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THURSDAY, August 22, 2024

**N250**

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AT DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN US...

From left: Chris Fomunyoh, Special Adviser on Africa to the US President; former Vice President of Nigeria, Professor Yemi Osinbajo and Mr Peter Obi at the National Democratic Institute International Leaders Forum/Democratic Convention in Chicago USA, yesterday.



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Mr & Mrs

I'VE WARNED HIM SEVERALLY NOT TO MALTREAT HIS WIFE. YESTERDAY, HE SAW A MAN ADMIRING AND CHATTING UP THE WOMAN THROUGH THEIR WINDOW!



IS THAT NOT WHAT FOOTBALL ENTHUSIASTS CALL "TRANSFER WINDOW?"

dadadekoia@yahoo.com  
08052201913

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**Long live Ogiame Atuwatse III  
Long live the Itsekiri Nation  
Ogiame Suooooo!**



# News

## Police invitation to Ajaero: More critical unions give strike notices

●As US-based union petitions Nigerian Embassy

By Victor Ahiuma-Young & Esther Ihejiekpo

**L**AGOS — Following police invitation of President of Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, Joe Ajaero, for questioning over allegations of criminal conspiracy, terrorism financing, treasonable felony, subversion and cybercrime, more critical unions, which are NLC affiliates, yesterday gave strike notices to their members to proceed on indefinite strike should Ajaero be arrested.

This came on a day the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, ILWU, based in North Point, San Francisco, United States of America, petitioned the Nigerian Embassy in Washington, faulting the perceived harassment and persecution of trade unions and their leaders in Nigeria.

Among unions that had already given strike notices to their members are the National Union of Electricity Employees, NUEE; Nigeria Union of Teachers, NUT; and National Union of Textile Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria, NUTGTWN.

Others include MWUN; Iron and Steel Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, ISSAN; Fitters Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, FISAN; Nigeria Union of Agriculture and Allied Employees, NUAAE; National Union of Railway Workers, NUR; Nigeria Civil Service Union, NCSU; and National Union of Postal and Telecommunication Employees, NUPTE.

MWUN in a circular to its local leaders in all port formations in Lagos, Warri, Calabar and Port Harcourt, said its members would comply with the strike directive.

Deputy Secretary-General of the union, Oniha Erazua, said the directive for indefinite nationwide strike was

also extended to terminals, jetties, dry ports and oil export terminals.

The notice read: "The decision follows an emergency National Executive Council, NEC, meeting of the NLC held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, in response to what the Congress describes as 'persistent orchestrated attack' on the labour movement by the Nigeria Police Force, NPF

"As an affiliate of Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, we are in compliance and have consequently directed all our members to commence the mobilization of our members to effectively ensure their participation in the nationwide indefinite strike and be on red alert.

"The strike, set to begin at midnight, is a protest against the NPF's investigation into

NLC leadership, including charges of terrorism financing, cybercrime, subversion, criminal conspiracy, and treasonable felony, which the NLC has condemned as 'clearly unfounded and politically motivated.'

MWUN's leadership emphasized the urgency and importance of the strike, calling on all members to unite in solidarity with the NLC and the broader Nigerian working class.

"This decision is due to the clearly unfounded and politically motivated police investigation... labelled against the Congress President and the Nigeria working class.

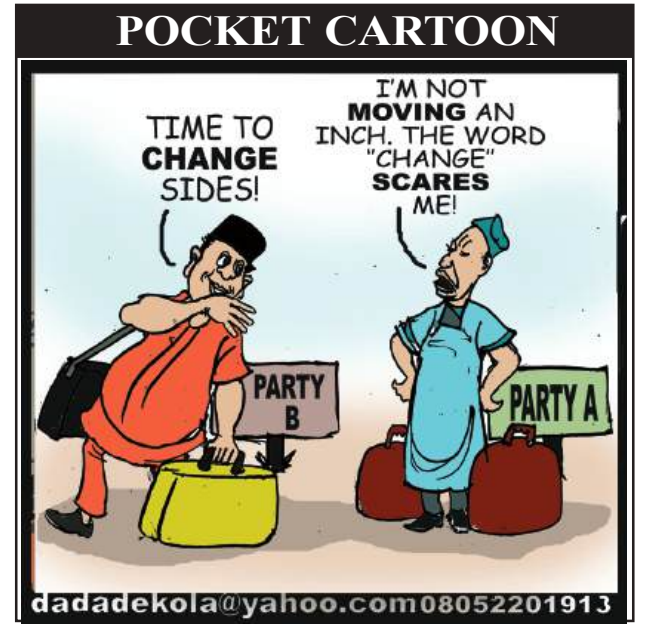
"As the deadline for the strike approaches, MWUN has instructed its members to remain vigilant and fully prepared to participate in the

industrial action, which is expected to significantly impact the maritime sector and related industries nationwide," the union stated further.

### NUT asks teachers to prepare for nationwide strike, if...

On its part, the Nigeria Union of Teachers, NUT, also directed teachers nationwide to down tools and begin an indefinite strike should the Police arrest Ajaero.

NUT in a circular to its state wings nationwide by its President and Acting Secretary-General, Audu Amba and Abdullahi Mohammed, said: "As you may be aware, the President of NLC was invited by the Nigeria Police Force on the premise of unfounded and politically motivated investigation into alleged ter-



Embassy in Washington DC, ILWU President, Trent Willis, said: "The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, which represents longshoremen working in the San Francisco Bay Area, protests in the strongest terms this attack against our fellow trade-unionists.

"We demand that all the seized materials be returned, and that there be no further reprisals against the NLC.

"This raid came just hours after the NLC held a meeting critical of your government's repression against students and others who have been protesting over the last two weeks against the austerity measures imposed by your government. Scores of protesters have been killed.

"Hundreds more, including prominent protest leaders, have been arrested and many are still in jail.

"These include protest leaders such as Adaramoye Michael ("Michael Lenin"), national coordinator of the Youth Rights Campaign, Mosiu Sodiq, Elejo Opaluwa and Babatunde Oluajo ("OSB Sankara").

"According to the latest reports, Michael, Sodiq and Elejo remain in custody. The NLC rightly condemned your attempt to criminalize protest.

"We have active members of our union who were born in Nigeria and who maintain ties with their homeland. The international labour movement is watching. We demand an end to the repression and freedom for all the detainees, hands off the NLC."



From left: Osun State SSG, Teslim Igbalaye; Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke and President, Nigerian Society of Engineers, Engr. Margaret Aina, at the just-concluded two-day visit and inspection tour of major projects of the Osun State Governor by the team of NSE/COREN held in Osogbo Osun State on Monday. Photo: Osun State press unit.

## People Talk

BY ESTHER ONYEBGULA

### On economic situation of families, how govt should address it



**F**ood prices have continued to rise, and life has become unbearable for people in my area (Badagry, Lagos State). Being a border town, food items are more expensive than in other parts of the state since the border is shut. Many young people have resorted to begging for food or stealing. The govt. should open our borders, and address the cost of petrol as that remains the major factor driving the cost of food. Petrol is now N900 per litre in my area.

—Manoah Kikekon, Journalist



**I**n Ogudu, Lagos, despite some fluctuations, the cost of food and essential items has not dropped. In fact, prices continue to rise, affecting the purchasing power of many households. Basic items like rice, beans, and vegetables have seen noticeable price increases. To address this, govt. should implement policies that promote economic growth, improve food production, reduce inflation and implement price control mechanisms. Social safety nets and subsidies for low-income households could help alleviate the burden.

—John Obasi, Entrepreneur



**I**bought three packs of 50g Hollandia milk at over N5K each for my son, last month. To my chagrin, on the 18th of August 2024, I was told same pack is N10K for each pack. This is the height of it! The world has never seen a deteriorating economy such as this. This administration must stop all these VP residence, air craft, yacht, Escalade, etc. It is irresponsible when Nigerians are hungry. There is even no fuel as we speak. Nothing is working, sadly.

—Anthony Abakporo, Entrepreneur



**H**onestly, as a resident of the largest local government area in Lagos, Alimosho, I have not seen any reduction in food prices. The second biggest foodstuffs market is situated in Ibe-Epo in this LGA. I have seen only a drop in price of tomatoes, not what goes with tomatoes as pepper and onions. One way the government can check the high prices of food items is to tackle insecurity nationwide. Terrorists and bandits are holding farmers by the jugular. Also, more palliatives must go to the downtrodden.

—Foloroso Atta, Journalist



**T**he prices of foodstuffs have not dropped; instead they are increasing day by day. The government should first solve the fuel scarcity problem and the hike in fuel price because that is the main cause of high cost of food items and the cost of living generally.

—Comrade Beatrice Ojukwu, Human rights advocate



**S**adly, prices of food items and other consumables in my area have not dropped. In fact, people dread going to the market these days. I would advise PBAT to constitute task force that will checkmate prices of goods from manufacturers down to retailers. These people are worsening the situation. Prices will keep increasing from manufacturers down to retailers. This has to be checked. Quick steps must be taken NOW by the govt.

—Stanley Okereke, Mediapreneur

News



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## #EndBadGovernance: CSOs berate FG for prolonged detention of protesters without charges

● **NHRC writes NBA, seeks help to free detained protesters**

By Gabriel Ewepu

**ABUJA**— FOLLOWING the failure of the Federal Government to arraign #endbadgovernance protesters since August 1, 2024, Civil Society Organisations, CSOs, yesterday, berated the action of the Federal Government and Police and called on President Bola Tinubu to release them unconditionally.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, has written the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, seeking help to secure the release of over 1,000 detained #EndBadGovernance protesters across the country.

The police failed to arraign the protesters on Monday and Tuesday, despite fixing those days for arraignment, as the protesters have continued to languish in custody for more than two weeks, without access to their lawyers.

### We might protest over delayed arraignment of protesters —OLF

President and Founder, One Love Foundation, OLF, Chief Patrick Eholor, yesterday, reacting to the development, said: "No suspect is to be detained more than 24 hours. It is sad that President Tinubu, who is one of the champions of democracy, who fought along side National Democratic Coalition, NADECO, has been the one that has derailed, bastardised and destroyed the fabrics of democracy.

"If the protesters are not released unconditionally, I and my foundation will write Amnesty International, National Human Rights Commission, and we might protest at the court house or United Nations in Abuja or embassies in Abuja.

"These people barely fought for the soul of the nation and their families, and the President is insensitive to them, even the military didn't treat us like this."

### Tinubu should allow rule of law takes its course — ActionAid

On his part, Country Director, ActionAid Nigeria, AAN, Andrew Mamedu, said: "Failure to arraign protesters is a breach of their fundamental human rights and ActionAid Nigeria frowns at that because justice delayed is justice denied.

"We always advocate due process and rule of law. So for rule of law, what does it take government to arraign them? They don't have enough evidence or what it takes? So, they should let them go.

"They are innocent until proven guilty. Delaying them is tantamount to injustice, and we don't encourage that no matter who the person is.

"The President should allow the rule of law takes its course and the President should know that protesting is not tantamount to breaking the law because our laws are very clear, citizens should be allowed to protest.

"Of course, if you say people were carrying foreign flags but we all know it is not about carrying flags to protest but trying to cook up offences against them, we are totally against it and the President should know and uphold that."

### Tinubu's reputation

### at stake — CISLAC

Executive Director, CISLAC, Auwal Rafsanjani, said: "When you are trying to correct something and you are doing something wrong, then you don't have the moral superiority to that.

"The police should tell us why they have kept people in custody as many of them were not even at the protest ground or doing anything criminal but you decided to punish everybody and there is an inherent danger on that.

"Another issue is there is a financial benefit some people having in the name of feeding the protesters because of the financial gain by those who are keeping protesters in custody in terms of feeding contract. Also this delayed arraignment is creating situation for people to revolt.

"What police is doing is that they are demarketing and destroying Tinubu, and making him unpopular, they are not helping him and are making to look like the greatest human rights violator, and we call on Tinubu to send away those who are destroying his reputation and ensure they stop it, if he is not the one instructing them to do that."

### It portrays govt as insensitive to rule of law — ANEEJ

Also, Executive Director, African Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, ANEEJ, Rev David Ugolor, said: "This is unacceptable and portrays the government as insensitive to the rule of law.

"I hope the Tinubu government will find a way to address the issues raised in the no to bad governance and corruption.

"The issue of hunger is real and many people are suffering and the only way to draw the attention of government is through peaceful

### Bizman refutes involvement in land-grabbing, threat to life, fraud

**A** Lagos-based businessman and the Akinrogun of Ibeju Lekki Kingdom, Lagos, Chief Jelili Akande, popularly called Jejelaye, has denied allegations of involvement in land-grabbing, threat to life, kidnapping and fraud.

It will be recalled that on February 22, 2024, a newspaper had reported that Akande was grilled for hours by the Zone 2 Command of the Nigeria Police Force, Onikan, Lagos, over alleged involvement in land-grabbing, threat to life, kidnapping and fraud as brought against him.

The publication had added that Akande was, thereafter, asked to return on another day for more interrogation over his alleged fraudulent activities on Abereoje family land, along Lagos-Epe Expressway, Oreki village, in Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area of the state.

In refuting the allegations, Akande, who insisted that the allegations were false and far from the truth, said: "In response to the allegations, I want to clarify the circumstances of the land transactions at Oreki village between me, Chief Akande (the Akinrogun of Ibeju-Lekki Kingdom) and Chief Akanni Olufowora.

"I am a businessman, whose business revolves around real estate and property consultant, with a well commendable experience and reputation in this regard.

"In 2015, a power of attorney was executed in my favour by Chief

protest.

"The government should provide opportunity for dialogue and show respect to the people. Keeping people in prison will not solve the problem."

### NHRC writes NBA, seeks help to free detained protesters

NHRC in a letter by its Executive Director, Dr. Tony Ojukwu, SAN, to the NBA President, said: "The NHRC writes to express deep concern regarding the reported alleged detention of over 1,000 Nigerians following protests against worsening living conditions during the #EndBadGovernance protest.

"As a body committed to protecting the rights and freedoms of all Nigerians, we find it alarming that peaceful demonstrators are being detained and their rights infringed upon. The right to peaceful assembly and expression is guaranteed under our constitution and various international human rights treaties to which Nigeria is a signatory.

"We recognise the pivotal role the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, plays in upholding the rule of law and ensuring that justice is not denied to the vulnerable in our society. It is in this context that we seek your urgent intervention to ensure that those detained are granted their legal rights, including access to legal representation, prompt and fair trials, or immediate release where no lawful grounds exist for their continued detention.

"The NHRC urges the NBA to take steps in this matter, including mobilizing legal support to secure the release of those unlawfully detained across the country by visiting all police commands in all the states to attend to people detained.

"Collaborating with relevant authorities to ensure that due process is followed and that any violations of human rights are addressed swiftly."

Akanni Olufowora, now making accusations over the land belonging to the Abereoje Oguntakun-Onibeju family, which I later discovered was under litigation in suit No: 1927/2009 between Lasiru & Ors vs Oladapo Olufowora & Ors before Justice Ipaye sitting at the High Court of Lagos State, Ikeja Division.

"Over the years, I acted in good faith, purchasing multiple plots of land from Olufowora and facilitating transactions for my clients based on the trust built over time, which he (Olufowora) collected huge amount of money from me and also from my clients, including vehicles in exchange for plots of land at Oreki village.

"It was only later revealed that the ownership claims made by this Olufowora were deceitful, leading to a dispute with the rightful landowners.

"Despite attempts to address this situation amicably, I was met with evasion and a subsequent attempt to revoke the power of attorney.

"Recognising the fraudulent nature of these actions, a legal action was taken to protect my interests and those of my clients.

"In his quest to override the rule of law of this nation, he further went to Zone 2 Command, Onikan, Lagos, for these same allegations thinking he could use the police to threaten and shut me up, but the police were sensitive and diligent in investigating the matter."

## ADDENDUM



NASARAWA STATE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

NIGERIA - AGRO-CLIMATIC RESILIENCE IN SEMI-ARID LANDSCAPES (ACRESAL) PROJECT  
CR NO. IDA70150 NG, P175237

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF SUPERVISION CONSULTANCY FOR LAFIA-DOMA AND TOTO STORM WATER MANAGEMENT/ EROSION CONTROL

The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACRESAL) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include assisting the Nasarawa State Project management unit in the provision of supervision of works for a two-year period for already approved sites, and any other subsequent sites as may be cleared and approved. The estimated number of Professional Staff-months required for the assignment is 120 persons-month covering a period of Twenty-four months. The prospective Firm is required to propose a team that will bring an appropriate mix of disciplines, educations, skills and experience, a sound understanding of development issues, and strong international and/or regional experience on similar projects. The Consultant Firm must be conversant with the ESHS as well as the ESF requirements in a World Bank assisted Project.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment *can be obtained at the address given below.*

The Nasarawa State Ministry of Environment, represented by the State Project Management Unit of ACRESAL the *implementing agency* now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

1. Evidence showing the fields of speciality of the firm (consultant's profile/brochures)
2. Evidence showing the technical and managerial capabilities of the firm in the field of assignment.
3. Description of similar assignments,
4. For each previous project performed, the consultant shall provide the name and contact address of the client (office & e-mail address, and telephone number), date(s) of execution, name(s) of lead and associate firms, contract amount and financing sources.

**Please Note: Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.**

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 [Revised September, 2023] ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

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

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (Nigeria Time).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or courier), not later than 12.00 pm (Nigeria Time), Wednesday 04th September, 2024.

**Project Coordinator**

**Elias Gyobe Napoleon**

**The State Project Coordinator**

**Nasarawa State Agro Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscaping Project (ACRESAL) Office,**

**Adjacent Hon. Justice Sidi Bage**

**Federal Secretariat, Jos Road, Lafia, Nasarawa State,**

**Nigeria. Telephone: +234(0)8138889367**

**E-mail: nasarawaacresa2022@gmail.com**

# Edo guber: Don't waste your votes, PDP has no candidate, Oshiomhole tells voters

● Okpebholo promises better life as APC receives PDP, LP, ADC defectors

**By Ozioruva Aliu**  
**BENIN CITY** — FORMER Governor of Edo State, Senator Adams Oshiomhole, has advised Edo voters not to waste their votes for the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, in the September 21 governorship election, saying currently the party has no candidate. Speaking at Imua, headquarters of Esan Central Local Government Area, LGA,

Oshiomhole said: "PDP as a party has no candidate as we talk, the Federal High Court, Abuja has said so. The process that brought Asue Ighodalo in the primaries was also faulted by the federal high court in Abuja, so don't go and waste your vote for PDP." He spoke as the Governorship Candidate of the All Progressives Congress, APC, Senator Monday Okpebholo, promised better life for the several

communities he visited in Edo Central Senatorial district as part of the party's ward to ward campaign. He stated this when he visited the people in his home town of Ujabbhole, Ewasan in Esan Central Local Government Area, LGA, where he said "my people have asked me not to bother to campaign here because we have their support and votes already." He told them that his admin-

istration would bring government back to the people, saying there is a yawning gap between the current gap and the people. In Igueben, the party received hundreds of defectors from the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Labour Party, LP, and Africa Democratic Congress, ADC where the Director-General of the APC Campaign Council, Matthew Urhoghide, assured them of fair treatment, saying all members are equal in the APC.

## Mobilise supporters to stop apathy, stakeholders task parties

**By Ozioruva Aliu**  
**TO** avert apathy in the September 21, 2024 governorship election in Edo State, stakeholders in the electoral processes have called on the political class to mobilise their supporters and party followers to participate in the voting exercise. They made the call, yesterday, at a one-day Policy dialogue on Edo State Governorship Election 2024 organized by the Electoral Institute, Abuja in Benin City with the theme: "Enhancing Voter participation and inclusivity in the Edo State Governorship election." The Edo State Resident Electoral Commissioner, REC, Dr Anugbum Onuoha, the Chairman, Board of Electoral Institute, Abuja, Prof Abdullahi Abdu Zuru, and a lecturer of Political Science,

University of Illorin, Prof Hassan Saliu, opined that political parties and leaders had a critical role to play to address voters' apathy in any election in the country. In his remarks, Zuru noted that turnout of voters in some of the recent elections in the country was not encouraging to INEC in spite of all the innovations and efforts put in place to take the election to the doorsteps of prospective voters. "We expect that with such improvement in the conduct of elections, more and more people will be appearing in the elections so that we will have high participation of electorate in the election," he said. He assured that INEC would continue to play key roles in enhancing voter participation and inclusivity among the electorate

through voter-education and advocacy mechanisms. Earlier, Onuoha said the dialogue was geared towards addressing voters' apathy in the forthcoming governorship election in the state as well as finding out why people are not coming out to vote during elections. He said that the commission had carried out several advocacy, and training programmes among others to ensure that the conduct of the election was generally accepted by all stakeholders. On his part, Prof Hassan Saliu, the guest lecturer in his lead paper: "Enhancing Voter Participation and Inclusivity", said the essence of the policy dialogue was to enlighten and sensitise the electorate and residents of Edo State to come out to cast their votes for candidates and political parties of their choice during the election.

He said he believed in Okpebholo as a good candidate that will listen to the yearnings of the people. On his part, Coordinator of the APC campaign council in Edo Central Senatorial District, Odianosen Okojie, appealed to the decampers to come out on September 21 to cast their votes for the APC. Also speaking, the Deputy Governorship Candidate, Denis Idahosa, urged the party's supporters to ensure 100 per cent votes for the APC in Esan Central LGA on September 21.

## Ighodaro, only candidate ready to govern — PDP chieftain

**By Ozioruva Aliu**

**AS** the September 21, 2024 governorship election in Edo State gets closer, a member of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Mr Otegha Adams, has called on Edo citizenry to vote Dr Asue Ighodaro, saying he is the only candidate that has shown readiness to govern the people with "robust manifesto" he has released.

According to him, Ighodalo has simultaneously launched a manifesto that will productively engage the thoughts and consequent positive action on the people. "There are supposedly two major candidates: Asue Ighodalo of the PDP, who has unveiled a well-thought out and manifestly transparent people-oriented Covenant with the electorate; and Oshiomhole-led Monday Okpebholo, who has hardly made any independent public appearance of his own and much less to present his manifesto for public scrutiny and engagement," he said.

Otegha Adams said from every strata of our society, for teachers and students, the civil servants and technocrats and market women to the agricultural entrepreneurs, health workers and Labour advocates, Ighodalo's document titled "Pathway to Prosperity for All" is the digestible evolutionary blueprint of Edo people's Assembly. The manifesto, brightly illuminates the contours of Ighodalo intellectual and pragmatic reflections, projecting the well-being and qualitative life collectively for the people. Ighodalo's Covenant gives respectable cognizance to fulfilling the basic needs of the people including enjoying good health, access to clean running water and buoyant living wage, but the manifesto contemporaneously points in the direction of securing Edo's distinguished location in the globe of the 4th industrial digital revolution."

### REJOINDER TO PURPORTED IFIEKPORO COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS TITLED RESPECTIVELY AS "APPRECIATION" AND "PUBLIC NOTICE" PUBLISHED IN THE VANGUARD NEWSPAPER ISSUES OF MONDAY, 5TH DAY OF AUGUST 2024 AND WEDNESDAY, 7TH DAY OF AUGUST 2024.

My attention has been drawn to the above named two publications appearing at page 22 of the Vanguard Newspaper of Monday 5th of August, 2024 and at page 20 of Vanguard Newspaper of Wednesday 7th of August 2024 respectively.

The said publication of Monday 5th of August 2024 titled "Appreciation" had the names of the Chairman of Ifiekporo Community Central Working Committee CWC (Dr. Monday Agbeyi) and my name (Hon. Augustine Tete), the General Secretary of the Community inscribed on it as signatories while the one published on the 7th day of August 2024 under the caption "Public Notice" was signed purportedly by the Olare-aja of the community and the Deputy Olare-aja.

I hereby state unequivocally that I, Augustine Tete, as General Secretary of Ifiekporo Community, had no knowledge whatsoever of the said documents and their content prior to their publications. I did not sign the publication dated the 5th day of August, 2024 and also did not consent to my name being inscribed on same.

I have since discovered that the second publication captioned "Public Notice" published on the 7th day of August 2024 purporting to emanate from the Elders Council was neither signed by the Olare-aja of the community, Pa. George Mogbeyiteren nor his consent to the publication sought and obtained before the illegal fabrication of his signature on the document.

It has since come to my knowledge that the two publications are the handiwork of the Chairman of the Ifiekporo Community (CWC), Dr. Monday Agbeyi who is seeking desperately to arrogate all authority and power in the Community to himself contrary to the Constitution of the Community and the long established and time-honoured practices of Ifiekporo Community which have engendered peace and stability in the community.

The members of the public are therefore notified that the two publications are mischievous, manipulative, divisive and made for the purpose of disrupting the fragile peace in Ifiekporo Community. The publications were put out without the knowledge and consent of all concerned and were not signed by those entitled to do so. The publications are therefore made in utmost bad faith, lacking in consensus and in complete breach of laid down procedures in the Community.

In the circumstances, I hereby, as General Secretary of Ifiekporo Community CWC, totally dissociate myself from the said publications and advise members of the general public, corporate bodies and government agencies operating or doing business in Ifiekporo Community to disregard the two publications under reference as not coming from the appropriate authority of the Community.

I also advise members of the public to, henceforth, pay no attention or give regard to any letter/document purporting to emanate from Ifiekporo Community if not duly signed by the Chairman and the General Secretary on behalf of the Community Central Working Committee or the Olare-aja of the Community and the Secretary to the Council of Elders on behalf of the Community Council of Elders.

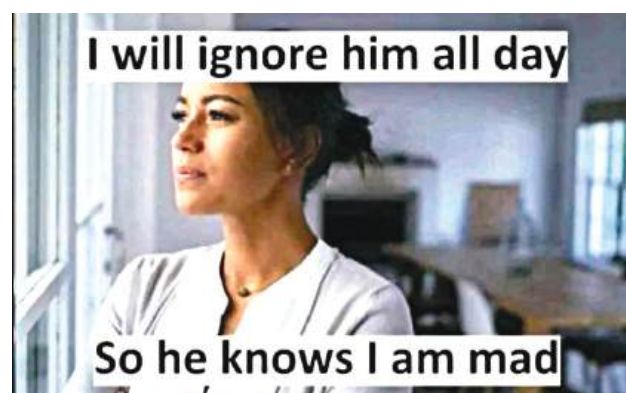
# SOFTCUTS

Social Media Conversation

Anyway, it's "nun" of my business.



It's another miracle!



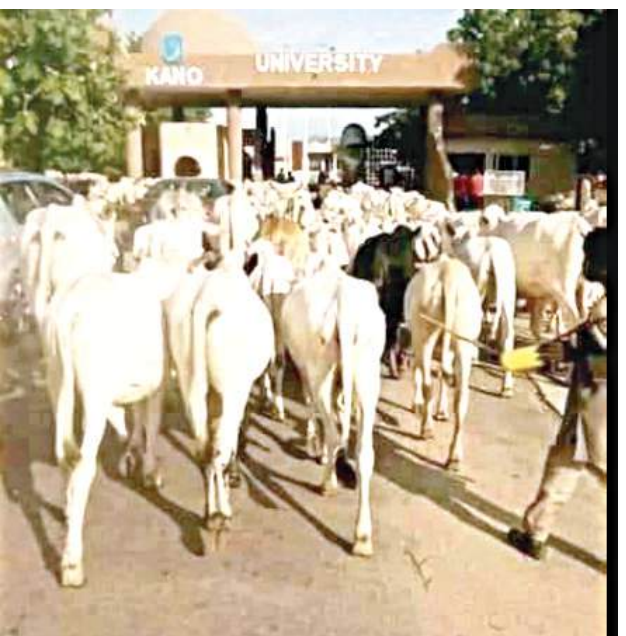
I will ignore him all day

So he knows I am mad



What a nice quiet day.

A man's perfect moment!



Cows go to school!

## Stakeholders solicit FG's collaboration to drive crypto adoption

By Nkiruka Nnorom

STAKEHOLDERS have called on the Federal Government to collaborate with firms operating within the crypto space to implement the national blockchain policy, with a view to driving the adoption of crypto assets in the country.

One of the stakeholders, Noones, a firm in the crypto space, made the call in a statement yesterday, saying that proper implementation of the already existing national blockchain policy signed by President Muhammadu Buahri, would help in bolstering government's revenue.

"Right now, the crypto policy implementation is still very unclear, there is no actual road-map for businesses operating in the crypto space. There is no actual guideline or roadmap for us to adopt.

"If the government will be very open to listen to stakeholders and let us guide them on how to implement the policy, it will go a long way in positioning Nigeria as a trailblazer in the continent's digital economy landscape," the firm stated.

It noted that although some crypto exchanges had exited the country due to lack of clear guidelines, adoption by individual Nigerians had continued to swell, despite the stifling regulations.

"It is affecting crypto businesses because some exchanges (like Coolcoin) are leaving Nigeria. What this means is that Nigerians working at Coolcoin have actually lost their jobs because of bad perception and how the government treats anything that has to do with bitcoin. The government has failed to understand that they can actually make a lot of money from this space to boost the nation's revenue."

## N'Delta youths hail NNPC for employing Tantita Security

By Gabriel Ewepu

ABUJA- FOLLOWING the stability in oil and gas production in the Niger Delta under the present administration, youths in the region, under the auspices of Niger Delta Ethnic Nationalities Youth Leaders Forum, NDENYLF, yesterday lauded the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, NNPC, for engaging Tantita Security Services to secure oil pipelines and fight illegal bunkering.

The commendation was contained in the communique issued by the leadership of the group after a meeting held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

It was signed by the Vice President, Isekiri Nation, Efejuku Patrick; President of Oro Nation, Chief Chris Ante; Chairman of Annang, Prince Idongesit; President of Isoko National Youth Assembly, Comrade Eniwake Orogun; Chairman of Ijaw Youth Council, Collins Albert Nnah; and President of Urhobo Nation, among others.

The youths said the meeting was basically to brainstorm on issues in the



From left: Delta State Governor Sheriff Oborewori (4th left), his Deputy, Sir. Monday Onyeme (3rd left), Secretary to State Government, Dr. Kingsley Emu (left), National President, PFN, Bishop Francis Wale Oke (4th right), Bishop Kingsley Enakirerhi (2nd right) and others during a courtesy visit on the Governor by the PFN President and his Team at Government House, Asaba yesterday.

## ASUU: Ngige truncated 5 years of negotiations — OSODEKE

By Steve Oko

UMUAHIA—National President of Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, Professor Emmanuel Osodeke, has accused former Minister of Labour and Productive, Dr Chris Ngige, and his collaborators of truncating the over five years of negotiations between ASUU and the Federal Government in 2021.

He regretted that instead of the former minister to get government to sign the document after years of painstaking engagement, it was dumped for reasons best known to him.

The ASUU boss, who made the allegation at a briefing at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, MOUUAU, Abia State, also gave the Federal Government a 21-day ultimatum to address all outstanding issues raised by

### • Gives FG 21-day ultimatum

ASUU, or the union would be forced to take appropriate actions to achieve their demands.

Flanked at the briefing by ASUU Coordinator, Calabar Zone, Comrade Happiness Uduk, her Owerri zone counterpart, Professor Denis Aribodor; ASUU Chairman, MOUUAU branch, Professor Michael Ugwuene; his Nnamdi Azikiwe University, NAU, counterpart, Professor Kingsley Ubaaji, among other chapter chairmen and officials, Osodeke said government was unwilling investing in the education sector.

He identified some of the lingering issues to include review and signing of the renegotiated 2009 FGN-ASUU Agreement; impactful funding, including emergency revitalization fund of public universities; and payment of outstanding

earned academic allowances.

Others are immediate release of withheld salaries, promotion arrears, and third-party deductions of members; stoppage of illegal recruitment; proliferation of public universities/abuse of universities' laws, regulations, and processes.

He also demanded immediate implementation of the presidential directive for the removal of university lecturers from the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System, IPPIS, wondering why the directive by the Federal Executive Council, FEC, since December 2023 was yet to be implemented by the accountant-general of the federation.

ASUU further demanded removal of universities from the treasury single account, TSA, and new IPPIS, arguing that the practice negated university autonomy.

Osodeke lamented that the salaries of university lecturers were last reviewed in 2009 when the exchange rate was below N150 per dollar, arguing that while the exchange rate was now over N1500, salaries of lecturers had remained static.

He said Nigeria was the only country in West Africa where university lecturers were poorly remunerated, adding that it was disgraceful that some of Nigeria's best

brains were migrating to even war-torn Sudan in search of jobs.

The ASUU boss, who regretted the total collapse of the primary and post-primary education system in Nigeria, said but for the struggles by ASUU, the university system would have since collapsed.

Accusing government of unwillingness to invest in the education sector, Prof Osodeke expressed bewilderment that the federal government had N150 billion to spend on a new presidential jet; N90 billion as subsidy for religious pilgrimage, but a paltry N10 billion as students' loan.

Describing federal

government's action as misplacement of priorities, Osodeke said it was regrettable that while the United States' President still used his 30-year-old jet, Tinubu was in a hurry to dump Nigeria's 19-year-old presidential jet.

ASUU decried the victimisation of its members at Kogi State University; Ebonyi State University; Lagos State University; Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Awka, among others, for demanding their rights.

The union called on the governors of the affected states to quickly address the issues and recall the sacked lecturers or face ASUU's wrath.

## Wike declares Abuja's Park & Pay policy illegal

By Omeiza Ajayi

ABUJA: Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Minister, Barr. Nyesom Wike, has declared as illegal, the on-street parking scheme, popularly known as Park and Pay, in the nation's capital, Abuja.

Wike disclosed this during a live media chat monitored yesterday in Abuja, as part of his first anniversary in office.

The scheme, which was first introduced about a decade ago, was suspended following public outcry.

It was, however, reintroduced in August last year, just a few days before Wike assumed office as

minister.

The minister, who also frowned on the sharing formula, which is skewed against FCT Administration, explained that while the consultant took 80 per cent of the proceeds, the FCT Administration took the remaining 20 per cent.

He said: "I was away, a colleague of mine, a friend of mine called me, he is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria SAN. He said 'sir, people came to our office now trying to hijack all our cars and that they said they were from the transport secretariat'.

"I said, what is that? I said give the person the phone. I asked, who are you? and he said from Park and Pay. I said what do you mean by Park and Pay? I park in my house and I pay?"

"I called the mandate secretary of transport secretariat. I said, come, who introduced the Park and Pay? What does it mean? Who collects the money?"

"Unknown to us, there was an agreement between the secretariat and some people who say they are consultants. Consultants? I said okay, consultant takes 80 per cent and the government takes 20 per cent?"

"I said okay, where is this money paid into? I said, draft a statement and call the director of press, send out the statement that the public should be aware that there is nothing called Park and Pay."

## FG backs IPAC's movie project on Nigeria's 25 years of democracy

By Luminous Jannamike

ABUJA-The Federal Government has endorsed the Inter-Party Advisory Council's, IPAC, film project, "Unbroken: Two and Half Decades," a documentary highlighting Nigeria's 25-year journey of uninterrupted democracy.

Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF, Senator George Akume, praised IPAC's leadership for the initiative and emphasized the importance of preserving the nation's emerging

### • SGF Akume advocates return of history to school curriculum

democracy and history.

He also advocated the reintroduction of 'History' as a subject in school curricula.

According to him, "this is a historic effort by IPAC to document and preserve the nation's democratic history. History should be reinstated in the school curriculum."

Akume spoke yesterday when IPAC's National Chairman, Yusuf Mamman Dantalle, led the council's executive members to the Presidential Villa for a meeting.

The SGF assured them of

government's support to ensure the documentary reached both older and newer generations of Nigerians.

Dantalle stated that the film project was aimed at rebranding Nigeria's image by highlighting major achievements and challenges the country had faced since 1999.

He explained that it would be streamed on global platforms, including CNN, Netflix, and Amazon, to showcase Nigeria's story to an international audience.

The IPAC chairman assured the Federal

government of a top-notch production that met global standards.

Dan Nwanyanwu, Chairman of the Steering Committee on 25 years of democracy and the film project, underscored reasons the government should prioritize the project nationally.

Additionally, IPAC Public Relations Consultant, Dr. Chris Oge Kalu, elaborated on the importance of the documentary, its timing, and the global platforms where it would be streamed, promising a positive image for Nigeria.



LEISURE

SAYINGS OF OUR ELDERS

Once the millet has sprouted, it is not afraid of the weather

TAKE HEART — ELLA RANDLE

"Turn your obstacles into opportunities and your problems into possibilities." —Roy T. Bennett  
Every experience holds a lesson and a blessing. Consider that the obstacles in your path are actually stepping stones to something greater.—Ella Randle



From left: Senators, Diket Plang; Osita Ngwu; Gbenga Daniel; Coordinator of National Defence College Wives' Association, Mrs. Rhoda Olotu; Senate President, Godswill Akpabio; Rear Admiral O. M. Olotu; Senators Sunday Karimi and Saliu Mustapha, during the commissioning of the National Defence College Officers' Mess, by Akpabio, in Abuja yesterday. Photo: Senate President's Office.

## Fake certificate: Uganda, Kenya write JAMB, demand students' verification

FOLLOWING cases of fake certification recently detected by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, JAMB, examination boards in Kenya and Uganda have written the federal government to verify records presented by Nigerian candidates seeking admissions into tertiary institutions in their respective countries.

JAMB made this known in a document, titled "Registrar's Report on 2023 Admission & 2024 UTME Policy Meeting" obtained yesterday. According to the document, JAMB stressed the need to protect Nigeria's tertiary institutions from international disrepute. While stating that it would not falsify the records of any students, JAMB said:

"Uganda and Kenya examination boards are now writing to JAMB to confirm records presented by candidates for admission. JAMB would not falsify record." Recall that the federal government recently suspended the verification of degree certificates from Uganda, Kenya, Benin Republic, Togo and some

other countries over allegations of certificate racketeering. The government's decision came on the heels of an investigation by Daily Nigeria reporter, Umar Audu, on how he obtained a degree within six weeks in Benin Republic. After his report, the Federal Government set up an inter-ministerial investigative committee on degree certificate milling to probe the activities of certificate racketeers. Consequently, JAMB threatened to sanction higher institutions that failed to submit lists of students admitted immediately after matriculation.

JAMB's Public Communications Advisor, Fabian Benjamin, said the initiative is one of the recommendations made by a committee set up by the

federal government to combat fake degree racketeering in the country. A clarification on disclosure of admitted candidates outside CAPS (2017- date)' by JAMB advised institutions to "regularly submit their matriculation lists to the federal ministry of education not later than three months after matriculation ceremonies." The list is expected to be submitted through the dedicated channel of JAMB. "The Board has observed a large number of candidates thronging its offices to resolve issues related to the disclosure of candidates admitted outside the Central Admissions Processing System, CAPS, from 2017 to date. "While we appreciate the enthusiasm, we must correct the misconception that the focus is on candidates' actions. The true emphasis lies with the institutions, which must disclose all

candidates admitted outside CAPS before the August 31st, 2024 deadline. "This directive requires immediate attention and compliance. We urge institutions to carefully review our initial letter and ensure full compliance, as failure to disclose will result in severe consequences. Candidates are also reminded not to accept admissions outside CAPS. "The Board reiterated that candidates not disclosed by institutions would not be entertained. The Board will not tolerate any condonement of undisclosed admissions moving forward," JAMB stated. In a similar development, a memo addressed to JAMB on July 15, 2024, the education ministry said: "You may recall that following the publication of allegations of certificate racketeering involving some foreign institutions, especially in Cotonou, Benin Republic, and other countries, the ministry constituted an inter-ministerial committee to investigate the allegations to find lasting solutions. "The committee has submitted its report and the Honourable Minister of Education has approved its recommendations for implementation. "In that regard, I hereby convey the request of the honourable minister for the implementation of the following recommendations of the committee: "Enforce the mandatory requirement for all tertiary institutions in Nigeria to exclusively conduct their admissions processes through the Central Admissions Processing System under the auspices of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board; mandate all tertiary institutions in Nigeria to regularly submit their matriculation lists to the Federal Ministry of Education not later than three months after matriculation ceremonies through the dedicated channel of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board."

## Infrastructure: Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors develops first cost databank

By John Alechenu

ABUJA: As part of its contribution to the anti-corruption fight, the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, NIQS, has unveiled plans to develop a comprehensive cost databank to assist both the

public and private sectors in their quest for greater transparency in project management. President of the Institute, Qs.Kene Nzekwe, announced this in his opening remarks at the national workshop of the institute, with the theme

"Innovative and Sustainable Construction Practices - Building a Resilient Cost-based and Knowledge-driven Industry with Integrity, which started in Abuja yesterday." He said: "I am pleased to announce to our guests that the Institute has embarked on a significant initiative, the development of a comprehensive cost databank.

"This databank when completed will serve as a critical tool for enhancing transparency and accountability in the construction sector, allowing for effective monitoring and regulation of construction costs at local, state, and federal levels. "With this resource, we can ensure that every Naira spent on construction projects is accounted for, and that value for money is consistently achieved."

## Dokpesi Jnr explains DAAR Communications management shake-up

By Juliet Umeh

CHAIRMAN of DAAR Communications, Raymond Dokpesi Jnr, has explained the reasons behind the recent management changes in the company. Vanguard gathered that the shake-up, which has seen the departure of several long-serving directors, is part of a broader strategy to align with regulatory requirements and ensure the company's future growth. While clarifying the development, Dokpesi Jnr

## Joint task force uncovers illegal miners in Cross River

THE Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development has in collaboration with Cross River State government, uncovered illegal mining sites in the state. The team, spearheaded by the federal mines officer overseeing the state, the state commissioner for minerals resources, and security personnel, unearthed illegal activities by certain miners.

Mr. Effiom Ekaha, Cross River State Commissioner for Mineral Resources, disclosed that on receiving intelligence reports, the governor of the state, Bassey Otu, had instructed a crackdown on illegal mining within the state, in collaboration with federal authorities. The task force, led by Engr. Mayowa Omosebi, the Federal Mines Officer for Cross River State, Dr. Otu Archibong, Chairman of the

Mineral Resources and Environmental Management Committee, MIREMCO, and Mr. Effiom Ekaha, the Commissioner for Mineral Resources, promptly took action. Recent enforcement operations resulted in the apprehension of suspects engaged in unauthorized mining activities, along with the confiscation of equipment from illicit mining sites. During the operation, the Commissioner for Environment, Mr. Moses Osoji, and the State Security Adviser, Major General Okoi Obono, retd, emphasized the objective of addressing environmental degradation, economic repercussions, and security threats posed by illegal mining activities and their perpetrators. The state government affirmed its unwavering commitment to curbing illegal mining to prevent further harm to the ecosystem and surrounding areas. Engr. Mayowa Omosebi, the Federal Mines Officer for Cross River, and Dr. Otu Archibong, the Cross River State Chairman of MIREMCO, asserted that the collaborative task force would bolster efforts to combat the escalating incidence of illegal mining in the state.

## Nigerians turn to AI for creativity, Google search trends reveal

By Juliet Umeh

NEW data released by Google yesterday shows that Nigerians were increasingly turning to Artificial Intelligence, AI, to enhance their creativity and boost careers. The latest Google Search trends revealed that AI-related searches in Nigeria had surged by 130 per cent, compared to this time last year, reflecting the growing interest and curiosity around this transformative technology. Commenting on the trends, West Africa Director at Google, Olumide Balogun, said: "AI has the potential to create opportunities, from the extraordinary to the everyday for everyone, bringing new waves of innovation, social, and economic progress. "It's no surprise that the people of Nigeria are already looking to make the most of this transformational technology, finding ways for it to boost their career, creativity, and society." Globally, AI is being searched more than ever before, and Nigeria is no exception. Searches for "what is AI"

in Nigeria have jumped by over 30 per cent, while "how to use AI" saw a 40 per cent increase, indicating a strong desire among Nigerians to understand and harness AI for personal and professional development. "Nigeria currently ranks as the sixth highest country in Africa and 25th globally in terms of search interest in AI. "The data also highlighted a significant rise in searches related to using AI for creative and professional purposes. "Trending searches in Nigeria include "create a logo with AI," "create a CV with AI," "design a website with AI," and "create slides with AI," all of which have seen a phenomenal increase of over 5,000 per cent in interest since last year. This trend underscores the growing reliance on AI tools to streamline creative processes and enhance job-related tasks. "Nigerians are not only interested in applying AI to their work but also in learning more about the technology itself. "Searches for AI and courses have surged by 50 per cent, while popular questions like is AI hard to learn, how to learn AI, and how to access and learn about AI suggest a keen interest in acquiring AI skills."



PHOTOGRAPHY DAY — L-R: Secretary, Guild of Photojournalists Nigeria, GPN, Mr Odutayo Odusanya; Chairman, GPN, Mr Abiodun Ajala; Provost, Nigerian Institute of Journalism, NIJ, Mr Gbenga Adefaye; Deputy Provost, NIJ, Dr Boye Ola, and keynote speaker, Mr Akintunde Akinleye, during the 2024 World Photography Day celebration organised by GPN in collaboration with the NIJ in Lagos. PHOTO: AKEEM SALAU

## Civil service reforms urgent — Olaopa

By Adeola Badru

**I**BADAN — THE Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission, Professor Tunji Olaopa, yesterday, said there is an urgent need for reformation and enhancement of the public service sector to tackle the pressing demands of nation-building, effective governance, and national progress.

Olaopa spoke at a lecture titled 'Re-Engineering the Engine Room: The Civil Service as the Fulcrum of Sustainable Development,' at the inaugural reunion of the Association of Retired Heads of Service and Permanent Secretaries of Oyo and Osun States, AREHSPSOOS, held at the International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan.

He described public service as the essential engine of the bureaucracy, arguing that it requires more powerful mechanisms to drive forward.

Olaopa said: "The systemic frailty of the public service and the potential for reform indicate the viability of a developmental state in Nigeria, centering on sustainable development as the foundation for transforming our developmental objectives."

"Nigeria requires a developmental state that enhances democratic governance and adequately addresses public service delivery."

"They should be performance-driven and capable of fostering a climate that releases the potential of the private sector."

## Reconstruction work begins on Lagos-Ota-Abeokuta Expressway

**A**BEOKUTA — THE contracting firm, Craneburg, has moved to site to begin the reconstruction of the Lagos-Ota-Abeokuta Expressway.

The flag-off/turning of the sod for the reconstruction will take place on Friday, 23 August and performed by Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State.

Craneburg started mobilizing its equipment to the site 10 days ago to begin palliative measures in an attempt to make one side of the road motorable, while construction proper begins on the other section.

The palliative measures already completed on the road covered Sango-Ota, Pakoto, Ifo, Ewekoro, Itoni, and Obada, with stone base spread on the bad portions to make traveling less stressful while the reconstruction is ongoing.

The Federal Government-owned road has been in a deplorable state for more than 20 years.

It was, however, handed over to the Ogun State government in 2024 by the President Bola Tinubu-led administration after previous efforts.

Governor Abiodun had emphasized that bureaucratic bottlenecks stalled the reconstruction of the road.

## Some parents aid human trafficking in Oyo — NAPTIP

By Laolu Elijah

**I**BADAN — THE National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPTIP, yesterday, accused some parents in Oyo State of allegedly aiding human trafficking in the state.

The accusation was made by the Head of NAPTIP, Oyo State Office, Mr Augustine Akanya in Ibadan while speaking at a town hall meeting of stakeholders organised by Adinya Arise Foundation, AAF.

Akanya said: "Our role is to tackle human trafficking and violence against persons,

domestic and international trafficking. In almost 80 per cent of cases of human trafficking that I have treated in the state; parents are involved.

"We have seen situations where a mother sent the child to Libya and the father was not aware. The role of parents in human trafficking is enormous.

We should think about it.

"Let me talk about the Middle East, Lebanon, Oman and Libya. Do you know that Nigeria does not have an embassy in Oman? I don't know what is wrong with us. Our life is even better than in some countries.

"Parents are playing a major role in this problem. Let us ask

questions; let us be concerned about ourselves. For many of them, it was their parents that helped them to borrow money from financial institutions.

"We encouraged parents to not allow human trafficking in the state anymore. If you want to travel, go with the necessary documents. Safe travelling is better."

## Africans aiding malaria spread — Varsity don

By Shina Abubakar

● Says 608,000 persons lost lives to scourge

**O**SOGBO — A Professor of Public Entomology and Parasitology at the Osun State University, Professor Monsuru Adeleke, yesterday, blamed Africans' environmental attitude for the continuous spread of malaria adding that the disease has claimed the lives of 608,000 people in 85 countries.

Delivering a paper at the university's 20th Inaugural Lecture held at the university auditorium in Osogbo titled 'Unending war of man against mosquitoes and blackflies: A tale of two sacrificial lambs searching

for survival,' Adeleke argued that vector-borne diseases account for over 60% of deadly and life-threatening diseases affecting humans, with malaria being a major concern.

He said: "Over 94% of malaria cases (among 233 million people) and 95% of malaria deaths occurred in Africa and children under 5 accounted for about 80% of all malaria deaths in the region."

"The diseases harboured and transmitted by insects (vector-borne diseases) constitute over 60% of deadly and life-threatening diseases of humans

(Service, 1999).

"Aside from death that malaria is responsible for, other complications and socio-economic retrogressions that include illness, frequent school and work absenteeism, abortion, and stillbirth are also other unfriended diseases to humanity."

On ways to tackle the menace, he urged the government and policymakers to adopt integrated vector control strategies to combat vector-borne diseases rather mon-policy approach to the issue.

Adeleke said: "The mono-policy being implemented over the years is not yielding satisfactory results. It is giving the vectors free ways to devise means of escaping the onslaught."

"Existing laws on environmental sanitation and pollution need to be strengthened and strictly enforced. Vectors breed in our surroundings, and preventing their breeding grounds solves 80% of the problem."

"There must be attitudinal change if Africa and Nigeria (in particular) must win the war

against vector-borne diseases. Many of our activities in Nigeria inadvertently create environments conducive to vectors."

In his remarks, the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Clement Adebooye stressed the need for Africans to manage mosquitoes to reduce its spread.

"I'm sure that by strengthening health delivery mechanism by the government, the cause of malaria will be reduced in our society", he said.

## Atiku hosts El-Rifai, Ribadu, Lamido, others in Abuja

By John Alechenu

● It's nothing political — Ex-VP's aide

**A**BUJA — BARELY 48 hours after a group of northerners, under the aegis of League of Northern Democrats, LND, held a meeting aimed at promoting a northern political renaissance, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, yesterday, hosted some prominent northern politicians across party lines in his Asokoro residence.

However, according to his aides, the gathering had nothing to do with politics as the delegation of prominent northerners which had former Kaduna State Governor, Nasir El-Rufai; the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu and former Jigawa State Governor, Sule Lamido among others, were at Atiku's residence to ask for one of his daughter's hand in marriage as is

customary.

A statement by Atiku's Special Assistant (Broadcast Media), AbdulRasheed Shehu, read in part: "The occasion was a formal request for the hand of his daughter, Hafsat Atiku Abubakar, in

marriage to the family of Kashim Imam.

"The Kashim Imam delegation was led by former Kaduna State Governor, Nasir El-Rufai.

"Other guests include National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu;

former governors Sule Lamido of Jigawa State, and Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State, among others.

"The mini gathering was a testament to the esteem in which Alhaji Atiku Abubakar is held and the significance of

the occasion."

When contacted, Atiku's Media Adviser, Paul Ibe said: "The delegation came on behalf of the groom's family; there is nothing political about the visit. The former Vice President's daughter is getting married by the weekend."

## Ondo Guber: I'm authentic LP candidate — Olorunfemi

By Dayo Johnson

**A**KURE — THE governorship candidate of the Labour Party, LP, in Ondo State, Dr Ayodele Olorunfemi, yesterday, insisted that he remains the authentic candidate of the party declaring that anybody posing as the party's candidate in the November 16 governorship election is a counterfeit.

Recall that the secretary general of the pan-Yoruba socio-political organisation, Afenifere, Chief Sola Ebiseni, had claimed that Olorunfemi was a placeholder and had since stepped down for him.

But speaking in Akure, Olorunfemi said that he was duly elected by party members at its primary held in April 2024.

He said: "I want to tell you that I remain the party's candidate and any other candidate is a counterfeit."

"You can only get to know the party's candidate through the INEC portal and my name is written as the Labour Party candidate."

"As far as Ebiseni is concerned, he aspired but he came at a time that was too late for anybody to concede the ticket to him."

"He came at a time when the window had closed and INEC had

already shut its portal and the National Working Committee has communicated this to him."

"Apart from this, we are not aware that he has resigned from PDP or maybe he has done that now we don't know but as of now, we are not aware of his resignation from PDP."

"He was never a member of the Labour Party and he contested under the PDP platform and after contesting on the platform of the PDP, he is now claiming to be a member of the Labour Party without documentation or due process."

On the claim by Ebiseni that he is a placeholder, Olorunfemi said: "Let him provide evidence

that I am just a placeholder."

"Ebiseni called after the primary and discussed with me and I told him I would willfully hand over the ticket to him because at the time I was not willing to run but he went to Abuja while the National Working Committee asked me to go ahead and present myself as the candidate."

In his remarks, the state chairman of LP, Mr Abiodun Agbaje, said Olorunfemi was the only authentic candidate of the party.

Agbaje insisted that Ebiseni came to the party when the window of governorship candidate had closed.



**CELEBRATION:** From left, Ogun State Deputy Governor, Noimot Salako-Oyedele; Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State; Commissioner for Community Development and Cooperatives, Alhaji Balogun Ademola, and Ogun State Haed of Service, Mr Kehinde Onasanya, during the celebration of Year 2023 International Community Day/World Trade Day at the MKO Abiola International Stadium, Kuto Abeokuta, yesterday.

## Ex-Anambra House of Assembly deputy Speaker slumps, dies

A former Deputy Speaker of the Anambra State House of Assembly, Hartford Oseke, is dead. Oseke was said to have slumped and died during a routine exercise at the Alex Ekwueme Square in Awka, Anambra State.

Reports indicate that he collapsed and was rushed to Apex Hospital Awka in an attempt to revive him, but unfortunately, he passed away before medical intervention could succeed.

At Oseke's country home in Umuawulu, Awka South Local Government Area, relatives were seen in deep mourning, with many remaining too grief-stricken to comment publicly on the tragedy.

Members of the State House of Assembly, who had served alongside Oseke, paid tribute to him as both a colleague and a unifying force within the Assembly.

One member, who preferred to remain unnamed, described Oseke as a "good man" and a "uniting force" during his tenure in the Assembly.

"I cannot make an official statement for now because it is left for the Speaker of the Assembly to do that, and you know that Oseke was his set at the Assembly," the member said.

"But all that I can say is that he was a good man and a unifying force while he was at the hallowed chambers of the State Assembly," he added.

Oseke served two terms in the Anambra State House of Assembly, representing the Awka South 2 State Constituency.

During his second term, he served as the Deputy Speaker of the state legislative body.

## Ogbonnaya Onu's burial for Nov 8

THE burial of the former governor of old Abia State, Dr Ogbonnaya Onu, has been fixed for November 8, 2024.

This was contained in the programme released by the burial committee on behalf of Onu's family of Uburu Ohazara LGA, Ebonyi State.

Onu died on April 11, 2024, after a brief illness, at the age of 73 years.

A statement signed on Tuesday by former Senate President, Anyim Pius Anyim, and immediate past Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi outlined the burial committee's order of funeral rites.

According to the statement, A Night of Tributes is scheduled for Musa Yar' Adua Centre, Abuja, by 5 pm on November 4, 2024.

A requiem mass at the Church of Assumption, Asokoro, Abuja, by 5 pm follows the next day, November 5.

Thereafter, the programme shifts to Abia State, where his body will be lying in state at Abia State Executive Council Chambers by 11 am. A Day of Tributes will also be held at the International Conference Centre, Umuahia, at 1 pm on November 6.

The lying-in-state continues the next day at noon in Ebonyi, at the State Executive Chamber, and will be followed by a requiem mass and wake at his home country, Uburu, by 5 pm.

The burial will conclude with a funeral service and interment at Uburu, in Ohazara LGA, Ebonyi State, on November 8 at 11 am.

## Concerned Igbo clerics accuse S'East govts of abandoning Nnamdi Kanu

IGBO clerics under the aegis of Concerned Igbo Ministers Commission, have accused South East Governors, of abandoning the detained leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, despite their repeated promises to pursue his release.

The group which expressed disappointment over the failure of the Governors to aggressively pursue Kanu's release, sought to know why the Governors "suddenly chickened out" in their earlier promise to engage President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to negotiate Kanu's release.

Concerned Igbo Ministers Commission which recalled that the Yoruba united behind Oduduwa independence agitator, Sunday Igboho, when he was arrested in Benin Republic until he regained his freedom, told South East Governors to follow suit.

The group in a statement issued by its International Coordinator, Rev. Tony Uzo Anthony; and Secretary, Apostle Tony Osuji, charged the Governors to place Igbo interests above their individual gains.

The statement made available to Vanguard read: "When Sunday Igboho was detained in the Benin Republic, all Yoruba monarchs, politicians, and bishops rallied around Mr. Sunday Igboho until his release was secured.

"No individual interest of the governors in the South East should exceed the interest of Ndigbo at large. It appears evidently that the South East governors, who recently assured us of their efforts to secure the release of Mazi Nnamdi Okwu Kanu, have suddenly gone quiet.

"The question is: How come nobody is clamouring for the release of our brother, the IPOB leader?

"We openly accuse South East Governors of playing chicken. What are they really afraid of?

"That the moment Mazi Nnamdi Okwu Kanu comes out they'll become irrelevant? How come they put their personal interest over the interest of the general public of the Igbo?

"Our governors should also note that the protection of Mazi Nnamdi Okwu Kanu is part of the Oath of Office that they took.

"We, therefore, appeal to our Governors to please stand for their own like the governors of the South West stood for Sunday Igboho.

## 27 suspected kidnappers, gunmen killed in Enugu

By Anayo Okoli

ENUGU—No fewer than 27 suspected kidnappers, including members of the *Auto Pilot*, also known as *Unknown Gunmen*, a breakaway faction of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) loyal to the Finland-based Simon Ekpa, were neutralised yesterday by security forces.

According to a police detective, they were gunned down in shoot-outs with security operatives at various locations across the state in the past two weeks.

This was as residents of the state appealed to the governor to invoke the provisions of the state's criminal code and demolish all the property used by kidnappers and other criminal elements as stash houses, saying it would serve as a deterrent to criminals.

Speaking at Ugwuogo Nike-Opi Road, yesterday, a Police Superintendent, Onochie Ezech, who led a joint security operation to rescue some kidnap victims, said the operation led to the killing of a seven-man-gang of kidnappers at Ogebeke Nike where the kidnappers used a large poultry farm to hide their hostages.

He explained that yesterday's successful operation was part of the sustained operations in the state to flush out criminals operating from other neighbouring states.

He said: "We have been on the trail of these kidnappers for more than three months now. They had been operating within this axis where they kidnapped their victims and kept them at a large poultry farm at Ogebeke Nike until ransoms were paid.

"So, on a tip-off from members of the public who suspected the strange movements in the area and the accounts of some of the victims of these criminals, we swung into action.

"On sighting us, these men of the underworld opened fire on my men, and we quickly retaliated and overpowered them with our superior firepower."

Speaking further, Ezech disclosed that the combined security task force, set up by the Enugu State governor, Mr Peter Mbah, as a tactical squad against kidnappings and activities of unknown gunmen, had recorded milestones in policing the state and flushing out criminal elements.

### Residents urge govt to demolish property used as

### kidnap hideouts

Meanwhile, residents in the state have called on Governor Mbah to go beyond arresting and hunting down the kidnappers to invoke his power as the chief security officer of the state through the demolition of all the property harbouring the kidnappers.

According to them, the law empowers the state government to demolish buildings used for kidnap activities, including hotels and private facilities.

A senior lawyer, Ani Iheanacho, who spoke to newsmen in Enugu, said the state has an existing criminal law, which was amended in 2016 to accommodate a new section that empowers the governor to pull down structures used for kidnapping.

"We cannot continue like this. Yes, beyond going after the criminals, the

### Residents urge govt to demolish properties used as kidnap hideouts

governor must show both political and legal courage to go after property used as hostage holding cells and bring them down irrespective of who the owners are."

One of the rescued kidnap survivors, Dr Kate Pamela, said she was traumatised by the ugly experiences at the hands of the kidnappers.

She said: "Each time I pass through that poultry, I feel I have been denied justice by still allowing it to operate. They kidnapped us and kept us there for five days. They even killed two of the victims because their families could only afford N10 million each against the N50 million demanded.

"Notwithstanding that I was able to identify the bodies of three of the kidnappers when they were killed, I still feel that the area should be

cleared. Government must ensure justice by turning that place into a landfill."

### Govt to pull down affected buildings

Recall that Enugu State government said a list of buildings has already been compiled whether they be private residences or business premises used for kidnapping for ransom and they will be pulled down.

Secretary to the State Government, Chidiebere Onyia, disclosed the government's threat in a statement on Tuesday.

Onyia stated that the step was a continuation of the determined efforts by Governor Peter Mbah's administration to curb crimes.

## APGA alleges plot to rig Anambra LG polls

By Luminous Jannamike

ABUJA—The All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) has raised concerns about an alleged plot by the Anambra State House of Assembly to rig the upcoming local government polls in the state.

APGA National Chairman, Edozie Njoku, made this allegation at a press conference, yesterday, in

Abuja.

He accused the state Assembly of tinkering with the law establishing the Anambra State Independent Electoral Commission (ANSIEC) to prevent APGA from fielding candidates in the polls.

The polls, scheduled for September 28, will elect officials for the 21 local government areas in the state.

"It is uncanny for the Anambra State House of Assembly to have embarked on the amendment of the law establishing ANSIEC for the sole purpose of denying APGA the

right to field legitimate candidates in the forthcoming LGA elections in Anambra State," he said.

Njoku apologised to APGA members in Ebonyi State and other states where the party's participation in local government elections was affected by the protracted leadership battle.

He assured party members in states where they have yet to be recognised by state electoral commissions that APGA would explore all avenues to ensure their rights are not trampled upon.

## Yoruba community in Enugu gets first Oba

THE Yoruba community in Enugu State has unanimously selected Abdulazeez Adebayo as its new traditional ruler.

Adebayo, who hails from Osun, became the first ever Oba of the community since the history of the Yoruba living in Enugu.

Speaking during the community's meeting on Tuesday in Enugu, the new traditional ruler said that states of Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Ondo, Ekiti, Lagos, Kogi, and Kwara, made up the Yoruba community in Enugu.

Adebayo revealed that the Yoruba ethnic nationality in the state comprised Ibadan Progressive Union, Ede Descendants, as well as Olateji, Ekiti, Ondo, and Ilorin Descendant Unions.

"Today, the Ibadan Progressive Union decided to associate and join the Progressive Yoruba Community in Enugu State since what we have

been yearning for many years: to have an Oba has come true."

On how he was chosen, Adebayo said the process entailed looking for somebody with a good record, good behaviour, and who could take care of his people.

According to him, the person must also be trustworthy and ensure quality representation of Yoruba people in the state.

Explaining how the clamour for the Yoruba in Enugu to have an Oba started, he said some people indicated an interest in contesting for the position in 2018.

Adebayo added that after the screening, a report about the aspirants was submitted to the Yoruba community.

"We lost about three persons in the process of waiting to choose who will be our Oba.

"This is what the Yoruba elders

**MEETING:** From left, Commander, 4 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Brig Gen Ebenezer Oduyebo; Edo State Deputy Governor, Omobayo Godwins; Governor Godwin Obaseki of Edo State; Edo State Commissioner of Police, Nemi Edwin-Iwo, and Controller of Corrections, Edo State Command of the Correctional Service, Philomena Emehinola, after State Security Council meeting, at the Government House, Benin City, yesterday.



## ECOBA calls for integrity, character among current students

**E**DO College Old Boys Association, ECOBA, under the auspices of ECOBA Lagos Education Foundation, ELEF, has urged the school's current students to uphold the integrity and character that the school instills in them.

Global President of ECOBA, Chief Lucky Igbiniedion, who spoke at the school's annual graduation and prize giving day, organised by ELEF, urged the students to build an enduring relationship with their mates.

Igbiniedion, represented by Managing Director of ITV, Elvis Obaseki, praised the students' hard work and encouraged them to uphold the integrity and character that the school instills, highlighting the enduring connections fostered by the school.

He said: "The bonds and friendships formed here are invaluable, some of us are beneficiaries today because of the fact that we went to Edo College."

Immediate past world-wide President of ECOBA, Dr. Reuben Osahon, in his keynote address, underscored the transformative power of education and the profound impact Edo College has on its students.

He urged the graduates to be exemplary representatives of the school, carrying forward its legacy of excellence.

Chairman of the occasion, Sir Zicus Awen, also commended the school for its unwavering commitment to academic excellence, lauding the students for their dedication and hard work, which have become synonymous with the institution.

## Community cries to Tantita, Delta govt over surveillance slots

**W**ARRI—THE People of Uwakeno community, Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State have accused the Coordinator in charge of 15 slots assigned to the area by Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited of allegedly giving the slots to non indigenes.

Head of the community, Pa David Akiutsemi, Chief Priest, Mr. Julius Erimona, and Mr. Etsemi Ajeubitse, who spoke during a peaceful protest by the community pleaded with the management of the security firm and the state government to step in to redress the alleged injustice to the area.

According to them, "The community is struggling to come out from the loss suffered during the 2023, crises we went through. This led the management of Tantita Security Limited to award the community 15 slots of workers early this year. But sadly, we found out that the coordinator in charge of the community dropped indigenes and replaced them with non indigenes."

"This is why we are protesting peacefully and calling on the management of Tantita Security to remove the said coordinator as he is not an indigene of Uwakeno community. Even if the coordinator had any reason to remove our indigenes, it is proper to still have replaced them with indigenes from our Uwakeno community instead of giving our slots graciously given to us by Tantita to non indigenes."

## We'll still support LGs In Bayelsa —Diri

By Samuel Oyadongha

**Y**ENAGOA—Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State, has said his administration would continue to give financial support to local governments in the state regardless of the judgment of the Supreme Court that granted autonomy to the councils.

Diri stated this while swearing in chairmen of two Rural Development Authorities, RDAs, during the 134th State Executive Council meeting in Government House, Yenagoa.

He explained that some of the councils in the state run into deficit after paying workers and teachers and that the government would continue to augment their funds in order for them not to suffer.

He further stated that contrary to the impression that states were tampering with local government funds paid through the Joint Accounts Allocation Committee, JAAC, the case of Bayelsa was different as the government instead augmented their funds.

He said: "My administration will continue to give full support to the local government system, regardless of the Supreme Court judgment on local government autonomy."

"Unlike the impression being peddled that state governments control what goes to the local government accounts after FAAC allocation, the Bayelsa State government augments their funds, as some councils run in deficit."

"You are carrying the banner of this prosperity government to your rural development authorities. I charge you to discharge your duties dutifully and humbly to the people at the grassroots."

The governor noted that creation of the RDAs was part of the government's initiative of taking development to the nook and cranny of the state.

He charged the newly sworn in chairmen to discharge their duties dutifully and humbly to the people at the grassroots.

## Rivers APC pulls out of Oct 5 LG polls

By Daniel Abia

● May use court to stop the exercise

**P**ORT HARCOURT—The Caretaker Committee Chairman of All Progressives Congress, APC, in Rivers State, led by Chief Tony Okocha, has pulled his faction out of the local government elections in the state scheduled for October 5, 2024.

Speaking on behalf of the APC members loyal to his committee at an enlarged stakeholders meeting in Port Harcourt, yesterday, Okocha said the decision to boycott the election was because the process of conducting the election was not in tandem with any known law.

Okocha said the party has already gone to court to stop all the processes of conducting the election because it does not follow all the due processes of law.

He said: "The topical issue we have

to discuss is the issue of APC contesting council elections on October 5. That is one thing you will like to hear. We are in court and I will not speak on any matter that is in court. The much I can say to you is that the cause of action is to restrain the agencies that will conduct that election that they announced behind us."

"We are not part of the decisions to conduct an election on October 5. We have gone on air on the January 19, if I remember to tell the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, Chairman and the commission to convey the process of having that council elections at that time."

"It was still within the ambit of the laws of the state because the law says three months to the expiration

of the life of a chairman or tenure of the council that the national body should organise election."

"That the process should commence, timetable released and that the 21 days inside that three months election should hold. That law now, as we speak, will not work. It will not work, you cannot go and convey council elections in Rivers State without a party like APC. I know too that Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, is not even in the race, so what we see is just a drama."

"The reason we went to court is not because we don't have the number or that we don't have the strength, I can assure you and you know for yourself that we have men and women that can contest any election and win."

"What we are saying is that the

processes should be strengthened to be transparent, so that we cannot just go and work on toms and get ourselves hurt. I was only doing a whistleblowing because that election will not represent the interest and the opinions of those who will vote. It is already stereotyped. The handout had already be written. We have build party formations, we have had elections in this state. They are just coming in and they need to learn from us how we succeeded."

"So, if you have to go by good approach, you will not succeed. The day that they said they have stakeholders meeting, I was not invited. The APC Rivers State was not invited for the stakeholders meeting where the decision for October 5, election was taken. So, we cannot participate in that election because there was a deliberate plan to make us worthless, so we went to court."

## Payment delay threatens Bayelsa Prime programme

By Samuel Oyadongha

**Y**ENAGOA—Education delivery in primary schools in four local government areas of Bayelsa State may be disrupted due to glitch in a

focal education programme, Bayelsa Prime.

Since schools resumed on August 12, for the 2024/25 session, academic activities are yet to fully commence in Sagbama, Ogbia, Yenagoa and Kolokuma-Opokuma Local

Government Areas of the state.

The Bayelsa Prime programme, which commenced in January 2023, in 216 primary schools in the four councils involved over 3,000 teachers and 41,000 pupils.

The programme provided books,

smart phones for head teachers, tablets for teachers, monthly data and other teaching aids.

It also provides daily teaching schedules, examination questions and result sheets as well as embarked on regular supervision across all the schools and checking absenteeism amongst teachers in addition to reducing the number of out of school children.

However, findings revealed that since the resumption of schools this academic year, teachers are yet to receive the daily teaching modules, causing disruptions in education delivery.

A concerned head teacher, who spoke anonymously said: "Teachers are now teaching without lesson notes. Many teachers stay away saying there is nothing to teach."

"They helped me because of the teaching aspect. They actually encourage teachers. Then you would see teachers come to school on time because the technology would record the exact time they came into school."

Contacted on the development, Executive Secretary, Bayelsa State Universal Basic Education Board, Victor Okubonanabo, said the matter was being addressed.

## I want to do what I'll be remembered for

—Oborevwori

By Ochuko Akuopha

**A**SABA—GOVERNOR Sheriff Oborevwori of Delta State, yesterday, said he was out to serve the people and do what he would be remembered for, noting: "I am not here to please man but God."

Oborevwori, who stated this when he played host to President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, PFN, Bishop Wale Oke and his delegation at Government House, Asaba, sought prayers against insecurity and for progress, peace and stability of the state and the country.

The governor said: "We have done a lot but it is still not easy because there is hunger. Throughout the period of protest, Delta State was

peaceful because we were praying during the protest."

"I am here to serve the people. I want to do what I will be remembered for so that by the time I leave, they will say he has done this and that. I am not here to please man but God."

"Before you leave, pray to God for permanent peace in Delta State because that is the only way development can come."

Commending the PFN President and the church for praying and supporting his election, Oborevwori said: "As the PFN President, you stand in the position of a father to us in Nigeria and we know your capacity as a prayer warrior and I know that you are praying for this nation."

"As it is today, we need prayers so that we can succeed especially those of us in authority. Your prayers will

always guide and order our steps to do what is right at all times."

"Your coming today is a blessing to the body of Christ in Delta State. You prayed for me when I was aspiring and the PFN in Delta State also stood by me. It was a challenging time but the will of God like I asked for, prevailed."

Earlier, the PFN National President, Bishop Oke, applauded the developmental strides of the governor in the state.

He said they were in Government House to honour Oborevwori in line with the Biblical injunctions, adding that they were in the state for the dedication of the state PFN secretariat, where prayers would be offered for sustained peace and development in the state.

## Edo recording drastic reduction in incidence of cultism, homicide —Obaseki

**B**ENIN CITY—Governor Godwin Obaseki of Edo State has said the state has continued to record a drastic reduction in the incidence of cultism and homicide since the setup of the special task force against cultism.

The special task force headed by the Director of Department of State

Service (DSS) was set up in May 2024 to review and address every cult-related incident in the State.

Obaseki, yesterday, said the incidence dropped from 129 in May when the team was set up to 79 in June and 50 in July.

The governor spoke while briefing journalists after the monthly security

council meeting held at the EXCO Chamber, in Government House, Benin City, the Edo State capital.

Obaseki, who also welcomed the new Commissioner of Police in the state, Nemi Edwin-Iwo, who is attending the Security Council meeting for the first time, said the government will sustain the collaboration with the police and

other security agencies to ensure peace and security in the state.

On his part, the Police Commissioner called for the collaboration of all stakeholders to sustain peace and security in the State.

He noted: "We have to key into the success being recorded in the state by making sure that we

collectively ensure that there is peace."

"I call on the good people of Edo State and my sister security agencies, including the military, to give the necessary support to ensure that there is peace in the state."

"We have discussed at length on how to sustain peace and security in the State and this will be carried out successfully without any problems."

# Day 3 of the 3rd year Coronation anniversary of His Majesty, Ogiame Atuwatse III, Olu of Warri at the Palace, yesterday



His Majesty, Ogiame Atuwatse III, Olu of Warri and his Queen Consort, Olori Atuwatse III, during the Day 3 of the 3rd year Coronation anniversary of the Warri monarch.



Palace chiefs paying homage.



Orugbo community women, Warri South Local Government Area paying homage.



Ugbolokposo community group of Uvwie Local Government Area of Delta State paying homage.



Arewa Consultative Council members led by its National President, Zaid Ayuba Alhaji (right) paying homage.

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## UNICEF raises alarm over rising malnutrition crisis in N'East

By Chioma Obinna

UNITED Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, has raised the alarm over the worsening malnutrition crisis in northeast Nigeria, warning that millions of children are at risk of severe and acute

malnutrition.

The UNICEF's Chief of Field Office, Maiduguri, Dr. Tushar Rane, who spoke at a media dialogue, on "Child Malnutrition Media Dialogue and Capacity Building for Journalists" to commemorate the World

Humanitarian Day in Maiduguri, Borno State revealed that approximately 2.8 million children under five and pregnant women in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states are in urgent need of nutrition services.

According to the 2023 lean season Nutrition and Food Security Surveillance (NFSS), the prevalence of global acute malnutrition, GAM, among children under five in Borno is 10.2 percent, 8.0 percent in Yobe, and 4.0 percent in Adamawa.

Rane said UNICEF, in partnership with government agencies and NGOs, has been working tirelessly to address the crisis.

He said they have provided treatment to over 460,000 children with acute malnutrition in 2023 and implemented innovative programmes like the family screening approach and the Child Nutrition Fund.

He said: "Besides supporting CNMs and the provision of nutrition supplies to 765 OTPs and 50 SCs across northeast Nigeria, UNICEF has been supporting the government to pilot a few holistic

programmes to address child malnutrition.

"Across the BAY states, UNICEF and the Borno State Primary Health Care Board are adopting a proactive

screening approach to identify children with SAM.

"Across northeast Nigeria, the family approach to malnutrition screening has led to the empowerment of

## MINILS DG tips stakeholders on economic crisis panacea

By Victor Ahiuma Young

ILORIN: The Director General of Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies, MINILS, Issa Aremu, has called for sustainable improved mass knowledge on the implementation and management of reforms as a panacea for overcoming the current economic crisis.

He spoke at the 32nd annual Industrial Relations organized by the National Union of Chemical Footwear, Rubber, Leather and Non-Metallic Products Employees, NUCFRLANMPE, in Ilorin, Kwara State.

Speaking on the theme: Capacity Building for Effective Industrial Relations in An Era of Economic Crisis" Aremu said with spiral inflation, Naira value fall, rising unemployment

and recent mass protests, Nigeria currently faces economic crisis.

He however observed that a sustained improvement of knowledge by all stakeholders on the implementation and management of the reforms was urgent to maximize the benefits of reforms.

## EZ37 Solutions plans confab on coaching for sustainable impact

EZ37 Solutions Limited, a leading human resource and management consulting firm that provides coaching, learning and development, assessments, HR advisory, public sector solutions, and business and management consulting services, has announced that it will host the virtual International Coaching Expo (ICE) in Nigeria on 10 and 11 October 2024.

Themed "Empowering Change Agents: Coaching for Sustainable Impact," the ICE will

more than 100,000 caregivers to screen and identify children with acute malnutrition.

"Mothers play a crucial role and contribute to promoting the health of their children to ensure proper growth and development.

According to him, "While reforms initiated by President Bola Tinubu are inevitable to free the much needed resources for economic recovery and poverty eradication, sustainable reforms must be gradual and participatory for citizens' ownership and support."

bring together experts and practitioners in the coaching industry to explore emerging trends, best practices, and innovative strategies for maximising coaching effectiveness and creating sustainable outcomes.

Alongside the conference, there will be a virtual exhibition which displays the latest solutions and tools available on the market. The two-day virtual coaching conference will gather organisation leaders, senior management executives, professional coaches, and HR and L&D practitioners from various industry sectors, creating a unique opportunity to showcase products and services to a targeted audience.

Commenting on ICE 2024, Adaora Ayoade, CEO of EZ37 Solutions Ltd and the founder of the virtual International Coaching Expo (ICE) said: "On 10 and 11 October 2024, ICE will feature global thought leaders sharing cutting-edge insights that are shaping the future of coaching and leadership.

## Passengers slam Air Peace over flight disruption

By Dickson Omobola

LESS than four days after stories emerged that indigenous carrier, Air Peace, left passengers to spend the night in the departure hall of terminal 1 of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos due to delays, a passenger, yesterday, decried the airline's recent penchant for flight disruption.

The passenger, who spoke to Vanguard, lamented how his flight from Lagos to Asaba, via Abuja, was aborted in the federal capital city, and rescheduled the following day for Asaba in Delta State at 2pm without any explanation.

The passenger, who didn't want his name in print, expressed worries that he might be unable to make the official engagement billed for noon.

His complaints came exactly three days after another passenger who booked a flight from Lagos to Maiduguri complained of cancellation.

The traveller, on Monday, told Vanguard that after days of booking the ticket, she received an email at night

stating that her flight had been cancelled.

According to her, the airline didn't give any reason for cancelling the flight.

She said: "Airpeace just cancelled my flight from Lagos to Maiduguri. My colleague and I invested all our money to buy the ticket. We must travel today because what we are going for is scheduled for 9:30 am tomorrow (Tuesday)."

Reacting to these incidents, Director of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, Mr Michael Achimugu, said: "Flight disruptions are not peculiar to a single airline. What airline in Nigeria is not experiencing disruptions?"

## Alleged drug contract scam: Kano anti-graft agency invites Kwankwaso's nephew

By Bashir Bello

KANO-Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-Corruption Commission, PCACC, has arrested the Permanent Secretary of Kano State Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ibrahim Kabara alongside the State Chairman of

the Association of Local Government of Nigeria, ALGON, Abdullahi Ibrahim and four others in connection with allegation of corruption relating to the procurement of drugs and medical equipment for the 44 Local Governments in the State.

The ALGON Chairman is also the interim Council Chairman of Tarauni Local Government

Area, LGA.

The Chairman of PCACC, Muhyi Rimingado has confirmed invitation of Musa Garba, the Managing Director of Novomed Pharmaceuticals and a nephew of former Kano State Governor, Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso for questioning.

He added that Garba and the company were expected to appear before the commission today, Thursday.



## How new CJN can restore public confidence in judiciary —Adegoke, SAN

By Ise-Oluwa Ige

**In this interview with Vanguard's Law and Human Rights, a rights activist and member of the inner bar, Mr. Adekunle Adegoke, SAN, spoke on topical issues in the country, including a recent court order obtained by a Chinese firm in Paris to confiscate three of Nigeria's presidential jets, the twin policy of Tinubu administration on fuel subsidy and forex exchange, overcrowded prisons nationwide with over 57,000 awaiting-trial-inmates and how the newly appointed Chief Justice of Nigeria, CJN, can restore public confidence in the judiciary.**

**Excerpt:**

Chinese firm, Zhongshan Fucheng Industrial Investment Company Limited, recently obtained an order in Paris to confiscate three of Nigeria's presidential jets over termination of contractual agreement between it and Ogun State. What is your take on this?

In the law of contract, there is what is called 'the sanctity of contract' and once an agreement is entered into, it must be carried out by the parties. In the Latin term, we say *pacta sunt servanda*. The agreement was between Ogun State Government and the Chinese entity based on a bilateral investment treaty between Nigeria and China. Nigeria's argument was said to be based on the theory of sovereign immunity by which a foreign government cannot be made subject to the jurisdiction of another foreign court or arbitral panel. This argument was rejected while the judgment and a subsequent appeal went against Nigeria.

I believe that we need to be careful about agreements we enter into with foreign investors. It is important that sub-national entities in Nigeria need to review all the foreign investment agreements they have entered into so that Nigeria is not made a laughing stock in the comity of nations. When agreements are breached, tendency is that Nigeria will be made liable as most jurisdictions all over the world have adopted the doctrine of restrictive immunity by which foreign



\*Mr. Adekunle Adegoke, SAN

sovereigns entering into commercial transactions are now liable under such contracts and the defence of absolute sovereign immunity does not avail anymore when it comes to commercial transactions.

**The twin policy of Tinubu administration on fuel subsidy and forex exchange remain controversial. What is your advice for the government and the people?**

The government needs to review its policies urgently. These two policies of subsidy removal and floating of the naira have impacted negatively on the common man and the tendency is for the people to be complaining. While the government may argue that we have made a lot of financial gains since the introduction of the two policies, it is high time the government reinvested the moneys made to create jobs and achieve food security. It is important that the value of naira must be improved otherwise, the nation will continue to bleed. There is nowhere the IMF policies have been adopted without the people suffering. Genuine and respected experts in economics like Professor Jeffrey Sachs who have served as consultants to the World Bank in the past have consistently warned that these policies cannot benefit any third world nation as they are designed to inflict pain on the people. They are designed to make the government unpopular so that the third world nations can be subjugated and controlled. No matter how well-intentioned the government might be when it introduced the policies, the effect are not making the common man to laugh. I implore the government to review these policies urgently.

**Data from the Nigerian Correctional Centre indicates that no fewer than 57,288 persons out of 84,283 inmates across the 244 correctional centres in the country are still awaiting**

**trial. Does this worry you? And what is the way out?**

Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun is one of the finest legal minds that Nigeria has ever produced. His Lordship has a great pedigree, having risen through the ranks from being a Magistrate to becoming a High Court Judge in Lagos State, to the Court of Appeal and finally, to the Supreme Court.

Justice Kekere-Ekun is one of those Justices you can say is not corrupt and has worn her gown with impeccable gait. In terms of capacity, His Lordship is an embodiment of brilliance and discipline. Judgments of His Lordship have stood the test of correctness and wit, that in many cases, they are difficult to fault. Such a judicial officer deserves to head the highest institution like the Supreme Court of Nigeria and the judicial sector in its entirety. I believe His Lordship's tenure is going to be a blessing to both the judiciary and the entire nation. In terms of expectation, there is a lot of work to be done. The Nigerian judiciary has a low rating before an average man on the street as a result of the bad character of a few judges who have tarnished the image of the judiciary. The new CJN must be firm in discipline as His Lordship heads the National Judicial Council whose job is to discipline erring judges. His Lordship must ensure that the Council applies strict disciplinary sanctions including prosecution of erring judges where their transgressions amount to criminal acts. This is aside from removal from office. When it comes to appointment of judges, His Lordship needs to ensure that merit and integrity become the watchword at all times. A lot of criticisms have been levied against some judicial appointments in the past and we need to critically look at this. In many cases, persons of low integrity have been appointed onto the bench or elevated to higher courts. These individuals were not sufficiently filtered by subjecting their appointments to review by the general members of the public as it is done when lawyers are being elevated to the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria. It is these unfit elements that have consistently tarnished the image of the judiciary as they carry on their business without respect for the law or the ethics of the profession. Members of the public who have related with these individuals must be afforded the opportunity to comment on their suitability before they are appointed as judges. A corrupt individual who is not given the licence to operate as a judge will definitely abuse the office to gain personal profit. This is a violation of judicial ethics. In addition, appointment and elevation of judges must be on merit. Judicial office is not

**The government needs to review its policies urgently; these two policies of subsidy removal and floating of the naira, have impacted negatively on the common man and the tendency is for the people to be complaining**

prosecution is unduly stalling trials must be discouraged. Adjournment of criminal cases of petty substance where there is lack of diligent prosecution must stop. Judges and Magistrates are highly instrumental to decongesting our correctional centres and the earlier they step up the game, the better.

**The NJC has recommended Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun for appointment as CJN.**

where an incompetent person or a mediocre is appointed to as a compensation for past favours or benefit of parental relationships. While we have many judges who are competent, brilliant and honest, we have many who have been conferred the status of judgeship whose competence is highly questionable.

The new CJN will need to up the ante in this regard so that members of the public can vest their trust in the judiciary as the last hope of the common man.

It is expected that with the increase in judicial officers' remuneration by 300 per cent, our judges will be better economically and the tendency to be tempted by filthy lucre will reduce. This is a legitimate expectation in any reasonable society and our judges must live up to this. The new CJN has a lot to do to ensure that bad eggs within the judiciary are removed as they are the ones destroying the good works of the majority.

In addition to the above is the need to ensure that judgments of courts are enforced. It has become the trade-in-stock of many governmental institutions to refuse to obey court order.

Continues online on [www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com)

### BRIPAN holds international conference Sept 26

The Business Recovery and Insolvency Practitioners Association of Nigeria, BRIPAN, is set to hold its annual international conference from September 26 to 27 in Lagos. The theme is: *Restructuring and Insolvency in Times of Economic Challenges*.

BRIPAN's annual conference brings together seasoned practitioners, regulators, finance and accounting experts, legal practitioners, policymakers and judicial officers to discuss how the regime of insolvency and restructuring can be a tool for business engineering in challenging economic times.

Given the current economic climate, this year's conference will focus on a host of topics within the brackets of industry specific perspectives and global trends, geared towards enabling businesses to stay ahead.

Planning Committee Chairman, Mr. Albert Folorunsho, said in a statement: "People are sometimes uneasy when they hear the words 'restructuring and insolvency,' but these are very viable tools in enabling businesses stay profitable and ahead, especially in challenging economic times."

"The conference will feature an array of seasoned speakers with their incredible insights and experience."



\*Mr. Albert Folorunsho

LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS

EDITORIAL

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OPENING: From left: Sheila Ezeuko, Company Secretary, Rex Insurance Ltd; Sunny Uwagboi, Executive Director; Ebelechukwu Nwachukwu, Managing Director/CEO; Abayomi Kayode, Chief Financial Officer, and Victoria Afolayan, Business Director, Lagos Mainland, during the opening of Rex Insurance Lagos Mainland branch office, in Jibowu, Yaba, Lagos.

## FG increases int'l passport fees

By Omeiza Ajayi

ABUJA—THE Federal Government, yesterday, announced a hike in the cost of obtaining Nigeria's international passport. Spokesman of the Nigeria Immigration Service NIS, DCI Kenneth Udo, in a statement, said the move is "part of efforts to maintain the quality and integrity of the Nigerian Standard Passport."

According to him, the new charges take effect from 1st September, 2024.

The statement reads: "Based on the review, 32-page Passport booklet with 5 year validity, previously charged at N35,000, will now be N50,000 only; while 64-page Passport booklet, with 10 year validity, N70,000, will be N100,000 only.

"However, the fees remain unchanged in Diaspora. While the Nigeria Immigration Service regrets any inconvenience this increase might cause prospective applicants; it assures Nigerians of unwavering commitment to transparency and quality service delivery at all times."

## Olu of Warri'll live long — Ologbotsere Descendants' Working c'ttee

WARRI—THE chairman and members of the Ologbotsere Descendants' Working Committee has said the Olu of Warri Kingdom, Ogiame Atuwatse III, will live long.

A statement by the group's Secretary, Yomere Omagbemi, said this as the monarch embarks on his third coronation anniversary celebration.

The statement read: "The chairman and members of the Ologbotsere Descendants' working committee want to felicitate with our father, Ogiame Atuwatse III

"We pray for a long life, more wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in divine health and prosperity in Jesus' name.

The torchbearer of Iwere lands, you will reign and rule. Happy Days are here again in Warri Kingdom."

## Benin-based businessman jailed for contempt

By Ozioruva Aliu

BENIN CITY—A Benin City-based businessman, Mr Charles Amadasun has been committed to the Correctional Centre for contempt of court in a case involving him and Pastor Faustin Uwaibi.

He was accused of using his company in 2003 to lease a commercial property on Ihama Road, Benin City for 15 years and he allegedly refused to pay the annual lease sum since 2004 when the initial first year's rent expired.

He allegedly started letting the premises to other tenants giving them the impression that it was his personal property and making more than three times more than his rental obligations to the actual owner.

The owner was said to have got judgment against him to the tune of almost N100 Million and commenced contempt proceedings against him at the Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City and he allegedly called the bluff of the court.

In the Suit B/184/2009, Uwaibi sued for contempt and in his ruling, Justice M. N. Asemota held that "I have considered the application for bench warrant to be issued against Mr Charles Amadasun, the Judgment Debtor sought to be committed to prison for contempt who has been personally served the required Forms 48 and 49 as well as the motion for committed and has refused to attend court.

"I have also read the affidavit in support in support of the application brought experte. I find merit in the application and it is granted as prayer.

"A bench warrant is hereby issued for the arrest of Mr Charles Amadasun to compel him to physically attend the court in respect of contempt proceeding against him.

"In this regard, he shall be arrested and committed to prison until he is brought to this court.

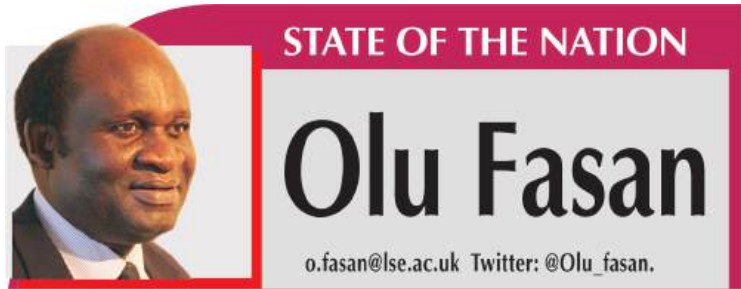
"This case is adjourned to Tuesday the September 17, 2024 for hearing of the contempt proceedings."

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Aliko Dangote, the richest man in Africa, is a product of the Nigerian state. By deliberate policy choices, the state made Dangote Nigeria's foremost oligarch with presidents on speed dial. However, recent rifts between Dangote's oil refinery and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, NNPC, as well as the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, NMDPRA, not to mention the raid on his business headquarters by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, suggest that all is not well with the long-running relationship between Dangote and the state. Yet, having turned Dangote into a commercial Leviathan, the state must now wisely recalibrate and manage the relationship.

To be clear, Dangote was not born poor. He was born into wealth and became a millionaire very early in life. However, his transition from a millionaire to Africa's richest man would not have happened without a leg-up from the state, without special favours and preferential treatment from the Nigerian state. To this credit, Dangote himself admits this. Before we come to the refinery saga, let's tell the fascinating story, as Dangote himself narrated it.

In 2018, Dangote granted an interview with the *Financial Times* in which he laid bare how he hit the jackpot and got his break. Dangote had part-funded General Olusegun Obasanjo's campaign for the

presidency in 1999. And when Obasanjo became president, he decided to return the favour. One day, Obasanjo called Dangote and said: "Can we meet today?" Dangote went to meet Obasanjo who asked him how Nigeria could become self-sufficient in cement production. Well, Dangote told him that only if imports of cement were banned would it be worthwhile to produce it

**Government should privatise the state-owned refineries, which would foster competition in the domestic market for refined petroleum; it's irrational to tie the supply of refined petroleum products to one privately-owned refinery**

in Nigeria. Pronto, with a presidential diktat and the simple squiggle of his pen, Obasanjo banned the importation of cement and handed a monopoly license to one man. As the FT put it, Dangote "has never looked back", and cement became the crown jewel of his empire. Of course, it was an utterly misguided

## Nigeria made Dangote a colossus, it must now handle him wisely

and shortsighted decision, a point later acknowledged by the Jonathan administration in the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan, NIRP, published in 2014. The NIRP said that "the Nigerian cement industry is heavily concentrated," adding that "strong regulation is needed to ensure the industry adequately promotes competition." The NIRP went on to say that "Nigerian cement prices are among the highest globally" despite the products being of "low finished standards". It was a damning indictment of Obasanjo's politically motivated decision. Here's a country with an estimated housing shortage of 20m units, the main cause being the high costs of building materials, particularly cement.

Throughout history, cement has improved people's health and well-being. In many countries, paving dirt floors with cement and replacing dirt tracks with paved roads reduced parasitic infections and boosted living standards. What about shelter, one of humanity's primary needs? Few things matter more than having a decent roof over one's head. The new Labour government in the UK promised to build 1.5 million homes, and Kamala Harris, the US Democratic presidential candidate, promised to build three million homes, if elected. That's because housing can grow an economy and improve people's lives. But at its heart is cement!

In his fascinating new book titled, *Material World: A Substantial Story of our Past and Future*, the economist Ed Conway said: "The reason cement has changed the world is not merely because it has magical qualities but because it is cheap, and it is everywhere." Sadly, that's not so in Nigeria. There is hardly anyone

on a middle-income in Nigeria today who can build a house. Nigeria is not a property-owning democracy; it is not a property-owning economy. Despite the promise in the NIRP to regulate and make the cement industry competitive, it is still dominated by a cartel, by politically connected oligopolists, shielded by import bans.

Which brings us to the Dangote Refinery. The \$20bn refinery was hailed as a "game changer", a private initiative that will meet Nigeria's refined petroleum needs, producing 650,000 barrels of refined fuel a day. But the refinery's entire business model is built around special favours by the state. For instance, it was largely funded with concessionary loans from the CBN, while NNPC made a downpayment of \$2.7bn for a 20 per cent stake in the refinery, although it later whittled it down to 7.2 per cent. More importantly, the refinery depends on NNPC selling it crude on preferential terms and won't survive unless the government stops importing refined products, thereby giving it a monopoly in the market. Elsewhere, citizens would ask why a government that cannot revive four moribund state-owned refineries, despite spending billions of dollars on so-called turnaround maintenance, and that refuses to privatise the refineries, would put its political and financial weights behind one privately-owned refinery. Rationally, the government should privatise the state-owned refineries, which would foster competition in the domestic market for refined petroleum. It's irrational to tie the supply of refined petroleum products in Nigeria to one privately-owned refinery. It's utterly absurd.

Think about it: Farouk Ahmed, chief executive of NMDPRA, said that Dangote's refined products are "inferior" to imported ones. He also said that Dangote wanted the government to stop importing refined products to give his refinery a monopolistic advantage. These claims by the oil sector's statutory regulator should be investigated. Instead, there's a cacophony of criticisms by those who want to politicise the issue, while Tinubu's administration undermines the NNPC and the NMDPRA by ordering them to bend over backwards for the Dangote Refinery and give it a lifeline.

Let me be clear, this is not an anti-Dangote intervention. Far from it. Rather, it's a piece in support of a free and competitive market, where there are many buyers and sellers and no barriers to entry or exit. But Dangote's instincts are protectionist. In the FT interview, he said the government should introduce "draconian policy" to ban food imports "just like they did with cement". But that's bad for the Nigerian economy, and bad for the Nigerian consumer.

Adam Smith said in *The Wealth of Nations*: "Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production; and the interest of the producer ought to be attended to only so far as it may be necessary for promoting that of the consumer." Put simply, if cement is of low quality and expensive, if refined petroleum is of low quality and expensive, the state must not elevate the interests of producers above those of consumers and the wider economy. That's why Nigeria must banish all forms of protectionism, monopoly and oligopoly. They are enemies of society!

## Why Nigeria should withdraw from international sports competitions

BY BOB ETEMIKU

After the fiasco of Nigeria's participation in the 2024 Olympic games, most Nigerians have read a statement issued by the Minister of Sports Development, John Owan Enoh. In that statement, the Minister first tendered an apology for his team's inability to return to Nigeria with any medal and thereafter listed a number of complaints about sports administration in Nigeria. The synopsis of his complaints was that one year to the Olympics, Nigeria was not prepared to take part in the games, and this was basically because international sports bodies forbid government oversight functions in sports administration.

Many Nigerians who are deeply insulted by the whining and wringing of hands and buck-passing by the Minister have been calling for his outright sack. At some point, some have said that as one who had failed to deliver on an assignment given to him by over 200 million Nigerians, the honourable thing that the minister should do before tendering his apology would have been to resign that position.

We were of this position and this is why: First, if the minister had less than one year to prepare for a competition that other nations were spending four years to execute, and together with humongous resources, why didn't he say so before the games? Second, knowing that Nigeria was not physically, mentally and psychologically prepared to participate in the games, he raised a budget of N12 billion

with which he executed what has now turned out to be the greatest fiasco in sports administration in Nigeria. Why would someone who knows that his country is unprepared for a global competition raise a budget of N12 billion to go compete against other nations that have prepared for four years or more for that same competition? Why raise our hopes that we would replicate the Atlanta 1996 kind of results that Nigeria became famous for, knowing full well that we were nowhere near that kind of level? In the light of strong economic and social problems, hardship and pervasive hunger in the land for which Nigerians were on the streets for ten days, and some killed, why would anyone be spending a whopping sum of N12 billion on a global exercise for which we were not prepared? In a country where health care, roads and rural infrastructure are ever-present problems, why spend N12 billion on what we were not prepared for? When I think about how many hospitals N12 billion would have built in some local government areas in Nigeria, I marvel at how good we are at misplacing our priorities as a nation. There is pervasive hunger in Nigeria, and here we are spending N12 billion on unprepared athletes. When I think in terms of the fact that pervasive hunger and poverty drove Nigerians into streets for ten days, you may perhaps understand why Nigerians were

calling for the sack of the sports minister.

The question supporters of the minister have asked is this: Knowing the level of unpreparedness of Nigeria arising from the way the sports system is said to work, what could the minister have done differently to spare Nigerians already traumatized by hunger

**In the light of the above, let us quietly go back to our drawing board and rethink matters; for the Minister to be pointing fingers at the system AFTER the Olympics fiasco indicates a level of weakness unbecoming of someone with such excellent credentials**

protests this huge shame and embarrassment? Part of my response was a recollection that

this same scenario had taken place before. In 2009, during the presidency of Umaru Yar'Adua, Mr Rotimi Amaechi, then governor of Rivers State, headed the presidential task force on the Super Eagles. After a thorough investigation of the issues bedeviling the state of sports unpreparedness in Nigeria, the Amaechi committee found out that Nigeria was unprepared for the competition. Amaechi, therefore, recommended that government should place a hold on all of Nigeria's international football engagements. We will not be talking about the hullabaloo and balderdash that that suggestion elicited. We will not be talking about it because it was ordinarily an ego trip for Nigeria, that a football competition of a certain magnitude would be taking place on African soil, and Nigeria, the supposed giant of Africa, was not going to be part of it.

I thought that the Minister of Sports Development, an accomplished farmer and philanthropist, would be toeing that same path as Amaechi. But he didn't. Instead, he drew up a N12 billion budget to take care of a team that began to be ready to compete only one year before the Olympics. He whipped up strong sentiment that Nigeria was going to replicate the Atlanta 1996 scenario where the country stunned the world in spite of our characteristic

unpreparedness.

If you read the so-called apology from the Minister, you would find out that there are real, very real, issues with sports administration in Nigeria. One of them is that the buck does not stop at the Minister's table. Like a lame duck, he does not have the power to sack any member of the sports federations. The rules in global sports are such that not even the president of Nigeria can sack any member of the Sports Federation except in compliance with FIFA rules I have been told.

In the light of the above, I strongly recommend Nigeria adopt the position of the Rotimi Amaechi presidential committee of 2019. Let us quietly go back to our drawing board and rethink matters. For the Sports Minister to now be pointing fingers at the system AFTER the fiasco ordinarily indicates a level of weakness unbecoming of someone with such high and excellent credentials. I believe that instead of sacking a man who met a system for which he has no control, let Mr Tinubu withdraw Nigeria from ALL international competitions so as to put our house in order first before we ever venture out again to be made a laughingstock in the comity of nations.

\* Etemiku is editor in chief/publisher of WADONOR...cultural voice of Nigeria.





## Joe Ajaero: NLC presidency under Tinubu's watch

**F**IVE days after Comrade Joe Ajaero, former General Secretary of the Nigerian Union of Electricity Employees, NUEE, and Deputy National President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, made history as the first NLC President to be elected unopposed at the 13th National Delegates Conference in Abuja, on February 8, 2023, I sat down with him in Lagos for an exclusive interview.

Still basking in the euphoria of his victory, he was hopeful and bullish as he discussed the labour movement, what Nigerians should expect of his presidency and the impending 2023 elections. He was analytical and measured.

Declaring that the NLC under his watch will live up to expectations, Ajaero quipped: "I am assuring long-suffering Nigerian workers that I will be their voice. We will cry their cry. We will carry their burden. We will identify with them. If there is any way we have lost touch with the people, we are reconnecting with them. We expect that they will reciprocate. It is not always that we will be on the streets but if there is need for that, we will be on the streets and we are ready to pay the price, no matter how high, to make sure that Nigeria gets better."

On the impending elections, Ajaero sounded a note of warning: "NLC will work with whoever emerges President in a free and fair poll in the interest of Nigerian workers. But the NLC, under our watch, will not keep quiet in the face of any electoral malpractice. We will not keep quiet in the face of people winning elections and they are not declared winners. We will not keep quiet while rigging becomes the order of the day. The NLC will show more than a passing interest. We want to know how the elections are conducted, how things are done and we want to ensure that things are done well."

Despite the assurances, I knew that the tenor of Ajaero's presidency will be significantly impacted by the outcome of presidential election, convinced that any of the four frontline candidates – Bola Tinubu (APC), Atiku

Abubakar (PDP), Peter Obi (LP) and Musa Kwankwaso (NNPP) – who wins the election will naturally show more than a passing interest in the affairs of organised labour. But I was convinced that none of them, except Tinubu, will attempt an outright hostile takeover of the labour movement.

Under the watch of Obi, Atiku and even Kwakwanso, NLC will have its usual run-ins with the government which will typically flex muscles but ultimately sit down with the labour leadership for discussions but a Tinubu presidency will be a totally different ball game. Tinubu is one politician with fascist reflexes and takes no prisoners.

The issue of petrol subsidy has always been a volatile matter that galvanises organised labour into action. So, ordinarily, when Tinubu in his inaugural speech thundered that "subsidy is gone," and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, NNPC, subsequently jacked up the pump price of petrol, Nigerian workers would have poured out onto the streets.

Of course, the NLC leadership threatened strike. But the government swiftly swung into action, maximally deploying the devious instrument of ethnic baiting. Joe Ajaero, they lied, is an Obi and possibly Independent People of Biafra, IPOB, sympathiser who wants to call out Nigerian workers in his attempt to subvert the fledgling administration of Tinubu, a Yoruba. Suddenly, a proposed NLC action became an Igbo agenda. It worked. Even before the strike started, almost all the South-West state chapters pulled out. Ajaero, sensing a breakup of the NLC under his watch beat a tactical retreat. The proposed industrial action was called off.

Ajaero assured in our interview that he was ready to pay the price, no matter how high, to make sure that Nigeria gets better. I doubt if he ever imagined how high that price will be in a Tinubu Presidency.

He nearly lost his life when agents of the Imo State government led heavily armed police officers and thugs to abduct him from the

Owerri secretariat of the NLC on November 1, 2023. He was mercilessly beaten and blindfolded before they took him away to an unknown destination where he was subjected to indescribable torture. At about 3.30 pm when worried colleagues finally made contact with him, Ajaero had been severely brutalised and thoroughly humiliated. He was partially blinded and could hardly stand on his feet. The savagery was unconscionable. No other NLC president had been subjected to such demeaning ordeal, not even under military regimes. Till date, the police are yet to make

**Police know for sure that these are trumped up charges but they are pushing ahead, believing that they will get away, once again, with their continued repression of every alternate voice**

any arrests, not to talk of bringing the pernicious characters who carried out the assault to book.

Then, on Monday, August 19, the Nigeria Police Force bared its fangs accusing Ajaero of committing heinous crimes that include terrorism financing, treasonable felony, subversion and cybercrime. In a letter signed by Adamu Muazu, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ajaero was ordered to appear before the Intelligence Response Team for interrogation on Tuesday, August 20, at 10 am even as they threatened to activate a warrant of arrest if he fails to honour the invitation.

These are crimes that attract severe punishment on conviction. The least, cybercrime, attracts punishment ranging from three to seven years imprisonment or fine options ranging from N5 million to N10 million; subversion attracts a fine of N5 million or seven years imprisonment; while as terrorism financing is a crime, punishable on conviction, with imprisonment for a term of not less than 20 years. Treason is punishable by death and treasonable felonies are punishable by imprisonment for life.

I doubt if there is any Nigerian that genuinely believes Comrade Joe Ajaero committed these crimes. Police know for sure that these are trumped up charges but they are pushing ahead believing that they will get away, once again,

with their continued repression of every alternate voice. The idea is to put Ajaero away, if possible, for a considerable length of time because he is seen as the most potent obstacle to their anti-people policies. The Tinubu administration is busy dismantling all democratic guardrails, a prelude to erecting the pillars of a fascist Nigerian state. It is a patriotic duty to resist him. Sitting in our comfort zones and saying that it is not possible will be a grievous mistake.

Those who accuse Joe Ajaero of not pushing hard enough against the anti-people policies of the administration don't appreciate what it means to be an NLC President in a Tinubu presidency. It is even worse that Ajaero is Igbo in a country where the presidency has unashamedly elevated the political and cultural polemics of ethnic baiting, racial dog whistles and threats to an art.

Ajaero has deployed wisdom and tact in navigating this very treacherous, uncharted waters. It has been a rather delicate balancing act to ensure that NLC is not splintered by the malevolent forces that are poised to do just that. He should not be vilified.

I have heard some Nigerians make snide remarks, insisting that it serves him right. Such people don't get it. And to them, the 1946 post-war confessional prose by the German Lutheran pastor, Martin Niemöller, on the silence of German intellectuals and clergy following the Nazis' rise to power and subsequent incremental purging of their chosen targets, group after group, should be instructive.

*First they came for the Communists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Communist*

*Then they came for the Socialists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Socialist*

*Then they came for the trade unionists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a trade unionist*

*Then they came for the Jews  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Jew*

*Then they came for me  
And there was no one left  
To speak out for me*

Niemöller, an anti-Communist who supported Hitler's rise to power, an action tantamount to riding on the back of a tiger, got eaten, literally, when he decided to dismount. That is what happens when people prop despots either by their acquiescence or inaction. This is not about Joe Ajaero. It is about the fate of Nigeria's democracy. Nigerians must resist this burgeoning fascism before it is too late. It is a patriotic duty.



## Mastering virtual presentations: Adapting to the digital age

**A**S technology advances, so has the rise for virtual presentations. Professionals and organisations communicate and collaborate on remote work and virtual meetings to allow people from various locations to communicate effortlessly. This transformation has made virtual presentations an essential for sharing ideas and information to diverse audiences around the globe. Despite the advantages of virtual presentations, it is accompanied by unique challenges such as technical issues, connectivity problems, abrupt disruptions, and software glitches which can greatly affect its impact. Lack of face-to-face interactions also makes it impossible to completely gauge the reaction of audiences. On the other hand, it has also offered numerous opportunities for innovation and creativity. It involves the use of interactive features and feedback needed to make presentations dynamic. This article is aimed at helping you manage the challenges associated with virtual presentations, and embraces the opportunity to create memorable presentations through a series of strategies.

Choosing the right platform and tools is a vital aspect of technical setup needed for successful virtual presentations. With a variety of options available, selecting the best fit for your needs can greatly affect your presentation effectiveness. Consider factors such as interface, screen-sharing features, break-out rooms, live polling, integrating with other tools, and other interactive capacities in making

your choice. Popular platforms like Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and Google Meet offer distinct advantages, so evaluating their functionality and strengths will help make professional choices suitable to the needs of your audience. Another important technical setup is the need to ensure the reliability of the internet and equipment in supporting your smooth presentation experience. A stable connection will help mitigate your chances of disruptions, lag, or disconnections while your presentation is ongoing; connectivity issues can distract and frustrate your listeners from listening. Additionally, good equipment such as a webcam, ring lights, or microphones can significantly improve the clarity of your presentations. Conduct technical checks before your presentations to address any potential issues that may reduce functionality during the actual event.

While discussing the choice of platforms, a couple of essentials are to be considered. Engagement techniques are a voluminous aspect of virtual presentations. One engagement technique that you must implement is your interactive elements like polls, question and answer sessions, and break-out rooms. Polls and surveys allow you to gather feedback needed to make your lessons more engaging, dynamic, and an interactive discourse. Question and answer sessions also give your audience the opportunity to clarify doubts, get to know you better, and create a

wholesome experience. Break-out rooms, on the other hand, enable small group discussions, facilitate in-depth conversations, and allow personal interactions despite the size of the audience. Implement these interactive elements to ensure a high-level of engagement throughout the presentation as it is often easier to lose the interest of your audience in a virtual presentation. Maintaining eye contact is another critical technique to engage your audience during your presentations. Unlike face-to-face where eye contact may be natural, during virtual presentations, you must deliberately stimulate the connection between your camera and your

**You must ensure that all multimedia components chosen for your presentation are tested, functional, and deemed suitable for your presentations to avoid issues that might mitigate its effectiveness and reduce the chances of a memorable experience**

virtual audience. Position your camera at eye-level and look directly into it while speaking to create an illusion of physical eye contact, show confidence, and make interactions more personal and captivating. This seemingly simple adjustment can help your audience resonate with you and your message better by making them feel a sense of your presence. Additionally, you must appropriately adjust and adapt your content to ensure a clear and engaging online format of delivery. Virtual

environments demand more concise and focused content in maintaining attention, unlike in person presentations. Complex details need to be broken down into straightforward and digestible chunks of information to facilitate understanding. Your content must also include real-life examples to make the concepts less distracting and more relatable to your audience. Lastly, your high points should be frequently oriented and engaged with throughout your presentation.

Using slides and multimedia helps your virtual content to be appealing and impactful. Avoid overcrowding your slides with texts; instead, include bullet points and graphics that facilitate comprehension and integrate multimedia elements such as videos and animations to make it more dynamic. You must ensure that all multimedia components chosen for your presentation are tested, functional, and deemed suitable for your presentations to avoid issues that might mitigate its effectiveness and reduce the chances of a memorable experience. Furthermore, in cases of distractions, you can create a professional backdrop to ensure that your focus and credibility is maintained during your presentation. A clean and neutral background will help ensure that the attention is on you rather than the distracting elements or backdrops in your environment. Ensure you keep a tidy and free environment that conveys a professional image and fosters the message and authority you are trying to send across. Minimising background noises and interruptions can also help you achieve a smooth virtual presentation. Carefully observe and choose quiet locations where external noise is greatly minimised or use noise-cancelling headphones and high-quality microphones to create an ambience environment. If possible, inform household members, colleagues, or friends of your presentations and schedule to avoid unexpected interruptions.

*Continues online: [www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com)*

*\*Would you like to get a group/one-on-one customised training on speaking/writing? Feel free to contact me at [ruthkboji@gmail.com](mailto:ruthkboji@gmail.com) for training solutions.*

*\*Dr Oji is a Senior Lecturer of English at the Institute of Humanities, Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos*

Minister of Education, Mamman Tahir, while monitoring the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination, UTME, last April in Abuja, announced that 18 years would henceforth be the minimum age for the admission of students into tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Most students who sat for the university enrolment examinations were between 16 and 17.

He blamed parents for “pressuring” their children and wards into embracing educational pursuits which they are too young to understand. He also defended his position, arguing that it is in line with our 6-3-3-4 educational policy.

On the face of it, the Minister is right. Eighteen years is the age of maturity or adulthood under our Constitution, and the university environment and academic content are tailor-made for matured minds. Under ideal circumstances, toddlers should be given adequate opportunities to develop sys-

## University age controversy

tematically from the home up to the age of five or above before being sent to school. In the past, children were allowed to spend their formative years under parental and communal guidance for proper grounding before being exposed to Western education.

Even after their School Certificates in their late teens and twenties, they were required to attend Lower and Upper Six to obtain their “A” Level Certificates which qualified them for entry into the universities.

The Joint Admission and Matriculation Board, JAMB, was later introduced to afford secondary school leavers the opportunity to earn direct

entry into the tertiary levels. Today, the university preparatory certificate (“A” Level) is no longer fashionable or even available.

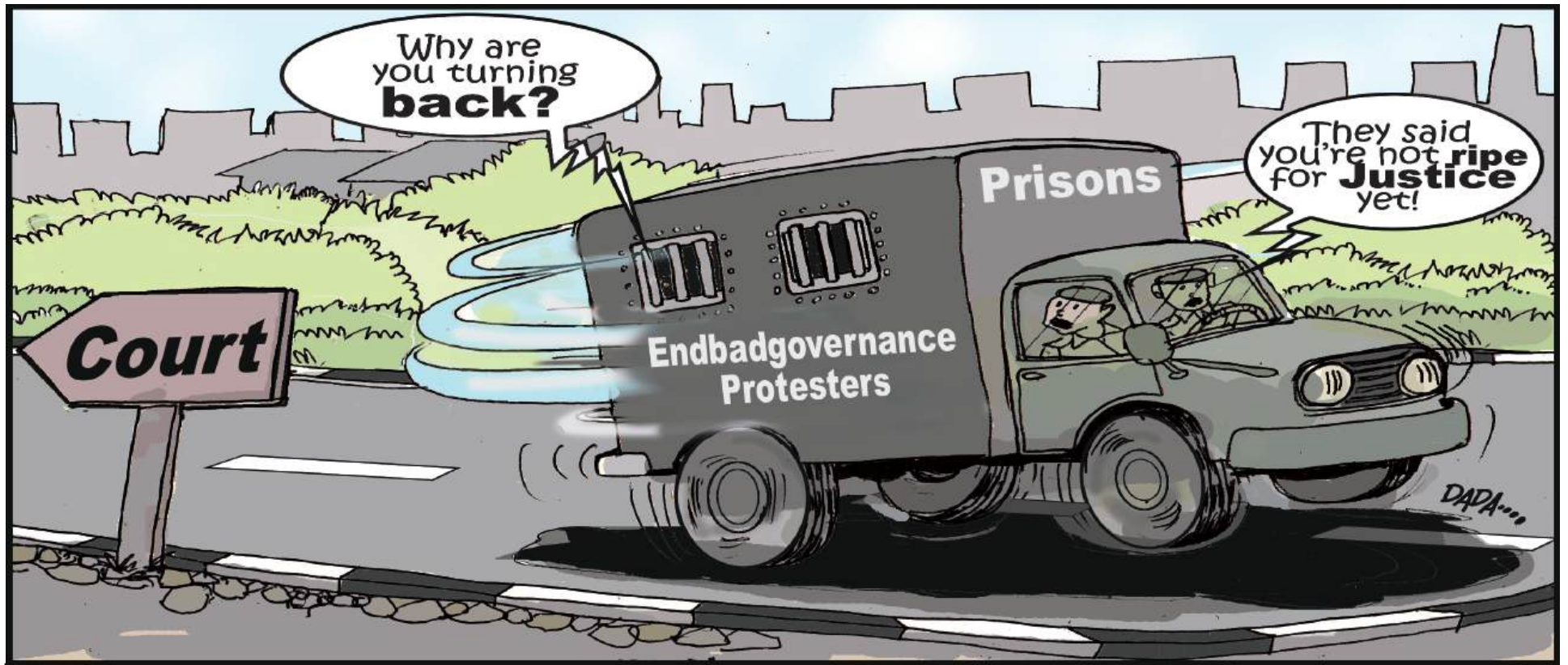
The structure and culture of education have changed in line with contemporary circumstances. The failure of the public educational system due to the neglect of teachers’ welfare and their training programmes has encouraged the upsurge of private investment in schools. Because of the profit motive of private educators, “schooling” has become available even to the suckling.

From very early infancy, children are sent to day care, creche and kindergarten before they commence prima-

ry schooling. Many working parents find this arrangement convenient, otherwise they would be forced to choose between work and staying at home to raise their infants. This is the main reason we have very young teenagers registering for the UTME.

Besides, many young parents see it as an advantage to quickly complete the education of their children before old age catches up with them. Asking children who are mentally qualified to sit for their UTME to wait till they are 18 sounds awkward, disruptive and out of tune with current realities. Can the Minister of Education enforce this “directive” without also “legislating” on the minimum age for primary school enrolment? What will teenagers who have obtained their School Certificates at 15 or 16 be doing before they are old enough to sit for the UTME?

The National Council on Education, NCE, should sit over this matter and advise the Minister accordingly.



## OPINION

Send Opinions & Letters to:  
opinions1234@yahoo.com

By ODION OBUMESE

## Making a case for Tradocracy

**T**HE Tradocracy Bill 2024 (Tradocratic System of Government) which I wrote was recently submitted to the National Assembly for consideration. The purpose of the bill is for this system of government to be operated in Nigeria alongside democracy.

Tradocracy shall operate and be structured into three arms of government, namely: Executive, Researchure and Legislature. There shall be a Sovereign Electoral Commission and Department of Morality. The Researchure arm makes Tradocracy different from democracy and other forms of government.

The Researchure shall be the assembly of representatives of professions available in the country and shall be next in power to the Executive arm. Its primary function shall be the harmonisation and improvement of professions and research development in the areas of training and speciality.

There shall be House of Researchure and head of House of Researchure referred to as Oniha. Oniha and Deputy Oniha shall be elected by members. There shall be four Researchurers (representatives) from each state of the federation, representing different professions at national level, state and local government.

The Researchurer shall be elected through political process. Federal researchurers shall be sent to federal agencies for research, evaluation and monitoring of work process in establishments according to his or her training. State and local government researchurers shall follow the same pattern.

Researchurers shall spend three weeks in his or her place of primary assignment for research development of products and ideas, and one week in the House of Researchure for deliberation and re-evaluation of work pattern and work process and research methods of the establishment he or she is sent to, including approval of product or idea obtained

through research.

There shall be the Executive arm of government comprising of ministries. The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces shall be the head of the Executive arm, head of government and head of state of Nigeria. There shall be no Vice President.

**Tradocracy shall operate and be structured into three arms of government, namely: Executive, Researchure and Legislature; there shall be a Sovereign Electoral Commission and Department of Morality; the Researchure arm makes Tradocracy different from democracy**

There shall be federal Onogie, or national leader, the second in command next to the president.

The parliament shall make laws for the country, and there shall be an upper house of the legislature referred to as House of Peace or Senate, and a lower house of legislature referred to as House of Progress. If the House of Peace is in operation (existence), there shall be no Senate; if the Senate is in operation, there shall be no House of Peace.

The President shall appoint the Chief Justice of the Federation based on the recommendation of the Judicial Council ratified by the upper arm of the legislature.

There shall be Supreme Court, Appeal Court, High Court, Tribunal, Industrial Court, Customary Court, Sharia Court and Home Cell Court (family unit court).

The family unit court shall be under the Local Government Council. All courts shall be under the supervision of the Chief Justice of the Federation who shall appoint judges. The state courts and local government courts shall be autonomous from federal court control.

The Chief Justice of the Federation shall become the Interim President in the event of death or incapacitation of the President for six months. The Interim President shall hand over power to the Oniha of federal House of Researchure as President and Commander-in-Chief of the Arm Forces for the remaining term of the former President.

The courts and their staff members, including the legal professionals, shall be under the control of the Chief Justice of the Federation. There shall be direct budgetary allocation from the presidency to judicial departments of the Ministry of Justice. The Chief Justice is not answerable to Attorney-General and the Parliament.

The Chief Justice of the Federation, as the head of the judicial department or Ministry of Justice, shall swear-in the elected President and the elected Onogie and national leader. There shall be region and zone which shall be semi-autonomous from the Federal Government and shall be headed by the governor.

WHEREAS the Department of Morality shall promote the constitution through the media, seminars, workshops etc.

The department shall promote moral pathways for the people and the government.

The evaluation of performance rating of presidents, commander-in-chief of armed forces, governors-general, governors and chairmen of local government councils shall be carried

out by the Department of Morality every five years for the purpose of continuation or discontinuation in office.

The head of the Department of Morality shall be addressed as governors of the Department of Morality, and he or she shall sign all electoral bills into law. The Oniha shall appoint governor of the Department of Morality. The civil service commission shall be referred to as civil worker's commission.

The ministry of creative ability and special talent shall be constituted and mandated to organise seminars for people with creative ability for them to be awarded certificates and special awards, including fellowship awards. The certificates shall be regarded as innovation degrees; Masters of Creative Ability “McA” and Doctor of Knowledge, “KnD”. The Special award shall be Guru.

The McA shall be equivalent to university master's degree, while the KnD shall be equivalent to university Doctor of Philosophy, PhD. The Guru shall be equivalent to university professor. Innovation degree certificates and awards shall be accepted as requirements for job and political position. Academic degree and academic certificate shall also be requirement for job and political position.

In summary, there shall be three arms of government: The Researchure, Executive and Legislative. There shall be a Sovereign Electoral Commission, Department of Morality, Civil Workers' Commission, Ministry of Creative Ability and Special Talent, Regions and Zones, States and Local Government Councils. The full details of the Tradocracy Bill 2024 shall be published in due course.

**\*Johnbosco Obumese wrote from Oria in Esan South-East Local Government Area of Edo State.**

# Business



## Businesses expect improvements in economy — CBN Survey

• Say Naira to depreciate further in Q3



**TOWN AND GOWN SESSION:** From left, Registrar/Chief Executive, CIBN, Mr. Akin Morakinyo, HCIB; Rector, Yaba College of Technology, Dr. (Engr) Ibraheem Adedotun Abdul; President/Chairman of Council, CIBN; Prof. Pius Deji Olanrewaju, Ph.D, FCIB; HOD, Banking & Finance, Yabatech, Dr. Adebola Adebisi, FCIB and Chairman, CIBN Lagos Branch, Mr. Aina Adeyemo Adeoye, FCIB at the Yabatech Town and Gown session with the Industry today 20 August 2024

## LASG targets N5trn from Eko Revenue Summit

By Cynthia Alo

The Eko Revenue Plus Summit will develop and enhance revenue sources of the Lagos State Government (LASG) as well as drive sustainable economic growth for inhabitants of the state.

In a statement, Modo Ante, the organizing firm said that the event, which will be a convergence of business leaders, industry experts and government officials aims to explore innovative strategies to increase the state's IGR to N5 trillion by 2027; and drive sustainable economic growth and prosperity for its inhabitants, said the organisers.

The Eko Revenue Plus Summit, the said is aimed at unlocking new streams of revenue for the state to fast-track socio-economic development. It is a crucial step towards harnessing the full potential of Lagos State.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of Modo Ante, Joko Okupe, "By leveraging technology and innovation, we can unlock 'new money' that will enhance Lagos State's ability to provide better social amenities and economic oppor-

tunities for Lagosians.

Speaking further, he stated that several sectors hold untapped potential for revenue growth in Lagos State, but the focus will be strong on how the income streams of existing revenue generation of Government entities can be enhanced and how "new money" can be generated.

Okupe said: "Working closely with the special adviser to the governor on taxation & revenue and his team, we have identified five core sectors of the state's economy with the potential for additional revenue to help generate extra (Plus) IGR of about N2.73 trillion. These sectors, in order of priority, are property, digital economy, informal sector, energy sector and circular economy."

According to him, the Summit will also look into how Government entities that are presently cost centres or generating very little revenues, in these sectors, can be transformed to render value-added services to citizens, such that can make them become revenue earners.

## African Alliance restates commitment to claims payment

By Rosemary Iwunze

African Alliance Insurance APlC has reassured customers of its commitment to payment of genuine claims.

Executive Director, Technical, African Alliance, Mr. Wasiu Amao, who gave the reassurance in Lagos stated: "We want to assure all our stakeholders that African Alliance is still very much operational and committed to paying all genuine claims. Annuity payments have also commenced and are being processed diligently to ensure they are completed as soon as possible. We have engaged our customers on multiple channels intimating them on the payment progress. All pending claims will also be honored in due course, as we are fully committed to resolving these matters".

Regarding its recent operational adjustments, Amao said, "It

is important to clarify that African Alliance has not shut down. Due to the nationwide protests that began on August 1, we temporarily transitioned to remote work to ensure the safety of our staff and clients. However, critical staff were on ground all through the protest period. Full onsite operations resumed on Thursday August 8, 2024. We regret any inconvenience this temporary measure may have caused and appreciate the understanding of our stakeholders during this period."

Amao further stated: "We want to put to rest any fears. African Alliance is built to stand the test of time. We are actively working on the turnaround plans requested by the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) and are committed to fulfilling our obligations to all stakeholders."

By Babajide Komolafe

The Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, has said that business enterprises are optimistic there would be improvement in the economy in the next six months.

The CBN stated this in its Business Expectation Survey, BES report for July 2024.

The report however showed that businesses expect the Naira to depreciate and interest rates rise further in the third quarter of the year.

According to the CBN, the report was based on of 1,600 business enterprises nationwide, operating in the Industry, Services and Agriculture sectors, with 98.9 per cent of the firms responding.

The report said: "Respondents indicated optimism on overall business outlook in July 2024, as the business conditions in Nigeria are expected to improve. This optimism is driven by the opinion of respondents from the Agriculture Sector.

"Respondents outlook for the next month, next 3 months and next 6 months all indicated optimism. The positive outlook in the vol-

ume of business activities of the firms in the next month implied improved prospects for employment in the same period. The sector with the highest prospect for employment is the Agriculture Sector, followed by the Industry and Services sectors.

"The respondent firms opined that insecurity was the major factor constraining the business activity in July 2024. Other constraining factors are high interest rate, insufficient power supply, and high/multiple taxes.

"Respondent firms expect

the exchange rate to depreciate in all review periods except the next six months. However, they expect the borrowing rate to rise in all the periods under review. Respondents also opined that the current inflation rate of 34.19 is too high."

## Price of cooking gas rises 8.3% to N1,300/kg – INVESTIGATION

By Mariam Eko

The price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas or cooking gas has risen to N1,300/Kg this month, representing 8.3 per cent, month-on-month, MoM from N1,200 in July.

Similarly, the price of 5kg cooking gas has rising by 8.3 percent to N6,500 from N6,000 it was sold in July 2024.

Speaking to Vanguard, National President of the Nigeria Association of Liquefied Petroleum Gas Marketers, NALPGAM, Mr. Olatunbosun Oladapo said, "We are aware of the recent increase as gas price is influenced by exchange rate but hopefully the price should drop by the end of the

the average retail price for refilling a 5kg cylinder fell by 14.23 percent, MoM to N5,974.55 in July 2024 from N6,996.03 in June.

The report stated "On a year-on-year, YoY basis, this increased by 46.96 percent from N4,072.87 in July 2023. On state profile analysis, Borno state recorded the highest average price for refilling a 5kg cylinder with N7,088.59, followed by Yobe and Sokoto states with N6,935.50 and N6,750.00 respectively. "On the other

hand, Delta state recorded the lowest price with N5,392.86, followed by Zamfara and Kogi states with N5,431.25 and N5,560.63 respectively. In addition, analysis by zone showed that the North-East recorded the highest average retail price for refilling a 5kg Cylinder of cooking gas with N6,446.53, followed by the North-Central with N6,042.33 while the South South recorded the lowest with N5,654.04."

## Food inflation reducing, we'll sustain it — Finance Minister

By Gabriel Ewepu

ABUJA — AS Nigerians grapple with harsh economic realities, the Minister of Finance and the Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Wale Edun, yesterday, disclosed that food inflation is reducing and government would sustained.

Edun stated this in a remark at the National Economic Dialogue with the theme 'Nigeria's Economic Future 25 Years of Democracy and Beyond' organised by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group, NESG, in Abuja.

He assured Nigerians of availability and affordable food prices, which he added that the private sector needs to drive the nation's agricultural sector and not just government alone.

According to him, the Tinubuled administration has provided a level playing ground for youth, with different opportunities for them to thrive.

The coordinating Minister added that the macroeconomic

reforms, which "were necessary and overdue, and the fact that they had a cause, particularly in terms of inflation, it is not the poor and the most vulnerable that have to bear the brunt. It is the strongest in society, the richest, the most knowledgeable and the most resourced in society that have to put heads together, dip their hands in their pockets and make the extra effort."

He said: "Government has its role to play, but the private sector clearly has an important role to play.

"Food inflation in particular, as we know it, has started coming down. Overall, inflation has started coming down, first of all, it slowed, and now at 33 per cent, it is one per cent lower than it was last month, and we are planning on maintaining that trajectory of downward inflation.

"Overall reduction in food inflation, more availability of food at affordable prices is the goal of the administration in the immediate term." He also recalled how in December 2023, stakeholders in the agricultural sector assured of a bumper harvest.

"But I remember last December, we met the whole of the agricultural value chain in Nasarawa, security, inputs, machinery people were there, and of course, the general farming community, and they said that the upcoming dry season harvest would be a successful one that they had all it took everything was in place to have a successful dry season harvest.

"That didn't come to be prices stayed high, and we are where we are today. But as I said, we are turning that around and our capacity to deliver needs to be improved across the board.

"The China example is an interesting one, but overall, the thing you do when if at first do not succeed, you keep trying, you don't just give up, or you don't even abandoning the path you are on because at the end of the day, if you keep on the path, will normally, nobody will plan a path that is not successful.

"So some may be quicker than the others, or whatever path you on, if you have the determination which we need to persevere,

you will get there."

Meanwhile, he said Nigeria is a leader in finance and financial technology, pointing at the recent launch of what he described as First US Dollar Domestic Bond Financing.

"The target of the First US Dollar, or Foreign Currency Domestic Bond, to be issued in Nigeria and probably at least in the subcontinent, is another way to attract Nigerian savings abroad.

"The rights of people to their assets are protected. The rights of Nigerians to their funds that they have in Nigeria, whether it is Naira, whether it is Dollars, whether it is Yen, under the law, are protected.

"We need to continue on the path of economic reform that we are on. As I said, this is not a day for laying out what is there for education, youth, agriculture, for industry, but as a Nigerian Economic Summit Group because they are our partners, there is an immediate short term plan that deals with the major issues we have talked about, including high interest rates."

### AGRIC COMMODITIES

Coffee	246.27	+0.81
Cocoa	9483.27	+349.19
Sugar	80.92	-0.32

### ENERGY & OIL

Brent Crude	77.33	-0.33
Light Crude	86.00	-0.62

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING
US DOLLAR	1587.347	1587.847
POUNDS	2066.5671	2067.218
EURO	1761.3202	1761.875
FRANC	1847.901	1848.4831
YEN	10.8551	10.8586
CFA	2.6313	2.6413
WAUA	2111.4092	2112.0742
RIYAL	423.0331	423.1663
DANISH	236.0157	236.09
SDR	2129.1085	2129.7792

CBN Exchange rate as at 21/08/2024

month and we will review and observe what the price will be for the month, but I can say currently the price is dropping gradually." Meanwhile, the National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, latest report on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Cooking Gas) Price Watch for July 2024 disclosed that



**FIRSTBANK:** His Excellency, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, Executive Governor of Plateau State (left) with Idris Ado Ibrahim, Group Executive, Retail Banking North, FirstBank (right) during FirstBank's provision of VVF surgery and aftercare kits for 350 women, as part of its empowerment activities to commemorate the 2024 edition of the annual FirstBank Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (CR&S) Week. The event was held in Bingham University Teaching Hospital, Jos.

## Petrol scarcity worsens as independent marketers load at N780/litre

- *Transport fares rise by over 200%*
- *Transporters lament impact on business*
- *Nigeria becoming failed state — PENGASSAN*

By Udem Akpan, Obas Esiedesa, Johnbosco Agbakwuru & Mariam Bukola

**T**HE prolonged petrol scarcity worsened in Lagos, Ogun and other states, yesterday, as independent marketers started lifting the product from private depots at N780 per litre, from N595 per litre, indicating an increase of 31 per cent.

The marketers believe the hike in price reflects the current demand and supply of the product in the domestic market.

Public Relations Officer of IPMAN, Chief Chinedu Ukadike, who confirmed this in an interview with *Vanguard*, also expressed optimism that the bad situation could improve in the coming days.

Chief Ukadike noted that more trucks have left the depots in the past few days, adding that though independent marketers are still sourcing the product at a higher rate, more marketers are able to load their trucks.

According to him, "NNPC has started releasing products to independent marketers. The queues you are seeing now are ghost queues. They appear in the morning but disappear in the afternoon or evening. It will continue like that until supply stabilizes in the coming days and becomes sufficient enough."

"You must also remember that we are in the rainy season and it takes some time for trucks to come up north. In a few days, I believe the situation will ease."

Petrol distribution challenges, which has gone on for about six weeks has

led to long queues at filling stations across the country with several marketers jerking up their pump prices.

Checks around Abuja yesterday showed that while queues have eased slightly at the stations around the central area, the supply situation remains tense in other parts of the Federal Capital Territory.

Pump prices also remained high, ranging from N685/litre at outlets operated by major marketers to N950/litre at stations managed by independent marketers.

He said: "So we sell as we can buy and put up markups and margins to be able to make little profit. The transportation cost is a lot higher now. The product we normally bring in at N800,000 now costs N3.5 million because of the high cost of diesel and maintenance cost of the trucks."

He disclosed that IPMAN is still waiting to meet with the management of the Dangote Refinery ahead of the expected release of petrol from the refinery, stressing that independent marketers are determined to remove middlemen from their dealings with the refinery.

"We are still anticipating that Dangote will invite us as one of the major stakeholders in the downstream of the oil and gas distribution chain. We will be one of their major off-takers. We are serious about the issue of third parties and that this is what IPMAN is trying to erase. Third parties' involvement increases cost of

the product and we don't want that to happen," he added.

### Scarcity worsens in Lagos, Ogun, others

Checks indicated that the situation in Lagos, Ogun and other states that had recorded improvement in the past few days, yesterday, worsened as long fuel queues reappeared in many parts of the states.

There were several long queues at some filling stations, especially the outlets belonging to the NNPC and major oil marketers, which

### *A country that cannot meet its energy needs or guarantee energy availability for its citizens is on the path of becoming a failed state.*

sold it at about N568 per litre while their independent counterparts sold it at between N900 and N950 per litre.

However, others without the product simply shut their gates against motorists and other buyers while hawkers were seen freely hawking it at higher prices, ranging between N1,000 and N1,500 per litre, depending on location.

### Transporters lament, jerk up fares by over 200%

Further checks indicated that there was a significant increase in transport fares and motorists passed the cost of the high price to commuters in Lagos, Ogun and other states.

It now costs about N6,000 to travel from Ikorodu to Victoria Island, Lagos, a trip that used to cost less than N2,000 before the shortage.

Mr. Emmanuel Okonkwo, a Sienna bus driver who plies Lagos to Owerri said: "Naturally, the fuel scarcity is affecting our business negatively. Nowadays, there is no fixed fare for trips again, you fix what you like and the way it suits you to enable you remain in business. The worst aspect of it is that people are no longer traveling like before, hardly could one get full load in Toyota Sienna bus. If you are lucky to get full load, you should thank your star."

"In most cases you get four to five passengers and after all expenses, you discover that you are left with nothing to go home with. We are not finding it easy at all, because it takes a long time to get full load, departure and arrival time also have been affected. Drivers get to their destinations late as a result of queuing for fuel on the road."

"In most cases they have to sleep in any town before proceeding the next day due to fear of insecurity. In fact things are no longer the same."

Another driver, who operates from Lagos to Port Harcourt, Mr. Eugene Eze noted that the scarcity was affecting their business be-

cause they queue all day to get fuel and at the end not having passengers on ground like before. He said that outside Lagos, fuel is sold at between N900 to N1,000, and this affects our profit.

He said: "We are working for nothing under the present fuel scarcity situation. The dilemma is that we can't increase fares because passengers cannot afford the high fare."

"The danger is that, we will be out of business if the fuel price continues the way it is. The vehicle maintenance is getting higher by the day and the option is to stop putting the vehicles on the road."

"Presently drivers spend a full day to search for fuel which they purchase at very high price. Our business is heading towards extinction. We are not even talking about extortion by local government officials and law enforcement agents on the road that collect toll fares from the transporters. It is very tough for us. Government should hear our cry and help us before we become unemployed," he said.

### Price rises as few depots have product

A visit to some depots in Lagos, including at Satellite Town yesterday, indicated that many of them have depleted their stocks, thus resulting in price hike.

However, it was gathered that some operators have concluded plans to further increase their depot prices to N800 per litre, from over N780 per litre.

### Regulator not monitoring

The checks indicated that officials of the Nigerian Mid-

stream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, NMDPRA, were not physically present at filling stations to monitor activities, thus culminating in irregularities, including pump manipulation.

### Rains, lightning, thunderstorms, cause of shortage — NNPC

However, NNPC's Vice President (Downstream), Dapo Segun, attributed the shortage to rains, lightning and thunderstorms.

Speaking during a press conference at the NNPC Towers, he said: "We apologise to Nigerians for the fuel queues. Many of the challenges we're facing are outside our control, but we're doing our best to address them."

"The recent rains have made the Escravos channel difficult to navigate due to siltation, which has significantly hindered our ability to transport petroleum products, especially PMS, across the country."

He said lightning and thunderstorms culminated in suspension of fuel discharges, adding that the situation is worsened by the poor states of roads in the country

### Nigeria becoming failed state — PENGASSAN

However, President of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, PENGASSAN, Engr. Festus Osifo, who is also President of the Trade Union Congress TUC, attributed Nigeria's current economic hardship to government policies like floating of the currency.

Engr. Osifo stated the above in his address on Wednesday in Abuja, at the 3rd edition of PENGASSAN Energy and Labour Summit with the theme, "The future of Nigeria's oil and gas industry: Energy mix, energy security, artificial intelligence, investment and crude oil theft."

He said: "A country that cannot meet its energy needs or guarantee energy availability for its citizens is on the path of becoming a failed state."

"As an association, we have mounted the rostrum over time, both on the streets and in the boardroom, to champion this cause, and we will not relent until victory is certain."

"As we gather here, let us not lose sight of the broader state of our nation. Nigeria stands at the crossroads, and our actions and decisions here in the next few days will provide a framework for a policy thrust for government towards shaping the economic outlook of our country."

"It is incumbent upon us to drive positive change, foster economic growth, and ensure our people's prosperity. Recent policy directions by the government have placed untold hardship on Nigerians. Chief among them is flotation cum devaluation of the Naira, which saw our currency sliding from 450 Naira officially in May 2023 to the current exchange rate of about 1,600 Naira."

"This is the reason why the landing price of PMS today is over 1,000 Naira (reintroduction of subsidy), the reason why AGO is selling for over 1,300 Naira, and the reason why all imported commodities are over the roof today. The over-arching impact of this on Nigerians can only be imagined rather than experienced."



HIS MAJESTY,  
OGIAME ATUWATSE 111, (CFR)  
THE OLU OF WARRI

# ITSEKIRI CONGRESS UNITED KINGDOM [I.C.U.K.]



## FELICITATES

*With*

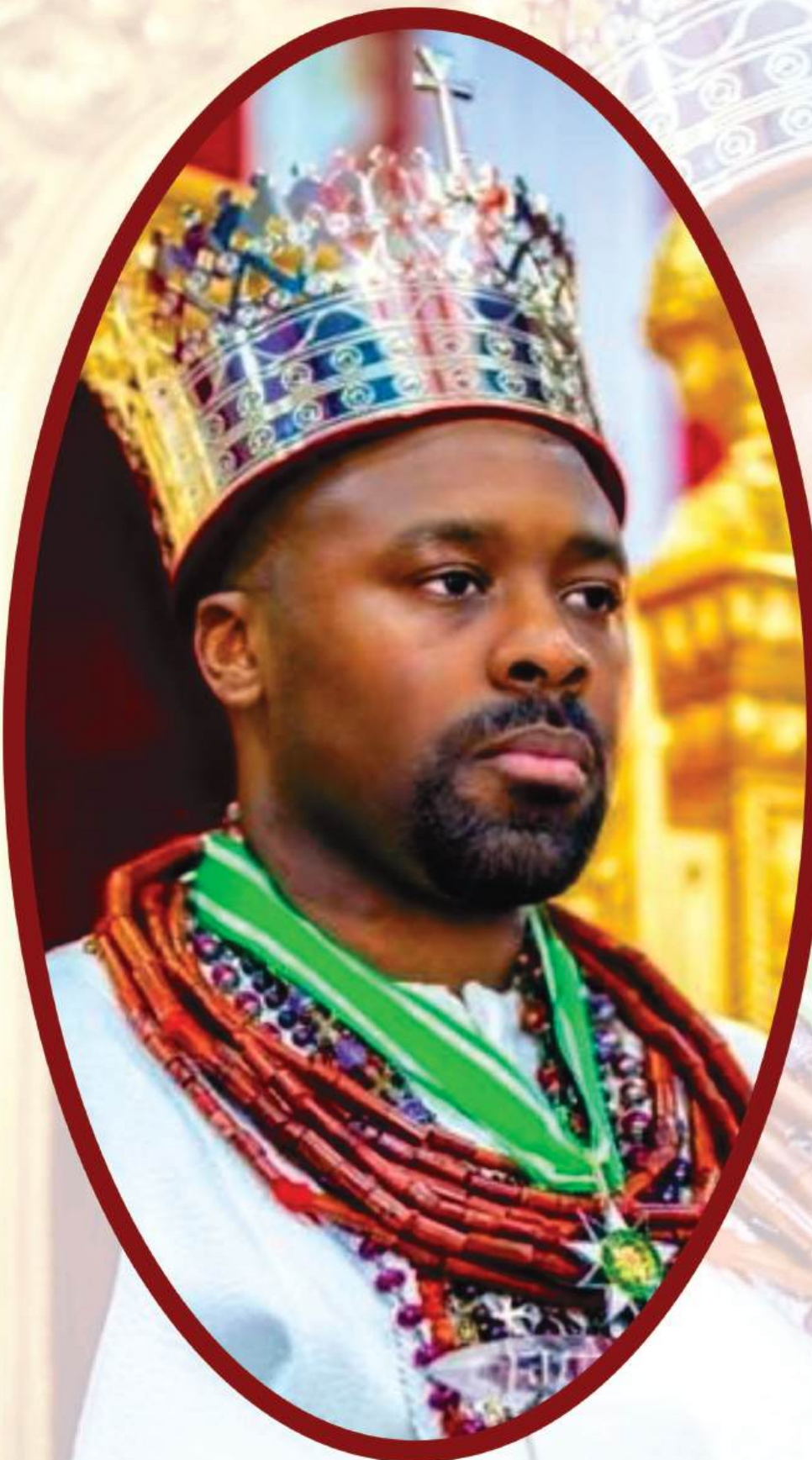
HIS MAJESTY,  
OGIAME ATUWATSE III.  
(CFR) THE OLU OF WARRI

On His



## CORONATION ANNIVERSARY

21ST, AUGUST, 2024



HIS MAJESTY  
OGIAME ATUWATSE III, CFR,  
THE OLU OF WARRI KINGDOM



As part of our resolve to Support the Developmental Strides of His Majesty, We dedicate the newly unveiled and befitting welcome signage by Itsekiri Congress UK to His Majesty, Ogiame Atuwatse III CFR, the Olu of Warri Kingdom and the Itsekiri people. May Ogiame's reign continue to bring in further development to Warri Kingdom.

### GOD BLESS THE KING OGIAME, SUOOO!!!

Signed:

**BARR. DEDE UKUTI**

# NBM OF AFRICA

THE ARENA  
REFINERY ROAD,  
BY LEXITON BLUE JUNCTION,  
EFFURUN, DELTA STATE.  
nbmofafricadeltazone@gmail.com

## REJOINDER ON THE RENUNCIATION NOTICE MADE BY OLOROGUN FELIX KUPA EDORE

Our attention has been drawn to a newspaper publication signed by Olorogun Felix Edores Kupa dated 10th of August, 2024 on page 8 of the Vanguard Newspaper. The said publication/notice was on his purported and misleading renunciation as a member of NBM of Africa.

To set the records straight, Olorogun Felix Edores Kupa was the immediate past President of the organization worldwide. Olorogun Felix Edores Kupa was expelled from the organization on the 27th of June 2024 by the Delta Zonal Chapter over his acts of misconducts and which said acts are against the core objectives of the organization and unacceptable to the organization's constitution and code of conduct for members. His expulsion from the organization was ratified by the National Council of Elders on the 29th of June 2024 in line with the organization's constitution. Olorogun Felix Edores Kupa was expelled alongside two former Presidents of the organization who also committed acts of gross misconducts.

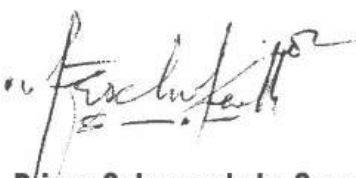
The acts and actions of Olorogun Felix Edores Kupa and the other two former presidents are said to be inimical to the constitution and code of conduct of the organization.

The expulsion of Olorogun Felix Edores Kupa and Twenty six others are on the organization's website ([www.nbmoafrica.org](http://www.nbmoafrica.org)) since June 2024.

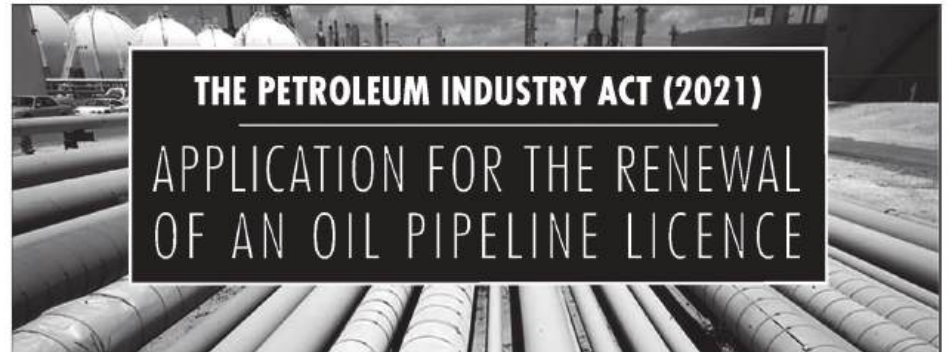
As part of the sanitization, transformation process the organization is going through, it is expected that many more bad eggs will be shown the way out of the organization.

His publication/notice dated 10th of August 2024 on page 8 of the Vanguard newspaper is misleading, an after thought and meant to mislead members of the public. Hence, the organization will not fail to take legal action against him, if he continues to chase clout and mislead members of the public with the organization's name.

Signed



Prince Ogheneochuko Oyoroko JP  
President, Delta Zonal Chapter  
NBM of Africa



### THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ACT (2021)

## APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF AN OIL PIPELINE LICENCE

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Petroleum Industry Act 2021 and Oil Pipeline Act, Cap 388 that THE SHELL PIPELINE PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF NIGERIA LIMITED has applied for the renewal of the licence to operate an existing 48inch diameter Bonny Terminal Crude loading line to Offshore SBM 2 Running from point "A"; 'PI O' at the Existing Bonny Crude loading line to a point; P1 'END' at the Existing SBM 2 pipeline in Both Offshore in Rivers State, on the route of which is demarcated on the ground by a survey trace marked with red stakes and is herein described: -

#### DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE

All that strip of land approximately 1.66 km long within concession OML 72 situated within the Bonny Terminal crude loading line to SBM 2 Offshore of which traversed dry land and is shown verged in red in the Company's plan nos. Ref EP202405202719001.mxd

The width of the Wayleave will be variable and will be approximately as follow: -

Where the route of the line traverses dry Land -1.5m  
In the vicinity of all turning points (TP. s) -1.5m

The route of the Line is described in the following text: where in the following text the bearing of the Line is described as proceeding to a certain PI.O, the Line follow a straight line from a tangent point before the PI.END, tangent point the exact distance from tangent point to tangent point will vary according to the radius.

Starting from the existing Bonny terminal crude loading pipeline marked PI.O, Thence on a bearing of 07° 14' 10.48" for a distance of 04° 11' 10.73" meters to a point marked PI.END, on a bearing of 07° 14' 45.82" for a distance of 04° 10' 30.79" at the SBM 2 Both Offshore in Rivers State.

All bearing and distances are approximate, and all bearings refer to Grid North.

The oil Pipeline will have a minimum soil cover of 1(one) meter.

A Copy of a plan of the Pipeline route identifying the Land affected can be inspected during all normal working hours at the Ministry of Lands and Survey, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, Port Harcourt, or the offices of the aforesaid Company.

Any person who considers that the land or interest is injuriously affected by the grant of the license, should lodge orally or in writing not less than seven days before the hearing date in paragraph 6, with the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Survey, notice of objection stating the interest of the objection and the grounds of the objection.

Any public officer who receives a verbal objection in the course of his duty shall record the name and address, interest and grounds of objections and shall forward such details to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Survey, Port Harcourt.

Matters relating to the amount of compensation payable by the aforesaid Company for its use of the Land affected shall not be material grounds to include in a notice of objection.

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Survey, Port Harcourt shall enquire into the objection (if any) duly lodged in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 above at his office at Port Harcourt at 10 a.m. on the 3rd day of October 2024 giving all parties an opportunity to be heard.

Compensation (if any) payable by the aforesaid Company for its use of the land affected shall be determined by negotiation between the Company and the landowners and / or occupiers.

DATED THIS 22ND DAY OF AUGUST 2024  
NIGERIAN UPSTREAM PETROLEUM  
REGULATORY COMMISSION (NUPRC).

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!

On behalf of the Government and the good people of Warri North Local Government Council, I, Hon. Festus Anirejuoritse Ashima, joyfully rejoice with his Imperial Majesty, Ogiame Atuwatse III, (CFR), The Olu of Warri Kingdom on the occasion of his 3rd year anniversary celebration on the throne of the great Warri Kingdom.

Your Majesty, we in Warri North Local Government Council are very proud of your reign in these past three years.

Without any shadow of doubt, we can see how your innovative ideas and humanitarian outreaches are greatly transforming the lives of IWERE sons and daughters.

Baba, we wish your Majesty many more years of progressive and peaceful reign over this great kingdom.



His Imperial Majesty, The Olu of Warri,  
Ogiame Atuwatse III (CFR)



Afomasin, Ogbowuru, Jenekpo  
Osondada, Ogiame, suooooo!

Signed :  
Hon. Festus Anirejuoritse Ashima, Chairman,  
Warri North Local Government Council



## IZU ANIOMA

NO. 1, TOM ADIGWU STREET, OPPOSITE DIRECT LABOUR AGENCY,  
OFF SUMMIT ROAD, ASABA, DELTA STATE.

TEL: 08037167788 (PRESIDENT) / 08060384858 (SEC. GEN.)

WEBSITE: WWW.IZUANIOMA.ORG.NG

## ANIOMAS ARE IGBOS AND IZU-ANIOMA HAS NO ISSUES WITH OHANEZE NDIGBO

### PREAMBLE

Following the publication of the Communique released after the meeting of IzuAnioma National Executive Committee (NEC) and Elders Forum Members on July 24., 2024, at The National Stanat of Izu-Anioma at Asaba, we have noted the concerns expressed by our brothers across the Niger over some staternents made in the publication.

Key Resolution were put out in the public domain.

We put out facts about Izu-Anioma history and the roles our forefathers played in the setting up an apex/umbrella body to engender Anima Unity and speak for Anioma People whenever the need arose. This became even more expedient as we found ourselves in the minority in Midwest Region/State, and to some extent presently in Delta State. We had to assert ourselves as an independent nation.

Izu-Aioma has been in the vanguard working with other stakeholders over the last ma, decades for the creation of Anioma State. However, we are aware of the supportive and pivotal roles played by FIE D. Nnamdi Azikiwe, former President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, and key leaders in the Eastern Region, in the creation of Midwest Region which later had Rt. Hon Chief Dennis Osadebey, an Anioma Son as her first Premier.

### ANIOMAS IGBO ANCESTRY

The vast majority of Anioma People trace their ancestry to igboland just like many communities outside the South East.

The Aniomas are factually Ndigbo. We desire to work closely together with Ohaneze Ndigbo for the greater benefit of our peoples. Anioma Sons and Daughters have been active member of Ohaneze Ndigbo in Nigeria. USA and around the world and have been involved in active leadership roles over the years in Ohaneze Ndigbo including Ambassador Ralph Uwec hie of blessed memory who served as President General of Ohaneze Ndigbo many years ago.

The Anioma People are desirous of the creation of Anioma State, and sincerely requests the support of the Ohaneze Ndigbo and other critical stakeholder in the many decades old desire of Anioma People for the creation of Anioma State.

### CONCLUSION

We would once again specially express our sincere gratitude to our Distinguished Senator Prince Ned Nwoko for excellence in leadership especially concerning the current quest for the creation of Anioma State. We would also like A thank our forefathers, Traditional Rulers, The Clergy and other critical Stakeholders who have been in the fight over the years for the creation of Anioma State.

When created, Anioma State will be an Ndigbo State regardless of whether it becomes the 7th State in the South-South s6 State in the South-East.

Our unity of purpose at this time is expedient and cannot be over emphasized.

Pastor Dr. Kingsley Ojie  
National President.

16-8-2024

Dennis Easo Boniwe  
Secretary General.



# AGBOR OPINION SOCIAL LEAGUE



*Congratulations*  
To Our  
**MEDICAL & ACADEMIC**  
*ICON*

*PROF. CLETUS*  
**IKECHUKWU OTENE**

The Executive and entire members of **Agbor Opinion Social League, Asaba**, heartily congratulate our able and indefatigable President, a medical and an academic icon, **Prof. Cletus Ikechukwu Otene**, on your recent milestone achievement as Professor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Delta State University, Abraka.

We celebrate you not just on your elevation to the exalted position of a Professor, but also, the remarkable contributions you have made in the Nigerian health sector.

We pray for your continued success in your distinguished medical career and may your years ahead be filled with fulfillment, peace and joy.

**SIGNED:**

**Mr. Emmanuel Kisimkwu**  
Vice President

**Barr. C.F. Ebu**  
General Secretary



## How Africans can defeat poverty — ONDO GOVT

By Esther Onyegbula & Faith Olayemi

ONDO State government has said without a proper mindset, Africans would be unable to defeat poverty, despite the abundant natural resources the continent is blessed with.

Addressing newsmen yesterday in Lagos on the state's upcoming global entrepreneurship festival, Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa said over 200 exhibitors, 43 global speakers, and 5000 participants were expected to attend.

Aiyedatiwa, who was represented by the Commissioner for Information, Mr Wale Akinlosotu, said: "The Global Entrepreneurship Festival is envisioned as a transformative and global cornerstone event to celebrate and catalyze entrepreneurship, promote bilateral trade, encourage investments, social impact, and the 17 sustainable development goals, SDGs.

He said: "We are committed to fostering an environment where innovation and entrepreneurship can thrive. We do not mince words when we say our state is entrepreneurship-driven and investor-friendly. "We have an enabling environment in Ondo State for businesses to thrive. We are working diligently to ensure that the objectives of the festival are not only met, but also exceeded."

Also speaking, Special Adviser to the Governor on Entrepreneurship and Innovation and Project Lead, Global Entrepreneurship Festival, Dr Summy Smart Francis, said: "The problem of Africa is not poverty. The problem of Africa is what causes poverty. It is the mindset.

"We have loads of speakers that will be addressing our young minds. We have world-renowned billionaires and business moguls. The reason we bring those kinds of stories is if they can do it, yes you can, and to set that entrepreneurial mindset right.

"With this abundance of resources in Africa, we can then channel our brain properly to be able to harvest and harness the amazing resources on the continent. Our strongest weapon as a nation is entrepreneurship stamina. Entrepreneurship is our strength.

"The strength of Nigeria is the young talent, and creative minds. The amount of

creativity in ovaries and talents we have in our nation is enormous.

"The world is evolving at an unprecedented pace, and the skills and knowledge that will be gained at the Global Entrepreneurship Festival will be invaluable in navigating the complexities of today's economy. I therefore urge young people to embrace this initiative wholeheartedly.

"This is your chance to learn from the best, to be inspired by success stories of those who have traversed these waters, and to connect with like-minded individuals from all over the world who share your passion for entrepreneurship."

## #EndBadGovernance protests forced us to listen to Nigerians

— BAGUDU

By Dickson Omobola

MINISTER of Budget and Economic Planning, Senator Abubakar Bagudu, has said the recent nationwide #EndBadGovernance protests forced the federal government to listen to Nigerians' yearnings.

Bagudu, who blamed the country's current struggles on past administrations, said despite past mistakes, President Bola Tinubu has refused to play the blame game.

The minister spoke at the "Nigerian Economic Summit Group National Economic Dialogue on Nigeria's Economic Future: 25 Years of Democracy and Beyond."

While noting that efforts were in progress to improve the country's fortunes, Bagudu said: "We have learnt that even the current protests have made us listen more. Whatever we are doing, we have taken the message that we need to do more, we need to do better, and we need to do it in a hurry."

Speaking further, the minister said: "President Bola Tinubu has been very reluctant to reflect on the past and blame anybody, but the net effect is that despite efforts by previous administrations, especially in the last 25 years, we are not where we want to be.

"So, what do we do? It's not because of anyone's failing, but that is our reality. We have yet to achieve the income per capita that we require, and it's not for lack of trying; it's not for lack of successes. With the transformation in the telecommunication sector, at some point, we even reversed our gross domestic product, GDP.

"Our population has grown



AWARD: From left, Nosa Iyekekpolo, National Legal Adviser, ECOBA, Mrs Oladugba, Dr. Reuben Osahon, immediate past world-wide President, ECOBA, Oladugba Oluwaseun (Best Student in English Language Award Winner), Executive Principal of Edo College Mr. Justice Aigbe, during the college's awards ceremony in Benin City.

from 119 million in 1999 to about 230 million, almost double. Still, our oil production, for example, 2.2 million barrels in 1999, is now rather than 4 million, according to the doubling of our population, which is still under 1.5 million, reflecting cumulative years of underinvestment in the sector.

"So, our reality is that we are not where we want to be, and our constitution needs to be more transparent about what we should do. Chapter 2 of our Constitution, the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy, clearly discusses the country's political objectives. It is also very clear

about the economic objectives—what kind of economy we want to run.

"Chapter two of the Constitution spells out citizens' duties. The chapter opens by saying that all persons in authority, legislative, executive, and judicial, at all levels of government, have the primary mandate to ensure the achievement of those fundamental objectives in Chapter 2.

"So, the constitution—maybe we can interrogate it and make it better—provides a starting point. Agenda 2050 reflects those objectives. We want a nation that includes all. We want a higher per capita by

the year 2050. We want to ensure that we invest not less than \$100 billion annually.

"But if our experience in the last 25 years should serve us as a guide, we sometimes know how difficult it is because you have to make choices that are both pleasant and unpleasant to be able to mobilise capital, private and borrowed, to support our aspiration.

"If we are to provide for what we can pay, this is what it costs. And it's in terms of money way above what was available to us. So, I know this is an opening remark. We are not where we want to be. That's why after 25 years of constitutional democ-

racy, we are a federal democracy, which requires minimum cooperation among all the tiers of government.

"Some achievements in the last 25 years reflect the ability or the post-cooperation sometimes among the tiers of government.

"But we are not lamenting. We are willing to take the bull by the horns. We have a president today who, as God will have it, has actively participated in the last 25 years that are under review. Among his achievements was that he ran a state with the largest economy in the country.

## Nigeria finally criminalises vandalism of telecom facilities in new gazette

By Prince Osuagwu, Hi-Tech Editor

TELECOM operators in Nigeria, telcos yesterday heaved a sigh of relief as the federal government finally designates telecom infrastructure as Critical National Infrastructure, CNI.

Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr Bosun Tijani, dropped the hint in a thank-you message to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for releasing the official gazette: "Designation and Protection of Critical National Infrastructure Order, 2024"

What this means is that it is now an offence to willfully damage telco facilities such as towers and base stations, switch stations, transmission equipment, submarine and fibre optic cables, data centres, satellite infrastructure, e-government platforms and databases, among others. These facilities are part of Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) because of the important role they play, in ensuring security and in the delivery of other essential services

Although the minister said the official copy of the gazette has not yet been released, where specific criminal penalties to the offences could be ascertained, it was, however, a measure of success and achievement for the telcos who over the years have clamoured for the Federal government to declare all telecoms facilities across the country critical national infrastructure without having their requests heeded.

As a result, they have suffered frequent vandalization of their infrastructure in various parts of the country without the culprits paying the prize.

They now hope the new order

will help reduce issues such as dropped calls, poor internet service, and generally improve quality of telecom services in the country. The minister also believed that the new development will add to the protection of investments in the ICT sector as it will strengthen the operational capabilities of the telcos' infrastructure and networks.

He said: "The security and protection of these Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII) is a priority for this administration and will help improve the quality of telecoms services, which has very often been affected by disruption and intentional damage".

Expressing happiness with the new development, Chairman of the Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria, ALTON Engr Gbenga Adebayo, said: "On behalf of all our members (the telcos), we express gratitude to Mr President for

this action. It is long overdue, but we are happy, and the industry will be good with it. This will reduce incidences of arbitrary and forceful access to our facilities by unauthorized government personnel, vandals and overzealous drivers of Internally Generated Revenue, IGR in various states of the federal. We thank the President, the Minister and the Executive Vice Chairman of NCC and the media among all stakeholders. I think congratulations is in order to all who have fought this battle on our side since 2004" he added.

Also, President of the National Association of Telecoms Subscribers, Chief Deolu Ogunbanjo, recalled that: "This bill has been before the Senate for a while, and there has been a lot of lobbying before now. So, this is a good development. It will help the telcos think less of vandalism of their facilities and concentrate on providing quality services for our members. On behalf of all the telecom subscribers in Nigeria, we salute

President Bola-Ahmed Tinubu for this proactive declaration," he added.

Since 2004, the telcos and telecom sector stakeholders have been urging the federal government to join Countries like China, India, and the United States to consider telecom infrastructure critical National Infrastructure which imposes strict penalties on individuals who damage these assets.

However, the demands appear to have fallen on deaf ears. This is notwithstanding that other critical infrastructure, including power plants, electricity grids, oil and gas pipelines, roads, water supply systems, and hospitals, have long been classified as critical.

The closest realization to the demand was in 2020, when President Muhammadu Buhari, approved and also directed that necessary physical protective measures be put in place to safeguard telecommunications infrastructure deployed across the country.

## Swipha bags WHO pre-qualification for Malaria in pregnancy tablet

By Tunde Oso

SWISS Pharma Nigeria Limited (Swipha), a leading pharmaceutical company in Nigeria, has recorded another historic first and a significant milestone in its commitment to improving maternal health and combating malaria in Nigeria and beyond with the accomplishment of the World Health Organization (WHO) pre-qualification for its Sulfadoxine Plus Pyrimethamine (SP) 500/25mg Tablet for the prevention of malaria in pregnancy.

Speaking on the milestone, the Managing Director of Swiss Pharma Nigeria Limited, Frederic Lieutaud, disclosed that the achievement of WHO pre-qualification for Swipha's SP 500/

25mg Tablet underscores the company's commitment to providing high-quality, life-saving medicines that meet international standards of safety, efficacy, and quality assurance. He noted that the pre-qualification also represents a significant step forward in the fight against malaria in pregnancy in Nigeria and across Africa.

"We are immensely proud to have received WHO pre-qualification for our Sulfadoxine Plus Pyrimethamine Tablet for preventing malaria in pregnancy. This achievement demonstrates our unwavering commitment to improving maternal health and combating malaria, two critical public health challenges in Nigeria and beyond. We believe every woman deserves

access to safe and effective preventive measures during pregnancy, and we are dedicated to making this a reality," said Lieutaud.

Also speaking on the milestone, Swipha's Business Development & Licensing Director Abbas Sambo stated that the achievement highlights Swipha's belief in providing safe and effective medicines for all, particularly maternal and child health.

"This certification enables us to offer the SP Tablet to organizations and governments worldwide, contributing to improved maternal and child health outcomes. We are actively seeking partnerships with global entities such as the Global Fund and USAID to tackle critical health challenges like Malaria," Sambo added.



## Naira down to N1,615 /\$ in parallel market

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

The Naira yesterday depreciated to N1,615 per dollar in the parallel market from N1,610 per dollar on Tuesday.

However, the Naira appreciated to N1,543.84 per dollar in the Nigerian Autonomous Foreign Exchange Market, NAFEM.

Data from FMDQ showed that the indicative exchange rate for NAFEM fell to N1,543.84 per dollar from N1,592.06 per dollar on Tuesday, indicating N48.22 appreciation for the naira.

The volume of dollars traded (turnover) in NAFEM rose by 12.8 percent to \$171.79 million from \$152.26 million traded on Tuesday. Consequently, the margin between the parallel market and NAFEM rate widened to N71.16 per dollar from N17.94 per dollar on Tuesday.



# AUCHI POLYTECHNIC

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR  
P.M.B. 13, AUCHI

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITIONS OF BURSAR AND POLYTECHNIC LIBRARIAN

### PREAMBLE

Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi is a first-generation Polytechnic, established in 1973. It is a Federal Polytechnic, with the function of providing technology-based education, training and development of skills. It has three Campuses, all located along the Benin-Auchi-Okene Highway.

The Institution hereby invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the posts of the **BURSAR** and **THE POLYTECHNIC LIBRARIAN** of Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, which will become vacant on 18th December, 2024 and 30th January, 2025 respectively.

### 1. THE BURSAR

The Bursar is the Chief Financial Officer of the Polytechnic. He/She is responsible to the Rector for the day to day administration and control of the financial affairs of the Polytechnic. He/She is one of the Principal Officers of the Polytechnic. He/She heads the Bursary department and is the custodian of the Polytechnic finances.

#### 1.1 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The candidate for the post must possess the following qualifications and qualities:

- A first degree with at least a second class lower division or Higher National Diploma (HND) with at least a lower credit in Accountancy or Finance related courses from a recognized institution of higher learning;
- Have a minimum of eighteen (18) years post qualification cognate experience for first degree and HND holders or Master's degree in relevant discipline with a minimum of fifteen (15) years post qualification cognate experience or Doctorate degree (Ph.D) in relevant discipline with a minimum of twelve (12) years post qualification cognate experience, at least ten (10) years of which must have been gained in a Polytechnic or similar TVET institution;
- Registration with ICAN or ANAN;
- Currently on the rank one level below the Bursar (i.e, Chief Accountant or Deputy Bursar or Deputy Director, Audit as the case may be) for a period NOT less than five (5) years in a Polytechnic or similar TVET institution;
- Proficient in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills and accounting packages;
- Not more than fifty-nine (59) years of age as at 18/12/2024 (date the post will become vacant);
- Demonstrate evidence of strong financial and administrative leadership, initiative and creativity in financial policy formulation, good human relation and positive managerial attributes;
- Knowledgeable in the Financial Rules and Regulations of the Polytechnic system;
- Provide evidence of membership of professional body/bodies;
- Person who is not likely to pursue racial, gender, political, religious or other sectional interest;
- Morally sound, of impeccable character, proven integrity and free from financial embarrassment; and
- Physically and mentally fit (with evidence from a Government hospital).

### 2. THE POLYTECHNIC LIBRARIAN

The Polytechnic Librarian is the Chief Library Officer and shall be responsible to the Rector for the administration of the Polytechnic Library and the co-ordination of the library services in the teaching units of the Polytechnic. He/She is one of the Principal Officers of the Polytechnic. In addition to proven experience in library management and leadership, the successful candidate must have a demonstrable passion for academic endeavours and must also be credible.

#### 2.1 ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND QUALITIES

The candidate for the post must possess the following qualifications and qualities:

- Master's Degree from a recognized institution in Library Science or Library and Information Science, while possession of Doctorate Degree (Ph.D) will be an added advantage;
- Have a minimum of second class lower division degree or a minimum of Lower Credit in Higher National Diploma (HND) in Library Science or Library and Information Science from a recognized institution;
- Minimum of eighteen (18) years cognate experience in tertiary institutions, at least ten (10) years of which must have been gained in a Polytechnic or similar TVET institution;

- Currently on the rank of a Chief Librarian from the Polytechnic sector with not less than five (5) years' experience on the rank;
- Demonstrate evidence of strong academic and administrative leadership, initiative and creativity in library policy formulation, good human relation and positive managerial attributes;
- Provide evidence of membership of professional body/bodies in Library recognized by the Federal Government;
- Provide evidence of scholarly publications in reputable journals as well as presentation of invited papers at educational/library conferences, seminars and workshops;
- Person who is not likely to pursue racial, gender, political, religious or other sectional interest;
- Morally sound, of impeccable character, proven integrity and free from financial embarrassment;
- Physically and mentally fit (with evidence from a Government hospital); and
- Proficient in Information & Communication Technology (ICT).
- Not more than fifty-nine (59) years of age as at 30/01/2025 (the date the post will become vacant).

### 3. TERMS OF APPOINTMENTS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Both appointments are for a single tenure of five (5) years in line with extant provisions. The salary is consolidated and the appointees shall enjoy any other benefits attached to the position of a Principal Officer of the Polytechnic as approved by the Federal Government.

### 4. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applicants are required to submit typewritten copies of their application letter, curriculum vitae and attach photocopies of all relevant documents to their applications twenty (20) copies, giving the details in the following order:

- Full Names (Surname first and underlined)
- Date and place of birth
- State of Origin and Local Government Area
- Nationality and how acquired
- Marital status
- Current Postal Address including telephone number and email address
- Educational Institutions attended with dates
- Academic and Professional qualifications obtained with dates
- Membership of Professional Bodies/Association
- Honours and Distinctions (if any)
- Academic/Scholarly publications
- Conferences attended and papers presented with dates
- Previous Employer(s) and Post(s) held with dates
- Present Employment to include status, duties and any other relevant experience
- Statement of own vision for the Polytechnic twenty (20) copies
- Other activities outside current employment
- Names and addresses of three (3) Referees (Employer, Educational and Personal) who are to forward confidential Reports directly to the Registrar, Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi, such referees should be able to attest to the candidate's claim to high academic and managerial capabilities as well as to the candidate's notable uprightness.

### 5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Applicants will be required to produce originals of the certificates and other relevant credentials if invited for interview; photocopies will not be accepted.
- Applications are to be submitted in a sealed envelope and marked 'APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF BURSAR or POLYTECHNIC LIBRARIAN' as the case may be, at the top left hand corner, addressed to:

The Registrar  
Auchi Polytechnic  
P.M.B. 13 Auchi  
Edo State

### 6. CLOSING DATE

Applications are to reach the office of the Registrar not later than six [6] weeks from the date of this publication.

Please, note that late application will not be entertained and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

SIGNED:

ESHOTSE, F. I. (MRS.)  
REGISTRAR/SECRETARY TO COUNCIL

# CHANGE OF NAME

<b>PHILIP</b> I, formerly known and addressed as SINGER PHILIP MOSES Now wish to be known and addressed as MOSES PHILIP TAMARAEBIBODE. All former documents remain valid. Banks and the general public please take note.	<b>CHIAMAKA</b> That I was formerly known as MISS OKEKE CHIAMAKA SYLVIA. That henceforth wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS. AMAH CHIAMAKA SYLVIA due to marriage with one MR. AMAH EMMANUEL IFEANYI. That all documents reflecting my former name remain valid, and for the general public to take note.	<b>ENOH</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ESOHWODE ENOH KATE now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. BOSIN ENOH KATE. All former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned and general public take note.	<b>VICTORIA</b> I, formerly known as KREBA VICTORIA ONOME, now wish to be known and addressed as KREBA VICTORIA EMMANUEL. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public take note.	<b>AKPOVWERHA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as AKPOVWERHA CHRISTIANA Now wish to be known and addressed as AKPOVWERHA CHRISTIANA OGHENEVO. All former documents remain valid. Banks and the general public take note.	<b>AMAKA</b> I, formerly known as Miss Obuh Amaka, now wish to be known as Mrs Ifechukwude Amaka. All documents remain valid. General public take note.
<b>SARAH</b> I, formerly known as JAMES SARAH, now wish to be known as OGBOTOR SARAH. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>SAINT</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as MIYERJESU SAINT DIKEJI but now wish to be known, called and addressed as MIYERJESU SAINT DIKEJI DANIEL all documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public take note	<b>ANIEFIOK</b> I, formerly known as MISS ANIEFIOK INYANG, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ANIEFIOK ANIEKAN UMOH. All former documents remain valid. Relevant Authorities and general public take note.	<b>ROSELINE</b> I, formerly known as MISS. ASOWATA ROSELINE, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OMOROGIEVA ROSELINE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public take note.	<b>DORCAS</b> I, formerly known and addressed as JEREMIAH DORCAS EFEMENA Now wish to be known and addressed as IFIHWE DORCAS EFEMENA. All former documents remain valid. Banks and the general public please take note.	<b>NKIRU</b> I, formerly known as MISS ARUBAYI SUCCESS NKIRU, now wish to be known as UKUDE SUCCESS NKIRU. All documents remain valid. General public take note.
<b>VIVIAN</b> I, formerly known as MISS. OBIANO VIVIAN KELECHI. Now wish to be known as MRS. KENWANYE VIVIAN KELECHI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities, Banks, NIMC and General public take note.	<b>SAMUEL</b> I, formerly known as Samuel Bob Ugochukwu Nwankwo now wish to be known as Samuel Bob Nwankwo. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>MONDAY</b> I, formerly known as OWOGBA MONDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as OBUKADATA MONDAY OVEDHE. All former documents remain valid. Banks, Relevant Authorities and the general public please take note.	<b>SHEDRACH</b> I, formerly known as EDEDJOR SHEDRACH OGHENERUESE, now wish to be known as GODSPOWER SHEDRACH OGHENERUESE. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	<b>KESIENA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MISS KOSINE KESIENA Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS GODWIN KESIENA GIFT. Banks and the general public please take note.	<b>UWUIGBE</b> I was formerly known, called and address as UWUIGBE PROGRESS and I now wish to be known, called and address as UWUIGBE PROGRESS OSAS. All documents remain valid. General public take note.
<b>MATILDA</b> I, Mrs Matilda Orobosa Osadiaye, is the same person as Miss Matilda Orobosa Osadiaye. All documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.	<b>BLESSING</b> That during my account/ Bvn Registration i used. OSHOLUWA BLESSING Instead of OSHOLUWA BLESSING IWERE. I now wish to be known and address as. OSHOLUWA BLESSING IWERE. All former documents remain valid general public, bank authorities should please take note.	<b>EVIAGHOGHO</b> That I was Formerly Known Called And Addressed As Miss OGHENEBRORIE EVIAGHOGHO. I now Wish To Be Known Called And Addressed As Mrs. ENWA EVIAGHOGHO. All Former Documents Remain Valid General Public And All Concerned relevant authorities Should Take Note.	<b>LEVITE</b> I, formerly known as Levite Glory, wish to be known as Levite Glory Monday. All documents remain valid, general public note.	<b>OLANIYAN</b> I, formerly known and addressed as OLANIYAN AYOTUNDE. A. Now wish to be known and addressed as OLANIYAN AYODELE AYOTUNDE. All former documents remain valid. Banks and the general public please take note.	<b>ELIAS</b> In my National Identity Card my is wrongly arranged as NWOJJI EBUKA ELIAS instead of ELIAS EBUKA NWOJJI, also in my Bank Account/BVN my name is wrongly spelt as ELAS instead of ELIAS. My correct name is ELIAS EBUKA NWOJJI. All former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned and public take note.
<b>PROSPER</b> I, formerly known as Prosper Uforo Etim and now wish to be known and addressed as Prosper Monday Etim. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>KOSOKO</b> I, formerly known and addressed as kosoko lukman now wish to be known and addressed as kosoko lukman adewale. All former documents remain valid, General public please take note.	<b>ABACHI</b> I, formerly known and addressed as ABACHI SAMPSON, now wish to be known and addressed as ABACHI SAMSON. All former documents remain valid, General public please take note.	<b>SAMUEL</b> My name was mistakenly captured as SOLOMON UDO UDO instead of UDO-UDOH SAMUEL Henchfor wish to be known as UDO-UDOH SAMUEL. All former documents remain valid General public and authority concerned please take note.	<b>FAMOUS</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as FLY FAMOUS but now wish to be known, called and addressed as KPAIDIA FAMOUS all documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>ODIEN</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as ODIEN OJEBVWE, now wish to be known and addressed as ODIEN DANIEL OJEBWE. All former documents remain valid. General public, banks and all concerned institutions should take note.
<b>HASSAN</b> I, formerly known as Usman Hassan, now wish to be known as Hassan Usman. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>DOROTHY</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. OBOH DOROTHY IMERETI now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ASINI DOROTHY IMERETI. All former documents remain valid general public please take note.	<b>OGBOGU</b> This is to confirm that the names Ogbogu Jerry madu and Ogbogu Jeremiah madu refers to one and same person but now wish to be known and addressed as Ogbogu Jeremiah madu . All former documents remain valid, General public please take note.	<b>AMAKARE</b> I, formerly known as AMAKARE HELEN now wish to be known as AMAKARE HELEN ORITSEWEYINMI henceforth, general public take note.	<b>KPAIDIA</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as KPAIDIA DENNIS AMBROSE but now wish to be known, called and addressed as KPAIDIA SILAEMI all documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>SARAH</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as ABAJI SARAH OGWU , now wish to be known, called and addressed as ABALAKA SERAH. All former documents remain valid. General public, banks and all concerned institutions should please take note.
<b>OKORIE</b> That in my bank and BVN details, my name was wrongly captured as Okorie Blessing instead Okorie Onuwa as stated in my National Identity and voters card. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>EMONENA</b> That in some of my Documents my name was entered as EMONENA ERNEST, EMONENA ERNEST AVWEROSUO, now wish to be known as EMONENA ERNEST AVWEROSUOGHENE. All former documents remain valid general public please take note.	<b>KELLY</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MUSHESHE KELLY now wish to be known and addressed as SAKPOBA KELLY. All former documents remain valid. Public notice.	<b>EGBAGBA</b> That my name was wrongly written as JOY EGBAGBA N. now wish to be known as EGBAGBA NYEROVVO JOY henceforth, general public take note.	<b>KPADIA</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as KPADIA CHARLEY EBIMOBOWEI but now wish to be known, called and addressed as KPAIDIA EBIS all documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>INNOCENT</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as INNOCENT NYENGIREFAKA, now wish to be known, called and addressed as NYINGIREFAKA INNOCENT. All former documents remain valid. General public, banks and all concerned institutions should please take note.
<b>VICTORY</b> I, formerly known as OGHENEKPAROME VICTORY OMOYINE, now wish to be known as MRS OGHENEKPAROME VICTORY SMITH. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>AKPOVOKE</b> I was formally known as: miss. Daniel Akpovoke Ofishe, but now wish to be known, called and addressed as: Mrs. OMONIGHO AKPOVOKE OFISHE, all former documents remain valid the general public please take note.	<b>EWUBA</b> My BVN details is OGHOGHO EWUBA but want it changed to EWUBA OGHOGHO DANIEL. Public notice.	<b>HITLER</b> I, formerly known as HITLER OGHENEBRORHIE MARIAN now wish to be known as HITLER OGHENEBRORHIE henceforth, general public take note.	<b>KPADIA</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as KPADIA JENNIFER TAMARA EMOMOMI but now wish to be known, called and addressed as KPAIDIA ERES all documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public take note.	<b>ALUKO</b> I, formerly known and addressed as ALUKO EMMANUEL OLUWAFUNSO. Now wish to be known and addressed as ALUKO EMMANUEL OLUWAFUNSHO. All former documents remain valid. General public, School please take note.
<b>MARVEL</b> I, formerly known as. Miss IDEH Marvel, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Kamara Marvel IDEH. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>EUNICE</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. ONYEKACHUKWU EUNICE CHIBUZOR now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. FELIX EUNICE CHIBUZOR. Former documents remain valid. General public, UBA and to whom it may concern, please take note.	<b>FALOWO KEMI TITILAYO</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. FALOWO KEMI TITILAYO now wished to be known and addressed as MRS ADELOYE-ISRAEL OLUWAKEMI TITILAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>EDAFEGHWARA</b> I, formerly known, called and address as Miss Edafeghwara Akpewoghene now wish to be known, called and address as Mrs Obukohwo Edafeghwara Akpewoghene, former documents remain valid general public take note.	<b>MARY</b> That I was formerly known, called and addressed as JEREMIAH MARY, that I now wish to be known, called and addressed as PROSPER MARY. All documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.	<b>IJEOMA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MISS IHESIABA IJEOMA . Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ONYEMERE IJEOMA. All former documents remain valid. General public, School please take note.
<b>YEWANDE</b> I, formerly known as MISS AJETUNMOBI YEWANDE BILIK. Now wish to be known as MRS TAJUDEEN YEWANDE BILIKI. All former document remain valid. The general public, banks and concerned authorities should take note.	<b>RASHEEDAT</b> I, formally known as Isiaq Rasheedat now wish to be known and addressed as Isiaka Rasheedat foluke. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	<b>LAWRETTA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Iweagbari Lawretta, now wish to be known and addressed Mrs. Opanau Lawretta. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>FLORENCE</b> I, formerly known as MISS OKOLO FLORENCE DUMEBI now wish to be known and addressed as MRS OVIE FLORENCE DUMEBI. All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public to take note.	<b>OHUCHUKWU</b> My name was wrongly arranged as OHUCHUKWU OKEZIE CHRISTOPHER instead of OHUCHUKWU CHRISTOPHER OKEZIE. I now wish to be known and addressed as OHUCHUKWU CHRISTOPHER OKEZIE. All former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned and general public take note.	<b>ANINO</b> I was formerly known, addressed and called as ESIGBONE CLEMENT ANINO I now wish to be known, addressed and called as ORURU FESTUS ANINO. All former documents remain valid. General public, School please take note.
<b>OGRI</b> I, formerly known as OGRICHRISTOPHER, now wish to be known as OGRICHRISTOPHER ODODO. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>ATEREZI</b> My BANK ACCOUNT/BVN details are ATEREZI ILIAROME PATRICK but want them changed to ATEREZI PATRICK ILIAROME. Public notice.	<b>ITOHAN</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Ojoh Erica Itohan, now wish to be known and addressed Mrs. Okoh Erica Itohan. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>MERCY</b> I, formerly known and address as Miss IHEDIOHA MERCY OKWUDIRI now wish to be known and address as Mrs. AMUSUMERCY OKWUDIRI. All former documents remain valid public take note.	<b>DEBORAH</b> I, formerly known as MISS. OGINEMIEYE DEBORAH PEREMOBOERE. Now wish to be known as MRS. NWOOSA DEBORAH PEREMOBOERE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities, Banks, NIMC and General public should take note.	<b>KESIENA</b> I, formerly known as KESIENA AJAJA now wish to be known and addressed as KESIENA MOGUN. All former documents remain valid general public please take note.
<b>WEDE</b> I, formerly known and addressed as BOUFAGHE EMILY WEDE now wish to be known and addressed as BOUFAGHE TIMI WEDE. All former documents remain valid. Public notice	<b>MARIAN</b> I, formerly known and addressed as EKURE MARIAN ELOHOR now wish to be known and addressed as OJUVWEDEREH MARIAN ELOHOR. All former documents remain valid. Public notice.	<b>EGUONO</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Eguono Love Ukoko, now wish to be known and addressed Mrs. Eguono Efe Komeme. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>MAUREEN</b> I, formerly known as MRS. MAUREEN EHWARIEME, now wish to be known and addressed as MISS. MAUREEN OFOTOKUN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public take note.	<b>ESTHER</b> I, formerly known as Miss Ogunamen Esther Ehimeman, now wish to be known as Mrs Awosika Ogunamen Esther. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>EDUWO</b> My BANK ACCOUNT/BVN details are EDUWO GODSPOWER but want them changed to EDUWO GODSPOWER ODARO. Public notice.
<b>ANNA</b> My BANK ACCOUNT details is OKPORHARO ANNA but want it changed to AKPODUADO ANNA. Public notice.	<b>OFREMU</b> My BVN details is OFREMU LUCKY but want it changed to OFREMU LUCKY OGHAE. Public notice.	<b>EMMANUEL</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Pepple Emmanuel Blessing, and Blessing Emmanuel, now wish to be known and addressed as Emmanuel Chukwufunnanya Blessing. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>UFUOMA</b> I, formerly known as MRS. AKPOJARO UFUOMA PEACE, now wish to be known and addressed as MISS. SADUWA UFUOMA PEACE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public take note.	<b>OJAISI</b> My name was wrongly arrange as Ojaisi Oghenekevwe Derek and the correct one is Ojaisi Derek Oghenekevwe. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>ISAAC</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MR OLISEMEKE ISAAC E now wish to be known and addressed as MR OLISEMEKE ISAAC EBOAGU , all formal documents remain valid, general public should take note.
<b>EGHOSA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as OSAGIE EGHOSA FRANKLIN now wish to be known and addressed as OKOH EGHOSA FRANKLIN. All documents bearing former names remain valid. The general public take note.	<b>JENRADE</b> My BVN name is wrongly spelt as Jenrade Wasiu Omokolade, now wish to be known and addressed as Jenrade Abdulwasiu Mokolade. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.	<b>NOSAYABA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Ofieh Odias Nosayaba Osaigbovo, now wish to be known and addressed as Chukwuyem-Ofieh Nosayaba Osaigbovo. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>NNENNA</b> I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS IWUCHUKWU UGONNA NNENNA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS CHUKWU UGONNA NNENNA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	<b>FRIDAY</b> My name was wrongly arrange as Friday Progress Osarodion and the correct one is Friday Osarodion Progress. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>OLODU</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MRS OLODU BLESSING now wish to be known and addressed as MRS OLODU KATE , all formal documents remain valid, general public should take note.
<b>OKONKWO</b> I, formerly known as Okonkwo Ken Ifeanyi wishes to state that henceforth I should be addressed as Okonkwo Kenneth Ifeanyi. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>UBIWA</b> I wish to confirm that UBIWA COMFORT, UBIWA IJEOMA COMFORT and UBIWA IJEOMA is one and same person but now wish to be known, called and addressed as UBIWA IJEOMA. general public and relevant authorities concern take note.	<b>BLESSING</b> This is to confirm that my surname was wrongly spelt as Mbelu instead of my full and correct name as MBAELU BLESSING IFEOMA. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	<b>EVELYN</b> I, formerly known as Miss AFIIOWOR EVELYN OGHENEYOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. OMONIKARIN EVELYN OGHENEYOMA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>MARTHA</b> I, formerly known as Miss Oghenekevwe Martha Ufuoma, now wish to be known as Miss Ikumariegbe Martha Ufuoma. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>FAITH</b> I, formerly known as UNUEVWORHUN FAITH now wish to be known as UNUAVWOHUN FAITH KEVWE henceforth, former documents remain valid general public take note.
<b>SOPHIA</b> I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS SOPHIA AISHA SALAMI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS OVIE SOPHIA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. BANKS, AUTHORITIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	<b>STELLA</b> I, formerly known as Okafor Stella Chinyere, now wish to be known and addressed as Madu-Okafor Stella Chinyere. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.	<b>SADAT</b> That I was formerly known, called and addressed as MISS SAUDETU MOMOH AMINU. That I now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS YUSUF SADAT. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	<b>EDWIN</b> I, formerly known as MAVERUO EJOROGHENE BRU EDWIN, now wish to be known and addressed as MAVERUO EDWIN. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>HAPPINESS</b> I, formerly known as Miss Onwugbenu Happiness Anwulika Thelma, now wish to be known as Mrs Igumbor Happiness. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>MAGDALENE</b> I, formerly known as Akoroda Magdalene and Amudo Magdalene Ngozi now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Akoroda Magdalene Ngozi. All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public to take note.
<b>BLESSING</b> THAT I WAS FORMERLY KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS EBIPERE BLESSING THAT I NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS GABRIEL BLESSING. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	<b>MARSHALL</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Marshall James Kwesi, now wish to be known and addressed as Marshall James Addo. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	<b>CHIDIMMA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Miss CHIMEODOCHRISTENCIA CHIDIMMA, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. NWAGWU, CHRISTENCIA CHIDIMMA. All former documents remain valid general public please take note.	<b>BLESSING</b> I, formerly known as Miss UNAWARE BLESSING, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. GREGORY BLESSING. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>EMMANUEL</b> I, formerly known as Ogedegbe Emmanuel Okerhohene, now wish to be known as Peter Emmanuel. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>PATRICIA</b> I, formerly known as ODJESOBA PATRICIA now wish to be known and addressed as OKWEMONU PATRICIA. All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public to take note.

## Obi, Onwuka, others hail Prof Emenike on launch of 4 books

**L**AGOS — PRESIDENTIAL candidate of Labour Party in 2023 election, Mr. Peter Obi, ex-managing director of Diamond Bank Plc, Mr. Emeka Onwuka, and others have commended the chairman/Chief executive officer, Neros Pharmaceutical Limited, Prof. Poly Emenike, for his contributions to education and learning.

Speaking at the public presentation of four books in Lagos on Tuesday, they said by publishing books, the author has provided resources for the enrichment of knowledge.

The books are: The Economic Trajectories of the Igbos After Nigeria-Biafra War: My Personal Perspective; The Mental Emancipation: How To Control Your Conscious and Subconscious Mind For Effective Performance; Shrines As Arbiters: Is

Reserve The Case of Christianity in Igboland? and 15 Writing Principles on How to Be A Celebrated Author.

Obi praised Prof. Emenike for his dexterity in writing, saying that his books add value to the society.

The former governor frowned at the present situation where University students come to school with cars, stressing that the above show the level of riot in the society.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Prof. Emenike said: "This is the third in the series of my book presentation event held in this environment. The first was the presentation of my first book, titled, 'Entrepreneurial Spirit' through the 17 principles of Napoleon Hill, that took place on 26th November, 2014.

"The second was on 20th June, 2019, when my fifth book, 'Think And Grow Rich: The African Perspective', was unveiled. The two books were

published under the auspices of Napoleon Hill Foundation, USA. The four books being presented today were, however, published in Nigeria under the stables of Entrepreneurial Spirit Publishing Company Limited (ESPC)."

On 'Mental Emancipation: How To Control Your Conscious and Subconscious Mind For Effective Performance', he said the book would help readers to engage their brains optimally and use it to think themselves into achieving their hearts' desires.

## Hardship: NGO supplies relief packages to orphanages

**A**BUJA—A non-governmental organisation, Zedfaith Foundation International, has

### Propak West Africa 11th edition confab holds September

**L**AGOS—RETURNING for its 11th Edition in September, Propak West Africa has announced its conference line up, with a new feature and over fifty speakers included.

Propak is the largest exhibition for the packaging, plastics, printing and food processing industries in West Africa and will bring together over 5,500 stakeholders from across the manufacturing industry.

Launching for the first time this year is the Product Innovation Stage, this new feature will provide an intimate setting for leading brands including Tetrapak West Africa, SACMI, Bobst, Kronos West Africa and EPSON to talk through a case study of their latest equipment and one that is leading innovation in the sector.

With only 50 seats available for each session the organiser urge eager participants to sign up and be sure to arrive at the sessions early to claim their seats.

The Product Innovation Stage will run across all three days of the exhibition so there is lots of opportunities for visitors to learn something new.

Taking place on Tuesday September 10 is the return of the Smart Packaging Conference, hosted by AIOPPN, WPO, APO. This year's theme is "Unlocking Nigeria Food Security: Implementation of Smart Sustainable Packaging to Reduce Food Waste". The full day program will cover this hugely important subject with sessions looking at innovative approaches to sustainable packaging, cold chain technologies to reduce post harvest loss, e-commerce platforms for food distribution and how to implement sustainable packaging in the food supply chain.

said its donation to Jesus Charity Orphanage Kuje Area Council Abuja will reduce the hardship they currently experience.

The foundation's founder/CEO, Amb. Daniel Onyeka Newman, represented by Zedfaith Northern Coordinator, Bright Nwachukwu, also restated commitment to ensuring that the unprivileged were well-taken care of.

Nwachukwu said the orphanage was chosen because it haboured persons with

disabilities, adding that only seven orphanages were met on ground due to the holiday.

He urged the Federal Government to empower reputable NGOs such as this which has a track record of putting smiles on the faces of the downtrodden.

According to him, it would enable them to do more for the betterment of Nigeria.

Items distributed to the PWDs included food stuffs, toiletries, provisions and cash for fuel.

## CLASSIFIED

### CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

My correct name is Ottah Stanley Nwadozie, and my date of birth is 14th of January 1987, but my name was captured in my Bank Account and BVN as Ottah Stanley, instead of Ottah Stanley Nwadozie. Also, my date of birth was wrongly captured in my BVN as 29th of October 1987, instead of 14th of January 1987. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

### CORRECTION OF NAME

This is to notify that in my NIN I used Kpogban Nero Tricia, Voter's card as Kpogban, Nero Tricia, my Driver's license as Jesudovire Nero Tricia Kpogban, my International passport as Kpogban Nero Tricia, my Bank Mrs Nero Tricia Kpogban, in another of my account with UBA as Mrs Nero Oviedovire. That all these names belongs to one and same person, but now wish to be known and addressed as Kpogban Nero Tricia. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

### LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I, KEKEI RUME GODFREY, hereby state that my late father Chief Thompson Kweki Ibi was the owner of a plot of land measuring 100ft by 50ft (with a building of 3 stores and 3 rooms) at No. 66, Orhwhorun Road, Ovwian, Udu L.G.A., Delta State. That my late brother Moses Shomare Ibi was in possession of the legal documents of the property but after his demise, all efforts to find the aforesaid documents proved abortive. General public, Nigeria Police and any authority concerned should take note.

### STROKE RELIEF

15 DAYS PHYSIOPAEDIC PROGRAM CAN YOU HANDLE IT? YES NO. CONSULT PETER PRIMECORP 09071365945. FESTAC NOMORE WHEEL CHAIR CRUTCH BEDRIDDEN HOME SERIVE AVAILABLE.

### VICTORIA

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS. OKERE VICTORIA AMARACHI NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESS AS MRS. OKAFOR VICTORIA AMARACHI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. CONCERN AUTHORITIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

### LAWRENCE

I was formerly known called and address as MISS. AIWONORWAN PRINCESS now wish to be known called and address as MRS. ADETAYO PRINCESS. All former documents remain valid general public take note.

### PRINCESS

I was formerly known as NWAOKORIE LAWRENCE IKECHUKWU now wish to be known as NWAOKORIE-EMERENINI LAWRENCE IKECHUKWU. All former documents remain valid general public take note.

### OLUOMACHI

I, formerly known as JOSHUA CRYSTABEL OLUOMACHI. Now wish to be known as IFEANYI CRYSTABEL OLUOMACHI. All former documents remain valid. General public pls take note.

### FAITH

This is to state that my correct name is Shola-Mese Oloruntobi Faith and not Mese Oloruntobi Faith as erroneously captured during my NIN registration. The general public should please take note.

### COMFORT

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS. COMFORT ISMAILA NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESS AS MRS. COMFORT DANIEL. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. CONCERN AUTHORITIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

### PRECIOUS

I, formerly known and addressed as NAPOLEON PRECIOUS now wish to be known and addressed as LUCKY PRECIOUS. All former documents remain valid. Public notice.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### KATURI CARE FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Abuja for registration under part 'F' of Companies and Allied Matters Act, (CAMA 2020).

#### NAME OF TRUSTEES:

1. Katherine Ekpenyong Bassey - Chairman
2. Bassey Ekpenyong Bassey - Secretary

#### Aims and objectives:

1. To provide assistance to the less privileged
2. To provide scholarship and internship to the less privileged students
3. To provide relief materials and resources to the less privileged
4. To provide food and other consumable items to the needy
5. To empower youth and women through skills acquisition and internship programmes.

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28days from the date of this publication.

Signed: Secretary  
KATURI CARE FOUNDATION

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CHANGE OF TRUSTEES:

This is to notify the general public that Christ The Living Church Ministries which is situated at No. 10, Ogbe Street Warri Delta State wish to change their board of trustees of the Ministry.


#### Names of former board members.

- (1) Apostle Samuel
- (2) Oghasegbe Osagie
- (3) Pst Fredrick Oghene Gweke
- (4) Sister Mary Osagie
- (5) Pst Stephen Emuegba
- (6) Elder Arinz Austin Okotie.

#### Names of new board members

- (1) Rev. Osaro Emmanuel Osagie Chairman
- (2) Pst Mary Osagie - Vice Chairman
- (3) Pst Mrs Onome Queen Osagie-Secretary
- (4) Pst Adewumi Lexie Adekoya-Treasurer
- (5) Pst Felicia Obi- Financial Sec
- (6) Kingsley I. Osagie Member
- (7) Harrison at Alamo Oroupa member.

General public take note



**DELTA STATE**  
**DIRECTORATE OF TRANSPORT**  
PROF. CHIKE EDOZIEN SECRETARIAT COMPLEX,  
MARIAM BABANGIDA WAY,  
OFF OKPANAM ROAD,  
P. M. B. 95102, ASABA, DELTA STATE OF NIGERIA.

**22nd August, 2024**

Tenders (expression of Interest) are hereby invited from suitably qualified companies to carry out the project below:

1. Consultancy for the Implementation of the Data Management Scheme on Behalf of the Directorate.
2. Tenders application form and documents are to be collected from the Department of Planning, Research and Statistics, Ministerial Tenders Board, Directorate of Transport, Mariam Babangida Way, Asaba.
3. Tenders must be accompanied with the following:
  - (i) Evidence of registration as a Contractor with the Delta State Contracts Registration Board.
  - (ii) Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
  - (iii) Evidence of Memorandum Article of Association
  - (iv) Evidence of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate for three years.
  - (v) Evidence of Valid DSIR Card/Utility Bills
  - (vi) Evidence of Financial Capability/ Bank Statement
  - (vii) Evidence of Professional/ Technical Capability and License to practice
  - (viii) Evidence of similar previous jobs executed
4. Your tender which should be marked for the personal attention of the Permanent Secretary should indicate on the left side of the envelope "Tenders for" not later than 28 days duration from **22nd August, 2024**.
5. Tenderers should note that the Board in considering the tenderers would not be bound to accept any bidder.
6. Late bids after 28 days duration from **1 9th September, 2024** will be rejected.
7. All tenders should be sealed and reach the undersigned, not later than **2 pm on Wednesday, 18th September, 2024**.

Signed  
**BENEDICT NWOKOLO**  
For: Hon. Commissioner

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA

HEARING NOTICE

SUIT NO. FHC/ABJ/KC/4480/24

**NIGERIA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

Between **HALILU JEGA** and **MOHAMMED** Defendant  
To **HALILU JEGA MOHAMMED, II, Crescent, Phase 1, House No. 5, Kado Estate, F.C.T, Abuja**  
the above-named **RESPONDENT**

This cause will be transferred from the General Cause List to the Hearing Paper for Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of **October**, 2024 at **9:00 AM** o'clock in the forenoon, and will come on to be heard on that day if the business of the Court permits or otherwise on some adjournment day of which you will receive no further notice.

If either party desires to postpone the hearing he must apply to the Court as soon as possible for that purpose, and if the application is based on any matter of fact, he must be prepared to give proof of those facts.

The parties are warned that at the hearing they are required to bring forward all the evidence by witness or by documents which such of them desires to rely on in support of his own case and in contradiction of that of his opponent. The proof will be required at the hearing, and not on a subsequent day, and parties failing to bring their evidence forward at the proper time may find themselves absolutely precluded from adducing it at all, or at best only allowed to do so on payment of substantial costs to the other side, and on such other terms as the Court thinks fit to impose.

Parties desiring to enforce the attendance of witnesses should apply at once to the Court to issue one or more summonses for the attendance of the witnesses required. It is inadvisable that the application should be made so as to allow time for reasonable notice to the witnesses required.

If the witness is required to bring books or papers, they must be particularised in the summons sufficiently to enable him to understand what is meant.

Any party summoning a witness through the Court, thereby becomes liable to pay such witness reasonable sum of money to be fixed by the Court for his expense and loss of time.

The Court may refuse to enforce the attendance of a witness unless such sum has been fixed and deposited in the Court.

If either party desires to use in evidence at the hearing any book or document in the possession or power of the other party, he must give the other party reasonable notice in writing to produce it at the hearing, failing which he will not be allowed to give any secondary evidence of its contents.

DATED at **Abuja**, this **17<sup>th</sup>** day of **August**, 2024.

By Order of the Court.

*[Signature]*  
Registrar

**MISSING TITLE DOCUMENTS AND DOCUMENTATION OF NON ENCUMBRANCE**

The general public is hereby notified that I, Mrs Kehinde Olufunke Umame (Nee Akinluyi), am one of the surviving children of Late Mrs E.O. Akinluyi.

The Estate of Late Mrs E.O Akinluyi, is the bona fide owner of the piece or parcel of land measuring approximately 100 Feet by 100 Feet (One hundred Feet by One Hundred Feet), together with the storey building thereon, lying, being and situate at Holy Cross Road, Off Upper Mission Road, New Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria, which is more specifically delineated in Survey Plan Number: **STH/ED23/160**, with beacon numbers: **AG2231ZF, AG2232ZF, AG2233ZF and AG2234ZF**.

The original title documents covering the aforementioned property are missing and all efforts to trace it has proved abortive.

The property have not been sold and the original title documents or any other documents pertaining to it, was never used as a pledge or for mortgage, and as such the property is unencumbered and free from any dispute.

Concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

SIGNED:  
**Mrs Kehinde Olufunke Umame (Nee Akinluyi)**

**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**

**DECEASED**

1. AMOS OLASUPO TOMORI  
Late of F.C 39, Bilado Street, Ilesa, Osun State, who died on the 9th day of November 2022 at Ilesa.
2. ADESINA KESHINRO JIMOH  
Late of Y 98, Isona Street, Ilesa, Osun State, who died on the 22nd day of May, 2024 at Ilesa.
3. FUNMILAYO OLUFEMI ADESINA  
Late of Federal Housing Estate, Oke Onitea, Osogbo, Osun State who died on the 22nd day of July 2021 at Lagos.
4. GABRIEL UGBEDE  
Late of Police Barracks, Oke Fia, Osogbo, Osun State, who died on the 7th day of November 2021 at Osogbo.

**APPLICANT FOR GRANTED**

1. Olafimihan Timothy Tomori of F.C. 39, Bilado Street, Ilesa, Son of the said Deceased
2. Oladayo Olaoluwa Keshinro and Keshinro Funmilayo Yetunde of Y 98, Isona Street, Ilesa, Children of the said Deceased
3. Olajumoke Adebola Ajao of Federal Housing Estate, Oke Onitea, Osogbo, Daughter of the said Deceased.
4. Emmanuel Gabriel, Gabriel Goodwin and Anthonia Gabriel All of Police Barracks, Oke Fia, Osogbo, Son/Brother/Widow of the said Deceased.

DATED 22nd DAY OF AUGUST, 2024

*[Signature]*  
**OMISADE F.I.**  
PROBATE REGISTRAR



•Wike, FCT Minister

## How Wike is concretising Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda in FCT

By OMEIZA AJAYI

**A**BUJA: For some Nigerians, President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda is just an attempt at political sloganeering that successive leaders have always embarked on. But for residents of and regular visitors to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory FCT, developments in the territory indicate a concrete expression of renewed hope.

Yesterday, August 21, 2024, was a milestone in the annals of the FCT, as its

Minister, Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, alongside the Minister of State, Dr Mariya Mahmoud, marked their first anniversary in office.

With President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda as his guiding light, Wike has revolutionised the nation's capital on various fronts, leaving an indelible mark on its security, land administration, staff welfare/career progression and infrastructural landscape.

Wike's security initiatives have brought renewed hope to residents. Town hall meetings fostered collaboration between traditional rulers and

security agencies, while donations of fit-to-purpose vehicles and gadgets have enhanced quick response capabilities of the agencies. Motorcycles distributed to security outfits and vigilance groups have empowered them to effectively deter criminals, detect crimes, delay them, deny them entry or defend the people as the case may be.

In land administration, Wike has ensured transparency in the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy, protecting homeowners' rights. His stance against illegal commercial conversions has enhanced the innocent outlook and scenic beauty of residential areas.

Financial autonomy for the Federal Capital Territory Administration, FCTA, has been achieved, thanks to Wike's persuasion of President Tinubu, allowing the FCTA to exit the Treasury Single Account and to harness its internally generated revenue for development.

Staff welfare has seen very significant improvements,

with the establishment of the FCT Civil Service Commission, enabling career progression. Today, the FCT administration has a complement of nearly 15 Permanent Secretaries unlike before when civil servants could not rise above the directorate cadre. The establishment of two new Secretariats for women and youth has helped to address

**Wike has revolutionised the nation's capital on various fronts, leaving an indelible mark on its security, land administration, staff welfare/career progression and infrastructural landscape**

pressing concerns, promoting inclusivity.

Infrastructure development has flourished under Wike's leadership, with landmark projects like

the Abuja Light Rail, Southern Parkway, and Outer Southern Expressway, resurfacing of 189 city roads covering 57 kilometres, provision of roads and engineering infrastructure in Guzape, construction of the all-important Wuye Bridge, among a host of other ongoing projects.

Minister Wike has also renewed the hopes of people in the satellite towns and rural areas, constructing, at least, two roads in each of the six Area Councils within the scope of the 2023 budget. More roads are also being constructed in the Councils under the 2024 budget.

The minister only recently presented staff of office to four graded Chiefs in the FCT, resolving chieftaincy disputes that preceded his administration.

Within 30 minutes of engaging youths and community leaders from Jiwa, Wike has been able to resolve the age-long communal dispute hindering the development of a second runway for the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja. The onus is now on the

relevant ministry and the contractors to begin work.

Working with the Minister of State, Dr Mariya Mahmoud - a first class medical practitioner - Wike has regularly engaged traditional rulers in the territory, according them important roles to ensure the stability of their domains.

While Wike has renewed focus on schools and health care facilities, it is to his credit and Dr Mahmoud's that the recent outbreak of Cholera and Lassa Fever did not make incursions into the FCT.

Wike's achievements have earned widespread recognition, contributing to the relative calm in the FCT even in testy moments.

As Wike and Mahmoud mark their first anniversary in the saddle, residents and stakeholders alike look forward to a legacy of continued progress, one that even his worst critics will in their private moments give a thumbs up.

In spite of the economic issues afflicting the country, Wike's activities in the FCT present a strong glimmer of hope. With both leaders steering the ship, the people can only be the winner.

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### News

#### IYC blames Lokpobiri for fuel crisis

By Davies Iheamnachor

**P**ORTHARCOURT—Ijaw Youth Council, IYC, Worldwide has blamed their kinsman, Minister of Petroleum Resources (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, for being responsible for the crisis ravaging the nation's oil industry.

IYC said Lokpobiri has shown inefficiency and lack of capacity in bringing solution to the current fuel crisis in the nation, insisting that Lokpobiri's lack of knowledge of the workings of the oil sector was destroying the gains of President Bola Tinubu's renewed hope agenda.

The council spoke while reacting to the latest resumption date of the PortHarcourt Refinery as announced by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, NNPC.

The body in a statement in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, yesterday, said the new date might not also work, adding that under Lokpobiri, nothing good has come out of the oil sector.

The statement by Maobuye Nangi Obu, the IYC Secretary-General; Miracle Iyaye, National Women Leader; Tamunotonye Altraide, National Legal Adviser and Abiye Bob-Manuel, National Deputy Director of Mobilization said Nigerians were suffering, especially those in rural areas like far-flung communities in Niger Delta, because of the cost of petrol, adding that keeping Lokpobiri as minister would worsen the ongoing hardship.

IYC said: "There are more competent people even from Bayelsa that could have done a better job than him. The man clearly does not understand the workings of that office."

"We have not seen any tangible results since his appointment. The

economy of Nigeria depends heavily on the stability and efficiency of our oil sector. But we are seeing the manifestation of incompetence. "Today, a litre of petrol sell as high

as N2,500 or more in some Ijaw communities. We say this because we have been travelling around the region as part of our advocacy for peace and unity of our people."

#### Ologbese celebrates 83rd birthday

**V**ETERAN maritime operator, Prince Olu Ologbese recently turned 83. Ologbese is Chairman, Ogbese Group of Companies and Life Patron of the Ondo Chapel of the Nigerian Union of Journalists. Ologbese, in the years immediately before return to civil rule and after, was an activist that championed the rights of the people of Lagos State through an NGO that he founded and promoted, the Concerned People of Lagos State, CPLS. In the

photographs here, Prince Ologbese cuts his 83rd birthday cake (below), and down, he is joined by children and grandchildren at the occasion.



## Super Eagles Job: NFF torn between Andersson, Renard

- Andersson gives conditions
- Renard too expensive

Nigeria's long search for a head coach is in its final stages, but complications persist with two candidates left in the race.

The Super Eagles have been without a permanent boss since Finidi George stepped down after only two matches into a two-year contract he signed as recently as May.

He managed only one win over the course of his four matches in charge, and the 2-1 defeat by Benin that rounded off his short-lived tenure leaves Nigeria languishing second from bottom in their 2026 World Cup

qualifying group. Amid much speculation, as well as the involvement of the country's sports minister, Nigeria have honed in on two candidates: Swede Janne Andersson and Frenchman Herve Renard.

Whoever gets the nod, the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) is in a race against time as qualifying for the 2025 Afcon begins on 7 September.

Andersson represents the pragmatic option for Nigeria, both in profile and affordability.

The only significant obstacle to his appointment is the fact that, for personal reasons, Andersson is



only available to take on the role in mid-September. By that point Nigeria's 2025 Afcon qualifiers against Benin and Rwanda will have taken place.

A workaround could see Andersson's assistant Peter Wettergren work alongside an interim – most likely NFF technical director Augustine Eguavoen – for



those opening fixtures. Renard, on the other hand, boasts the bigger profile of the two candidates - but would be a much more difficult appointment to pull off.

The Frenchman has enjoyed great success in African football, being the only coach to lift the Afcon trophy with two different nations.



## Varsity Cup partners NUGA, announces 2024 University football season

Varsity Cup, the annual national football championships for top men's and women's university football teams in Nigeria has entered into a partnership with the Nigerian University Games Association (NUGA) through its parent company, Perform Agency.

The partnership will see NUGA provide nationwide operational and technical support to Varsity Cup, as the organisers complete their preparations for the 2024 Nigerian university football season.

"At Varsity Cup, we envision a world of limitless opportunities for Nigeria's talented student-athletes to thrive playing the sports that they love. It is why we prioritize partners and stakeholders that not only see the vision, but embody it," said Olamide Adeyemo, the Chief Executive Officer of Perform and Varsity Cup.

"Our landmark partnership with NUGA is a testament to their willingness to create an enabling environment for serious collaborators. For the next decade, they can be rest assured of high-level competitions designed to put their talent to use and connect them with the next stages of their careers."

In his remark, the President of NUGA, Bawa Mohammed reiterated the commitment of his executive team and the entire association to enabling platforms that consistently put Nigeria's collegiate sports on the global map.



## Sven-Goran Eriksson 'scared of dying'

TERMINALLY-ILL Sven-Goran Eriksson said he "had a good life" as he shared a tragic goodbye message in a new documentary.

The former England and Manchester City manager bravely revealed in January that he's been battling pancreatic cancer.

Doctors initially gave the Swede - who managed the Three Lions for five years and three tournaments - "about a year" to live.

The 76-year-old has now

seen his life chronicled in a documentary for Amazon Prime Video which will be released on August 23.

Sven gave a final message to former players, coaches and supporters after speaking openly about his affairs and life in the film.

In a touching clip at the end of the documentary, Sven told viewers: "I had a good life. I think we are all scared of the day when we die, but life is about death as well."

"You have to learn to accept it for what it is. Hopefully at the

end people will say, yeah, he was a good man, but everyone will not say that.

"I hope you will remember me as a positive guy trying to do everything he could do. Don't be sorry, smile."

"Thank you for everything, coaches, players, the crowds, it's been fantastic."

## Webber gives NIS Basketball court a new look

The week-long celebration of the Sports Week of the National Institute for Sports (NIS) took an exciting turn yesterday when the institute's main basketball court was unveiled following a complete overhaul carried out by Nigerian sports equipment firm, Webber Engineering.

The event which was witnessed by the staff and students of the NIS and then friends of the institute marked the highlight of the day's programme. The court had been in very poor shape over the years.

The Chief Executive Officer of Webber Engineering, Mr

Opeyemi Babalola told the gathering that even though he had noticed the facility was not in proper shape while serving a Corps member of the National Youth Service, it got worse over the years.

He said, "My time here opened my eyes to the need of this place. I had then made up my mind that the game of basketball provided business and at the same time the opportunity to give back to the community."

"The question was how I could make impact on the lives of kids here and even across Africa. And thank God I have

been able to do my own contribution across 15 African countries.

"I make this as a call of service for other people to give back after you leave here."

The Director General of the Nigeria Institute for Sports, Prof Olawale Moronkola, like Webber, called on other members of the society to help their communities in any way they can.



## Nigerian footballer dies in car crash

Nigerian forward Paul Julius has tragically lost his life in a car accident in Cyprus.

The young footballer was involved in a head-on collision on the Paralimni-Protaras road.

Julius had recently joined Cypriot club Enosis Neon Paralimniou just three weeks ago from Egyptian side El Gaish.

The club expressed their deep sorrow over his untimely death on their official website, mourning the loss of a promising talent.

Enosis Neon Paralimniou's statement conveyed their sadness, highlighting the tragic nature of the event and offering condolences to Julius's family and loved ones.

The football community has

been left in shock by the sudden passing of the young striker, who had only just begun his career in Cyprus.

The club statement reads, "The entire family of E. It is with a heavy heart that P bids farewell to our team footballer Paul Julius who was so unjustly passed away yesterday morning following a car accident."

Paul has been an impeccable young, great footballer with high goals and ambitions.

"Paul, you will always be remembered and in our hearts, even though the days you were with us were few."

"May your soul rest in peace. The flag of our Association will wave at large for 3 days in memory of our footballer."

## NBBF releases dates, venues for Zenith Bank Women Basketball League

After the excellent performance of Nigeria women basketball team, D'Tigress at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, the Nigeria Basketball Federation has released dates and venue for the 2024 Zenith Bank Women Basketball League.

According to the release, 16 teams will be competing in the first and second phase scheduled for different centres in the Savannah and Atlantic Conference league.

The first phase expected to be dunk off on September 1, 2024, will see the Savannah Conference teams taking to the court in Lafia from September 1 to 7, while the teams in the Atlantic Conference will be fighting for honours at the Indoor Sports hall of the Stephen

Keshi Stadium, Asaba.

All the teams are expected to gather points from the first phase heading to the second phase that will dunk off on September 22 and expected to end on September 28 at Abuja and Akure centres for the Savannah and Atlantic Conference respectively.

As in the past, the National finals will take place at the Indoor Sports hall of the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos between October 13 and 19.

MFM women basketball team is the defending champion of the league with former champions like First Bank, Customs, Dolphins, Air Warriors, targeting a return to the podium this time around.

# Vanguard Sports



## Super Eagles Job: NFF torn between Andersson, Renard

•Andersson gives conditions  
•Renard too expensive



### 2024 Paralympic Games:

# Sports Minister dangles N24m cash reward for gold medallists

•Silver medallists to get N16m  
•Bronze medallists N8m

After the disappointing outing of Team Nigeria at the recently concluded 2024 Paris Olympics, Nigerians are expecting a change of fortune with the Paralympics Team geared up for virtuoso performance when the 2024 Paris Paralympics begin. The games is scheduled to hold between August 28 and September 8. Not leaving anything to chance, the Minister of Sports Development John Owan Enoh, who has come under intense flak from Nigerians has made a bold declaration of incentives for the para-athletes as a way of motivating them to perform well at the Games. Speaking from the Team Nigeria training

camp in Germany, Secretary General of the Paralympic Committee of Nigeria (PCN), Suleiman Isah said, "The Minister of Sports, has assured monetary rewards to the athletes that excel at the games. "He promised every gold medal (\$15,000), silver medal (\$10,000), and bronze (\$5,000). "This will serve as motivation for the athletes, so, we expect all the athletes to do well at the games," He, however, called on all Nigerians to support the team, assuring the nation of good outing at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, France. Team Nigeria ended its Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games campaign with four gold, one silver, and five bronze medals.

**DETAILS INSIDE**

## Sven-Goran Eriksson 'scared of dying'



## Nigerian footballer dies in car crash

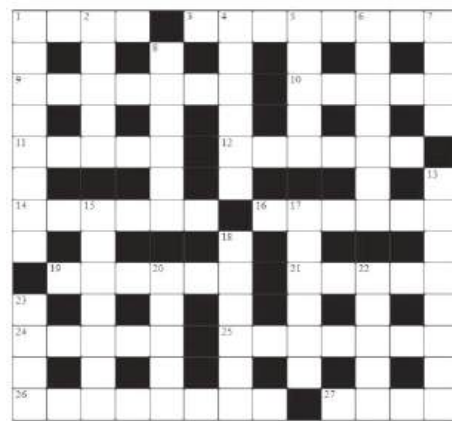
### TODAY'S MATCHES

Conference League		
Chelsea	v	Servette 8:00pm
Lens	v	Panathinaikos 8:00pm
Partizan Beograd	v	Gent 7:15pm
FC Copenhagen	v	Kilmarnock 6:00pm
Fiorentina	v	FC Academy 7:00pm
Legia Warszawa	v	Drita 5:00pm
Pyunik	v	NK Celje 5:00pm
FK Panevezys	v	TNS 5:30pm
BK Haacken	v	FC Heidenheim 6:00pm
Brann	v	FC Astana 6:00pm
Djurgarden	v	Maribor 6:00pm
Omonia Nicosia	v	Zira 6:00pm
CFR Cluj	v	Pafos FC 6:30pm
Kryvbas	v	Real Betis 7:00pm
Rijeka	v	Olimpija Ljubljana 7:00pm
Wisla Krakow	v	Cercle Brugge 7:30pm
Klaksvik	v	HJK Helsinki 7:45pm

RESULTS		
Champions League		
Dynamo Kyiv	0	FC Salzburg 2
FC Midtjylland	1	Slovan Bratislava 1
Malmö FF	0	Sparta Prague 2
Young Boys	3	Galatasaray 2

### QUICK CROSSWORD

#### TODAY'S CROSSWORD



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



#### ACROSS

1. Scheme(4)
3. Vindictive(8)
9. Backing(7)
10. Black and white beast(5)
11. Furious(5)
12. Equipment(6)
14. Language of Israel(6)
16. Wager(6)
19. Artist (anag)(6)
21. Rest period(5)
24. Yes, slangily(2-3)
25. Watch attentively(7)
26. Stopped(8)
27. Affirmative votes(4)

#### DOWN

1. Imitative artistic work(8)
2. Greek vowel(5)
4. Small and dainty(6)
5. Theme(5)
6. Organisation of admirers- (3,4)
7. Be in front(4)
8. Cartoon spinach eater(6)
13. Devil-may-care(8)
15. Purveyor of meat(7)
17. Waylay(6)
18. In one's own house(2,4)
20. Cricket trophy(5)
22. Ahead of schedule(5)
23. Castro's land(4)

### SUDOKU

#### TODAY'S PUZZLE

	7	5		1	9			
1	4							
	8		5		3			6
	2	1		6				
			9	8				
			3		5	7		
4			7		5		3	
							4	9
		7	3			8	6	

#### YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

3	5	6	8	1	9	7	4	2
2	9	7	4	5	6	8	3	1
4	8	1	2	7	3	6	9	5
5	1	3	7	8	2	9	6	4
8	6	2	5	9	4	3	1	7
9	7	4	6	3	1	2	5	8
1	2	8	3	6	5	4	7	9
7	3	5	9	4	8	1	2	6
6	4	9	1	2	7	5	8	3

## 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.

## OKADIGBO

TWO WEEKS TO LIVE' 06

