigerian Lawyer will take pride in washing the dirty linen of the state of the justice sector in Nigeria, in the IBA space. The reality, learned silk, is that we are all frustrated. For more than two decades now, we have witnessed a succession of governments that are simply blind, deaf and please, forgive the cliché, dumb to the unsatisfactory state of the justice sector, particularly the dire condition of the Judiciary and the harm this is having on the image of our country. May be the solution Sir, is to internationalise our frustration and hope that the shame will spur this Government into action.'*

**-Folakemi (surname withheld), Participant at the International Bar Association Conference, Paris, France, 29 October – 3 November 2023**

## A System Incapable of Producing Anything Positive

Listening to the different contributions by Nigerian Lawyers at the Rule of Law Symposium on assessing the impact of the judicial appointments process in undermining the rule of law last Friday at the IBA Conference in Paris, reminded me in many ways of a Public Interest Lawyers Conference I attended in New York recently.

I was the Guest Speaker, and as the only African resource person, the session drew an unusual large participation, specifically from those who wanted to listen to an African perspective in a conference that was largely dominated by American and European facilitators. I had confidently made a presentation on the Administration of Justice System in Nigeria, highlighting the challenges and of course, the ongoing developments showing that while progress was regrettably slow, there has been some positive developments.

I had barely finished my presentation when this Nigerian Law Professor, on sabbatical leave from one of our State Universities, lambasted me for what he described as my 'horribly misleading presentation' and my 'pathetic attempt to present the image of a justice system that is capable of producing anything positive'. In his words, 'there is nothing that is worth commending about the Nigerian justice system. The Judiciary, the legal profession, the Police, the correctional services are all products of a system that is incapable of delivering justice in any of its ramifications'. He also had plenty unprintable words to say about the Government of Nigeria, singling out our former President for special derision. The Professor was so agitated, that for a moment I was almost sure he was going to walk up to the Speakers table where I was sitting and throw a punch at me. The Nigerian participants at the Conference made up of some State High Court Judges and Lawyers, were not going to take the diatribe against them lightly. Such was the uproar from them against the Professor, that the Chairperson of the session after several calls for calm, had to bring the session to an unceremonious end.

## IBA, Judicial Capture & Bribe for Judicial Appointments

Thankfully, the IBA Symposium on Rule of Law and Judicial appointments was not as dramatic, even if memorable. In summary, the Immediate Past Attorney-General of Abia State had made a compelling intervention about his experience in Abia State. He spoke about the integrity challenges inherent in the process of Judicial appointments in Abia State, citing the use of money and the influence of his Governor on who gets appointed to the Bench. He recommended a review of the process of appointing members of the Judicial Service Commission, in a manner that guarantees independence.

It was the intervention of the President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), that stirred



IBA President, Almudena Arpón de Mendivil Aldama

# That International Bar Association Symposium on Judicial Appointments

things up. The NBA President was obviously upset by the allegation of Lawyers bribing for judicial appointments. It was clear that, he did not think the IBA was the place to make this allegation. He referred to provisions of our Rules of Professional Conduct, stating that it was a breach of those rules for a Lawyer to be aware of corrupt practices and do nothing. Such was the intensity of the back and forth that the Chairperson of the session, Baroness Helena Kennedy, threatened to ask the 'acteurs principaux' to take the debate outside the meeting room.

The immediate Past NBA President's intervention, was largely in agreement with the Professor that was going to punch me at the New York Conference. He spoke about 'judicial capture' by the Executive. He also decried the poor condition of judicial service, particularly judicial remuneration. According to him, the process of appointment of judicial officers in Nigeria is so fraught with institutional irregularities, that it is almost impossible to produce quality judicial officers. The symposium ended amicably without any more drama, except that the former Attorney-General, Abia State lost his wallet in the heat of the debate.

On my part, I do not think that the IBA has the solution to our justice sector problems. This is not so much about the IBA, but my loss of faith in the what is called 'the international community'. Over the years, my thoughts have evolved from a believer in international institutions to a sceptic of the place of international regimes in solving local governance problems, specifically as it relates to issues of access to justice and

respect for fundamental human rights.

## In Search of a Homegrown Solution

In my considered opinion, the solution lies at home. I am simply tired of going to these international meetings, where Nigeria is portrayed as a country of anything goes. By the way, my share in the euphoria in the aftermath of the P&ID judgement, is limited. True, judgement against Nigeria would have had serious consequences for our struggling economy, but when all the hullabaloo about victory is settled, the judgement will be cited as evidence of a country steeped in corrupt practices. In the end, it is the value of our green passport that will be diminished and its holders - Lawyers and non-Lawyers alike, will be victims of this devaluation.

I share the frustration of my colleagues, at the slow pace of reforms in the justice sector. By next week, they will all return to the hustle of legal practice, the thoughts and outcome of the IBA will be a distant memory. In addition to my legal practice, as Co-Chairperson of the NBA Working Committee on Judicial Remuneration, I have to work on these issues on a daily basis. Engaging with the three arms of the Federal Government and experiencing firsthand, the institutional obstacles that continue to retard progress in the sector. I hesitate to say that I have been on every Presidential initiative dealing with the reform of the justice sector, since 1999. Our input, including energy, commitment and dedication to the cause has not been matched by tangible outcomes. Such is the quality and volume of available literature on the subject-matter, that what is required is simply for an inspired administration to put these together and commence a phased, costed and time bound implementation programme.

These reports clearly state that, the procedure for recommendation of appointment of judicial officers by the National Judicial Council (NJC) and Federal Judicial Service Commission (FJSC) or the States Judicial Service Commissions (JSC), is not open to the public. This lack of transparency, often leads to appointment of judicial officers with limited capability. That the judicial appointments process must be reformed, according to the principles of equal opportunity and

fairness. That there should be competitive and fair appointment, for all Judicial officers. NJC must also begin to consider thorough examination of prospective candidates via written tests, interviews and comments from the public. These are necessary tools, for searching for the best candidates.

## In Conclusion

My frustration is more pronounced, on the issue of judicial remuneration. What manner of country takes pride in subjecting its Judiciary to penury, and yet, demand high quality of justice delivery? How is it even possible that, despite the findings of several Presidential initiatives that judicial officers have been on the same salary for almost two decades, there is no sense of urgency to reverse the situation. A key finding of the Presidential Technical Committee on Judicial Remuneration in its 2018 report stated that, 'from May 1999 to March 2011, the Federal Government has reviewed the Public servants and Political Officers salary on four occasions. Specifically in May 2000, 2005, 2007 and 2011. Judicial officers have been on the same salary structure for more than 14 years, whereas the salaries of the entire workforce, the Military, Intelligence and other Chief Executives in Nigeria were reviewed in 2011. This has resulted in a situation where some of the Public Office holders whose salaries prior to 2011 were below that of the Judicial Officers, now earn more than them. Presently, the major parameters for pay fixing and pay relativities seem to have been abandoned in the consideration of the salaries of Judicial Officers. The Judicial Officer's present salary, is evidence of a downgrade in the ranking of their job positions.'

It is time more Lawyers concerned about the current state of the justice system, especially those with international practices be more vocal at home. Within the legal profession, an important challenge is the disconcerting few Lawyers that are interested in public interest advocacy, even on matters of reforms in the justice sector. I find this strange, given that there is nothing these reports have said that practicing Lawyers do not experience on a daily basis. Delays, uncomfortable court environment, poor quality judgements, corruption within the judicial bureaucracy, are some of the every day challenges. The task of reforming our justice system, is too serious to be left to the Nigerian Bar Association. There is an urgent need for more voices.

**"This lack of transparency, often leads to appointment of judicial officers with limited capability. That the judicial appointments process must be reformed, according to the principles of equal opportunity and fairness. That there should be competitive and fair appointment, for all Judicial officers"**

## COVER



Nneka Akudolu KC

# 'Female Lawyers, Be Fearless!'

The journey to the top in any profession is always tough and tortuous, and for the legal profession it is doubly tedious, especially for women. For Nigerian Lawyers in the United Kingdom, the challenges of rising to the peak of the profession are quite daunting, but obviously not insurmountable, because by a dint of hard work and obstinate determination, a few Nigerian Lawyers have worked their way to the pinnacle of their careers by being elevated to the rank of King's Counsel in the UK, the most recent being **Nneka Akudolu KC**. The Learned Silk, in this riveting interview, shared her story with **Onikepo Braithwaite and Jude Igbanoi**

**C**ongratulations. You are the sixth Black Female King's Counsel in the UK, elevated to the rank last year. Kindly,

give us an overview of your journey, and whatever challenges you may have faced along the way. It seems that in the UK, Solicitors can also apply to

be elevated to the rank of King's Counsel. How so?

I didn't make the most of the opportunities that I had, growing up. My mum worked extremely hard to send us to a private school, but I really didn't feel that education was for me.

I left school with only a handful of qualifications, and went to work in hospitality in London. It didn't take long for me to realise that, this was not going to be my long term future. I happened to see an advert in my local newspaper for Access Courses. They are

designed for individuals who have taken some time away from education, and unknown to me at the time - would enable me to get into University. I chose an Access to Legal Studies course, as I thought it may make me more employable. I did not consider for one minute, that I would pursue a career at the Bar. Having completed that course, I then chose to study an LLB in Law and Politics at the Cardiff University in Wales. Once there, I learned more about the legal careers available to me. With timing not being my strongest attribute, I gave birth to my

**"Be fearless...In 2019, I was invited to apply to a set of Chambers, which enjoys the status of being one of the top three in the entire country. I found the prospect quite terrifying at first, but I knew I had the ability to excel there, so I had to shake those feelings of self doubt away"**

## COVER

**'Female Lawyers, Be Fearless!'**

daughter half way through my law degree, but that did not deter me, as by this stage I was confident that I wanted to be a Lawyer. The Bar appealed to me: I enjoy public speaking, and I also quite liked the idea of wearing a wig and gown!

After University I studied for my Bar finals, and was fortunate enough to secure pupillage (training to become a Barrister) first time around. Pupillage with a two year old was quite challenging to say the least, but I had a lot of family support which was invaluable. I have been practicing in Criminal law now for over 20 years, and was Sworn in as (then) Queen's Counsel in March 2022.

It is right that, Solicitors can also now be elevated to the rank of King's Counsel; many have the same rights of audience enjoyed by Barristers in the Courts in England and Wales, so are able to demonstrate the excellence in both oral and written advocacy that is required.

**What words of wisdom do you have to impart to Females who wish to excel like you have?**

Be fearless. All too often we may shy away from making applications because we don't think we are good enough, or don't want to experience rejection. As I have navigated my way through my career, I, like many others, have fallen victim to the nagging psychological irritation that is imposter syndrome. In 2019, I was invited to apply to a set of Chambers, which enjoys the status of being one of the top three in the entire country. I found the prospect quite terrifying at first, but I knew I had the ability to excel there, so I had to shake those feelings of self doubt away. Less than three years after joining that set of Chambers, I applied and was successful in being appointed a Silk.

I think it is really important to align yourself with a good mentor, so that they can help you along your way to achieving your goals: someone who perhaps, has had similar experiences to your own, so knows the barriers you may have faced. Equally, it is important to be able to look at other remarkable women who have excelled in their careers, as their achievements will serve as



Nneka Akudolu KC

inspiration to others. But, we certainly need more women in leadership roles. Sometimes, we may look at a post or role that becomes available and think we have a slim chance of achieving it. The only certainty in that situation, is that you have a 100% chance of not getting it if you don't at least apply. So, my advice is to always go for it.

**What are your views on diversity at the Bar in England and Wales?**

We are still nowhere near where we need to be in terms of diversity in this profession generally, but, especially in leadership roles. It is important that the Bar and the Judiciary reflect the composition of society, and that is certainly not presently the case: one only need look at the current membership of the UK Supreme Court to illustrate

this point.

I frequently visit schools in order to encourage students from working class and diverse backgrounds, to consider the Bar as an achievable and realistic career option. It is great to see so many students genuinely excited when they learn that the Bar is a place that would welcome them, and consequently, they embrace the idea of studying Law at University. Happily some of the students I have encouraged have gone on to undertake Law degrees, Bar finals and secured pupillage, and I couldn't be more proud. The reality is that those who are students today, will become tomorrow's King's Counsel and tomorrow's members of the Judiciary.

**Would you say the profession in your jurisdiction is skewed in favour of male counterparts?**

Without question, yes. There have been many trials that I have been involved in, where I am the only female within an all male line up. Last year my client was one of six Defendants in a drugs case, and every single other participant (including the Judge) was male. In addition, the 2022 statistics from the Bar Standards Board reveal that

there are currently 368 female self-employed King's Counsel compared to 1591 male. When I took Silk in 2022, there were 101 appointees, 45 of whom were women; historically, that is the closest we have been to gender parity, and I really hope that continues.

At the Central Criminal Court in London, for the first time, the number of female Judges now equals the number of men, but that is not the case for all courts across the country - for more women to be appointed - more need to apply!

**As KC, you are considered to be a leader and expert in your area of practice. What is your area of practice, and why did you settle on that particular area?**

I decided from a very early stage in my career, that I wanted to specialise in Criminal Law. I enjoyed that subject the most at University, and that continued when I undertook work experience - Criminal Law was just the most interesting. I also knew that within this area of practice my work would be varied, and that I would meet people from all walks of life. Being able to undertake jury trials, was also extremely appealing.

**Is your practice both pros-**

Cont'd on page X

**"It is right that, Solicitors can also now be elevated to the rank of King's Counsel.... Increasingly now, there are more Solicitors who are appointed King's Counsel and also appointed to the Judiciary"**

## COVER

## 'Female Lawyers, Be Fearless!'



L-R: NBA President, Yakubu Maikyau, SAN, Nneka Akudolu KC and former Attorney-General of Ekiti State, Olawale Fapohunda, SAN

cont'd from page IX

**ecution and defence? Which do you prefer?**

I made the conscious decision when I started in practice, to prosecute and defend in equal measure. We are fortunate enough to have that choice here, which isn't an available option in other jurisdictions. In my view, having the experience of prosecuting enables me to be a better defender and vice versa. I can't honestly say which I would chose if I could only do one or the other, so I'm glad I don't have to!

**We know that unlike Nigeria where a Lawyer is permitted to practice as both, the legal profession in the UK is split, and your either a Barrister or Solicitor; though it seems that these days, Solicitors seem to be able to make limited appearances in some courts. Are there any advantages to splitting the profession into two? Would you recommend that we do**

**the same in Nigeria?**

Whilst there are two types of Lawyers in this county, (Barristers and Solicitors) the latter for years have had rights of audience and therefore, can undertake Crown Court advocacy like a Barrister. In addition, Solicitors may (should they wish to) wear wigs and gowns, when they appear in Court. There are also those who chose to be dual qualified, so presently there is not much difference between the UK and Nigeria, in terms of Lawyers being able to be a part of both branches of the profession.

Increasingly now, there are more Solicitors who are appointed King's Counsel and also appointed to the Judiciary. This is a positive step, as those appointments invariably also bring much needed diversity to the bench.

**Share your work experience with us as a Jury**

**Advocate. Who is a Jury Advocate?**

My experience as a Jury Advocate began with conducting trials involving low level assaults, theft and possession of drugs. Twenty or so years on, I prosecute and defend the most serious offences that an individual can be charged with. Being a Jury Advocate is primarily about being personable and persuasive. A jury of 12 men and women are selected at random, comprising ordinary members of the public who undertake their civic duty by judging their peers. In any given trial, I will ask questions of witnesses that I consider will assist the jury in determining the issues in the case. By far my favourite part of the process, however, is my closing speech. A powerful closing speech can turn a case around; everything is put together and presented in an easily understandable way, to persuade the jury that the arguments I have put forward are ones they can favour and ultimately find for the party I am representing. It is a great feeling!

**To what extent are you in touch with your home country, Nigeria, professionally?**

I do not have professional links with Nigeria, sadly, as I qualified and have always practiced in the UK. I am hoping that will change sometime in the future, though as I explore

other opportunities throughout my career. I was delighted to learn that as I was appointed King's Counsel in this country, I automatically have the title of 'SAN' in Nigeria.

**Would you ever come back to Nigeria to practice?**

As I have lived in the UK all of my life, I have never practiced or qualified in Nigeria, but I never say never!

**What perception do the British have of Lawyers of Nigerian descent generally?**

I certainly hold great admiration for my Nigerian counterparts. Only recently, myself and some colleagues attended the Opening of the Legal New Year at Westminster Abbey, and it was great to see two heavy weights from the Nigerian Bar also in attendance: Olawale Fapohunda, SAN and the current President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Yakubu Maikyau, OON, SAN. We made a beeline for them at the reception afterwards, and it was so interesting to hear some of their stories of life working in the legal profession in Nigeria; I was also over the moon that they knew who I was!

**What are your views on the ongoing war in the Middle East, where so many lives have been lost?**

It is terribly sad to watch what has been happening in the Middle East, I for one, will continue to pray for peace.

**Thank you Learned Silk.**

**"In addition, the 2022 statistics from the Bar Standards Board reveal that there are currently 368 female self-employed King's Counsel compared to 1591 male. When I took Silk in 2022, there were 101 appointees, 45 of whom were women; historically, that is the closest we have been to gender parity...."**





IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF LAGOS STATE (3)

When the second call came in, I abandoned the assignment and proceeded to the station where Mr. Borifade (Sgt) also went to attend a meeting with the officers who were already waiting at the Board room. While going to the station, I saw a Team of Police officers escorted by the Station Officer of Bar Beach Police Station on a dispatch bike in front of our office premises. On inquiring to know the purpose of their visit, I was informed by Supt Dada Michael that the team that they were riding based on "Order from above", I left them and proceeded to meet the Divisional Police Officer at Bar Beach Police Station.

company from the embankment already owned by the commands (S/O) of the police.

At this point, Supt Dada Michael accompanied by other Officers took Mr. Odufa to Bar Beach Police Station, and I accompanied him to watch as events unfolded. Supt Dada also asked the remaining Officers to keep themselves at the premises. We proceeded to State Command, Ipa where the 1st and 2nd Defendants met with various high ranking Officers.

I know that the commands style breach into the premises of the 4th Defendant by the Nigerian Police Force immediately caused a definite halt to the business of the 4th Defendant on that day (May 12, 2022), because the lockers of the 4th Defendant who at the office for a meeting during the material time of the breach had to immediately exit the premises, out of fear.

Consequently, I also received calls from their worried business partners and clients inquiring into the armed invasion of their premises and threatening to withdraw their partnership and dealings with the 4th Defendant as a result of said invasion resulting from the false petition of the Defendants.

This I depose to this Witness Statement on Oath in good faith conscientiously believing same to be true and correct in accordance with the Oath Act.

DEPONENT

Sworn to at the Registry of the High Court of Lagos State, Lagos. The 17th day of June 2022.

with regards to its contract with Nigerian Betting Company, approached the Head of New Business (Sgt) Agbaji in the 4th Defendant at the time, and pleaded that based on relationship he already had with the 4th Defendant, he should be allowed to handle the tracking element of the new contract through his company Honeybyte Technology Limited.

I am also that the Head of New Business at the time then approached the Executive Management of the 4th Defendant and made a case for the said 1st Defendant. After some deliberation, and to also encourage the 1st Defendant who was a young entrepreneur, the Executive Management approved that the telematics element of the contract be awarded to the 1st Defendant.

I know that the Defendant then commenced performing some assignments for the 4th Defendant within the scope agreed through the deployment of their system, only for the management of the 4th Defendant to later discover, to their greatest chagrin, that the contracted services of the 1st Defendant and his company were not only sub-standard but were also in gross disaccordance with what they had been earlier proposed to be.

The poor delivery of the Defendants overwhelmingly affected the business of the 4th Defendant. However, in a bid to assist the 1st Defendant's company to improve its services, the Executive Management of the 4th Defendant agreed to give financial assistance to the 1st Defendant as he had earlier complained that he had paucity of funds but that if adequate funds were injected into acquiring various technology and equipment needed, the services rendered will greatly improve.

During that particular period under review, the 4th Defendant unfortunately but substantially revenue through the incompetence of the 1st Defendant and his company at handling the telematics business for the new contract.

In order to avert the losses incurred, the 4th Defendant resolved to discontinue the deployment of the Defendants' services in its business and suspended the issuance of cash loans to them, as the Defendants' failure to meet the 4th Defendant's standards were beginning to take a monumental toll on the 4th Defendant's business.

I am aware that the Defendants, knowing same to be absolutely false and derogatory to the reputation of the 4th Defendant, maliciously caused to be written via their Solicitor a misleading, defamatory and derogatory petition to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), falsely alleging that the

Defendants, particularly the 1st and 2nd Defendants respectively, allegedly committed the crime of tax evasion, and conversion of funds meant for the 1st Defendant into personal use, pursuant to which the EFCC began to deploy the coercive repression of her power as a law enforcement agency based several invitations to, harass and hound the Defendants.

After several investigations, inspections and meetings with the EFCC, it was discovered by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission that the Defendants' allegations in petition filed was without merit and baseless. As such, the EFCC rightly washed its hands off the Defendants' petition deeming same as not showing any cogent case on the face of it and let the Defendants go about their lawful business.

I was also at the scene of the sudden invasion of the office of the 4th Defendant by the armed Police officers which was the Supt Dada Michael stated it was based on the instruction from above based on a petition of threat to life, kidnapping and attempted assassination by the 1st Defendant.

I was also in the meeting with the lockers who were at the 4th Defendant's office who had to immediately exit the premises, out of fear, thus occasioning huge losses to and damaging the business and personal reputation of the Defendants.

I also received calls from their worried business partners and clients inquiring into the armed invasion of their premises and threatening to withdraw their partnership and dealings with the 4th Defendant as a result of said invasion resulting from the false petition of the Defendants.

This I depose to this Witness Statement on Oath in good faith conscientiously believing same to be true and correct in accordance with the Oath Act.

DEPONENT

Sworn to at the Registry of the High Court of Lagos State, Lagos. The 17th day of June 2022.

On the 12th of May 2022, while a meeting with some of our franchisee bank officers in my office at Plot 165D Ikoyi Taylor Close, off Ibeju Street, Victoria Island, Lagos was ongoing, I noticed that the 4th Defendant's premises was invaded in a commands style by officers of the Nigerian Police Force who detained their vehicle at the entrance of the office. I shall show to the Court at the hearing of this suit the CCTV video recordings of May 12, 2022.

The next Officers came in three pick up vehicles and were armed to the teeth in getajaps/commands style, brandishing their weapons in full glare of the staff, colleagues, business partners and clients of the 4th Defendant.

I also notice that the 2nd Defendant, Mr. Borifade Odufa was later taken away in a white pick up van accompanied by two armed men, after which a black van was used to barricade the entrance of the premises. Several other actions took place on that day, and all are recorded in the CCTV earlier mentioned in paragraph 5 of my Statement.

This I depose to this Witness Statement on Oath in good faith conscientiously believing same to be true and correct in accordance with the Oath Act.

DEPONENT

Sworn to at the Registry of the High Court of Lagos State, Lagos. The 17th day of June 2022.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF LAGOS STATE IN THE LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION HOLDEN AT LAGOS

SUITS NO: BETWEEN 1. NWANNGI NWANNGO 2. CHUKA ONWUKWERWA 3. SONFISACE EKONG 4. AQUILA LEASING NIGERIA LIMITED CLAIMANTS AND 1. ADETUNKASE ADEYINKA ADESENE 2. ARVIN & WELLMANS LIMITED DEFENDANTS

CLAIMANTS' LIST OF DOCUMENTS (EXHIBITS) 1. Consultancy Agreement dated July 4, 2016. 2. The Defendants' Petition to the EFCC, via a subpoena duces tecum and/or at Enforcement, The Defendants intend to cause this Honorable Court to issue against the EFCC. 3. EFCC Inhibition Letter of March 17, 2020. 4. The Acknowledgement of Defendants Petition to the Police dated April 25, 2022, via a subpoena duces tecum and/or at Enforcement. The Defendants intend to cause this Honorable Court to issue against Hon. Nwabunike Enobun A. O. 5. CCTV video record of May 12, 2022.

Sworn to at the Registry of the High Court of Lagos State, Lagos. The 17th day of June 2022.

FOR PLAINTIFFS AND DEFENDANTS: PUNJKA Advorneys & Solicitors For AS, Oluwa Adetunji Street Off Admiralty Way LAGOS PHASE, LAGOS. 08162626262 08162626262 08162626262

FOR DEFENDANTS: 1. On the 1st Defendant: Adetunke Adetunke Adetunke Unit 4, Block 5A5, Road 17, Close C, Lekki Gardens Phase 2 Estate, Off Admiralty Avenue, Lagos. 08162626262 08162626262 08162626262 2. On the 2nd Defendant: ARVIN & WELLMANS LIMITED Registered Office: Unit 4, Block 5A5, Road 17, Close C, Lekki Gardens Phase 2 Estate, Off Admiralty Avenue, Lagos. 08162626262 08162626262 08162626262

CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT

BETWEEN AQUILA LEASING LIMITED AND ARVIN AND WELLMANS LIMITED

THIS CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT is made on the 17th day of June 2022

Between: AQUILA LEASING LIMITED is a limited liability company registered under the laws of Nigeria, having its registered office address at 12, Central Business District, Victoria Island, Lagos, (hereinafter referred to as "Aquila") which expression shall, where the context so admits, include its successors in title and assigns of the one part.

And: ARVIN AND WELLMANS LIMITED, a private limited liability company incorporated under the laws of Nigeria and having its office at Plot 165D, Ikoyi, Lagos (hereinafter referred to as "Arvin"), which expression shall, where the context so admits include its successors in title and assigns of the other part.

WHEREAS:

- 1. Aquila is a financial services company that provides leasing services to its clients.
2. The ARVIN is a full service and maintenance lease providing complete information services to its clients.
3. Both parties being a common interest are desirous of forming an alliance for the purpose of sales, marketing, contract execution and generally that will complement each other in the distribution of its individual capacities.
4. It is the intention of the parties that the agreement would serve as a binding contract and would ensure the commitment of individual parties to their mutual agreement.

Now it is therefore agreed as follows:

In consideration of the mutual benefits, interests, representations and warranties herein contained, the parties hereto agree to be legally bound as follows:

1. Recitals: The agreement shall commence on the date of execution of this agreement being the 17th day of June 2022 and shall continue until terminated or dissolved as hereinafter provided.

Parties agree that this agreement shall subject to being in force is a relationship between Aquila and any third party which may be established through the marketing services of ARVIN.

1. Parties Intention:

- 1. Both parties consent that this shall subject to be an agreement to agree and shall not constitute a contract for the purposes of law.
2. Both parties consent to provide technical and managerial assistance required for the successful execution of the project through its various capacities.
3. Both parties shall use designated e-mail address for communication purposes.
4. Parties shall ensure the quality and profitability of the alliance based on its technical requirements and to ensure FEASIBILITY and legal advice for the execution of individual capacity.
5. Both parties consent that they, shall ensure compliance with Aquila to ensuring a third management and other related services in performance of this, shall use to be a project to ensure the success of this collaboration.
6. Both parties agree to have a quarterly business review and to meet each other with the company's management, policy formulation, market expansion and public relations which serving for the realisation of the alliance and.
7. Both parties consent that the partnership shall be guided by trust, honesty, integrity and openness. The parties consent to be bound and liable to each other and shall not do or cause to be done anything which may be detrimental to the interest of the alliance.

2. Payment: Parties agree that Aquila shall pay to ARVIN, the sum of one thousand Naira only (N1,000.00) daily per vehicle on the vehicle used for the duration of the contract's term, commencing on the date of the execution of this agreement.

3. Termination: This agreement shall be terminated by either party upon giving one (1) month notice in writing to the other party in its intention to do so. Termination of this agreement for any reason shall not release a party from any liability which at the time of termination has already accrued in favour of or against the other party in respect of any act or omission prior to such termination. Parties agree that the financial obligations from Aquila shall not cease upon the termination of this agreement but shall remain upon the completion of the project agreement with the third party engaged by ARVIN.

4. Binding Effect: This agreement shall be binding on all parties and shall remain in the public eye of the parties and their respective successors and assigns, none of the rights or obligations under this agreement of any party to this agreement may be assigned, transferred, assigned or

Accepted, in execution of law or otherwise without the prior written consent of the other parties to this agreement, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld.

5. Dispute Resolution: Any controversy or dispute arising out of or relating to this agreement or its subject matter which the parties are unable to resolve within ten (10) days after written notice to the other parties of the existence of such controversy or dispute, shall be referred to arbitration by either party, to be conducted under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (as amended) of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by a single arbitrator to be appointed by the parties. In the event that parties are unable to agree on an arbitrator within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the written notice, the matter shall be referred to the court for appointment of an independent arbitrator.

6. ENTIRE AGREEMENT: The parties hereto have signed their consent to be bound hereunder and this agreement shall be the entire agreement.

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE WRITERS NAMED AQUILA LEASING LIMITED was affixed hereunto in the presence of: AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE WRITERS NAMED ARVIN AND WELLMANS LIMITED was affixed hereunto in the presence of: AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF LAGOS STATE. CONFIDENTIAL. This Commission is investigating an alleged case of Tax Evasion in which the above mentioned company featured and the need to seek clarification from you has become imperative. In view of this, you are hereby requested to meet for an interview with the undersigned from 9am to 12pm on Monday, 27th March, 2023 at the 16A, Admiralty Road, Lagos, 198600 prompt. You are further requested to come along with details of account statements between Aquila Leasing Limited and the aforementioned Company. This report is to be provided to Section 9(1) and (2) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004, as amended. This representative in the request would be highly confidential, please. NIGERIA ARMED AND DANGEROUS FORCE. FEDERAL COMMISSIONER, LAGOS. CONFIDENTIAL

GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC  
NOTICE OF COURT-ORDERED MEETING



RC 8726

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA  
HOLDEN AT LAGOS

SUIT NO: FHC/L/CS/2230/2023

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES &amp; ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020

AND

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 715 THEREOF

IN RE:

1. GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC (RC. NO 8726) AND
2. HOLDERS OF ITS FULLY PAID ORDINARY SHARES

**MEETING OF THE HOLDERS OF THE FULLY PAID ORDINARY SHARES OF GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIGERIA PLC**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that by an order of the Federal High Court sitting at Lagos (hereinafter referred to as the "Court") dated November 6, 2023, made under the hand of the Honourable Justice Y. Bogoro in the above matter, the Court has directed that a meeting ("the Meeting" or "the COM") of the Holders of the fully paid up ordinary shares of GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Nigeria PLC ("the Company") be convened for the purpose of considering and if thought fit, approving, with or without modification, a scheme of arrangement ("the Scheme") pursuant to Section 715 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020 ("the Act") between the Company and the Holders of the fully paid up ordinary shares of 50 Kobo each in the Company ("the Shareholders").

The Meeting will be held on Tuesday December 5, 2023 at Shell Zenith Hall, MUSON Centre, 8/9 Marina, Onikan, Lagos at 11.00 am. or soon thereafter, at which place, and time Shareholders are requested to attend. Copies of the Scheme Document containing details of the Scheme as well as the Court-Ordering convening the Meeting have been made available to Shareholders.

At the Meeting, the following sub-joined resolution will be proposed and if thought fit passed as a special resolution of the Company:

That:

1. The Scheme of Arrangement dated Monday November 6, 2023 a printed copy of which has been produced for the Meeting and (for purposes of identification only) signed/endorsed by the Chairman be and is hereby approved;
2. The distributable reserves of the Company be increased by ₦2,000,000,000 (two billion Naira) as a result of the capital contribution by GSK of a portion of its trade debts;
3. Other than Setfirst Limited and SmithKline Beecham Limited, who have notified the Company that they have elected not to receive their portion of the initial Cash Distribution, and, instead, to contribute their share of it, the Shareholders of the Company be paid ₦17.42 per share for every share held in the Company within ten (10) Business Days of the Effective Date (as defined in the Scheme Document);
4. The Registrar of the Company be and is hereby authorised to include the portion of the Initial Cash Distribution that would have been payable to Setfirst Limited and SmithKline Beecham Limited to be paid to the Other Shareholders of the Company in accordance with the Scheme;
5. That the Nigerian Exchange Limited ("NGX") and Central Securities Clearing System Plc ("CSCS") shall be notified and requested to terminate trading in the shares on the NGX with effect from the Eligibility Date (as defined in the Scheme Document);
6. The shares of the Company be delisted from the Daily Official List of the Nigerian Exchange Limited upon the Scheme becoming effective;
7. On the Capital Return Date (as defined in the Scheme Document), the Company shall return all the remaining share capital of the Company set out in the FY2023 audited financial statements to the Shareholders in exchange for the 1,195,876,488 ordinary shares of 50 Kobo each of the Company held by the Shareholders and the shares hereby cancelled;
8. Following the Capital Return Date, the share capital of the Company shall be cancelled and new shares representing ₦200,000.00, comprising 200,000 shares of 50 Kobo each, shall be created and allotted to the Trustee and which shall be cancelled on the Long Stop Date (as defined in the Scheme Document) of the Scheme;
9. The Company be re-registered as a private company from the Capital Return Date (as defined in the Scheme Document), for the sole purpose of enabling the completion of all matters pertaining to the Scheme of Arrangement prior to the dissolution;
10. All Shareholders be and are entitled to receive a further Final Payment (as defined in the Scheme Document), if any, as a cash distribution in proportion to their shareholding, subject to the Company discharging all known liabilities and obligations determined as at the Long Stop Date (as defined in the Scheme Document);
11. Pursuant to (8) above, FBNQuest Trustees Limited be authorized to carry out – on behalf of the Company – all matters pertaining to the Scheme, including but not limited to the settlement of payment to creditors and any Final Payment, should there be any such matters remaining outstanding and uncompleted as at the Capital Return Date;
12. The Company shall be dissolved without being wound up no later than the Long Stop Date, being no later than the second anniversary of the Effective Date, or any other date approved by the Court;
13. The Board of Directors of the Company be and is hereby authorised to do all such things and take all such actions as are required to give effect to the Scheme, including consenting to any modifications of the scheme of arrangement or any conditions that the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Federal High Court or any other regulatory authority may think fit to approve or impose."

By the said Order, the Court has appointed the Chairman of the Board of Directors, **Mr. Edmund Onuwa**, or failing him, Mr. Kunle Oyelana, a director of the Company or failing them both, any other director appointed in their stead by the Shareholders present at the Meeting to act as Chairman of the said Meeting and has directed the Chairman of the Meeting to report the results thereof to the Court.

Voting at the Meeting will be by poll. Shareholders may vote in person, or they may appoint a proxy (whether a Shareholder or not) to attend the Meeting and vote in their stead.

In addition to the questions that Shareholders can ask at the Meeting, the Shareholders may submit questions on the Scheme to the Company prior to the date of the Meeting. All such questions must be submitted to the Company Secretary on or before 5.00 p.m. on Monday December 4, 2023.

A proxy form is being sent to each Shareholder. In the case of joint Shareholders, the vote of the senior Holder who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, will be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint Shareholders, and for this purpose, seniority will be determined by the order in which the names of the joint Shareholders appear in the Register of Members of the Company, in respect of the joint shareholding.

It is requested that duly executed and stamped proxy forms (together with any power of attorney or other authority under which the proxy form is signed, or a notarized copy of such power of attorney or other authority) be lodged at the office of the Registrar, as shown on the Proxy Form, not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the Meeting. Please note that the lodging of a proxy form does not prevent you from attending the Meeting and voting in person should you so wish. However, in such instances, your proxy will not be entitled to attend the meeting or vote thereat.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting who has not received a copy of the Scheme Document within 14 days of the date of this notice can obtain a copy from **GSK Consumer Nigeria's Registrar – Greenwich Registrars & Data Solutions Limited (formerly GTL Registrars Limited) 274, Murtala Muhammed Way, Yaba, Lagos.**

**Database of Members**

The Company and the Registrar have made considerable efforts to ensure that the database of Shareholders is up to date. This includes engagement with shareholder associations to sensitize Shareholders on the need to update their records with the Registrars, webinars, and periodic email reminders to Shareholders. Further sensitization is undertaken on the Registrar's social media platforms and website, all targeted at ensuring that a clear communication path is sustained between the Company and its members.

**Closure of Register of Members**

The Register of Members will be closed from November 7, 2023, to November 9, 2023 for the purpose of determining the Shareholders who will qualify to receive the Scheme Document. Accordingly, changes to – and entries in – the Register of Members of the Company after that date shall be disregarded for purposes of the Meeting.

The Scheme will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the sanction of the Federal High Court.

  
Frederick Oshodi  
Company Secretary  
GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Nigeria PLC  
624 House, 1, Industrial Avenue  
Rugby  
Lagos

Dated this 7th day of November 2023.

  
Olayinka O. Olayinka  
Olayinka & Olayinka (Legal Adviser)  
33 Adenola Street, Off Awolowo Road,  
S/W Ikoyi  
Lagos

# IMAGES

Photo Editor Abiodun Ajala  
Email [abiodun.ajala@thisdaylive.com](mailto:abiodun.ajala@thisdaylive.com)



Managing Director, Guinness Nigeria Plc, Mr. John Musunga (right), and the representative of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Alabelu Olusegun, during the flag-off of the Ember Month Campaign in Lagos... recently



L-R: Director, Procurement, Chief Ckukwu Chinedu; representative of NYSC Director General, Director, Ventures Management, Prince Mohammed Momoh; Director, Community Development Service and Special Projects, Hajiya Zainab Isah and Etsu Piwoyi, Mr Tanko Lazarus during the official flag-off of NYSC Health Initiative for Rural Dwellers held at Piwoyi Community in Abuja...recently



L-R: Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of International Breweries, Mr. Carlos Coutino; Assistant Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Gilbert Igbokwe; Chairman, Beer Sectoral Group and Managing Director/CEO, Nigerian Breweries, Hans Essaadi; and Company Secretary/CAD, Guinness, Rotimi Odusola, during the Beer Sectoral Group and FRSC press conference on the 2023 edition of the annual 'Don't Drink and Drive' campaign in Lagos ...recently



Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke; acting National Chairman, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Umar Damagun; and Kogi State PDP governorship candidate, Senator Dino Melaye, during the flag-off of the Kogi State governorship campaign held in Okene, Kogi State...recently



L-R: Senior Plant Manager, BIC Nigeria, Peter Ajakaiye; Business Development Head, BIC Nigeria, Adeyemi Ojo; Senior Marketing Manager, BIC West and Central Africa and Nigeria, Paloma Lengema; Head Teacher, Wesley School 1 for the Hearing Impaired, Mrs. E.O. Popoola; Trade Marketing Manager, BIC Nigeria, Patrick Bello; and Brand Manager, BIC West and Central Africa, Morel Kouakou, at the inauguration of the newly renovated classrooms by BIC for the Wesley School for the Hearing Impaired, Surulere, Lagos, during the celebration of Global Education Week 2023 in Surulere...recently



Mental Health Facilitator, Mind Management Foundation, Katherine Egbuna; representative of the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State, DSP Stephen Kuti; and Country Director, Mind Management Foundation, Arinze Emmanuel, at the media briefing to flag off the mental health awareness training campaign for the Nigeria Police held at the Police Officers' Mess, Ikeja, Lagos...recently



L-R: Fitness Instructor, I-Fitness, Martins Bankole; Manager, Bastion Health, HMO, Victory Uduossim; Chief Executive Officer, Sterling One Foundation, Olapeju Ibekwe; Founder/ Chairperson, MRH Research Collective, Prof Bosede Afolabi; Chairman, Punch Nigeria Limited, Mrs. Angela Emuwa; and Director, MRH Research Collective, Prof Ngozi Orazulike, during a health awareness programme on Maternal Mortality/Health for Pregnant Women, tagge: 'Run For Women', held in Lagos...recently



PHOTO:ETOPUKUTT

# FOREIGN DESK

COMPILED BY BAYO AKINLOYE

## Hamas-Israel War: Gaza Becoming 'Graveyard for Palestinian Children', Says UN

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Monday urgently appealed for a humanitarian ceasefire for Gaza, which he said is becoming a "graveyard" for hundreds of Palestinian children each day.

"The way forward is clear," he told reporters at the United Nations. "A humanitarian ceasefire. Now."

He said all parties must also respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and that no party to an armed conflict is above it.

"This means the unconditional release of the hostages in Gaza — now," he said of the 240 men, women and children Hamas abducted during their October 7 terror attack inside Israel.

"I will never relent in working for their immediate release," he added.

Guterres said respecting international humanitarian law also means the protection of civilians — including not using civilians as human shields — hospitals, UN facilities, shelters and schools in Gaza and the scaling up of aid and fuel to the besieged territory.

"None of these appeals should be conditional on the other," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been emphatic that there will be no humanitarian pauses unless all the hostages are released.

### Pro-Palestinian Protest at Air Base Housing US Troops in Turkey

Turkish police used tear gas and water cannons as hundreds of people at a pro-Palestinian rally Sunday tried to storm an air base that houses US troops, hours before US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was due in Ankara for talks on Gaza.

Turkey, which has stepped up its criticism of Israel as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has worsened, supports a two-state solution while hosting members of the Palestinian militant group Hamas. Since the Israel-Hamas war started, protests have erupted across the country.

Earlier this week, the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, an Islamist Turkish aid agency, organized a convoy to travel to the Incirlik air base in the Adana province in southern Turkey to protest Israeli attacks on Gaza and US support for Israel.

Incirlik, which has been used to support the international coalition fighting Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, also houses US troops. IHH's protest called for Incirlik to be closed.

Footage from the protests showed police firing tear gas and using water cannons to disperse crowds waving Turkish and Palestinian flags and chanting slogans. Protesters toppled barricades and clashed with police in riot gear.

### France Delivers Three Planes of Aid to Gaza; French Vessels in Mediterranean

Three French planes delivering 54 tonnes of aid for Gaza arrived in Egypt this weekend and France has three naval vessels in the eastern Mediterranean ready to respond to the evolving situation, senior officials said on Sunday.

The announcements came as French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna called for an "immediate humanitarian truce" during a trip to Doha and warned against allowing the conflict to spread in the region.

Israel has rebuffed repeated international calls for a ceasefire in the four weeks since fighters from Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip, burst over the border, killing 1,400 people and taking more than 240 others hostage.

Israel has since struck Gaza from the air, imposed a siege and launched a ground assault, stirring global alarm at humanitarian conditions in the enclave and, Gaza officials said on Sunday, killing more than 9,770 Palestinians.

The French aid was delivered over the weekend by two Airbus A400M planes, which are partially armoured, the French army said on X, formerly known as Twitter. Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu later said a third A400M plane filled with aid had arrived.

### Ukraine Hopeful Talks on Its EU Accession Will Start Soon

Ukraine is hoping to receive a "positive" European Union appraisal of its progress toward eventual EU membership, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Olha Stefanishyna told Reuters Monday.

Stefanishyna said that Kyiv has implemented all the reforms required of it. It is expected that the report coming out Wednesday will signal the beginning of talks on Ukraine's accession into the EU, starting in December.



"I would say that the assessment would definitely be positive because we have been in permanent contact with the European Commission, discussing the steps and negotiating the steps we managed to implement," Stefanishyna said.

EU membership talks take years, as candidates must meet extensive legal and economic criteria before joining. The EU, which has 27 member states, is also unwilling to take in a country at war.

In Poland, an EU country, Polish truckers blocked roads to three border crossings with Ukraine Monday, protesting what they see as government inaction over a loss of business to foreign competitors since Russia's war on Ukraine.

### Trump Testifies at Fraud Trial That Property Estimates Were Inaccurate

Donald Trump on Monday testified that his company did not provide accurate estimates of many of his properties in a rambling and defiant performance on the witness stand in a civil fraud trial in New York.

The former US president said his company undervalued his Mar-a-Lago estate and Doral golf course in Florida and overvalued his Trump Tower apartment, among other assets, but sought to minimize the importance of the estimates, which state lawyers said were inflated to win better financing terms.

"It wasn't important. You've made it important, but it wasn't," Trump said of the estimates.

Judge Arthur Engoron has already ruled those estimates to be fraudulent. New York state lawyers argued in their lawsuit that the estimates misled lenders and insurers, earning him \$100 million and exaggerating his wealth by \$2 billion.

Trump has repeatedly said the case is a "witch hunt" and has accused Engoron and New York Attorney General Letitia James of being politically biased against him.

He kept up those complaints on the witness stand, where he accused legal authorities of paying unduly close attention to his business after he won the 2016 presidential election.

### Polish President to Appoint New Prime Minister After Opposition Coalition's Election Win

Polish President Andrzej Duda will appoint a new prime minister in a national address on Monday, an aide said.

The announcement will trigger the process of forming a new government after general elections last month in which the ruling right-wing Law and Justice party lost its parliamentary majority to three allied opposition parties but emerged as the single biggest vote-getter. This has fed speculation over Duda's choice.

"Following consultations and after deep consideration, President Andrzej Duda has

taken his decision regarding the so-called first step" [in forming a government], presidential aide Marcin Mastalerek said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

He said the decision is "final" and not subject to pleas from politicians, whom he advised to "calmly watch the evening address."

An ally of the current government, Duda has said the two candidates for prime minister are the current conservative premier, Mateusz Morawiecki, and former prime minister and main opposition leader Donald Tusk, an ex-European Union top figure.

### New Delhi to Restrict Number of Vehicles on Roads to Curb Air Pollution

India's Delhi city will restrict the use of vehicles next week to curb rising pollution as air quality in the capital remained dangerously unsafe for a third consecutive day despite mitigation efforts.

New Delhi ranks among the world's top polluted cities every year ahead of winter when calm winds and low temperatures trap pollutants from sources, including vehicles, industries, construction dust, and crop residue burning in nearby fields.

A thick smog shrouded the federal secretariat and president's palace in the heart of the city early on Monday and lowered visibility in other parts as public outrage over hazardous air quality grew and the city extended the closure of primary schools until November 10.

The local government said that it will impose the "odd-even" vehicle rule from November 13-20 to mitigate pollution levels that are expected to rise after the Hindu festival of Diwali on November 12, when firecrackers are often set despite a ban.

The rule will allow vehicles with odd registration numbers on the road on odd dates and, similarly, vehicles with even numbers on alternate days.

### Gunmen Kill at Least 20 in Pre-Dawn Attack in Cameroon, Official Says

Gunmen opened fire on people as they slept in a town in western Cameroon early on Monday, leaving at least 20 dead, a local government official said.

The attackers struck before dawn and set houses on fire in Mamfe, the administrative head of the surrounding Manyu division said. The town in Cameroon's South West region is less than 50 km (30 miles) from the border with Nigeria.

Seven people were in hospital and security forces were searching the area, the official Viang Mekala told Reuters. "The situation is under control and the population should not panic," he said.

Separatists in the minority English-speaking parts of Cameroon have been fighting to carve out an independent state

called Ambazonia since 2017.

Armed groups have carried out attacks, kidnappings and killings in the North West and South West regions of the predominantly French-speaking African country.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for Monday's attack.

### At Least 29 Dead as Floods Devastate Somalia, Kenya

At least 29 people have been killed and more than 113,000 displaced following heavy rains and flash flooding in Kenya and Somalia.

The Somali federal government declared a state of emergency Monday after floods caused the deaths of 14 people. Emergency rescuers were working to reach an estimated 2,400 people still trapped by flood waters in the Luuq district of southern Somalia's Jubaland state.

The UN had called for evacuating people living along the entire stretch of the Juba River, warning of a high risk of flooding there and along the Shabelle River.

In Kenya, the Red Cross said 15 people had died as a result of flooding. It said floods also destroyed 97 hectares of agricultural farmland and killed 1,067 animals.

Kenyan weather forecasters have been warning the country since September to expect heavy precipitation between October and December, the country's rainy season. Weather experts were contradicted by Kenyan President William Ruto, who predicted "there would be no devastating El Nino flooding."

El Nino, a naturally occurring weather phenomenon, causes surface waters of the central and eastern Pacific to warm, affecting weather patterns worldwide.

### Blinken Heads to Japan for G7

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken reaffirmed Monday that the United States maintains its focus on the Indo-Pacific region despite concurrent global challenges, such as the Israel-Hamas conflict.

At the Ankara airport, after concluding a two-and-a-half-hour discussion with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Blinken said, "Even as we intensely focus on the crisis in Gaza, we are equally engaged in the vital work in the Indo-Pacific and other parts of the world to advance American interests."

The top US diplomat will arrive in Tokyo on Tuesday for the Group of Seven foreign ministers' meetings and bilateral talks.

Blinken said he plans to debrief his counterparts from G7 about the recent Middle East visit.

Japan chairs this year's G7. Supporting Ukraine's economic recovery and energy needs, as well as regional security, are on the agenda in Blinken's bilateral meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa.

# BUSINESSWORLD

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R A T E S A S A T N O V E M B E R 6 , 2 0 2 3

MONEY MARKET		REPO		S & P INDEX		S & P INDEX		EXCHANGE RATE
OPR	11.25%	CALL	19.12%	INDEX LEVEL	611.31%	1/4 TO DATE	-0.07%	N795.28/1 US DOLLAR*
OVERNIGHT	11.50%	1-MONTH	16.25%	1-DAY	0.03%	YEAR TO DATE	0.48%	*AS AT MONDAY, JULY 24, 2023
		3-MONTH	15.75%	MONTH-TO-DATE	-0.7%			

## Despite over N3trn Investment, Power Sector's Average Available Capacity Falls 37% in Seven Years

**Nigeria's Power Sector Conundrum...**

- Nigeria with a population of over 200 million people has installed capacity of 13,097mw. This is despite federal government's investment in the power sector, exceeding N3 trillion between 2015 and 2022.
- The capacity available fell from 6,401mw recorded in 2015 to 4,059mw in December 2022. The average available capacity decreased by 2,324mw from 6,401mw recorded in 2015 to 4,059mw in 2022.
- The World Bank estimates that only 55.4% of the Nigerian population has access to electricity. Only 24.6% for the rural population have access to electricity.
- In 2020, the federal government said that between 2017 and that year, a period of three years, it spent N1.7 trillion on Nigeria's electricity sector.
- Households spend approximately \$14 billion per year to fuel their generators.
- The current generation capacity is lower than what is required to meet the estimated load demand of 17,556MWh/h, which is further expected to grow to 45,662mw by 2030.

Infographics Designed By Ezeibe Agwuwa

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

Despite federal government's investment in the power sector, exceeding N3 trillion between 2015 and 2022, the average available capacity in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) decreased by 37 per cent in the seven years spanning 2015 and 2022, new data from the industry regulator has stated.

The "2022 Market Competition Report" released by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) showed that the capacity available fell from 6,401mw recorded

in 2015 to 4,059mw in December 2022.

However, the document noted that there was a marginal rise in the sector's installed capacity by 7.9 per cent, jumping from 12,132mw as at December 2015 to 13,097mw in December 2022.

In 2020, the federal government said that between 2017 and that year, a period of three years, it spent N1.7 trillion on Nigeria's electricity sector, describing the sector as 'broken'. That is beside the over N1.5 trillion spent in the two years preceding 2017 and after 2020.

The World Bank estimates that only 55.4 per cent of the Nigerian

population has access to electricity, with the number falling to 24.6 per cent for the rural population. In all, more than 90 million Nigerians lack access to the national grid.

A June 2022 report titled, "Nigeria's State of Power: Electrifying the Nation's Economy," published by Stears and Sterling, indicated that more than 40 per cent of Nigerian households own and use generators.

It also stated that the affected households spend approximately \$14 billion per year to fuel their generators as the national grid's power supply continue to fail.

Before the expiration of the

Muhammadu Buhari administration, Abubakar Aliyu, the then Minister of Power, had promised that the administration would leave an installed capacity of about 22,000 mw of electricity.

"The installed capacity in NESI grew by 7.95 per cent from 12,132MW as at December 2015 to 13,097MW as at December 2022. During the same period, however, the average available capacity decreased by 2,324MW from 6,401 MW recorded in 2015 to 4,059MW in 2022," the NERC report stated.

The industry regulator attributed the fall to deteriorating plants/units'

capacities and poor maintenance due to liquidity challenge and access to foreign exchange.

It also credited non-binding contracts and delayed payments as well as the introduction of stringent regulatory measures against wrong declaration by operators as being responsible for the fall in average available capacity.

However, it noted that during the period Gbarain NIPP was out of operation, noting that the non-availability of the plant may have also 'overstated' the reduction in available capacity linked to the old plants.

Notwithstanding the 'progress' in

power generation, NERC stated that the industry constraints relating to inadequate gas supply, transmission constraints, limited distribution network and commercial viability of Distribution Companies (Discos) operation still pose major technical and operational challenges to the industry.

"The current generation capacity is lower than what is required to meet the estimated load demand of 17,556MWh/h, which is further expected to grow to 45,662MW by 2030," it said.

NOTE: The story continues online on [www.thisdaylive.com](http://www.thisdaylive.com)

## Tinubu Seeks Collaboration Among African Nations to Harness Blue Economy Potential for Africa's Prosperity

Gilbert Ekwugbe

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, yesterday in Lagos stressed the need for African leaders to work together to harness the Blue Economy potential stating that the initiative holds the key to Africa's prosperity.

Tinubu stated this while speaking at the 43rd Annual Council of the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA) conference.

The president underlined the

critical role of the Blue Economy in the collective prosperity of African nations, emphasizing that the sector holds immense potential for the entire continent.

Represented by the Minister of Marine and Blue economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, he noted that Africa's Blue Economy presents the continent with untapped opportunities for growth and development.

According to him, "We must acknowledge the maritime sector

as a central driver for the sustainable development of our nations."

He pointed out that despite national boundaries, the waters serve as a natural source of connectivity, emphasizing that the region's shared destiny and challenges require collaborative efforts.

The President also underlined the significance of technological advancement in the sector. He emphasised that automation is crucial for maintaining the competitiveness of ports in the global maritime

industry.

He highlighted the importance of the Port Community System, which serves as a precursor to the implementation of the National Single Window, as essential tools in streamlining port operations.

"As a government that believes in the necessity of infusing information technology into public management to aid transparency and ease business processes, we are giving the Nigerian Ports Authority all the backing necessary to fast track

the operationalization of the Port Community System," he said.

He further pointed out that full automation is the way forward if African ports are to remain competitive on the international stage, echoing the sentiment that seamless and efficient cargo handling is vital for port competitiveness in the African context.

Speaking, the Managing Director/CEO of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Mohammed Bello Koko echoed President Tinubu's call for

regional cooperation in the maritime sector.

He noted that the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are substantial while urging African leaders to work together to eliminate trade barriers and harness these opportunities for the collective prosperity of respective national economies

NOTE: The story continues online on [www.thisdaylive.com](http://www.thisdaylive.com)

### FOOD COMMODITIES PRICE TODAY

NAME OF COMMODITY	SIZE	STATE	PRICE
	100KG	ABUJA	N35,000 - N45,000
	50KG	OYO	N35,000 - N45,000
	50KG	PLATEAU (JOS)	N32,500 - N42,000
	50KG	KWARA	N24,000 - N27,000
	50KG	LAGOS	N35,000 - N45,000
	50KG	RIVERS	N36,500 - N46,500
	50KG	SOKOTO	N60,000 - N70,000

NAME OF COMMODITY	SIZE	STATE	PRICE
	100KG	JIGAWA	N30,000
	100KG	BENUUE	N32,000
	100KG	KADUNA	N32,000
	50KG	ENUGU	N24,000
	50KG	LAGOS	N26,000
	100KG	DELTA	N35,000
	100KG	ABIA	N36,000

NAME OF COMMODITY	SIZE	STATE	PRICE
	50KG BAG	MAIDU GURI	N22,000 - N30,000
	100KG	LAGOS	N36,000
	100KG	KANO	N35,000
	100KG	DELTA	N36,000
	100KG	ABIA	N35,700



L-R: Minister of Marine & Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola; Comptroller General, Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Adewale Bashir and Managing Director/CEO, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Mohammed Bello Koko on the sidelines of the 43rd Council Meeting of the Port Management Association of West & Central Africa (PMAWCA) taking place in Lagos

# UNEP: Climate Adaptation Financing Needed for Developing Countries to Hit \$387bn This Decade

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

A report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has said that climate adaptation financing needed for developing countries will hit between \$215 to \$387 billion annually this decade and is projected to significantly

increase by 2050. Stressing that progress on climate adaptation was slowing on all fronts, the report added that adaptation should be accelerating to catch up with rising climate change impacts. The organisation which defines adaptation as: "the process of adjustment to actual or expected

climate change and its effects" said in its "UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2023", that the world is currently underfinanced, underprepared and lacks adequate planning to adapt to the risks associated with climate change. It said the adaptation finance needs of developing countries are

10 to 18 times as big as international public finance flows. This, it said, is over 50 per cent higher than previous estimates. UNEP added that despite these needs, international public climate finance flows to developing countries declined by 15 per cent to \$21.3 billion in 2021, after having increased

to \$25.2 billion between 2018 and 2020. Commenting on the report, the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, said the adaptation report showed a growing divide between need and

action when it comes to protecting people from climate extremes. "Lives and livelihoods are being lost and destroyed", he said, adding that people living in vulnerable communities are "suffering the most".

## AFDB: Africa's Food and Agribusiness Sector to Hit \$1tn by 2030

Gilbert Ekugbe

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has stated that Africa's food and agribusiness sector is estimated to hit \$1 trillion by 2030.

This, the AfDB said, would present significant opportunity for businesses to invest in the sector and for smallholder farmers to meet the growing demand for food on the continent.

The AfDB President, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, stated this at the World Food Prize Foundation's Norman E Borlaug dialogue in Des Moines, Iowa, United States of America.

Akinwumi said that the several world leaders are actively bolstering food production and food security in Africa.

The move, according to him, is apt considering the fact that global population is expected to reach nine billion, which he said would create a pressing need for Africa to increase its agricultural productivity to meet the rising demands for food on the continent.

He pointed out that the continent, which is home to 65 per cent of the world's remaining uncultivated

arable land, ironically is importing most of its food, adding that African leaders are intent on ensuring that their countries are self-sufficient in food and become food exporters.

Adesina explained how 34 African leaders endorsed country food and

agriculture delivery compacts that produced action- and outcome-driven plans to ensure food security and unlock the continent's full agricultural potential within five years, maintaining that this is in line with the core of the Bank's Feed

Africa strategy, which it launched in 2016.

Since then, he added, the strategy has supported more than 250 million people, who have benefitted from improved agriculture technologies.

## NERC Probes Electrocution of BEDC Staff

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has announced the constitution of a committee to investigate the death of an employee of the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC), Augustine Izeke.

The agency confirmed in a statement that it had received a report on the fatal incident, which led to Izeke's demise on October 26, 2023 during his official duties whilst working on the disconnection of supply in Evbodia Community in Oredo, Edo state.

"BEDC reported the accident to the commission in compliance with the extant regulatory requirements, and an Accident Investigation Team (AIT) has been constituted to investigate the immediate and remote circumstances leading to the fatal electrocution of the deceased," NERC stated.

## Jamoh Meets Gunter Pauli on Blue Economy Possibilities

The Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr. Bashir Jamoh, has met with Professor Gunter Pauli to discuss possibilities in Nigeria's Blue Economy, in Abuja.

The meeting is a follow up to the session the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy,

Adegboyega Oyetola had with Professor Pauli, where the need for the NIMASA DG to meet with experts like Gunter Pauli, was highlighted.

Jamoh noted that having Professor Pauli interphase with stakeholders of the new Ministry would definitely help develop viable policies for

the smooth take-off of the Marine and Blue Economy Ministry.

He said, "I had the opportunity to meet the man that formulated the global policies around Blue Economy, and we have discussed various ways to harness the resources in the Nigerian waters in a sustainable manner.

## NEITI Partners International Community for Transparency in Extractive Sector

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) has said it is engaging the international community to strengthen its work on ensuring transparency in the extractive sector.

A statement from the organisation stated that at a recent meeting in Abuja with NEITI's Executive Secretary, Dr. Ogbonnaya Orji, prominent diplomatic missions in Nigeria pledged their support and readiness to strengthen NEITI's commitment in offering technical assistance, pursuing governance reforms and deepening its involvement in Nigeria's oil, gas, and mining sectors.

The diplomatic missions, it said, include the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Nigeria, Mr. Pieter Leenknecht, the High Commissioner of Canada, Mr. James Christoff, and the Chargé d'Affaires of the Australian High Commission, Ms. Leann Johnston.

The ambassadors explained that they had closely followed NEITI's reports and activities in the extractive

sector with keen interest. They also noted Nigeria's commitment to implementing the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

The ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Nigeria, Leenknecht, particularly commended the quality and depth of NEITI's recently released 2021 Oil, Gas, and Solid Minerals Industry Reports.

On his part, the High Commissioner of Canada, Christoff, welcomed Nigeria's implementation of the EITI and identified the solid minerals sector as an area of special interest to Canada.

He emphasised that collaborating with a reputable agency like NEITI would provide his mission with reliable information and data to assist potential Canadian investors in making informed business decisions.

Also, the Australian High Commission Chargé d'Affaires, Johnston, welcomed Nigeria's new policy on economic diversification and expressed confidence in NEITI to support this initiative with reliable information and data in the extractive industries.

### FOOD COMMODITIES PRICE TODAY

NAME OF COMMODITY	SIZE	STATE	PRICE
	25CL	LAGOS	N20,000-N35,000
	25CL	PH	N24,000-N35,000
	25CL	IBADAN	N22,000-N35,000
	25CL	IMO	N24,000-N36,500
	25CL	EDO	N20,000-N35,000
	25CL	ABUJA	N25,500-N35,000

NAME OF COMMODITY	SIZE	STATE	PRICE
	100KG	KANO	N20,500
	100KG	BENUE	N27,000
	100KG	LAGOS	N32,000
	100KG	DELTA	N34,000
	100KG	ABIA	N27,000
	100KG	ENUGU	N23,000

NAME OF COMMODITY	SIZE	STATE	PRICE
	100KG	IBADAN	N60,000
	100KG	KANO	N30,000
	100KG	BENUE	N65,000
	100KG	PLATEAU	N45,000
	100KG	DELTA	N50,000
	100KG	LAGOS	N60,000
	100KG	ENUGU	N45,000

NAME OF COMMODITY	SIZE	LOCATION	PRICE
	100KG	OYO	N10,000
	100KG	ENUGU	N16,500
	100KG	DELTA	N14,000
	100KG	ABIA	N11,000
	50KG	LAGOS	N9,000
	100KG	KANO	N9,400
	50KG	BENUE	N6,000

# Nigeria's Rising Oil Output and Surveillance Activities in N'Delta

With the ongoing tortuous battle against oil theft and pipeline vandalism in the Niger Delta, there appears to be a ray of hope with what now looks like a steady increase in crude oil production in the last few months, writes **Emmanuel Addeh**



President Tinubu



Heineken Lokpobiri

**O**il theft and pipeline vandalism have existed in Nigeria for years, but in recent times, the problem has taken such mindboggling proportions, with Nigeria's crude oil production slumping to as low as 900,000 barrels per day around September last year.

It had become so deep-seated a challenge, that beyond its negative economic impact and national security implications, the international oil companies operating in the country for more than six decades started to exit Nigeria.

The country is not out of the woods yet, but it would seem that there is some hope in the horizon and some light at the end of the proverbial tunnel, given the jump in volume drilled and its attendant revenue implication for the federation.

The sheer volume of crude oil lost to non-state actors and the manner the situation has disrupted the nation's economy, will be a discussion for another time, but suffice to say that official security arrangement failed to curb the menace markedly. This resulted in the federal government seeking alternative solutions.

Before now, several layers of security arrangements and special units had been set up by the federal government under various names, but the problem had, as it were, not been resolved.

Those who wear the shoe were feeling the pains. Industry players cried out, government gave assurances, Nigeria's main source of foreign exchange was drying up, dwarfing government revenues even as it took a toll on the environment.

While oil-producing nations were boosting their foreign reserves and National Oil Companies (NOCs) were declaring massive profits and bonuses, Nigeria, ironically, remained in the doldrums because it was under-producing.

So, when it became public knowledge that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC), had facilitated the signing of back channel contracts for the protection of the pipelines and other assets, it was received with mixed reactions.

A year later, there appears to be some justification for that decision, given that Nigeria recently produced its highest volume of crude oil since January 2022, that is a period of 21 months.

Although, there are still considerable activities by vandals and oil thieves, there has been some significant improvements, which can be justifiably tied to the pipeline surveillance

and protection agreements signed with the local security groups.

There had been fluctuations before now, but for the past three months, the crude volume output has been steady and consistent, a sign that things have probably begun to look up.

According to data from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), increased crude production by Iran, Nigeria and Iraq, inspired a boost in the August production.

The oil production from the 13 members of the organisation, OPEC, averaged 27.45 million barrels per day for that month, higher by 113,000 bpd on a month-on-month basis.

While Nigeria's crude oil production climbed to 1.269 million barrels per day, from 1.171 million in July 2023, quoting secondary sources, the cartel however pegged the figure for direct communication at 1.181 million barrels per day, from 1.081 million bpd in July 2023.

In the same vein, Nigeria's crude oil production improved in September, this time rising by a volume of roughly 165,429 bpd during the month under consideration.

While the current production allocation given to Nigeria by the international producers' group still remains 1.74 million barrels per day, the information from the petroleum industry regulator showed that Nigeria was able to drill 1.34 million bpd in September.

It will be the country's highest self-reported crude oil output since January 2022 when Nigeria managed to produce 1.39 million bpd. The lowest production for that year was just above 900,000 bpd.

As expected, much of Nigeria's increase came from Forcados terminal which resumed production recently after loadings of the medium sweet grade were suspended because of a potential leak at the export terminal.

The terminal which has the capacity to produce between 250,000 bpd and 400,000 bpd is operated by Shell Petroleum Development Company Limited (SPDC). Production on the terminal rose from 3.7 million in August to 7.4 million in September, according to the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) data.

The volume of crude oil drilled from Yoho also rose marginally from 901,163 to 926,264 during the month.

However, when condensates which are outside OPEC's computation were added, the country produced 1.57 million bpd in September. In all, during that month, Nigeria produced 40.3 million barrels of oil, a cheery development that hadn't happened in a long time.

After August and September, Nigeria again ramped up crude oil production in October, to boost the output by the OPEC for the month.

Although the NUPRC figures for the month were yet to be released at the time of this report, according to a survey by Reuters which uses shipping data, Nigeria increased exports in October without any major disruption to shipments, increasing output by 50,000 bpd. The trend is likely to continue.

The country is targeting a further recovery by next year even as oil output has risen for a third straight month. The 50,000 bpd rise would be about 1.5 million additional barrels for that month and roughly and about \$135 million in hard currency, given a \$90/barrel price.

So, the implication of the rising output if sustained, is that Nigeria would soon have the need to reduce its external borrowing which has weighed heavily on the resources of the country as increased production will boost dollar inflow. It will also help stabilise the FX market in Nigeria.

Apart from that, Nigeria which gets over 90 per cent of its FX earnings from the export of crude oil, will also have adequate volumes for sale to local refining facilities, especially the Dangote refinery which is expected to come on stream before the end of the year. For everyone, this is therefore a win-win situation.

With the rising hope of more oil production in the Niger Delta, investors are appearing to have renewed hope in the country.

The federal government recently announced that it had secured a \$13.5 billion investment commitment from the International Oil Companies (IOCs) as well as independent operators to boost the country's crude output in the next 12 months.

The Special Adviser to the President on Energy, Mrs. Olu Verheijen, in a statement, said the partnership was carried out alongside the NUPRC.

Verheijen pointed out that the conclusions were arrived at after a

detailed review process by NUPRC and her office, alongside major operators like Chevron, Total, Shell, NAOC, Exxon Mobil, Seplat, Heirs Holdings, Waltersmith, First E&P, among others.

A key objective of the discussions, she said, was to advance a presidential initiative aimed at addressing the nation's revenue emergency whilst contributing to stabilising Nigeria's economy.

"Results of these talks disclosed significant investment opportunities with an estimated \$55.2 billion in investments projected by 2030, of which \$13.5 billion is expected to be invested by these companies within 12 months from now.

"Collectively, they also pinpointed key strategies that will ensure the delivery of 2.1 million barrels per day by December 2024, positioning Nigeria well ahead of President Bola Tinubu's campaign promise of the 2.6 million barrels by 2027," Verheijen stated.

While it was learnt that the process of renewal is ongoing, there might be need to expedite it to ensure that work does not stop and that the gains recorded are not rolled back.

There have also been cacophony of voices which have spoken in favour of the need to hasten the renewal of the contracts.

For instance, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Niger Delta Affairs, Chief Gritson Omatsuli who recently spoke at a news conference in Warri, Delta State, said the renewal of the ones that were still pending would deepen the prevention of pipeline vandalism and other criminal activities that might disrupt oil and gas production.

He described those calling for the cancellation of the pipelines surveillance services contract as "enemies of the country."

Also, a community leader in the Niger Delta region, Sir Matthew Itsekure, has, advised President Bola Tinubu to direct the management of the NNPC to renew the contract for pipeline surveillance in the area.

According to Itsekure in a statement in Warri, this is the only way to check oil theft and vandalism and shore up the country's daily crude production.

"The renewal of the pipeline surveillance contract will enhance and sustain the already growing production quantum of crude to meet our target allocation as their activities are effectively frustrating illegal oil bunkering activities that were the norm in the area," he stated.

## BUSINESS/MONEYGUIDE

# FG Urged to Implement Integrated Digital Curriculum to Drive Digital Economy

**Ugo Aliogo**

The Knowledge Exchange Center (KEC) has urged the federal government to implement an integrated digital curriculum that introduces digital skills at an early stage, starting from primary education and continuing through secondary and university education.

The center noted that teachers play a pivotal role in delivering digital education actively, therefore investing in teacher training programmes ensures that educators are proficient in both technology and pedagogical methods, which would benefit the Nigerian economy by creating a digitally literate workforce.

It stated in a statement

that the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) recently launched the first phase of its 3 Million Technical Talents Programme (3MTT).

KEC in the statement commended NITDA for launching the programme, adding that it aims to train three million Nigerians by 2027 with the help of various stakeholders.

The statement revealed that initiatives such as this play an essential role in developing a skilled digital workforce, and participants would learn through practical training, which is often the most effective way to acquire technical knowledge and skills.

The statement further explained that it is crucial to

design these programmes in collaboration with industry partners, ensuring that the skills taught are in line with industry demands, adding that such an industry-driven approach makes graduates more employable and enables them to contribute effectively in their chosen fields.

The statement averred that the programme should also include job placement opportunities, and this would provide participants with a significant advantage as they can start their careers immediately after completing their training, "this not only benefits individuals but also helps address the skills shortage in industries that require digital expertise."



L-R: Odu'a Group Chief Financial Officer, Mr Abdulrahman Yinusa; Chief Dr (Mrs) Onikepo Akande; President LCCI, Dr Michael Olawale-Cole; Odu'a Group Chairman, Bimbo Ashiru; Mrs Adebola Osibogun and Mrs Folusho Olaniyan at Ashiru's CVL award recognition in Lagos...recently

## Berger Paints Assures NGX, Stockbrokers of More Collaboration

The Board and Management of a leading manufacturer of paints and allied products, Berger Paints Nigeria (BPN) Plc, has assured the capital market community of stronger relationship through provision of regular information on the Company's activities.

Despite the tough operating environment, BPN's revenue was up by 20 percent from N4.53 billion in September 2022 to N5.42 billion in September, 2023. Its net profit rose by 142 percent in the review period to N397.8 million in September this year from N164.3 million in the preceding year.

Addressing the Management of Nigerian Exchange Limited (

NGX) and Stockbrokers, during the closing gong ceremony and introduction of BPN's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Alaba Fagun to the Capital Market Community on NGX yesterday, BPN's Chairman, Mr Abi Ayida, explained that the Company had kept up with time to sustain good performance, irrespective of the challenges in the operating environment.

He noted that BPN had a gender balance both at management and board level and this has enhanced the company's performance. He assured the Capital Market Community that the company would continue to provide regular information

to the market in line with the post listing requirements of NGX. Ayida commended the BPN's Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Alaba Fagun for her leadership qualities which has transformed the company in the last twelve months.

"Berger Paints has tried to keep up with time. We are forward looking. We operate as a team. I am proud to say that majority of our board members are female and the company is doing very well. We have positioned the company to remain competitive. We shall ensure that we provide regular and timely information to the capital market community," said Ayida.

## CVL Honours Odu'a Investment Company Group Chairman

Odu'a Investment Company Limited Group Chairman, Otunba Bimbo Ashiru was at the weekend bestowed with a distinguished honour by the Centre for Values in Leadership, (CVL)

The award is in recognition of his outstanding and unrelenting quest to the growth of the Commerce and Investment sector of the Nigeria economy.

CVL initiated the leader without title leadership to honour outstanding sector leaders for their special contributions in their chosen field.

Congratulating Ashiru, the Ogun state governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun described it as well deserved by the Group Chairman of Odu'a Investment Company Limited.

Abiodun emphasized that Otunba Bimbo Ashiru is committed to fostering interstate commerce and economic growth and that he is resonated with his government vision for a progressive and inclusive Ogun state.

"I extend my warmest congratulations on being recognized as a distinguished Honouree at the Leader Without Title, (LWT) Tribute Colloquium. Your exceptional contributions as a former Commissioner for Commerce and Industry in Ogun state and your current role as Chairman of Odu'a Investment Company Limited, stands as testament to your unwavering commitment to excellence and leadership",

he said.

Gov Abiodun added, "Your legacy, marked by selfless service, hard work, integrity and gender inclusiveness serves as a guiding light for aspiring leaders and entrepreneurs."

Odu'a Investment Company Limited Group Managing Director/ CEO, Mr Adewale Raji in a congratulatory message on behalf of the conglomerate described the honor on Otunba Ashiru as a testament of his "tenacity, hard work, passion and remarkable contributions and commitment to the growth, profitability and sustainability of Odu'a Investment Company Limited (OICL) in particular and the socio - development of Nigeria in general."

## Taxation: CITN Seeks Implementation of Treaty between Nigeria, UK

**Omolabake Fasogbon**

The Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) has stressed improved bilateral relationship between Nigeria and United Kingdom (UK) in area of taxation in the interest of countries' economies.

CITN President and Chairman of Council, Samuel Agbeluyi stated this at the inauguration of CITN's United Kingdom and District Society, where he specifically called for smooth implementation of Double Taxation Agreements (DTA) signed in 1987.

By DTA, it ensures security of foreign investors and reduce

tax burden, while also preventing double taxation disputes, tax fraud and evasion, amongst others.

Agbeluyi tasked the district and its pioneer chairman, Peter Boladale Makinde on sufficient awareness creation for the fulfillment of the DTA, stressing the purpose of the new district to strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

Furthermore, he said, "I expect the district society, as part of its core mandate to focus on knowledge sharing on the potentials of the OECD Beneficial Ownership Initiative and the Common Reporting Standard which gave rise

to automatic exchange of information between tax administrations"

He clarified that district societies served as a formal platform for members to collectively organise and make impact at the sub-national and international levels, noting that CITN so far boasts 44 districts in about 34 states of Nigeria.

He charged the new district to brace up for new responsibilities that will effectively address issues affecting tax and fiscal policy in Nigeria, leveraging experiences the UK and other jurisdictions.

## MARKET INDICATORS

### MONEY AND CREDIT STATISTICS (MILLION NAIRA)

	August, 2023
Money Supply (M3)	65,445,154.2
-- CBN Bills Held by Money Holding Sectors	552,553.58
Money Supply (M2)	64,892,600.61
-- Quasi Money	40,870,301.28
-- Narrow Money (M1)	24,022,299.33
--- Currency Outside Banks	2,295,309.10
--- Demand Deposits	21,726,990.23
Net Foreign Assets (NFA)	7,144,158.92
Net Domestic Assets (NDA)	58,300,995.27
-- Net Domestic Credit (NDC)	87,273,966.81
--- Credit to Government (Net)	32,511,333.17
--- Memo: Credit to Govt. (Net) less FMA	0.00
--- Memo: Fed. and Mirror Accounts (FMA)	0.00
--- Credit to Private Sector (CPS)	54,762,633.63
-- Other Assets Net	13,347,376.27
Reserve Money (Base Money)	19,429,603.25
-- Currency in Circulation	2,660,138.92
-- Banks Reserves	16,769,464.34
-- Special Intervention Reserves	428,519.21

• Source - CBN

### Money Market Indicators (in Percentage)

Month	August 2023
Inter-Bank Call Rate	3.89
Minimum Rediscount Rate (MRR)	
Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)	18.75
Treasury Bill Rate	5.13
Savings Deposit Rate	5.26
1 Month Deposit Rate	7.31
3 Months Deposit Rate	7.55
6 Months Deposit Rate	8.30
12 Months Deposit Rate	8.13
Prime Lending rate	13.99
Maximum Lending Rate	27.59

• Monetary Policy Rate - 13%

### OPEC DAILY BASKET PRICE AS AT 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

The price of OPEC basket of thirteen crudes stood at \$97.48 a barrel on Thursday, compared with \$97.08 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), Basrah Medium (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

MARKET NEWS

# Mecure Industries to List N11.84bn Shares on NGX's Main Board

Kayode Tokede

Mecure Industries Limited concluded plans to list 4 billion ordinary shares on Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) by introduction at N2.96 per share.

This is another major listing for NGX in the pharmaceutical industry, as the company will add N11.84billion to the market capitalisation of the exchange upon its addition to

the Main Board. For more than a decade, Mecure Industries has tapped into the power of new technology and innovation to advance the practice of medicine.

The leading human pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals manufacturing company pioneered the development of novel products based on advances in technology and launched the pharmaceutical industry's first tablet in a

capsule formulation called Ligitab Floatcap. Today, as a leading healthcare company serving millions of patients, Mecure continues to be an entrepreneurial, technology driven enterprise dedicated to helping people fight everyday illness.

The FMDQ Securities Exchange two years ago announced the approval of the quotation of Mecure Industries Ltd Series 1 and

Series 2 Commercial Papers (CPs) on its platform.

The firm listed its series 1 (N0.49 billion) and Series 2 (N1.44 billion) were under the company's N20 billion CP issuance programme on the FMDQ platform.

The Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of Mecure Industries, Samir Udani, while commenting on the quotation had said the issuance of the CPs would help the company

meet its short-term working capital and funding requirements.

He also added that it would strengthen the company's commitment to building and shaping positively, the healthcare industry in Nigeria.

With Mecure listing on the Exchange, NGX further reinforces itself as a platform of choice for corporates looking to raise capital. Already, the Exchange has secured

listings from VFD Group, Nigeria Infrastructure Debt Fund (NIDF), and Africa Plus Partners in 2023.

NGX continues to strengthen its value proposition for corporates to consider the Nigerian capital market for their fundraising needs, reinventing itself and maintaining advocacy with policymakers and regulators to make listing in the public markets attractive.

## PRICES FOR SECURITIES TRADED AS OF NOVEMBER/6/23

MAIN BOARD	DEALS	MARKET PRICE	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE TRADED ( N )
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>				
<b>S/N BANKING</b>				
1 UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	701,086.14	20.50	0.24	554
2 ZENITH BANK PLC	1,054,922.19	33.60	-1.16	285
<b>BANKING</b>				
<b>S/N OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>				
3 ACCESS HOLDINGS PLC	611,377.88	17.20	0.29	320
4 FBN HOLDINGS PLC	649,704.80	18.10	1.69	210
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>				
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>				
<b>ICT</b>				
<b>S/N TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES</b>				
5 MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC	4,912,961.06	234.00	-	302
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES</b>				
<b>ICT</b>				
<b>INDUSTRIAL GOODS</b>				
<b>S/N BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
6 DANGOTE CEMENT PLC	5,589,286.43	326.00	-	98
7 LAFAARGE AFRICA PLC	464,709.90	29.85	0.17	90
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
<b>INDUSTRIAL GOODS</b>				
<b>OIL AND GAS</b>				
<b>S/N EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION</b>				
8 SEPLAT ENERGY PLC	1,165,179.08	1,880.10	3.94	28
<b>EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION</b>				
<b>OIL AND GAS</b>				
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
<b>S/N CROP PRODUCTION</b>				
9 ELLAH LAKES PLC	7,180.00	3.59	-	53
10 FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	7,176.00	1.84	-3.26	44
11 OKOMU OIL PALM PLC	225,885.89	236.80	-	36
12 PRESKO PLC	190,000.00	190.00	-	36
<b>CROP PRODUCTION</b>				
<b>S/N LIVESTOCK/ANIMAL SPECIALTIES</b>				
13 LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	5,430.00	1.81	-2.16	30
<b>LIVESTOCK/ANIMAL SPECIALTIES</b>				
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
<b>S/N DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES</b>				
14 CUSTODIAN INVESTMENT PLC	41,173.05	7.00	-	14
15 JOHN HOLT PLC	610.97	1.57	-	5
16 S C O A NIG. PLC	812.28	1.25	-	3
17 TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION PLC	256,082.34	6.30	1.61	159
18 U A C N PLC	45,940.27	15.70	-1.87	101
<b>DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES</b>				
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
<b>CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE</b>				
<b>S/N BUILDING CONSTRUCTION</b>				
19 ARBICO PLC	152.96	1.03	-	0
<b>BUILDING CONSTRUCTION</b>				
<b>S/N INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION</b>				
20 CHAPEL HILL DENHAM NIG. INFRAS DEBT FUND	92,540.51	108.40	-	6
21 JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	55,680.00	34.80	-4.00	40
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION</b>				
<b>S/N REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT</b>				
22 UPDC PLC	24,313.56	1.31	-0.76	19
<b>REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT</b>				
<b>CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE</b>				
<b>CONSUMER GOODS</b>				
<b>S/N AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS</b>				
23 DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	954.53	0.20	-	0
<b>AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS</b>				
<b>S/N BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS</b>				
24 CHAMPION BREW. PLC	26,307.11	3.36	-9.19	11
25 GOLDEN GUINEA BREW. PLC	3,227.70	3.15	-	1
<b>BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS</b>				
<b>CONSUMER GOODS</b>				
<b>S/N BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS</b>				
26 GUINNESS NIG PLC	142,374.88	65.00	-	59
27 INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	111,477.58	4.15	-8.79	53
28 NIGERIAN BREW. PLC	385,354.06	37.50	0.67	85
<b>BEVERAGES-BREWERS/DISTILLERS</b>				
<b>S/N FOOD PRODUCTS</b>				
29 BUA FOODS PLC	3,650,400.00	202.80	-	45
30 DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	755,535.83	62.20	-	231
31 FLOUR MILLS NIG. PLC	133,262.34	32.50	-	79
32 HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	25,376.63	3.20	2.56	32
33 MULTI-TREX INTEGRATED FOODS PLC	1,340.10	0.36	-	0
34 N NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	3,564.00	20.00	-	49
35 NASCON ALLIED INDUSTRIES PLC	151,547.88	57.20	-	108
36 UNION DICON SALT PLC	2,214.04	8.10	-	2
<b>FOOD PRODUCTS</b>				
<b>S/N FOOD PRODUCTS-DIVERSIFIED</b>				
37 GADBURY NIGERIA PLC	28,173.03	15.00	-4.76	49
38 NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	832,289.06	1,050.00	-	65
<b>FOOD PRODUCTS-DIVERSIFIED</b>				
<b>S/N HOUSEHOLD DURABLES</b>				
39 NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC	1,334.36	17.55	-	0
40 VITAFAM NIG PLC	28,644.33	22.90	-3.93	29
<b>HOUSEHOLD DURABLES</b>				
<b>S/N PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS</b>				
41 P Z CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	79,409.54	20.00	-	62
<b>PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS</b>				
<b>CONSUMER GOODS</b>				
<b>S/N PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS</b>				
42 UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	79,281.07	13.90	-	53
<b>PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS</b>				
<b>CONSUMER GOODS</b>				
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>				
<b>S/N BANKING</b>				
43 ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORPORATED	284,418.04	16.50	3.33	47
44 FIDELITY BANK PLC	285,109.90	9.00	6.51	204
45 GUARANTY TRUST HOLDING COMPANY PLC	1,038,920.63	36.30	0.43	289
46 JAIZ BANK PLC	63,193.41	1.54	-1.91	111
47 STERLING FINANCIAL HOLDINGS COMPANY PLC	103,969.70	3.58	-4.95	57
48 UNION BANK NIG. PLC	189,284.89	6.50	-4.41	36
49 UNITY BANK PLC	11,689.34	1.00	4.17	87
50 WEMA BANK PLC	63,519.29	4.94	0.92	74
<b>BANKING</b>				
<b>S/N INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES</b>				
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>				
<b>S/N INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES</b>				
51 AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	4,117.00	0.20	-	0
52 AIICO INSURANCE PLC	27,087.90	0.74	-1.33	76
53 AXAMANSARD INSURANCE PLC	41,310.00	4.59	-0.22	75
54 CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSURANCE PLC	11,453.82	1.07	-1.83	43
55 CORNERSTONE INSURANCE PLC	24,887.96	1.37	-9.27	32
56 CORONATION INSURANCE PLC	15,834.51	0.66	-2.94	20
57 GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	909.99	0.20	-	0
58 GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	1,985.70	0.25	4.17	12
59 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSURANCE PLC	1,784.88	1.39	-	0
60 LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	3,575.49	1.95	-1.02	15
61 LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	11,620.00	0.83	-	7
62 MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	9,830.19	0.49	-7.55	18
63 NEM INSURANCE PLC	28,092.28	5.60	-	3
64 NIGER INSURANCE PLC	1,547.90	0.20	-	0
65 PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	5,433.55	0.41	-	5
66 REGENCY ASSURANCE PLC	2,400.75	0.36	-	2
67 SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	3,750.27	0.33	-	11
68 STACO INSURANCE PLC	4,483.72	0.48	-	0
69 STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	2,582.21	0.20	-	0
70 SUNU ASSURANCES NIGERIA PLC	5,462.15	0.94	-	5
71 UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC	3,680.00	0.23	-4.17	11
72 VERITAS KAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	3,744.00	0.27	3.85	8
<b>INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES</b>				

MAIN BOARD	DEALS	MARKET PRICE	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE TRADED ( N )
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>				
<b>S/N MICRO-FINANCE BANKS</b>				
73 NPF MICROFINANCE BANK PLC	11,985.86	2.00	-	14
<b>MICRO-FINANCE BANKS</b>				
<b>S/N MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES</b>				
74 ABBEY MORTGAGE BANK PLC	18,886.15	1.86	-	2
75 ASO SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	7,370.87	0.50	-	0
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>				
<b>S/N MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES</b>				
76 INFINITY TRUST MORTGAGE BANK PLC	5,087.96	1.22	-	0
77 RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	2,265.95	0.20	-	0
78 UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	2,949.22	3.02	-	0
<b>MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES</b>				
<b>S/N OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>				
79 AFRICA PRUDENTIAL PLC	13,100.00	6.55	-0.76	59
80 DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	375.00	0.25	-	5
81 FCMB GROUP PLC	122,776.81	6.20	5.08	71
82 NIGERIAN EXCHANGE GROUP	41,541.05	21.15	0.24	109
83 ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	2,572.69	0.50	-	6
84 STANBIC IBTC HOLDINGS PLC	958,817.79	74.00	9.23	84
85 UNITED CAPITAL PLC	98,100.00	16.35	-0.30	127
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>				
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>				
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
<b>S/N HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS</b>				
86 EKOCORP PLC	2,886.90	5.79	-	0
<b>HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS</b>				
<b>S/N MEDICAL SUPPLIES</b>				
87 MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC	2,522.36	2.55	-	0
<b>MEDICAL SUPPLIES</b>				
<b>S/N PHARMACEUTICALS</b>				
88 FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	33,851.20	14.75	1.72	36
89 GLAXO SMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	14,589.69	12.20	0.41	49
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>				
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
<b>ICT</b>				
<b>S/N COMPUTER BASED SYSTEMS</b>				
93 COURTEVILLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PLC	2,131.20	0.60	-3.23	15
<b>COMPUTER BASED SYSTEMS</b>				
<b>S/N COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS</b>				
94 OMAK VENTURES PLC	1,353.22	0.46	-	7
<b>COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS</b>				
<b>S/N IT SERVICES</b>				
95 CWG PLC	21,839.75	8.65	-	23
96 NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	427.68	3.99	-	3
<b>IT SERVICES</b>				
<b>S/N PROCESSING SYSTEMS</b>				
97 CHAMS HOLDING COMPANY PLC	6,574.48	1.40	-1.43	38
98 E-TRANZACT INTERNATIONAL PLC	82,800.00	9.00	-	6
<b>PROCESSING SYSTEMS</b>				
<b>S/N TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES</b>				
99 AIRTEL AFRICA PLC	5,261,787.92	1,400.10	-	37
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES</b>				
<b>INDUSTRIAL GOODS</b>				
<b>S/N BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
100 BERGER PAINTS PLC	3,419.92	11.80	-	7
<b>INDUSTRIAL GOODS</b>				
<b>S/N BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
101 BUA CEMENT PLC	3,582,848.66	105.60	-	124
102 CAP PLC	16,417.16	20.15	-	17
103 MEYER PLC	1,614.96	3.04	-	21
104 PREMIER PAINTS PLC	1,230.00	10.00	-	0
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
<b>S/N ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS</b>				
105 AUSTIN LAZ & COMPANY PLC	2,192.12	2.03	-	0
106 CUTIX PLC	8,313.44	2.36	-	11
<b>ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS</b>				
<b>S/N PACKAGING/CONTAINERS</b>				
107 BETA GLASS PLC	40,167.75	66.95	-	12
108 GREIF NIGERIA PLC	232.39	5.45	-	0
109 TRIPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC	1,177.99	2.38	-	3
<b>PACKAGING/CONTAINERS</b>				
<b>S/N AGRO-ALLIED &amp; CHEMICALS</b>				
110 NOTORE CHEMICAL IND PLC	100,754.14	62.50	-	0
<b>AGRO-ALLIED &amp; CHEMICALS</b>				
<b>INDUSTRIAL GOODS</b>				
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>				
<b>S/N CHEMICALS</b>				
111 INDUSTRIAL & MEDICAL GASES NIGERIA PLC	4,245.70	8.50	-	1
<b>CHEMICALS</b>				
<b>S/N METALS</b>				
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>				
<b>S/N METALS</b>				
113 MULTIVERSE MINING AND EXPLORATION PLC	1,257.27	2.95	-	6
<b>MINING SERVICES</b>				
<b>S/N PAPER/FOREST PRODUCTS</b>				
114 THOMAS WYATT NIG. PLC	616.00	2.80	8.53	23
<b>PAPER/FOREST PRODUCTS</b>				
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>				
<b>OIL AND GAS</b>				
<b>S/N ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES</b>				
115 JAPAU GOLD & VENTURES PLC	6,012.19	0.96	-2.04	52
<b>ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES</b>				
<b>S/N INTEGRATED OIL AND GAS SERVICES</b>				
116 OANDO PLC	114,368.90	9.20	1.66	208
<b>INTEGRATED OIL AND GAS SERVICES</b>				
<b>S/N PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTORS</b>				
117 CONOIL PLC	55,654.96	80.20	-	26
118 ETERNA PLC	19,431.76	14.90	-0.67	49
119 MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	37,700.17	109.95	-	12
120 TOTALENERGIES MARKETING NIGERIA PLC	130,715.91	385.00	-	50
<b>PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTORS</b>				
<b>OIL AND GAS</b>				

MARKET NEWS



**A Mutual fund (Unit Trust)** is an investment vehicle managed by a SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) registered Fund Manager. Investors with similar objectives buy units of the Fund so that the Fund Manager can buy securities that will generate their desired return.

**An ETF (Exchange Traded Fund)** is a type of fund which owns the assets (shares of stock, bonds, oil futures, gold bars, foreign currency, etc.) and divides ownership of those assets into shares. Investors can buy these 'shares' on the

floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

**A REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust)** is an investment vehicle that allows both small and large investors to part-own real estate ventures (eg. Offices, Houses, Hospitals) in proportion to their investments. The assets are divided into shares that are traded on the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

**Offer price:** The price at which units of a trust or ETF are bought by investors.

**Bid Price:** The price at which Investors redeem (sell) units of a trust or ETF.

**Yield/Total Return:** Denotes the total return an investor would have earned on his investment. Money Market Funds report Yield while others report Year- to-date Total Return.

**NAV:** Is value per share of the real estate assets held by a REIT on a specific date.

**GUIDE TO DATA:**  
**Date:** All fund prices are quoted in Naira as at 03-Nov-2023, unless otherwise stated.

**DAILY PRICE LIST FOR MUTUAL FUNDS, REITS and ETFs**

MUTUAL FUNDS / UNIT TRUSTS			
<b>AFRINVEST ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD</b> aaml@afinvest.com			
Web: www.afinvest.com; Tel: +234 818 885 6757			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Afrinvest Equity Fund	282.79	283.94	49.41%
Afrinvest Plutus Fund	100.00	100.00	8.06%
Nigeria International Debt Fund	341.29	341.29	13.78%
Afrinvest Dollar Fund	109.21	110.31	5.41%
<b>AIICO CAPITAL LTD</b> amfm@aicocapital.com			
Web: www.aicocapital.com, Tel: +234-1-2792974			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
AIICO Money Market Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
AIICO Balanced Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>ANCHORIA ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED</b> info@anchoriaam.com			
Web: www.anchoriaam.com, Tel: 08166830267; 08036814510; 08028419180			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Anchoria Money Market	100.00	100.00	0.02%
Anchoria Equity Fund	181.03	183.38	24.90%
Anchoria Fixed Income Fund	1.23	1.23	0.16%
<b>ARM INVESTMENT MANAGERS LTD</b> enquiries@arminvestmentcenter.com			
Web: www.arm.com.ng; Tel: 0700 CALLARM (0700 225 5276)			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
ARM Aggressive Growth Fund	29.15	30.03	32.82%
ARM Discovery Balanced Fund	641.45	660.79	23.06%
ARM Ethical Fund	53.09	54.69	17.67%
ARM Eurobond Fund (\$)	1.16	1.16	3.52%
ARM Fixed Income Fund	1.15	1.15	3.61%
ARM Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	9.02%
ARM Short Term Bond Fund	1.05	1.05	1.88%
<b>AVA GLOBAL ASSET MANAGERS LIMITED</b> info@avacapitalgroup.com			
Web: www.avacapitalgroup.com; Tel 08069294653			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
AVA GAM Fixed Income Dollar Fund	101.24	101.24	11.38%
AVA GAM Fixed Income Naira Fund	1,117.87	1,117.87	4.40%
<b>AXA MANSARD INVESTMENTS LIMITED</b> investmentcare@axamansard.com			
Web: www.axamansard.com; Tel: +2341-4488482			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
AXA Mansard Equity Income Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
AXA Mansard Money Market Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>CAPITAL EXPRESS ASSET AND TRUST LIMITED</b> info@capitalexpressassetandtrust.com			
Web: www.capitalexpressassetandtrust.com; Tel: +234 803 307 5048			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
CEAT Fixed Income Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
Capital Express Balanced Fund(Formerly: Union Trustees Mixed Fund)	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>CARDINALSTONE ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED</b> mutualfunds@cardinalstone.com			
Web: www.cardinalstoneassetmanagement.com; Tel: +234 (1) 710 0433 4			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
CardinalStone Fixed Income Alpha Fund	1.04	1.04	6.85%
<b>CHAPELHILL DENHAM MANAGEMENT LTD</b> investmentmanagement@chapelhilldenham.com			
Web: www.chapelhilldenham.com, Tel: +234 461 0691			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Chapelhill Denham Money Market Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00%
Paramount Equity Fund	24.24	24.74	41.91%
Women's Investment Fund	192.91	195.89	40.65%
CHD Nigeria Bond Fund	100.83	100.83	12.48%
CHD Nigeria Dollar Income Fund	1.02	1.02	11.14%
<b>CORDROS ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED</b> assetmgteam@cordros.com			
Web: www.cordros.com, Tel: 019036947			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Cordros Money Market Fund	100.00	100.00	8.50%
Cordros Milestone Fund	158.75	159.80	23.73%
Cordros Fixed Income Fund	105.86	105.86	10.06%
Cordros Halal Fixed Income Fund	108.16	108.16	11.50%
Cordros Dollar Fund (\$)	113.38	113.38	6.17%
<b>CORONATION ASSETS MANAGEMENT</b> investment@coronationam.com			
Web: www.coronationam.com, Tel: 012366215			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Coronation Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	9.17%
Coronation Balanced Fund	1.44	1.45	26.06%
Coronation Fixed Income Fund	1.37	1.37	0.56%
<b>EDC FUNDS MANAGEMENT LIMITED</b> mutualfundng@ecobank.com			
Web: www.ecobank.com Tel: 012265281			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
EDC Nigeria Money Market Fund Class A	N/A	N/A	N/A
EDC Nigeria Money Market Fund Class B	N/A	N/A	N/A
EDC Nigeria Fixed Income Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>EMERGING AFRICA ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED</b> assetmanagement@emergingafricagroup.com			
Web: www.emergingafricagroup.com/emerging-africa-asset-management-limited/, Tel: 08039492594			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Emerging Africa Money Market Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emerging Africa Bond Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emerging Africa Balanced Diversity Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
Emerging Africa Eurobond Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>FBNQUEST ASSETS MANAGEMENT LIMITED</b> invest@fbnquest.com			
Web: www.fbnquest.com/asset-management; Tel: +234-81 0082 0082			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
FBN Bond Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
FBN Balanced Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
FBN Halal Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
FBN Money Market Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
FBN Dollar Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
FBN Smart Beta Equity Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
FBN Specialized Dollar Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>FCMB ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED</b> fcbmhelpdesk@fcbm.com			
Web: www.fcmbassetmanagement.com; Tel: +234 1 462 2596			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Legacy Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	7.86%
Legacy Debt Fund	3.55	3.55	-0.57%
Legacy Equity Fund	2.60	2.65	30.06%
Legacy USD Bond Fund	1.31	1.31	4.43%
<b>FSDH ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD</b> coralfunds@fsdhgroup.com			
Web: www.fsdhaml.com; Tel: 01-270 4884-5; 01-280 9740-1			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Coral Balanced Fund	5,357.52	5,397.62	32.48%
Coral Income Fund	3,947.07	3,947.07	7.53%
Coral Money Market Fund	100.00	100.00	10.54%
FSDH Dollar Fund	1.19	1.19	0.00%

GUARANTY TRUST FUND MANAGERS LIMITED			
enquiries@investment-one.com			
Web: www.gtccopk.bank; Tel: +234 812 992 1045,+234 1 448 8888			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Guaranty Trust Money Market Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
Guaranty Trust Balanced Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vantage Guaranteed Income Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
Guaranty Trust Equity Income Fund (VEIF)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vantage Dollar Fund (VDF) - June Year End	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>LOTUS CAPITAL LTD</b> fincon@lotuscapitallimited.com			
Web: www.lotuscapitallimited.com; Tel: +234 1-291 4626 / +234 1-291 4624			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Lotus Halal Investment Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lotus Halal Fixed Income Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>MERISTEM WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD</b> info@meristemwealth.com			
Web: www.meristemwealth.com/funds/; Tel: +2348028496012			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Meristem Equity Market Fund	16.72	16.86	43.30%
Meristem Money Market Fund	10.00	10.00	11.43%
<b>NORRENBERGER INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LIMITED</b> enquiries@norrenberger.com			
Web: www.norrenberger.com, Tel: +234 (0) 908 781 2026			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Norrenberger Islamic Fund (NIF)	102.78	102.78	11.83%
Norrenberger Money Market Fund (NMMF)	100.00	100.00	11.55%
Norrenberger Dollar Fund (NDF) (\$)	102.38	102.38	11.21%
<b>PAC ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD</b> info@pacassetmanagement.com			
Web: www.pacassetmanagement.com/mutualfunds; Tel: +234 1 271 8632			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
PACAM Balanced Fund	2.11	2.15	34.12%
PACAM Fixed Income Fund	11.90	12.08	7.19%
PACAM Money Market Fund	10.00	10.00	11.57%
PACAM Equity Fund	2.53	2.55	77.72%
PACAM EuroBond Fund	128.39	131.28	15.17%
<b>SCM CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED</b> info@scmcapitalng.com			
Web: www.scmcapitalng.com; Tel: +234 1-280 2226,+234 1- 280 2227			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
SCM Capital The Frontier Fund	148.04	152.65	17.76%
<b>SFS CAPITAL NIGERIA LTD</b> investments@sfsnigeria.com			
Web: www.sfsnigeria.com, Tel: +234 (01) 2801400			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
SFS Fixed Income Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>STANBIC IBTC ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD</b> assetmanagement@stanbicibtc.com			
Web: www.stanbicibtcassetmanagement.com; Tel: +234 1 280 1266; 0700 MUTUALFUNDS			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Stanbic IBTC Balanced Fund	4,687.98	4,725.81	38.29%
Stanbic IBTC Bond Fund	255.03	255.03	8.26%
Stanbic IBTC Ethical Fund	1.93	1.95	53.97%
Stanbic IBTC Guaranteed Investment Fund	348.39	348.51	11.28%
Stanbic IBTC Iman Fund	365.02	369.44	56.28%
Stanbic IBTC Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	9.74%
Stanbic IBTC Nigerian Equity Fund	17,086.97	17,297.15	56.51%
Stanbic IBTC Dollar Fund (USD)	1.45	1.45	12.10%
Stanbic IBTC Shariah Fixed Income Fund	127.02	127.02	8.65%
Stanbic IBTC Enhanced Short-Term Fixed Income Fund	124.24	124.24	16.79%
Stanbic IBTC Absolute Fund	4,934.07	4,934.07	15.98%
Stanbic IBTC Aggressive Fund	4,959.37	5,020.66	78.37%
Stanbic IBTC Conservative Fund	5,120.04	5,143.64	34.55%
<b>UNITED CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD</b> unitedcapitalplcgroup.com			
Web: www.unitedcapitalplcgroup.com; Tel: +234 01-6317876			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
United Capital Equity Fund	1.25	1.26	36.50%
United Capital Balanced Fund	1.73	1.74	33.32%
United Capital Wealth for Women Fund	1.33	1.34	24.01%
United Capital Sukuk Fund	1.16	1.16	11.09%
United Capital Fixed Income Fund	1.93	1.93	6.86%
United Capital Eurobond Fund	123.28	123.28	5.59%
United Capital Global Fixed Income Fund	1.07	1.07	8.35%
United Capital Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	9.66%
<b>WWW.QUANTUMZENITH.COM.NG; Tel: +234 1-2784219</b>			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Zenith Balanced Strategy Fund	18.08	18.29	30.51%
Zenith ESG Impact Fund	21.61	21.84	36.76%
Zenith Income Fund	25.14	25.14	6.72%
Zenith Money Market Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>VETIVA FUND MANAGERS LTD</b> funds@vetiva.com			
Web: www.vetiva.com; Tel: +234 1 453 0697			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Vetiva Banking Exchange Traded Fund	7.17	7.27	77.80%
Vetiva Consumer Goods Exchange Traded Fund	11.41	11.51	94.47%
Vetiva Griffin 30 Exchange Traded Fund	25.15	25.35	41.99%
Vetiva Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	10.24%
Vetiva Industrial Goods Exchange Traded Fund	28.09	28.29	40.37%
Vetiva S&P Nigeria Sovereign Bond Exchange Traded Fund	147.83	149.83	-6.26%
<b>REITS</b>			
Fund Name	NAV Per Share	Yield / T-Rtn	
SFS REIT	N/A	N/A	
Union Homes REIT	55.71	5.07%	
Nigeria Real Estate Investment Trust	101.33		
UPDC REIT	9.89	-13.40%	
<b>EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS</b>			
Fund Name	Bid Price	Offer Price	Yield / T-Rtn
Lotus Halal Equity Exchange Traded Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A
SIAML Pension ETF 40	435.00	435.00	237.94%
Stanbic IBTC ETF 30 Fund	506.00	506.00	401.74%
MERGROWTH ETF	22.06	22.16	53.33%
MERVALUE ETF	30.62	30.72	80.34%
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE FUND</b>			
Fund Name	NAV Per Share	Yield / T-Rtn	
Chapel Hill Denham Nigeria Infrastructure Debt Fund	108.40	0.00%	

The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise. Past performance is a guide and not an indication of future returns. Fund prices published in this edition are also available on each fund manager's website and FMAN's website at www.fman.com.ng. Fund prices are supplied by the operator of the relevant fund and are published for information purposes only.

# DISCOURSE

## Unlocking Leadership Excellence Through TEXEM's Executive Development Programme

In today's swiftly evolving business landscape, leadership is at a crossroads, demanding adaptability, transformation, and resilience, particularly in the face of disruptive forces. Survival is no longer enough; leaders must seize the opportunity to thrive in a manner that is agile, influential, and sustainable. The forthcoming Customised Executive Development Programme by TEXEM UK, titled 'Leading Transformation for Strategic Outcomes', has been meticulously designed to meet this pressing need.

Scheduled for November 27 to 30, 2023, at the esteemed Hilton London, this immersive four-day programme is poised to elevate leadership excellence across the public and private sectors. The TEXEM programme presents an exclusive opportunity to acquire insights, strategies, and tools indispensable for spearheading transformational efforts that leave an indelible mark on businesses and their stakeholders.

### GUIDING LEADERS IN VUCAT WORLD

In a world characterised by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, ambiguity, and turbulence (VUCAT), leaders must not only navigate but also thrive amidst disruptive times. The programme designed by TEXEM empowers participants with a profound understanding of the challenges and opportunities that await in a world marked by high geopolitical risks and steep inflation. With the guidance of distinguished faculty members, including Prof John Peters, a survivor par excellence and former Prisoner of War, leaders will gain insights into resilience and adaptability.



Peters

### CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

Effective transformation begins with strong leadership. Participants will delve into the role of leaders as catalysts for change, learning to cultivate a growth mindset and challenge assumptions to

thrive. Rodria Laline, a visiting professor of Harvard, INSEAD, and IESE, will shed light on leadership strategies that drive meaningful and enduring change.

### AGILITY AS THE CORNERSTONE FOR TRANSFORMATION

Transformational agility is at the core of this programme. By recognising agility as the linchpin for change and innovation, participants will develop the skills and connections necessary to drive transformation effectively. Executives will discover how to effectively foster innovation and redesign business models in an ever-evolving global and local economy.

### CRAFTING STRATEGIES FOR PROFITABLE GROWTH

In an increasingly challenging and austere global economy, the ability to inspire effective choices, action, and strategic positioning is paramount. The programme will provide insights into how to infuse human agility and unleash sustainable competitive advantages in an increasingly digitally disruptive world. Participants will gain a profound understanding of driving organisation-wide change by instilling agile mindsets, nurturing a culture of transformation, and setting clear milestones.

### PIONEERING SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES

The ultimate goal of any transformation

is to achieve sustainable outcomes. This programme will equip leaders with the knowledge and skills to steer their organisations toward enduring success while staying true to their core purpose.

Key benefits of the programme include gaining the ability to effectively lead, communicate, and drive transformative change, a deeper understanding of the change process and disruptive mega-trends, the capacity to manage the complexities of change while remaining loyal to the organisation's purpose, the adoption of an agile and sustainable mindset for leading transformation, and profound insight into the drivers of digitalisation and their impact on business transformation.

The programme for senior leaders in private and public sector organisations currently leading or preparing for transformational change initiatives, including core members of change management teams within the same organisation.

"...The programme has been very interesting, exciting, facilitated knowledge sharing and it has actually brought about a greater insight into what leadership is..." said Akinwunmi Lawal, MD/CEO of NPF Microfinance Bank, a previous participant at the programme.

Edu Oluwatoyin, a CBN Deputy Director, said the "quality of their presentation really got to me. I've realised...that practical and operational issues can be left to the middle-level officers in the organisation while I focus more on the strategy to deliver and make my organisation better able to achieve its objective."

## NEWS

# Oyebanji Restates Call on FG to Immortalise Late Adekunle Fajuyi

Gbenga Sodeinde in Ado Ekiti

The Ekiti State Governor, Mr. Biodun Oyebanji has again called on the federal government to immortalise a former military Governor of old Western Nigeria, the late Lt-Col.

Adekunle Fajuyi, for what he described as his exceptional, courageous and selfless act and for paying the supreme sacrifice for the unity of the country.

Oyebanji made the call at the Muson Centre, Lagos during a

command performance of "Fajuyi for Nigeria", a stage play re-enacting the heroic deed of the late military governor.

The governor who had earlier made the call during a similar performance of the play in Ado-Ekiti last

month as part of activities marking his first year in office, said Fajuyi had an enduring legacy of patriotism, heroism and sacrifice that should be celebrated by all Nigerians.

Oyebanji said a federal government recognition for the late hero

would serve as a symbol of unity to inspire the future generations, adding that his name deserves to be etched in the annals of Nigerian history.

The governor said the late Fajuyi, a native of Ado Ekiti, was best known for his act of selflessness during the

Nigerian counter-coup of 1966 when he chose to protect the then Head of State, Maj- Gen. Aguiyi-Ironsi, at the cost of his own life.

He opined that the story of Fajuyi would continue to inspire and encourage Nigerians to do what is right always, no matter the situation.

However, the governor said Ekiti would continue to celebrate the late hero and support the family, adding that the state government would rebuild his burial place at Fajuyi Park, Ado Ekiti and elevate it to the status of a national monument.

He called on the federal government to immediately consider naming a national monument after Fajuyi to honour him perpetually and further preserve his memory.

"This evening we have once again seen history, taught by history, educated by history, encouraged by history, warned by history, encouraged to do what is right always no matter what the situation.

"It has taught us to be men and women of integrity, have moral values of consistent commitment to our place of birth, the highest level of patriotism for our nation.

# Panel Advocates Policy Consistency to Attract Investment in Energy Sector

Adibe Emeryonu in Benin City

Panelists at the African Natural Resource and Energy Investment Summit in Edo state, have called for policy consistency and collaboration in order to attract the needed investment in the energy sector in Nigeria.

Delivering an address, the Managing Director, Edo State Investment Promotion Agency (ESIPO), Mr. Kelvin Uwaibi who headed the panel, highlighted the importance of policy consistency and collaboration among various stakeholders.

Emphasising the need for a stable environment to attract the much-needed investment in Nigeria, particularly in the energy sector,

Uwaibi, also noted that investors require a predictable policy landscape to make informed decisions.

"Policy has to make sense for financing to work. Everything starts with policy. We are on the right path in Nigeria as power has been moved to the concurrent list. This has been a problem for sub-nationals when the laws of the land become the hindrance to sub-nationals providing electricity to their people," he said.

Investors, Uwaibi said, are keen to witness policy consistency and sustainability plans to ensure their investments remain secure.

"They (investors) don't want policy somersaults after they've gone to source funding for projects. The

necessity of a prolonged period of policy consistency across all sectors in Nigeria, which would instil confidence in investors regarding the country's documentation and processes are very key to attracting investor to Nigeria," he stressed.

Uwaibi further harped on the need for clear demarcation of responsibilities among different levels of government, pointing out that local governments have often abandoned their responsibilities for state governments, some of which have also left theirs for the federal government.

Uwaibi also raised concerns over the absence of data sharing among government agencies, noting the

importance of a single platform for data sharing to enhance transparency and efficiency.

He cited the example of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), which conducts feasibility studies, but faces challenges in disseminating their findings. On collaboration which was another key theme in Uwaibi's address, he proposed splitting electrification into commercial and residential sectors as well as focusing on strategies that encourage industrial electricity clusters, such as the production hubs in Edo State.

Leading the discussion at the panel, the Managing Director/CEO, REA, Mr. Ahmad Salihijo, highlighted the importance of a robust electrification

plan and efforts to close infrastructure gaps in underserved areas, stressing the need for all stakeholders to collaborate on the comprehensive plan.

To bridge the financing gap, Salihijo underlined the importance of adopting commercialised aspects of electrification and using them as models for scaling up projects.

He also mentioned the involvement of local communities through cooperatives as a means to promote ownership and sustainability.

On his part, the Country Director, Husk Power System, Olu Aruike, echoed the need for suitable financing, emphasising the transition from merely electrifying communities to empowering them.

# Group Expresses Concern over Media Attacks on Appeal Court President

Seriki Adinoyi in Jos

The Peace and Good Governance Advocates (PEGGA), a pressure group in Plateau State, has expressed concern over recent media spotlight on the president of the Court of Appeal, Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem over alleged contradictory court judgments on election petitions in the state.

In a statement yesterday, the group averred that there had been no direct relationship between the Appeal Court president and the controversial judgments, expressing

concern on why her person was being smeared.

The statement signed by the group's national coordinator, Mr. Mani Imman, however, called on the Appeal Court president to ensure that she puts herself above all political or personal biases to do her job dutifully.

Imman said: "We are shocked that the person of the president of the Court of Appeal, Hon Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem is being brought into the political battle for the soul of Plateau State.

"It is alleged that those who

lost out in the main election are now alleged to be throwing up the person of the respected jurist into the melee. We call on them to desist as the interest of Plateau is above all.

"No one should push the state into unnecessary crises just after a peaceful election. Those who have issues with the election should use the instrumentality of the law to address their issues.

"We, however, call on Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem to put herself above political biases, no matter the pressure on her."

# Job Creation: FG Will Partner MTN on Human Capital Development, Says Akpabio

Sunday Aborisade in Abuja

President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio, yesterday assured the management of the telecommunications giant, MTN Nigeria, of the readiness of the federal government under the leadership of President Bola Tinubu, to continue to partner with it in the area of job creation.

Akpabio also said the partnership would cover areas of manpower development through training and retraining of Nigerian youths.

Akpabio stated this while receiving the management team

of the telecommunications outfit, led by its Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer, Mr Karl Toriola, in his office, according to a statement by the Special Assistant Media to the President of the Senate, Mr Jackson Udom.

Akpabio said: "the entire Senate is highly delighted to receive you and your team because of the contribution of your organisation to the development and capacity building of Nigerians.

"We value your contributions and interventions in the area of human capital development. I

welcome more and better partnership with open arms. We are happy with what you are doing all over Nigeria.

"I am happy your network is everywhere and as I said earlier, as the Senate we welcome your desire to work and collaborate with us towards achieving the President Tinubu's Renewed Hope agenda for Nigerians," he stated.

Toriola, in his speech, said his team was in the Senate to formally congratulate Akpabio on his emergence as the President of the 10th Senate.

# FEATURES

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## Integrating Faith, Leadership within the Dynamic Marketplace Landscape

In a bid to explore strategies deeply rooted in faith that enable individuals and organisations to navigate and thrive amidst the challenges of an ever-changing world, **Precious Ugwuzor** writes that The Kingdom Summit, recently held its 10th annual economic and leadership conference with a mission to promote the understanding and application of God's principles in the marketplace



L-R: Ade Ogunsanya, Ayo Mairo-Ese, Tola Adeyemi, Pastor Ben Akabueze, Yewande Zachaeus and Okey Enelamah



L-R: Chioma Ajaero, Kayode Akintemi, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili, Pastor Ben Akabueze, Debola Deji-Kurunmi, Yimika Adeboye and Pastor Ngozi Akabueze

The Kingdom Summit, an annual economic and leadership conference with a mission to promote the understanding and application of God's principles in the marketplace, recently held at RCCG The King's Court, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Themed 'Kingdom Strategies for Thriving in Uncertain Times', it was targeted at exploring strategies deeply rooted in faith that enable individuals and organisations to navigate and thrive amidst the challenges of an ever-changing world.

### Objectives

The summit which had RCCG The Kings Court, The Oasis and The Institute for Innovation, Integration & Impact USA as conveners, has as its objectives: Raising Godly leaders who will influence the marketplace and society for God and establish kingdom principles in all spheres of the society (Leadership); Standing consistently for God at work, family, church and in the community, and establishing the Kingdom of God in all facets of a believer's life (Convergence); and being ethical in purpose and practice, being consistent in actions and words, and conducting business by God's principles at all times and in all places (Integrity).

### Empowering Individuals to Integrate Faith into Life

According to the organisers, The Kingdom Summit has consistently provided a platform that empowers individuals to integrate their faith into their professional lives, becoming influential leaders who uphold godly values in all aspects of society.

And over the past decade, The Kingdom Summit has brought together visionaries, thought leaders and entrepreneurs committed to positively impacting their communities and workplaces.

According to one of the hosts, Pastor Ben Akabueze, "this year's summit was held at a time of great uncertainties domestically and internationally. It is, therefore, fitting that the theme of this Summit is "Kingdom Strategies for Thriving in Uncertain Times."

While lamenting that the world is yet to fully recover from the destabilising impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,



Ruth Ede with her N3million Goshen Impact Entrepreneurship win

he said the Russia-Ukraine war has exacerbated the energy and food crises.

"The Israeli-Hamas conflict is likely to worsen these crises. There are several other conflicts around the world which adversely impact global supply chains.

All these feed to an acute

sense of uncertainty in the marketplace. At times like this, we need divine inspiration to navigate these uncertainties," he added.

### Speakers with Wealth of Experience

One thing that has stood the summit out is its continuous lineup of eminent speakers who share their invaluable

experiences and insights. With Pastor Ben Akabueze and Brett Johnson as hosts, The Kingdom Summit has speakers like Apostle Joshua Selman, Oby Ezekwesili, Nathaniel Bassey, Yimika Adeboye, Tola Adeyemi, Jason Fleagle, Miliscent Nnwoke, Kayode Akintemi, Busola Deji-Kurunmi, Yewande Zachaeus, Okey Enelamah, Jumoke Ogundare, Femi Edun and Ayo Mairo-Ese.

These thought leaders provided profound perspectives on integrating faith and leadership within the dynamic landscape of the marketplace.

### The Charge

At the summit, the former Minister of Education, and former Vice President for the World Bank, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili, charged Christians across the country to be competent, knowledgeable and have character.

Speaking on influencing our world for the kingdom: government and leadership Ezekwesili said: "You can't go into governance without caring about competence. Competence, knowledge and character must be part of a Christian who wants to change and transform society for God."

In her presentation, Ezekwesili said character is the lasting currency. "Every other currency will go out of fashion some day but what will never go out of fashion is character."

As a child of God, she emphasised, you must have consistency of character especially when you are in a public place.

She added: "The greatest thing for a Christian who will work in government is to be the salt and the light. and that light means an absolute desire at all times for transparency."

Using her experience as a former minister Ezekwesili said: "The purpose of government is to improve the quality of life of the people. God has a blueprint for governance about the way that the people will have everything in terms of welfare and well-being of the people will constantly be taken care of by the people in leadership."

"Whether you are a developed country, underdeveloped country or developing country or not, the purpose of the government is the same. It is to improve the quality of life of the people."

**You can't go into governance without caring about competence. Competence, knowledge and character must be part of a Christian who wants to change and transform society for God... Every other currency will go out of fashion some day, but what will never go out of fashion is character**

## Identifying the Task Before IGP Egbetokun

With the confirmation of Dr. Kayode Egbetokun as the 22nd indigenous Inspector General of Police, Mr. Mathew Ibadin, a security practitioner and Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Badinson Security Limited, has identified some germane issues that need to be tackled urgently. **Chiemelie Ezeobi** reports



L-R: Managing Director/CEO of Badinson Security Limited, Mr. Mathew Ibadin; Chairman of Executive Group, Dr. Ayo Ogunsan of Lagos State Trust Fund; DIG Force Criminal Of Investigation Department, DIG Sylvester Abiodun Alabi; and former IGP, Mike Okiro at the conference



Ibadin and IGP Egbetokun at the recently held three-day police conference and retreat in Owerri

As Nigerians congratulate Dr. Kayode Egbetokun on his confirmation as substantive Inspector General of Police (IGP) a few days ago by the Police Council, a security practitioner and Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Badinson Security Limited, Mr. Mathew Ibadin has applauded the IGP's ingenuity even as he has reminded him of the tasks that require his urgent attention.

Ibadin who congratulated the IGP on his confirmation also commended him for what he called the "robustness" of the recent three-day police conference and retreat held in Owerri, the Imo State capital.

The conference had attracted Deputy Inspectors General of Police, Assistant Inspectors General of Police, Commissioners of Police and Heads of Strategic Units in the Nigeria Police Force.

The Badinson Security Chieftain in a press statement on Friday in Lagos described the Owerri event as unique and one of the best conferences and retreats ever organised for senior police officers in the Police Force.

Ibadin, who personally attended the event, said the ingenuity of Egbetokun in putting strategies in place on how best to tackle some of the challenges facing the police has undoubtedly left great hope for a better policing in Nigeria under his watch.

Touching on a wide range of issues, Ibadin who trained in various aspects of private security over the years, has encouraged the IGP to evolve a system

of redefining the roles of the Spy Police and the Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC) so that the members of the two bodies would play higher and more effective role in crime fighting and intelligence.

Buttressing his point, the Badinson boss noted that since the Owerri conference and retreat centred largely on ways to map out new strategies to fight crimes in the country, it would be ideal to bring the Spy Police and PCRC members into playing more recognisable roles.

According to him, the Nigeria Police Force should learn to utilise the services of Spy Police particularly in investigation and other related activities since they were effectively trained by the same institution instead of leaving them to remain redundant with no meaningful role to play.

Similarly, he argued that since most members of the PCRC volunteered to assist the police, the IGP should review the role of PCRC and make such role to come with value addition with respect to fighting crime and providing intelligence and not merely to attend meetings.

As way of increasing the financial strength of the Police Force beyond the statutory allocation that comes to it from the Federation account, the private investigator has urged

Egbetokun to review certain services of the police with a view to commercialising them.

He gave example of such services as the Police Printing Press, which he argued can be remodeled and equipped with modern printing machines to render commercial printing to members of the public.

He also advised that individuals who need the personal protective services of Mobile Policemen should pay commensurately to the coffers of the police instead of the current abuse in the use of Mopol personnel.

Mr. Ibadin, an advocate of more funding for the police reiterated his earlier position that companies and multinationals operating in Nigeria should earmark some percentage of their budget for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to funding of police activities, just as he encouraged the citizenry to always show love to policemen particularly those who work under difficult conditions on the highways.

He further advised IGP Egbetokun to make his administration more inclusive by initiating a periodic stakeholders' conference whereby members of the civil society interface with the IGP with a view to volunteering relevant security information that would help him in fighting crime.

Since Nigeria is having an increasing number of people who trained in private investigation, Ibadin said it would be ideal for IGP to evolve a system of engaging such private investigators in investigation activities while such private investigators should primarily be licensed in line with the Police Act, 2020.

While commending officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force for working with high degree of commitment in the most difficult environment, Ibadin argued that a country can do without the Military but no country can do without the police.

He therefore urged President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to create a special intervention fund for the Nigeria Police, as he insisted that the welfare of Police personnel should be paramount. He recalled that in the years past, policemen were usually provided with operational vehicles for investigation, and wondered why such a practice is no longer possible.

While describing the Nigeria Police as one of the best police in the world "because they perform creditably without the necessary tools needed for effective policing, the security chieftain urged Government to provide the police with tracking device, bullet proof jackets and 24 hours light at the police station across the country.

"There should also be laptop, people should be able to send their complaints through email Zone, State Command, Area Command and Division Headquarters," he said.

He noted further that crime is local, therefore investigation should be domesticated, he advised even as he called for increased funding of the Nigeria Police which previous governments neglected.

With respect to promotion in the Police Force, Ibadin urged the IGP to eradicate special promotion syndrome in the police and should reflect same in the Police Act during amendment.

## Bodex Social Media Hangout 4.0: Shaping the Digital Landscape for Positive Impact

The 4th edition of the Bodex Social Media Hangout, held at the prestigious Radisson Blu Ikeja, Lagos on 21st October 2023, brought together an ensemble of digital experts, thought leaders, and social media enthusiasts for an event that left a profound mark on the ever-evolving digital landscape.

Themed 'Social Media: Hope or Hubris,' the event explored the evolution of social media, transforming from its early days as a platform for personal connections to the complex landscape it has become today. Attendees had the exclusive opportunity to engage with a remarkable lineup of top-tier digital experts who shared their invaluable insights on various digital topics.

The driving force behind the Bodex Social Media Hangout, the esteemed convener Bodex Hungbo, commenced the event with a thought-provoking narrative. She recounted the fascinating journey of social media from its inception to its current role in society, highlighting its original purpose: "to bring sanity to netizens" through the annual gathering

of experts.

Guest speaker Mr. Gbenga Omotoso, Lagos State Commissioner of Information and Strategy, shared his insights on how social media has emerged as the new leader, accelerating communication in an interactive and effective manner, surpassing the limitations of traditional media. His compelling discussion resonated with attendees, emphasizing the significance of this dynamic medium.

Keynote speaker Obi Asika, the founder of Omniverse, captivated the audience by shedding light on the astounding growth of Nigerian influencers in the digital space, amassing billions of followers on social media platforms. His perspective underscored the global impact of Nigerian content creators.

Ray Sharma, lead partner at Global Tech and a seasoned investor, delivered an engaging talk on the rapid growth of social media platforms. He pointed out that Instagram took two and a

half years to reach a hundred million users, TikTok achieved this feat in just nine months, and ChatGPT, a testament to cutting-edge technology, took a mere month to reach a hundred million users.

The head Mass Media Writing Department School of Media Communication at Pan-Atlantic University Dr. Chike Mgbeadichie also gave a compelling speech on the importance of cultural competence in content creation. He emphasised the inevitable need for cross-cultural knowledge and skills in creating content that respects the cultural and religious sensitivities of others.

Izzi Boye who is into smartphones maximization also taught some hidden features on smartphones leaving the audience jaw dropping as they never knew such features existed on their phones.

The Bodex Social Media Hangout 4.0 also featured three enlightening panel sessions where savvy panelists shared insights on different topics. Moderated by Ekezie Anthonia Ezenwa, the first panel featured Dr. Morayo Brown, Victor Ogunyinka, Ekemini Ekerette, and Elsie Godwin, discussing how social media can

inspire hope for individuals in today's turbulent times.

The second panel, moderated by Mercy Frank, featured Hon Gbenga Omotoso, Charles Olojede, Mariam Bakre, and Taiwo Adeyemi sharing their informed opinions on the essentiality of digital media in various sectors, including business, governance and citizenship participation.

Moderated by Lanre Basamta, the third panel featured JJ Omojuwa, Olubiyi Tudors Ogunbiyi, Naijabrandinfluencer and Dami Adenuga dispensing enlightening thoughts on the prospects of social media for economic empowerment. All sessions proved engaging with remarkable takeaways for the audience.

Overall, the Bodex Social Media Hangout 4.0 succeeded in fostering a renewed commitment to using social media as a force for good, emphasizing responsible engagement, and highlighting the incredible potential it offers for both personal and professional growth.

For more information about the Bodex Social Media Hangout and its mission, please visit [www.bsmhangout.com](http://www.bsmhangout.com)

## THIRTY-TWO

# UK Alerts on Possible Terrorists' Attacks in Nigeria

## Warns citizens to avoid some states

Michael Olugbode in Abuja

The United Kingdom has raised an alarm over the likelihood of terrorist attacks in Nigeria, including indiscriminate attacks at crowded public locations. It advised its citizens against undertaking trips to Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe, Kaduna, Katsina, and Zamfara states, as well as the riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River states.

In the advisory by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Britons were also advised against undertaking non-essential trips to Bauchi, Kano, Jigawa, Niger, Sokoto, and Kogi states and within 20 kilometres of the border with Niger in Kebbi State,

Abia State, non-riverine areas of Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers States, Plateau State, Taraba State, Anambra State and Imo State.

The advisory noted that around 117,000 British tourists visited Nigeria every year, adding that most of the visits are usually trouble-free.

It, however, noted that "a small number of British people encounter problems".

"You should take sensible precautions to protect your safety," the UK government urged its citizens.

The advisory read, "On 3 November, 2023, the US Embassy in Nigeria issued notice of an increased threat to major hotels in Nigeria's larger cities.

UK Travel Advice notes that terrorists are very likely to attempt

attacks in Nigeria, including indiscriminate attacks against crowded public locations.

"Discretion and judgment should be used with regard to activity in public places, including large hotels, with visitors encouraged to remain vigilant and alert, while paying attention to their surroundings at all times.

"Off-cycle state level elections will take place in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi on 11 November 2023. Based on past election practice, it is likely that movement restrictions will be enforced within those three states from midnight to 6PM on 11 November. Movement restrictions may be extended at any time. It is likely that personal vehicles will be blocked from attempted road

movement on the election day. There is a heightened risk of rallies and demonstrations, which could turn violent."

It added, "The Nigeria-Niger land border has been closed and commercial flights between Nigeria and Niger have been prohibited by the Nigerian authorities, in response to the political situation in Niger. Flight times between Nigeria and other neighbouring countries may also be affected.

"Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Nigeria. Most attacks occur in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states in the North-east. There have also been significant attacks in other states, including in Gombe, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Bauchi, Taraba, Kogi, Niger, and the

Federal Capital Territory. Further attacks are likely and could occur at any time.

"Attacks could be indiscriminate and could affect Western interests as well as places visited by tourists. Attacks are more likely to attack crowded locations or symbolic targets; such as places of worship. There is a heightened risk during religious events, public holidays or election periods.

"There is a high threat of criminal and terrorist kidnap throughout Nigeria.

"Incidents of banditry and inter-communal violence occur frequently throughout Nigeria. Attacks can occur without warning.

"Political rallies, protests and violent demonstrations can occur



UK Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak

with little notice throughout the country. International news events can sometimes trigger anti-Western demonstrations. There is the potential for increased tension on Fridays."

## Obi: S' COURT'S AFFIRMATION OF TINUBU IS BEGINNING OF OUR QUEST FOR BETTER NIGERIA

President, saying having exhausted all legal and constitutional remedies available to his party, "This end is only another beginning in our quest for the vindication of the hope of the common man for a better country."

Obi slammed the apex court, saying it set aside critical legal issues and displayed disturbing aversion to public opinion.

He later told journalists that the Tinubu government's purchase of Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) for National Assembly members and planned inclusion of a yacht in the presidential fleet, at a time when majority of Nigerians faced grinding poverty, was a demonstration of gross insensitivity.

But in a swift reaction, the Presi-

dency, yesterday, warned Obi against casting aspersion on the Supreme Court and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) over his defeat at the February 25 presidential election by Tinubu.

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) also said Obi's inability to distinguish between his warped version of public opinion and reality was his greatest undoing throughout the electioneering season.

Addressing a press conference in Abuja on the Supreme Court judgement, titled, "From Courtrooms to National Conscience: Our Democracy is the Victim," Obi said he was out of Nigeria on a scheduled appointment when the judgement was delivered.

He said, the apex court "set legal

issues aside, the Supreme Court exhibited a disturbing aversion to public opinion just as it abandoned its responsibility as a court of law and policy".

He explained that in disagreeing very strongly with the rulings of both the Presidential Election Petitions Court (PEPC) and the Supreme Court on the outcome of the February 25 presidential election, as declared by INEC, as democrats, who believed in the rule of law, "We recognise that the Supreme Court is the end stage of the quest for legal closure to the matter. As a party and as candidates, Datti and I have now exhausted all legal and constitutional remedies available to us.

"However, this end is only

another beginning in our quest for the vindication of the hope of the common man for a better country. After all, sovereignty belongs to the people.

"If only for historical purposes, it behoves us to place our disagreement with and deep reservations about this judgement on public record."

Obi also advocated a five-year rotational presidency to go round the six geopolitical zones, while slamming the purchase of SUVs, a yacht, as well as budgetary provisions for the office of the First Lady as gross acts of irresponsibility and insensitivity in the face of multi-dimensional poverty in Nigeria.

He stated further on the Supreme Court judgement, "It is, therefore, with

great dismay that I observe that the court's decision contradicts the overwhelming evidence of election rigging, false claim of a technical glitch, substantial non-compliance with rules set by INEC itself as well as matters of perjury, identity theft, and forgery that have been brought to light in the course of this election matter.

"These were hefty allegations that should not to be treated with levity. More appalling, the Supreme Court judgement willfully condoned breaches of the constitution relative to established qualifications and parameters for candidates in presidential elections.

"With this counter-intuitive judgement, the Supreme Court has transferred a heavy moral burden from the courtrooms to our national conscience. Our young democracy is ultimately the main victim and casualty of the courtroom drama."

The LP presidential candidate added, "Without equivocation, this judgement amounts to a total breach of the confidence the Nigerian people have in our judiciary. To that extent, it is a show of unreasonable force against the very Nigerian people from whom the power of the constitution derives. This Supreme Court ruling may represent the state of the law in 2023, but not the present demand for substantive justice."

According to the former Anambra State governor, "The judgement mixed principles and precepts. Indeed, the rationale and premise of the Supreme Court judgement have become clearer in the light of the deep revealing and troubling valedictory remarks by Hon. Justice Musa Dattijo Muhammad, (JSC) on Friday 27th October 2023."

Speaking further, Obi said Nige-

rians had long been aware of how weak national institutions negatively affected democracy in the country.

"This year, 2023, has been quite remarkable and revealing," he said.

Obi also said INEC displayed incompetence in the discharge of its statutory duty.

He stated, "The judiciary has largely acted in defiance of constitutional tenets, precedents, and established ground rules.

"Political expediency has preceded judicial responsibility. A mechanical application of technicalities has superseded the pursuit of justice and fairness. Both INEC and the Supreme Court, as the referees, respectively shifted the goalposts in the middle of the game.

"Where the value and import of the recent Supreme Court ruling ends is where our commitment to a New Nigeria begins. Our mission and mandate remain unchanged. From the very onset, our mission has been more about enthroning a new Nigeria.

"It is a new nation where things work, where the country is led from its present waste and consumption orientation to a production-driven economy. Our commitment is to a nation anchored on the principles of prudent management of resources to quickly pull millions out of multidimensional poverty, ensuring transparency and accountability in the equitable distribution of opportunities, resources, and privileges.

"In the new Nigeria, we aim to address all unmet needs by showing compassion for all those left behind by the present system."

Obi stressed, "We in the Labour

Continued on page 36

## \$5BN TRAIN-7 NLNG PROJECT REACHES 52% COMPLETION LEVEL

\$7.6 billion was required to ramp up the country's oil production to its former 2.1 million barrels per day (mbpd) in the next two years.

A statement from NCDMB noted that the high-level engagement was part of a three-day Nigerian content stakeholders' retreat, which provided a platform for the two industry leaders to sign an agreement on the oil and gas e-market place.

The agreement would see the rollout of tender opportunities from NLNG on the e-market electronic platform, thereby implementing a key provision of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act.

The oil and gas e-market place is a virtual platform for buyers and sellers of goods and services in the oil and gas industry. It is expected to allow for speedy and transparent transactions.

Mshelbilla stressed that the relationship between his organisation and NCDMB had been conscientiously nurtured over the years, with both parties striving ceaselessly to fulfil statutory obligations. He acknowledged the crucial role played by the board in the take-off of the Train-7 project and assured of the company's resolve to stretch its local content practice beyond mere compliance with the provisions of the NOGICD Act.

"We cannot have a better Nigeria unless we develop the capacities of Nigerians," Mshelbilla stated. He restated the vision of his company to be, "a globally competitive LNG company, helping to build a better Nigeria."

Mshelbilla bemoaned the difficulties the company currently faced in getting adequate gas supply and the resultant under-production by its six plants to below 50 per cent of their total installed capacity.

He said feed gas to the NLNG plants came mainly from some of its joint venture (JV) partners, including Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) Limited, Total Energies, and Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC).

Mshelbilla also lamented that their supply pipelines suffered recurrent vandalism, coupled with facility failure and low production from aging wells, resulting in serious disruption of supplies. He explained that NLNG was exploring several options to mitigate the challenge, including partnering with critical security agencies to curtail vandalism

on the pipelines and working with their JV partners to increase their gas production.

He added that the NLNG board of directors had also given approval for the company to procure gas from other international and indigenous gas producers in the country, with the goal of enhancing the performance of Trains 1-6.

Mshelbilla expressed deep concern that deep-water gas projects that would provide feed gas for the upcoming Train-7 and other future expansions had not been commenced by the international oil and gas companies (IOCs), despite the significant progress made in the construction of the Train-7 plant. He said the situation could lead to the completion of the plant without gas being available for it to liquefy.

He solicited the board's support for the development of the deep-water gas projects, which were critical to keep Trains 1-6 full and provide gas for Train 7 and future expansion plans.

Responding, the executive secretary of NCDMB affirmed

that the e-marketplace would be a game-changer that would enhance the Service Level Agreement (SLA) guiding the relationship between NCDMB and NLNG. He noted that the board decided to start with NLNG because of the company's record of excellence.

Wabote said the intention of the e-marketplace was to increase transparency in the tender process, remove human interference in business processes, move things electronically, and achieve better results. He described the Final Investment Decision (FID) and other critical steps that were taken for the Train-7 project at the height of COVID-19 as proof of stakeholders' enthusiasm for the project.

However, Wabote expressed concern over the challenge of inadequacy of gas supply and promised to support the company by approving third party gas injectors and sanctioning new deep-water gas projects. He added that most of the marginal operators had also found gas but part of their challenge was where to send the gas.

Wabote recalled that at the initial phase of the company's take-off, "The management level had 90 per cent expatriates and 10 per cent Nigerians." But he expressed joy that the reverse was now the case.

On milestones achieved by the gas company since inception, its General Manager, Production, Nnamdi Anowi, said NLNG had as its core areas of operation liquefaction, transmission, transportation, marketing and sales. Anowi disclosed that over 5,770 LNG cargoes had been delivered as of September 2023, while over 500,000 tons of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) had been produced and sold to markets overseas and in Nigeria.

## Avuru: Nigeria Needs about \$7.6bn Investment to Return Oil Production to 2.1mbpd in Two Years

For the umpteenth time, Mr. Austin Avuru called for measures to retool the ailing Nigerian petroleum

Continued on page 36

## WITH PASSAGE OF N2.17TN SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET, FG UPBEAT ON INTERVENTION IN CRITICAL SECTORS

Idris stated, "I have taken some time to outline some of these efforts to make the point that our security and intelligence agencies are constantly at work, foiling threats, and neutralising those who seek to undermine the security of the country. And for this reason, they deserve the full support of all Nigerians, the media included.

"Please, pay attention to what they're doing, and give amplified coverage to their successes and gains. The bandits, terrorists, kidnappers, pirates, etc., are waging not only a physical battle but also a psychological one, trying to undermine our faith and confidence in our security agencies."

He advised media leaders not to play into the hands of enemies of the country, through "reports that might be misleading or sensational or that undermines the morale of the security personnel".

Idris also spoke on the recent United States travel advisory for its citizens in Nigeria. He said while the federal government understood the concerns raised by the U.S. government in its recent travel advisory, it was also imperative that the U.S. government did not

generalise isolated incidents across the entire hospitality industry.

He stated, "We have consistently prioritised the safety and well-being of all visitors to our country. We have implemented comprehensive security measures, both at the federal and state levels, to ensure the safety of tourists and international guests.

"These measures include intense intelligence gathering, acquisition and deployment of additional platforms, training and re-training of personnel, cooperation with international law enforcement agencies, among others, to maintain a secure environment."

The minister also spoke on post-oil subsidy removal economic interventions, saying the Tinubu's administration has taken necessary measures to alleviate the pains being felt, and to cushion the effect of these foundational reforms being pursued.

He explained that the interventions were designed to serve as palliatives in the short and medium-term, while Nigerians wait to reap the long-term benefits of the reforms. He said the interventions included a provisional wage increment of N35,000 monthly for six months,

to enhance federal minimum wage, without causing undue inflation, and establishment of an infrastructure support fund for states to invest in critical areas that would create an enabling environment for businesses.

On the recent foreign exchange policy of the federal government, the federal government's spokesman said the "deft moves by the Central Bank of Nigeria to clear the billions of dollars in inherited foreign exchange backlog is already having immediate impact on the exchange rate.

"We are confident that this is just the beginning. Under the Renewed Hope Agenda, the central bank is determined to focus on its core mandates of price stability and financial system stability, for the benefit of all Nigerians."

Idris also said the federal government welcomed with great relief the resolution of the lingering \$11 billion P&ID case in favour of Nigeria, and congratulated all Nigerians and Tinubu for their steadfast approach to the case, and for the positive resolution that ensued.

The minister stressed the need for the media to support Tinubu in his effort to develop Nigeria.

## PRODUCE EMEFIELE IN COURT OR RELEASE HIM UNCONDITIONALLY, JUDGE RESTATES ORDER TO EFCC

(FCT), Abuja, yesterday, reiterated his order directing the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to release with immediate effect, the former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Godwin Emefiele.

Justice Adeniyi, reiterated the order following failure of the Commission to comply with his order issued on November 2, 2023.

The court had last week ordered the anti-graft agency to release Emefiele unconditionally or produce him in court to be admitted to bail.

But the Commission did not release nor produce the former CBN boss at yesterday's resumed hearing.

Lawyer to the EFCC, Farouk Abdallah, attempting to explain why the order of the court was yet to be complied with, cited the absence of certain exhibit in the affidavit Emefiele deposited to in support of his motion on notice.

But, trial judge upon confirming that the anti-graft agency received his order directing it to release Emefiele unconditionally or produce him in court so that he could be admitted to bail, held that his order must be complied with before the court could proceed any further.

Justice Adeniyi, meanwhile directed Emefiele's counsel, Mathew Burkaa, to ensure the service of the exhibits on the respondents and adjourned till Wednesday November 8, to comply with his order.

He had issued the order last week after listening to the submissions in the ex parte application marked: M/122/2023 in a Motion on Notice with the number, FCT/HC/CV/040/2023, filed by Emefiele, who is challenging his continued detention by the federal government since June 10.

He was arrested shortly after his suspension from office by President Bola Tinubu and has been in custody since then, despite a court order.

The Department of State Service (DSS) who refused to obey a similar order by the FCT High Court subsequently arraigned him before the Federal High Court in Lagos, on alleged illegal possession of firearms and again before a High Court of the FCT, where he and two others, Sa'adatu Ramallan Yaro and a company, April1616 Investment Limited were to be arraigned on a 20-count charge bordering on procurement fraud to the tune of N6.9billion.

The arraignment was stalled due to the absence of Yaro, who was said to be sick and the matter has been adjourned few times. However, he was last week transferred from the custody of the DSS to EFCC.

The continued detention prompted the instant suit and application for release before Justice Adeniyi. According to Burkaa, Monday November 6, made it day 149, Emefiele has been in custody.



## OPTIVA CAPITAL PARTNERS' DIVERSITY EVENT...

L-R: Group Head Human Resources/Admin of Optiva Capital Partners, Chisom Uloeme; CEO of Optiva Capital Partners, Jane Kimemia; Chairman of Optiva Capital Partners, Franklin Nechi; with Executive Director of Optiva Capital Partners Mrs. Amaka Okeke-Lawal; during the company's 'Embrace Diversity' event held in Lagos... recently.

# Court Clears Mbah of Certificate Forgery, Lashes NYSC for 'Fraudulent Design, Suppression, Misrepresentation of Facts'

● Awards N5m damages against NYSC ● Group asks corp's boss to resign

Alex Enumah and Gideon Arinze  
in Enugu

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, yesterday, cleared the Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah of forgery of the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) discharge certificate.

The court held that evidence before it showed that although Mbah was mobilised for service in 2001, he, however, completed his service in 2003.

The court in a judgement delivered by Justice Inyang Ekwo in the N20 billion lawsuit filed by governor against the NYSC, held that there was no doubt that Mbah's discharge certificate was issued by the agency stating that the NYSC and that the agency "conspired by fraudulent design, suppressed

and misrepresented facts" to have disclaimed the certificate.

He awarded N5 million damages against the defendants in the matter. According to the court, Mbah, midway into his service, sought and after received permission from NYSC to attend the Nigeria Law School, was reinstated into the NYSC in 2003.

He further said while the evidence that Mbah served in the law firm of one Udeh & Associates was not challenged by the NYSC.

Justice Inyang berated the corps for not charging the governor for forgery if indeed they believed that they didn't issue the said NYSC certificate to him.

He concluded that the NYSC was mischievous and acted in bad faith by denying Mbah's NYSC certificate.

"A declaration is hereby made that the Defendants conspired by

fraudulent design, suppressed and misrepresented facts in supposition that the Plaintiff's certificate of National Service with certificate Number A808297 was not issued by the Defendants, a fact they knew or ought to know as untrue, incorrect, which act constitutes the tort of conspiracy," the court declared.

Justice Ekwo further held that the "predominant purpose of the deceitful misrepresentation" disclaiming Mbah's discharge certificate" was intended albeit to inflict damages in his legal profession, politics, business, as it was to unlawfully profit the Defendants".

Justice Ekwo berated the NYSC for not Mbah's producing Mbah's initial file and the temporal one opened in the course of his service.

"There is no evidence that file with Ref. No. LA/01/1532 or file

with Ref. No. LA/01/1532/T are documents, which are not in the custody of the Defendants and there is no evidence that both files were disposed of during the incineration of 2022. The Defendants have failed to proffer any credible evidence on the whereabouts of those files.

"I find that non-production of file with Ref. No. LA/01/1532 or file with Ref. No. LA/01/1532/T means the contents thereof would have gone against the Defendants in this case and I so hold," he stated.

He also faulted NYSC's claim that Mbah's rightful discharge certificate Number A673517 was burnt after it was not collected by the governor, wondering how the agency then obtained the Mbah's discharge certificate Number A808297 dated 6th January, the certified copy of which was tendered before the

court by it.

"To make matters worse, the certification by the stamp thereon was done on 19th August, 2023, long after this case was initiated on 4th May, 2023. A person can only certify a document, which original he has in his possession," Justice Ekwo added.

The court went on to award the sum of N5 million damages to Mbah.

In May, the governor had sued the NYSC and its Director, Corps Certification, Mr Ibrahim Muhammad, for publishing a disclaimer, denying the issuance of a discharge certificate issued to him on January 6, 2003.

But the NYSC, in its preliminary objection dated May 19 and filed May 22, had sought an order dismissing or striking out the suit for want of jurisdiction and competence.

Giving three grounds of argument, the corps had said Mbah did not appeal to the president as required by the provisions of Section 20 of the National Youth Service Corps Act, Cap N84, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 before instituting the suit against the defendants.

It had argued that appeal to the president was a condition precedent to instituting an action against the defendants in any court of law.

Meanwhile, a civil society organisation, the Enugu Good Governance Group (E-3G), has asked the Director-General of the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, Brigadier General Yusha'u Ahmed and the Director, Corps Certification of the agency, Mohamad Ibrahim, to immediately resign for ineptitude, conspiracy, and malicious misrepresentation of facts on Mbah's certificate saga.

The group also raised the alarm over the skyrocketing judgement debts incurred due to what it termed the recklessness and ineptitude of government functionaries.

In a statement issued in Enugu, yesterday, by its National Coordinator, Odinaka Okechukwu, the E-3G said the trend would continue until heads of ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) were made to bear the cost of such penalties.

Reacting to the Court verdict, the group stated: "We congratulate the Governor of Enugu State and all lovers of democracy on this victory. The victory is not about Mbah, but about many, who have suffered or would have suffered such injustices in the future due to the ineptitude, collusion, conspiracy, politicisation, recklessness, and impunity of public institutions for selfish gains.

"It worries that NYSC admitted that it reinstated Mbah on 27th May 2003 to complete the four months remaining of his service after his Nigerian Law School programme, posted him to Udeh & Associates for his primary assignment, but claimed that they did not have record to show that he served those remaining months when, in fact, the acknowledged clearance letters to the agency by Mbah's place of primary assignment clearly showed that this same NYSC cleared and paid him his monthly allowances for the months in contention."

According to the group, "it is a shame that NYSC lost Mbah's file, created a temporary file in the course of his service and could not even account for a whopping 12 certificates in Mbah's certificate series.

"Yet the agency wanted to put the burden of their incompetence or collusion on an innocent person."

## Ensure Peaceful, Credible Poll, Saraki Urges INEC, Security Agencies

● APC now empty, says former Bayelsa acting governor, Seibarugu

Chuks Okocha in Abuja

Former Senate President and two-term Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Bukola Saraki, has appealed to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ensure that the Bayelsa governorship election that holds this Saturday would be free and credible.

He equally implored the law enforcement agencies to ensure that the election was peaceful and that the people's will prevailed.

Saraki, made the appeal when he joined Governor Douye Diri's campaign train to some communities in Yenagoa Local Government Area of the State at the weekend.

He spoke to journalists shortly after he inaugurated the newly-built Government Science and Technical College, Swali, Yenagoa.

His words: "When you are in Abuja, you hear all kinds of things. But coming here, I can see that the PDP is fully on ground.

"Secondly, I can also see the infrastructure. Years ago, there was only one major road. But now you can see the development and road network as well as the joy and happiness of the people.

"In any free and fair election in Bayelsa, I am sure Diri will

win. So my appeal to INEC is to ensure a free and fair election and the security agencies to ensure that there is peace so that people can express their wish freely," Saraki stressed.

Meanwhile, a former chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Chief Werinipre Seibarugu, has said the opposition party in Bayelsa State was virtually empty following his defection and that of other critical stakeholders from the party.

Seibarugu, who was Acting Governor, Deputy Governor and Speaker of the House of Assembly at various times, spoke at a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) rally when the Diri re-election campaign trail visited Agudama-Ekpetiama community in Yenagoa Local Government Area over the weekend.

Seibarugu urged the people to vote for PDP in this Saturday's governorship poll so that the incumbent governor could continue to deliver the dividends of democracy to the state.

A statement by the governor's Chief Press Secretary and member of the Publicity Directorate of the state PDP Governorship Campaign Council, Mr. Daniel Alabrah, quoted him as saying: "We are all with

Governor Diri. The entire state knows that we were the APC stalwarts in Bayelsa and now that we have left, the APC is empty.

"Nobody should deceive you. If they tell you to go and do anything for them (APC), tell your families and friends that they are wasting their time. It is better for you to hear this from the horse's mouth.

"My former boss (Timipre Sylva) was on a radio programme recently saying he was going to do human empowerment. Ask him, when he was Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, who did he empower? So let us all vote for Governor Diri."

In his remarks, Diri acknowledged the invaluable contributions of the Ekpetiama people not only to development of the State, but also the country.

The governor expressed delight that Seibarugu returned to the PDP to work for its success in the November 11 governorship election.

Earlier, at the palace of the Ibranawoi of Ekpetiama Kingdom, King Bubaraye Dakolo, who is also chairman of the state traditional rulers council, the governor granted the requests presented by the monarch, which include installation of solar lights, rehabilitation of roads, access road to the palace

as well as construction of roads in Bomoundi-gbene and Ikibiri communities.

He also directed the Commissioner for Power and the state electricity board to do an assessment of the community's power situation and give him a report.

The governor equally directed the Commissioner for Education to inspect the state of the Gbarain community primary schools with a view to putting them to proper use.

## INEC Includes Sylva's Name among Bayelsa Guber Candidates

Adedayo Akinwale in Abuja

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has included the name of Timipre Sylva and his running mate, Joshua Maciver of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the November 11 governorship election in Bayelsa.

The electoral body had two weeks ago removed Sylva's name on the list, citing court order as the reason for removing his name.

The amended list uploaded on the Commission's website on Tuesday, October 24, indicated that the name of Sylva and his running mate Maciver were not included for the Bayelsa election.

In the list signed by the Secretary to the Commission, Rose Oriaran-Anthony, the Commission had cited High Court order as the reason for removing Sylva's name from the amended list.

The decision, However, did not

go down well with the ruling APC, as it had described the decision of the Commission as premature.

Following the judgement of the Appeal Court last week that overturned the decision of the High Court and reinstated Sylva as APC's candidate in Bayelsa, the Commission in the amended list released yesterday, included his name as part of the candidates that participate in the Saturday's election.

## NEWS



## STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BREAKFAST MEETING WITH CROSS RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR...

L-R: CEO, Catalyst Gold Innovations Ltd, Tola Johnson; CEO Gotsterling Consultancy, Chief Richard Essien; Chairman, Calabar Carnival Commission, Gabe Onah; Governor Bassey Edet Otu of Cross Rivers State; Former First Lady of Cross River, Mrs. Owanari Duke and Managing Director, PRM Africa Marketing and Communications, Mr. Mike Dada, during a Strategic Investment Breakfast Meeting with Chief Executive Officers of companies organised by Cross Rivers State Governor in Ikoyi Lagos .... recently

# US Tasks FG on Strong Intellectual Protection System to Unleash Nigeria's Creative Sector

## ● Says creative industry can add \$100bn to Nigeria's GDP

Dike Onwuamaeze

The US government has enjoined the Federal Government of Nigeria to engender a strong legal framework for Intellectual Property (IP) rights regimes that would attract investments and enable Nigeria's creative sector to add \$100 billion to the country's GDP by 2030.

This call was made yesterday in Lagos by the Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs, United States Department of State, Mr. Ramin Toloui, in his keynote remarks on "Intellectual Property Protection at the Africa Creative Market," in which he emphasised the need for Nigeria to "establish secure legal frameworks for investment in - and commercialisation of - innovation and creativity."

The event also featured a Public Policy Expert and Gender Advocate, Mrs. Nabila Aguele, who gave the keynote address on "Intellectual Property Enforcement as a Tool for Achieving Sustainable Development in the Nigerian Creative Sector."

Toloui stated that "Nigeria's creative industries have the potential to become Nigeria's largest export sector and could create an estimated 2.7 million jobs by 2050 for the country's growing youth population, and \$100 billion to Nigeria's GDP by 2030."

But this, according to him, would require "a strong system of IP rights" that would "assure inventors, industrial designers, and creative artists that their ideas will be protected and that they can receive payment for the use of their creations."

He added that the government of the United States of America has

"a long history of coordinating with the creative industries in Africa and around the world, especially as it pertains to the promotion and protection of IP Rights, which ensures that entrepreneurs are fairly compensated for their creativity."

He noted that the Nigerian creative sector has grown in leaps and bounds, so much that "American actors are now interested in featuring on Nigerian movie screens."

He cited Buma Boy, who became the first African to sell out a U.S. stadium, New York Citi Field, or Rema's hit song "Calm Down", which later featured American artist Selena Gomez, as examples of the growing influence of the Nigerian creative sector.

According to him, "In fact, that was the most streamed Afrobeats song of 2022, surpassing one billion streams across all platforms and was also the first African song to spend a year on the Billboard Hot 100 chart."

"The US government supports and is proud to see burgeoning ties in the creative industry between the United States and Nigeria, bringing our two countries closer together and furthering investment opportunities in the film and television, music, arts, sports, gaming, and tech arenas."

He further declared that strengthening those partnerships was a key priority for President Biden during the US-Africa Leaders' Summit last December, which the White House organised as a testament to the strength of the US-Africa relationship.

Further according to him, during the summit, "we announced our intention to partner with stakeholders across the creative ecosystem—creatives and policymakers alike - to

help grow the creative economy.

"We have taken up this charge by focusing on a key piece of the puzzle that allows creatives to monetise their work and attract additional investment: IP protection."

"You may be wondering why the U.S. government, in its partnership with the government of Nigeria, would highlight the creative industries or the IP protections that support the sector, among all the priorities we work on together."

"It is simple. The cultural sector alone accounts for 3.1 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP). The creative industries

generate annual revenues of over \$2 trillion and account for nearly 50 million jobs worldwide according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and that's not all."

"The creative industries also employ more young people - namely those aged 15 to 29 than any other sector and with women constituting nearly half of the creative workforce, it serves us all to support a sector that is creating equitable opportunity for all."

"Several U.S. film and entertainment companies, such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Paramount, are making large investments

in the Nigerian market and are seeing strong prospects for future investments."

"I want to see many more investments and increased commercial ties. Nigeria is a powerhouse of creativity, and we stand in steadfast partnership with all of you in this room to support the conditions that allow creatives to thrive."

Aguele, in her keynote address, said that Nigeria's ability to innovate, attract investments, and build a robust business and market ecosystem for the creative sector hinged largely on getting the country's IP system right.

She added that "IP can also serve as a gateway to new and emerging opportunities, including unlocking financing for the creative and SME sectors. Leveraging IP as collateral for financing holds immense potential. This is one of many examples of how a strong and robust IP system, with clear enforcement of rights can lead to broader economic value and our achievement of the SDGs."

She however, identified piracy as a major inhibiting factor in the development of Nigeria's creative industry, which results in approximately \$3 billion loss each year.

## Kano: Appeal Court Reserves Judgment In Gov Yusuf's Appeal

### ● Sacks APC's Rep, Kwankwaso, reinstates NNPP's Datti

Alex Enumah in Abuja

The Court of Appeal, Abuja, on Monday, reserved its judgment in the appeal by Kano State Governor, Abba Yusuf against the judgment of the Kano Governorship Election Petition Tribunal which ordered his sack as governor.

A three-man panel of the appellate court announced that judgment had been reserved shortly after parties adopted and argued their brief of arguments in the appeal, as well as three other cross appeals regarding the March 18 governorship election in Kano State.

In the main appeal, Yusuf who ran under the platform of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), urged the appellate court to set aside the judgment of the tribunal for misapplication of law.

His lawyer, Chief Wole Olanipekun (SAN), while adopting his brief of arguments said the main issue in the matter was the voiding of ballot papers for not being stamped or signed cannot be a correct position of law and cited the provisions of Section 71 of the Electoral Act 2022 to back his arguments.

Besides, Olanipekun submitted that the APC governorship candidate

in the election was not joined as a party in the petition.

Chief Akin Olujimi (SAN) representing the APC urged the court to uphold the judgment of the tribunal as non-stamping and signing of ballot papers is against INEC's regulations.

On the non joining of the APC governorship candidate in the petition at the Tribunal, Olujimi said votes are cast for political parties and members benefit from the outcome.

The court also reserved judgment in the cross appeal by the APC challenging the eligibility of governor Yusuf to contest the election, having not been a registered member of the NNPP as at the time of the election.

In his argument on the cross appeal, Olanipekun said, it is a mere academic exercise as the Supreme Court had ruled that political parties decide who their candidates are.

In another appeal by the NNPP, Chief Adegboye Awomolo (SAN) argued that the tribunal was wrong to delve into recounting of ballot papers in chambers, as was done and arrived in the cancellation of more than 165,000 votes from the governor's total votes in 32 Local Government Areas.

In the appeal filed by INEC, Abubakar Mahmoud (SAN), representing the Commission agreed with the submission of Olanipekun that, the tribunal erred for carrying out a recount of ballot papers in chambers

and not in an open court to arrive at the judgment, as tribunals are restrained from doing so under Section 137 of the Electoral Act.

He said, the primary function of the court is to give effect to the will of voters, not to recount or recalculate as doing so amounts to rewriting election's jurisprudence and urged the court to set aside the judgment.

But, APC's counsel prayed the court to uphold the judgment of the tribunal as all the necessary processes were followed to order the recount in accordance with the Evidence Act.

It would be recalled that the Kano Governorship Election Petition Tribunal had last month sacked Governor Yusuf and declared 165,663 of his votes invalid, saying they were not signed or stamped by INEC.

INEC had declared Yusuf the winner of the March 18, 2023 election after he secured 1,019,602 votes against his opponent Nasiru Gawuna who secured 890,705 votes.

But, after the tribunal deducted the 165,663 votes from Yusuf's tally, his votes were reduced to 853,939, which were over 30,000 votes less than the 890,705 votes polled by Gawuna of the APC.

Going by that declaration, the tribunal then ruled that the APC candidate was the winner of the governorship election and ordered INEC to withdraw Yusuf's certificate of return and give Gawuna a new one.

## FG Urged to Empower LGs To Improve Healthcare at the Grassroot

Ugo Aliogo

The Chief Clinical Director, St Nicholas Hospital, Dr. Eburn Bamgboye, has called on the federal government to empower the local government areas to improve healthcare delivery at the grassroot level by ensuring that the Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) are well equipped with personnel, state-of-art facilities and medications.

Bamgboye, who disclosed this yesterday in Lagos during a media briefing to announce the opening of St. Nicholas Hospital in Surulere, said the government needs to be

certain about the primary health care which, according to the provision of the law, is within the purview of the local government.

He also stated that the local governments must be empowered to ensure that they can provide for the PHCs, especially with regards to funding, guidance, training of personnel such as nurses, laboratory scientists, and doctors to a certain level, so that PHCs are available to people in every locality.

"So, if you are suffering from malaria, you don't have to go to a hospital. If you are suffering from diarrhea, or you're vomiting, and if

you need to take a delivery, there is a facility within a walking distance for you that will be able to provide you with that care," he added.

Speaking on the newly launched hospital, he revealed that St. Nicholas Hospital Surulere is the fifth and latest branch of St. Nicholas and their goal is to make healthcare service reachable to the growing population in Surulere and its environs.

According to him, "The facility is a fully-fledged medical center strategically designed to deliver general medical care for families, and is supported by a multidisciplinary

team, who adhere to the highest of ethical standards.

"Building on our reputation for delivering quality healthcare service at a competitive rate, we are confident to replicate the good service we are known for. Individuals and corporate organisations in Surulere can now access a wide range of healthcare services, pharmacy, geriatric clinic and home visits."

"The hospital is headed by our family physician, Dr. Basirat Salami, whose wealth of experience as a consultant family physician is invaluable in the management of the centre.



**22ND WIMBIZ ANNUAL CONFERENCE...**

L-R: Chairman, Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), Niyi Yusuf; Founder/MD, Easygas Solutions, Salamat Rahaman; Founder/MD, AT3 Resources, Tosin Adefeko; Co-founder/MD, African Family Firms/Wenger Investments, Tsitsi Mutendi, CEO, Optiva Capital Partners, Jane Kimemia and Ifesinachi Okpagu at the 22nd WIMBIZ Annual Conference held in Lagos... recently

# HURIWA: Without IREV, BVAS, Off-cycle Elections in Imo, Kogi, Bayelsa Will Be Procured

Chuks Okocha in Abuja

Civil Rights Advocacy Group, Human Writers Rights Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) has said that the off-cycle governorship polls in Imo, Bayelsa and Kogi States will be procured by the highest bidders since the electronic transmission of results in real time has been sabotaged by both the election petition courts and top officials of the electoral body including the crooked decision on it by both the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal, PEPT, and the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

Besides, HURIWA has expressed sadness that the National Assembly has not deemed it necessary to speedily amend the extant electoral Act to make it mandatory for electronic transmission of results from polling units to become legalised. Also, HURIWA said it is inconceivable that the off-cycle governorship poll in Imo State will be transparent when INEC has refused to redeploy the Resident Electoral Commissioner who is allegedly linked biologically to the Deputy National Chairman of the All Progressive Congress. HURIWA in a statement by its

national coordinator, Emmanuel Onwubiko, said that the electoral body has done nothing substantial to instill trust and gain the confidence of voters in those three states on their resolve to be fair, accountable and transparent. He said emphatically that there is a conspiratorial plot by the elite in INEC, National Assembly and the hierarchy of the nation's judiciary, to perpetuate electoral heists which explains the impediments mounted against the legalization of the electronic transmission of results in real time.

The Rights group therefore asked INEC to stop engaging in self-deceit by thinking that the use of sophistry can convince any sane Nigerian that the manipulations and electoral crimes committed by INEC on a national scale during the general election, wouldn't be replicated in the off-cycle elections. Onwubiko said; "We have watched with unfathomable amazement, the attempt, by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to once more hoodwink Nigerian voters in Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa States into believ-

ing their propaganda that "all the glitches experienced during the general elections of February 2023 had been taken care of". Accordingly, he said, "we are aware that the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, expressed its readiness to conduct the November 11th governorship election in Bayelsa, Kogi, and Imo states, respectively. INEC Acting Director, Voter Education and Publicity, Mary Nkem, gave this assurance at a People's Town Hall meeting on Election Security in Abuja. Nkem said all the glitches experienced during the general elections earlier in the year had been taken care of. "She said INEC has put a lot of plans in place to guarantee early deployment of sensitive materials to polling units, including ad hoc officers camping near polling units a day before the exercise. "Rather than people moving from the local government headquarters to the various polling units, they are

moved closer to the PUs (polling units) where they are going to work. So, I can assure you that, God willing, we will deploy early." HURIWA dismissed INEC's re-assurance as mere paper weight going by the fact that around September 16th 2022, INEC had told Nigerians that it was committed to the deployment of the bimodal voter registration system (BVAS) and IREV for the 2023 election and would transmit the results of all elections electronically but INEC failed to fulfill this promise during the general poll as only the National Assembly election results were eventually uploaded, thus refusing to do same for the Presidential poll and when it got to the Election Petition Tribunal, INEC argued that it wasn't legally obliged to do so and the court glibly conceded to this claim by INEC which stands in contrast to the verbal commitment made by INEC before the conduct of the last general election.

# Terrorists Kill 14, Kidnap 20, Injure 19 Maulud Celebrants in Katsina

● As police rescue abducted Catholic Priest in Kaduna, nab two suspects

Francis Sardauna in Katsina and John Shiklam in Kaduna

No fewer than 14 people were killed by gunmen suspected to be terrorists during a Maulud celebration at Rukan Kusa Community in Musawa Local Government Area of Katsina State.

The suspected terrorists stormed the Maulud celebration venue at about 10:00pm on Sunday, when the victims from Yar Ungwa and Gidan Malamai communities in Matazu Local Government Area assembled at the Rukan Kusa for the fest.

Meanwhile, the police have rescued a catholic priest, Rev. Fr. Andrew Amara, who was abducted by bandits at his residence at St. Francis Catholic Church Godogodo, Jama'a Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Spokesperson of the Kaduna State Police Command, Mansur Hassan, said the clergyman was abducted on November 3, 2023, in the night at his residence at St. Francis Catholic Church Godogodo.

When THISDAY visited the embattled Katsina communities on Monday, it was observed that in the attack which appeared to be a reprisal and lasted for over an hour, the hoodlums kidnaped 20 other residents, mostly women and children.

The Convener of the Maulud, Malam Abdulaziz Ibrahim, who confirmed the incident in an interview with THISDAY, said 60 children were attending the fest when the terrorists invaded the venue and started shooting sporadically after which, they went from house to

house to abduct some villagers.

He said: "One of the bandits first passed across the Maulud venue and called my name, after I answered him surprisingly, the next thing I heard was twin gunshots arising from different directions. I quickly fell down from my chair and crawled down towards the backyard.

"After the bandits surrounded the venue of the celebration, they fired gunshots at the participants, injuring many and abducted 20 others. After they eventually left the area, we found the corpses of our students lying down in a pool of blood.

"We called for reinforcement from the police and other security forces but before they responded to the distress call, the hoodlums had left into the nearby forest which serves as their hideouts."

Confirming the incident to journalists shortly after visiting the affected communities, the Lawmaker representing Musawa/Matazu Federal Constituency, Hon. Abdullahi Aliyu Ahmed, said 14 persons were killed by the terrorists during the attack.

The lawmaker who described the attack as terrible, said the hoodlums also abducted 20 people, and left 19 others with varying degrees of injuries, calling on the government to end the prevailing security challenges in the state.

Ahmed, who also visited the Federal Teaching Hospital, Katsina, where the injured victims are receiving treatment, donated some cash to them in order to clear some of their hospital bills.

According to him, "13 people

died on the spot and another child died this afternoon (Monday) at the Federal Teaching Hospital, 19 people injured and more than 20 missing. And one person later died in the hospital here."

But the State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu, while confirming the incident, stated that nine persons were shot dead and 18 sustained gunshot injuries as a result of the attack.

Aliyu, in a statement, said: "On November 5, 2023 at about 2230 hours, armed bandits in their numbers, wielding dangerous weapons such as AK-47 rifles and shooting sporadically, attacked the Maulud procession at Rugar Kusa village,

Musawa LGA, Katsina State.

"Upon receipt of the report, immediately, operatives were mobilised and swung into action, where they succeeded in repelling the attack. Seven (7) people were shot dead, and eighteen (18) people sustained gunshot injuries as a result of the attack and were evacuated to General Hospital Musawa for immediate medical attention.

"However, two (2) people out of the injured were confirmed dead by the doctor while receiving treatment. The investigation is still ongoing. Efforts are on with a view to arresting the perpetrators of the dastardly act. Further development will be communicated in due course."

# Akwa Ibom Govt Laments Vandalism of Public Schools, Other Infrastructure

Okon Bassey In Uyo

The Akwa Ibom government has raised the alarm over the rate of vandalism of public schools.

Special Assistant to the Akwa Ibom Governor on Social Orientation, Mr Aniekeme Finbarr, raised the alarm when he took a group of social volunteers around schools in Uyo, the state capital, to show the level of vandalism of public schools in the city.

Finbarr charged community leaders and residents to take ownership of public infrastructure, especially schools.

Among the schools visited were Offot Central School, QIC Primary School, Idoro Road, Uyo and

RCM noted that "no amount of tall fences or mobilisation of the police force will stem this tide."

"It calls for community vigilance and a sense of ownership of all public infrastructure. Initially, it was only doots and windows that were ripped off, but now even roofs are taken off from school," said the governor's aide. "We are taking the message to every nook and cranny. We are using every medium of communication to step up the sensitization. We just have to rise and put a stop to this."

Primary School, West Ilam Two, in Itu LGA.

The aide decried the situation and disclosed that the government would step up awareness campaigns against vandalism and tighten security to

fish out vandals.

"It is a very sad situation we have found ourselves. Almost every public school in the capital city has an infrastructure or more vandalised by hoodlums," said Finbarr. "Who are the perpetrators? I doubt we can say visitors did this. It is our people who have done this. How can we develop with this kind of behaviour? We are saying this behaviour has to stop."

The aide added that Governor Umo Eno was taking steps to tackle vandalism as he "is currently building new model schools and the fear is that the same thing that happened in these schools will be transferred to the expensive model schools that have been built."

# LASU, Other Universities to Compete in Tech Hub Talent Hunt

Kuni Tyessi in Abuja

Students from 11 Nigerian universities, including Lagos State University (LASU) and Covenant University, will showcase their technical prowess at a hackathon scheduled for November 3.

The event tagged DecaHack is organised by Sahara ICP Hub and sponsored by Internet Computer Protocol (ICP) Nigeria. It will kick off at the University of Jos on November 3, with the Federal University of Technology, Minna, following on

November 4.

According to a statement issued on Monday, Christopher Eniayemo, cofounder of the hub, other universities expected institutions are Taya Solarin University of Education (TASUED), Federal University Gusau, Federal University of Technology (FUT Minna), Federal University Lokoja, University of Jos (Unijos), University of Ilorin, Obafemi Awolowo University, (OAU), Kwara State University (KWASU), and Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK).

Eniayemo said DecaHack "is not just another hackathon; it is a testament to the evolving tech ecosystem," noting that Nigerian universities are joining hands to create a platform that fosters innovation, knowledge sharing, and transforming brilliant ideas into tangible projects.

"By collaborating with 10 leading Nigerian universities, they are opening doors to students and developers who are eager to explore the realm of ICP and its possibilities," Eniayemo explained. "The hub aims to harness the power of decentralised computing and blockchain to shape a future where Nigeria can stand tall in the global tech arena."

He stressed that by providing the right guidance and resources, DecaHack "hopes to launch the next generation of tech entrepreneurs who will create job opportunities, stimulate economic growth, and solve real-world problems."

## NEWS



## VICTOR ETUOKWU DESIGNATED UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN @75 AMBASSADOR...

L-R: Group Head, Marketing and Communications, Access Bank plc, Toyin Henry-Ajayi; Deputy Managing Director, Access Bank Plc, Victor Etuokwu; Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Prof. Kayode Adebowale; and Head, Risk Management, Access Bank Plc, Adesoji Olasoko during the formal decoration of Victor Etuokwu as a Designated University of Ibadan @75 Ambassador, held at the Bank's head office in Lagos...recently

### OBİ: S' COURT'S AFFIRMATION OF TINUBU IS BEGINNING OF OUR QUEST FOR BETTER NIGERIA

Party and the Obidient Movement are now effectively in opposition. We are glad that the nation has heard us loud and clear. We shall now expand the confines of our message of hope to the rest of the country.

"We shall meet the people in the places where they feel pain and answer their needs for hope. At marketplaces, motor parks, town halls, board rooms, and university and college campuses, we all carry and deliver the message of a new Nigeria."

As stakeholders and elected Labour Party officials, we shall remain loyal to our manifesto.

"We will continue to canvass for good governance and focus on issues that promote national interest, unity, and cohesion. We will continue to give primacy to our constitution, the rule of law, and the protection of ordered liberties. We will offer the checks and balances required in a functional democracy and vie robustly in forthcoming elections to elect those who share our vision of a new Nigeria."

Obi explained that given the present national circumstances, there was a compelling need for a strong political opposition.

He said, "We shall, therefore, remain in opposition, especially because of the policies and the governance modalities that we in the Labour Party campaigned for, especially reducing the cost of governance, moving the nation from consumption to production, reducing inflation, ending insecurity, promoting the rule of law, guaranteeing the responsibility to protect, and stabilising the Nigerian currency; are clearly not the priorities of the present administration nor is it interested in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

"If there is one thing that has immensely gladdened my heart in the course of the struggle of the past 18 months, it is the passionate desire of our people, especially our young people from across ethnic and religious divides, to construct a new and restructured Nigeria that will work for all Nigerians. That goal remains my guiding light and abiding inspiration."

Obi said, "I take personal pride and express gratitude to those who share our vision; and who have also exhibited rare courage to challenge the nefarious system, the genuineness of individuals' identities and their defining and qualifying particulars up to the highest extent allowed by law."

"Nigeria holds out hope of infinite possibilities leading to our desirable greatness. I remain consistent in my belief in the possibility of a new Nigeria built on character competence, capacity, compassion, integrity, and respect for the rule of law based on justice and fairness."

Fielding questions from reporters, Obi condemned the purchase of SUVs

for members of National Assembly and budgetary provisions for the office of the First Lady, stating that they signify gross acts of irresponsibility and insensitivity in a time of multi-dimensional poverty among Nigerians. He said as president, he would have done things differently, because as governor of Anambra State, all official cars were Peugeot 604.

He condemned the purchase of vehicles for the office of the First Lady, saying the office has no constitutional backing.

#### Presidency to Obi: Stop Casting Aspersion on Supreme Court for Affirming Tinubu's Election

The Presidency responded to Obi in a statement, titled, "Peter Obi Should Find Better Vocation Instead of Casting Aspersion on the Judiciary," by Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Mr. Bayo Onanuga.

In the statement, the presidency advised Obi to stop blaming the apex court and the electoral body for his rejection at the poll by most Nigerians.

While emphasising that judicial pronouncements by justices were based on evidence, precedents and the rule of law, the presidency accused Obi of running a divisive, polarising and hateful presidential campaign.

It alleged that Obi was said to have failed woefully as two-time governor of Anambra State, claiming that he was rejected by most Nigerian voters at the polls for being a threat to the nation's peace, progress and stability.

The presidency, in the release, stated, "We are at a loss as to how the copy-cat Obi and his faction of Labour Party convinced themselves they won an election in which they came a distant third."

"The grand delusion that made Mr. Obi believe he could have won a national election where he ran the most hateful, divisive and polarising campaign that pitched Christians against Muslims and one ethnic group against the other in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society like Nigeria should be a matter for deeper examination."

"At the press conference where he tried, in vain, to gaslight Nigerians with false claims and innuendos, Mr. Obi contradicted himself. Here was a beneficiary of judicial pronouncements in the past now castigating the same court because its judgment did not go his way."

"Mr. Obi claimed the Supreme Court justices didn't consider public opinion in delivering what has been applauded as a most profound judgement in an election appeal where the Labour Party candidate presented the most watery and unreasonable petition before any court in the history of electoral cases in Nigeria."

"He made false allegations of rigging and other electoral malpractices yet could not produce any evidence to back up his claims at both the court of first instance and at the apex court. In a failed effort to mobilise and retain the support of his supporters, Obi gave them a forlorn hope that he won the election and would prove it before the courts. Throughout the trial, his lawyers didn't present any alternative results different from the results INEC uploaded on the IReV portal and the ones signed by all party agents from the 176,000 polling units."

The statement added, "We wonder how the Labour Party candidate expected the courts to do justice on the basis of rumours, lies and false narratives by sponsored partisans and fanatical members of his Obidient Movement."

"We expected the Labour Party candidate to know that the Supreme Court or any other court does not give judgment based on public opinion and mob sentiments. Judicial pronouncements are based on evidence, precedents and the rule of law."

"Having admitted that the Supreme Court ruling brought an end to litigation and any challenge to the

bona-fide of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the validly elected leader of Nigeria and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Obi should have congratulated President Tinubu for his victory and pledge his support, in the spirit of statesmanship."

"But instead, he brought up extraneous matters that he thought the apex court should have considered to declare him the winner. In our view, the drowning Obi, just like Atiku, was merely attempting to hold on to a straw in raking up new allegations, which exist only in his imagination and that of his hordes of supporters."

"Our admonition to Mr. Peter Obi is to find another worthwhile vocation to engage his time henceforth, having been rejected by majority of Nigerians who didn't consider him qualified to lead our country."

"Nigerians rejected Peter Obi and his demagoguery at the poll because he posed present and future danger to the peace, progress and stability of our country."

According to the presidency, "Obi's antecedents as Governor of Anambra for eight years didn't inspire any confidence as someone capable of running a country like Nigeria. No tangible records of achievement in

the state he governed recommended him for the Presidency of Nigeria."

"If Mr. Peter Obi truly believes in Nigeria, the time to prove it is now when all men and women of goodwill are rallying support for President Tinubu in his determination to lead a new era of prosperity, inclusive governance and economic growth in Nigeria."

"Finally, we welcome Obi and his party to play the role of the opposition and start preparing for another shot at the presidency in 2027."

"We hope by then he would campaign on issues and not whip up religious and ethnic sentiments as he did in the last campaign."

#### APC to Obi: Court Cases Are Not Won On Public Opinion

APC said Obi's inability to distinguish between his distorted version of public opinion and reality had been his greatest undoing throughout the electioneering season. It said court cases were not won on public opinion, but on evidence and the law.

National Publicity Secretary of APC, Felix Morka, in a statement issued yesterday, described Obi's reaction to the judgement of the

Supreme Court, which dismissed his appeal against Tinubu, as belated and grouchy.

The ruling party said it welcomed Obi's decision to engage in opposition politics going forward, even as it urged him and his party to do so maturely and constructively.

The APC spokesperson said Obi at his press conference again blamed the country's democratic institutions, particularly the courts, for not awarding him victory - not because he won the election, not because he proved his case in court as required by law but because he was Obi.

Morka stated, "Mr. Obi's gross inability to distinguish between his warped version of public opinion and reality has been his greatest undoing throughout the electioneering season."

"That haughty sense of entitlement seems to pervade his vitriolic attack on our institutions."

"Taken by the mass hysteria of his vociferous netizens and fringe supporters, Mr. Obi ensconced himself in alternate reality, a parallel political universe of self-delusion."

"As someone who has previously benefited from the rulings of the Supreme Court on electoral matters, Obi's acerbic attack on the judiciary only belies his arrogance and vainness."

### \$5BN TRAIN-7 NLNG PROJECT REACHES 52% COMPLETION LEVEL

sector. He said investment worth about \$7.6 billion was needed to ramp up the nation's oil production to its former 2.1 million barrels per day in the next two years.

Avuru, along with his fellow industry players and petroleum explorationists, also highlighted the need for the federal government and the regulators to marshal out strategies and interventions aimed at rescuing the oil and gas industry, which had been on the downward trend for many years.

They spoke yesterday in Lagos at a pre-conference workshop heralding the 41st Annual International Conference and Exhibition of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE), scheduled to hold November 12-16 in Lagos.

The topic of the pre-conference workshop was, "Unlocking Nigeria's Remaining Energy Potentials to Fuel Economic Growth and Diversification: Opportunities and Challenges."

The AA Holdings' chairman, who presented the keynote address at the event, said with the projected oil demand decline after 2035, driven by energy transition, there was urgent need for Nigeria to come up with action plans that would enable it to quickly unlock and utilise its huge hydrocarbon resources still left on the ground.

He warned that if investments into exploration and production were not accelerated immediately, Nigeria and Venezuela might become the only two countries leaving their oil

and gas resources untapped in the next 30 years and beyond.

Avuru stated, "At a time, when our industry should be producing 3-4 million barrels per day, unfortunately, we are producing just about 1.3 million barrels."

"So, we will need about two years to be able to come back to 2.1 million barrels a day. We will need another two years to take production to 3 million barrels a day by 2027."

He added, "So, to arrest natural decline and add 800,000 barrels per day over two years will require 426 wells plus 320 developed. We will require \$7.6 billion in well lost alone and 45 rigs on duty."

He maintained that in the next 30 years, Nigeria and the rest of the world would witness energy supply and demand reduction, adding that by then, natural gas would support a shift from coal.

In addition, Avuru projected that beyond 2035, there would be a combination of reduction in upstream investments and tightening of non-OPEC production would result in a supply tightening with reducing demand.

He said the government must efficiently manage the divestments by the IOCs as well as the transition of operatorship from the multinationals to Nigerian indigenous companies in order to optimise the resources still left in the ground.

He observed that the IOCs were divesting from Nigeria's mature

assets to other provinces based on strategic business decision and not because they were being forced to leave the country.

Avuru forecasted that with the gale of divestments, TotalEnergies would be the only IOC still operating in Nigeria by December 2035.

The former Chief Executive Officer of Seplat and Platform Petroleum expressed concern over the lack of effective management and regulation of the Nigerian oil and gas industry by the government and its agencies.

He lamented the "operatorship vacuum" in the upstream sector caused by the inability of the ministers, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) and the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) to midwife the takeover and optimisation of assets divested by the IOCs.

In his intervention during a panel session at the workshop, Director, Geo-Concept Technical Limited, Mr. George Osahon, stated that the poor state of the Nigerian oil and gas industry was caused by a plethora of challenges. Osahon listed the challenges to include insecurity, particularly oil theft and pipeline vandalism; and evacuation constraints, which had forced producers to resort to barging of crude owing to the unavailability of major crude oil pipelines. He also mentioned the issue of delay in licensing rounds

and lack of exploration spend as well as lack of gas infrastructure to facilitate the commercialisation of gas.

To change the ugly narrative, he called for the rejigging of the National Energy Policy in line with current realities. He also suggested that the "moribund 2018 Energy Policy be cleaned out and updated with specific targets and implementation timelines."

On his part, General Manager, Gas Business, Seplat Energy, Mr. James Makinde, opined that the main problem of Nigerian oil and gas industry was not lack of policy but implementation. Makinde said lack of gas pipeline infrastructure had remained a hindrance in Nigeria's quest to accelerate gas production for domestic use and export.

He noted that even the current regulated domestic gas pricing regime was not encouraging investment in the gas space.

Expressing worry over the inter-agency rivalries in the sector, Makinde called for the streamlining of the roles of NUPRC and the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), saying their frequent quarrels is affecting operators' operations.

According to Makinde, "Even the presidential letters have not been able to solve the conflict between the regulators. The quarrels still persist and it impacts on our operations."

## NEWS

**WELL DESERVED AWARD...**

L-R: Associate, Debt Solutions, FBNQuest Merchant Bank, Mr. Adebayo Awotunde; Managing Director/CEO, Zenith Bank, Ghana, Mr. Akindele Ogunranti, and Head, Debt Solution, FBNQuest Merchant Bank, Mr. Tonna Ejifor, receiving the 'Infrastructure and Project Finance House of the Year' for FBNQuest Merchant Bank, at the Banks and other financial Institutions (BAFI) Awards ceremony organised by BusinessDay...recently ETOPIKUTTI

# Police to Deploy 40,000 Personnel for Kogi Guber Poll

The police command in Kogi yesterday said over 40,000 policemen would be deployed across the state to ensure peaceful conduct of the November 11 governorship election.

The state Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr. Bethrand Onuoha, stated in a telephone interview

with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lokoja yesterday.

Onuoha said that the planned deployment of large number of personnel was due the past experiences in the state.

"As it is, we have marked out some security flash points for more vigilance even though

recent happenings signaled to us that the whole Kogi is a flashpoint.

"From the number of security personnel we are deploying

for this election, it's an enough testimony to tell you that the state needs more security checks.

"With the presence of adequate security personnel in Kogi, we

are calling on everybody to come out and exercise his or her civic right in this forthcoming Nov 11 governorship election.

"We are going to swam the

state with enough security personnel and by the special grace of God, with our actions and sanctions, we are going to confound our detractors," he said.

## Edo PDP Chieftains Decry Internal Wrangling, Defect to APC

Adibe Emenyonu in Benin City

Former Minister of Works Mike Onolememe and ex-Director-General for Obaseki/Shaiibu Edo 2020 Governorship Campaign Gideon Ikhine have disclosed the reason for defecting from PDP to APC ahead of the 2024 governorship election.

The two former PDP chieftains, also governorship aspirants, bared their minds at Uromi, headquarters of Esan Central LGA, when the Edo Central leadership of APC received them, saying their former party was in disarray.

According to Onolememe, they must move with the current political realities in the country, that APC is now the ruling party and that there is a need to support the Senate president, who is from the South-South

and the leader of the party in Edo Sen. Adams Oshiomhole.

"We have come into an unusual time and that was why we started talking to each other that things are no longer the way they used to be. What that meant is that it's about time for us to move out and look for a better place for our people," stated Onolememe. "Whether you like it or not, national politics has changed."

Onolememe added, "There is no point deceiving oneself. We know there is a new era, and we need to align with the reigning party, the APC. If we want progress in this senatorial district, we need to re-order our steps. That is why I have met with my people several times and told them to get ready. It is time we move en masse to the APC."

## EFCC Tasks Heads of Tertiary Institutions on Tackling Internet Fraud

Hammed Shittu in Ilorin

The Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mr. Ola Olukoyede, has called on heads of tertiary institutions across the country to join hands with the commission in

tackling the rising tide of internet fraud among students of tertiary institutions.

Olukoyede made the call in Ilorin, the Kwara State capital, yesterday during an interactive session with Chancellors, Rectors, and Provosts of tertiary institutions

in Kogi State at the Ilorin Zonal Command Office in Ilorin.

Represented by Ilorin Zonal Commander of EFCC, Mr. Michael Nzekwe, at the event, Olukoyede said the engagement was in furtherance of their meeting earlier held on May 4 in Kwara

State as part of the proactive measures by the Command to checkmate cybercrime in the state.

The EFCC boss called on authorities of tertiary institutions to put in place measures that would discourage students from indulging in crimes.

## Seventh-Day Adventist Church Boss Calls for Religious Liberty for Sabbath Keepers

Funmi Ogundare

The General Conference President, Seventh-Day Adventists Church, Dr. Ted Wilson, has called on governments in Nigeria to provide the opportunity for freedom of conscience and religious liberty

that will enable people, especially Sabbath keepers, carry out their beliefs and convictions accordingly.

Wilson, who made this call during his visit to Babcock University, Ilesha-Remo, Ogun State, after he had inaugurated some landmark projects, explained

that the government should consider alternative arrangements and accommodation for Sabbath keepers so that they can be part of public engagements like elections, examinations, community works, among others.

"Interestingly, we have

met with two governors; the Governor of Abia and Akwa Ibom States. We have specifically asked that those governors and their legislators should consider alternative arrangements and accommodations for Sabbath keepers."

## Nigerian Navy Arrests Eight Stowaways Onboard Abidjan-bound Cargo Vessel

Chiemelie Ezeobi

Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS) BEECROFT has arrested eight stowaways onboard a cargo vessel NATAL, which was heading to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, last Friday. The arrest was made after a

similar mop-up of 11 Nigerians from the tanker Gwangzhou Highway Panama, en route to Ghana.

On how the stowaways were intercepted, the Commander of NNS BEECROFT, Commodore Kolawole Oguntuga, said: "At approximately 0840 hours on

Friday, November 3, 2023, the patrol team, acting on reliable intelligence, boarded the vessel at Lagos Anchorage and apprehended eight stowaways attempting to illegally exit the country through the vessel.

"The brave efforts and timely

intervention of the patrol team prevented the individuals from being exposed to life-threatening situations in such confined compartments for the long voyage, as well as other security threats associated with unauthorised access to such facilities."

## Neveah Limited Redeems N2.04bn Commercial Paper

Kasim Sumaina in Abuja

Neveah Limited, a leading commodity trading company has announced the redemption of its obligation of the N2.04 billion Series 13 commercial paper notes issued in July 2023.

The Chief Executive Officer of Neveah, Mr. Ibadapo Lawal, stated that the objective of the company is to be the foremost export company for solid minerals and agricultural products in Nigeria, stressing that this issuance would assist in achieving that objective.

"This issuance will assist us in meeting our working capital requirements and further strengthening our capacity to realize our objectives. We extend our appreciation to all the parties involved in making this a success," Lawal said.

According to him, the company has recorded significant transformation since incorporation in 2014 with revenue soaring by 445 per cent between 2019 and

third quarter of 2023.

The growth, Lawal added has also seen to the expansion of Neveah's offerings from a small commodity trading operation to a full-fledged food and agribusiness encompassing semi-finished and consumer goods, commodities trading as well as logistics.

This exceptional growth the company explained, facilitated the successful registration of a N20 billion Commercial Paper Programme in April 2023, shortly after which the company raised N2.04 billion via its Series 13 Commercial Paper Issuance to meet working capital requirements.

Meanwhile, the Managing Director, Investment Banking at United Capital Plc, Dr. Gbadebo Adenrele said "United Capital Plc was excited to have taken on the role of Lead Arranger in supporting Neveah Limited throughout its successful capital-raise and the settlement of N2.04 billion.

## Group Condemns Northern Group's Food Supply Threat to South

Folalumi Alaran in Abuja

A socio-cultural organisation, Middle Belt Patriots, has strongly condemned recent threats by the Northern Consensus Movement, which vowed to stop the supply of food stuffs to the southern part of the country.

This information was conveyed through a statement issued by the organisation's Secretary, Patrick Anum, last Sunday in Makurdi, the capital of Benue State.

Anum in his statement emphasised that the Middle Belt is distinct from northern Nigeria, and disassociated itself from the

reckless statements made by the Northern Consensus Movement.

He pointed out that the Middle Belt territories were included in the proposed conflict with their host communities in Yoruba land without consultation, and the historical differences between the two groups run deep. The

Northern Consensus Movement's decision to halt the supply of food from the North to the South was a reaction to statements attributed to the Yoruba Nation agitator, Sunday Adeyemo, popularly known as Sunday Igboho, who called for violent Fulanis to vacate Yoruba land within 10 days.

## Appeal Court Verdict: Abia PDP Warns Labour Party against Crisis

Emmanuel Ugwu-Nwogo in Umuahia

The Peoples Democratic Party in Abia State has raised the alarm over the potential breakdown of law and order following the Labour Party (LP)'s rejection of the Appeal Court judgment sacking Senator Darlington Nwokocha.

The Appeal Court is the final court in the adjudication of petitions arising from the National Assembly and State Assembly elections.

On October 4, 2023, the Appeal Court in Lagos voided the victory of Nwokocha, who was the candidate of LP in the February 25 National Assembly poll for Abia Central senatorial district. In the verdict of

the three-man appeal panel, the candidate of the PDP, Col. Austin Akobundu (rtd), was returned as the authentic winner to represent Abia Central in the 10th National Assembly. But while celebrating the triumph of its candidate, the state PDP said it was worried at the "dangerous" posturing of the LP leadership in the state hence the

need for security agencies to be ready to nip in the bud any threat to peace and security.

The PDP expressed its apprehension weekend in a statement issued by its Vice Chairman/acting State Publicity Secretary, Hon. Abraham Amah, citing documents and utterances allegedly emanating from the LP camp.

## Israeli Envoy Accuses Hamas of Using Civilians as Human Shields

Michael Olugbode in Abuja

The Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria, Michael Freeman, says Hamas is using civilians in Gaza as human shields, disregarding the welfare of the Palestinian population.

"Israel looks to limit civilian deaths, Hamas wants to maximize civilian

deaths - it is why they put their command-and-control centres under hospitals, and fire their rockets from next to schools, mosques and playgrounds," said the Israeli diplomat in a statement. "The sooner that Hamas is vanquished, the sooner there can be a better life for Israelis and Palestinians alike."

Israel also accused Hamas of using hospitals, medical facilities, and children's playgrounds as terror bases in the Gaza Strip in a clear breach of international law.

Its defence spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, provided video footage showing Hamas gunmen emerging from a tunnel under Sheikh Hamad

Hospital, as well as firing at Israeli forces from within the building itself.

In addition, Hagari presented a video showing an underground entrance from Sheikh Hamad Hospital, which he said connected to Hamas tunnel networks believed to run for hundreds of kilometres under the Gaza Strip.

## NEWS XTRA

**NAFDAC VISITS COLEXA BIOSENSOR...**

L-R: Director, Drug Registration and Regulatory Affairs, National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration (NAFDAC), Mrs. Uche Sonny-Afoekelu; Chairman, Colexa Biosensor Limited, Mr. Samson Ogunjimi; Director General, NAFDAC, Prof. Mojisola Adeyeye; Vice Chairman, Colexa Biosensor Limited, Mr. Lekan Asuni, and Director, Drug Evaluation and Research, NAFDAC, Mr. Kayode Amuda, during a tour of Colexa Biosensor factory in Lagos... recently

**PDP Asks INEC to Remove Alleged Pro-APC Sylvia Agu as Imo REC**

Chuks Okocha in Abuja

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has again charged the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, to immediately redeploy the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) in Imo, Prof. Sylvia Agu, for alleged compromise to manipulate the

November 11 governorship election in favour of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

In a statement by its spokesman, Debo Ologunagba, PDP said, "The PDP urges the INEC chairman to take a cue from the inspector general of police who redeployed the commissioners of police in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi states in response to the outcry and

demands of the people for neutrality in the November 11, 2023 governorship election in these states.

It urged Yakubu to "forestall an impending crisis in the Imo state election by heeding the insistent

outcry, petitions and protests by the people of Imo state, political parties, civil society organisations, as well as Ohaneze Youth Council for the removal of the Prof. Sylvia Agu who has been allegedly compromised by the APC."

The opposition party claimed that the people of Imo would not accept any electoral process presided over by Agu for allegedly manipulating the outcome of the 2023 National and House of Assembly elections in Imo to

favour APC.

The PDP stressed that the redeployment of Agu "is, therefore, the only way to restore confidence in the electoral process, guarantee a credible election and avert crisis" in Imo.

**Terrorists Strike in Niger Community, Burn Military Trucks**

Laleye Dipoin Minna

A group of terrorists last Sunday attacked Allawa town in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State, where they reportedly burnt down two military trucks and two trailers loaded with food items.

THISDAY learnt that the whereabouts of the soldiers in the military truck is still unknown

It was gathered that not less than two villagers, one of them described as Dantala Gyari, were killed while one Mamman Gambo sustained serious gunshot injuries during the invasion of the community by the terrorists who struck on the village

market day.

They were said to have arrived in the community in large numbers and first attacked the military post during which they burnt down the trucks thereby demobilising the security men after which they stormed the village market square where they burnt down the trucks and some motorcycles.

It was, however, learnt that the security operatives in the state capital have sent reinforcement to the community to dislodge the terrorists.

The District Head of Allawa, Alhaji Ibrahim Allawa, when contacted, confirmed the story, describing the incident as a sad day for them.

**AbdulRazaq Vows to Maintain Collaboration with Security Agencies, Stakeholders**

Hammed Shittu in Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, Alhaji AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, yesterday said his administration would not relent in its collaboration with security agencies and other critical stakeholders to ensure a secure

and safe society.

AbdulRazaq stated this in Ilorin yesterday while receiving a delegation of Course 32 of the National Defence College Abuja on a week-long study tour to the state.

He said the state has been enjoying relative peace and

security due to existing strong synergy among the government, security agencies, traditional rulers and other critical stakeholders.

Represented at the event by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Prof. Mamman Saba Jibril, AbdulRazaq said the theme for this year's study tour is apt and

is coming at a better time, noting that all hands must be on deck to strengthen unity for a secured society, and achieve desired development.

AbdulRazaq commended members of the armed forces and other security agencies for their selfless services to the country.

**Expert Blames Government for Building Collapse, Setback in Sector**

Blessing Ibunge in Port-Harcourt

A housing and estate investor, My-Ace China, has blamed the government for the incessant building collapse across the country.

China, popularly known as Mayor of Housing, said the gap between real estate investors and

government agencies has caused serious damage to structural development in the country.

The real estate expert, who spoke yesterday during a motivational programme he organised for the youths in Port Harcourt, noted that many persons have lost their lives as a result of quack building constructions

approved by government agencies.

China also noted the lacuna between practitioners and government agencies, which has made them (government and practitioners), appears as if they are rivals, instead of partners in advancing the development of the sector.

He said: "On problems found

in the real estate sector, I can say it is the lacuna between practitioners and the government agencies. Look at Lagos; they are bringing down some buildings. "Guess what? Institutions of government approved these buildings, inspected them, and collected levies from them, but they now demolishing them.

**Bayelsa Poll: IG Warns Perpetrators of Violence**

Olusegun Samuel in Yenagoa

The Inspector-General of Police (IG), Mr. Kayode, Egbetokun, yesterday read the riot act to perpetrators of electoral violence to steer clear of Saturday's governorship election in Bayelsa State.

The police boss, who gave the warning during a courtesy visit to the Government House, Yenagoa, said the force and other security agencies were fully ready and duty-bound to

ensure free and fair poll in the state, and that troublemakers would be made to face the full weight of the law.

He explained that his visit was in respect of the election, and stated that the police are neutral.

While calling on Bayelsans to have confidence in the police, he emphasised that the increased deployment of its personnel in the state was in order to forestall any violence during the poll.

**Oyebanji Restates Call on FG to Immortalise Col Adekunle Fajuyi**

Gbenga Sodeinde in Ado-Ekiti

Ekiti State Governor, Mr. Biodun Oyebanji, last Sunday called on the federal government to immortalise a former Military Governor of Old Western Nigeria, the Late Lt Col. Adekunle Fajuyi, for his exceptional courageous and selfless act, and

for paying the supreme sacrifice for the unity of the country.

Governor Oyebanji made the call at the Muson Centre in Lagos last Sunday evening during a command performance of Fajuyi For Nigeria, a stage play re-enacting the heroic deed of the late military governor.

The governor, who had earlier made the call during a similar performance of the play in Ado-Ekiti last month as part of activities marking his first year in office, said the heroic deed of the late Col Fajuyi is an enduring legacy of patriotism, heroism, and sacrifice that should be celebrated

by all Nigerians.

Oyebanji said a federal government's honour and recognition for the late hero would serve as a symbol of unity to inspire future generations, adding that Fajuyi's name deserves to be etched in the annals of Nigerian history.

**FG, Enugu Partner to Make Sports Profitable Venture**

The Federal and Enugu State Governments have expressed the desire to partner towards developing the sports sector in order to create jobs, grow the economy and tackle insecurity.

The Minister of Sports, Sen. John Enoch, and state Governor,

Mr. Peter Mbah, disclosed this during the minister's courtesy visit to the Government House, Enugu, yesterday.

The minister said that the federal government was interested in collaborating with the state to make sports

a profitable business.

He commended Mbah for his commitment to develop the sports sector in the state through his innovative and comprehensive upgrade and rebranding of sporting facilities in the state.

According to him, sports is a five trillion dollars industry that has the capacity to inspire and change the world. "It has the power to give hope when there is despair. "Sports speaks to the youths in the language they understand.

**Benue, FG Collaborate to Resettle IDPs**

George Okoh in Makurdi

Benue State Government in collaboration with the federal government has put in place modalities towards constructing resettlement homes for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to enable them return back to their ancestral homes.

The State Governor, Rev Fr Hyacinth Alia, who disclosed this at the Tiv Area Traditional Council meeting held in Gboko, posited that the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management

in the state was working with the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to provide decent accommodation, security, healthcare facilities and education for the victims.

Governor Alia, who spoke through the state Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Mr. Aondowase Kunde, further explained that he engaged the military authorities to establish military base in the senatorial districts in the state to improve internal security.

**Palliative: Makinde to Pay Oyo Workers 25,000, Pensioners N15,000 for Six Months**

Kemi Olaitan in Ibadan

Governor Seyi Makinde has approved the payment of N25,000 and N15,000 to workers and pensioners in Oyo, respectively, for the next six months.

Makinde noted, however, that the

Oyo workforce and the people would have to work with his government to develop the state's economy for the long term, as, according to him, once there is economic prosperity in the state, everyone would be touched.

The governor stated this while

addressing the workers at the frontage of the Governor's Office, Secretariat, Agodi, Ibadan, during a solidarity rally, according to a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Sulaimon Olanrewaju, on Monday.

Makinde maintained that

his administration would pay wage awards of N25,000 and N15,000, respectively, for workers and pensioners for October and subsequently for another five months until an agreement on a new minimum wage.

**Soldiers Rescue Woman Who Plunged into Lagos Lagoon**

Kingsley Nwezeh in Abuja

Troops of the Nigerian Army operating under 81 Division last weekend prevented a suicide attempt by one Mrs. Francesca Spark, who plunged into the Lagos

Lagoon around the 81 Division Officers' Mess, Marina, Lagos, in an attempt to take her own life.

The troops of 65 Battalion deployed at the Officers' Mess, who sighted Spark quickly rushed to the scene to rescue her.

A statement signed by the acting Deputy Director of Army Public Relations, 81 Division Nigerian Army, Lt Col Olabisi Ayeni, said the personnel deployed "their military riverine skills and ingenuity to rescue her.

"She was given first aid and stabilised by the battalion medical team. After stabilisation, the family was contacted and she was handed over to her husband, Mr. Spark Oghene Ovie, residing at Awoyaya, Lagos.

# Osimhen, Neymar, Others in FIFA Cast of U17 Graduates

Femi Solaja with agency report

Super Eagles forward, Victor Osimhen, and 15 other football stars were selected by world football

governing body, FIFA, from the list of graduates of its Under-17 World Cup tournaments in the last two decades in a special publication on its website yesterday.

Osimhen (2015) was joined by the likes of Gianluigi Buffon (1991), Ronaldinho (1997), Cesc Fabregas (2003), Neymar (2009), Mario Gotze (2009), Casemiro (2009), Toni Kroos

(2007), Heung-min Son (2009), Alisson Becker (2009), Marc-Andre ter Stegen (2009), Marquinhos (2011), Trent Alexander-Arnold (2015), Phil Foden (2017), Aurelian Tchouameni (2017)

and Pedri (2019) in this special cadet stars hall of fame.

Interestingly, the bulk of the stars with fairytale career runs were those who participated in the 2009 edition hosted by Nigeria but Golden Eagles failed to win it as host, beaten 1-0 by Switzerland in the final in Abuja.

The U-17 global finals served as platforms for these former starlets enroute to enjoying storied careers at the very top of the game.

In its selection, FIFA takes a look at a selection of current superstars who took their first steps on the world stage at the prestigious tournament.

In the case of Nigeria forward, FIFA recalled that Osimhen notched a record-setting 10 goals in 2015 as Nigeria romped to an unmatched fifth crown in Chile. He would enjoy stints with Wolfsburg, Charleroi and Lille, before helping Napoli to a historic league title as the division's top scorer in 2023.

Aside that FIFA also noted that in 2022/23, Osimhen's 26 goals cast into achieve Samuel Eto'o's record of goals by an African player in a single Serie A season. The Nigerian also surpassed George Weah's feat as the highest-scoring African to play in the division.

Brazil's forward, Neymar Jr, who hit his mark at the 2009 edition hosted in Nigeria, netted the first of his A Seleção goals during the

competition. He couldn't prevent a first U-17 group-stage exit in more than 20 years for Brazil. He has since gone on to play for Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain, while winning an Olympic gold medal.

A petition to get Neymar in Brazil's squad for the 2010 World Cup received some 14,000 signatures, but coach Dunga decided against picking the teenage sensation.

Elsewhere at the 2009 edition, Mario Gotze netted three times, but was unable to prevent a last-16 exit for Germany to eventual champions Switzerland. He would make his Bundesliga debut shortly after returning from the tournament and the rest, as they say, is history.

Gotze would go on to score the winning goal in the 2014 World Cup final as a substitute – the first player to ever do so – while becoming the youngest showpiece scorer since Wolfgang Weber in 1966.

Completing a trio of A Seleção stars from the 2009 tournament is midfielder enforcer, Casemiro, who featured in two of Brazil's three group-stage games. He went on to enjoy a legendary spell with Real Madrid, winning five UEFA Champions League and three FIFA Club World Cups in the process, before moving to Manchester United.

\*Continued online @www.thisdaylive.com



L-R: President, Kaduna Polo Club, Mohammed Babangida; Tournament Manager, Atiku Abubakar Saleeh; Group Executive, Retail Banking (FirstBank)North, Shehu Aliyu; Emir of Katsina, Abdulmumini Kabir Usman, Governor of Katsina State, Dr. Umar Dikko Radda; in group photograph with the winning team of the FirstBank Sponsored Georgia Cup; Kangimi...at the weekend

## NPFL: Junior Lokosa Hits Brace as Sporting Lagos Crush Kano Pillars

●NFF's hammer falls on 14 referees over poor conducts

Duro Ikhazuagbe

Former Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) top scorer, Junior Lokosa, scored a brace as Sporting Lagos hammered Kano Pillars the 3-0 at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan, Lagos.

Lokosa hit targets in the 12th and 36th minutes against his former club to take his tally for the current season to three goals for Paul Ofori's side. Jonathan Alukwu scored the other goal for Sporting Lagos to take all three points.

Elsewhere inside the Samson Siasia Stadium in Yenagoa, Lobi Stars snatched the top spot of the NPFL from Enugu Rangers after a sweet 2-1 away win against Bayelsa United.

Samuel Tiza gave Lobi the lead a minute before the half hour mark. Bayelsa however fought back with Robert Mizo netting the equaliser three minutes before the break.

The goal was Mizo's sixth goal of the campaign.

But Tiza returned to break the hearts of the home fans when he

struck in the 67th minute to win all three points for Lobi.

The win takes Lobi Stars to the summit of the NPFL on 14 points from seven games, one more than Rangers.

Bayelsa United remain rooted to the bottom 19th spot with six points from seven games.

Meanwhile, due to their poor performances in recent matches in the NPFL, the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) refereeing department has suspended 14 referees.

In the last few years, Nigerian

referees have been missing in action at most continental tournaments owing to poor performance and lack of adequate training.

The refereeing department released a statement yesterday, indicting the officials and confirming their preliminary suspensions.

One referee from Match-day 2; another from Match-day 4; two officials from Match-day 5; and two from Match-day 6; and one from Match-day 7; were all suspended from further officiating topflight matches.

The committee is to review the full videos of the matches involved and provide proper evaluation of the performance of the referees for further considerations if they are fit and proper to handle NPFL games.

## Pitch Awards to Celebrate One Decade with Glitz, Aplomb

The organisers of Nigeria's longest-running football awards brand, Nigeria Pitch Awards, have commenced in earnest, preparations for the hosting of the 10th edition of the awards.

The Awards which made its debut in 2013 in Calabar, capital of Cross River State, has honoured hundreds of Nigerian footballers across 16 categories in the last decade.

President of Nigeria Pitch Awards, Mr. Shina Philips, stated in Abuja on Monday that the Nigeria Pitch Awards had been consistent as a platform for recognising and rewarding talent, industry and patriotism among footballers and other officials.

"The awards platform has created opportunities for footballers, football administrators, managers/coaches, referees, journalists and other critical

stakeholders to get recognition and honour for their talent, hardwork and commitment to the development of the beautiful game.

"Since the maiden edition in 2013, we have given out over 170 awards to deserving players and officials at award ceremonies held in Calabar, Kaduna, Uyo, Port Harcourt, Asaba, Lagos and Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory."

Philips enthused about the diligence and sincerity that have imbued the Pitch Awards with its good name over the past 10 years: "We have laid down a voting system founded on our core principles of integrity, transparency and honesty. Despite the dearth of sponsors, we have continued to weather the storm in order to sustain our commitment

to the ideals and principles behind the awards."

The Nigeria Pitch Awards is an annual event which rewards the nation's best goalkeeper, defender, midfielder, forward, manager and Nigeria's overall best men and women footballers. Other categories include the State with the Best Grassroots Football Development Programme, Football-Friendly Governor, Sam Okwaraji Award for Commitment to Nigeria Football, Corporate Sponsor of Football Award and Football Journalist of the Year Awards for the best Print, TV, Radio and Online journalists.

Activities for the 10th edition of the Awards will kick off with a media party on Monday, 13th November and Wednesday, 6th December in Lagos and Abuja respectively.

## Kangimi Beats El-Amin, Lifts FirstBank Georgian Cup

Kaduna Kangimi returns to winning ways in on Sunday, winning the 103rd edition of the annual FirstBank sponsored Georgian Cup at the Kaduna Polo Tournament. The victory came 10 years after the team last won the famous trophy.

Kangimi defeated Mohammed Babangida's El-Amin by 13-7 to finish tops in the fiercely contested six-chukker encounter.

The Adamu Atta side recovered from an early setback, courtesy of a goal from Mohammed Babangida's El Amin to send polo aficionados into wild jubulations.

The +18goal team comprising of Lado Aliyu +3, (who replaced the teams Patron, Atta), Abdulrahman Mohammed +3 and two top players from Argentina; Facundo Ratamar +6 and Nicolas Recaito +6, took control of the match despite the early setback to overcome El-Amin, who similarly lost in the

finals of the last edition to Abuja Rubicon.

Goals from Recaito, Lado, Retamar and Abdulrahman aided Kangimi's victory.

But El-Amin side, comprising of Mohammed Babangida+3, Ibrahim Babangida, Ringa Genaro, Bauste Arastus fought back in the fourth chukker but their effort came to nothing in the face of the hard-fighting Kangimi.

Speaking shortly after prize presentation, star player of the match, Policeman Lado Aliyu, described his team's victory as a welcome development, stressing that "it's been over 10 years that we last won this famous FirstBank sponsored trophy."

Also speaking, FirstBank's Group Executive, Retail Banking, North; Shehu Aliyu said FirstBank brand is proud to associate with the Georgian Cup.

## 1XBET Cup: Panthers, Soccer Talents Set the Pace at Campos Mini Stadium

The Lagos Island Conference of the maiden 1XBET Community Grassroots Tournament began yesterday at the Campos Mini Stadium on Lagos Island with matches in Groups A and B.

In the opening game of Group A, Golden Stars FC and Ultimate FC played out a 1-1 draw with Kareem Osman of Ultimate FC scoring in the 42nd minute of the game. The response by Golden Stars FC was immediate as Ahmed Shakiru netted the equaliser in the 43rd minute.

The second game of the group, between Ikoyi Dolphins versus Panthers FC, was more keenly contested as Panthers FC hit the top gear in the 9th minute through Felix Agoro. In the 22nd minute of the interesting encounter, Usman Ele levelled scores 1-1. Panthers eventually secured the winning and of course, the maximum points

through the strike by Sunny Oforime in the 48th minute.

Elsewhere in Group B, Gallant FC and Young Strikers FC cancelled themselves out in a 1-1 draw result. Both teams started on a cautions note with Akoma Henry however giving Gallant FC the lead in the 11th minute of the first half. Young Strikers took control of proceedings in the second stanza and asked questions of their opponents severally.

And when it looked like they have lost it, a 90th minute free-kick save their blushes as both teams shared the spoils.

In the last game of the opening day of the Lagos Island Conference, Island United lost 2-3 to Soccer Talent FC.

Wasiu Eshinlokun opened the scores in the 4th minute, finishing a sweet move to give Soccer Talent the lead.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
(Today)	
Atletico	v Celtic
Lazio	v Feyenoord
Dortmund	v Newcastle
AC Milan	v PSG
C'Zvezda	v RB Leipzig
Man City	v Young Boys
Shakhtar	v Barcelona
FC Porto	v R'Antwerp
NPFL	
Sporting	3-0 K'Pillars
Bayelsa	1-2 Lobi Stars

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## MISSILE

### Tukur Buratai to Politicians

**"The insecurity being faced in the country since 2009 was the creation of the political class. With a strong political will, it can be surmounted. Politicians often make lofty promises during election campaigns but fail to deliver once in power. The lack of accountability erodes public confidence and perpetuates the perception that politicians are more interested in the people."** —Former Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai, berating the political class for the insecurity in the country.

## TUESDAY WITH REUBEN ABATI

abati1990@gmail.com



# Tinubu And The Supplementary Budget: Matters Arising

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu recently proposed to the National Assembly a N2.18 trillion supplementary budget - the details of which have generated much interest in the public domain, especially those aspects of the supplementary budget relating to expenditures not considered of urgent importance but now reintroduced into the existing framework. During the campaigns for the 2023 Presidential election, Tinubu as candidate had promised that he as someone with a financial background would pay careful attention to Nigeria's borrowing profile, and that he would not increase the country's debt burden by borrowing more for reasons of consumption. At the time, Nigeria's debt burden was a problem: external debt stock was about \$41.69 billion in 2022, domestic public debt stock was in excess of US\$100 billion.

The country's Debt Management Office (DMO) even argued that the debt was sustainable, and that Nigeria in fact had one of the lowest debt-to-GDP ratios in Africa - in 2022, debt to GDP ratio in Africa was 56%, in Nigeria 38%. It was argued that Nigeria's debt-carrying capacity was still strong. The World Bank recommends a tolerable debt-GDP ratio of 77%. We were told that debt should not be a problem, after all, the United States has a debt-GDP ratio of over 120 per cent and the country still functions. The counter-point to this, however, is the debt-service ratio. It was established by professional economists and the opposition in 2023, that debt-service was/is the major problem. By 2021, Nigeria was spending about 19% of its revenue on debt service; in 2023, this had increased to more than 90%. Nigeria, in 2023, had the fourth lowest revenue-GDP ratio in the world. Government revenue as a percentage of GDP is indeed abysmally low. With uncertainties in oil and gas revenues, and crude oil theft in the Niger Delta, Nigeria today is not so certain about its revenues. The default position has been to pay more attention to tax revenue.

Given this background, it is right to assume that the major priority for the Tinubu administration would be to address Nigeria's debt burden and not worsen it, manage inherited circumstances prudently and give the people hope that there is truly a new dispensation in town. Nigerians during the elections beyond partisan considerations had hoped that the new administration that would emerge would reduce the cost of poverty, generate employment, promote economic growth, give jobs to the people, and generally reduce the cost of governance. There seems to have been a pervasive consensus that Nigeria is on the brink of insolvency, and that a new government by whatever label must act differently. The problem is not that President Tinubu asked for a supplementary budget. The questions are what for? how and why? At the recent Presidential retreat for leaders of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), long awaited, unnecessarily delayed but better later than never all the same, the President said that borrowing is not a crime and that he was determined to borrow and increase Nigeria's debt profile more or less. Even the dumbest economist on the street would tell you that countries can always borrow, but such borrowings must place the country in a situation where it can pay its debts, create budget surpluses, invest in infrastructure and support small businesses. A country can also borrow to diversify the economy for tangible benefits. No serious country borrows for luxury, consumption, or to indulge the taste of the men in power.

The current controversy about the Tinubu administration's request for a N2.18 trillion supplementary budget must be seen in this light. The Communication process



President Bola Tinubu

has been bad. The management of the aftermath has been negligent. The details go beyond what is in the public domain. The breakdowns show that the Federal Government is looking for more money for the Defence headquarters, the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Navy, Nigerian Airforce, Defence Intelligence Agency, Police Formations and Command, the Federal Capital City Administration, Office of the National Security Adviser, Department of State Services, State House, Federal Ministry of Works, construction of Highways in the North East, North West, South East, South West, South South, Agriculture, Bridges Intervention, and the Federal Ministry of Housing. It must be noted that Nigerians have not complained about aspects of this supplementary budget that would be of benefit to the Nigerian people. They have complained however about aspects of the budget relating to luxury items particularly with regard to the needs of the Nigerian Presidency namely, the proposed request for N4 billion for the renovation of the residential quarters for the President in Abuja; renovation of the residential quarters of the Vice President (Abuja) - N2.5 billion; Renovation of Dodan Barracks, Lagos, Official Residence of the President - N4 billion, Renovation of Official Quarters of the VP (Lagos) - N3 bn, Construction of Office Complex in the Presidential Villa - N4bn; Purchase of Presidential Yacht - N5 bn; Purchase of Vehicles for the Office of First Lady - N1.5 bn; Purchase of SUVs for the Presidential Villa - N2.9bn, and Replacement of Operational Vehicles for the Presidency - N2.9 bn. These details have sparked outrage, and in an understandable sense.

When President Tinubu assumed office on May 29, 2023, he declared to Nigerians that fuel subsidy was gone. This has brought great and untold hardship upon the people: increase in the cost of living, with headline inflation now at over 26%, the highest in 18 years, crisis with the Naira which has been yo-yo-ing, against the dollar, further driving up the cost of living and the widespread pandemic of poverty in the country. The consistent message by the Tinubu administration is that the people should be prepared to make necessary sacrifice: things may

be rough, we have been told, but they will get better surely, so we the people, must be patient. The sheer commonsense of it would be that while the people of Nigeria are facing serious hardship, their leaders who are prescribing austerity would also demonstrate that they are with them, on their side, and ready to suffer along with the people until the country gets out of the woods. More so, they have a President who has been there at the battle front of democracy, at the barricades, and who cannot claim that he does not understand how the people feel. His wife even recently boasted that she and her family do not need Nigeria's money. So, what is the problem? Why do they want new cars and renovated quarters? Why can't they wait?

The problem is that the President is sending wrong signals with regard to the issues highlighted above that need to be addressed. There is a tendency for people in government to live in the Rose Garden and dismiss the people as ignorant. This would be a wrong approach as it was in the past, as it is now, as it would always be. The people have both the need and the right to know. At the risk of over-simplification, it is the duty of government to continuously explain to the people and re-build their trust and confidence, even when the matter appears mundane, self-evident, and self-explanatory. One of the major risks of democracy is that those who govern may be dealing with a patently dumb population, but the people must never be treated as dumb, because they may be quick to learn and ask the right questions and their dumbness could become historical wisdom. True sovereignty in that regard belongs to the people. Power belongs to the people as the lesson has been learnt in such places as France in 1789, 1830, and 1848 and in Brazil in 1835, 1964 and 1972.

It is therefore important to listen carefully to what the people of Nigeria are saying. They seem to be saying that it is wrong for President Tinubu to tell them during the campaigns that brought him into office that he will reduce Nigeria's debt stock, and would focus more on productivity, to now come around and announce that borrowing is not a crime. Nobody has ever said that borrowing is a crime. It is what you do with it that matters, and when you make a promise, you keep it - a matter of honour. We admit that most of the details in the supplementary budget are not controversial, except those sections relating to luxury. New vehicles for the office of the First Lady! What on earth is that? An average Nigerian who is finding it difficult to buy ordinary recharge card, or buy fuel, is bound to ask. They didn't vote for Mrs. Tinubu, they seem to be asking. So why should her office show up in the budget of the Federal Republic of Nigeria? Again, the State House wants to change vehicles? Nigerians have had cause to draw attention to the example of President Hakainde Hichilema of Zambia who refused to change official vehicles after assuming office. There is a video of the Zambia President out there which simply says he wants to serve not to indulge in the pleasures of office. For those who are in doubt, at least one Nigerian newspaper has written a full editorial on the subject: The Daily Trust asks: "Why should the Presidency make a budget for a new fleet of cars for the First Lady's entourage? What happened to the vehicles used by former First Lady Aisha Buhari? What happened to the pool cars used by former President Muhammadu Buhari? What happened to the cars used by former Vice President Yemi Osinbajo? How many times will the Presidential lodges be renovated?" (Monday, Nov. 6). But what really stands out, and made to look

like a scandal is the reported plan to buy a yacht for the President under the budget of the Nigerian Navy. A Yacht for the President, at a time when the people find it difficult to pay for transportation? The outrage has been loud and deafening.

As it happened, the House of Representatives resolved that the N5 billion earmarked for this yacht should be added to the proposed supplementary budget for students' loans - in itself another controversial proposal, with the details so opaque. A budget is a proposal after all. It is not binding until it is appropriated by the National Assembly. But the narrative that later came out is that the controversial Presidential Naval Yacht was actually ordered by the Nigerian Navy under the previous Buhari administration. It was delivered in June 2023. It showed up in the 2022 Supplementary Budget proposed by President Tinubu because Nigeria has an obligation to pay on delivery. International transactions are governed by strict laws under the rules of international trade. Without being pedantic by quoting the rules and structures of international trade, it looks like in this particular transaction, Nigeria has bought itself a Presidential yacht. The country has an obligation to pay. The documents of sale have been received. The yacht has been delivered, and this really looks like a CIF sale. The seller is not obliged to worry about Nigeria's domestic politics. The details of the contract of sale not being in the public domain, this is the best assumption that can be made.

However, what Nigerians must note is that Nigeria used to have a Presidential Yacht. Nigeria had a yacht called NNC Runa Yaro. It was later named AMARIYA. The luxury boat was seized from a former Governor of Rivers State and handed over to the Nigerian Navy. It was re-purposed for both luxury and training operations. President Shehu Shagari used it. General Babangida also travelled with the yacht once to the Republic of Benin to attend an ECOWAS meeting. President Olusegun Obasanjo hosted visiting Presidents on the vessel. In 2011, the vessel was decommissioned. Indeed in 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari had asked for the vessel to be used to take the Prince of Wales to sea only to be told that the vessel had been decommissioned. The Nigerian Navy was then told to source for a new option. This is the background, but it is not even the entire story. There is another story that the Nigerian Navy had in fact as far back as June 2010 asked the Nigerian Government, Dr Goodluck Jonathan was President at the time to review the Presidential Naval fleet and buy a new yacht ahead of the country's 50th Independence celebrations. President Jonathan reportedly turned down the request.

Nigerians are angry again because not even the United States has a presidential yacht. The last Presidential yacht in the US, the USS Sequoia was decommissioned in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter and sold off. The key difference is that whereas the Americans have many options, most Nigerian Naval vessels cannot function. They are like the refineries. Even our flagship NNS Aradu cannot move, and with that being the case, Nigerians have every reason to be angry that anyone at all can talk about a yacht, the simple dictionary definition of which is about pleasure and luxury! Should there be a military challenge against Nigeria tomorrow, are we likely to go to the battle field with a luxury boat and Big Brother Naija actors? But we have bought a luxury boat guys, and we are obliged to pay for it. While other countries of the world are getting serious, we are busy thinking of luxury for staff and wives and...What a country! No yacht for President Tinubu.