



Olu Fasan 16
Buhari wants redressing 'June 12' to be his enduring legacy, but his unilateral and autocratic handling of the issue leaves much to be desired and shows he's not fully enamoured with democratic process and values!

24 states get N477bn refund for expenses on federal road projects -FG 7

20 missing Chibok girls still in Sambisa forest — RESCUED GIRLS 6

STRIKE: Varsities re-open soon, FG assures 35

Manufacturing capacity utilization up 9.4% non-metallic minerals declines 19

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Energy crisis: Petrol scarcity to persist — STAKEHOLDERS

●PENGASSAN cites bridging cost, says high diesel price affecting trucking of petrol by tankers ●Adds sole importation, inadequate funds, others can't guarantee supply ●As MOMAN canvasses full downstream deregulation, says inadequate supply responsible for scarcity

SEE PAGE 5

BUHARI ARRIVES KIGALI FOR CHOGM...



From left, President Muhammadu Buhari, Rwandan Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, Nigeria's High Commissioner to Rwanda, Aishatu Musa, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama on arrival in Kigali, Rwanda for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHOGM 2022, yesterday.

NUT threatens strike over sack of 2,357 teachers in Kaduna 13

CVR: INEC has agreed on extension of exercise —REPS 8

Renewed killings'll not compel Benue to repeal grazing law —ORTOM 13

DEFECTIONS: We're worried but can't stop exodus, says APC Nat'l Chair, Adamu

 8

AGF asks court to dismiss suit seeking upward review of judges' salaries 7

Ohanaeze tackles Buhari over comments on IPOB 11

2023: Resist attempt to use social media to impede national security, DSS warns 8

Mr & Mrs

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dadadekola@yahoo.com
08052201913



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Ekwueme, Welcome Back Home!

The Management and Staff of Obakpor Engineering Limited, heartily welcome **HIS EXCELLENCY, SENATOR, DR ARTHUR IFEANYI OKOWA** back home after his divine nomination as the Vice President in waiting.

Ekwueme, we join the good people of Delta State to once again rejoice with you on your well deserved emergence as Vice President to Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, President in waiting.

We pray God to grant you and our President in waiting, **ALHAJI ATIKU ABUBAKAR** and all PDP candidates for the 2023 general elections victory.

Your Excellency, Congratulations once again as we look forward to your oat taking ceremony come May 29th 2023 @ Eagle square.

Welcome back home!

**His Excellency,
Senator Dr Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa,
Executive Governor of Delta State**

Signed:
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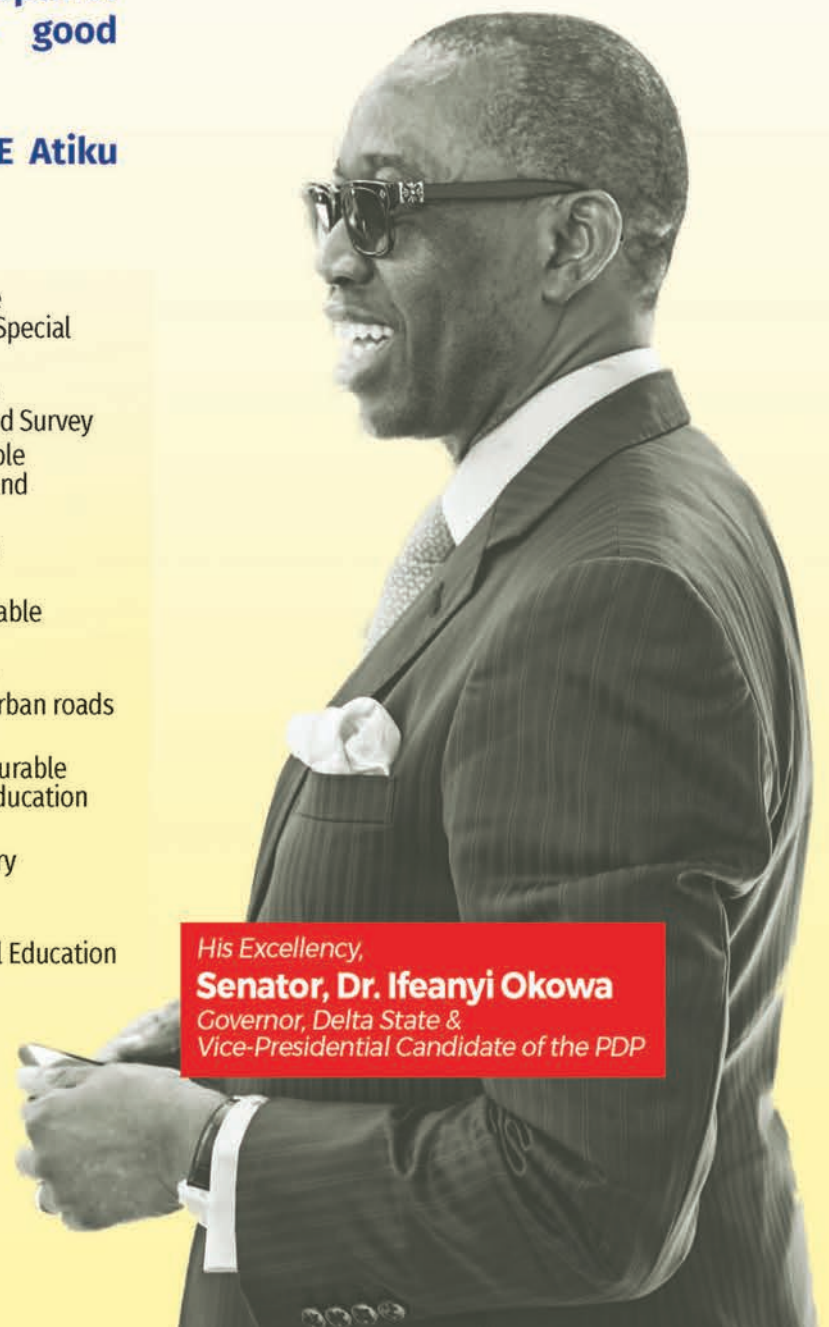
It is our joy and pride to see you recognised on the national stage as the vice presidential candidate of our great party, the PDP.

As those who have co-laboured with you in building a prosperous and stronger Delta State, we have no doubt that our party and, indeed, the Nigerian people stand to benefit immensely from your wealth of wisdom, depth of knowledge, and unswerving commitment to good governance.

Congratulations on your well deserved pick as HE Atiku Abubakar's running mate.

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20. **Shola Daibo**, Honourable Commissioner for Technical Education



His Excellency,
Senator, Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa
Governor, Delta State &
Vice-Presidential Candidate of the PDP

News

Energy crisis: Petrol scarcity to persist

●PENGASSAN cites bridging cost, says high diesel price affecting trucking of petrol by tankers ●Adds sole importation, inadequate funds, others can't guarantee supply ●As MOMAN canvasses full downstream deregulation, says inadequate supply responsible for scarcity

By Udeme Akpan,
Energy Editor,
Levinus
Nwabughioqu &
Ediri Ejoh

LAGOS — Indications emerged yesterday that the ongoing fuel scarcity in the country may not abate soon, as major stakeholders in the sector are currently expressing divergent views as to the cause(s) of the crisis.

While the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, PENGASSAN, said there is sufficient stock of the product to serve the nation for some weeks, which seemed to be the position of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited, another major stakeholder, the Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria, MOMAN, said the product available is inadequate

to serve the nation, noting that the shortage was fueled by fundamental issues and problems in the sector.

PENGASSAN blamed the current scarcity on difference in the bridging gap cost between when the cost of diesel was N250 per litre and now that it had risen to as much as N820.

Speaking at an electronic medium monitored in Lagos yesterday, President of PENGASSAN, Mr. Festus Osifo, said: "Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, NMDPRA and truck drivers are the ones administering the bridging fund.

"At a particular time, they agreed with truck drivers that the bridging fund is going to be about N10 per litre, depending on the destination you are going to all over the country.

"As at when they agreed, the cost of diesel was about N250, so it was fashionable and the N10 was okay, but today, the cost of diesel is over N700. It has tripled.

"So, the expectations from the tanker drivers is that since the cost has gone up, instead of paying N10.40 kobo as the case may be, you have to multiply it by three. This is a major problem. As at today, we have close to two billion litres of PMS, so the problem is not the stock."

He explained that while the stock is available, most truck drivers are not willing to move these products, "because of the previous problem I just enumerated.

"One of the issues again is that today, NNPC is the sole importer of PMS, so they import PMS into the country, and this PMS is brought to the high sea, so they rent some smaller ves-

sels to bunker the PMS and take to the various tank farms or depots.

"So, if it's the NNPC depots and you are loading from the NNPC depots, you are going to pay about N148 as the ex-depot price. But some of the PMS are also stored in private depots and those private depots don't sell to retailers for N148; they add some premium to it. At the end of the day, they sell between N152, N155, N160 and N162."

Inadequate supply, other challenges abound — MOMAN

Countering this at a virtual meeting monitored yesterday in Lagos, the Chairman of MOMAN, Mr. Olumide Adeosun and the Chief Executive Officer, MOMAN, Mr. Clement Isong, jointly observed that the current scarcity of petrol was occasioned by supply inadequacy in the last few weeks, which was worsened by the scarcity and rising price of Automotive Gas Oil (diesel), which tanker drivers depend on to move petrol from the depots to the filling stations.

They said: "MOMAN, as an association, fears that the current supply framework cannot guarantee steady and consistent supplies to the country, given the current state of government finances and unpredictable international supply shortages."

Full downstream deregulation is key

The duo, who canvassed deregulation, said: "We recommend a gradual price



deregulation with targeted palliatives (e.g. transport and agricultural subsidies) to the public to ease implementation.

"However, in the interim, MOMAN recommends that the current single supplier strategy be reviewed. The Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and other relevant MDAs, should set up a task force to immediately focus on increasing diesel supply through accelerated initiatives to increase local modular refining capacity. This move will tackle the supply and distribution challenges.

"There should be phased rehabilitation of existing NNPC refineries to hasten supply of middle distillates (AGO & ATK). MOMAN recognizes and closely associates with the need to ease challenges, with respect to high energy and transportation costs occasioned by extraneous circumstances.

"MOMAN shall continually do its best to distribute petrol to its customers across the country and keep exploring opportunities to partner with industry stakeholders, The Authority and the government should ensure the sustainability and institutionalization of a viable petroleum downstream sector in Nigeria.

"The full deregulation of the petroleum downstream sector and full implemen-

tation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021 clearly remains the most viable long-term solution to the country's supply and distribution challenges."

Ukraine-Russian war factor

In any case, investigation by Vanguard indicated that the outbreak of the Ukraine - Russian war and ban on Russian oil and gas, has culminated in scarcity and rising prices globally.

Consequently, Nigeria remains one of the most affected nations because of its over-dependence on imported petroleum products at the expense of the nation's scarce foreign exchange, thus over-stretching the capacity of government to import.

Legislators postpone dialogue with stakeholders

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives yesterday postponed its meeting with the major stakeholders in the downstream sector from yesterday to Friday this week, following the taking of permission and absent of major stakeholders.

However, the meeting was targeted at finding lasting solution to the nation's prolonged energy crisis.

Specifically, those expected at the public hearing

Continues on Page 35



From left, Chief Executive Officer, MRS Holdings Company, Alh. Sayyu Dantata; CEO, Chapel Hill Denham, Mr. Bolaji Balogun; President, Lagos Polo Club, Mr. Ayo Olashoju; Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafermi Hamzat; Chief Executive Officer, Access Corporation, Dr. Herbert Wigwe; Chairman, Caverton Offshore Support Group, Chief Remi Makanjuola; and Trustee, Lagos Polo Club, Sen. Tokunbo Ogunbanjo, at the unveiling of new Lagos Polo Club House in Lagos, yesterday. Photo by Kehinde Shonola.

People Talk

By Yinka Latona

Spate of terrorist attacks on churches and kidnapping of clergymen



It is unfortunate that more than 100 worshippers have been killed across the country in the last few weeks. This is no more a country one can be proud of. No reasonable government can continue to leave the citizens in a terrible state of insecurity as we are witnessing presently. This situation is not good for our nation at all.

—Olu Farotimi,
Life coach



The attack on worship centres including gruesome killing of worshippers at the Catholic Church in Owo, confirmed the country's poor security situation. Notably, the remarkable surge in violent attacks across the country is a clear indication that no region is safe anymore. The Federal Government must work with state governments to solve the problem.

—Akin-Taylor Grace,
Teacher



Truly, it is sad to hear that bandits or Boko Haram are still on rampage when all the things the Nigerian military asked for are being provided. Bulk of government's budget now goes to security, even the Kaduna State governor was quoting billions he has spent on security, yet the terrorists seem to be winning the war. The military should look inwards and challenge itself.

—Comfort Adegbola,
Businesswoman



I think the rate of killings and kidnappings in churches is increasing due to tribalism and hatred. The major tribes in Nigeria are Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa and the major religions are Christianity and Islam. Most of the terrorists Boko Haram, ISWAP, herdsmen are mainly Moslems so I feel the attacks are fuelled by hatred. The two religions just need to understand each other for peace to reign.

—Oyin4god Ibezim,
Blogger



Terrorist attacks on the church including kidnapping of clergy men are all part of the whole Islamic agenda by extremists in northern Nigeria. These attackers know the government is weak, and that is why they use every opportunity to push their agenda of attacking Christians.

—Vivian Nyerovwa,
Health worker



I think consistent efforts by the Federal Government to recruit, train, and station suitably equipped security personnel in all the regions of the country could improve monitoring and security of the country and also halt the movement of weapons into the states of the federation.

—Francis Shina,
Student



Anambra ex-lawmaker beheaded after N15m ransom was paid

By Vincent Ujumadu

AWKA—Barely a month after one Okochukwu Okoye representing Aguata constituency II was kidnapped and later found beheaded in Anambra State alongside his aide, another former member of the state House of Assembly, Mr Nelson Achukwu, has been beheaded by gunmen.

The deceased, a physically challenged lawyer, represented Nnewi South II between 2003 and 2007 during the reign of Dr Chris Ngige as governor of Anambra State.

He was kidnapped from his home in Ukpok, Nnewi South local government area on June 9, 2022, and his headless body was found by his relatives between the boundary of Uke and Nkpor in Idemili North local government area.

The decomposing body of the late Achukwu had since been buried by his family.

A source close to the family said kidnappers collected N15 million ransom and went ahead to kill their victim.

"The deceased lawmaker was kidnapped a few months ago and later released before the June 9 incident," the source who preferred anonymity added.

Confirming the death of Achukwu, the state Police command's Public Relations Officer, DSP Tochukwu Ikenga, yesterday, said: "The victim was abducted at about 10:15 pm in his house on June 9, 2022, and efforts were being made to rescue him before this unfortunate development.

"We are still nosing around to ensure that the culprits are uncovered and made to face the full wrath of the law."

Flood sweeps away secondary school student in Ondo

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE—A Junior Secondary School student of St Carmel's Girls School, Ikare-Akoko, in Akoko North-East council area of Ondo State, Motunrayo John, has reportedly been swept away by flood.

The victim's identity was revealed when her mathematical set was picked floating on the river.

It was gathered that the victim, who left the school premises while it was raining, was swept away around River Dada in the Semusemu area of the ancient town.

One of the students told newsmen that the victim was playing in the rain by measuring the depth of the flood when she was suddenly swept away after losing balance.

Efforts by her mates to pull her back proved abortive as her two feet were off balance and they watched helplessly as she disappeared in the flood.

Eyewitness said she was swept directly into the popular, but notorious River Dada around the Semusemu area of Ikare town.

The Divisional Police Officer, Ikare-Akoko Police Division, Olatujoye Akinwande, who confirmed the incident, said the principal of the school, Mrs Ajoke Asiwaju, reported the matter at the station.

Akinwande said the search and rescue operation for the young girl had since commenced.

20 missing Chibok girls still in Sambisa forest — Rescued girls

MAIDUGURI—MARY Dauda and Hauwa Joseph, the two rescued girls abducted from the GCSS Chibok in Borno State in 2014, have revealed that more than 20 missing others are still in Gazuwa camp in Sambisa forest, eight years after being kidnapped by Boko Haram insurgents.

NAN reports that Gazuwa camp, acclaimed headquarters of the Jam'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihd, Boko Haram faction, formerly known as Gabchari, Mantari and Mallum Masari, is located about nine kilometres to Bama Local Government Area of Borno State.

They disclosed this while interacting with newsmen on Tuesday in Maiduguri, at a news conference at the Command and Control Centre Maimalari Cantonment.

Mary Dauda, who recounted her experience in the hands of the insurgents, said she could still vividly recall her compulsory marriage eight years ago after she was abducted at the age of 18 years.

Dauda said she walked through the deadly forest for many days before she found help.

Like the others conscripted by the militants, she had been told that she would be hunted down and killed if she deserted.

She said: "I took excuse from Malam Ahmed that I will be visiting my relative from Chibok in the town of Ngoshe and he gave me one week. That is when I began my journey for freedom.

"I left Sabil Huda, popularly known



The rescued girls.



as the camp of Abubakar Shekau and proceeded towards Njimiya and Parisu, where I met some of the Mujahedeens. They asked where I was going to and I told them I was given permission to visit my sister in Ngoshe.

"I finally arrived Gava village in Gwoza, after walking for many hours through the deadly forest under harsh condition. I asked some people to direct me to the home of the daughter of Chibok.

"After meeting her, I told her of my plans to return home, she told me she had wanted to come with me but her husband has placed her on strict surveillance for attempting to run. I then left her and proceeded toward Ngoshe

town.

"On my way, I met an old man who promised to help me to escape. But he told me that it won't be possible in the afternoon until the sun had set. At about 8 p.m., he took me to Ngoshe town and told me to pass the night in the outskirts of the town and proceed the next morning.

"When the day broke, I reported myself to some soldiers where I was rescued with my baby," she said.

I was forcefully married to Boko Haram Commander—Hauwa

On her part, Hauwa Joseph said she was forcefully married to Amir Abbah,

Suspected herders attack over 30 farmers in Oyo

•Victims receiving treatment at hospitals — Ex-LG boss

By Ademola Adegbite

IBADAN—ABOUT 30 farmers from Oke-Ogun area of Oyo State are in critical condition and currently receiving treatments at different hospitals as a result of attacks by suspected herders on their way to Atisbo Local Government Area for an awareness campaign.

It was gathered that the farmers, under the aegis of Yoruba Ronu, were attacked at Alaga in Itesiwaju Local Government Area of the state.

The former Chairman of Iseyin Local Government, Alhaji Saheed Alaran, who confirmed this, yesterday, said the attack happened weekend.

Alaran lamented that farmers could no longer go to their farms as a result of incessant attacks and killing by killer herders.



One of the injured persons.

He said: "This recent attack where 30 members of this group were critically injured to the point that people are still fearing that they might die calls for a serious attention from President Muhammadu Buhari and Governor Seyi Makinde.

"People have talked so much about the fact that these herders have invited their people from foreign countries and their number today is very alarming that they have outnumbered our people in many communities in Oke-Ogun.

"These people are still in critical conditions, we are not happy about this and we will not fold our hands while our people are being killed and maimed daily by these bandits."

Alaran, however, commended the Amotekun personnel for rescuing members of the group.

Bandits kidnap military officer's wife, 6 others in Kaduna

•Gunmen abduct ex-chief pharmacist in Ekiti

By Rotimi Ojomoyela & Ibrahim Hassan-Wuyo

KADUNA—Bandits, Tuesday night, struck at the Millennium City Kaduna where they kidnapped the wife of a military officer and six others at the Keke A and Keke B communities.

Although the Kaduna State Police Command's Public Relations Officer, DSP Muhammad Jalige, was yet to confirm the incident, people in the affected area told journalists that the hoodlums attacked the communities at about 11 pm.

According to a resident, "the bandits operated for about an hour before security operatives came. They went away with three people at Keke A. They targeted a big house in the area.

"The bandits came around 11 pm. I think their main target was a house at Keke A. The house belongs to a military officer. But at the time of the attack, the officer was not at home. So, the kidnappers broke into the house and picked his wife.

"They also kidnapped another man, who is the immediate neighbour of the military officer. The neighbour was picked alongside his eight-year-old daughter, but they eventually dropped the daughter when her mother was shouting.

"I think it was at that point they started shooting sporadically to scare away people. While all that was happening, another man who was returning home in his car ran into the kidnappers. He was the third person that was taken away.

"Other people who were still outside including neighbourhood shop operators escaped the bandits, as they had to run to safety.

Gunmen abduct retired top civil servant in Ekiti

In a related development, a retired Chief Pharmacist with the Ekiti Ministry of Health, Mr Israel Bamisaye, was kidnapped by gunmen on his farm,

yesterday.

The farm is located between Ero Dam and the Ekiti State farm settlement at Orin Ekiti, Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State.

Multiple sources told journalists via telephone conversation that the retiree was kidnapped around 4pm while working on his farm.

The source said: "The seven gunmen had earlier attacked a man identified as Ojo within the vicinity of the farm where Bamisaye was kidnapped.

"The man was asked about the whereabouts of the white men working at the farm settlement, but he replied that he didn't know where they were. They ransacked his car that was parked nearby and took away N4,500 they found inside the vehicle.

"They fired a shot and terrified the environment before they later found the victim and whisked him away."

The Police Public Relations Officer, Ekiti Command, DSP Sunday Abutu, could not be reached to confirm the incident.

Commander of Boko Haram (Munzul), at Gazuwa camp who was later killed during an encounter with the troops of the Nigerian Army.

She said she voluntarily escaped from the camp of the terrorists during massive incursion of the troops of the Nigerian Army into their camp in Gazuwa on June 12.

Joseph said as people were running the same direction where the sect members are hiding women and children, she took a separate route to escape from the terrorists camp.

She said on her way, she met with some of the insurgents who asked her where she was going, but she tricked them and told them that she was following some women to hide in the nearby forest.

"I slept under the tree with my child, then proceeded the next day until I arrived the road where I approached a military check point. Initially, they thought I was a suicide bomber, but when I explained my self, they took me along with them."

She thanked the military for rescuing her, saying she hoped other girls still in the camps of the terrorists would be rescued.

Maj. Gen. Christopher Musa, The Theatre Commander, Operation Hadin Kai North East Joint Operation, said both girls were among the list of the missing Chibok girls.

Musa said the girls were rescued due to a massive military operation in Sambisa Forest, Mandara Mountain, and the Lake Chad area.

"We are putting more efforts to ensure that the rest of the girls are rescued through the ongoing Operation Lake and Desert Sanity," he said.

Alleged N6bn fraud: Court revokes Mompha's bail, orders immediate arrest

By Henry Ojelu

LAGOS—A Lagos State Special Offences Court, sitting in Ikeja has issued a bench warrant for the arrest of suspected internet fraudster, Ismaila Mustapha, popularly known as Mompha.

Justice Mojisola Dada issued the warrant following his continued failure to present himself for his trial.

Mompha was arrested on January 10, 2022, by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, and arraigned on January 12 alongside his company, Ismalob Global Investment Limited, on an eight-count charge of alleged money laundering of over N6 billion to which he pleaded not guilty.

On January 18, he was admitted to bail in the sum of N200 million with two sureties in like sum. On March 28, he was released to his lawyer, Gboyega Oyewole, SAN, shortly after the court varied his bail conditions.

Since then, he has failed to appear in court on two scheduled dates for his trial. At the proceedings yesterday, the judge stood down the matter for a while in expectation of the defendant's arrival, yet he failed to appear in court.

After conferring with the defence counsel, the EFCC's counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo asked the court for a further stand down, but Justice Dada refused the request.

She asked, "Where is the defendant?" Addressing the court, Oyedepo said he was shocked at the absence of the defendant.

At that point, Justice Dada noted that "the excuse that was initially given that he tested positive for COVID-19 was found to be false."

The EFCC prosecutor, subsequently, urged the court to issue a warrant of arrest for the production of the defendant.



VISIT: From left. Members of the Road Transport Employers Association, RTEAN, Abubakar Sadiq; Muhammad Abubakar; Vice President Yemi Osinbajo and RTEAN National General Secretary, Alhaji Yusuf Ibrahim, during their visit to the Presidential Villa in Abuja, yesterday. Photo: NAN.

AGF asks court to dismiss suit seeking upward review of judges' salaries

By Ikechukwu Nnochiri

ABUJA—The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr. Abubakar Malami, SAN, has asked the National Industrial Court, NIC, sitting in Abuja, to dismiss a suit seeking the upward review of salaries of judges in the country.

The AGF, in a counter-affidavit and preliminary objection he filed before the court, maintained that a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN, Mr. Sebastian Hon, who instituted the action, lacked the locus standi to do so.

Malami's objection to the suit came on a day Justice Osatohanmwen Obaseki-Osagie fixed to receive a report of a proposed out-of-court settlement of the matter.

The court had on June 6, acceded to a request by the National Assembly, which is a defendant in the suit, for parties to be allowed to explore an alternative means of resolving the thorny issue of poor remuneration of judicial officers across the federation.

Aside from Malami, NASS and National Judicial Council, NJC, Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, RMAFC, was also joined as a defendant in the suit.

Meanwhile, at the resumed proceedings on yesterday, Chief Adgboyega Awomolo, SAN, who led over 30 other SANs, as well as the President of the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, Olumide Akpata, to announce appearance for the plaintiff, confirmed that he was served with Malami's objection to the suit.

He, therefore, urged the court to allow the case to proceed to hearing of the originating summons filed by the plaintiff.

Malami's lawyer, Mr. Ekene Elodimuo, said the AGF, having filed the necessary processes, was

●Out-of-court settlement deal collapses, as hearing begins June 28 ●NBA calls for urgent reforms in judiciary

also desirous of joining issues with the plaintiff in the course of the hearing.

However, the NJC, which engaged a SAN, Mr. Kunle Adegoke, to present its position on the matter, prayed for a short adjournment to enable it file its response.

Adegoke informed the court that he was briefed to handle the matter less than 24 hours before the sitting, saying he would need time to study the originating summons to be able to file the necessary processes.

His request for an adjournment was not opposed by any of the parties, though there was no legal representation for the RMAFC.

Consequently, Justice Obaseki-Osagie adjourned the matter till June 28 for hearing.

The plaintiff, Mr. Hon, SAN, is praying the court to compel the defendants to increase the salaries and allowances of judges in Nigeria.

NBA calls for urgent

2 senators resign from APC, PDP, defect to NNPP, Labour Party

By Henry Umoru

ABUJA—TWO senators from Bauchi and Imo states have resigned their membership of the All Progressives Congress, APC, and Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, respectively to join the New Nigeria People's Party, NNPP, and Labour Party.

The lawmakers are Senator Dauda Jika, representing Bauchi Central and elected on the platform of the APC and Senator Ezenwa Onyewuchi,

representing Imo East senatorial district on the platform of PDP.

Both senators in separate letters addressed to the Senate president, Ahmad Lawan, conveyed their decision to resign their membership of the APC and PDP to join the Labour Party, LP, and New Nigeria Peoples Party, NNPP, respectively.

The APC lawmaker, Dauda Jika, in his letter said: "I hereby wish to notify you of my defection from the All Progressives Congress (APC) to the New Nigeria Peoples Party, NNPP, whose ideals are in line with my political aspirations."

Onyewuchi, on his part, said: "I wish to inform Mr. President and a distinguished senators of my defection from the Peoples Democratic Party to Labour Party."

"This is after due consultation with my family, constituents and supporters. This will enable me participate fully in the movement for a new Nigeria."

Yesterday's defection brings the number of APC senators to 66, with members of the minority

transparent in the management and allocation of the resources currently available to it.

"The Judiciary must entrench the principles of accountability and probity in the manner in which it expends allocated resources.

"While the fight for increased budgetary allocations for the Judiciary continues, it is important that the available resources be used for the welfare and well-being of our judicial officers as well as for the improvement of the infrastructure and facilities required by our Judges and Justices to effectively discharge their duties.

"There is a clear need for mechanisms to be put in place to ensure that the Judiciary (with the Supreme Court leading the charge) is providing the necessary template to other arms of government on transparent procurement and budgeting.

"This will reduce the perception in some quarters that the Judiciary is not accountable to anyone and is also not self-regulating."

parties standing at 43.

The minority parties in the Senate are currently five in number as at yesterday, June 22, 2022.

They include the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Young People's Party, YPP, All Progressives Grand Alliance, APGA, New Nigeria Peoples Party, NNPP, and Labour Party, LP.

Senate to screen Buhari's ministerial nominees next Wednesday

ABUJA—Senate president, Ahmad Lawan, has said the upper chamber would next Wednesday screen the seven ministerial nominees forwarded to the chamber by President Muhammadu Buhari for confirmation.

Lawan stated this in an announcement, moments before the Senate adjourned plenary, yesterday.

"The ministerial

Buhari leaves Abuja for CHOGM 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA—PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari departed Abuja for Kigali, Rwanda, yesterday, to attend the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHOGM, being held from June 20 to 26, 2022.

A statement by Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, said Buhari will at CHOGM 2022, join other leaders to participate in discussions focused on the progress and prosperity of the more than two billion people living in the 54 independent countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific that make up the Commonwealth.

According to the statement, the theme for CHOGM 2022 is 'Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming,' and the Heads of Government are expected to reaffirm their commitment to upholding the Commonwealth Charter, which focuses on democracy, human rights, the

24 states get N477bn refund for expenses on federal road projects —FG

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA—THE Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, said yesterday that the Federal Government has so far reimbursed state governments about N447 billion for expenses incurred on construction and rehabilitation of federal roads and bridges.

Mohammed, who disclosed this while briefing State House correspondents at the end of the Federal Executive Council, FEC, meeting presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari at the Council Chamber, Presidential Villa, Abuja, said the release was the first tranche of such reimbursement.

The minister announced that following the money already released to the affected states, the council in yesterday's sitting, approved N18 billion refund for Yobe State out of the N20 billion bill it submitted.

Mohammed gave a breakdown of the amounts of such reimbursement by some of the states, stressing that the reimbursement was for projects implemented before the coming of the present administration.

He said: "I think it's important to say that, well it's true that we're just reporting this particular

rule of law, as well as economic opportunities and sustainable development.

Adesina said President Buhari would attend the official opening ceremony on June 24, followed by high-level meetings of Heads of State and Government on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 June.

The statement read: "The leaders are expected to consider a range of topical issues including post COVID-19 economic recovery, debt sustainability, climate change, poverty reduction, youth entrepreneurship and employment, trade and food security."

Prior to this, the Nigerian delegation, drawn from the public and private sectors as well as youth organisations participated in four forums covering youth, women, business and civil society; and will engage in ministerial meetings and several side events.

On the margins of the meeting, the Nigerian leader is scheduled to deliver remarks at the High-Level Session of Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases Summit and participate in an Inter-generational Dialogue for Youth.

memo, which is the refund being sought by Yobe State government; Yobe State government is asking for the sum of N18,663,843,109 as reimbursement for five federal roads, which they rehabilitated or constructed.

"A committee was set up to inspect the claim, they were actually found to be true. They reviewed the N20 billion they asked for and certified N18 billion as refund due to Yobe State for undertaking the construction/rehabilitation of these federal roads on behalf of federal government.

"But this is not the first time. We have since 2015, made refunds to about 24 states. If my records are correct and I want to put on record here that but for the benevolence of this administration, many states would have sunk under."

"The first tranche of these reimbursements about N477 billion was refunded to many states: Edo got N8 billion; Lagos got N106 billion; Niger, N333 million; Ogun, N37 billion; Delta N56 billion; Ebonyi, N10 billion; Enugu N10 billion; Jigawa, N10 billion; Ekiti, N10 billion and this was the first tranche.

"Second tranche and the last tranche, I think if I remember, I think it's Yobe and two other states that are supposed to be the next batch."

amended.

The nominees for confirmation include: Henry Ikechukwu Ikoh - Abia State; Umana Okon Umana, Akwa Ibom State; Ekumankama Joseph Nkama, Ebonyi State; and Goodluck Nanah Opiah, Imo State.

Others are Umar Ibrahim el-Yakub, Kano State; Ademola Adewole Adegroye, Ondo State; and Odum Udi, Rivers State.

LOSS OF LETTER OF ALLOCATION

This is to inform the general public of the loss of letter of allocation to Lock Up shop at No. LS46, behind UTC complex, Area 7 Shopping Complex Garki- Abuja issued in favour of BAFAB Enterprises Nigeria by Ministry of Federal Capital Territory.

All efforts made to trace the missing letter has proved abortive.

If found, please contact MFCT or the nearest Police station.



Defections: We're worried but can't stop exodus, says APC Nat'l Chair, Adamu

• Storms NASS, begs lawmakers • Says APC likely to be worst hit by massive realignments in political sphere • APC now has 62 members in Senate; PDP 39; NNPP 3; YPP 2; APGA 1; LP 1

By Henry Umoru

ABUJA—FOLLOWING the mass cross carpeting of members of ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, to other political parties, National Chairman of the party, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, yesterday got into a marathon meeting with senators, pleading with them not to leave.

Adamu, who led other members of the National Working Committee, NWC, for the meeting of APC Senate Caucus in Hearing Room 1, Senate wing, expressed serious concern over the gale of defections that had hit the party in the National Assembly in the last few days.

He assured the lawmakers that the APC still had genuine plans for them, adding that all their grievances arising from party primaries would be addressed.

Answering questions from journalists shortly after the meeting, Adamu noted that it was the season of defections and that there was nothing he or the party could do to stop those eager to leave the party from taking the exit door.

He said while he could not be bothered about what was happening in other parties, APC as the ruling party was likely to be hit the most by the massive realignments currently going on in the political sphere.

It would be recalled that party primaries sprang up several controversies, leading to many lawmakers who wanted to return to the Senate losing party tickets.

Vanguard gathered that at the meeting, the lawmakers used the opportunity of Senator Adamu's visit to express their grievances

over alleged lack of internal democracy at state level of the party and described the intervention now as coming too late.

According to a source, the Adamu led- APC NWC was accused of not being assertive in its decisions as governors were allowed to exhibit very powerful postures to hijack primaries in their states as well as the national convention.

Speaking further, the APC national chairman said the current exodus from the party remained a source of serious concern to him and that it was part of the reason the leadership of the party had deemed necessary to meet with the APC caucus to mitigate the wave of defections. "He said: "It is an unfortunate development but this is a season for all manner of behaviours in the political space in the world and Nigeria is not an exception.

CVR: INEC has agreed on extension of exercise —Reps

By Levinus Nwabughogu

ABUJA—THE Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC has agreed to extend the Continuous Voters Registration, CVR, exercise, the House of Representatives said yesterday.

It will be recalled that INEC had given June 30, 2022, as the deadline for the exercise.

But through a motion presented by spokesman of the House, Ben Kalu last week, the House urged INEC to extend the exercise by 60 days.

"In every election year, this kind of sub-step gives cause for people, stakeholders to sneeze. Nigeria is not an exception and the APC is not an exception, so I don't give a damn about what is happening in other parties, I care about what is happening in our party.

"You and I know that it is not just APC that this thing is happening. Because we are the ruling party, yes our problems are more prominent in the public glare".

Adamu, who described the defection as unfortunate, promised that the party leadership would address the cause.

"No responsible leader would not worry losing one member, let alone two, three. At the moment, we are faced with the stark reality of their problems, but we are committed with my colleagues in the National Working Committee to face the problems squarely to see if the problems are solvable. We will solve them by the grace of God," he added.

The appeal was to accommodate more eligible voters nationwide.

Briefing journalists at the end of plenary, the Chairman, House Committee on Electoral Matters, Aisha Dukku, in company of Kalu, said they had a meeting with INEC which agreed to extend the timeline.

She also said INEC would deploy more machines and ad-hoc staff for that purpose, adding that INEC would also function on weekends to realize the objective.

Dukku, however, said that the meeting did not agree on the period the exercise would be extended.

Recall that at the peak of APC in the Senate, the party could boast of 70 members. but shortly after the primaries, no less than eight senators have defected to opposition parties. "About 20 lawmakers in the House of representatives have also dumped the party in the last one week, citing lack of internal party democracy. "Those who have dumped the party in the Senate include former Senate leader, Yahaya Abdullahi, (Kebbi State); Senator Adamu Alierio (Kebbi); Senator Baaba Kaita (Katsina State); Senator, Francis Alimikhena (Edo North); Senator Ibrahim Shekarau (Kano Central); and Senator, Dauda Jifa (Bauchi Central), all of who have pitched tents with PDP and NNPP

At the moment in the Senate, APC now has 62; PDP 39, New Nigeria Peoples Party, NNPP 3; Young Progressives Party, YPP 2; All Progressives Grand Alliance, APGA 1, and Labour Party.

She, however, quoted INEC as saying it would put its activities into consideration and later communicate to the House.

The lawmaker said: "We invited INEC Chairman and he came and we presented the request and resolutions of the House and the resolutions are: INEC to extend the registration of all Nigerians of 18 years that want to be registered to get their PVCs. In the motion we mentioned at least two month which is 60 days.

"The resolutions of the motion were discussed at length and in response, the chairman of INEC saw with the House what is physically happening in our various constituencies. The number of people coming out for registration is unprecedented and we cannot deny Nigerians wanting to be registered because it is their constitutional right

"In their response, they were positive because they are also a body in charge of that aspect. With that registration the process of election is hampered.

"The first success is to get Nigerians that are eligible their voters cards so that they can exercise their right come election day.

"However that registration of voters is one aspect. There are other milestones that have to be achieved which include the printing and distribution of the voters card. And the printing of lists of all persons registered in all the 774 local governments nationwide."

Senate probes Shell over Joint Venture breach, seeks \$200m refund to FG

ABUJA—THE Senate yesterday constituted an ad-hoc committee to investigate Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, over non-compliance with the Petroleum Act and breach of the Joint Venture Agreement entered into with the Federal Government.

The ad-hoc committee was mandated to probe the Oil Mining Lease granted to SPDC between 1959 and 1989 as well as 1989 and 2019 under the SPDC/NNPC Joint Venture agreement.

The committee, which was constituted by the Senate president, Ahmad Lawan, has Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi as its chairman.

Other members on the panel include Senators George Thompson Sekibo, Abdullahi Yahaya, Bassey Albert Akpan, Olamilekan Solomon Adeola, Smart Adeyemi and Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed.

Accordingly, the chamber demanded a refund of \$200 million (USD) or any amount short of what was paid by SPDC, including penalties and interests under the said lease agreements

to the coffers of the Federal Government.

The resolution was reached by the chamber after it considered a motion sponsored by Senator George Thompson Sekibo (PDP, Rivers East).

The motion was entitled, "non payment of the sum of \$200,000,000 accruals from the Oil Mining Lease (OML), by Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited under the SPDC/NNPC Joint Venture Agreement and, illegal and unlawful renewal of Oil Mining Leases by the Ministry of Petroleum Resources/ Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) contrary to the provision of paragraph 10 of the First Schedule to the Petroleum Act 1969 (now Section 86(1) and 86(6) of the Petroleum Industry Act 2022."

Sekibo in a presentation, observed that the SPDC/NNPC Joint Venture (JV) agreement, in contravention of the provisions of the Petroleum Act 1969, by the defunct Department of Petroleum Resources, DPR, and Ministry of Petroleum Resources, granted to the SPDC/ NNPC a 30-year Oil Mining Lease from 1959 to 1989.

Church attacks: Wicked people plotting to put Nigeria under religious stress, Buhari laments

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA—PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari yesterday expressed concern over a plot by those he described as wicked people to put the country under religious stress.

The President in a statement issued by his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Mallam Garba Shehu, said the country's religious freedom and diversity made it great, adding that it was the diversity that gave Nigeria its strength.

Buhari was reacting to the recent tragedy in Owo, Ondo State, two weeks ago and the killings and kidnappings that took place in Kaduna.

The statement read: "From the tragedy in Owo two weeks ago that shook our nation to its core, to the killings and kidnappings just this weekend in Kaduna State, it is clear that there is a design by wicked people to put the country under religious stress.

"President Muhammadu Buhari believes that "our religious freedom, our diversity, is what makes Nigeria great. It is this diversity that gives Nigeria its strength. That is why Nigeria's

enemies seek to destroy it, by putting us against one another.

"We will not let them. The nation will not be distracted or divided by these obviously planned and politically motivated criminal outrages.

"The perpetrators are cowards; weak and wicked men with guns murdering, in cold blood, unarmed women and children at their places of worship."

Having noted the starkness of the contrast between the actions of those hateful cowards and those of true Nigerians in the aftermath of Owo, the President observed that "seeing the crowd of Nigerians voluntarily rushing to donate blood after the attack, thronging the local hospitals, even in the midst of mourning, I was proud of my country. I was filled with hope.

"As for the cowards, they will be punished for their crimes. We will bring them to justice. Rest assured that the full might of Nigeria's formidable security and intelligence forces are involved in that endeavor.

"For now, I urge all Nigerians to come together in prayer—whether Christian, Muslim or any of our great faiths—let us hold the victims and their families in our hearts and minds."

2023: Resist attempt to use social media to impede national security, DSS warns

By Soni Daniel

ABUJA—DEPARTMENT of State Services, DSS, has pleaded with the media to do all within its power to checkmate elements who are out to use it to threaten national security as the nation prepares for the 2023 election.

The agency urged Nigerians to shun tendencies capable of instigating ethno-religious tensions in the country, citing social media and fake news as the biggest threats to national security and peaceful coexistence.

Public Relations Officer of the agency, Dr. Peter Afunanya, who raised the alarm at the agency's headquarters in Abuja yesterday,

promised that the service was ready to discharge its duties effectively in promoting national security and public order as the nation prepares for the general election next year.

Afunanya pleaded with the media in the country to work closely with it in educating the public to shun violence, ethnic disharmony, intolerance and other divisive measures capable of inflaming passion and creating instability in the country.

"Social media and fake news are the biggest threats to human existence, not only to elections. Fake news is major cause of violence in our society now. As journalists, you should always fact check information before

publishing.

"We must understand that Nigeria is the only country we have and every one must put hands on deck to ensure that there is peace," Afunanya said.

He also pleaded with the media to be sensitive to the mood of the nation and avoid reporting that tends to cause disharmony and disaffection among Nigerians, warning that the agency would not shy away from doing what was right, no matter who was involved.

"The DSS is advising that the media must see the nation as the only nation that we have. On our side, we will continue to do what is expected of us and also engage all stakeholders."

PUBLIC NOTICE

CAVEAT EMPTOR

The members of the general public are hereby warned that the vast expanse of land lying and situate at Ofeagu Land Isiagu in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State is the communal property of the members of Okpozumba Family, Iruoge Village, Isiagu in Awka South Local Government Area in Anambra State of Nigeria.

Any person or group of persons, corporate or otherwise who deals with, transacts on, purchases or purports to have purchased the said property or any part thereof without the consent or authorization of the members of Okpozumba Family, Iruoge Village, Isiagu in Awka South Local Government Area in Anambra State of Nigeria does so at his or her own risk.

DATED THIS 16TH DAY OF JUNE 2022

NWANAZODO OKWEGHI

(Head, Okpozumba Family)

(For himself and as representing the members of Okpozumba Family, Iruoge Village, Isiagu in Awka South Local Government Area in Anambra State)

Destruction of FG's housing project: Ondo monarch, developer in verbal war

• Destruction sponsored by Deji of Akure — Developer • It's cheap blackmail, says monarch

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE—BARELY a year after a group of traditional worshippers disrupted construction work at the site of a Federal Government Housing project, located at Alagbaka Government Reservation Area, GRA, in Akure, Ondo State, some thugs have, again, invaded the site, destroying several buildings worth millions of naira.

In May 2021, a bloody clash was prevented between the construction workers and the traditional worshippers by the timely intervention of the state Police command.

The worshippers, numbering over 20, who were led by the *Adigun* of Akureland, Chief Abisoye Asoga, arrived at the site at about 9am, with a black fowl, white pigeon, and other items, to perform rituals.

Their arrival at the site caused a stir among site workers for hours.

Developers petition Police

To avoid bloodshed, the developers, Medaville Building and Construction Company Limited, and its Managing Director, Otunba Ademola Akin-Benson, had lodged a complaint at the Police Command.

The worshippers and the developer were, however, invited to the Police headquarters for amicable settlement.

In his allegation, the developer, Akin-Benson, said: "The worshippers were being sponsored by land grabbers to use the ritual at the site to scare away the Federal Housing Estate developer and his site workers."



• A picture of the destroyed project



• Another destroyed project

In an attempt to set the record straight, Akin-Benson said that the land had been legally acquired by the Federal Government for the estate.

He alleged that recently, some suspected thugs and ritualists had attacked site workers at the estate, which made him approach the court.

He explained that the court had ordered all parties, including the *Deji* of Akure, Oba Ogunlade Aladetoyinbo, to maintain the *status quo* and allow the project to continue.

Reacting, the leader of the worshippers, Chief Abisoye Asoga, *Adigun* of Akureland, said contrary to allegations of land grabbing, it was in the tradition of the worshippers to perform the ritual at a small rock inside the estate, once in 10 years.

Deji of Akure reacts

On his part, the *Deji* of Akure, Oba Aladetoyinbo described the allegation by the developer as untrue, adding that the land in question belongs to Akure traditional worshippers.

Speaking through his Chief Press Secretary, Michael Adeyeye, the monarch said the ritual at the estate site was in line with the community's tradition.

However, barely a year after the ugly incident, thugs, numbering about 20, invaded the same construction site and went on rampage pulling down buildings.

The armed thugs fired several gunshots to scare away workers at the site, thereby injuring some while others scampered for safety.

Speaking with newsmen, Otunba Ademola Akin-Benson again fingered the Akure monarch as the sponsor of the attack.

Akin-Benson, in his allegation, said: "Oba Aladetoyinbo has been using thugs to disrupt work on site and sometimes drop charms to scare us."

He lamented that over N50 million had been lost to the consistent attacks by thugs adding that the thugs have persistently placed fetish objects on the project site and chased workers away.

Akin-Benson said that the spot, where the *Deji* lays claim to as community land, was a distance away and not the spot where work is going on in line with extant court judgment.

He explained that the land belonged to the Federal Government but was ceded to Medaville Building and Construction Company Limited to

develop.

The chairman noted that the matter had been reported to police several times, adding: "We are in court. My lawyers have filed Section 49 against him."

Allegation is unfounded—*Deji* of Akure But in a swift response, the *Deji* of Akureland described the allegation as unfounded.

He said: "It was Benson that hired thugs and his refusal to pay them their fee led to crisis and destruction witnessed at the site. He is only trying to point accusing fingers rather than blame himself for the woes he brought upon himself."

"You may be aware that there is a disputed five hectares of land which belongs to Akure; the court had asked him not to work on the disputed area but only on the approved 15 hectares. So we expect him to abide by the decision of the Court over the matter."

"The palace has no hand in the in-fighting that ensued between the thugs he engaged on the land."

Akure will never do anything that will disrupt its peace. We want development and expansion; we will not do anything to the contrary.

"The man in question should check himself and desist from this cheap blackmail. We urge him to see Akure as a peaceful land that is very accommodating."

CLASSIFIED
CHANGE OF NAME AND CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH
 I, formerly known as James Hovuneovai Okosi, now wish to be known as Okosi Hovuneovai Emmanuel. My date of birth was written as 9th August, 1999, instead of 9th August, 2000. All documents remain valid. General public take note.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
OSUN STATE OF NIGERIA
(PROBATE DIVISION)

WHEREAS the person's whose names are set out in the second Column of the said schedule date and the place mentioned therein.
 AND WHEREAS the person's whose names and address set out in the second Column of the said schedule along (wherever found necessary or expedient) with the particulars of their relationship to the deceased have applied to the High Court of Justice, Osun State of Nigeria for the grant unto them of letters of administration in respect of the and or personal property of the said deceased.
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said Letters of Administration will be granted to the said Applicants unless a notice of prohibit such grant is filed in the Registry of the High Court of Justice, Osogbo, Osun State of Nigeria within twenty-one (21) days from today.

SCHEDULE

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>DECEASED 1. DAVID OLASUPO FARANPOJO Late of No.3, Akindoyin Street, Eleyele, Ile-Ife, who died on the 15th day of April 2022 at Ile-Ife.</p> | <p>APPLICANT FOR GRANT 1. Mr. Faranpojo Victor Olumide and Faranpojo Olaitan Bukola - both of c/o Their Solicitors, Kehinde Omotosho Esq., No. 91, Fasuyi Road Ile-Ife, Children of the said Deceased.</p> |
| <p>2. EMMANUEL ONAOLAPO (OYELESO) OYEBAMIJI Late of Ile Oba, Oluponna, who died on 3rd day of January, 2022 at Iwo.</p> | <p>2. Oyebamiji Oyedele Olalekan and Ajayi Oluwatoyin Oyeronke - both of Ile Oba, Olupo Palace, Oluponna, Children of the said Deceased.</p> |

DATED 23rd DAY OF JUNE, 2022.

LASISI MUHAMMED ADEBAYO
 PROBATE REGISTRAR

OMADINO EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

General Meeting

The leadership of Omadino Employment and Development Association invites all members/Youths of Omadino community to a General meeting/briefing on Friday 24th June, 2022 at Nenuwa Hall, Omadino. Time 10am prompt.

All concerned are by this notice implored to attend.

Signed
 Comr. Francis Niro Omaro
 Youth Leader

SOFTCUTS

Social Media Conversation

PETROL PRICE

FOOD PRICE

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Moussa Ssew
 @ssew_moussa

I want to sell my car to pay for my girlfriend's last semester so that she can secure her masters degree. I guess I'll use the balance to start a small business for her as she settles to look for a job since she wants to practice her profession. Young Queen deserves the world Sponsor her wedding too!

When you see a lady buying idomie with over size slippers, Just know she's in her boyfriend's house. Trying to cook nonsense.

But you'd like her to cook for you?



Ogun is committed to growth of Oodu'a —Gov Abiodun

By James Ogunnaike

ABEOKUTA — GOVERNOR Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State, yesterday, said his administration is deeply committed towards the realisation of the objectives of the founding fathers of the Oodu'a Investment Company Limited.

Abiodun, who stated this during the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Oodu'a

Investment Company Limited, held in Lagos, said his administration would continue to support the objectives of the company, so as to ensure that both the economic and financial objectives of Oodu'a are realised.

He said: "We, in Ogun State, are deeply committed to the cause of Oodu'a and to what Oodu'a is established to achieve. We will continue to give the needed support so that the economic and financial objectives of the Oodu'a are realised."

World Environment Day 2022: NBC embarks on tree planting, beach cleaning

By Etop Ekanem

LAGOS — IN commemoration of this year's World Environment Day, the Nigerian Bottling Company Limited, NBC, has reaffirmed its commitment to environmental stewardship by organising beach cleaning and tree planting activities to create awareness of the importance of safeguarding the earth's finite resources.

In Lagos, the exercise was held at Gbara Community Senior Secondary School, in collaboration with key partners, including Hope for Life Initiative, Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency, LASEPA, and the Ministry of Environment.

Commenting on the initiative, Managing Director of NBC,

Matthieu Seguin, said: "Over the years, Africa's forest cover has seen a steady decline, which invariably threatens the ability of its ecosystems to withstand climate change."

Seguin, who was represented by the Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Director, Ekuma Eze said: "Our tree planting campaign is not only a direct response to this problem but also a platform to galvanise corporate participation in promoting interventions that support the sustainability of our planet."

In his remarks, Managing Director of Lagos State Waste Management Authority, LAWMA, Ibrahim Odumboni, commended NBC for its efforts, noting that these initiatives would go a long way to reduce the impact of environmental hazards plaguing the coastal community.

...Pernod Ricard partners NCF on tree-planting

By Niyi Okiri

LAGOS — PERNOD Ricard Nigeria, the local affiliate of Pernod Ricard, in partnership with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, NCF, is planting 2,000 tree seedlings, in observance of the 10th edition of 'Responsib'All Day'.

Launched in 2011, Responsib'All Day is in line with Pernod Ricard's Sustainability and Responsibility 2030 roadmap: 'Good Times from a Good Place'.

Managing Director of Pernod Ricard West Africa, Sola Oke said:

"As créateurs de convivialité, our mission is to unravel the magic of human connection by bringing good times from a good place, as we impact our communities in our efforts to build a more sustainable and responsible world without excesses. We are delighted to partner with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation to bring our vision to life, as we play our role in protecting the environment."

Also speaking, NCF's Director of Business Development and Communications, Uchenna Achunine, said: "Conservation projects that help to sustain our communities, like that of the Responsib'All Day, are essential for societal progress."

'Almorooof's legacies' ll remain indelible in people's hearts'

LAGOS — RENOWNED estate agent, Mutairu Owoye, has said the memory and legacy of his late boss, Teslim Almorooof, would remain indelible in the hearts of those who value quality leadership and rare virtue in man.

Owoyee, at a prayer session in the Atan-Ota area of Ogun State, to mark the two years

remembrance of the late Almorooof, said: "I have been with the late Almorooof for 21 years after I retired from the Army. I admire his ways of life. The first thing is that he hates people telling lies and does not hold grudges against people."

He will call you and say it to your face if anybody tells him something against you."

Owo massacre: Ogundare Foundation gives scholarship to victims' children

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE — A Non-Profit Organisation, Ogundare Foundation, has offered to give scholarship to no fewer than 20 children of victims of the Owo massacre at the St. Francis Catholic Church, Owo, in Ondo State.

During a condolence visit to the Olowo of Owo, Oba Ajibade Ogunoye, the founder of the foundation, Oluwaseyi Ogundare, represented by the Back To School Project Team

Lead, Ms Ayomide Akintade, sympathised with the monarch and the people of Owo.

Akintade informed the traditional ruler of the foundation's planned project, tagged: *Back To School Project*, aimed at sponsoring the education of children of the victims who lost their lives in the Owo massacre.

She said: "The *Back To School Project* is aimed at ensuring that the children of the affected victims go back to school from any class they were in currently, till the completion of their



BRIEFING—Yetunde Morohundiya, Vice-Chairman, Board of Fellows; Dr. Joel Adagadzu, Chairman, Board of Fellows; Lanre Familusi, Secretary, Board of Fellows, and Ngozi Obikili, Treasurer, Board of Fellows, all of Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, during the board's 2022 Mid-Year Meeting/Public Lecture Press briefing, held in Lagos, yesterday. Photo: Kehinde Shonola.

Ekiti: Delay in passing Electoral Offences Bill risky for 2023 polls, IPAC tells Reps ...As Oyeibanji, deputy-elect get return certs

By Rotimi Ojomoyela & Luminous Jannamike

ABUJA — THE Inter-Party Advisory Council, IPAC, yesterday, urged the House of Representatives to expedite action on the passage of the Electoral Offences Commission Bill, warning that any further delay might 'jeopardise' the sanctity of the forthcoming general elections in 2023.

This came on a day the winner of the June 18 governorship election in Ekiti State and candidate of the All Progressives Congress, APC, Mr. Biodun Oyeibanji, and his Deputy, Mrs. Monisade Afuye, received their Certificates of Return from the Independent National Electoral

Commission, INEC.

The IPAC National Chairman, Mr. Yabagi Sani, who spoke at a briefing in Abuja on the conduct of the Ekiti governorship election, noted the cases of electoral malpractice and other sundry offences, particularly vote-buying, in last Saturday's governorship poll in Ekiti.

It, therefore, warned that if adequate statutory laws are not put in place by the National Assembly to facilitate the prosecution of the suspects arrested in Ekiti, to serve as a deterrent to those contemplating to sabotage the forthcoming general election, the country would face the risk of having a leader who may not necessarily be the people's choice in 2023.

Sani said: "Accordingly, IPAC calls on the National Assembly to expedite action on the

Electoral Offences Commission and urges President Muhammadu Buhari to assent to it before the 2023 general elections.

"The arrest and prosecution of electoral offenders will restore sanity in the nation's democratic process."

"Meanwhile, the Police should quickly prosecute those arrested for vote-buying in Ekiti State, including INEC officials and security agents who aided and abetted the crime."

He also urged INEC to review its performance in Ekiti to improve in the forthcoming Osun State governorship election.

He said: "Every vote must count and be counted in the overall result without the inducement of the electorate."

"This is the only way to boost the nation's electoral process and

encourage massive voter turnout in subsequent elections.

"Nigerians yearn for a new lease of life and dividends of democracy, not carnage as obtainable today across the country."

Oyeibanji, deputy-elect get Certificates of Return

Meanwhile, speaking while receiving the certificate alongside Mrs Afuye at INEC's office in Ado Ekiti, Oyeibanji promised not to betray the Ekiti people in his service to them.

Addressing the crowd of party supporters and admirers, Oyeibanji said: "Let me thank the INEC for providing a level playing ground for the contenders in this election. I can't agree with the INEC less that the BVAS was a game-changer in our election."

"Nobody ever believed what happened on Saturday could ever happen. Some people did not believe that rigging of elections was over, but the Ekiti election convinced us."

"The people committed such huge trust in us because of the stellar performance of Governor Kayode Fayemi, and it was that I will build on. What happened on Saturday was a referendum and validation that the APC-led government has performed."

Addressing the recipients, the Resident Electoral Commissioner, REC in Ekiti State, Dr Adeniran Tella, said the presentation of certificates was in line with Section 72(1) of the Electoral Act, which stipulated that the commission should present certificates to the governor and deputy within 14 days of being elected.

Tella said: "The customisation of all election materials reduced the incidents of hijack. All stakeholders, particularly the political parties and security agencies should support INEC in the introduction of technology to enhance our electoral process and reduce the number of electoral offenders."

Osun 2022: Oyetola assures electorate of adequate security

By Shina Abubakar

OSOGBO — GOVERNOR Adegboyega Oyetola of Osun State, yesterday, assured electorate in the state of adequate security, ahead of the July 16 governorship election in the state.

tertiary education. This will be fully sponsored and funded by the Ogundare Foundation.

"The Ogundare Foundation, brought to life out of compassion to help the less privileged by being a haven away from home, creating shelter, and putting smiles on the faces of everyone, has embarked on a special project to ease the burdens of victims of the massacre."

Receiving members of the foundation, the Olowo of Owo, Oba Ogunoye, appreciated the foundation for their condolence visit and for also introducing a laudable project.

Addressing teeming All Progressives Congress, APC, supporters in Obokun and Oriade local government areas of the state, he urged the electorate to troop out en masse to vote on July 16, saying proper security would be on the ground to deter any hoodlum from

harassing them.

Oyetola said: "There will be adequate security for Osun State governorship election. Don't be intimidated by anyone. We are planning adequate security for the entire residents of the state for the forthcoming election."

"We are here to uphold a good democratic system. Let us consider the future of our children, don't give room for inducement. The future is very important."

"The opposition parties are feeding the people of the state with deceit, I urge you to reject them. Osun State should not be used as a test of governance with all the challenges facing the state."

Also speaking, Oyetola's re-election campaign Director-General, Senator Ajibola Basiru, urged the electorate to disregard the rumour that the Governor would stop payment of salaries and pensions if re-elected, saying Osun is one of the few states in the country discharging its responsibility in those areas.

Oba Ogunoye said: "You have done well by planning to bring the children who lost their parents at the massacre back to school."

"The best way to develop the society is to educate the young ones because education is key to keeping the society in peace and harmony, if those who perpetrated the act were educated, they will know that such an act should not be done in a sane society."

Oba Ogunoye commended the founder, Mr. Ogundare, for deeming it fit to bring the children back to school.



SUMMIT—From left: Ademola Ogunbanjo, Executive Vice President, Oando Clean Energy Limited; Faruk Yabo, Director, Investment and Sector Development Dept., ISD; Prince Bernard, Head, Solar Dept., JRB Solar Investment; Abubakar Aliyu, Minister for Power; Prof. Chidi Onuoha, National Vice Chairman, Steering Committee, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Associations, REEEA-Alliance; Ahmad Ahmad, MD, Rural Electrification Agency, REA, and Prof. Sani Sambo, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Usman DanFodio University, Sokoto, during the concluded Nigeria Africa Energy Investment Summit, in Abuja.

Ohanaeze tackles Buhari over comments on IPOB

•Says group is product of injustice from his govt
•Western allies know pipeline vandals, stop accusing us —IPOB

By Anayo Okoli & Chimaobi Nwaiwu

ENUGU—OHANAENZE Ndigbo has reacted to attacks on the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, by President Muhammadu Buhari, saying there is injustice in his government, particularly against the South East region.

In a related development, the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, yesterday, replied President Buhari, over his alleged call on western allies to designate it as terror group, saying that the Western audience already know who the pipeline vandals in Nigeria are.

Describing the president's call as not only laughable and disgraceful, IPOB said that his claim was also fallacious and cannot be substantiated.

Buhari had in an interview with a foreign medium, Bloomberg accused IPOB of blowing up oil facilities in the country and also bribing US law makers not to declare them terrorist group and called on "the international allies to take additional step to proscribe the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) as a terrorist organization".

President Buhari was also quoted to have "pleaded with Nigeria's international partners, especially the United States (U.S.) and the United Kingdom (UK) to block the group from the international financial network".

Reacting to the President's comments, the apex Igbo socio-

cultural body, through the national publicity secretary, Dr. Alex Chidozie Ogonnia said: "It is most expedient to enlighten the general public that what IPOB is asking for is the parting words of a Nigerian Titan: the Maitama Sule imperatives to President Buhari when he led the Northern Leaders Forum to congratulate Mr. President shortly after his victory in the 2015 general election. Alhaji Maitama Sule of the blessed memory in congratulating Mr. President, admonished that "justice is key to good governance". That Mr. President should "extend justice to all and sundry, irrespective of religion or tribe. Sule reminded Mr. President that an infidel with good conscience and equity can govern successfully, far better than a believer devoid of sense of justice.

"Sule added that the solution to Nigeria's problems can never be achieved by force, nor by fear, nor by power but by equity and justice to all. The prophetic Sule urged him to do justice to all parts of the country because according to him, peace and stability are a product of justice and equity. He added that in the absence of justice and equity, there can never be peace and development.

"Sule among others stated that in the absence of development, there will be mass unemployment, poverty and that the idle men is a devil's workshop.

"Mr. President knows he ignored the eternal advice from the Nigerian foremost patriot, democrat and diplomat, Alhaji Maitama Sule.

"What, I think, the IPOB is asking for is very clear: Treat us as partners in the Nigerian project or allow us to go. On the other hand, how can one explain the obvious lopsidedness in the appointment of military and paramilitary personnel to head the followings organizations with little or no South East considerations: Nigerian Army, Nigerian Airforce, Nigerian Navy, Nigeria Police Force, Department of State Services, DSS; National Intelligence Agency, NIA; Nigeria Correctional Service, Nigeria Immigration Service, and Nigeria Customs Service; and several others.

"On the other hand, as Maitama Sule predicted, the orchestrated alienation of the South East from the centre of power is the basic cause of the agitation in the South East.

The Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide led by Ambassador Professor George Obiozor has repeatedly stated that a people

denied justice may not have interest in peace.

"The request by Mr. President to the West is most unachievable because the West watches with keen interest and utter resignation the pathetic governance paradigm in the country. For the avoidance of doubt, democracy all over the world requires justice, equity, mutual toleration and institutional forbearance all of which are in short supply in today's Nigeria.

"Mr. President is reminded that the British profound sense of justice, fortitude, restraint, civic virtues and forbearance are the hallmarks that sustain their enviable government with an unwritten constitution.

"In a similar vein, what sustains the US democracy is not just the constitution but democratic norms and values anchored on justice and patriotism.

"As I am writing, the sad news of another Benue massacre flew in that no fewer than 16 kinsmen of Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State were, Monday, reportedly murdered in a fresh attack by suspected armed Fulani herdsmen, who invaded Udei and Yelwata communities in Guma Local Government Area of the state.

"According to the report which is viral, "the latest attack is coming about 10 days after a similar attack claimed several lives in Igama village, Edumoga Ehaje, Okpokwu LGA and four days after a lawmaker and his sibling were also murdered and beheaded by the marauders in Orokam, Ogbadibo LGA of the state.

"Ohanaeze contends that if Mr. President confronts the menace of the Fulani herdsmen who have been terrorizing several states, communities and individuals for over seven years now with similar obsession and commitment deployed to IPOB, Nigeria will be a better place".

Western allies know pipeline vandals, stop accusing us —IPOB

A statement by IPOB's Media and Publicity Secretary, Emma Powerful, entitled, "Buhari should be reminded that his Western audience already know who the pipeline vandals in Nigerian are" also described the call as one coming from an uninformed mind who seemed not to know the location of pipelines in Nigeria, wondering why a President of a country like Nigeria could be making such false uninformed

"For a man who claim to be President of Nigeria residing in Aso Rock to tell the US and other Western countries that IPOB is responsible for pipeline vandalism in the Niger Delta, shows how uninformed he is.

"President Buhari should tell America and other Western countries the locations of pipelines IPOB vandalised in their country. The allegation against IPOB by Buhari is childish, because everybody knows that IPOB does not engage in pipeline vandalism in Nigeria. Even the international community knows that IPOB does not involve in such act.

"Maybe the Buhari controlled Federal Government of Nigeria doesn't know that the West is not as daft and uninformed as his government and his clueless kleptomania cabinet is, otherwise, he would not have made such embarrassing fact less claims.

"President Buhari should be reminded that his Western audience already knows the actual culprits behind pipeline vandalism in Nigeria and who the beneficiaries are. What a contradiction and confusion in Buhari's Nigeria! In case he has forgotten as usual, just last week, his Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, NSCDC, boss threatened to name high profile Nigerians behind oil theft. Did the NSCDC boss need to issue such a threat assuming IPOB a 'terror organisation' according to Buhari's Nigeria, is actually the ones behind the crime.

"Nigeria should also be reminded that his Western audience already knows how his government is aiding his Fulani bandits brothers in their wicked agenda of massacring indigenous Nigerians and taking over their land. The West knows who and how ransom in hard currency are paid to Fulani bandits and terrorists kidnapping innocent Nigerians, his government is promoting, shielding and enabling to amass more

weapons for their genocidal agenda.

"Mr. President of Nigeria should be told that the Western world have already understood that his anger against IPOB is simply because the IPOB remains the only obstacle to his government's evil agenda of using his Fulani kinsmen to overrun Nigeria and declare it an Islamic State. That is why it is only in Nigeria that IPOB, a peaceful movement with presence in over 100 countries is tagged a terrorist organisation.

"He and his kangaroo court delivered a black market judgment against a peaceful movement seeking freedom for their people, without looking into his Fulani kinsmen's activities of envying, sacking and eliminating non-Fulani in Nigeria from their homes.

"He and his cabal refused to declare Fulani herdsmen, manhandling, raping destroying communities and killing innocent citizens of Nigeria as terrorists but they want IPOB, a responsible and no nonsense freedom seekers to be designated as terrorist group.

"One thing is certain, IPOB will hunt down those terrorists masquerading as herdsmen in Biafran bushes and forests. Whatever allegations they like let them fabricate. We can't abdicate our divine mandate of defending our ancestral land against Fulani occupation. That is the only crime we committed against Buhari and his government and we do not have any regret. Fulani can never overrun southeast if they have succeeded in other parts of Nigeria.

"His government sponsored insecurity in the Eastern region and are blaming it on IPOB, thinking that the world is unaware of the activities of his Fulani brothers and the military men he deployed in our territory. The world is watching everything happening in Nigeria and IPOB members will stand firm because we won't allow them to take over our ancestral lands".

Ogbaru market: Anambra govt removes sit-tight market leader

By Vincent Ujumadu

AWK—THE Anambra State governor, Professor Chukwuma Soludo has used the services of security operatives to remove the chairman of Ogbaru Relief market, Mr. Ndubuisi Ochiogu who refused to leave office after the governor's order to do so.

Already, his replacement, Mr. David Obidike has assumed office following the forceful removal of Ochuogu.

The state Commissioner for Trade and Commerce, Mr. Obinna Ngonadi effected the leadership change with a combined team of the Police, Department of State Services (DSS), Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and the local Ogbaru vigilante group as directed by the governor.

The governor's decision to use force against Ochiogu was seen as a last resort after series of letters to him to comply with an earlier order to leave office failed.

It was gathered that the state government's action was because the election that brought him into office was observed to be flawed.

Ochiogu was not on seat when the government team arrived, and after calls placed to him to come and hand over to the new administration proved abortive, the new chairman was installed.

In his acceptance speech, Obidike pledged to take the market to the next level and pleaded with the traders to give him maximum cooperation to help move the market forward.

He assured that there would be adequate protection of traders

and urged them to cooperate with his administration.

He commended the governor and the commissioner for finding him worthy to pilot the affairs of the market as the caretaker committee chairman pending when an election would be conducted.

Obidike said: "I thank Governor Soludo who has a listening ear. I saw hell on the day of that election as a contestant for the chairmanship seat as those that

were supposed to vote were not allowed to come inside the field.

"When I boycotted the election arena because it was flawed, they locked the gate and held me hostage until after the so-called election."

The former chairman of the market, Chief Victor Akirika, while welcoming the governor's intervention, observed that peace had been restored with the appointment of Obidike as the caretaker committee chairman.

"We will assist Obidike to move the market forward because he is a patient man," Akirika said.

Enugu 2023: Mba/Ossai ticket'll sustain Ugwuanyi's legacies

THE PEOPLES Democratic Party, PDP, has expressed delight at the emergence of Barr. Ifeanyi Ossai, as the running mate to the party's governorship candidate in Enugu State, Peter Mbah, disclosing that the joint ticket will guarantee the sustenance of the enviable legacies of Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi's administration anchored on peace, security and good governance.

In a statement by the Chairman of the PDP in Enugu State, Augustine Nnamani, the party congratulated Ossai on his emergence as the party's deputy governorship candidate, and went further to commend Mbah for his forthrightness and wisdom in choosing him based on his integrity, competence and commitment.

The PDP State Chairman thanked Gov. Ugwuanyi for his effective leadership role which he (Nnamani) said was responsible for the peaceful conduct of the PDP

primary elections in the state and the emergence of the party's governorship candidate, Mbah, and other flag bearers of the party.

Nnamani stated that the party is convinced that Mbah as a humble, peaceful, visionary, God fearing and young entrepreneurial intellectual will sustain the worthy legacies of Gov. Ugwuanyi who he (Nnamani) said has done a lot to entrench peace and good governance in Enugu State, in spite of the nation's economic, security and public health challenges.

He expressed optimism that Mbah as a brilliant lawyer and dedicated party man will uphold the manifesto of the PDP and the policy thrust of the present administration, if elected as governor of Enugu State.

"The PDP leadership in Enugu State is delighted at the nomination of Barr. Ifeanyi Ossai as the running mate to our governorship candidate, Barr. Peter Ndubuisi Mbah."

Editor loses dad

Managing Editor (Editorial Services) of *The Nation*, Lawal Ogiengon has lost his father. Pa Sadiku Ogiengon died on May 27 in Lagos. He was 89.

He was buried in Jagbe, Edo State, on May 28, according to Islamic rites. The 40th day Fidau prayers and final burial rites will hold in Jagbe between July 4 and 5.

Pa Ogiengon is survived by his widow, Aisetu, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



•Late Ogiengon



PDP deputy gov candidates: Onyeme, Eyakenyi emerge in Delta, A'ibom

By Festus Ahon,
John Alechenu &
Chioma Onuegbu

As screening continues

AHEAD of the 2023 general elections, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, yesterday, named chairman of the Delta State Board of Internal Revenue, Sir Monday Onyeme, as its deputy governorship candidate and running mate to the party's gubernatorial candidate, Sheriff Oborewori, in Delta State.

Also, the senator representing Akwa Ibom South senatorial district, Akon Eyakenyi, was picked as the running mate to the Akwa Ibom PDP governorship candidate, Pastor Umo Eno, for the 2023 poll.

These followed the commencement of screening of the party's deputy governorship candidates at its national secretariat, Abuja.

According to party insiders, the screening was designed to forestall a repeat of what party insiders called the All Progressives Congress "Bayelsa Fiasco" where the APC's electoral victory was upturned because its deputy governorship candidate was adjudged ineligible to contest on account of inconsistencies in his certificates.

It was gathered that the PDP panel was scrutinising documents presented by each of the candidates and ask them questions to test their suitability for the task ahead. Speaking to reporters shortly after facing the panel, Senator Eyakenyi, said: "I came in here to be screened as the deputy governorship candidate of Akwa Ibom. I want to say the screening exercise was very well conducted, the chairman and members of the committee are well-seasoned intellectuals. They asked the right questions and it was a smooth interaction. They needed to know if I had the capacity to run for the office of deputy governor."

"The women of Akwa Ibom thank the party, the governor of Akwa Ibom and stakeholders who approved that a woman be given the slot of deputy governor for the first time.

"I am going to represent the slot of the women but I am going as a mother for the 31 local government areas of Akwa Ibom State covering both men, youth and elderly.

"I am going there to serve, to set a standard and ensure that after me, another woman can pick up the position, I will also ensure that women have their due and right at the executive, legislative and party level. I am also going to be a model and standard to every woman in Akwa Ibom State."

Meanwhile, for Delta State, a statement by its state Publicity Secretary, Dr. Ifeanyi Osuoza, said: "Sir Onyeme, was born on March 30, 1965, at Ibabu community of Onicha-Ukwuani in Ndokwa West LGA of Delta State. At a very early age in life, he showed a great passion for education, hard work, and spartan discipline.

"A professional to the core, before his present appointment as the Executive Chairman of Delta State Board of Internal Revenue, DBIR, he was the Bursar of the National Open University of Nigeria, a position he held for over nine years.

"Above all, he is a loyal, dedicated and true party man, totally committed, well

respected, and truly beloved in the PDP family. He is also a devout Christian and a complete family man, happily married with lovely children.

"Sir Onyeme and our governorship candidate, Oborewori, will pair on our joint ticket, as flagbearers of the PDP, for the 2023 Delta State governorship election.

"Delta State PDP, warmly

congratulates our deputy governorship candidate, Onyeme, on his successful emergence as the running mate to our governorship candidate, Oborewori and we have no doubts that this is already a confirmed winning combination for the 2023 governorship election.

"We are now fully ready for the electoral battle in 2023 and by the Grace of God, it will end in praise, as always."



GROUND-BREAKING: Edo State Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Joe Acha laying the foundation at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Abudu High Court Complex, Edo State, last Tuesday. Looking on is Chairman, Edo State Oil and Gas Producing Areas Development Commission, EDSOGPADEC, Pastor Kennedy Osifo and others.

Diri inaugurates PDP reconciliation c'ttee, reinstates appointees

By Samuel
Oyadongha

YENAGOA — DOUYE DIRI of Bayelsa State has inaugurated the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, reconciliation committee in the state with a mandate to reconcile aggrieved members after the party's recent House of Assembly and National Assembly primaries.

The committee is headed by Senator Rufus Inatimi-Spiff while Mr. Austin Lugbenwei is to serve as his deputy with Victor Vianana as secretary.

Other members are Chief Theophilus Moses, Dr. Andrew Ebakpa, Prof. Tarilah Tebepah, Chief Bright Erewari, Elliot Osomu, Major Zedekiah Isu (retd), Dr. Ayakeme Whiskey, James Agari, Dr. Godwin Ziriki, Elder Adolphus Forcados, Mr. Natus Zebakeme, Francis Ikio and one female each to

represent the three senatorial districts.

The committee was inaugurated Tuesday in Yenagoa, when the governor met with candidates that emerged from the primaries, other aspirants as well as the leadership of the party.

Diri in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Daniel Alabrah, stressed the need for all members to close ranks and work for the victory of the party in the 2023 elections.

He said: "We are inaugurating the reconciliation committee, which is a standing committee, as enshrined in the constitution of our party.

"It is to address fallout and outcome of our party's primaries and see how best we can continue to remain as a party and put our best foot forward to ensure we are victorious come 2023.

"Our candidates have work to do. You all need to be

humble. Please embrace your opponents. Your ability to win them over makes you a better politician because they might be the rock to salvage you."

Expressing gratitude to aspirants that voluntarily withdrew from the primaries, the governor announced the reinstatement of those who resigned their appointments to contest and urged them to support their candidates.

He said: "The umbrella is big enough to accommodate all those who did not make it in the primaries.

"I like you to join forces with them. Out of the 24 state Assembly seats, we need to take back the remaining four. Be reconciliatory in your approach to also win the federal constituency seats."

Responding on behalf of the members, the chairman, Inatimi-Spiff, thanked the governor for the confidence reposed in the committee and assured that they would carry out their mandate with utmost responsibility.

HYPREP moves to provide sources of livelihood for Ogoni youths

By Davies
Iheamnachor

PORT HARCOURT—Hydrocarbon Pollution and Remediation Project, HYPREP, said it had concluded plans to provide livelihood projects for youths of Ogoni ethnic nationality in Rivers State, expressing regret that youths have no source of livelihood.

HYPREP promised to intervene by training 200 youths

of the area in aviation and seamanship as way of engaging the youths.

Project Coordinator, HYPREP, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom, who spoke during an interactive session with youths of Ogoniland organised by the project, informed the youths that the project would ensure that they (Ogoni youths) were given good opportunities to develop source of livelihood for youths.

He said: "We have youths that

do not have sources of livelihood. We want to train 100 aviators, those that will work in the airline industry. We are going to start with air hostels, air ticketers and controllers. The proposal for this is at the stage of finality.

"We also want to train 100 seamen. They will be seafarers. They will stay 12 months on the sea. The proposal is also ready. We have set up a team that will visit Ogoni communities to identify small businesses that will be given support. It will be like a revolving fund."

Edo govt hands over magistrate court to judiciary

BENIN CITY—Edo State government has handed over a completed and well-furnished ultra-modern twin magistrate's court complex in Urhionigbe town, Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State to the judiciary.

This came as the state Chief Judge, Justice Joe Acha, performed ground breaking ceremony for the state High Court complex in Abudu.

Handing over the completed magistrate's court, Governor Godwin Obaseki, represented by Chairman of Edo State Oil and Gas Development Commission, EDSOGPADEC, Pastor Kennedy Osifo, said the new magistrate's court, which was in line with the MEGA agenda policy of the current administration, would enhance quick dispensation of justice to the people of the locality, stressing it has reaffirmed his electoral campaign promises towards restructuring the judiciary for effective and efficient service delivery.

Obaseki urged the state

judiciary to use the facilities judiciously to bring the desired results to the state.

The ultra-modern twin magistrate court complex consists of two chambers for magistrates, who shall seat simultaneously to hear cases.

Receiving the completed ultra-modern magistrate court, the Chief Judge, Justice Acha, thanked the governor for building such an edifice for the judiciary, and commended the EDSOGPADEC board for making use of available resources to execute viable projects to complement the efforts of Governor Obaseki in the state to make life more meaningful to the people.

Meanwhile, the CJ, while performing the ground breaking ceremony of an ultra-modern state High Court building, including Judges' quarters, at Abudu, the administrative headquarters of Orhionmwon LGA of the state, expressed appreciations to the kind dispositions of the governor towards the gigantic building projects.

Fashola to flag off Nembe-Brass road project in Bayelsa

By Samuel
Oyadongha

YENAGOA—Minister of Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, will today flag off construction of the Nembe-Brass road project in Bayelsa State.

The long-awaited project, which has been on the drawing board of the Federal Government for decades, is being undertaken by the Governor Douye Diri administration in the state and has been awarded to Setraco Nigeria Limited.

Tidi, Edema to mobilise Warri for Atiku-Okowa's victory

By Jimitota
Onoyume

WARRI—CHAIRMAN, Warri South Local Government Area, Delta State, Dr. Michael Tidi, and his predecessor, Matthew Edema, have assured that Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, would record landslide victory in the presidential election in Warri.

In a statement, yesterday, in Warri, they said they would mobilise massively for the party's victory also at the Delta South senatorial and the governorship elections.

The duo, who had been special project director at separate times in the state, said Warri residents were excited with the emergence of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa as the running mate to the PDP's presidential candidate, Alhaji Abubakar Atiku.

They said: "As far as the senatorial ambition of Michael Diden is concern, the task would be as easy as selling the Atiku/Okowa and Oborewori candidacies, because Michael Diden has positively impacted the lives of reasonable number of people in Delta South."

AAU alumni Warri express confidence on Oborewori gov

WARRI—Members of Ambrose Alli University Alumni Association, Warri Chapter, Delta State, have expressed confidence in Speaker, Delta State House of Assembly, Mr. Sheriff Oborewori, to perform credibly if elected as governor of the state.

Chairman of the association, Warri Chapter, Mr. Frank Miller, when he led other members of the association to felicitate with Oborewori on the occasion of his 59th birth anniversary at his residence at Osubi, extolled his unique leadership qualities.

He described Oborewori as a grassroots politician, who never failed to identify with the people irrespective of class or position in the society, noting that his ability to interact and build bridges was a great asset.

Miller, accompanied by the Chapter Secretary, John Bello and other executive members, noted that the association was proud of Oborewori's political growth as the longest serving Speaker of the Delta State legislature and landslide victory during the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, governorship primaries in Delta State.



BRIEFING:

The Kaduna South Senatorial aspirant, Tinok Nok (middle); Director General, campaign organisation Mr. Bulus Usman (left) and Mr. Gedion Marcus (right), during a press briefing reacting to the recent New Nigeria People's Party, NNPP, party Primaries in Kaduna, yesterday.
Photo: Olu Ajayi.



NUT rejects sack of 2,357 teachers in Kaduna, threatens nationwide strike

•Says its president didn't fail competency test

By Joseph Erunke

ABUJA—THE national leadership of the Nigeria Union of Teachers, NUT, has rejected Governor Nasir-el-Rufai's sacking of 2,357 of its members in Kaduna State, demanding their immediate reinstatement.

NUT claimed the concept of competency test which the Kaduna State Government relied on to sack the teachers was "designed to achieve its inglorious aim of casualization of the teaching profession in Kaduna State."

The Union at a news briefing yesterday after its National Executive Council, NEC, meeting in Abuja, threatened a nationwide strike in solidarity with Kaduna teachers if the state government failed to reverse the sack.

Recall that the Kaduna State Government on Sunday June 19, announced the sack of 2,357 including the President of NUT, Audu Amba, for either allegedly failing competency test or failing to write the test.

NUT Deputy President, Kelvin Nwankwo, alongside other members of the Union's NEC insisted that the sack was null and void.

Among others, he said "The whole concept of competency test was designed by the Kaduna State Government to achieve its inglorious aim of casualization of the teaching profession in Kaduna State."

"Otherwise, how else can one attempt a rationalization of the fact that the same Kaduna State Government in the year 2018 dismissed/retired in one swoop 21,780 teachers purportedly for not passing its unilaterally and arbitrarily administered competency test and purportedly in replacement thereof recruited about 20,000 new teachers, who according to it were subjected to vigorous test and confirmed to be competent before they were recruited into the Kaduna State Public Service."

"In accordance with the Kaduna State Public/Civil Service Rules, these purported 20,000 teachers were employed on a temporary basis and placed on a one year probationary period."

"Their appointments were to be made permanent and pensionable after the one year probationary period. However, regrettably five years down the line, these teachers are still under temporary appointment with the result that the Kaduna State Government can and shamelessly ask them to leave

the public service without any terminal benefits.

"These same 20,000 constitute the bulk of the 2,357 teachers, who are said not to have passed the latest in the series of competency test in Kaduna State."

"The intention of the Kaduna State Government is to prey on the unfortunate lack of employment opportunities for our teeming school leavers by recruiting them as teachers only to subsequently subject them to the raw deal it subjected the purported 20,000 teachers, thereby achieving its aim of

casualization of the teaching profession in Kaduna State."

The union also said the case of its President, Amba, clearly established the fact that the competency test in Kaduna State is arbitrary and lacking in certainty.

"He was not dismissed then for failure to write the competency test. The question that readily agitates the mind in the circumstance is, what has changed in 2021/2022?"

"It is also rather very sad and curious that the dismissal letter relative to the NUT President was in the Public domain via the

social media even when it has not been served on him.

"The intention clearly is to intimidate the NUT President and embarrass the Teachers in Nigeria. This like other anti labour and people policies of the Kaduna State Government has failed on arrival. We got news for the Governor Mallam Nasiru El-Rufai and his co-travelers to wit-power is transient."

"NUT reaffirmed its commitment to stand with its President, Audu Amba and all the teachers in Kaduna State, who have fallen victim of the anti-labour policies in Kaduna State and which policies have defied all logic and lacking in milk of human kindness."

Attacks: 'Over 2,728 persons killed by herders in Benue LG'

•200,000 households destroyed, 65,000 children sent out of school

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—NO fewer than over 2,728 persons including women and children have been murdered in Turan community of Kwande Local Government Area, LGA, of Benue State due to ceaseless herders attacks on the community, the Association of Kwande Academia, AKA, has alleged.

According to AKA, more than 200,000 households have been destroyed and properties/farmlands worth over N3trillion completely ruined in the area by the marauders, while over 65,000 children were forced out of schools in the last eight years.

Addressing newsmen in Makurdi, President of AKA, Prof. Hilakaan Hembra recalled how over 3,000 herders alongside their cattle were allegedly escorted by unknown military personnel in 2004 to Kashim-Bira in Taraba State through Jato-Aka, Turan, Kwande LGA to settle and when they were intercepted nothing was done by the government.

Among others, he said: "As the herders migrated into the area, they started grazing and encroaching on farmlands which consequently increased pressure on the land. Not surprisingly, disputes over crop damage and water pollution became more frequent. Herdsmen could open up farmer's barns in the farm and eat up the yam, guinea corn, maize, cassava and flour

"Even the planted crops were uprooted and stepped on in the process of grazing. In an event of a farmer questioning them, they

would use their guns to shoot and kill. Apart from damaging crops and allowing their animals to run wild on farmlands, the Fulani herders were involved in serious violent crimes including rape, robbery, kidnapping and murder. Left in the absence of mutually accepted alternatives, such quarrels increasingly turned violent.

"The first attack of Fulani herders on the people of Turan took place February 14, 2014 when the marauders accompanied by the Jukum youths of Taraba State took two villages (Kendeve Mba-Ajekwe at Imande Dura and Maav at Anyiase) by surprise at night killing more than eleven persons in the planned attack.

"This marked the beginning of the crises between the Turan people and the Fulani herders in the area. The attacks gradually extended to Ugbe, Ambigbe, Mberev, Mbaav, Nzaav, Kendeve, Maav-ya, Ityuluv and Mbanev.

"There are six districts in Turan: Kumakwagh, Moon, Mbaikyor, Yaav, Mbadura, Barakuv and four districts: Kumakwagh, Moon, Yaav and Mbadura have been taken over and occupied by the Fulani herders.

The incessant and lingering attacks by the invaders have claimed the lives of over 2,728 persons including women and children, more than 200,000 households have been destroyed and properties/farmlands worth over three trillion Naira have been destroyed by the Fulani herders in Turan axis alone.

"The invaders have destroyed homes, schools, and places of

Renewed killings'll not compel Benue to repeal grazing law

—Ortom

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—GOVERNOR Samuel Ortom of Benue State has said the renewed killings in the state by suspected armed herdsmen would not compel government to repeal the Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law enacted by the government in 2017.

Recall that 16 of the Governor's kinsmen who were timber traders were last Monday killed in Udei and Yelwata by suspected armed herdsmen after a similar incident in Ogbadibo and Okpokwu Local Government Areas of the state also claimed the lives of many.

The Governor spoke yesterday in Makurdi after presiding over the State Executive Council, SEC, meeting and after receiving the awards bestowed on him from several organisations around the country from top government functionaries who represented him at the said occasions.

He said, "Our people have remained resolute that they will not surrender Benue land to Fulani herdsmen who are terrorizing our people with the support of the Federal Government. Even in the Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, I have asked them severally if we should repeal the grazing law but they insisted that the law must be in place, and not repealed."

"So those who are thinking that they would come and repeal the law are only day dreaming. Those

behind the plot should come here in Benue and tell the people that and see if they will not be stoned.

"So for us in Benue State we have taken a no retreat, no surrender posture. I am not intimidated and Benue people are not intimidated. I will continue to do the bidding of Benue people who elected me and have stood solidly behind me in the last seven years."

"The renewed killings will not intimidate us, I have asked my people to get themselves armed to defend themselves. We must not allow the terrorists get to us, we must all defend ourselves and do not allow them get to you first."

"It is unfortunate that our country has come to this. President Muhammadu Buhari must know that all is not well with Nigeria and those telling him anything in the contrary is fine are not telling him the truth, they are deceiving him and they do not mean well for this country."

"The President must know that nobody is safe in this country anymore. Our worship places, our roads and even the rail lines are no longer safe. The president must know that terrorists have surrounded Nigeria and the citizens have become easy prey."

"The President must be told that everything he thinks he has achieved in his tenure has all been rubbish by the worsening insecurity in the country and he has an opportunity to remedy the situation before the expiration of his tenure."

Lawyer demands N160m as damages over unlawful detention by Customs operatives

By Innocent Anaba

ABUJA—A lawyer, Chikaosolu Ojukwu, has dragged the Nigerian Customs Service Board and the Nigerian Customs Service, NCS, before a Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, demanding N160million as damages over his unlawful detention and extortion.

Ojukwu through his counsel, Segun Fiki, is also asking the court to determine whether he was liable to pay import duty, value added tax, VAT and other levies to the defendants in respect of his personal effects, in view of the provisions of Section 8 of the Customs, Excise Tariff, etc (Consolidation) Act and paragraph 7 of the Second Schedule to the Customs, Excise Tariff, etc (Consolidation) Act.

He also wants the court to determine whether or not in view of the provisions of Section 8 of the Customs, Excise Tariff, etc (Consolidation) Act and paragraph 7 of the Second

Schedule to the Custom, Excise Tariff, etc (Consolidation) Act, the defendants are entitled to impose and collect duty on the baggage and personal effects of the plaintiff and indeed any other Nigerian who has not been outside the jurisdiction of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for not less than nine months.

He's asking the court to declare that the unlawful detention of the plaintiff by restraining him from leaving the airport premises to take his medications until he pays the import duty, value added tax and other levies on the four pieces of iPhone 13 Pro amounts to unlawful arrest and detention.

He also sought an order of the court directing the defendants to refund the total sum of N404,417, being the import duty, value added tax, VAT, and other levies which were unlawfully demanded and collected from the plaintiff by the defendants upon his arrival at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja on February 20, 2023.

Ex-IGP Arase makes case for community policing to check insecurity

By Ozioruva Aliu

BENIN CITY—A retired Inspector General of Police, Dr. Solomon Arase on Tuesday insisted that community policing remains a sure part to reducing cases of insecurity by engaging youths and traditional rulers.

To achieve this, he through Solomon Arase Foundation donated items to improve security in the seven Local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District.

Arase stated this at the maiden Annual Lecture series/scholarship awards of the Foundation with the theme "Citizens Inclusion in Security Management: Edo State Model" which was also to mark his birthday.

He said that studies have shown

that criminals thrive and state security remains perpetually threatened in a state where there is a deep gulf between policing agencies on the one hand and the citizens on the other hand.

He contended that, "Therefore, there must come a time in the life of a state when all the citizens must of necessity resolve to frankly engage with their law enforcement agencies and build a strong synergy in order to defeat a common enemy. For us as a people of Edo State, there is no other auspicious time for this than now."

The core objective is to challenge the citizens on their roles within the security system and encourage the spirit of police-community partnership, as a strategy towards addressing crimes such as terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery, farmers/herders' conflict and other crimes".

The ex-number one Policeman

explained that the nation's traditional institutions were known to be strong social control actors who have been deploying their grassroots reach and time-tested cultural frameworks for information collection and dissemination, crime detection, and dispute resolution at community level.

The items donated by the Foundation included a Sienna salon car, 500 motorcycles, 1,400 customised T-shirts, 1,400 customised fez caps, 1,400 whistles, Raincoats- and flash lights.

The Solomon Arase Foundation also awarded nine scholarships to University undergraduates from Edo South.

Speaking at the event, Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, thanked Arase for his leadership and the support he has given him, though he was not one of the wealthy retired officers, he is rich in spirit.



PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY **DELTA MANDATE**

Congratulations
and welcome back



Your PDP candidature for Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the 2023 Presidential Election is a testament of your transformational leadership, strategic and organizational acumen which has led to infrastructural and other socio-economic development of our dear State.

Nigerians enthusiastic support of your nomination is a conviction that your giant strides in Delta State are what the average Nigerian needs and demands from her elected leaders.

His Excellency
SEN. DR. IFEANYI OKOWA
Governor, Delta State

FOR DELTA MANDATE:

- Chief Isaac Anwuzia
- Chief Solomon Areyenka
- Edewor Omonemu Esq.
- Chief Festus Ochonogor
- Lady (Chief) Roseline Amioku
- Chief Edwin Uzor
- Chief Lawrence Osiegbu
- Chief Ross Uredi
- Rt. Hon. Solomon Funkekeme
- Chief Patrick Ukah
- Hon. Ferguson Onwo
- Dr. Frank Nwaugo Esq.
- Chief Arthur Akpowowo
- Mr. Amah Agbajo
- National President
- Deputy National President
- National Secretary
- National Organising Secretary
- National Women Leader
- National Adviser
- National Adviser
- National Adviser
- National Adviser
- National Adviser
- National Adviser
- Delta North Senatorial District
- Delta Central Senatorial District
- Delta South Senatorial District



ISOKO NATION PDP POLITICAL CLASS

Congratulations, UGO OF ISOKOLAND!



**Alhaji Abubakar
Atiku, GCON**



**Sen. Dr.
Ifeanyi Okowa**

The Isoko nation wish to join millions of Deltans and Nigerians, particularly members of our great party, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, to congratulate our Governor, HIS EXCELLENCY, SENATOR, DR ARTHUR IFEANYI OKOWA on his emergence as the Vice Presidential Candidate of the party.

Ekwueme, your choice by the National leadership of the party as running mate to the PDP Presidential candidate of our great party, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar is a consequence of your sterling leadership quality and enormous contributions to the growth of the party.

Your Excellency, we are confident that you will bring your wealth of experience to bear when elected alongside our Principal, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar as President and Vice Presidential of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2023.

Congratulations Sir!

1. Chief Solomon Ogba
2. Hon. Chief Ross Uredi
3. Hon. Johnson Erijo
4. Hon. Chief Ferguson Onwo
5. Hon. Churchill Amagada
6. Hon. Orezi Esievo
7. Bashorun Askia Ogieh
8. Barr. Chief Mike Edegware
9. Chief Austin Igbine
10. Odio Godspower Obaro
11. Hon. Victor Asasa
12. Hon. Malik Ikpokpo
13. Chief Idu Amaidhe
14. Hon. Evivie Ovuakpoye

1. Rt. Hon. Leo Ogor Okuwe
2. Elder Emma Ogidi
3. Rt. Hon Emma Okoro
4. Deacon Prince Godwin Ogorugba
5. Engr. Jonathan Ukodhiko
6. Hon. Jude Ogbimi
7. Hon. Christian Iteire
8. Dr. Paul Oweh
9. Chief Emma Edevor
10. Dr. Patrick Akporuno
11. Chief Kome Okpobor

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari is at pains to show that he is truly a “converted democrat”. Indeed, he’s desperate to be seen as a strong defender of democracy. To that end, his democratic lodestone is the annulment of the presidential election of June 12, 1993, which, unlike his predecessors, he revisited and sought to redress. But his capricious and arbitrary handling of the ‘June 12’ issue calls his democratic credentials into question.

Earlier this month, in his last Democracy Day speech as president, Buhari signalled his desire to be remembered as the president who finally tackled the June 12 issue. He reminded us that, in 2018, he moved Democracy Day from May 29 to June 12 to memorialise the historic election annulled by General Ibrahim Babangida, then military dictator. In addition, Buhari conferred Nigeria’s highest national honour, Grand Commander of the Federal Republic, GCFR, on Chief MKO Abiola, the acclaimed winner of the election, and second highest national honour, Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger, GCON, on Babagana Kingibe, Abiola’s running mate.

But good as these measures were, did they resolve the issue of the annulment? Did they tell us why the election was annulled and who took part in the decision? Did they, in fact, tell us who, officially, won the election? Well, truth is, the measures resolved and revealed nothing; they were President Buhari’s arbitrary and unilateral decisions. Yet, an issue so monumental, so epochal, as the annulment of the presidential



June 12: The capriciousness of Buhari, the half-baked democrat

election of June 12, 1993, should not have been addressed through whimsical executive actions. The capriciousness of the annulment cannot justify the capriciousness of attempts to redress it. Major decisions on ‘June 12’ should have been preceded by a Judicial Commission of Inquiry.

One of the consequences of Buhari’s arbitrariness on, and politicisation of the ‘June 12’ issue was the lack of cross-party and cross-ethnic consensus on his decisions. For instance, the investiture ceremony held for Abiola and other “heroes of June 12” was attended mainly by APC politicians and South-West leaders. It was a partisan and ethnic affair. There was another consequence: Buhari’s decisions left Abiola’s formal status unresolved.

Recently, in an interview with *Arise TV*, Chief Abiola’s first son, Kola, countered the interviewer, Sumner Sambo, when he referred to his father as the “presumed winner” of the 1993 election. Kola Abiola argued that the conferment of the GCFR on his father was a formal recognition that he was president-elect. But that’s not true. The GCFR was conferred on Chief Obafemi Awolowo and

Sir Adetokunbo Ademola, former Chief Justice of Nigeria, yet neither was president. One plausible argument, subject to any proof to the contrary, was that Buhari conferred the GCFR on Abiola in recognition of the grave injustice he suffered from

Buhari wants redressing ‘June 12’ to be his enduring legacy, but his unilateral and autocratic handling of the issue leaves much to be desired and shows he’s not fully enamoured with democratic process and values!

the annulment. The GCFR alone did not make him a former president!

To date, no official document, including a gazette, identifies Abiola as former president. Indeed, in the Federal Government’s 2018 statement and President Buhari’s recent Democracy Day’s speech, Abiola was referred to as “presumed winner” of the annulled 1993 presidential election. A presumed winner does not, ipso facto, mean a confirmed winner!

But something extraordinary, something utterly capricious, happened at the Democracy Day celebration at Eagle Square in Abuja. Several newspapers later carried headlines that read: “FG recognises Kingibe as former Vice President”. According to the stories, the Master of Ceremony, presumably acting on the presidency’s order, introduced Kingibe as former Vice President, and invited him to join a group photograph with President Buhari.

Really? Can Buhari formally declare Kingibe “former Vice President” and, by extension, Abiola “former President” based on a presumption? Is he the electoral commission or a court of law that can declare someone winner of an election? What information does President Buhari have on the June 12 annulment that he’s not sharing with Nigerians? Buhari says he’s not an elected autocrat, but only an autocrat or a pseudo democrat would make decisions on such a fundamental issue on the hoof, without regard for process values.

For the avoidance of doubt, I absolutely support revisiting the annulment of the ‘June 12’ election and absolutely support recognising the winner. But a civilised society is not run on the whims and caprices of its leader. In a true democracy, a Judicial Commission of Inquiry would be asked to investigate the annulment, verify the results of the election, order the release of the results and make recommendations, including formal recognition of the winner. That way, the ultimate decision would carry significant weight and

legitimacy, a far cry from when a president acts unilaterally and capriciously.

In 2018, after President Buhari announced his ‘June 12’ decisions, his senior media assistant, Garba Shehu, wrote a very insightful piece titled: “June 12 Tsunami and the ones who won’t forgive Buhari” (*Vanguard*, June 10, 2018). In the piece, Shehu said “the unjust annulment was a huge elite conspiracy” and made allegations against several nebulous individuals and groups. He asked rhetorically: “Now, would there be an inquisition into all the things that happened?” He then added: “On this question, only the President can say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ if there will be a probe as many have begun clamouring for.”

Of course, Buhari rarely says “yes” to public clamour. But if he were to institute a probe on the ‘June 12’ annulment, the inquiry would certainly reveal that many of the politicians who parade themselves as “democrats” today, several of them in Buhari’s party, were co-conspirators in the annulment. Unfortunately, the absence of an inquisition into ‘June 12’ doesn’t only leave Abiola’s formal status in limbo, but it also means that no one is held accountable for the iniquitous annulment and that no lesson is learned from it.

So much, then, for Buhari’s zealousness. He wants redressing ‘June 12’ to be his enduring legacy. But his unilateral and autocratic handling of the issue leaves much to be desired and shows he’s not fully enamoured with democratic process and values!

Throwing eggs at the glass ceiling

By AUGUSTA NNADI

THE clamour for more women to get into the leadership space has continued to gain momentum, especially with the increase in feminist agitation. Nigerian women recently secured a victory against the Federal Government on affirmative action that gives them a mandatory 35 percent of public offices. This, obviously was celebrated as a significant win for the female gender, and I agree; but I felt this was putting a plaster over a decaying foot.

Let me explain. Every election year, we see women from all walks of life coming out to contest public offices. One common thing is that more often than not, they play the gender card. Educated, experienced and over-qualified women reduce their worth to campaign on the idea:

“I am a woman”

“I have done this and that as a woman”

“I have handled my family and career despite all the challenges, now reward me because I am a woman”

“I have fought through hell and brimstone and I am a victorious woman”

“I am a woman discriminated against”

“Women have suffered, it is our time and our turn”

“What a man can do...”

You get the point. What these concepts, slogans and agendas have done is to reduce the women to one tag: “she is a

woman”. Very few women have campaigned without the gender card and fewer have won elections. I can already hear the eye-rolling and the accompanying insults to “a young girl that is a male apologist”. That is incorrect. I firmly support the equality of genders but I will like to present an argument here that is

We cannot keep requesting for power to be served on a platter; we are women; sacrificing is in our DNA; let us channel that spirit of sacrifice to our desire for public service

solely based on my personal experiences and my perspective. As a young female in politics, one thing I quickly realised was that I am an exception to the rule. More often than not, I find myself in a political meeting where I am the only female. More often than not, I have to remind my colleagues that I am actually a female and more often than not, I have to tell other women that I am indeed pursuing a career in the political field and not “aimlessly following politicians around”.

Women want to get into politics. That should be encouraged. However, the fact remains that previous strategies have failed to make this dream a sustainable

reality. In my opinion, the reason for this is relatively straightforward: Nigeria’s political space is a very toxic environment. It will take an unusual amount of patience, grit and enormous sacrifice for a woman to achieve the same political achievement as her male counterpart with similar age and experience. This is the reality. We can complain about it, but this will not change anytime soon. Now, what to do about this? I think the answer is also very clear. Currently, women’s representation in public offices is less than six percent. This will not dramatically change even with the 35 percent affirmative action upheld by the court. Why? Because sincerely, women are not ready to take advantage of the opportunity presented. We have spent a lifetime complaining about marginalisation and discrimination. We have spent time and resources focusing on the problems, setting up NGOs, civil societies, sponsoring protests, etc., without actually training young girls on how to navigate the Nigeria political space.

So, how about this. Rather than the never-ending conferences and TEDx talks, women in leadership positions can make conscious efforts to hire and train young women as mentees. Instead of the one talk that you believe will change the young lady’s life, invest an hour per week to give truthful realistic guidance and advice on relevant skills young women can get to make politicking easier for them. Not

everybody should contest elections. Why don’t we encourage other career paths that shape politics without being a politician? Young women can be personal aides, legislative aides, advisers, assistants and executives at different political parties, political communicators, etc. These positions give you a front seat on how Nigerian politics work and will better prepare young women to contest elections if they eventually chose to do so.

To counter the disadvantages we face as women in the world and Nigeria in particular, we cannot keep waking up one morning and deciding to run for office without any relevant skill to back up such ambition. Like every career path, public service is a path that one should grow in. Such steady growth will give the woman confidence, skills, public service experience and the right network to support her ambition. To start with, politics is local. Before any woman should announce her desire to run for office, like her male counterpart, such a woman should register in a political party at her ward level and serve the party. We cannot keep requesting for power to be served on a platter. We are women; sacrificing is in our DNA. Let us channel that spirit of sacrifice to our desire for public service and actually do the right thing in pursuing a career in politics. Maybe, just then, the eggs we have been throwing will eventually break the glass ceiling.

•Nnadi, a public affairs commentator, wrote from Lagos



2023: Why Peter Obi's candidacy matters

I HAVE had lots of discussions with prominent political actors in recent weeks on the 2023 elections and the rave of the moment, Mr. Peter Obi, presidential candidate of the Labour Party, who has taken Nigeria's politics by storm. What is happening is extraordinary and unprecedented. Obi has become a phenomenon overnight. I am convinced that in his sober moments, he will be surprised at his own meteoric rise in the country's political firmament.

Never in the history of this country has a politician dominated the political stage as Obi has done since he resigned from the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, barely one month ago on Tuesday, May 24. His movement to the LP is even of greater moment. It remains, perhaps, the most strategic and consequential political move anyone has made in this election cycle. Those who argue otherwise lie to themselves, which does not in any way nullify the truth. To understand the raging Obi phenomenon, one needs to appreciate what is driving it. In a recent discussion with a former colleague who has since relocated to Europe because he can no longer stand the idiocy in the land, he said Nigerians have not suffered enough. But haven't they?

He was of the opinion that when the people can no longer take it from those who weaponised poverty in order to perpetually keep them in bondage, they will act and decisively so. Nigerians may have finally arrived at that juncture, driven by the sheer impishness of the political elite. For once, they are uncharacteristically angry, having been grossly dehumanised by their leaders who held them in absolute contempt over the years. What is more: this time they are poised to do something rather than sitting down and complaining. They are prepared to take political action to remedy the situation.

That is what this 'Movement' is all about and why it is resonating in all the nooks and crannies of the country. It is about Obi because he is the face of this historic movement. Yet, it is not about him. It is about the longsuffering Nigerian masses who seem to have finally woken up from their lethargic slumber. It is about a people looking for an alternative to the status quo that has impoverished all and diminished their country. Sooner than later, the rapacious political elite will resort to their old divide-and-rule playbook by playing on the people's primordial sentiments. The country's fault lines will be thrown into the mix. But the people seem to be wiser because the awareness that suffering has no religion has dawned on them. They have come to the awareness that poverty is ethnically blind.

In his recent interview with Bloomberg, President Muhammadu Buhari added insult to the wounds he has inflicted on Nigerians in the last seven years when he claimed: "We will leave Nigeria in a far better place than we found it." Nigerians know that is a fib and they are tired of such brazen, in-your-face dispositions. The 2023 elections will, therefore, be a referendum on APC's stewardship. And the question when the time comes will be straightforward: are you better off today than you were eight years ago? In the 23 years that the PDP and APC have been

in power, the lot of the average Nigerian has been parlous. The public university students who have lost two academic years consecutively due to strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, will definitely not agree with Buhari's claim of leaving Nigeria a far better place than he met it. The millions of Nigerians who have been thrown into extreme poverty will not agree with Buhari when he makes his vainglorious and false claim in the foreign media. The business man who has been thrown out of business because he can no longer afford to buy one dollar at N612 cannot but disagree with a hubristic president, out of touch with the dire reality of citizens.

The 50 Nigerians, passengers in the ill-fated Abuja-Kaduna train, who were abducted on March 28, 2022 by terrorists will definitely not agree with Buhari's hallucinatory proclamation of superlative performance. Eleven of them that were freed last week are said to be mentally unstable, sick and traumatised. Why wouldn't they? How can Buhari who was handed over an economy with single-digit inflation on May 29, 2015 claim that he is leaving behind a better Nigeria when at the twilight of his regime, inflation in Africa's most populous country has soared to 16.8 per cent and annual food inflation is now 18.4 per cent?

Under Buhari's watch, Nigeria is not just dealing with rising inflation because when combined with high levels of unemployment and low growth in the public and private sectors, Africa's largest economy is in the throes of an extended bout of stagflation. How can that be the better Nigeria the president claims he is bequeathing to Nigerians? These are the issues driving the Obi phenomenon. It is one thing to fail as spectacularly as Buhari has failed in office, yet another to continually lie to the people as APC and the government it seared have done in the last seven years.

Nigerians are angry, no doubt. But are they sufficiently angry, the kind of rage that morphs into revolutionary activism capable of overthrowing an immoral and asphyxiating status-quo? That is the question. Suffice it to say that perceptive political actors, like Edo State governor, Godwin Obaseki, are already seeing the signs that the mood of Nigerians may not be inclined to the business as usual political humdrum. In a video that has since gone viral, Obaseki was seen admonishing PDP members to change their adulterous ways or be swept away by the tidal wave of political tsunami that is building up.

"The future of our politics in this country is changing," he told them. "I don't know whether you are closely watching what is going on: the level of disenchantment with the existing political parties. I am sure in all our homes, we have so many people now who call themselves 'Obidients'. I don't know whether you have them in your houses. Just ask them, which is your party? And they will say 'Obident.' They don't want us. They are not talking about APC or PDP. They are looking for alternatives. And they are much more. You see all of them queuing for PVCs now. They are not looking the direction of APC or PDP. They are looking for alternatives. And if we don't make our party attractive, I don't know what will happen in the next election."

Obaseki is in the minority. Those who believe that nothing can upstage the status-quo are in the majority. One of them sent me an ominous, emphatic text last week. "Peter Obi is not in the race, regardless of any emotions. Nothing will make him win even if all voters in 2023 vote for him as winning is beyond just voting." My simple response was: time will tell.



PUBLICATION OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WORKS INFORMATION NOTICE

Publication date: 23rd June, 2022

Country: NIGERIA

Executing Agency: BORNO STATE IBSIP

Name of Project: INCLUSIVE BASIC SERVICE DELIVERY AND LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT INTEGRATED PROGRAMME

Loan/Grant Number: ADB-2000200000701

Name of Tender: SUPPLY OF SCHOOLS FURNITURE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Lot Number & Name: LOT-1 SUPPLY OF SCHOOLS FURNITURE AND LOT-2 SUPPLY OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Procurement mode: NATIONAL COMPETATIVE BIDDING

Domestic preference (Yes or No): NO

Regional preference (Yes or No): NO

Borrower's Tender Number: BO/IBSIP/2021/GOODS/NCB/01

Date of receipt by the Bank of the draft Tender document: 23rd December, 2021

Date of approval by the Bank of the Tender Document: 09th February, 2022

Tender issuing date: 11th March, 2022

Closing date of the Tender: 11th April, 2022

Date of Tender opening: 11th April, 2022

Date of receipt by the Bank of the Tender evaluation report: 29th April, 2022

Date of approval by the Bank of the Tender evaluation: 14th June, 2022

Name of the winning Bidder LOT-1: Messrs. GALWAS AND CO. NIGERIA LIMITED

Nationality: NIGERIAN

Address: No. 4 Opp. Bama Station, Bama Road Maiduguri, Borno State.

Contract Award Price: ₦82,600,000

Name of the winning Bidder LOT-2: Messrs. BRILLIANCE INVESTMENT STRATEGY LTD

Nationality: NIGERIAN

Address: SHEHU LAMINU WAY, BOA BUILDING 2ND FLOOR 1-5 MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE

Contract Award Price: ₦21,400,000

Contract Start date: 4th July, 2022

Contract Duration: 12 MONTHS

Summary of Scope of Contract Awarded: SUPPLY OF SCHOOL FURNITURE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Total Number of Bidders LOT 1: 2 (TWO)

For each Bidder:

Name: Messrs. GALWAS AND CO. NIGERIA LIMITED

Nationality: NIGERIAN

Address: No. 4 Opp. Bama Station, Bama Road Maiduguri, Borno State.

Bid Price as Read-out: - ₦82,600,000

Evaluated Price: ₦82,600,000

Bid Accepted / Rejected: ACCEPTED

Name: Messrs. MAJESTY CONSTRUCTION & PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT NIG LTD

Nationality: NIGERIAN

Address: No.18 quarters extension beside Enal International School, Abuja

Bid Price as Read-out: - ₦84,020,000.00

Evaluated Price: ₦84,020,000.00

Bid Accepted / Rejected: REJECTED

Reason for rejection: ON THE BASIS OF PRICE

Total Number of Bidders LOT 2: 2 (TWO)

Name: Messrs. BRILLIANCE INVESTMENT STRATEGY LTD

Nationality: NIGERIAN

Address: SHEHU LAMINU WAY, BOA BUILDING 2ND FLOOR 1-5 MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE

Bid Price as Read-out: - ₦21,400,000

Evaluated Price: ₦21,400,000

Bid Accepted / Rejected: ACCEPTED

Name: Messrs. MAJESTY CONSTRUCTION & PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT NIG LTD

Nationality: NIGERIAN

Address: No.18 quarters extension beside Enal International School, Abuja

Bid Price as Read-out: - ₦23,15,000

Evaluated Price: ₦23,15,000

Bid Accepted / Rejected: REJECTED

Reason for rejection: ON THE BASIS OF PRICE

N.B.: any bidder who wishes to ascertain the grounds, on which its proposal was not selected, should request an explanation from the Executing Agency. In any event, the Bank reserves the right to review any complaint of a bidder at any time following the award.

Engr. Dr. Mohammed Musa Aliyu.

Programme Manager.

Borno State IBSIP

THE Ekiti State governorship election, which took place over the past weekend, held a lot of significance beyond the election of a new governor to replace outgoing Governor Kayode Fayemi. It was an opportunity to put the recently amended Electoral Act 2010 into practice.

The most interesting feature of that amendment which President Muhammadu Buhari recently signed into law after a protracted ding-dong with the National Assembly, is the transmission of results from the polling booths to the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC's, central servers.

By so doing, the collation of manual results is a mere formality. The old rigging ploys of ballot snatching, result falsification, prolonged wait for the result and others, were cut off.

Indeed, the electoral dashboard established by YIAGA Africa and Channels Television showed the direction the result was headed only

hours after close of the polls. Remarkably, there were no reports of violence.

However, what would have passed for a hitch-free exercise was marred by massive vote-buying. The election was essentially bought and sold openly, yet the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, whose officials were sent to prevent vote-buying, said they arrested only 15 culprits.

Money politics has been part of our electoral culture since time immemorial. However, the trend has taken a turn for the worse as evidenced during the presidential primaries of the two major political parties – the All

Progressives Congress, APC, and the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP.

Politicians had mopped up the dollar from the system for the purpose of inducing the delegates. The primaries were also sold to the highest bidders.

We are glad that the INEC's strategies to cut down on electoral malfeasance by deploying technology and minimising human interference in our electoral administration has yielded some positive results.

We hope that the voter authentication process through the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System, BVAS, will be rendered more efficient for the impending Osun gubernatorial election

as well as the nationwide general elections of February and March 2023.

More importantly, we must devise further means of arresting vote-buying because it increases the amounts that politicians spend to get into office.

The money either comes from public purse or private pockets. Either way, the people will pay dearly for it. Politicians who pay their way into power will feel no obligation towards the people.

They know they can always come back four years later to buy again.

Nigerian politicians have weaponised misrule and poverty to the extent that the masses are too hungry to resist a few thousand naira for their votes. Nigeria can never change if we continue like this.

No leader who genuinely wants to serve the people will part with his hard-earned money to induce voters.

Vote-buying must be tackled and eliminated.

Vanguard COMMENT

Need to tackle vote-buying



...The state of the NATION!

OPINION

Send Opinions & Letters to:
opinions1234@yahoo.com

NERC and taming the electricity oligarchs

By EDLYNE ANUGWOM

THE way things are now in the country regarding electricity, one may rightly begin to ask why those who claimed to know unbundled and privatised NEPA. Yes, they may have been driven by good intentions but mind you that public service in Nigeria usually goes with two intentions – the overt intention that is stridently voiced out (public interest) and the covert or subterranean intention which is predictably self-serving but unfortunately drives most actions of public servants and politicians. With the benefit of hindsight, it is bemusing how on earth we broke up a public monopoly and replaced it with exploitative oligarchs (new owners of energy and electricity firms that literally shared the spoils of NEPA) who are the new wheelers and dealers in the electricity industry in the country.

The only significant and consistent improvement in electricity over the years seems to be the regular and insatiable upward adjustment in tariffs while customer satisfaction and meeting felt needs in the economy are jettisoned. The outcome – reinforced heartless exploitation of ordinary citizens who willy-nilly must use electricity. An exploitation that is even more dumbfounding when one realises that these new energy companies (especially the distribution companies or the aptly named DISCOs) have been bailed out more than once by the government using public funds. Meanwhile, these firms are privately owned and managed! But our problem surely goes beyond the DISCOs since even common challenges of electricity provision, including managing the national grid effectively are now dressed in largely *mythomaniac* garbs that defy both common sense and basic science.

Incidentally, the National Electricity

Regulatory Commission, NERC, which should be some form of beacon of hope for electricity consumers has remained a faltering hulk of what it should be ideally. Apart from playing active role in anti-people tariff adjustments, this organisation has not significantly impacted on consumers of electricity in Nigeria. So, one wonders what exactly the mandate of NERC is. The NERC in line with the Electricity Power Sector Reform, EPSR, Act of 2005 is expected to ensure an efficiently managed electricity supply industry that meets the yearnings of Nigerians (not electricity oligarchs!) for stable, adequate and safe electricity supply. I believe the reader is in a good position to be the judge of how the aspirations have played out in Nigeria.

Therefore, NERC is charged inter alia with protecting the rights of electricity consumers

NERC in the South-East appears largely comatose, totally irresponsible, and insensitive to the plight of consumers

(a total of about 15 clearly stated rights, most of which are observed in breach and abused by DISCOs on daily basis). However, the same consumers are held strictly liable for fulfilling all accompanying obligations. Once again as is common in the country, the matter is not the spirit and contents of the laws establishing the NERC but the failure of implementation. It seems obvious that NERC appears often too ready to please the DISCOs to the detriment of consumers. NERC is an agency that should ideally be guided by the 'pro bono publico' principle i.e., for the public good. Thus, while one is impressed with the massive number of orders, regulations, rules, etc., on the website of NERC, the agency scores poorly in

monitoring and implementation, especially with regards to the DISCOs. NERC and other consumer protection agencies should wake up to the fact that a lot of what Nigerians spend on electricity in terms of payments of various guises to electricity distribution companies are neither legitimate nor justifiable. The above is possibly worse in the South-East of the country.

NERC, in this part of the country, appears largely comatose, totally irresponsible, and insensitive to the plight of consumers. As a result, there are many infractions and glaring cases of exploitation and there is hardly reprieve from NERC. Expectedly, the laid down process of even attempting to seek redress through NERC is as frustrating as it is time-consuming. The above simply means that consumers most times grudgingly part with their hard-earned money rather than bruise their knuckles on the hard to open doors of NERC. The electricity distribution company in the South-East is perhaps the most corrupt and perfidious organisation I have encountered in Nigeria in recent times. Incidentally, the company is reportedly owned by people of Igbo extraction and the staff are mostly people from the South-East. So, the activities of the organisation are unwholesome and driven by the greed of both staff and owners. It is thus a good example of one in so many other cases that make our penchant for externalising the failures of our public institutions in this part of the country self-serving and deceitful. The distribution company is neither owned by the Hausa-Fulani nor the Yoruba, yet it has emerged as a huge rent-seeking and avaricious organisation preying on helpless and hapless consumers. The way it functions, there is reasonable grounds to suspect that those in charge are neither aware of extant regulations nor conventions on electricity distribution.

Perhaps, the primitive lure for lucre and service racketeering have numbed their sensibilities. From the high cost of acquiring pre-paid meters, collusion with dubious landlords (the South-East, especially Enugu, harbours some of the meanest and irresponsible landlords you can meet anywhere in the developing world) to imposition of imaginary tariffs and costs on consumers the organisation reflects a humongous edifice on how not to serve. Thus, the degree of malversation in this organisation is really bewildering!

But this organisation is one as already mentioned of the many instances in which South-Easterners have emerged as their own worst enemies. While there is no gainsaying the need to confront structural inequalities at the centre of the federation, there is also need for good charity to begin at home. Ranging from the price of foodstuff in the market to the price of fuel in service stations, the South-East has established itself overtime as the apogee of self-destructive greed and ruinous exploitation. I have written this piece based largely on recent experience and interactions with the electricity distribution company and even NERC in the South-East, even though it would smirk of bad faith to provide specific details in a medium like this. Probably, other organisations may be doing a better job of responding transparently to the needs of electricity consumers elsewhere in the federation. But down here in the Eastern 'backwaters' of Nigeria we surely need help.

In electricity access, the South-East has been effectively *ghettoised* by its own distribution company. Perhaps, the perfidy and odious exploitation we confront in accessing electricity is some form of penance for enjoying a four-day working week here. Like they say, you cannot have it all.

•Prof. Anugwom teaches in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Business

Manufacturing capacity utilisation up 9.4%, non-metallic mineral declines

By Yinka Kolawole

INDUSTRY

CAPACITY utilisation in the manufacturing sector increased by 9.4 percentage points to 58.9 percent in 2021 from 49.5 percent recorded in 2020 as the sector rebounded from the restrictions oc-

casioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A report by the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) made available to Vanguard also indi-

cated that investment in the sector in the second half of 2021 (H2 2021) was 6.6 percentage points higher at 59 percent when compared to 52.4 percent recorded in the first half of the year (H1 2021).

The MAN's report also stated: "There was increased capacities in

the paper subsector brought in by five new paper mills that are into recycling of waste papers to produce cartons. Also are the additional capacities as BUA Group introduced a cement factory in Sokoto and the new African Glass Limited factory that produced glass products".

Analysis of the sectoral expansions shows that manufacturing capacity utilisation increased in almost all the groups, except in the non-Metallic Mineral subsector.

Capacity utilisation in the Food, Beverage and Tobacco group in-

creased to 62 percent from 58 percent recorded in H2 2020, and 52.4 percent recorded in H1 2021. In the Textile Apparel & Footwear group, it hit 67 percent in H2 2021 from 54 percent recorded in H2 2020, and 50.2 percent recorded in H1 2021.

For the Domestic & Industrial Plastic group, it increased to 65 percent from 56 percent recorded in H2 2020, and 51.0 percent recorded in H1 2021. In the Electrical & Electronic sectoral group, capacity utilisation increased to 63 percent in H2 2021 from 50 percent recorded in H2 2020, 49.1 percent recorded in H1 2021. In the Basic Metal, Iron & Steel sectoral group, it increased to 60 percent in H2 2021 from 51 percent recorded in H2 2020, and 57.3 percent H1 2021.

However, in the non-Metallic Mineral sectoral group, manufacturing capacity utilisation declined to 46 percent in H2 2021 from 53 percent recorded in H2 2020 and H1 2021 respectively; thus showing four percentage points decline over the period.

Oando settles shareholder dispute, releases 2019, 2020 results

By Babajide Komolafe

ENERGY

OANDO Plc yesterday announced the final settlement of a long standing shareholder dispute and the release of its operating results for full year 2019 and 2020.

According to a statement announcing this development, "In July 2021, Oando entered into a settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, on all matters subject to litigation and other issues flowing therefrom, thus putting an end to one part of the dispute with Ansbury. Key for Oando was that the SEC did not find the company guilty of any wrongdoing and by way of a settlement, was able to prevent further market disruption and harm to Oando PLC shareholders."

"After 12 consecutive quarters of profits up until Q3, 2019, the company reported in its 2019 audited financials a loss-after-tax of N207.1 billion largely attributable to impairments for goodwill and loans associated with the indirect shareholder dispute. The settlement of this long-running dispute led to an impairment of N148 billion on financial assets but forms the final resolution and settlement of the dispute with Ansbury, the indirect shareholder whose actions had significantly destroyed shareholder value over the last four years."

"With 2019 behind it, the company faced a new challenge in 2020 in the form of the COVID-

19 pandemic which negatively affected all corporates not just those operating in the oil and gas sector. In the company's 2020 Full Year End financials, a loss after tax of N132.6 billion, a 36% drop from 2019, was reported. A positive skew in results from the previous year.

Commenting on the 2020 results Wale Tinubu, Group Chief Executive, Oando PLC said: "2020 proved to be an unprecedented year for the global economy due to the impact of the novel COVID-19 pandemic. The Oil & Gas industry was no exception as the year turned out to be one of the most challenging years in its history as we witnessed the lowest oil prices since our sojourn into Nigeria's upstream sector in 2008, thus negatively impacting our revenue during the period."

"This resulted in us having to impair a portion of the goodwill on our balance sheet to ensure the carrying value of our assets was a true reflection of the environment we were operating in. Furthermore, the second tranche funding of the settlement of a protracted and disruptive shareholder issue resulted in us taking a further impairment on a category of our financial and non-financial assets. Despite these challenges, our hedging policy and long-term offtake contracts ensured our cash flows were not severely stressed during this period."

SON destroys imported substandard electric cables, others worth over N1bn

By Godfrey Bivbere

MARITIME

THE Standard Organisation of Nigeria, SON, yesterday destroyed imported substandard electric cables, engine oil, gas cylinders, new tyres, unapproved cigarettes and low-grade roofing sheets at its facility in Festac Extension, Lagos State.

Director-General of SON, Farouk A. Salim, while speaking with journalists during the destruction said the dangers posed by these goods to the lives and properties of Nigerians, even when such products are new, cannot be quantified.

He also stressed that the absence of SON at the seaports makes it difficult to curtail the influx of these products into the country.

Salim said, "Some manufacturing companies in Nigeria boast of the best quality electric cables and engine oil, but some unscrupulous

people continue to import and distribute low grade, substandard and life-threatening versions of these products in our markets.

"SON in collaboration with relevant stakeholders has developed very stringent regulations for the production, importation and distribution of such products as LPG Cylinders, Cigarettes and automobile tyres, yet we still have unpatriotic Nigerians and their collaborators bombarding us with the worst versions of these products in the name of doing business. They will continue to have SON to contend with and we shall not relent in apprehending them wherever they may be hiding, seizing their products and destroying them."



UNVEILING — From Left: Dr. Muhammed Ibrahim, Chairman, National Gas Expansion Programme; Laurie Schmidt, General Manager, Supply Chain, Shell Companies Nigeria; Afolabi Ojo, Project Manager, Shell Petroleum Development Company; Engr. Simbi Kasiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board; Mallam Isa Madibbo, Chairman, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission Board, and Engr. Chris Ijeli, MD/CEO, Nivafer Engineering and Construction Limited, at the Unveiling and Load-Out ceremony of HP fuel gas treatment skid for Assa North-Ohaji gas project in Lagos.

Rail transport revenue rises 136% to N6.02bn in 2021

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

ECONOMY

THE National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, has said that the revenue generated by the Federal Government from rail transport rose year-on-year (YoY) by 136 per cent to N6.02 billion in 2021 from N2.55 billion in 2020.

In its 'Rail Transportation Data Report' for 2021 released yesterday,

NBS also explained that the revenue figure for 2021 comprises N5.70 billion generated from passengers, N317.57 million generated from goods and N66.80 million generated from other income receipts.

The report stated further: "The rail transportation data for 2021 showed that a total of 2,714,458 passengers travelled via train compared to 1,020,368 passen-

gers recorded in 2020, representing a 166.03 per cent rise.

"Similarly, a total of 168,301 tons of goods were transported in 2021 as against 87,440 recorded in 2020, showing a growth rate of 92.48 per cent."

"Total revenue generated from passengers in 2021 was N5.70 billion, higher by 226.44 per cent than the N1.75 billion recorded in 2020."

"In addition, revenue generated from goods in 2021 amounted to N317.57 million, higher by 12.87 per cent compared to N281.35 million in 2020."

FMDQ Exchange boosts derivatives market knowledge, trains over 2,600 stakeholders

By Nkiruka Nnorom

CAPITAL MARKET

FMDDQ Securities Exchange Limited said it has trained over 2,600 market participants in three years in its bid to boost the knowledge of the Exchange-Traded Derivatives (ETD) market and drive investment in the asset class.

The Exchange in a statement said the training is specially designed to address the diverse interests represented in the derivatives market and provide a holistic understanding of the market ahead of the official launch of the FMDQ ETD market.

The Exchange noted that it has held various engagement sessions with key regulators in the industry including the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to ensure the pivotal ETD market takes off on a sure footing, while assuring that it would continue to equip its stakehold-

ers with the necessary tools to effectively utilise its market to meet their investment goals, capturing opportunities and effectively managing their risk exposures.

It said: "FMDQ Exchange, through the FMDQ Academy franchise, kicked off a series of bespoke training sessions in April 2019. Since inception, over 2,600 participants have benefited from the training and they include financial market regulators, financial institutions, relevant market associations, corporates, and media practitioners among others."

"For the year 2022, some of the themes covered during the training include Understanding the ETD Market; Derivatives Market Regulation and Market Documentation; Derivatives Trading, Clearing and Market Operations; and Understanding FMDQ ETD Products. As a sustainable marketplace, these training sessions are consistent with the Exchange's mission to enhance investor awareness of financial markets products."

AGRIC COMMODITIES

| | | |
|--------|----------|--------|
| Coffee | 236.40 | +4.05 |
| Cocoa | 2,452.00 | -16.00 |
| Sugar | 18.49 | -0.29 |

ENERGY & OIL

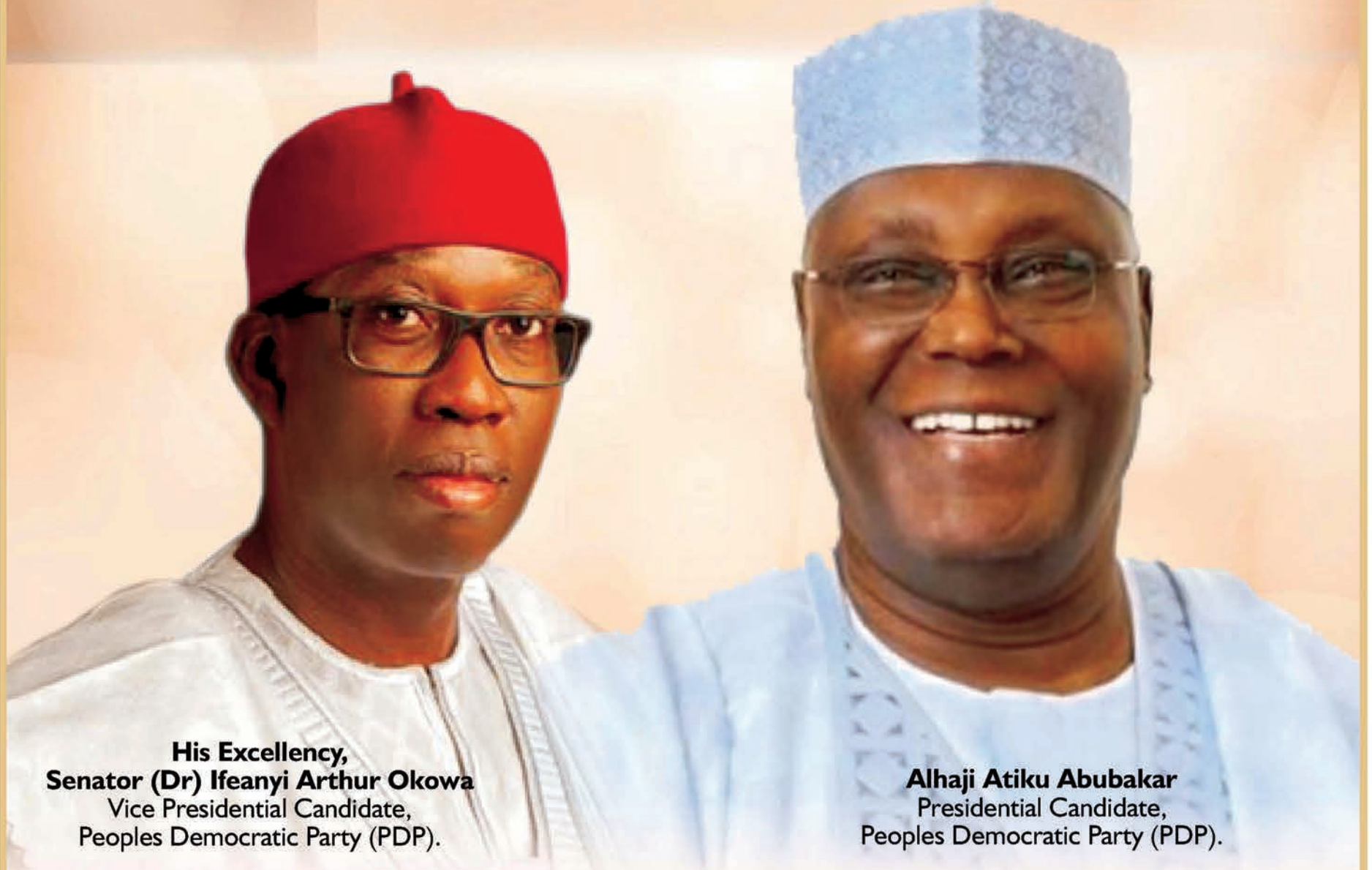
| | | |
|-------------|--------|-------|
| Brent Crude | 111.27 | -3.38 |
| Light Crude | 106.14 | -3.38 |

CURRENCY BUYING SELLING

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| US DOLLAR | 414.59 | 415.09 | 415.59 |
| POUNDS | 507.624 | 508.2362 | 508.8484 |
| EURO | 436.0243 | 436.5502 | 437.076 |
| FRANC | 429.1378 | 429.6553 | 430.1729 |
| YEN | 3.0473 | 3.051 | 3.0547 |
| CFA | 0.6477 | 0.6577 | 0.6677 |
| WAUA | 553.2396 | 553.9068 | 554.574 |
| RENMINBI | 61.7722 | 61.8471 | 61.9221 |
| RIYAL | 110.4896 | 110.6228 | 110.7561 |
| RAND | 25.9557 | 25.987 | 26.0183 |
| Danish Krona | 60.0182 | 60.0906 | 60.163 |
| SDR | 559.3378 | 560.0124 | 560.687 |

CBN Exchange rate as at 22/06/2022

Welcome Home **EKWUEME!!!**



**His Excellency,
Senator (Dr) Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa**
Vice Presidential Candidate,
Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Alhaji Atiku Abubakar
Presidential Candidate,
Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

THE RESCUE TEAM

On behalf of **Joe Arausi Political Connect** and the good people of Isoko Nation, I heartily congratulate and welcome the Delta State Governor, **His Excellency, Senator (Dr) Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa**, on his home coming as Vice Presidential Candidate of our great party, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), ahead of the 2023 General Elections.

Our Vice President In-Waiting, your emergence as running mate to our President In-Waiting, **Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, Turaki Adamawa**, on 16th June, 2022, which was received with loud ovation across the country, is testament to your political sagacity and God's Divine arrangement.

As a true party man, your contributions over time have been duly recognized and Nigerians are attesting that the PDP's team is indeed set for the Rescue Mission in 2023.

I appreciate the former Vice President, His Excellency, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, GCON, for finding our leader worthy of the exalted position.

In the same vein, I commend the leadership of our great party under the able chairmanship of **Senator Iyorchia Ayu** for giving a level play field for viable party politicking.

Welcome Home Ekwueme!!!

Nigeria Wado! Delta Wado!! Isoko Wado!!!

SIGNED: ►

CHIEF (BARR) JOE ARAUSI
Chairman, Governing Council, Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-Uku;
On behalf of Isoko Nation.



LAW & Human Rights

In this report, Ise-Loluwa Ige examines the various steps taken by the Federal Government since 2015 to regulate social media and other online platforms in Nigeria without success with a focus on the latest draft Code of Practice released by the National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA, and the clouds of dust it is presently generating.

A fresh plan by the Federal Government to regulate the social media and other online platforms through adoption of a proposed Code of Practice for Interactive Computer Service Platforms/ Internet Intermediaries, appears to have set the country on fire.

This is notwithstanding the claim by the government that the Code of Practice was developed in consultation with Civil Society Organisations, CSOs, and expert groups.

Less than 24 hours after the document was released, a number of stakeholders had dismissed the proposed code of practice as a ploy to regulate social media and other online platforms through the backdoor by circumventing the legislative process. They are urging the government to backtrack on the plan or face the consequences.

Earlier efforts by the Federal legislature to regulate social media

Towards the end of 2015, the government through lawmakers from the National Assembly started the campaign against the abuse of social media and attempted a legislation to regulate it.

Vanguard Law and Human Rights reports that the then Deputy Senate Leader, Senator Bala Na'Allah had sponsored a clumsy bill for an Act to prohibit Frivolous petitions and other matters connected therewith.

But the bill generated a lot of controversy following some contentious provisions contained in it.

For instance, the bill made petitions against the conduct of any person for the purpose of an investigation, inquiry and or inquest without a duly sworn affidavit in the high court of a state or federal

Dust over FG's latest plans to regulate social media with practice code



•Mike Ozekhome, SAN



•Prof. Chidi Odinkalu

high court unlawful while it prohibited any government institution, body, or agency from using petitions that did not meet the requirements of sworn affidavit.

Many Nigerians criticised the bill for more reasons than one and asked that it be withdrawn without any delay.

But Na'Allah in an interview had explained that he sponsored the bill to sanitize information flow on social media.

"The social media is a very valuable platform for dissemination of information and it has helped this country greatly but of recent, we have seen some few 'bad eggs' who have turned it into a business venture.

"They collect money from people and go into the social media to tarnish the image of their political opponents. It is against this backdrop that we felt people should behave responsibly on the platform.

"They ask you to bring money or they post things that will portray you in bad light or alternatively, they collect money from other political opponents and post unfavourable things about you. This is not going to augur well for this country."

Na'Allah denied that the issues between the immediate past President of the Senate, Dr. Bukola Saraki and *Saharareporters.com* influenced the bill as he said he was until recently, ignorant of any issue between the two.

Following opposition from civil society organisations and other stakeholders, the Senate withdrew the controversial bill on May 17, 2016.

That was after the report of the upper chamber's Committee on Human Rights and Legal Matters which made it clear that the bill actually amounted to violation of citizens' rights, and contradicted extant laws, imposing duty of

investigation on petitioners and serving as stumbling block to the fight against corruption.

Almost two years after the first bill to regulate social media was shot down, another bill for protection from Internet falsehoods and manipulation was sponsored by Senator Mohammed Sani Musa, representing Niger East Senatorial District.

The bill proposed a framework and system of regulation, control and conduct, the use of the Internet and various social platforms in the transmission of information in Nigeria.

According to the lawmaker from Kaduna State: "The bill is not an attempt to stifle free speech or dissenting views; it is rather an opportunity to address a growing threat which, if left unchecked, can cause serious damage in our polity and disrupt peaceful coexistence."

He stated that much as the internet has numerous benefits, it was and is still also being used for the purpose of manipulating information and spreading falsehood.

The lawmaker noted that state and non-state actors engaged in geo-political interests and identity politics, use internet falsehood to discredit governments, misinform people and turn one group against another.

He added that while the phenomenon of internet falsehood and manipulation was, and remains a serious global challenge, a country like Singapore has taken measures

No government has the right to muzzle freedom of speech... however, we must regulate the social media in a manner that it does not become a purveyor of fake news and hate speech

to curb the proliferation of fake news and disinformation with the passage into law of the Proliferation from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act 2019.

Between the time the bill was sponsored and February 2020, there emerged a no other groundswell of opposition. It was not

surprising that in March 2020, about 135 civil society organisations urged the Senate to withdraw the social media bill and the bill also 'died.'

Efforts by the executive to regulate social media

Following the opposition to moves by the National Assembly to regulate social media and other online platforms through primary legislation, Vanguard Law and Human Rights reports that the Minister of Information, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, had consistently called for a meeting of stakeholders to agree on modalities for regulating the social media, but was rebuffed.

The government had argued that it had no doubt that the emerging modern media platform had played a strong role in promoting information sharing, strengthening democracy, and building networks of relationships but that without supervision or control, the nation risked serious havoc.

Lai Mohammed said the farmers-herdsmen clashes of 2017 was largely fuelled by fake videos and

pictures that were circulated on social media platforms and that following a false alarm raised by a popular entertainer, five students of the College of Education in Gidan Waya in Kaduna State were murdered by herdsmen and that there was almost reprisal attack before it was discovered that it was fake news.

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, had, at a forum also said the entire Kasuwan Magani saga in Kaduna State in 2018 that resulted in the death of more than 50 people was because someone posted misleading information on WhatsApp that went viral.

According to Lai Mohammed, while some had argued that our constitution already has laws in libel, but that the laws of the '60s never anticipated social media.

"No government has the right to muzzle freedom of speech. We don't support the taking of lives as punishment. However, we must regulate the social media in a manner that it does not become a purveyor of fake news and hate speech.

"We will not fold our arms and allow purveyors of fake news and hate speech to use the social media to destabilise the country," adding that all countries in the world were also trying to make laws to check the excesses and control the situation.

Lai Mohammed therefore declared in November, 2019, that the government was fully aware of mounting opposition to the idea of regulating the social media but that no amount of criticism would stop it.

"As a matter of fact, we have already put in motion the machinery for this. We have written letters to the major stakeholders who would nominate representatives and we are going to sit down together to decide on how best to

Continues on Page 22

LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS

EDITORIAL TEAM
Ise-Oluwa Ige, PhD
Innocent Anaba
Ikechukwu Innochiri
Henry Ojelu

Send your mails and enquiries to:
lawandhumanrights@vanguardngr.com

LAW & Human Rights

Address judges' welfare now or reduce justice to 'merchantable commodity' — Awa Kalu, SAN

By Ise-Oluwa Ige

In this interview with a respected member of the inner bar, Prof. Awa Kalu, SAN, advised that the relevant authorities should address comprehensively the welfare and wellbeing of all categories of judges, judicial staff as well as judicial apparatus and infrastructure in the country, warning that failure to so do would demote justice to 'merchantable commodity'. He also spoke on other issues including placeholder in politics.

Excerpt:

A retired Justice of the Supreme Court raised the alarm last month that heads of courts were and are still mismanaging their budgetary allocations, leaving judges in abject state. How do you feel about the revelations on the welfare of Supreme Court justices?

I was personally present at the Valedictory Court Session for the Retired Justice of the Supreme Court you have in mind. He made a very brilliant speech, and apart from giving a penetrating insight into the totality of his career at the bar as well as on the bench, he made it clear that "Heads of Courts in the Federation have enormous budgetary resources from which they can improve the welfare of serving judges."

It was suggested elsewhere that the judiciary should "allow its books to be opened by the relevant authorities." And that that would not compromise the independence of the judiciary. Damningly, he stated categorically that: "In most jurisdictions, the Chief Registrars regard themselves as direct subordinates of even the spouses of Heads of Court and allow themselves to be directly involved willy-nilly in the vandalisation of the judiciary budget."

The use of the word, *vandalisation* is an indictment of financial management that no one can ignore. So, we all need to lend our voices in the condemnation of any encouragement of judicial discontent. As things stand in Nigeria, we must support our judges so that they will probably remain the pillar that

holds our roof. What is heartwarming is that the memorandum from the Justices of the Supreme Court to the Head of that Court is that the memo was measured and comprehensive in the problems that it addressed, in that there were issues concerning justices' domestic accommodation, their official vehicles, training and capacity-building, appointment of legal assistants, their health and wellbeing, epileptic electricity supply and also to the improvement of the apex court's procedural rules. It is my hope that it is not a finger pointing to a major crisis brewing in the judiciary, but a humble attempt to advocate an improvement in judicial performance. It needs not be gainsaid that in this country, the judiciary cannot be ignored and their welfare must therefore be seen as a priority.

Flowing from 1 above,

what do you think can be done to arrest this ugly situation?

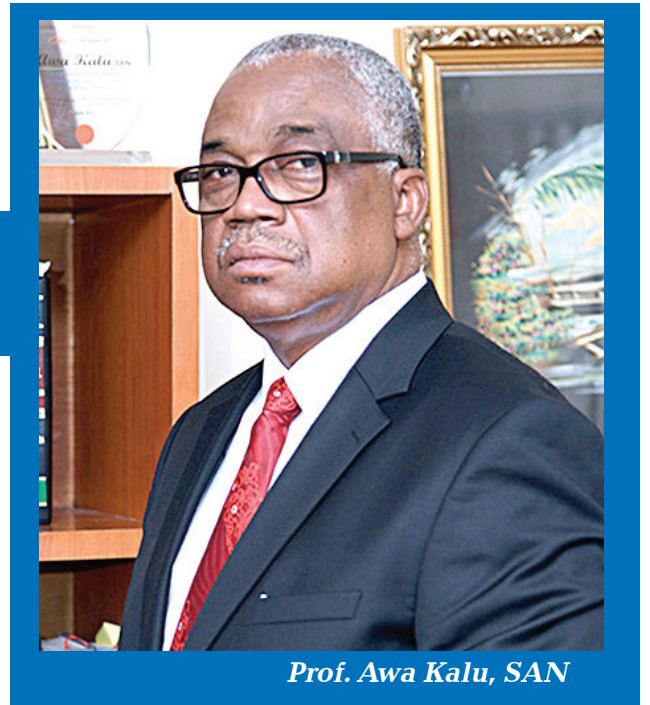
When you talk about "this ugly situation", I understand you to be addressing the obvious and general concern about the degeneration in the overall performance of the star-studded Nigerian Judiciary. It has to be borne in mind that when reference is made to "Heads of Court", it is an acknowledgement that there are different courts in the land, that is to say, the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the Federal High Court, States High Courts, the National Industrial Court, as well as Courts such as the Sharia Court of Appeal as well as the Customary Courts of Appeal at the state level. Mind you, there are other courts of inferior jurisdiction such as Magistrates Courts, Customary Courts, and so on, dutifully engaged in a concerted effort to determine the inevitable

disputes that must arise in a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural environment like ours.

For cohesion and for the purpose of doing substantial justice, all these courts must be attended to. On that account, I consider the memorandum from the Justices of the Supreme Court a wake-up call and indeed, a clarion call to comprehensively address the welfare and wellbeing of all categories of judges, judicial staff as well as judicial apparatus and infrastructure. Failure to do these would demote justice to "merchantable commodity."

There have been cases of Law lecturers impersonating re-sit students to write law exams in the Nigerian Law School. How was it during your days and what is your position on the present situation of things?

I recall that the late Fela Ransome-Kuti (later Fela Anikulapo-Kuti) in one of



Prof. Awa Kalu, SAN

his epochal and memorable songs asked: **"When trouble sleep, yanga go wake am, wetin e dey find? Palava. When cat dey sleep, rat go bite him tail, wetin e dey find? Palava, Tenant lost him job, him sit down for house, him dey think of job, Mr Landlord come wake am up, He say "Mister, pay me your rent" wetin e dey find? Palava, e dey find, palava e go get e o."**

Flowing from Fela's wisdom, it is not difficult to conclude that when a lecturer translates himself to an examinee, the result must be palaver. If my memory serves me right,

I took my qualifying exams for the purpose of being called to the Nigerian Bar as far back as 1978 and I do not recall any of our lecturers at the time imagining himself as a student, talk less of agreeing to sit an examination for a student. You cannot be a teacher as well as a student. And so, it was not within the contemplation of any right-thinking teacher or lecturer to form the habit of masquerading as a student. Even now, I remember teaching at the university level myself, and I still

Continues on Page 23

Dust over FG's latest plans to regulate social media with practice code

Continued from Page 21

confront this menace," he said.

The minister noted that the government had the responsibility to keep the country together, therefore, social media would not be left alone to destabilise the nation.

He said the government welcomed the debate that had followed the decision and announcement to sanitise the social media space and the airwaves.

"We are glad about the criticism because what we set out to achieve is to bring the matter to the front burner of discourse.

We are not under any illusion that the people will take this hook, line and sinker.

"We are, however, glad that there are more people who believe that the social media poses imminent danger to the unity of Nigeria, especially as they have become merchants of fake news and hate speech," he said.

The minister noted that those who had opposed the regulation of the social media had not denied the fact that the platform was being used by purveyors of fake news and hate speech with grave consequences.

"Their concern largely, which is unfounded, is that it might lead to the stifling of the freedom of press or gagging the media. However, we want to make it clear that it is not our intention to do this. The only people who are afraid of the decision to sanitise the social media and the airwaves are the purveyors of hate speech and fake

news.

"It must be put on record that Nigeria is not the only country that is doing something about this.

"Germany, Egypt, Russia, India and the UK are all doing something about regulating the social media platform," he said.

Mohammed expressed concern that the Nigeria Union of Journalists and other media professional bodies that were supposed to support the regulation were kicking against it.

"This is amusing, because they should be glad as they are the ones we are protecting.

"We heard all kinds of threat, some even went as far as calling for the removal of the minister. Let me assure them that the minister is not perturbed by this and we are focused. No amount of intimidation, sponsored articles in any form is going to stop us from regulating the social media.

"This is not just a menace to the government, many people have committed suicide because their reputation have been destroyed by the social media," he said.

Emergence of FG's Draft Code of Practice for Interactive Computer Service Platform/ Internet Intermediaries

One and a half years after Lai Mohammed hinted that

the government had given a marching order to relevant stakeholders to come up with a document that would regulate social media in the country, *Vanguard Law and Human Rights* reports that the National Information Technology Development Agency, NITDA, on June 13, 2022, released an 11-page document which it called a draft Code of Practice for Interactive Computer Service Platforms/Internet Intermediaries.

The comprehensive document exhaustively addressed issues relating to operations of Interactive Computer Service platforms/Internet Intermediaries under six major sections while the preliminary pages to the document gave a preamble to the code of practice, objectives of the code of practice, its scope and application and definition of operational terms used in the draft document.

Specifically, NITDA in the preliminary pages said the objectives of the Code of Practice included the need to set out best practices required of Interactive Computer Service Platform/Internet Intermediaries; to set out best practices that will make the digital ecosystem safer for Nigerians and non-Nigerians in Nigeria; set out measures to combat online harms such as disinformation and misinformation and adopt a co-regulatory approach towards implementation and compliance.

For the purpose of understanding the content of the

The issue I have with the government now is trying to use administrative means (Code of Practice) to achieve what was earlier rejected by Nigerians

document, NITDA explained that Interactive Computer Service Platforms refers to any electronic medium or site where services are provided by means of a computer resource and on-demand and where users create, upload, share, disseminate, modify or access information, including websites that provide reviews, gaming platforms, online sites for conducting commercial transactions while Internet Intermediaries include but not limited to social media operators, websites, blogs, media sharing websites, online discussion forums, streaming platforms and other similar oriented intermediaries where services are either enabled or provided and transactions are conducted and where users can create, read, engage, upload, share, modify or access information.

Under sections one and two of the document, NITDA listed various responsibilities of Interactive Computer Service plat-

form/Internet Intermediaries section including that they must act expeditiously upon receiving a notice from a user or an authorised government agency of the presence of an unlawful content on their platforms; remove, disable, or block access to non-consensual content that exposes a person's private areas, etc and disclose the identity of the creator of information on its platform when directed to do so by a court order.

Section three of the NITDA draft Code mandates all platforms whose users are more than 100,000 (large service platforms) to be incorporated in Nigeria with the CAC with a physical contact address and appoint a liaison officer who shall serve as communication channel between the government and the platform, among others; while section four prohibits a platform from keeping materials found objectionable on the grounds of public interest, morality, order, security, peace or otherwise prohibited by Nigerian laws.

Section five of the document discusses measures on disinformation and misinformation including providing users with easily accessible tools to report disinformation and or misinformation; trace, expose, penalise and close accounts and sources that amplify disinformation and misinformation while section six focussed on miscellaneous issues including that the Code may be reviewed from time to

Continues on Page 23

LAW & Human Rights

Dust over FG's latest plans to regulate social media with practice code

Continued from Page 21

time by NITDA; noncompliance with the regulation shall be construed as a breach of the provisions of the NITDA Act of 2007 while any platform and or Internet intermediary that is responsible for the violation of the regulation may be liable to disciplinary measures under civil service rules, prosecution and conviction for violation of NITDA Act 2007.

FG not sincere, a ploy to regulate social media through the backdoor—MRA

But in less than 48 hours after NITDA released the draft Code of Practice, stakeholders including Chief Mike Ozekhome, SAN, a human rights czar and former Chairman of National Human Rights Commission, Prof. Chidi Odinkalu and a non-governmental organisation, Media Rights Agenda, MRA, kicked.

In a chat with Vanguard Law and Human Rights,

Chief Ozekhome, SAN, said it is not in doubt that many Nigerians are now abusing the social media space with people using the cyberspace to invade people's homes, privacy and write all sorts of rubbish against others but he quickly added: "I still believe that the remedy lies in the affected people taking legal action against violators of laws that are already there. For example, we have cybercrimes law which is very strong. You also have criminal libel law, criminal defamation law, etc.

"The issue I have with the government now is trying to use administrative means (Code of Practice) to achieve what was earlier rejected by Nigerians; what the government tried to regulate by an Act of National Assembly. It is not appropriate at all.

"We must know that the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission, NBC, had tried to use its Code of Conduct many a times to muzzle the freedom of speech of broadcasting organisations to disseminate information.

"I can tell you that no less

than six times had the NBC either closed down Daar Communication outright or attempted to close it down through threat letters. And many at times, I had had to go to court to get orders after they were closed down because the outlet allegedly breached NBC's code of conduct. One would have thought that if the TV/Radio station does something wrong, they should take it to court.

"There are laws that govern freedom of speech. In any event, freedom of speech is not open ended. It is regulated by the same constitution, section 45 to be specific, which says that freedom of speech among other rights can be curtailed in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health.

"We have many legislations in the country. And the more legislations we have, the more the country goes down the drain. Our problem is not the absence of the law but the lack of the will to enforce these laws. The government should not be allowed to use the so-called code of practice to

regulate our freedom of speech," he warned.

Taking it up from where Ozekhome stopped, Prof. Odinkalu said: "There are legitimate questions on whether regulation of social media and online platforms should be done by subsidiary instrument or primary legislation.

"A Code of Practice is probably neither of these. It is supposed to be largely hortatory. The problem with this Code of Practice is that it actually does seem to propose consequences and to corner the digital landscape in the direction of prior constraint.

"That faces a challenge as to whether it meets the constitutional standard for such constraint in section 45 of the 1999 Constitution, which requires primary legislation for such matters.

"There is also the issue of scope. The entire scheme is anchored on the notion of "harmful content" which is defined as "content which is not unlawful but harmful." This is meaningless. It does not address the question of the standard with reference to which you determine harm, by whom such determination is made or to whom exposure to harm matters. In effect, the standard is subjective and liable to egregious abuse," he rang off.

A non-governmental organisation, MRA, said it is in total agreement with Odinkalu and Ozekhome.

But it also went further by arguing that the Federal Government's latest effort is nothing but a ploy to regulate social media and other online platforms through the backdoor by circumventing the legislative process.

The organisation said the draft Code of Practice is a clumsy attempt to usurp the powers, functions and authority of the National Assembly as well as a breach of the constitutional rights of Nigerians.

According to MRA's Programme Director, Mr. Ayode Longe: "The Federal Government is clearly attempting to circumvent the legislative process in favour of a backdoor approach to regulate social media and other internet platforms.

"It is curious that the Government has chosen to use an administrative document to surreptitiously create criminal offences as the document states unequivocally that any platform or internet intermediary responsible for violating its provisions will be liable to prosecution and conviction."

He argued that NITDA's misuse of the term "Code of Practice" to describe the document amounts to acting under false pretences to dupe Nigerians into believing that the Government is seeking to protect them when its real intention is obviously to control social media and other Internet platforms by compelling them to register with the Government and

thereby muzzle the right to freedom of expression online.

Mr. Longe contended that the document is a breach of Articles 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UDHR and Nigeria's treaty obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ICCPR, which gives everyone the right to freedom of expression, including the "freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers.

"The name is problematic. Although it is termed a code of practice, it is in fact not intended to provide guidance for the implementation of any specific law or regulation. Rather, it creates criminal offences which are not contained in any existing law and attempts to legitimize them by a vague reference to its enabling Act and other laws, which is beyond the remit of any such administrative document."

Longe argued that the underlying rationale for many of the provisions of the document are unrealistic and unreasonable as they defy logic and common sense.

He said: "In today's globalised world, is it possible or realistic to expect global Internet platforms like Facebook, Twitter and others to register with the government of every country in the world where they have users and set up offices in all those countries, which is the implication of the Federal Government's demand? Conversely, Nigeria's external broadcaster, the Voice of Nigeria, broadcasts its signal and content to dozens of countries around the world and runs a website that is accessible globally; is it registered and does it have offices in all the countries where its signals are received as Nigeria is now demanding of platforms registered in other countries?"

Mr. Longe described many of the provisions of the document as arbitrary and draconian, saying the requirement that platforms take down "unlawful content" within 24 hours after receiving a notice or complaint from any authorised government agency constitutes an attempt by the Government to control content published on social media and other online platforms while bypassing the judicial process and usurping the functions of the courts which should legitimately determine what content that is illegal or unlawful.

MRA therefore rejected the "Code of Practice" in its totality. It called on the government to abandon it and approach the National Assembly with an appropriate bill, if its genuine intention is to address legitimate issues rather than violating the rights of Nigerians and other members of the public on the pretext of protecting them from fake news and misinformation.

Although the government through its Information Minister, Alhaji Lai Mohammed had indicated that nothing would stop it from regulating the social media, the on-going criticism of the use of administrative document to regulate social media, hiding under section 45 of the 1999 Constitution, has raised a fresh concern as to whether the section 45(1) (a) actually contemplates a mere code of practice or primary legislation to address the issue at hand. Time will tell on the proper direction the code of practice will go.

Address judges' welfare now or reduce justice to 'merchantable commodity'—Awa Kalu, SAN

Continued from Page 22

consider it impossible to see myself as a student. The question is: how will it work? Because in my time, the lecturers supervised examinations and were very well known by students. So, how can a lecturer become *incognito* and sit comfortably and write examinations without being seen, noticed or recognised?

It is an infamy and should be specifically handled without kid gloves. From the tenure of military regimes, examination malpractice was considered an abomination and there are vestiges of decrees promulgated to deal with the malignant tumor. Any person who wants a degree, diploma or any insignia of being learned or educated must be willing not only to acquire it, but to thereafter, defend it. If you cannot defend what you have learnt in an examination hall, how then can you defend it in the larger society?

The Senate recently passed a bill for the establishment of six more branches of the Nigerian Law School in the six geo-political zones in the country. A lot has been said on this. But what is your position on the creation of more Law School Campuses?

I know that at this time, we have different campuses of the Nigerian

Law School in Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Enugu, Yola, Yenagoa, as well as one that is upcoming in Port Harcourt and I cannot therefore understand what you mean by "six more branches of the Nigerian Law School in the six geo-political zones in the country."

I must say that in this country, we have a way of overdoing things. If, therefore, there is an attempt to open up six new campuses, then that would be putting our legal education in overdrive. Too many cooks, they say, spoil the broth. In that connection, we must appreciate and this is very well understood, that we already have a discernable drop in standards, quality, as well as a degeneration in the ethics of the legal profession. Accordingly, let us not hire more cooks.

A couple of political parties submitted some names of their candidates for the 2023 presidential election to INEC in the name of placeholder. In law, what does placeholder mean and what is its place in our relevant laws, particularly, the electoral law?

To put it mildly, there is plenty that is wrong with our politics. The rise in the use of Placeholder is worrisome, and I do not see it as a problem arising from the law. Our political environment obviously

The draft Code of Practice is a clumsy attempt to usurp the powers, functions and authority of the National Assembly as well as a breach of the constitutional rights of Nigerians

indicates that our politicians, as seasoned as most of them are, are not willing to address what in other places, they call *the sociology of politics*. In this country, ethnic tensions are very high, religious sentiments are forever soaring. Of more concern is the forgetfulness of practising politicians that morality and social ethics should be at the core of political movements. Therefore, it is difficult for those of us who are pedestrian politicians to understand why the practising politicians can hug controversial issues such as "Muslim-Muslim ticket, Christian-Christian ticket, Igbo-Igbo ticket, Yoruba-Yoruba ticket, Hausa-Hausa ticket, Hausa-Fulani ticket, Southern-Southern ticket or Northern-Northern ticket" and

such other confusing duopolies as have led to *placeholdering*. As soon as we rid our political system of frustrating combinations, which only have the tendency to up the antenna of pressuring our system, we will still be *marching without movement*. Having created a democracy day, we ought to imbibe the spirit of Rotary's four way test; that is to say in all you think, say or do, Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all?

In my view, real politics would include the avoidance of erecting unnecessary obstacles to the development of our nascent democracy. We also need to reduce obfuscation and learn to create a level-playing field. After all, the extant Electoral Act has made a meaningful attempt to improve our political topography. Section 31 provides; "A candidate may withdraw his or her candidature by notice in writing signed by him and delivered personally by the candidate to the political party that nominated him for the election and the political party shall convey such withdrawal to the Commission not later than 90 days to the election." In addition, Section 33 is to the effect that; "A political party shall not be allowed to change or substitute its

candidate whose name has been submitted under section 29 of this Act, except in the case of death or withdrawal by the candidate: Provided that in the case of such withdrawal or death of a candidate, the political party affected shall, within 14 days of the occurrence of the event, hold a fresh primary election to produce and submit a fresh candidate to the Commission for the election concerned."

These two sections have provided for a practical leeway to replace a candidate who has died or voluntarily withdrawn from the contest. To purchase an aspirant as a placeholder should be banished from our political system. Why do we then not allow the contemplation of the Electoral Act to prevail? The availability of aspirants should make it easier for our political juggernauts to be able to choose viable candidates rather than placeholders. I would think that if I had instructions to hire a lawyer, it would be unreasonable to hire a journalist in the hope that when an Inspector arrives, the journalist or such other person that does not have the credentials of a lawyer, would go into a toilet to hide.

Politics requires courage and our politicians, certainly, do not lack courage. They only delay the inevitable.



GOVERNMENT OF BAYELSA STATE



The Governor of Bayelsa State, **Senator Douye Diri**,
and Members of the State Executive Council

Welcome All to the
FLAG-OFF
of the
NEMBE-BRASS ROAD PROJECT

Date: Thursday, June 23, 2022
Time: 12PM

Guest of Honour
Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN
Honourable Minister of Works and Housing

Signed:

Hon. Ayibaina Crowther Duba
Bayelsa State Commissioner for Information, Orientation and Strategy



ISOKO SOUTH PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY, PDP ELDERS AND LEADERS FORUM

CONGRATULATIONS, EKWUEME!



SENATOR DR.
ARTHUR IFEANYI
OKOWA

ALHAJI ATIKU
ABUBAKAR

On behalf of our families and members of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP in Isoko South Local Government Area, we wish to congratulate the man of the moment and Governor of Delta State, HIS EXCELLENCY, SENATOR, DR ARTHUR IFEANYI OKOWA on his well deserved emergence as the Vice Presidential Candidate of the party.

Ekwueme, your choice as the running mate to the PDP Presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar by the party is a testimony of your dedication to the growth of the party.

The Ugo of Isokoland, we are glad to join other well meaning party members and Nigerians to celebrate you in a moment like this and to assure you of our unalloyed support and commitment to your election and victory of the party at all levels come 2023.

We pray God to see you and all other candidates of our party through in the forthcoming general elections.

Congratulations Sir!

Signed:

1. Chief Solomon Ogba
2. Hon Chief Ross Uredi
3. Hon Johnson Erijo
4. Hon Chief Ferguson Onwo
5. Hon Churchill Amagada
6. Hon Orezi Esievo
7. Bashorun Askia Ogieh
8. Barr Chief Mike Edegware
9. Chief Austin Igbine
10. Odio Godspower Obaro
11. Hon Victor Asasa
12. Hon Malik Ikpokpo
13. Chief Idu Amaidhe
14. Hon Evivie Ovuakpoye
15. Barr Chief Mike Okah
16. Hon. Bino Obowomano



WARRI NORTH PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY POLITICAL FAMILY



Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa

Rt. Hon. Sheriff Francis Oborevwo

Evangelist Michael Diden (aka Ejele)

Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi

Hon. Fred Martins

Cometh the moment, cometh the A-Team for a Greater Delta

At a time our dear Delta State needs the great leap forward after two terms His Excellency, Senator Dr Ifeanyi Okowa's revolution in the provision and upgrade of infrastructure, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has positioned a stellar team to lift the state higher.

We congratulate our amiable governor, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, on his emergence as the Vice Presidential running mate to Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, Presidential candidate of the PDP.

Ekueme, your political dexterity and commitment to development strides will continue to speak for you even as we wish you success in your endeavours in the years ahead.

There could have been no better choice to continue from governor Okowa's legacies than Rt. Hon. Sheriff Francis Oborevwo. We felicitate with you on your overwhelming victory at the people's Democratic Party governorship primaries. We look forward to your tenure as the fifth democratically elected governor of our dear state.

We also wish to congratulate Evangelist Michael Diden aka Ejele the Agumba 1 of the universe on his emergence as the people's Democratic Party candidate for Delta south senatorial in the 2023 general election.

We also facilitate with Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi for his well deserved victory at the House of Representatives primaries as the flag bearer for Warri federal constituency under the platform of the people's Democratic Party and Hon. Fred Martins who re-emerged as the people's Democratic Party candidate to represent Warri North at the Delta state house of assembly.

We are formidably behind your aspirations towards a more impactful Democratic experience in Delta state even as you keep the PDP flag flying meritoriously higher.

SIGNED:

- Chief Otimeyin Adams
- Chief Solomon Arenyeka
- Hon. (Dr) Isaac Wilkie
- Evangelist Tony Aderejor
- Chief Omolubi Newuwumi
- Hon. Misan Ukubeyinje
- Hon. Nelson Ominjie
- Mrs. Esimaje Aghogin
- Hon. Spencer Okpoye
- Hon. Sunny Abilo
- Pa. E.K Gbaragada
- Hon. Smart Asekutu
- Hon. John Okoroloko
- Chief Lucky Tiemo
- Alhaji Emmanuel Omoko
- Bishop Sunny Jero
- Hon. Joel Bisina
- Mrs. Grace Ikanone
- Mrs. Flora Alatan
- Dr. Godwin Ebosa



DELTA TRUST MORTGAGE BANK LIMITED

No. 128, Okpanam Road, Asaba, Delta State

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO H.E. SENATOR (DR) IFEANYI ARTHUR OKOWA ON HIS NOMINATION AS PDP VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN THE FORTHCOMING 2023 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



ALHAJI ATIKU ABUBAKAR

SENATOR DR. ARTHUR IFEANYI OKOWA

We, the Board and the entire staff of Delta Trust Mortgage Bank Limited join the millions of the good people of Delta State to congratulate His Excellency, Senator (Dr) Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa on his nomination as the Vice Presidential Candidate of the People's Democratic Party ("PDP") for the forthcoming 2023 presidential election.

Sir, your nomination is a testament of visionary leadership and excellent public service record. It is no gainsaying that His Excellency has successfully demonstrated uncommon capacity, competence, character and commitment in leading a diverse state like Delta State as evinced in the Smart Agenda programmes as well as other infrastructural development initiatives which has transformed the citizens, cities and communities across the length and breadth of Delta State.

Sir, we believe that your cognate experience both in the executive and legislative arms of government in the past 23 years has prepared you and put you in vintage position to recover, rescue and rebuild our country from its current socio-economic and political crisis when elected alongside the Presidential Candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar in 2023.

On behalf of the Board and the entire staff of Delta Trust Mortgage Bank Limited, I heartily congratulate you sir, and we pray God to multiply His Grace upon you as His Excellency march to victory in the 2023 general.

Once again, Congratulations, Your Excellency



Dr. Francis F. Abudu
Chairman, Board of Directors

SIGNED



Mrs. Ruby Okoro
Managing Director/CEO

- Olorogun (Barr.) Dr. Joshua O. Muwhen - Executive Director, Admin./HR & Corp.
- Mr. Meggison Andrew Omatseyin
- Mr. Edward Babatunde Mekwuye
- Chief Meshach Chukwemeke Opone
- Mr. Patrick Ejime Sunny Okoh
- Mr. Augustine Okotete
- Mrs. Maria Adalgbe
- Representatives of Ministry of Housing and Ministry of Finance



FORUM OF DELTA STATE LGA PDP CHAIRMEN



**ALHAJI ATIKU
ABUBAKAR, GCON**
WAZIRI ADAMAWA

**SENATOR DR.
ARTHUR IFEANYI
OKOWA**

Congratulations Ekwueme!

The Forum of PDP Chairmen in Delta State, congratulates His Excellency, Senator **Dr Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa**, Governor of Delta State, on his emergence as Vice-Presidential candidate of our great party.

Your Excellency, your choice as running mate to our candidate is not surprising because, over the years you have distinguished yourself as a statesman with your staidness and unpretentious mien.

We thank our President-in-waiting, His Excellency, **Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, GCON**, Waziri Adamawa, for finding you worthy to be on the exalted ticket.

We pledge our unalloyed commitment to the realisation of our party's rescue mission.

Once more congratulations!

NAME

1. DR. CHARLES OCHEI
2. PRINCE MIKE OKWUFULUEZE
3. PRINCE OPUOFENI
4. EBIKE VICTOR OROMONI
5. HON. FELIX ERHIMEDAFE
6. SOLOMON OBAREKI
7. CHUKWUDI AGBOMAH
8. JUDE ONYIA
9. PRINCE GODWIN OGORUGBA
10. HON. CHIEF GODSPOWER OBARO
11. VINCENT OSILONYA
12. LUCKY OKWUJI
13. UKO RANSOME EFE
14. CHIEF FELIX NDUKA OGWUDA
15. OGBUESHI DADA S. A. OKONJI
16. CHIEF GODSPOWER ASIUWHU
17. CHIEF GODWIN DADI
18. SILOKO OGHENEOCHUKO DAVID
19. PASTOR KRESS NUOMOJA
20. HON. MICHAEL OSHETIGHO
21. CHIEF PATRICK KAINÉ
22. EFE OKOLEDO
23. HON. ISAAC WILKIE Ph.D
24. MR. JOHNSON AGBEYEGBE
25. CHIEF FAVOUR O. IZOUKUMOR

LGA

- ANIOCHA NORTH
- ANIOCHA SOUTH
- BOMADI
- BURUTU
- ETHIOPE EAST
- ETHIOPE WEST
- IKA NORTH EAST
- IKA SOUTH
- ISOKO NORTH
- ISOKO SOUTH
- NDOKWA EAST
- NDOKWA WEST
- OKPE
- OSHIMILI NORTH
- OSHIMILI SOUTH
- PATANI
- SAPELE
- UDU
- UGHELLI NORTH
- UGHELLI SOUTH
- UKWUANI
- UVWIE
- WARRI NORTH
- WARRI SOUTH
- WARRI SOUTH-WEST

SIGNED

HON. ISAAC WILKIE Ph.D
State Chairman

HON. JUDE ONYIA
State Secretary



DELTA STATE COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL RULERS

TRADITIONAL COUNCIL SECRETARIAT COMPLEX

off Mariam Babangida way, off Okpanam Road, Asaba



His Excellency,
Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa
Vice Presidential Candidate,
Peoples Democratic Party, PDP

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS EXCELLENCY SEN. DR. IFEANYI ARTHUR OKOWA, GOVERNOR OF DELTA STATE

The Delta State Council of Traditional Rulers and the entire Traditional Rulers of the State wish to congratulate our Amiable and God Fearing Governor, His Excellency, Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa on his emergence as the Vice Presidential candidate of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Your Excellency, without equivocation, your dutifulness, organizational spirit, thoroughness, stabilizing ability, experience, unassailable character and above all your desire to serve humanity are worthy of emulation.

Your selection is indeed a blessing to Delta State in particularly, South-South region and the Country in general.

We the Royal Fathers further express our deep and profound appreciation to His Excellency, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar (GCON), Presidential candidate of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for finding our son worthy to run with you for the office of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 2023.

We take strong exception to the statement credited to the Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum wherein they declared our son and Governor of Delta State, persona non grata.

Your Excellency, while congratulating you on this rare feat, we pray that the Almighty God direct and guide you through going forward to achieving the desires of your heart.

His Majesty,
Major Gen. Felix Mujakperuo (Rtd) CFR, mm,
Orodje of Okpe/
Chairman.

His Majesty,
S. P. Luke Kalanama VIII,
Pere of Akugbene-Mein/
1st Vice Chairman.

His Majesty,
Obi Henry Kikachukwu
The Obi of Ubulu-Uno/
2nd Vice Chairman.

By Ebunoluwa Sessou

We understand why lone woman presidential aspirant stepped down —Female politicians

IN March 2022, Womaniesto, coalition of women groups led by Dr Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, occupied the national assembly and demanded immediate passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, GEOB.

In April 2022, the Federal High Court in Abuja ordered the government to comply with the 35 percent affirmative action for women as demanded by the group, which allows women to occupy 35 percent of all political appointments.

Recall that in delivering the judgment, Justice Donatus Okorowo, said the Federal Government had the obligation to implement the 35 percent affirmative action, while accusing past governments of acting in breach of international treaties on women's participation in government. Justice Okorowo added that the National Gender Policy is not merely a policy statement, but one that must be backed.

Against this backdrop, women have been expressing their interest in politics including the lone presidential candidate during the recently concluded APC convention party primaries.

Barr. Uju Ken Ohanenye contested the presidential seat alongside 21 male presidential aspirants but later stepped down in support of a male counterpart.

According to Ohanenye, Nigeria needs a motherly figure. She said at the convention, "I am pleading with all the delegates to know that their votes are lifesavers. We have our children and nation to think of. Let them try and vote right for the brighter future of our children".

This singular act has generated reactions from different quarters on whether women are ready for politics or not.

For women in politics, it is critical to understand the structure, build alliances, build capacity, harness potentials, criticize the chances and environment, get more training and be mentored. These were the echoes from the just concluded Women in Politics, WIMPOL Mock Presidential Debate, Mentoring and Graduating Programme organized by Women in Management, Business and Public Service, WIMBIZ, with the theme, "Politics in Nigeria: Lessons and Perspectives".

Participants corroborated



•Justice Donatus Okorowo

the need for leadership training and mentorship programmes to up-skill before achieving positive results.

It was a wise decision
—Tejuosho

A member of the All Progressives Congress, APC, and former Deputy Speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly, Adefunmilayo Tejuosho said nobody would give any woman free position; rather, women would continue to ask for affirmative action. Her words: "We continue to encourage more women to be in positions of authority. We should be able to come together as women to say, "No Women, No Vote". If we do not put women in positions of authority, women will not vote. I think this affirmative action will help to bring women on board. Stepping down is not only a woman's issue. I think we need to re-organize ourselves to make sure that our grassroots are intact, that the delegates that would vote are those who will vote for women. "When we look at the population of women in Nigeria, we have more women than men. When we look at the population of voters, we have more women than men, so we just need to encourage our women to come out and vote and be voted. For her to have stepped down at the primaries, I think, it was a decision she made. Sometimes, you have to make a wise decision especially when you observe that a particular person is more popular than you. It is better to step down and support the other person. And be part of the process so that you can make a difference in your area of expertise", she said.

A member of the People's Democratic Party, PDP, Olumide Thompson also supported the stepping down of the female candidate. "There is a reason for her to have stepped down. She went as far as becoming a presidential aspirant. At some point, you have to listen to your leaders.

Asked what this portends for women, especially at a time like this, he said, "More women need to get involved in running for offices, however, there are different aspects including community organizations, boycotting, protest, petitioning. It is only a matter of time. With more initiatives, it can be better".

In her reaction, Executive Director, WIMBIZ, Hansatu Adegbite stated that politics is not what one can dive into, adding that there is a need to go back to the drawing board and harness all areas, build capacity and then come back and conquer.

Also, one of the mentors, Rev Juliet Binitie, an expert in women leadership and nation building said the reality is that women need to understand leadership. "They need to understand where their passion lies. The biggest problem we have in Africa is



A cross-section of WIMBIZ leadership and mentors at the 2022 WIMBIZ Women in Politics Mentoring Graduation in Lagos. From left: Hansatu Adegbite, Executive Director, WIMBIZ; Funmi Tejuosho, Chairman, Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Finance (2015); Olumide Thompson, Candidate for Chairman, Iru/Victoria Island LCDA, PDP, Adeola Azeez, Co-Founder, WIMBIZ and Kemi Ogunyemi, Chair, WIMPOL committee, WIMBIZ.

that women have not been taught leadership. We need to understand that leadership is not masculine, it is also feminine. For so long, women have accepted that leadership is masculine because of the leadership within the home. Home management is not the same in public space. Every woman ordained by God is called to lead. She must find her sector of leadership and that takes time with training. In order to be in the fore-front of engagement, women must understand that leadership is a human issue and women have been missing in action in many sectors all over the world because of the psyche. Whether you are married or unmarried, you are called to lead", she said.

Another politician and a WIMBIZ WIMPOL Mentee, Dr. Angel Adelaja-Kuye, APC Ogun State, said, "We have gotten to the point where men must know that politics is not just for them. It is not dirty or dubious. I was lucky to be part of the presidential primaries of the APC. I was part of the accreditation committee. As we move forward to support women, we want what is best for our country. Agenda does not come above the good of the society. I was happy that the only woman on the presidential list of APC was able to get to the point where she stepped down. She participated as a presidential aspirant and I was happy to see that she believes in our leader, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu. She decided that standing behind him was a good opportunity for women. We must look at politics that it is a game of numbers. If she had not stepped down, how many votes do you think she would have gotten? Even if all women were going to vote for her, how many votes would delegates?

Another WIMBIZ WIMPOL Mentee, Comrade Jimoh Saidat,



•Dr Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi

APC Kogi State said women are naturally home builders and if they are opportune to serve the nation, it will be a better place.

There should be more female delegates

—Azeez, Ayo Adebajo's

daughter
Addressing the Mentees, one of the founders of

Politics is not for the faint hearted; it is serious business. If we want to see a new Nigeria, then we must be deliberate about it and must act with conviction

WIMBIZ, Adeola Azeez, Candidate representing Ijebu Central Federal Constituency, House of Representatives, Ogun State under the Social Democratic party, SDP, said, "We are building a pipeline

of ready-made women who will be ready to take the plunge in politics. Everything we do in terms of programming elevates the status of women and their contribution".

"I want a party that would give room for women to grow and that was the best party that I found that is inclusive and I can see myself growing faster, better and contributing to the party structure. A woman in politics program which was initiated by WIMBIZ in 2014 was a result of the poor representation of women participating in politics, particularly from the private sector. Become active, be valuable, become grounded, have a voice. Help other women find their voice; spread the knowledge you have acquired to other women. Influence the uneducated women who are grounded and are the Queens in your various parties. Build influence. Have a vision that you are working towards and start at it early. Get all the help you need to fulfill this vision. Politics is not for the faint hearted; however I am confident that you can do it. If you ever decide to run for office, you need people, you need funds. So don't wait, start building your structure now "Work on your personal brand. Who are you? Who do you want to be known as? But also, how do you appear? Many of us watched the just concluded APC presidential primaries. Public speaking is critical. You must command attention when you speak. Do people listen to you; take action because of what you've said".

Azeez said WIMPOL seeks to serve as a platform, to bridge the gender gap in Nigerian politics by training existing and intending female politicians on the required skills, to attain leadership positions. "One of the things I have noticed in my political journey is that



•Uju Ken Ohanenye

there are women in politics however it is certain that we are not as many as the male gender.

Secondly, the qualities of women who represent and are in the race are unfortunately below par. "There is a need for women to rise up in value and standard to this cause of transforming the political, economic and social environment and making positive impact in our dear country.

"The people we eventually vote for at the elections are selected by people who many times are not qualified to run for office. The people who end up being delegates decide to a large extent the future of the country.

"It is who they select that end up being in the final race that you and I vote for. As such, we need more women who have got the 3Cs (competence, character and capacity) to emerge. If we have a critical mass of educated, professional, well informed people in politics, Nigeria will not continue grappling with a system that promotes mediocrity. It is for this reason that I am glad that everyone graduating from this program today has decided to become intentional about the future of this nation", she said.

Politics

By Clifford Ndujhe & Dapo Akinrefon

GOVERNOR Godwin Obaseki of Edo State, has said that "many" Nigerians are looking for alternatives to the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, and All Progressives Congress, APC.

Explaining why the PDP lost the recent Ekiti governorship election, Obaseki, in a video posted by AIT on Tuesday, said many Nigerians no longer want APC and PDP and have now become 'Obidients.'

Supporters of the Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party, LP, Mr. Peter Obi, identify themselves as 'Obidients.'

According to Obaseki, the PDP, which came third in the Ekiti governorship election, must find a way to make Nigerians more interested in the party.

His words: "How can PDP, the party, not win? They were not even number two. So, you can see that something is going on and we do not want this to be a trend. The future of our politics in this country is changing."

"I do not know whether you are closely watching what is going on — the level of disenchantment within the parties. I am sure in all of our homes we have so many people now who call themselves 'Obidients.'

"I don't know whether you have them in your house. Just ask them, 'which party are you?' They say 'Obidients.' You understand? They do not want us; they are not talking about PDP or APC. They are looking for alternatives and they are many. You see all of them queuing for their PVCs (Permanent Voters Cards) now. They are not looking at the direction of PDP or APC now. They are looking for alternatives."

"If we do not curb this, if we do not make our party attractive, I do not know what will happen in the next elections."

We're working on a mega alliance — Abure, Okupe, Yinusa Tanko

Obaseki spoke as the LP Vice Presidential Candidate, and leaders of the party, yesterday said that LP Presidential Candidate, Mr. Peter Obi; and his New Nigerian Peoples Party, NNPP counterpart, Senator Rabi Musa Kwankwaso, are still in talks to field a joint ticket for the 2023 presidential poll.

In separate chats with Vanguard, LP National Chairman, Mr. Julius Abure; Spokesman, Dr. Yinusa Tanko; and Okupe said both parties are still discussing the plan of forming a mega alliance that will win the presidential poll in 2023.

Disclosing that the plan is to form a mega alliance, Abure said both parties are "consulting widely to



•Peter Obi: LP Presidential Candidate



•Kwankwaso: NNPP Presidential Candidate

2023: Obi, Kwankwaso're working on a mega alliance — Abure, Okupe, Yinusa Tanko

- Why many Nigerians 're now Obi's supporters — Obaseki
- Says they want alternatives to PDP, APC

make the alliance a huge success."

Abure, who urged the INEC to extend the ongoing voters registration beyond June 30 as ordered by an Abuja Federal High Court, on Monday, said: "INEC should not disenfranchise Nigerians. It has the responsibility of ensuring that everyone of age gets his or her PVC (permanent voters' card). Before Mr Peter Obi emerged as presidential candidate many people did not think there was a need to vote. There was hopelessness and despair in the polity. With Obi's emergence, people now have hope and have seen the need to get the PVC. The INEC should ensure that these masses of people get their PVCs."

Insisting that the talks and consultations are ongoing, Dr Okupe said that the Labour Party and NNPP have agreed to form a new political order in the country but are yet to reach an agreement on which party will produce the presidential candidate. According to him, both parties are in talks to beat the July 17 deadline by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, for substitution of candidates.

He said: "We have not foreclosed on anything. What has happened is that there have been a lot of informal discussions and interventions on the merger. There have been a lot of third party interventions on this same issue."

"Officially, I have been involved in two meetings in two different locations where we discussed extensively. I can tell you authoritatively that I have spoken with Rabi Musa Kwankwaso on this matter. "We have agreed to cooperate together as two different parties to enthrone a new political order in this country. We also agreed on working to-

gether politically and to constitute a platform on which a national grand alliance can be built in pursuit of the same goal.

"We have not reached an agreement on the issue of whether the North will be the president or the South will be the president because both sides are insisting on being the arrowhead of the union in terms of presidency. This is where we have not really agreed. As of today, that is where we stand but there are a lot of goodwill ambassadors working behind the scene.

"The options are still open. We have up till July 17 or so to take a final decision but the options are still open. We have not foreclosed on anything."

On NNPP saying that Kwankwaso has not agreed to be Obi's running mate, he said: "I am surprised about that and I have tried to reach out. It is something that is a bit too early. We have direct access and we are talking officially and unofficially. I heard the information but I have not been able to confirm it."

Obi, Kwankwaso'll decide on flagbearer — Yinusa Tanko

Also confirming the talks between LP and NNPP, the National Publicity Secretary of the LP, Dr Yinusa Tanko, told Vanguard: "Discussions are ongoing. We have realized that none of us can do this alone. We have agreed on the basic principle that we are going to work together. The alliance is needed to rescue the country from the All Progressives Congress, APC, and Peoples Democratic Party, PDP. The question of who will be the presidential candidate or vice presidential candidate will be decided by Mr. Peter Obi and Senator Rabi Musa Kwankwaso."



UNIVERSITY OF BENIN TEACHING HOSPITAL
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CONDUCT OF POST UNIFIED TERTIARY MATRICULATION EXAMINATION INTO THE 4 YEARS ND/HND NURSING, PROGRAMME FOR 2021/2022 ACADEMIC SESSION OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, UBTH

This is to bring to the notice of suitably qualified candidates that admission into the College of Nursing, University of Benin Teaching Hospital for the 2021/2022 Session is ongoing.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates must possess 5 credits passes in WASCE/GCE/NECO and NABTED in not more than two sittings in Mathematics, English, Physics, Chemistry and Biology

Should be 17 years or above.

Must have written the year 2021 UTME with a minimum score of 120.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Candidates are to proceed to the nearest JAMB accredited centre to effect their change of institution to "School of Nursing, UBTH", Benin City. Post UTME Forms are to be obtained from the office of the Head of College, on payment of the sum of Two Thousand Naira (N2,000.00) only into UBTH REMITA platform at our Treasury/Revenue office in UBTH.

NOTE:

Candidates are to come along with the underlisted when coming to obtain the forms.

- UTME result slip
- JAMB change of institution slip
- WASCE/NECO/NABTEB results
- Birth Certificate
- Four recent passport photographs

POST UTME SCREENING EXERCISE:

Date: Tuesday 5th July, 2022

Time: 10:00am prompt.

Venue: College of Nursing, UBTH, Benin City.

For further information: 08052232291

NOTE: The UBTH College of Nursing PUTME form is not sold online and the College has not retained the services of anyone (other than the phone number above) directly or indirectly as its agent. BEWARE OF FRAUDSTERS!!

Signed:
Joshua Uwaila, Esq.
Head, Public Relations Unit
For: Chief Medical Director



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC DISPLAY ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF THE PROPOSED CERAMIC MANUFACTURING PLANT AND CAPTIVE COAL POWER PLANT IN IDIUNO OBINOFIA COMMUNITY, EZEAGU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, ENUGU STATE BY SAPPHIRE CERAMIC GROUP

In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act CAP E12 LFN 2004, which makes it mandatory for proponents of all new major development activities to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for their projects, the Federal Ministry of Environment hereby announces twenty-one (21) working days public notice for information and comments on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report submitted by Sapphire Ceramic Limited. The display is for the public to make inputs that shall enable the Ministry take appropriate decision on the EIA of the project.

The Display Centers are: -

- ✓ Headquarters, Ezeagu Local Government Council, Enugu State.
- ✓ Enugu State Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources, 16, Colliery Avenue, Off Okpara Avenue, Enugu State.
- ✓ Federal Ministry of Environment, Enugu, Enugu State.
- ✓ Federal Ministry of Environment, Environmental Assessment Department (Environment House), Central Business District, Abuja, F.C.T.

Brief Project Description:

The proposed project involves the construction and utilization of ceramic factory with production capacity of 120,000sqm of tiles per day, glaze construction plant with production capacity of 300tons/day and 15MW Captive Coal power plant on a total landtake of 70hectares in Ndinofia Obinofia, Ezeagu Local Government Area, Enugu State.

Duration of Display:

Date: 24th June- 22nd July.

Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm daily.

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, MABUSHI, ABUJA - F.C.T ON OR BEFORE 27TH JULY, 2022.

SIGNED
PERMANENT SECRETARY
FOR: HONOURABLE MINISTER



WELCOMING—From left: Mr. David Umem, Founder/CEO, Implementing Organisation for SF4SM Project, African Children's Aid Education and Development Foundation, ACAEDF; Miss Victoria Epelle, Programme Officer/Strategic Sector Cooperation Projects, Royal Danish Consulate-General, Lagos, and Mr. Poul Erikstrup, Sector Counsellor, Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Royal Danish Consulate-General, Lagos, during the official welcoming event of the Danish Ambassador to Akwa Ibom State, by ACAEDF.

2023: Obi'll actualise dream of Igbo

—Nwodo

By Ikechukwu Odu

NSUKKA—THE former national chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Okwesilieze Nwodo, has said that Mr. Peter Obi, of the Labour Party could actualize the dream of South Easterners by winning the Presidential election in 2023.

Nwodo, who was governor of Enugu State equally said that the Igbo would not remain political slaves serving other geo-political zones in the country.

While expressing disappointment on the PDP, and the All Progressives Congress, APC, for denying the Igbo aspirants their presidential tickets, he lambasted some Igbo politicians who abandoned their brother-aspirants to campaign for their counterparts from other zones in their parties.

He added that this is a period of political alignment and negotiations for the Igbo in order to find a platform to actualize their political dreams and remain relevant in Nigerian politics.

"Igbo will not remain political slaves serving other geo-political zones in Nigeria. I know that politics is dynamic. This is a period of political alignment and realignment for the Igbo politicians so that our common interest can see the light of the day.

"The Igbo would be looking for allies who can meet their irreducible minimum to remain part of Nigeria political system. While they look for that in the major political parties, they have a big plan B in other parties. I know that the two important Igbo candidates would be on the ballot paper for their political parties. The one that is most promising is Mr. Peter Obi, of the Labour Party. Dumebi Kachikwu, the younger brother to the former Minister of State for Petroleum, Ibe Kachikwu, also secured the ticket of African Democratic Congress. So, if we do not get anything from APC and PDP, we can get something through other political parties.

"So, this is a period of negotiations, alignments and realignments. The Igbo will not just give up like that. We are not happy about how we were treated by APC and PDP, but the game is still on. It is not the end of it yet. I am happy that we have alternatives to remain relevant in Nigeria politics.

"For those of us who have been campaigning for South East presidency, we are not happy that some of our leaders in PDP and APC didn't join in this struggle. If you are talking about two PDP Governors in South East who

campaigning for South South aspirant, what about the Senate Majority Whip, Orji Ozor Kalu, and Governor of Imo State, Hope Uzodinma, who campaigned for Ahmed Lawan when we had strong aspirants from South East in their parties? Our Igbo political leaders didn't do well this time, especially when they knew that it was the turn of South East to produce a president for the country in 2023," he said.

Also speaking on the Igbo Presidency in 2023, the President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State, Prof. Damian Opatu, said

that the Igbo must do a critical self reflection on their political strategies in order to get incorporated into the Nigerian federation and remain relevant in the political space.

The don who said that the present Igbo politicians lack the sagacity like those of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, and Michael Okpara, equally bemoaned the loss of collective solidarity of the people by our present crop of politicians.

"There is lack of political sagacity which the Igbo politicians of old like Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, and Dr. Michael Okpara, had among our present crop of politicians in South East Nigeria. The duo had the

trust of the people and they delivered. We have lost that sense of collective solidarity. If it is possible, the Igbo should set up a committee to look into the reasons that led to the loss of collective solidarity which ruled them in the past.

"The level of grassroots political consultations among the Igbo have reduced too. People can just emerge on their own without proper political consultations. They do not deepen their consultations to cover different aspects of Igbo socio-political lives so that they can engage many people and carry them along with them," he said.

FG opens job creation portal for unemployed

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA—THE Federal Government yesterday said it has approved the opening of employment and job creation portals for Nigerians living in the country and in the Diaspora.

The Minister of Labour and Employment, Senator Chris Ngige disclosed this while briefing State House correspondents at the end of the Federal Executive Council, FEC, meeting presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari at the Council Chamber, Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Senator Ngige also said the council approved the digitization of the operations of the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund, NSITF.

According to him, "The ministry presented two memos to council today (yesterday). The first memo was presented on behalf of our parastatal, the Nigeria social insurance Trust Fund (NSITF). As you are aware, a lot has happened in the NSITF in terms of revenue losses and pillage of funds that have been given to that organization.

"The NSITF implements the Employee Compensation Act ECA 2010 and by that Act, Employers in both public and private sectors are supposed to pay one percent of the emoluments of their staff into a social fund in NSITF.

"This one is to be used as a premium or insurance fund to cater for workers or staff who have accidents, injuries, disabilities and even deaths that occur in the cause of their work. So it's like an accident or injury insurance.

"The Pension Act makes reference to it that it must be done for workers in addition to the group life insurance. So, the monies that have gone in have not been properly utilized, the

payments have not been tracked. "So, today we brought to council a memo for an e-NSITF by which its operations will now be digitalized. Both the payments that are put in from any of its stations, it has 56 branches and 11 regional offices. In the comfort of your office, you can pay and register in that platform and that money is now tracked into Central pool.

"From the central pool if claims are made and payments are also made to the insurance on those who are beneficiaries, you also track them. So, this is one of the

2023: Oborewori/Onyeme ticket guarantees landslide victory for Delta PDP —CMPG

ASABA—COALITION for Media Politics and Governance, CMPG, has commended the leadership of the Delta State Chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, and all stakeholders for the perfect choice of Monday Onyeme of Ndokwa nation as running mate of our Governor in-waiting, Sheriff Oborewori, the Ukodo of Okpe Kingdom.

The group in a goodwill message to the Deputy governorship candidate, Onyeme, and signed by CMPG Convener/Chairman, Fred Oghenesivbe, Delta North Deputy Chairman, Emmanuel Momah and Chairman, Delta South, Toju Ekengbuda, described the Oborewori/Onyeme ticket as a winning team that guarantees landslide victory for Delta PDP and the candidate in 2023.

It further stated that the present state leadership of the party under the incumbent governor and PDP Vice Presidential Candidate, Governor Ifeanyi Okowa, and ably complemented by the inestimable foresights of the State Party Chairman, Okakuro Kingsley Esiso, made a good choice.

The Coalition observed that

things the government has done in the spirit of digitalization of the economy and ease of doing business for everybody.

"This will make for efficiency and help the organization to grow in leaps and bounds.

"Today, NSITF can pay all its salaries, it can boast of even doing capital projects. This digitization of the fund's operation is part of the capital project that it is doing and like I said earlier, the accountability that is there will make for non-leakages of funds.

Anambra wins 2022 NNPC Science Quiz Competition

By Chinedu Adonu

ENUGU—ANAMBRA State has emerged winner of the 2022 edition of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC National Science Quiz Competition for the South-East zone.

The five states in the zone, Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi and Imo States participated in the competition which was held at College of the Immaculate Conception, CIC, Enugu, yesterday.

Announcing the result, National Coordinator of the NNPC competition, Tayo Sanni, said that Madu Caleb, a student of Grundtvig International Secondary School Oba, Idemili South Council, who represented Anambra scored 55 points to beat his counterparts from other states.

A breakdown shows that Anambra scored 55 points in English Language, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Biology; Imo State came second with 45 points; Ebonyi State scored 40 points to clinch 3rd position while Enugu and Abia came 4th and 5th with 35 and 10 points, respectively.

Sanni announced that each of the participating students got N100,000 and a certificate of participation and that the best

three schools and students will be in Abuja by August for the grand finale of the competition.

Earlier in his address, the Group General Manager of the corporate affairs division, NNPC Limited, Garba Deen Muhammad said that the signing of the Petroleum Industry Bill, PIB, in August has given impetus to NNPC to increase its impact in the lives of all Nigerians.

Muhammad who was represented by the Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility at the Corporate Headquarters, Mrs. Doris Ohia said that it is for this reason that the corporation is encouraging Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education, STEM Education, which is the focus of the competition.

"More specifically, as the NNPC is readying itself to stand among its global peers as an international national energy company, it has become more important to groom a pool of highly trained youths who would be available to take up key positions in the company and in the Nigerian energy sector" she said.

She urged state ministries of education, teachers and parents to join NNPC to create a better Nigeria by nurturing the mind and building the skills of the younger generation.

Community ownership: Otulu-Ugo community protest, demands autonomy

By Festus Ahon

ASABA—INDIGENES of Otulu-Ugo in Aniocha South Local Government Area, Delta State, yesterday, besieged the state Government House, Asaba, demanding traditional autonomy from the state government.

The protesters numbering over 100, accused the people of Ogwashi-Uku of using security agents to intimidate, harass, enslave and infringe on their fundamental rights.

Meanwhile, in a reaction to the issues raised by the protesters, the people of Ogwashi-Uku in a statement by the Secretary to the Obi-in-Council, Zeliwe Ojeogwu, said the protesters were not indigenes of Otulu, but were financially induced to embark on the protest.

The protesters who carried placards with various inscriptions, asked the government to give certificate and staff of office to their king in

order to save the community from alleged constant harassment by Ogwashi-Uku Kingdom.

The Iyase of Otulu-Ugo, Christopher Isekekepe, who led the protesters, said two persons from the community were languishing in prisons over "spurious and doctored charges," adding that there were threats that more could be sent to prison as a result of incessant invasion of the community.

Chief of Staff to Governor Ifeanyi Okowa, Ovie Festus Agas, who received the protesters, assured that he would convey their message to the governor for an objective and dispassionate assessment of the issues.

Zeliwe Ojeogwu in the statement, said: "The Ogwashi-Uku Community absolutely reject the fake, contrived, false, slanderous and baseless protest by non indigenous members of our Otulu Ogwashi-Uku community who went to protest at the government house Asaba today (yesterday).

Labour Party gave Igbo credible platform through Obi —Umeh

By Vincent Ujumadu

AWKA—FORMER national chairman of All Progressive Grand Alliance, APGA, and the senatorial candidate of the Labour Party, LP for Anambra Central for the 2023 election, Senator Victor Umeh has commended LP for giving the Igbo the credible platform to produce the next president of Nigeria through Peter Obi, the former governor of Anambra State.

Addressing journalists at the Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ, state headquarters in Awka, Umeh observed that if not for the LP, Igbo people would have been watching the buildup to the 2023 presidential election from the sidelines in spite of their contributions towards the development of the major political

parties.

Expressing how delighted he is working on the LP presidential project, Umeh said: "When this opportunity came, I saw it as a way to work for Nigeria. One should not keep quiet when his people are forgotten. If nothing is done now, we will leave this unfortunate and hopeless situation in Nigeria with our children.

"My joy is that Nigerians have chosen Peter Obi as their candidate for the presidential election. Nigerians from all shades of opinion are clamouring for Obi and that is a wonderful development.

"Those who are championing the Obi presidency have even taken over the project from him. In fact, to say that it is the youths that have taken over the project is to trivialize it as it is not only youths

that want Obi to be president. People of all age groups also want him because he is a hot brand.

"Anybody who is not taking the matter serious is making a big mistake considering the momentum it is gathering everyday.

"Since I joined him in this project, I have been contributing my quota to ensure that Nigerians get the kind of president they are yearning for.

"What is happening in Nigeria is divine and it is not based on human arrangement.

"What is driving him are his messages on economy, resource and human management which are what Nigeria requires at this time".

Umeh also said that his desire to return to the red chambers is to give a credible voice to the 10th senate, arguing that it is not for beginners who would be overwhelmed by the caliber of people there.



PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY



(PDP)

SOUTH-SOUTH ZONE

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Motto: Justice, Unity & Progress

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CONGRATULATIONS TO SEN. DR. IFEANYI OKOWA ON HIS VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

On behalf of the South-South PDP Youths, we wish to heartily felicitate with our amiable Governor, **His Excellency, Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa** on his nomination as well as unveiling as the Vice Presidential Candidate of our great Party, the PDP.

There is no gainsaying the fact that in our twenty-three years of democratic experience, you have demonstrated by your numerous political and leadership successes that you are an astute, intelligent and dependable leader, whose wealth of experience and firmness were generously deployed as member of the different Party Committees both at the State and National levels.

Truly, many of us bear witnesses to your invaluable contributions to the stability of the Party structures at various levels, and most importantly, your continual show of love in many respect to the Youth Wing of the PDP, which you wholly expressed at the recently held South-South PDP Youth Leaders' Summit.

We have fully keyed into the agenda set by **His Excellency, Atiku Abubakar** to transform our dear nation and to rescue her from 2023, the darkness which the rudderless APC government has pushed her into. We are very excited that His Excellency Atiku Abubakar has rightly chosen you as worthy partner towards achieving the objective of making Nigeria great again.

It is therefore our fervent prayers that the Almighty God will continue to grant you wisdom and courage, as always, to lead the people on the right path. We also pray that you will always enjoy good health and the support of men of goodwill and patriotic zeal.

Congratulations to you once again, Sir,

BARR LLOYD INEYE OWONARO
South South
PDP Youth Leader

OREYE DESTINY EHIGIATOR
Edo State Youth Leader

BONIFACE ODEY
Cross River State Youth Leader

MR NUNIE ODEDE
Bayelsa State Youth Leader

EFREMFON EFIONG LIMO
Akwa Ibom State
Youth Leader PDP

UYERO ERARAWEWHO JNR
Chairman Committee South South PDP
Youth Leaders Summit

All correspondences to 08030870844, Barrister Lloyd Ineye Owonaro, PDP Youth Leader, South-South.

| REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
|  FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA NIGERIA CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL (NCDC) | | | | | |
| REGIONAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (PHASE II) | | | | | |
| (WORLD BANK ASSISTED) CREDIT IDA 59700-NG | | | | | |
| PROCUREMENT OF LASSA FEVER MEDICINES AND MEDICAL CONSUMABLES FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL FOR HUMAN HEALTH SECTOR | | | | | |
| RFB No. REDISSE-GDS-RFB-01-2022 | | | | | |
| 1. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project (Phase II) , and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Procurement of Lassa Fever Medicines and Medical Consumables for Infection Prevention and Control for Human Health Sector . | | | | | |
| 2. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following: | | | | | |
| Slice No. | Description | Quantity | Bid Security | Delivery Period | Location |
| A | Medicines for Lassa Fever Treatment | Various | At least 3% of Bid Price | 14 days | Abuja |
| B | Medicines for Post Exposure Prophylaxis | Various | At least 3% of Bid Price | 14 days | Abuja |
| C | Medicines for Cholera and Meningitis | Various | At least 3% of Bid Price | 14 days | Abuja |
| D | General Personnel Protective equipment (PPE) | Various | At least 3% of Bid Price | 14 days | Abuja |
| E | Medical Consumables for Infection and Prevention | Various | At least 3% of Bid Price | 14 days | Abuja |
| F | Medical consumables for investigation | Various | At least 3% of Bid Price | 14 days | Abuja |
| NB: Bidders may bid for any or more slices and discounts offered for the award of combined slices will be considered in bid evaluation. Domestic preference is not applicable. | | | | | |
| 3. Bidding will be conducted through open, National competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers", July 2016, revised November 1, 2017 and August 1, 2018 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations. | | | | | |
| 4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Nigeria Center for Disease Control, Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project (REDISSE II), Mr. Marcel N. D-A. E-mail: marcel.dibang@ncdc.gov.ng and inspect the bidding document during office hours from 0900 to 1700 hours local time at the address given below. Qualifications requirements include: | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentary evidence of two contracts of similar nature and magnitude during the last five (5) years Valid and up to date certifications with FIRS (Tax Clearance), NSITF, PENCOM, ITF & BPP Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years i.e 2019, 2020 & 2021 to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of profitability and adequate working capital. A Manufacturer's Authorization /NAFDAC registration certificate that has NAFDAC number for Ribavirin not produced by the company. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents. | | | | | |
| 5. The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Thousand Naira (N20, 000.00) only. The method of payment will be through REMITA Platform via Account Name: NIGERIA CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL / WORLD BANK PROJECT. NAME OF SERVICE / PURPOSE – WORLD BANK / REDISSE. The document will be sent by courier or collected by hand. | | | | | |
| 6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 12.00 NOON, FRIDAY 22ND JULY 2022 . Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on 12.00 NOON, FRIDAY 22ND JULY 2022 . | | | | | |
| 7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least three percent (3%) of the bid for any Lot a bidder wishes to bid for with price denominated in the Nigerian Naira. | | | | | |
| 8. The address referred to above is: Mrs. Kemi Ladeinde Project Coordinator, REDISSE Nigeria Center for Disease Control Plot 804 Ebitu Ukiwe Street, Jabi-Abuja, Nigeria kemi.ladeinde@ncdc.gov.ng | | | | | |
|  FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA NIGERIA CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL (NCDC) | | | | | |
| REGIONAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (REDISSE) (PHASE II) | | | | | |
| (WORLD BANK ASSISTED) CREDIT IDA 59700-NG | | | | | |
| CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SALE OF WAREHOUSE FOR HUMAN HEALTH SECTOR | | | | | |
| RFB No. REDISSE-GDS-RFB-01-2022 | | | | | |
| 1. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project (Phase II) and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Procurement of an Existing Warehouse for Human Health Sector . | | | | | |
| 2. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following: | | | | | |
| Lot No | Description | Quantity | Delivery Period | Location | |
| 1. | Warehouse. | Various | days | Abuja and Environs | |
| 3. Bidding will be conducted through open, National competitive procurement using a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers", July 2016, revised November 1, 2017 and August 1, 2018 and November 2020 is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations. | | | | | |
| 4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Nigeria Center for Disease Control, Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project (REDISSE II), Mr. Dania A.O. E-mail: redisseprocurement@gmail.com. | | | | | |
| 5. EOI REQUIREMENTS: Interested individuals/organizations are to submit an offer of sale with detailed price stated clearly. Other accompanying information on the building, including the drawings/building plan approvals from Development Control of FCDA and other relevant authorities as well as C-of-O should also be submitted alongside. For Corporate organizations, the following documents/information with verifiable evidence are to be submitted along with the offer for assessment and consideration: | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) including Form CAC 1.1 or CAC2 and CAC7. ii. Evidence of Company Income's Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years valid till 31st December, 2021. iii. Evidence of Pension Clearance Certificate valid till 31st December 2021 (this requirement is only applicable to bidders whose number of staff is 15 and above). iv. Evidence of Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December 2021 (this requirement is only applicable to bidders whose number of staff is 5 and above, or the bidder's annual turnover is N50m and above). v. Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Clearance Certificate valid till 31st December 2021. vi. Company's Audited Accounts for the last three (3) years - 2019, 2020 & 2021. vii. Documentary Evidence of legal search conducted at AGIS within the last one month. | | | | | |
| 6 SUBMISSIONS All documents for submission must be transmitted with a Covering/Forwarding letter under the Company's Letter Head (for corporate organizations) bearing amongst others, the Registration Number (RC) as issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Contact Address, Telephone Number (preferably GSM No.), and e-mail address. The Letterheaded Paper must bear the Names and Nationalities of the Directors of the Company at the bottom of the page, duly signed by the authorized officer of the firm). Interested individuals/organizations are to provide their best offer in a sealed envelope with their/company name and address boldly written at the back, and addressed to: | | | | | |
| Mrs. Kemi Ladeinde Project Coordinator REDISSE Nigeria Center for Disease Control Plot 804 Ebitu Ukiwe Street, Jabi-Abuja, Nigeria | | | | | |
| 7. SPECIFICATION & LOCATION: - Idu industrial layouts 1 & 2, Lugbe, Airport Road, Kuje, Lokogoma, Asokoro and Maitama and environs. - The location must be easily accessible with tarred access road and must be adequate for the largest vehicle that may need to come to the warehouse - The facilities must be well fenced and have a land space, minimum of 2000 meter squares - The location must not be in areas that have routinely congested roads - The location should have access to national grid power source - The location should have adequate drainage to allow rainwater drain, away from the store and should not be in an area prone to flooding or drainage problems. - The soil type must be one that is well drained to combat any flooding or erosion - Presence of sanitation facilities with water supply - The location should show no evidence of any cultural resources like shrine, monumental symbols, graves, or cemeteries. - The land should have certificate of occupancy devoid of squatters and disputes. - Presence of trees or shrubs would be added advantage. | | | | | |
| 8. BUILDING: - The building should have standard warehouse minimum dimensions of 1000sqm - Existing buildings of about five hundred to one thousand square meters (500 - 1000 sqm) capacity for dry products including pharmaceuticals. - There should be adequate space around the warehouse for expansion and for additional building needs. Doors: The dimension of the doors should be wide enough to allow free and easy movement of products and handling equipment. The doors should also be wide enough to allow large vehicles easy entry. Ensure the doors are strong and reinforced for adequate security and should have provision for locks. Warehouse floor: The floor must be made of hard material and must meet stress and strength requirements because of pressure from loaded trucks and equipment such as forklifts Roof and Ceiling: Insulated roofing panels are recommended, for example galvanized steel sheet with a polyurethane insulation with 40 millimeter (mm) – 100-millimeter mm widths. The building should be without internal ceiling. It may have reflective powder coated paint. Windows: The windows should be high and wide enough for adequate ventilation. The window height should ensure that shelves do not block them. Lighting: To reduce florescent or bulb lighting, the warehouse should have as much natural light from indirect sunlight during the day Rodents: devoid of rodents or invasive species Power: Main source of electricity is required. | | | | | |
| 9. WAREHOUSING LAYOUT TYPE OF OPERATION - The operation of the warehouse would be that of a transshipment warehouse, where products would be received in bulk from multiple suppliers, stores them for a period and then break them down into manageable quantities for onward delivery to lower-level stores or health facilities or service delivery points. | | | | | |
| 10. LAYOUT OPTIONS - The layout option of the warehouse is the U flow warehouse. - The main activities of the warehouse would be receiving, storing, and distributing commodities. - The layout should include a space for storing expired/unusable commodities - Muster and waste collection point. | | | | | |
| 11. SECURITY AND SAFETY - Clearly have emergency exits - Rooms / Posts for security personnel | | | | | |
| 12. Submissions must be delivered to the address below on or before 12.00 noon, Friday 22ND July, 2022. Electronic Submissions will not be permitted. Late submissions will be rejected. Submissions will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on 12.00 noon, Friday 22ND July 2022. Mrs. Kemi Ladeinde Project Coordinator REDISSE Nigeria Center for Disease Control Plot 804 Ebitu Ukiwe Street, Jabi-Abuja, Nigeria | | | | | |

News

Strike: Varsities will soon re-open, FG assures

●Meets with relevant agencies today●Denies planning different payment table for ASUU

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA—THE Federal Government yesterday gave the assurance that its face-off with university-based unions would soon be resolved and academic activities resume in earnest.

The government also denied the allegation that it was planning to create a different payment table for the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, and summoned all the relevant agencies, including the National Information Development Agency, NITDA, to brief it on the success so far recorded in resolving the contentious issues that led to the ongoing strike by the four university-based unions.

Recall that public universities were shutdown on February 14 by ASUU and three other university-based unions, including the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, SSANU, the Non-Academic Staff Union of Education and Associated Institutions, NASU and the National Association of Academic Technologists, NAAT, joined in the strike over the inability of the government to address their concerns.

Fielding questions from State House correspondents at the end of the Federal Executive Council, FEC, meeting presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari at the Council Chamber, presidential villa, Abuja, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Senator Chris Ngige, said the government was interested in seeing students back in school.

The Minister said the meeting today is expected to look at the progress report by the relevant bodies handling the crisis, including NITDA, on how far it had gone with the integrity test on the University Transparency and Accountability System, UTAS, which was proposed as an alternative platform by ASUU and the University Peculiar Personnel and Payroll System, U3PS, proposed by SSANU and NASU.

Ngige said he was waiting for the report of the Tripartite Plus Committee, comprising the Ministry of Education, the Chief of Staff to the President, Salaries and Wages Income Commission, the National

University Commission, NUC, as well as the striking unions.

On the allegation that the federal government was planning to create a separate salary payment structure for ASUU, the minister said there was no such thing.

Asked what government was doing to ensure universities were re-opened, he said "issue will be resolved very soon."

Explaining how far he had gone as the conciliator to broker truce between the government and the striking unions, Ngige said: "As Ministry of Labour and Employment, our role in trade disputes as enunciated in the Trade Disputes Act, is to conciliate. And in doing that, we can appoint an outside arbitrator, and pay.

"We can conciliate inside there and I will appoint whoever, the director in charge of trade union services, the Permanent Secretary or my Minister of State, or myself.

"But I have always decided to conciliate it myself because I have better grasp of the situation, in that I have stayed in the Ministry for about seven years now. So I'm even older on the beat than even my director of training and services, let alone the permanent secretary, and even my minister of state.

"So our role is to arbitrate. We don't take sides, even if it's government side that is wrong, we will now tell them and ask them to go and do XYZ and comeback. If it is the trade unions that are making over demand, we will also tell them and find a middle ground for both the employer and the employee.

"That is what we adopt. And if you go down memory lane, you will see that we have conciliated a lot of disputes, about 3,000 plus in my ministry, and they were successfully done.

"So to answer your question directly now...ASUU went on strike on February 14, I cut short my trip to an African session conference holding in Botswana. And we held a conciliation meeting on February 21 with the employers, the Ministry of Education and the National

University Commission.

"As the issue bordered on money, remunerations, welfare, we did another conciliation meeting inviting the Ministry of Finance, Budget Office of the Federation, National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission and again, with their employers on March 1.

"After that, it became clear that two cardinal things were still missing - the issue of renegotiation of their welfare package, as in the 2009 agreements.

"That Agreement says you can review every five years. So that issue stuck out like a sore thumb. Then another issue arose in that agreement, the payment platform of University Transparency, Accountability Solution, which they say they've invented. They said they don't want to be on IPPIS, that IPPIS was slashing their salaries and taking off certain allowances and, therefore, not capturing their peculiarities.

"So what government has done at the last meeting was to say, NITDA, test the three platforms and rate all of them and give us reports. Their term expired last Friday, the time they were given. That's why we're calling them to come tomorrow (today) and brief us.

"So you can see that the situation, like the Minister of Information told you two weeks ago, is very complex, but we are navigating it, we are taking it step by step, so we don't ruffle feathers. We are interested in our children going back to school.

"If ASUU and other unions in the university system want to comply with the labour laws of the country, once I have apprehended a dispute and brought it to my table, you return to what is called status quo antebellum."

Further asked to confirm the allegation that the government was planning to create a separate salary payment structure for the university lecturers, Ngige said: "It is work in progress, we have not given any preferential treatment to anybody.

"The remuneration is being looked at. If government decides to raise, which government is ready to do, it will be holistically done for all university unions because they're all in the same environment.

"We know also that once you do it in universities, the Polytechnics will come, the Colleges of Education will come. They are all in the educational sector. And once you finish with the educational sector, we also know that health sector will come.

"So, it's complex, like you said, and so we are not afraid of handling it because government will do the needful. They have to do that within the available resources they have. So I'm a friend to nobody; I'm not friend of government and not friend to trade unions.

"There's a rivalry. If you pretend there is no rivalry, it is a lie. Everybody knows there is a rivalry."



Nigerians returnees from Libya on arrival at Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos.

Sterling Bank launches first ethical investment platform, Altinvest

By Esther Onyegbula

THE non-interest arm of Sterling Bank plc, Sterling Alternative Finance, has announced the launch of Nigeria's first ethical investment platform, Altinvest.

AltInvest is aimed at changing the investment world, with a key focus on real sectors in the economy by helping its partners create impact in the economy, even as they build wealth without compromising their ethics.

The numerous investment options listed on the App are centred on diverse real sectors such as Agriculture, Real Estate, among others, all of which are focused on wealth creation, capital appreciation for investors, and supporting economic activities directed toward inclusion, growth, and development.

The investment app also boasts of the digitization and automation of investment advisory services, real-time portfolio monitoring, and seamless investment placement in a variety of asset classes.

Speaking on the uniqueness of the App, Mohammed Yunusa, Director of Digital Products and Innovations, Sterling Alternative Finance, said users on the digital investment platform invest in the financial market through the real sector and were assured of personal wealth growth.

Speaking further about the App, Olatunji Olabisi, Chief Information Officer, Sterling Alternative Finance, in his remarks, said the app was equipped with the best technology and assured of its efficiency and top-notch security.

He said: "The app has gone through rigorous testing to ensure users' investments are well-secure. The app also prides itself on having a user-friendly interface which makes investing easier and more accessible for the user.

On how the bank mitigates against risks for retail investors, Lukman Adekola, Group

Head, Corporate and Investments Banking Solutions, Sterling Alternative Finance, explained that due diligence had been carried out to hedge against volatility.

He said: "We have conducted our due diligence by identifying the risk associated with investments and we have put in place strategies to mitigate these risks.

"So, be rest assured that we are making available only secure investment listings for our partners. As an organization, we firmly believe trust and transparency are critical."

Forex: Report on review of tuition rate false — CBN

By Emma Ujah, Abuja Bureau Chief

ABUJA - The Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, has faulted reports in the media suggesting that payments of overseas tuition fees from Nigeria will cost more as from January 2023, due to the purported withdrawal of the "Form A" Discounted rate, with effect from December 31, 2022.

The bank's position followed reports in certain media, which quoted a tertiary institution in the United Kingdom claiming that Nigeria had

withdrawn the Central Bank "Form A discounted rate" in order to encourage more funds to remain within the Nigerian economy.

The advisory from the school purportedly urged new and returning students from Nigeria "to take advantage of the CBN Form A discounted rate while this is still available."

Speaking with newsmen in Abuja yesterday, the Director, Corporate

Communications Department, Mr. Osita Nwanisobi, described the report as false, misleading and speculative.

Nwanisobi said the CBN had not issued such a policy, even as he cautioned concerned parents and students to disregard any advisory to pay up as much portion of their outstanding fees as possible, through Flywire, prior to December 31, 2022.

While also reminding all stakeholders that front-loading (for both visible goods and invisibles) was contrary to the provisions of extant regulations, the CBN spokesman assured that the bank would continue to meet all legitimate demands for foreign exchange.

Nwanisobi urged all authorised dealers to ensure that payments for tuition outside Nigeria were made not earlier than 30 days prior to due date, even as he charged them to put in place measures to forestall abuse.

Energy crisis: Petrol scarcity to persist

Continues from Page 5

include the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Company limited represented by the GMD, Mr. Mele Kyari, the Minister of State for Petroleum, Timipre Sylva, the Chief Executive Officer of the NMDPRA, the Managing Director of the Nigerian Gas Company (NGC) and that of the Nigerian Gas Marketing Company (NGMC), two subsidiaries of NNPC Limited and others.

The lawmakers had in a letter signed by the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) Hon. Mahmud Gaya, invited the heads of the organisations for the hearing.

But addressing the House, the Chairman of the joint committee, Gaya said he re-

ceived communication from the GMD and the minister who said they would not be able to make it because they were also in another meeting at the time.

Long fuel queues, other woes remain

However, the queues remained visible at many filling stations across the nation, yesterday, due to lack of adequate supply.

Transporters, who managed to get supply at the prevailing black market price, ranging from N200 to N300, increased fares to cover cost.

This, it was gathered, has already culminated in the general increase in the prices of basic services and goods, including commodities, a development worsened by epileptic power supply and high prices of cooking gas as well as aviation fuel.



Naira depreciates to N420.5/\$ in I&E window

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

The naira yesterday depreciated to N420.5 per dollar in the Investors and Exporters (I&E) window.

Data from FMDQ showed that the indicative exchange rate for the window rose to N420.5 per dollar from N420.27 per dollar on Tuesday, indicating 23 kobo depreciation for the naira.

Similarly, the naira depreciated by N2 in the parallel market yesterday.

Vanguard findings from black market traders showed that the indicative exchange rate for the market rose to N607 per dollar from N605 per dollar on Tuesday.

NBM OF AFRICA WORLDWIDE

NATIONAL HEADQUARTER
AMAGBA, BENIN CITY
EDO STATE NIGERIA
www.nbmofafrica.org

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 16TH ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES OF NBM OF AFRICA ALSO KNOWN AS THE NEO BLACK MOVEMENT OF AFRICA HELD ON SATURDAY 4TH JUNE, 2022 AT THE UHURU HERITAGE CENTRE AMAGBA, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE NIGERIA. THEME: THE FIGHT AGAINST CYBER CRIMES, FRAUD AND INSECURITY: THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF NBM OF AFRICA

Preamble

Whereas the 16th Annual Lecture Series of the NBM of Africa was held on Saturday, 4th day of June, 2022 at the Uhuru Heritage Center, Amagba, Benin-City, Nigeria and which said lecture encompassed very fruitful deliberations and had resourceful proceedings.

The lecture had in attendance delegates from the Palace of the Oba of Benin Kingdom, Representatives from various notable Security agencies, distinguished leaders, members of NBM of Africa and the public.

The lecture under the auspices of the National President, Olorogun Ese Kakor and with media coverage from prominent print, electronics and social media houses.

The underlisted observations were made at the lecture:

1. African culture and tradition is at the brink of collapse and extinction.
2. Fraud, cyber crime and insecurity are plagues ravaging African countries and Nigeria in particular.
3. Terrorism and Banditry are at their peaks and have drastically foiled efforts geared towards enshrining peace, unity and development of African countries and Nigeria in particular.
4. Insecurity is a grave effect and fallout of political maladministration and religious intolerance.
5. Poverty was and is the rationale for the post-colonial exploitation, interference and subjugation of African countries and particularly Nigeria.

At the end of the 16th lecture series, the following resolutions were made; *THAT:-*

1. The delegates from the Palace of the Oba of Benin Kingdom tasked the NBM of Africa not to relent in its resolve and efforts at fighting factors militating against African culture and traditions as well as increase mechanism geared towards preserving and promoting African culture and traditions.
2. The NBM of Africa pledged to join authorized government institutions and agencies to combat fraud and cyber crime in the society.
3. The NBM of Africa also resolved to continue its humanitarian and charitable projects aimed at reducing the rate of poverty with the ultimate aim of ending post-colonial exploitation, interference and subjugation.
4. The NBM of Africa will take the fight against cyber crime, fraud and insecurity to all the tertiary institutions in Nigeria, where proper enlightenment will be impacted on students on the need to engage in their studies and abstinence from all forms of crimes, illegalities and social vices that will make them break the law.
5. The successful elimination of terrorist invasion of our country is not a battle for Government alone. Hence, the NBM of Africa volunteer to continually create awareness in the mind of the general public on the need to support the government at all levels and the security agencies saddled with the constitutional responsibilities of

combating terrorism and armed banditry and other crimes in Africa with useful information that can help at eliminating them.

6. The NBM of Africa pledged to venture into programs and activities that will seek to combat political maladministration and religious intolerance amongst Nigerians.

7. The issue of insecurity, cybercrime and negative influence of social media as a possible breeding ground for insecurity and restiveness amongst our youths must be taken seriously. Hence, NBM of Africa call on our media houses to describe all "terrorist attacks and criminal activities" by the standard the laws approves and refrain from tagging or alluding same to religious beliefs, tribes or ethnicity, which has intentionally or unintentionally boosts the recruitments of uneducated Nigerians into the fold of terrorist organizations using these religious and tribal sentiments and also aids their funding.

8. There is the need for every Nigerian to understand that coordination of terrorist attacks in the country has been hijacked by ISIS and ISWAP which are deadly international terrorist organizations and not at the hands of the same Boko Haram we have been fighting as a nation since the regime of former President Goodluck Jonathan. Therefore, every Nigerian has to lend their total support to the security agencies in the fight against these terrorist organizations.

9. Since most Nigerians do not fully understand the dynamics of the war against terrorism and the terrorists aim to take away our sovereignty, liberty and freedom as a people, NBM of Africa wish to encourage all our print, electronics media houses and online social media platforms to get it right and support our armed forces to win the war against terrorism.

10. We all have a duty to scuttle the radical ideology of these terrorists with our information, encourage the government at all tiers to emphasize taking over and socializing all "ungoverned" spaces within their domain, schools and all places of worship against terrorist attacks - because if you cannot anticipate crimes and attacks, you cannot stop or prevent it.

11. We call on our traditional rulers, religious and opinion leaders to increase their level of support in the fight against terrorism by the continuance distribution of leaflets in their respective local languages to expose the evil intentions of terrorists to take away our freedom, civilization and liberty to bring us under Taliban rule and control, etc.

12. Going by recent reports, Nigerians should be conscious of the activities of security personnel some of who live among the people to be able to decipher those who are genuine and those who are saboteurs, in order to be able to tame and report their activities before they become catastrophic. Nigerians should also report suspicious movements around their vicinities and communities. We must all be vigilant at all times.

The lecture which ended with closing remarks and vote of thanks had an insightful relief to the ideals of African issues and problems.

Signed:

Olorogun Ese Kakor
National President, NBM of Africa

CHANGE OF NAME

OYIME
I, formerly known and addressed as MICHAEL OYIME EKPO, now wish to be known and addressed as MICHAEL MONDAY EKPO. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

IFEANYI
I, Formerly known and addressed as MISS IFEANYI GIFT, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS SUNDAY GIFT. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

ETEBI
I, Formerly known and addressed as AMIEWALAN DIVINE ETEBI, now wish to be known and addressed as AMIEWALAN DIVINE. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

MONDAY
I, Formerly known and addressed as MONDAY TOBORE HOPE, now wish to be known and addressed as AGBEDION TOBORE HOPE. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

SUNDAY
I, formerly known and addressed as SUNDAY BLESSING NGOZI, now wish to be known and addressed as OGIDIGBE BLESSING NGOZI. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

ALHAJI
I WISH TO REMOVE THE NAME MOHAMMED FROM MY BVN BANK DETAILS AND BE ADDRESSED AS MOHAMMED ALHAJI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

IRINOYE
I, Formerly known and addressed as Ms. Tolulope Esther IRINOYE, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. Tolulope Esther BADEJO. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

MADU
I, Formerly known and addressed as MADU KELECHI MODESTUS, now wish to be known and addressed as UGOEZE KELECHI MODESTUS. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

OBI
I, Formerly known and addressed as OBI ADAEZE FAUSTINA GOODNESS, now wish to be known and addressed as UGOEZE KELECHI FAUSTINA GOODNESS. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

OKEZIE
I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Okezie Ngozi Blessing, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Oji Ngozi Blessing. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

EFETURI
I, formerly known and addressed as EFETURI AJIROGHENE PRAISE, now wish to be known and addressed as EFETURI AJIROGHENE GRACE. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

Promote investments in natural gas production, NSChE tells FG

By Akpokona Omafuaire & Ochuko Akuopha

WARRI—THE Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers, NSChE, Edo/Delta States chapter, has told the Federal Government to initiate policies that would promote investments in natural gas production.

It also stressed the need for government to minimize gas flaring to the barest minimum in oil and gas production facilities by sourcing for competent and dependable partners abroad in order to maximize the benefit of the country's abundant natural gas resources.

NSChE, in a communique issued at the end of a Hybrid (physical and virtual) workshop held at the Nigerian Gas Company Plc, Ubeji Road Ekpan, Delta State, noted that it was absolutely necessary to "monetize associated gas using Micro LNG (up to 0.05

mtpa) and Mini LNG (0.1 to 0.5 mtpa)."

The workshop paper titled 'Natural Gas as a Catalyst to the Industrial Development of Nigeria', which was delivered by Mark Tubotein Williams and moderated by the chapter's Executive Secretary, Dr. E.O. Ohimor, examined the monetization options available to Nigeria's 209.5 trillion cubic feet of proven gas reserves.

The paper noted that "Natural gas has increasingly become part of Nigeria's energy mix but the process is very slow because current exploitation and production efforts are below 1% of available gas reserves due to poor investments in the gas sector."

"In 2021 alone, Nigeria produced a total of 1450 billion standard cubic feet of natural gas which represents about 25% of EU'S Russian gas consumption in same year. The EU has decided to do away with Russian gas and looking for alternative sources of natural gas supply."

Court remands Warri Chief over alleged assault, others

By Ozioruva Aliu

BENIN CITY—AN Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City has remanded the Iyatsere of Warri, Johnson Asteruleghe in police custody till June 27th when his application for bail would be heard over alleged assault, malicious damage and other offences allegedly committed in Ologbo Dukedom, Ikpoba Okha local government Area of Edo state.

He was arraigned on a seven count charge with charge No: B/Co/ 126/22 but he pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Police Prosecutor, Okunbor Orobosa Esq told the court that the defendant committed the offences on the 2nd day of February, 2022, at Ologbo in the Benin judicial Division.

According to him, "you did conspire amongst yourselves to carry on warlike undertaking malicious damage, punishable under section 517 of the Criminal code, cap.48.vol.11. laws of the defunct Bendel state of Nigeria, 1976 as applicable in Edo State."

He alleged that he also conspired to "commit warlike undertaking punishable under code cap 48, vol.11, Laws of the defunct Bendel state of Nigeria 1976 as applicable in Edo state."

But the defendant's Counsel, Eghedosa Imhandegbello in his oral bail application urged the court to grant the defendant bail which was opposed by Orobosa arguing that the defendant is fond of fermenting trouble when granted bail as it happened in previous instances involving him.

He sighted previous criminal cases of murder against the defendant in which he was granted bail before he went to commit this recent offence.

He also urged the court not to entertain oral bail application as it has not been applicable in cases before now and urged the defense counsel to put the application for bail in motion so that they can equally respond.

The presiding judge, Justice Efe Ikponmwonba adjourned the case to 27th of June 2022 for hearing of application for bail.

VP slot: Okowa's epitome of good governance —Labo

ASABA—A aspirant in the just concluded State House of Assembly primaries for the Bomadi constituency Mr. Pius Labo has said that Governor Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta State's epitome of good governance over seven and half years has paved ways for him to bring to bear his expertise in the National level.

Speaking to journalists at Asaba, Labo congratulated Okowa for being the choice of the Peoples Democratic Party PDP to pair Atiku Abubakar as running mate noting that he was not surprised of the party's choice since a golden fish has no hiding place.

He averred that Governor

Okowa's administration earned him this opportunity as he was all encompassing in areas of Road construction in both urban and riverine communities, Housing, security, peace and conflict resolution, Health care, educational sector, empowerment programmes for youths, employment opportunities noting that these factors were considered for his selection.

Labo who was the Bomadi Local Government Area PDP campaign coordinator for 2015 general elections also noted that Okowa being an Igbo man would not only attract thousands of votes from the South-South also from the South-Eastern part of Nigeria.

IGSOSA honours distinguished alumni, elects new exco

IDJERHE—THE Idjerhe Grammar School Old Students' Association, IGSOSA, honoured its distinguished members with various awards of excellence at its Second National Conference Lecture, tagged: 'Cultism, Internet Scam and Ritual Killings as it Affects the Society'.

Activities marking the lecture was preceded by a novelty match between the school team and the old students, held at the college premises in Jesse Town.

Recipients of the awards, presented by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the association, Monday Osagie, and other members of the board, were the Executive Director, Finance and Administration, DESOPADEC, John Nani, for Infrastructural Development of Idjerhe Grammar School, IGS; Mr. Osamudiame Aigbekhaen, Posthumously for Selfless Service to IGS; Mr. Victor Eyaru, for Commitment; Victoria

Akpojotor, for Commitment); Yemi Lawal, for Commitment, and Mr. Ufuoma Usen, for Commitment.

In addition to the presentation of awards to deserving awardees, the alumni association also presented two mower machines to the Acting Principal of the school, Mrs. Obaro Onoghware, to improve environmental sanitation in the school environment.

The occasion, which also saw the election of new executive to pilot the affairs of the association for the next four years, returned, unopposed, the incumbent National President of the association, Mr. Fidelix Omamogho, to serve for a second term, and the National Vice President, Mrs. Edirin Ejiroghene; National Secretary, Wilson Okporua; National Treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Ozoude; National Legal Officer, Mrs. Esther Omavueze; National Auditor, Mr. Joseph Nana, and National Social Coordinator, Mr. Harrison Akpaka.

Text Interactive
Compiled by Simon Adewale
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Financiers of terrorism in Nigeria

The Minister of Information and culture, Lai Mohammed once disclosed that the Nigerian financial intelligence Unit has uncovered financiers and sponsors of terrorism in Nigeria, but surprisingly no one has been prosecuted. Some months back the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami also disclosed that the government has been profiling names for prosecution and yet nothing has been done or the anticipated names published for prosecution. The federal government should not pamper the alleged sponsors of terrorism to the detriment of the lives and property of Nigerians, an act that has also contributed to food shortage in the country. Nigerians are tired of this uncovering stories because the more we uncover, the more severe their attacks on Nigerians and our farmland. The federal government should act now, because what Nigerians want is results not grandstanding.

Ndehigwo 08024209181

Gov Umahi's statement on Biafra

The alleged statement credited to the governor of Ebonyi State, Dave Umahi on which he was quoted to have said that Ebonyi state can never be part of Biafra has proved that some Igbo leaders are behaving like Nero who fiddle while Rome burned. Honestly, the issue of Biafra is the most sensitive matter in today's Igbo political landscape whether one agrees with IPOB or not does not matter at all. One reality no one can avoid is that something within the current structure of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is fuelling the agitation for the resuscitation of the defunct state of Biafra. It is widely believed that Igbo people with their enterprising spirit can do well with Nnamdi Kanu, the truth is that there is an urgent need for all Igbo leaders to sit down and discuss the way forward. I suggest that the leadership of Ohaneze Ndi Igbo should summon all the political office holders, town unions leaders and traditional rulers of the south east to a crucial meeting where the future of the Igbo race will be deliberated.

Bazakey 08060768946

Non-functional refineries in Nigeria

It is amazing that Nigeria which is a member of Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries OPEC does not have a functional refinery! If China, Brazil, Malaysia have state owned refineries and Libya, Iran and many non oil producing countries have refineries, I see no reason why Nigeria won't have a functional refineries despite the huge amount that has been spent as turn around maintenance on our dormant refineries. Those that are benefiting from fuel and kerosene importation won't allow our refineries to function. It is unfortunate that they 're trading blames up till

now and nobody has accepted responsibility of the adulterated fuel that was imported into the country which caused us shameful embarrassment as an oil producing country. The government should make things work in this country because as an oil producing country we have no business importing oil and poverty,

Barr. Anthony Obi 08056009586

Murder suspect's participation in beauty pageant at Kirikiri prison

Why would Kirikiri prison officials allow Miss Chidinma Ojukwu, who is the prime suspect in the murder of Super TV boss, Mr Usifo Ataga to be parading herself in a Miss Cell beauty pageant knowing fully well that she has a murder case still in the court of law to answer? The circumstance that brought Chidinma Ojukwu to prison do not qualify her as a role model that Nigeria youths should emulate, Kirikiri Correction Centre did not consider how the grieving Usifo Ataga family would feel seeing the prime suspect cat-walking in Kirikiri prison instead of been remorseful of her act which would fuel the insinuation that justice may not be served at the end of the day. What Kirikiri Correction Centre had done by allowing Chidinma Ojukwu to participate in the beauty pageant is highly disgraceful which would decline the public confidence on the system.

Henry 08080456088

INEC unregistered 74 political parties

Kudos, to the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC for disallowing 74 political parties and leaving us with 18 political parties. INEC should reduce the 18 political parties to 3 just as in the days of Humphrey Nwosu. Also INEC should verify claims by political parties if truly their memberships, names and address are genuine. Deregistering unviable political parties should continue and INEC has to do more than that; it has to commit itself to the conduct of transparent elections. INEC should make it virtually impossible for anyone to veto elections in certain locations which are strong holds of their opponents and INEC should accept the request of the Conference of Political Parties that results at each polling booths should be pasted at such locations for public view after votes has being cast.

Anonymous +2347052624455

Legislative and executive arms of government

The legislative and judiciary arms of government are the two major problems of this country. The executive arm is corrupt because the legislative and judiciary were not performing their duties as expected. What the nation needs is active judiciary and legislative; people have to learn from others' mistake. Better days ahead.

Uduebor +2348059826021

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Amechi - 08062824241
Charles - 07068763089

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CHANGE OF NAME

IGBOJIANYA

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS IGBOJIANYA IRENE IFEOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS CHUKWUMA IFEOMA IRENE. All former documents still remain valid, banks and general public take note.

DUTMAN

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS FAVOUR REPLONG DUTMAN, now want to be known and addressed as MRS FAVOUR REPLONG PHILIP. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

ABUBAKAR

I, formerly known and addressed as ABUBAKAR SHAMSUDDIN, now want to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR SHAMSUDEEN. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

KOLAPO

I, formerly known as OGUNMAKINWA STEPHEN KOLAPO, now want to be known and addressed as OGUNMAKINWA STEPHEN OLUWADAMILOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

AKREN

I, formerly known and addressed as Akren Silver Douthimareye, now want to be known and addressed as Ekperi Silver Douthimareye. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

ANIMAM

I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Animam Koliseyenum Hope, now want to be known and addressed as Mrs Efe Hope Koliseyenum. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

EZEH

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. EZEH, CLEMENTINA NKECHI, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. EJIOFOR, NKECHI CLEMENTINA. All former documents remain valid. Bank and general public take note.

ANAUGHE

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. ANAUGHE PRINCESS OTEGA. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ADAMS PRINCESS OTEGA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

ASONYE

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. ASONYE CHITURU BLESSING. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OSARUCHI CHITURU BLESSING. All former documents remain valid. Relevant Authorities, General public please take note.

OBIESIKA

This is to Confirm that TAMUNOTOKU ISAIAH, ISAIAH OBIESIKA JR and TAMUNOTOKU OBIESIKA JR ISIAIAH refers to one and the same person. Now wish to be addressed as TAMUNOTOKU OBIESIKA JR ISIAIAH. All former documents remain valid. BVN, NIN, Relevant Authorities and General Public Please Take Note.

ABRAHAM

I, formerly known as KELECHI JENNIFER ABRAHAM, now want to be known and addressed as KELECHI JENNIFER CHIBUEZE-CHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

ONUDU

I, formerly known and addressed as HOPE ONUDU, now wish to be known and addressed as HOPE CECILIA ALBERT. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

FRIDAY

I, formerly known and addressed as FRIDAY IKIOMASI, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. IKIOMASI EGBO. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

OGAR

This is to confirm that OGAR JOY and ONAH PAUL JOY is the same person, henceforth wish to be addressed as OGAR JOY. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note.

ODUMENYA

I, formerly known and addressed as GREAT EFE ODUMENYA, now want to be known and addressed as GREAT EFE ODEFEYA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

GBILOKO

I, formerly known and addressed as GBILOKO FAVOUR TEJIRI. Now wish to be known and addressed as GBILOKO OGHENETEJIRI. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

MAYADEBONA

I, formerly known and addressed as MAYADEBONA OLAYE LUARA. Now wish to be known and addressed as DEBONA OLAYE LUARA. All former documents remain valid general public please take note.

EVUETAPHA

I, formerly known as MRS. OGHENETEJIRI VALERIE EVUETAPHA, now wish to be known and addressed as MISS. OGHENETEJIRI VALERIE MUKORO. All former documents remain valid. General public, banks and all concerned institution should please take note.

UGBOR

I, formerly known and addressed as UGBOR OKO OKPANI, now wish to be known and addressed as OKO IBEKWEM MICHAEL. All former documents remain valid. General public, banks and all concerned institution should please take note.

ENAIBE

I, formerly known and addressed as Miss. ENAIBE GABRIELLA OGHENEKEVWE. Now wish to be known and called Mrs. AKPOJIYOVWI GABRIELLA OGHENEKEVWE ENAIBE. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.

EZE

I, formerly known and addressed as MRS. EZE EVELYN NWAORRA. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. EZEMA EVELYN. NNEKA. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

KALU

I, formerly known and addressed as KALU CHINELO JULIET, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS OKORIE CHINELO JULIET. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

EJERE

I, formerly known and addressed as Ejere Benigrous Chimezie, now wish to be known and addressed as Ejere Benigus Chimezie. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

EWEKACHI

This is to certify that EWEKACHI SERAH UGONNA, CHRISTIAN SERAH U. and CHRISTIAN SERAH UGONMA refer to one and the same person, now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTIAN SERAH UGONMA. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

NWACHUKWU

I, formerly known and addressed as Nwachukwu George Chikezie now wish to be known and addressed as Nwachukwu George Chikezie. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

ORJI

I, formerly known and addressed as ORJI GEORGINA NWANDO, now wish to be known and addressed as ORJI GEORGINA NWAKAEGO NWANDO. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

GILBERT

I, formerly known as MISS GILBERT PEACE CHIOMA, now wish to be addressed as MRS. OLUM PEACE CHIOMA, all former documents remain valid, general public whom it may concern take note.

UKOTI

I, formerly known and addressed as UKOTI ROSELINE .N., now wish to be known call and address as UKOTI ROSELINE NYORE. All documents bearing former names remain valid, general public please take note.

SOTU

I, formerly known and addressed as SOTU ORIS, now wish to be known call and addressed as SOTU ORIS AGBEYEGBE. All documents bearing former names remain valid, general public please take note.

IGBIGBI

I, formerly known and addressed as IGBIGBI JEFF SEGUN, now wish to be known and addressed as IGBIGBI JEFFREY ONORIODE. All documents bearing former names remain valid, general public please take note.

ENEROMOJA

The names Eneromoja Christian, Eneromoja Christian Oreaoghene and Oghenero Christian Oreaoghene belong to the same person, but now wish to be known as Oghenero Christian Oreaoghene. All former documents remain valid, any authority it may concern and general public to take note.

OMOBA

I, formerly known as MISS OMOBA FINEGIRL ONOVUGHOBARUAKPO, now wish to be known as MRS ABUGOR FINEGIRL ONOVUGHOBARUAKPO. All former documents remain valid, any authority it may concern and general public to take note.

TUBOUS

I, formerly known as TINAPA TUBOUS, now wish to be known and addressed as TINAPA TUBOUKEYE. All former documents remain valid, any authority it may concern and general public to take note.

OTEJIRI

I, formerly known as OTEJIRI OCHUKO, now wish to be known and addressed as OCHUKO OGHENETEJIRI PRINCE. All former documents remain valid, any authority it may concern and general public to take note.

OBERIGO

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS OBERIGO JOSEPHINE OGHENETEJIRI, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ADOGBEJI- OBERIGO JOSEPHINE OGHENETEJIRI. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

UMEAKU

I, formerly known as MISS. UMEAKU CHIZOBA LUCY. Now wish to be known as MRS. UMEMMUO PEACE CHIZOBA. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

OMEIRE

My correct name is OMEIRE FAVOUR NNEKA as it is in my NIN. My name appear in my BVN as OMEIRE FAVOUR PRECIOUS. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

NDAHA

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. NDAHA LOVETH, now wish to be known as MRS. PETER LOVETH henceforth. Former documents remain valid. General Public, to whom it may concern please take note.

OKWUOGORI

I, formerly known as OKWUOGORI NWANNE LOVETH, now wish to be known and addressed as DIBIE LOVETH henceforth. Former documents remain valid. General Public, to whom it may concern please take note.

SUNDAY

This is to affirm that the name SUNDAY ISAAC IBO and SUNDAY OLUWAFEMI IBO belong to the one the same person who now wishes to be called and addressed as SUNDAY ISAAC IBO henceforth. Documents with former name remain valid. General Public, to whom it may concern please take note.

MUKORO

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS MUKORO EGUOLOH, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS O N O V W A K P O Y E Y A EGUOLOH MUKORO. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

OLAFEMIWA

I, formerly known as MISS. OLAFEMIWA RUTH OLUWATIMILEYIN. Now wish to be known as MRS. OKITI RUTH OLUWATIMILEYIN. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

OGUDE

I, formerly known as OGUDE KESSIENA CELESTINE. Now wish to be known as UMUKORO KESSIENA CELESTINE. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

ERUKAIFE

I, formerly known as JANE ERUKAIFE. Now wish to be known as JANE ONOVUGHAKPOR. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

ODIA

I, formerly known as ODIA FAITH SEGBUROMEMO. Now wish to be known as PHILIP FAITH SEGBUROMEMO. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

NMALAGU

I, formerly known as NMALAGU PRINCE IFECHUKWUDENIEWOFICHA. Now wish to be known as MR NMALAGU PRINCE IFECHUKWUDENI. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

OZOKWERE

I, formerly known as MISS. OZOKWERE FLORA. Now wish to be known as MRS. UGO OLUCHI FLORA. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

ADEBAYO

I, formerly known as ADEBAYO ADESOLA OLUREMI. Now wish to be known as AROWODASA ADESOLA OLUREMI. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

ANDREWS

I, formerly known as BASIL ROSELINE ANDREWS. Now wish to be known as ABEL OLUCHI LYDIA. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

OLADIMEJI

I, formerly know and addressed as Mrs OLADIMEJI Sakirat. Now wish to be know and addressed as OLADIMEJI Sakirat Adejoke. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

OKORO

I, Formerly known and addressed as Okoro Promise Ezinne, now wish to be known and addressed as Promise Ezinne Ihekwo. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

LUCKY

I, Formerly known and addressed as LUCKY FAITH KEVWE, now wish to be known and addressed as OGBENKEN FAITH KEVWE. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

DAUDA

I, formerly known as Dauda Abibat Adetobi, now wish to be addressed as Oyeshola Abibat Adetobi, all former documents remain valid, general public whom it may concern take note.

AFOLABI-AJAYI

I, formerly known as Miss. Sharon Aanuoluwapo Afolabi-Ajayi, now wish to be addressed as Mrs Ajiboye Sharon Aanuoluwapo, all former documents remain valid, general public whom it may concern take note.

ABURU-OMOVIE

I, formerly known as REV. ELIZABETH OGHENETEGA ABURU-OMOVIE(MAKINDE), now wish to be addressed as REV. ELIZABETH OGHENETEGA ONOGBAKPODIA, all former documents remain valid, general public whom it may concern take note.

AKHERE

I, formerly known as Miss Akhere Violet Ehimemen, now wish to be known as Mrs Akhere Violet Treasure Chuta, all former documents remain valid, general public take note.

OKEFUN

I, formerly known and addressed as Okefun Valentin Okefun Kudos Princ wish to be known and addressed as Okefun Valentine Chizaram. All documents bearing other names referring to me remain valid. First City Monument Bank Plc, please take note.

BAKARE

I, formerly known as Bakare Salawa Anna, want to correct my names and be known and called Bakare Annabel Salawa. All former documents remain valid. The general public and to whom it may concern should please take note.

EBIGBAGHA

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS EBIGBAGHA ESTHER IBUKUNOLUWA, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS DR (MRS) ADIKE ESTHER IBUKUNOLUWA EBIMOBOERE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. BANKS, CONCERNED AUTHORITIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

MAKPA

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS MAKPA VERONICA NWADIAFOR, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS AIDEVBIMEN VERA NWADIAFOR ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITY CONCERNED PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

DIDEN

I, Formerly known as R I G H T E O U S O G B A R A S A N T A T S E DIDEN, now wish to be known and addressed as RIGHTEOUS O G B A R A S A N T A T S E MAKPOKPOMI. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

Qatar Govt bans sex during World Cup •7yrs imprisonment for offenders

The Qatar government has banned sex-outside-marriage by players and fans

during the forthcoming 2022 World Cup Tournament and prescribed seven years' imprisonment for anyone who is found guilty of the directive.

The country prohibits anyone from having sex outside of marriage, and World Cup fans are by no means exempted from this.

Qatar also has a strict "no drinking in public" law; moreover, the country prohibits anyone from being publicly intoxicated.

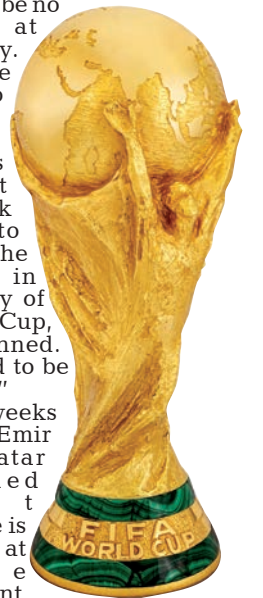
Public affection between men and women is also a crime, and one is not to wear excessively revealing clothing in public.

The World Cup is football's global celebration, but the rules in Qatar could be very strict.

Meanwhile, a police source was quoted in the British press saying that "sex is not the order of the day, unless you come as a couple."

"There will certainly be no one-night stands at this tournament. There will be no partying at all, really. Everyone has to keep a cool head, unless they want to risk going to jail. For the first time in the history of the World Cup, sex is banned. Fans need to be prepared."

A few weeks ago, the Emir of Qatar explained that "everyone is welcome" at the tournament.



and the U17 AFCON respectively. "they are the future of Nigerian football and deserve our support," the Portuguese coach posted on his Twitter handle.

Meanwhile, the Golden Eaglets will face their Burkina Faso counterparts in the final of the WAFU B U17 Cup tomorrow.



Peseiro proud of talents in Nigeria, praises Eaglets, Flamingos

Super Eagles head coach, Jose Peseiro has applauded the national U17 male team, Golden Eaglets and their female counterparts, the Flamingos, saying they are the future of Nigerian football.

The Flamingos booked their ticket to the FIFA U17 Womens World Cup last week while the Eaglets picked the CAF U17 AFCON ticket after beating Ivory Coast 3-1 in a pulsating semi-final match of the WAFU B U-17 championship.

Peseiro was elated by the performances of both teams and showered encomiums on them.

"Congratulations to both the Nigerian women and men's U17 national teams for qualifying for the FIFA U17 Womens World Cup

Govt warns Ghanaian fans to be law-abiding in Qatar

Ghanaian fans have been cautioned to be law-abiding when they travel to Qatar for the 2022 World Cup to be staged in November.

Qatar is set to host over one million football fans for the World Cup tournament and has communicated that the country's

laws will be enforced strictly during the period.

Football fans globally, many of whom will be travelling from Ghana and elsewhere to watch the Black Stars, have been warned that the five-minute one-night stands and quickies they are used to could leave them behind bars.

Black Stars supporters, travelling alone or with girlfriends or boyfriends, have been warned that the illegitimate sex they have been used to in previous tournaments, will not be tolerated when the competition starts in November.

Some Ghanaian fans, who have been used to boozy one-night stands during tournaments, have been told that only married couples (male and female) with valid marriage certificates will be allowed into hotel rooms, apartments and tents alone.



Bonke vows to nail down Super Eagles spot

Lorient of France midfielder Innocent Bonke has said that his aim for going into a full season with the Ligue 1 club is to further establishing himself as a regular and, perhaps, pin down a permanent shirt with the Super Eagles.

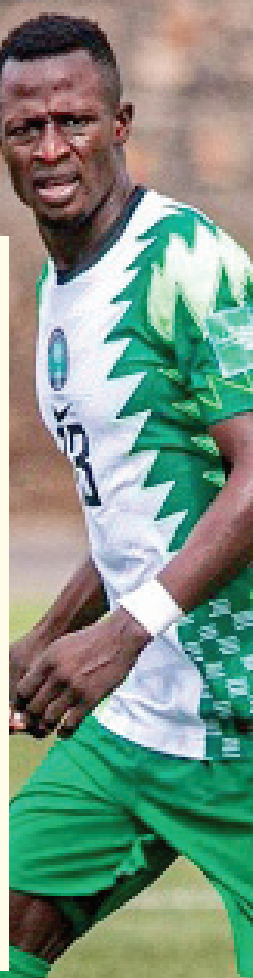
Bonke joined Lorient from Malmo in January and made 12 Ligue 1 appearances and helped the team to beat the drop to the second division. Bonke hopes to be available for the rest of next season.

"I played twelve out of 16 games for the club after I signed from Malmo. We had a nice run and maintained our status next season. The ideal for me is to play every game which I believe is possible and hopefully, we will finish high up the table."

Bonke has won five caps for Nigeria but is still not seen as a regular because he plays in the same position with one of the stars of the Super Eagles, Wilfred Ndidi.

"I really think we are two different players, even though we play the same role in the national team. It's all about what the team wants and if need be we can play in same team. I see him as my teammate."

"There is a new coach and it's a new beginning for everyone. My aim, like most others in the team, is to cement a spot in the team"



New Chelsea owner appoints self as interim sporting director

New Chelsea owner Todd Boehly has installed himself as the club's interim sporting director after they confirmed the departure of Marina Granovskaia.

The Blues have announced that Granovskaia, who oversaw Chelsea's recruitment under former owner Roman Abramovich, will follow ex-

chairman Bruce Buck in leaving the Stamford Bridge club as part of the restructuring of their hierarchy.

New co-owner Boehly has been confirmed as the club's new chairman but will also lead the way on Chelsea's recruitment as interim sporting director until a permanent replacement is appointed, with manager Thomas Tuchel also handed increased say.



Ogufere is 90

By Jacob Ajom

Foremost sports administrator and founder of defunct Vasco Dagama Football Club of Enugu, Chief Jonathan Ogufere is 90 today. He was born June 23, 1932 at Amukpe, in Delta State.

Ogufere is a pioneer in the Nigerian telecommunications industry and held various positions in government including Post Clerk/

Telegraphist, 1951; Asst. Telecomms Controller, 1957; Telecomms Controller, 1964; Territorial Controller, Mid West State, 1966; Territorial Controller, East Central State, 1969; Chief Traffic/ Commercial Manager, 1975; asst. director Telecomms in 1978.

Chief Ogufere retirement from Service, 1986 and went into private practice

He became the Managing Director of Ducat in 1986-94; president/chief executive Officer Ogufere Consolidated Nigeria



Lukaku takes 33% pay cut to move on loan to Inter

ROMELU LUKAKU has given up a THIRD of his £325,000-a-week wages to secure his return to Inter Milan.

Chelsea only forked out £97.5million for the striker 12 months ago but his second stint at Stamford Bridge has turned into a nightmare.

Many supporters have described the striker as "the worst transfer of all time" with some supporters

now desperate for him to leave.

The 29-year-old, who still has four years remaining on his contract, has already made it clear that he wants to go back to the San Siro in his controversial interview last winter.

And now he is set to get his wish by returning on loan to the San Siro after an agreement was finally reached between the two clubs and the Belgian star.

Mane completes £35m B/Munich transfer after emotional goodbye text

BAYERN MUNICH have officially signed Sadio Mane in a £35million deal from Liverpool.

The 30-year-old joins after bidding an emotional goodbye to Jurgen Klopp and his former team-mates following six-years at Anfield.

Mane has signed a three-year contract with Bayern Munich, who have won the Bundesliga for the last ten years in a row.

The forward revealed he sent a long

farewell text to Klopp and Co when the two clubs managed to thrash out a transfer fee.

In a farewell interview with Liverpool, Mane said: "After when both clubs agreed [the transfer], I sent a long text to say goodbye to everybody, which is normal."

"They were sad, as I was, but it is part of life. We just have to accept it."

Mane though has vowed to remain Liverpool's biggest fan and will continue to cheer on the Reds from Munich.



Emmanuel Michael set for U17 AFCON MVP

Golden Eaglets defender Emmanuel Michael is set to be named MVP of the U17 AFCON qualifying tournament WAFU B in Ghana after he bagged his third straight Man of the Match Award today.

His other Man of the Match Awards were won against Ghana and Togo.

Today, the leftback netted twice, all from free kicks, to ensure Nigeria came back from a goal down to beat Cote d'Ivoire 3-1 and qualify to the final of the qualifying series.

He is now the team's leading scorer with three goals all from free kicks.

...Steals Moses Simon's heart

Emmanuel Michael has been a revelation so far at the ongoing WAFU B U-17 Cup. The attacking midfielder who has been converted to the left back position has scored three free-kick goals so far at the tournament and is adept at dead balls.

In the three games played so far by the Golden Eaglets, he has won the man-of-the-match award in as many matches and the man who owns where he plies his trade, Moses Simon has revealed how happy he is about his feats.

His academy, based in Kaduna, Northwest Nigeria is helping to take youths off the streets and give them a shot at stardom and prominence through football.

Michael has proven to be one for the future and a player that will be exciting to see for the future as his goals and technique have helped the team achieve their target of picking a ticket for the U-17 AFCON in Algeria.

Vanguard Sports

Qatar Govt bans sex during World Cup

*7 yrs imprisonment for offenders
*Ghanaian fans warned to be law-abiding in Qatar



Peseiro marvels at talents in Nigeria,

*Praises Eaglets, Flamingos



SAD TIMES

Mane completes £35m B/Munich transfer after emotional goodbye text



LUK AT THIS

Lukaku takes 33% pay cut to move on loan to Inter

RESULT NPFL: N. Tornadoes 0 : Lobi Stars 1



Bonke vows to nail down Super Eagles spot



Emmanuel Michael set for U17 AFCON MVP

Ogufere is 90



Sudoku

TODAY'S PUZZLE

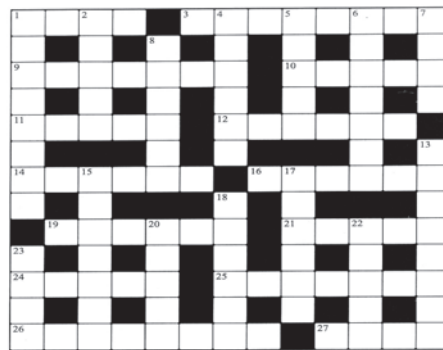
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 3 | | 4 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | 5 | | | 7 | |
| 7 | | | 8 | 2 | | 4 | | |
| 4 | | | | 3 | | 6 | | |
| | 7 | | 1 | | 6 | | 9 | |
| | | 1 | | 4 | | | | 3 |
| | 7 | | | 1 | 8 | | | 9 |
| | 4 | | 7 | | | | | 8 |
| | | | 2 | | | 3 | | |

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 3 |

QUICK CROSSWORD

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

- 1 Solid fat used in cooking (4)
- 3 Roomy (8)
- 9 Eternally (7)
- 10 Loathe (5)
- 11 Expand (5)
- 12 Uncomplicated (6)
- 14 Gangways (6)
- 16 Nap (6)
- 19 Cooking place on board ship (6)
- 21 Savoury jelly (5)
- 24 Mountain lions (5)
- 25 Popular bedding plant (7)
- 26 Slow-moving reptile (8)
- 27 Nautical unit of speed (4)

DOWN

- 1 Flattery, blarney (4,4)
- 2 Eagle's nest (5)
- 4 Die (6)
- 5 Attractiveness (5)
- 6 Shakespeare play (7)
- 7 Arrange in order (4)
- 8 Gracefully slender (6)
- 13 Dealer (8)
- 15 Speech defect (7)
- 17 Not far away (6)
- 18 Rides a bike (6)
- 20 Lariat (5)
- 22 Large tower supporting high tension wires (5)

How to Play Sudoku

Place a number (1-9) in each blank cell. (No line can have two of the same number).

Each row (nine lines from left to right), column, (also nine lines from top to bottom) and 3 X 3 block within a bold block (nine blocks) contains number from 1 through 9. This means that no number can appear twice in any block, column or row.

No mathematics is involved – no adding, subtraction, division or multiplication, just plain logic and your imagination.

