

Clamour against Water Resources Bill mounts

Public outrage against the controversial Water Resources Bill, being pushed by Buhari's administration is heightening. Various groups and individuals have urged the

■ Afenifere, Ohanaeze, PANDEF, SMBLF, NBA, Soyinka, CAPPA, others kick National Assembly to trash the bill which was re-presented on June 29, 2022, for First Reading by the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee

on Water Resources, Hon. Sada Soli from Katsina State.

The bill, which was initially introduced and rejected by the lawmakers during the 8th

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



www.thetrumpet.ng

The Trumpet

PATRIOTIC VOICE

@TheTrumpetNig @thetrumpetng @thetrumpetngr JULY 20-21, 2022 VOL. 1 NO. 073 N200




Nigerian-born Kemi Badenoch knocked out of Tory leadership race

→ 24

EDITORIAL

Yes Mr. President, enough is enough!

→ 12



NNPC will continue to fix fuel prices on FG's behalf

→ 16



Ondo farmers protest against attempt to seize their land

→ 6

PDP unperturbed as court reserves verdict on suit against Osun victory

■ Says Adeleke's case dissimilar to Zamfara Gov Matawalle's → 2



Ademola Adeleke

PMS PUMP PRICE ADJUSTMENT				
S/N0	Areas	Old price	New price	Increment
1	South West	₦165.00	₦179.00	₦14.00
2	North West	₦165.00	₦184.00	₦19.00
3	North East	₦165.00	₦189.00	₦24.00
4	South South	₦165.00	₦179.00	₦14.00
5	North Central	₦165.00	₦179.00	₦14.00
6	South East	₦165.00	₦184.00	₦19.00
7	Abuja	₦165.00	₦174.00	₦9.00
8	Lagos	₦165.00	₦169.00	₦4.00

PMS EX-DEPOT PRICE ADJUSTMENT			
S/N0	Areas	Old price	New price
1	Lagos	₦148.17	N160-N162
2	Warri/Ogharra	₦148.17	N162-N165
3	PHc	₦148.17	N165-N167

PDP unperturbed as court reserves verdict on suit against Osun victory

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**,
Politics Editor

National Publicity Secretary of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Hon. Debo Ologunagba, has dismissed anxiety over the fate of its victorious candidate in the recent Osun State governorship election.

It follows an update on a suit against Governor-Elect, Senator Ademola Nurudeen Jackson Adeleke by an aggrieved PDP gubernatorial aspirant.

He said: "the people of Osun have spoken and they gave spoken well. Nobody should

deceive himself by seeking victory through the back doors.

"We are aware of the Zamfara example but ours is a different case. When you go to court, you state your case and prayers but leave the technicality of the case to the presiding judge.

"We are not disturbed at all and at the end of the day, we shall come out of court victorious."

There is apprehension in Osun over the alleged possibility of Adeleke losing the mandate given him at last Saturday's governorship election.

This follows the reservation of judgement by an Appeal Court sitting in Akure, Ondo State



Adeleke

in a case instituted by Prince Dotun Babayemi on the eligibility of Adeleke as the party's torchbearer in the July 16, 2022 election.

He sued Adeleke and the party, alleging that he emerged from an illegal primary election.

Babayemi and his faction of the PDP held

a parallel primary with the one that produced Adeleke.

Although INEC officials monitored the exercise conducted by the Osun Governorship Primary Committee appointed by the national secretariat of the party, but Babayemi

is at but at the Court of

Appeal challenging the delegates list used in conducting the qualifier poll.

It is feared that this pre-election case of who is the authentic candidate of the PDP, if not amicably settled out of court, may spell doom for the party and Adeleke.

Earlier at the Federal High Court, Osogbo, Justice Nathaniel Ayo-Emmanuel noted that the primary election that produced Adeleke was done at the right venue and conducted by the right people but with wrong delegates.

This, may invalidate Adeleke's election and votes.

Also, it was noted

by the court that though Babayemi was voted for by the right delegates but the primary election that produced him took place at the wrong venue and was conducted by the wrong people. So, his primary cannot stand.

With the situation on ground, the two claimants to the PDP ticket may lose out and incumbent Governor Gboyega Oyetola and his All Progressives Congress (APC) may reap the victory, having coming second at the polls.

The PDP, however, expressed hope that it will not lose the Osun victory.

Clamour against Water Resources Bill mounts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Assembly following public outcry, was reintroduced in the current 9th National Assembly in 2020 but faced backlash again from Nigerians, forcing the National Assembly to step it down.

Groups opposing the bill include the Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum, Nigerian Bar Association, Afenifere, Ohaneze Ndigbo, Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), Urhobo Progress Union (UPU) and Ijaw National Congress, among others. A notable voice against the bill is Nobel Laureate and playwright, Professor Wole Soyinka.

On September 15, 2020, Corporate Accountability & Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) and Amalgamated Union of Public Corporation Civil Service, Technical and Recreational Employees (AUPCTRE) had led a delegation of civil society and labour allies to a meeting with the Minister of Water Resources, Engineer Suleiman Hussein Adamu to whom a harmonised and well laid-out highlights of clause-by-clause analysis of the bill was

submitted with specific recommendations encapsulating the voices and concerns of the public.

Contentious sections of the earlier version included Section 98 which stated that, "the use of water shall be subject to licensing provisions," Section 120 which made it compulsory for Nigerians to obtain a driller's permit before sinking a borehole in their homes, and Section 107 which says, a licence might be cancelled if the licensee fails to make "beneficial" use of the water.

CAPPA questioned who determines beneficial use of water. Some of the identified problematic provisions in the previous bill are still recycled in the "revised" version.

If it becomes law, it will empower the Federal Government to control all water resources such as rivers, streams, lakes, and underground water in all parts of the country. It also makes a strong case for the much-discredited Public Private Partnership (PPP) water privatisation model.

In a statement issued

in Lagos, CAPPA, however, described the so-called revised version as exactly the same bill that was roundly rejected by Nigerians and interest groups.

According to the group, the reintroduction of the bill is an insult to Nigerians from all the geopolitical divide, including socio-political groups that have kicked against it from the beginning because of its many anti-people provisions and the ulterior motive of its promoters.

CAPPA Executive Director, Akinbode Oluwafemi said:

"It is distasteful that the promoters of the Bill did not consider any of the objections by Nigerians about the draft Bill but only moved them to other sections with the intent to deceive Nigerians."

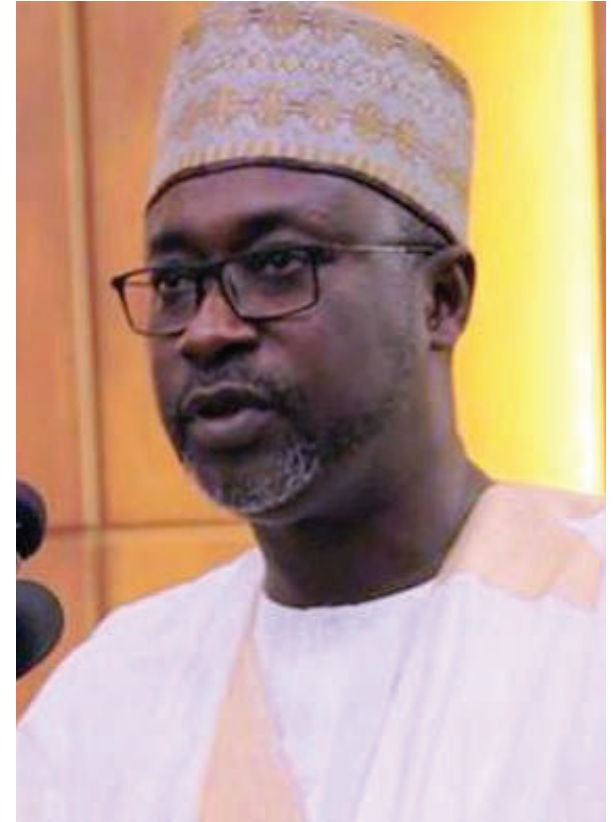
Oluwafemi explained that a clause-by-clause analysis of the re-presented bill conducted by CAPPA showed that regardless of the "re-packaging" and re-arrangement of its sections and a few expungements, it still fails woefully to meet the obligation of integrating the tenets of Human Right to water and sanitation.

"For instance, although "promoting public private partnerships in delivery of water services" has been expunged from the Objectives of the Bill under Part 1- Sec 1 (1) (i), the same provision is still retained in Section 13(1)(n) of the Bill," CAPPA noted.

In the analysis, CAPPA observed that the bill is still rooted in a privatisation agenda: privatisation of Nigeria's water resources under the guise of Public Private Partnership. This will only worsen the availability, accessibility and affordability of water resources by common citizens, it stressed.

The group warned that the bill, if allowed to scale through, would result in dispossessing a section of Nigeria citizens of their inherited and cultural rights to water and this is by no means an equitable venture.

Further, it noted that a dysfunctional consequence of the bill is the establishment of a new Federal Government and Boards to take over the responsibilities of the states on water resources within



Minister of Water Resources, Suleiman Adamu

tjeirvterritorial jurisdiction which runs contrary to the spirit of true federalism.

CAPPA reiterated its call that a pro-people bill should prioritize the normative elements of accessibility, affordability, and availability of water as mutually exclusive components of human rights by ordinary citizens. Nigerians' water remains a natural resource which should not be commodified, it warned.

"It beats the imagination that the promoters of this Bill want to hastily make it a law without due consultation and consideration of the genuine concerns of Nigerians. Again, their ulterior motives are exposed, and Nigerians reject their deception. We want the National Assembly to not just step it down this time, but throw it out in its entirety, kill it," CAPPA added.



Elomaz Hotels ultra-modern complex is strategically located in the tranquil environment of Maryland, with easy access to Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way and Ikorodu road, the main artery to Lagos Island, and 15 Minutes drive to/from the local and international airports at Ikeja. It is the ideal place to stay when you are in Lagos for business or pleasure.

Restaurant & Rooftop Bar,
Conference Room, Banquet Hall,
Cybercafé, Gym, Car Hire,
Laundry, WIFI



Elomaz Hotels

Address: 3/5 Emmanuel St, Maryland Lagos
Tel: 0802 318 2295, 07053339183, 08141161113



Northern youths root for Peter Obi

Youths in the northern parts of the country have decided to eschew ethnic tribal and religious sentiments in the choice of the nation's president come 2023.

Rather, they prefer competence, private and public antecedents and future prospect as criteria to be adopted in voting a preferred persons among the candidates canvassing for votes ahead of 2023.

The youth body therefore, said that they found in the presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Mr Peter Obi.

Victor Laka, State Southern Zonal Chairman of Peter Obi Candidacy Movement on Sunday explained that the youths decided to support the former Anambra State governor, Peter Obi because of his leadership qualities.

According to him, more than 15,000 youths and women from northern Nigerian state of Nasarawa have promised to stand and support the presidential ambition of Obi, in the 2023 general election.

Laka further said that the group, with members from across the 13 local government areas of the state, was tired of politicians from other political parties who kept lying to the masses of providing good governance during electioneering campaigns but ended up disappointing them.

He noted that it was the reason they decided to support the Labour Party to produce Obi as President in 2023.

He said "as youths who want the progress of Nigeria, we are tired of all the politicians who keep deceiving us that they will provide good governance. Life has become so difficult for the youths because



we have bad leaders and that is what we are trying to correct in 2023.

"So far, 15,000 youths have registered with our support group, the Peter Obi Candidacy

Movement, and more have indicated interest to join us in the struggle to rescue our nation from the corrupt politicians who do not mean well for us.

"We have great

confidence in him because he did very well in Anambra State while he was governor. We believe he will do better if he is elected as president of Nigeria in 2023. So, we are

urging all Nigerians who are yet to get their Permanent Voter Cards to do so immediately in order for us to vote in credible leaders to office in the coming elections."

Terrorists kill another Catholic priest in Kaduna



Gov El-Rufai

The decomposing body of the Kaduna priest was discovered on Tuesday, July 19, while his colleague was released after a ransom was paid.

Reverend Father John Cheitnum, one of the two Catholic priests abducted in Lere Local Government Area (LGA) of Kaduna State, has been killed by his abductors.

Until his abduction and killing, the victim was the Director of Communications at the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, as well as the Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) In Jema'a LGA of the state.

Reverend Father Cheitnum and his colleague, Reverend Father Donatus Cleopas, were kidnapped by bandits on July 16 while they were on pastoral work at the rectory of Christ the King Catholic Church, Yadin Garu in Lere LGA.

According to a statement by the

Chancellor of Kafanchan Catholic Diocese, Reverend Father Emmanuel Okolo, the decomposing body of the priest was discovered on Tuesday.

Reverend Father Cleopas, on his part, was said to have been released by the bandits after an undisclosed amount of money was paid to them as ransom.

This was contained in a statement by the Chancellor of the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Okolo.

- Advertisement -

The statement read, "Sequel to the announcement of the two kidnapped priests from our diocese, we wish to announce that Rev. Fr. Donatus Cleopas escaped from his abductors and has reunited with us.

"However, it is with a deep sense of sorrow and pains that the Bishop, Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Diocese of Kafanchan announce

the gruesome murder of Very Rev. Fr. John Mark Cheitnum.

"Fr. John Mark, who was abducted from the rectory of Christ the King Parish YadinGaru, Lere L.G.A of Kaduna State, was brutally killed by his abductors on the same day of his abduction; Friday 15th July, 2022.

"Until his demise, he was the CAN Chairman, Jama'a LGA, as well as the Coordinating Chairman of CAN, Southern Kaduna. Fr. Cheitnum was the Dean of Kwoi Deanery, Director of Communications in the Diocese of Kafanchan and the Pastor of St. James Parish Fori, Jama'a LGA, Kaduna State."

Channelstv.com reported that in recent times, Kaduna State has witnessed several kidnapping incidents, most of which were targeted at religious leaders.

In the last one year, the Catholic Church

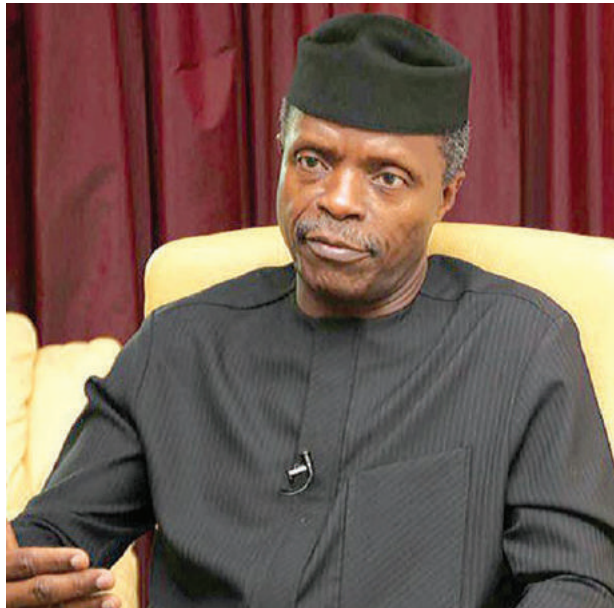
of Kaduna Diocese alone has lost three of its priests to banditry, while four others were kidnapped and only regained their freedom after ransoms were paid to their abductors.

Elsewhere, authorities in the state said security operatives have killed a notorious bandit who was part of the groups terrorising residents of Chikun LGA.

The Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs in the state, Samuel Aruwan, said the security forces intercepted some criminals at Kidunu general area around Eastern By-Pass in Chikun LGA, and during an exchange of fire, one of the bandits was neutralised, while the rest escaped with gunshot injuries.

He said two AK-47 rifles, charms, and amulets, as well as two motorcycles and a mobile phone, were recovered from the bandits during the operation.

Why I had surgery in Nigeria — VP Osinbajo



Prof. Yemi Osinbajo

Although his doctors advised him to consider doing the surgical operation to correct a fracture on his right femur (thigh bone) abroad, the Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo insisted on using a Nigerian hospital and medical experts for the procedure.

According to sources close to Duchess International Hospital where the operation took place on Saturday, some of the government and private practice doctors of the Vice President made the suggestion because the going abroad option is often usually considered by

such class of patients and at times the option could also seem more seamless.

But one of the doctors who coordinated the whole operation, Dr. Yemi Onabowale, who is the founder of the Reddington Hospital, was quoted to have said “the VP was clear that he had confidence in Nigerian doctors both at home and abroad and would prefer they handle the operation.”

His preference to have the surgery done in Nigeria is also being regarded as a major boost for the government’s often stated objective of a reversed medical tourism as some voices in

the healthcare sector have expressed excitement at Prof Osinbajo’s choice.

He was also said to have argued that doing the operation in Nigeria would not only encourage Nigerian doctors who are among the best anywhere in the world, but it would also help develop the capacity here in Nigeria warmly including groups of doctors like some NMA chapters and other public intellectuals

Meanwhile, the Federal Executive Council, FEC, has wished Prof Osinbajo a quick recovery, after the successful operation.

FEC conveyed its

goodwill message in a statement yesterday in Abuja by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr Boss Mustapha.

Mustapha said the surgical operation, possibly related to a long-standing injury associated with the game of squash, was performed by a team of specialist doctors in Lagos.

“As Prof. Osinbajo recuperates from the surgical operation, FEC wishes him quick recovery so as to continue to give the needed support for the overall growth and stability of the country,” Mustapha said.

Indigenous firm moves to rescue Nigeria’s shipping industry from foreign dominance

An indigenous firm, White Dove Shipping Limited, has set out to rescue the industry from foreign dominance by effectively catering for the evacuation and export needs of local producers as well as providing employment to Nigerian seafarers.

Chief Executive Officer of the firm, Chiemezie Ejinima, in a virtual media roundtable said there are few indigenous shipping companies operating in the country due to the capital intensive nature of the shipping business, thereby giving opportunities to foreigners to dominate the industry.

He said while the marine industry remained quite lucrative with different segment of shipping, lack of funds to acquire equipment and vessels for indigenous players to operate in the market, especially in the evacuation of crude oil, had led to the dominance of International Oil Companies (IOCs).

Ejinima said the gaps led to the incorporation of the shipping firm in 2017 to help provide robust marine equipment spread for crude oil evacuation, storage, offloading, terminal services and general marine operations, especially for local manufacturers.

He said: “We saw a lot of indigenous players having problem with their

crude oil evacuation and so we came up with this strategy to evacuate their products by using vessels and tankers. We set up a one-stop shop for full evacuation of crude oil from the point of production to export.

“We have a retinue of vessels from the storage vessel where the oil company produces into to a host of shuttle vessels, which are basically medium range tankers that move those crude from the storage vessel to offshore and then to the terminal.”

He added that while transportation of crude oil through pipeline poses several risks to communities and loses to the producers, the firm is helping the indigenous producers to ensure that they adequately account for the exact amount of crude oil they produce after shipment.

“Currently we are able to take capacity of 60, 000 barrels of crude oil per day, but we hope to have sufficient capacity to cater for more than 150, 000 barrels of crude oil per day. Our marine fleet has to increase extensively. Now we have one terminal, four floating storage and offloading (FSO) vessel and one Very large crude carrier (VLCC), our plan will be to increase to three VLCC to be able to take care of the terminal and export needs of Nigerian

oil and gas companies.

He said with this, the firm is helping to eliminate opportunities for incidence of crude theft and that the impact will ensure the indigenous oil companies get value for their investment, while the government adequately gets returns that are due to them through royalties and taxations.

Ejinima also noted that the firm, with its capacity is providing sea time and jobs to cadet and seafarers to bridge the knowledge gap between Nigerians and foreigners as well as eliminate unemployment of seamen.

According to him, the firm engage 90 per cent local workforce, adding that most of their vessels are manned by Nigerians with the aim of achieving close to a 100 per cent indigenisation.

Most of the foreign vessels and foreign owned companies prefer to bring in their own expatriate staff, but our philosophy is to develop Nigerians and that is what we are doing,” he stated.

Speaking on challenges affecting the industry, Ejinima said the 100 per cent rise in energy cost, especially marine gas oil has increased operational expenses, noting that this will not deter the firm from providing adequate services to its clients in the upstream oil and gas industry.

Aviation unions to shut airports in support of ASUU

Two unions, Association of Nigeria Aviation Professionals (ANAP) and the National Association of Aircraft Pilots and Engineers (NAAPE), have urged governments to end the lingering industrial action embarked upon by Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) in the interest of the nation.

The unions have also threatened to embark on a nationwide protest on July 26, 2022 and July 27, 2022

In separate statements issued by Deputy General Secretary of NAAPE, Umoh Ofonime and the General Secretary of ANAP, Abdulrasaq Saidu, the unions stated that they would be shutting down the country’s airspace in solidarity unless urgent steps are taken to address

this misnomer.

ANAP explained that not only the students are suffering but parents and the society, adding that the poor economy has also affected every home in the country, noting that education remained the bedrock of any nation aspiring for greatness saying that ASUU strike will eventually lead to a regrettable situation in future if not well handled

“Our children are using eight years to read courses of four years with resources being wasted. We cannot continue this way,” it stated.

ANAP further warned that their members will align with the Nigeria Labour Congress’ (NLC) position on protest against the unfortunate situation in the tertiary education

stating that all members have been put on alert in solidarity actions on the directive of Nigeria Labour Congress at very short notice,” the statement added.

In a statement titled: Our Children In Tertiary Institutions Cannot Remain At Home Perpetually, NAAPE said it observed with regrets how the Federal Government is treating the crises in the educational sector, resulting to strikes, as the teaming students have remained at home for over four months.

It said: “The refusal of the Federal Government to honour the agreement signed with the union since 2009 is very disturbing considering the negative impact the prolonged strike will create in the life of these children.

“NAAPE, therefore, completely support the position of the National Executive Council of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) to embark on a nationwide protest on July 26 and 27, 2022 in solidarity with the trade unions in the Nigeria Public Universities and others.

“By this, the National Administrative Council (NAC) has directed that all branch chairmen and secretaries are requested to disseminate this information to all the members in their various branches to participate in the solidarity protest in their various states.”



Comrade Ayuba Wabba, President NLC

'Policing Lagos interesting as it's challenging'

Lagos State Commissioner of Police, CP Sylvester Abiodun Alabi, can fittingly go for a man of peace. Describe him as a diligent Police officer and you're not far from the truth. Say he is an unrivalled manager of human and material resources, you're definitely on point. As the new Commissioner of Police in the state, Alabi has not only emplaced a unique policing stratagem, he has also distinctively galvanized officers and men of the command on intelligence-led community policing model. This has engendered peace and serenity for thriving socio-economic activities in the state. The workaholic Alabi who says he sleeps for only two hours daily, speaks on his policing model that has earned him commendations from Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Inspector-General of Police, IGP Alkali Usman Baba. He says policing Lagos State requires no rocket science: "just know the evolving crime trend and pattern and put in place the necessary modalities." As Commissioner of Police in the past five months plus has been very interesting as well as challenging, he said in an encounter with **The Trumpet** during which he spoke on critical issues in policing Lagos State. Excerpts:

You have been in Lagos State for over five months plus now as Commissioner of Police; how has it been like fighting crime in the state?

A: Like you rightly said, I took over on 24th of January this year and in the next couple of days I would have been six months old in Lagos State. My experience; it has been very interesting and challenging. Like I said in my maiden briefing, I said I was going to study the patterns and trends of crime and that will guide me to put in place some strategic plans on how to police Lagos and that is exactly what I did. I went to the records through our statics and realized that the prevalent crimes in Lagos were cultism, traffic robbery and occasionally, murder cases arising from landing disputes. After studying that, I quickly put in place some certain plans towards reducing traffic robbery to the barest minimum and also to reduce the wave of cultism. And I think by the grace of God, we have been able to do that in these past five months. Although, we still have some pockets of cultist rivalry clashes but not as prevalent as it was when we came on board. Then the issue of traffic robbery has been reduced drastically, it is almost at zero level now because in the first two months, we used to see on social media about people that we attacked, trying to tell the whole world that we were attacked on traffic but you can bear me witness now that, that doesn't exist again. So we have been able to reduce that and we shall continue to do our best to ensure that it doesn't resurface again. Principally, we have really put in place certain strategies to ensure that traffic robbery is a thing of the past in the state.

Lagos State is a peculiar one when it comes to crimes and criminality. What has been your greatest challenge so far?

A: Yes, like you rightly said, Lagos is a peculiar state, it is a unique state that allows a unique way of policing, it is an industrial form of commercial nerve center, it is a kind of mini-Nigeria. The best way to police Lagos is to get everybody involved and practically gets the various people, the communities involved as a follow up to our policy trust of which of this is community policing; to engage various stakeholders, to partner with us, the Police cannot do the job alone without having collaboration and co-operation with other security agencies. These are critical stakeholders, so I charged my Area Commanders and DPOs to always

be at stakeholders' meetings every week or fortnightly, so that they can reappraise their work, so that they can listen to information of intelligence from the people. Let me particularly mention the relevance and importance of the Lagos Neighbourhood Watch, they have been wonderful, they really set plans in policing Lagos State very well by sharing intelligence and relevant information with us.

Let me also mention the importance and efforts of the DSS in the state for their information and intelligence sharing. The Director has been very wonderful. He is really cooperating with us and we are working together and that has helped us to bring down the crime rate in the state to the barest minimum because of intelligence sharing. Beyond that, I have been able to galvanize the Rapid Response Squad, to response to distress calls swiftly and our response has now remarkably improved and the DPOs, the officers and men to be sincere, I want to be frank with you, I want to salute their resilience, their commitment and dedication to duty. They have been very wonderful with special reference to responses to distress calls because I monitor the command every second through our communication system and that enables me to get abreast of what is going in the state to know if there is any area I need to change my strategy or if there is any area I need to galvanize my men the more so that we can respond adequately to distress calls. However, we do have problems with logistics but again, it is not peculiar to Lagos State Command alone; it is all over the country. Logic has always been the problem of the Police. The Police is poorly equipped and I am sure you are aware of that and that is why kudos should be given to us because even with the tools, the limited tools that the police is given, we have been able to achieve this, you can imagine if we are well equipped and have the wherewithal and equipment to work with adequately, you would agree with me that we would have done even much better than what you're seeing. Talking about logistics, I still have some Divisions with only one patrol vehicle but I still want to appreciate the government of Lagos in that regard because they have been very helpful in terms of provision of vehicles, fuel and motivation for the men occasionally to do their best and that has contributed to the successes we have recorded so far. But like you said, we have a logistic problem but the leadership of the force have tried their best because recently we



CP Sylvester Abiodun Alabi

received five trucks and vehicles from the IGP to do our job very well. And recently too, the men have been motivated in terms of welfare by the leadership of the Force in such a way that it will bring succor to us.

How has the ban on motorcycle riders affected the rate of crimes and criminality in the state?

Honestly, the ban has greatly reduced the rate of crimes in the state. In fact there is a positive

correlation between the ban on motorcycle riders and crime in the state; yes, I can attest to that because I have the statistics. If you recall the interview I had with the Channels TV, I made it clear that some of these criminals masquerading as motorcycle riders are armed robbers, yes, most of them always dispossess their victims of their belongings where they carried them to, some even after their commercial activities with their

motorcycles, at night they take to crime. I can authoritatively tell you that so many of them were arrested with locally made pistols and they have been charged to court accordingly. Honestly, like I said, there is a positive correlation between the ban on motorcycle riders and crime in the state, the ban has really brought down the crime rate in the state. So I want to also implore the government to extend the ban to some other local governments particularly, Festac area, Ejigbo and Agege, Kosofe local government- Ketu and Alapere areas, because we are still having some pockets of issue with motorcycle riders in these areas. It has even been confirmed by the Controller of Immigration when we had our last security meeting with the governor that most of these riders are non-Nigerians, majority of them are from outside the county and that was why we said he too should assist the state by profiling them to know those who here illegally so that they should be deported back to where they are coming from.

So, what is your advice to criminals and would-be criminals in the state?

I have said over and over again even when I took over the mantle of leadership of the

Police in the state that Lagos is not a hiding place for criminal activities and we have been carrying the war to their dens as a proactive measure, we have been doing constant raiding of criminal hideouts and we have been having results to that effect. So my advice to them is to relocate from the state or the long arm of the law will catch up with them.

Is there anything you want to tell us that we didn't ask?

Well, what I want to say is that members of the public through our community policing partnership program have been able to build the confidence and trust in us, but we want to solicit their support the more because there is no other Police than the Nigeria Police Force and they should understand that we are serving them and working for them and we shall continue to do that so that they can have the enabling environment to go about their lawful businesses. That can only happen if they continue to share information with us, share intelligence with us and that will be treated with utmost confidentiality without betraying any of them and at the end of the day by the grace of God, Lagos will be very peaceful for all of us to live in.

Ondo farmers protest against attempt to seize their land

By FRIDAY OMOSOLA, Akure

Farmers in Idanre Local Government Area of Ondo have stormed the streets to protest against the plan by the state government to seize their land for private use.

The protesters alleged that the state government had given about 50,000 hectares of their land to private business owners for 99 years. The farmers lamented that over 20,000 of their farmlands had been destroyed.

Also, Hon. Festus Akingbaso, Ondo State House of Assembly representative for Idanre Constituency, kicked against the state government's plan to sell land owned by his people to private companies. Akungba in a statement revealed that the state government had arrogantly granted private business owners 99 years of access to about 50,000 hectares of land in the Idanre Forest Reserve.

He said: "There have been rumours and unrest around a supposedly planned action by the Ondo State Government to hand over

the land of my people in Idanre to private businesses for a while.

"The fact is that the area known as Idanre Forest Reserve (A05) was submitted to the colonial power under British indirect rule by an agreement dated 22nd day of September, 1918, between Idanre Community and the colonial power represented by the Governor - General.

"The terms of the agreement are explicit. Among which is that the area was constituted as a Forest Reserve for the joint use and benefit of the government and the native communities owning the land. Above term is clear and explicit and to Idanre people it is a running covenant in respect of the area.

"To the dismay of Idanre people the government of Ondo state without regard or deference to the Owa of Idanre and the people has arrogantly given about 50,000 hectares of land in the area to private business owners for 99 years.

"The following companies are known to be behind the moves to grab Idanre Land. These are Blue Sky Ltd (4000

hectares), Sao Agro services Ltd (10,000 hectares) and Rex (30,000 hectares).

"On Sunday, the 17th day of July 2022, SAO Agro services Ltd aided by eight vehicles loaded with personnel of Amotekun Security Corps and officers of the Nigerian Army invaded Ofoosu area with a Bulldozer to begin the destruction of farm lands of over 20,000 farmers who are presently farming on the land.

"It is our believe that to alienate about over 50,000 hectares of land to private people to the detriment of over 20,000 citizens is immoral and illegal

Idanre people will not watch while the government is giving away the legacies from our forefathers and what should serve the future generation of Idanre away to few business men.

"The reality on ground is that the government will not be able to manage the economic and social consequences of this move. Government exists to protect the interest of the people, not the few opportunists in our midst.

"I'm appealing to the

Governor to stop this move and protect the image of its government as this is nothing but a move against the people. The so-called ceding of the land of our people to private people is against the spirit of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. This is an ill wind."

Reacting, the Senior Special Assistant to Governor Akeredolu on Agric and AgriBusiness, Pastor Akin Olotu, said the farmers would not be displaced but would rather be incorporated to better yields and improved income.

He said the state government has planned a programme to bring farmers of the same produce together as a cluster as is being practiced in developed countries, adding that the situation at Ofoosu would be resolved at a suitable time.

According to him "this will be able to meet the disabilities requirement, to get things done in the proper way and make it easier for the extension officers and other agricultural benefits to get to them through one road."

Ghana confirms first cases of Marburg Virus

By SHARON O. ISAALAH, Head, Science, Technology and Health Desk

Ghana has confirmed its first two cases of the deadly Marburg virus, a highly infectious disease in the same family as the one that causes Ebola.

It says both patients died recently in hospital in the southern Ashanti region.

Their samples came back positive earlier this month and have now been verified by a laboratory in Senegal.

Health officials in the West African nation say 98 people are now under quarantine as suspected contact cases.

These include relatives, medics and mortuary workers who came into contact with the two patients.

This is the second time that Marburg has been identified in West Africa. There

was one confirmed case in Guinea last year, but that outbreak was declared over in September, five weeks after the case was discovered.

The World Health Organization (WHO), which is supporting Ghana's health authorities, has praised the country's swift response.

"This is good because without immediate and decisive action, Marburg can easily get out of hand," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's Africa director.

"There's a whole multi-disciplinary team in the field trying to ensure that we are able to unearth the real source of this," Dr Patrick Kumah-Aboagye, the head of Ghana's health service told BBC Focus on Africa radio.

Contact tracing and strict infection control measures have been introduced to prevent more fatalities.

Teams are also going into communities to make them aware of the symptoms and to ensure they alert health authorities if any suspected cases emerge.

No treatment yet exists for Marburg – but doctors say drinking plenty of water and treating specific symptoms improves a patient's chances of survival.

The virus is transmitted to people from fruit bats and spreads between humans through the transmission of bodily fluids.

Those at highest risk of getting infected include family members and hospital staff caring for someone who is sick.

It is a severe, often fatal illness with

symptoms including headache, fever, muscle pains, vomiting blood and bleeding.

Ghanaian officials are warning people to keep away from caves and to thoroughly cook all meat products before eating them.

Beyond West Africa, previous outbreaks and sporadic cases have been reported in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda, the WHO says.

The virus killed more than 200 people in Angola in 2005, the deadliest outbreak on record according to the global health body.

The first ever Marburg outbreak was in Germany in 1967 where seven people died

We'll soon curb medical tourism, Buhari pledges

By SHARON O. ISAALAH

President Muhammadu Buhari stated this when he performed the groundbreaking for the construction of the Administrative/Senate Building, College of Medicine building and Principal Officers Quarters at the permanent site of the Federal University of Health Sciences, Otukpo (FUHSO) in Otukpo, Benue State.

The president, represented by the Minister of Education, Prof. Adamu Adamu, noted that he was impressed that the university's management had hit the ground running and has no doubt that the desired impact of producing high-level medical manpower as well as curbing medical tourism will be achieved in no distant time.

He said his administration recently approved the sum of 3 Billion naira as a high-impact intervention fund through the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Tetfund) for FUHSO to further enhance infrastructural development that will provide an enabling environment for teaching, learning, research and innovation.

The president, therefore, commended the Minister of Education, National Universities Commission (NUC), Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), and Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources for assisting the new university move speedily to commence academic programmes within

one year of its operation.

Buhari also, after the groundbreaking ceremony, proceeded to commission a set of laboratory equipment for the university.

Earlier, FUHSO Vice Chancellor, Prof. Innocent Ujah, said with the groundbreaking ceremony, the university's expectation of moving to the permanent site will commence before the end of 2023.

Ujah added that Tetfund has designated FUHSO as the Centre of Excellence for Infectious Diseases for the study of Lassa Fever, Ebola, Covid-19 and other emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases, stressing that the institution is engaging in partnership with other institutions within Nigeria as well as some global institutions such as Emory University, Atlanta and Northwestern University, Chicago, all in the USA.

Also, in his goodwill message, a former President of the Senate, Senator David Mark, expressed fulfilment that what started like a mere dream had come to fruition.

Mark, represented by Mrs Oowoo Mark Ameh, while urging the management and staff of the university to rise to the occasion of producing world-class manpower in the health sector, said the government and people have high hopes that FUHSO will be among the leading universities in the country.



President Muhammadu Buhari

NMA advises FG, states to speed up NHIS implementation

By SHARON O. ISAALAH



Prof. Baba Issa

Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) has advised the Federal and State Governments to speed up implementation of the mandatory health insurance uptake for citizens.

Prof. Baba Issa, the NMA Chairman, Kwara branch, gave the advice in Ilorin during a news conference organised on the commencement of a week-long events, culminating in election of new officers.

Issa, who was represented by Dr Adedayo Aderigbige, the Deputy Chairman of the association, said the implementation of the scheme would ensure access to quality health services at all tiers of government as was recently signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari.

"We will not fail to continue to remind the government that they must not rest

till all Nigerians are not exposed to the risk of financial hardship while paying for their healthcare needs," he said.

He explained that the Kwara-NMA medical and surgical team would be conducting outreaches at Esie community in Irepodun Local Government Area, including other neighbouring communities such as Oro and Agbonda.

He added that the free medical and surgical outreach would bring succour to patients who have financial challenges in solving their surgical health problems and offering them our service.

Issa stated that the week-long activities would include Scientific Conference themed: "The Nigerian Health Response to COVID-19: Lessons Learnt or Business as Usual".

According to him, other themes

are: "Structuring Medical Education in Nigeria: Interplay of Regulatory Bodies and External Interference".

He commended Gov. AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq of Kwara for his unflinching support to doctors working in the state.

He explained that AbdulRazaq has provided support for the association sports centre; the 2021 outreach and approval for the recruitment of some medical doctors and other health workers to replace the dwindling numbers of health personnel in the state.

"We want to appreciate him and urge him not to relent in his desire to ensure that health becomes a priority in the legacies of his administration," he said.

He commended doctors across Nigeria for their doggedness and bravery in their work, despite challenges.

Don decries policy inconsistency on environmental issues

By SHARON O. ISAALAH, Head, Science, Technology and Health Desk

A university teacher, Christian Madu, has expressed worry over policy inconsistency on environmental issues affecting the country.

Madu, a Professor of Environment Management and Control with University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), stated this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria in Enugu.

He spoke on the sidelines of the ongoing massive felling of trees and deforestation across the country, as more Nigerians take to firewood and charcoal for energy for domestic use.

NAN reports that the recent development is a direct fall out of the rise in the price of kerosene to between N750 and N800, while a kilogramme of cooking gas has gone up to between N850 and N900 nationwide.

According to Madu, there are many reasons for the policy inconsistency in the environment sector in the country, stating, however, that the major problem is that government policies are not

synchronised.

"We offer contradictory policies and practices at the various sub-national and departmental levels which are different from the central or national policy.

"It will take good leadership to look into how the different units of government can work to achieve a common goal on environmental issues.

"Right now, all the units operate as independent islands to achieve their respective agenda, to the detriment of the central unit or," he said.

The don noted that it was rather unfortunate that most locals were already resorting to heavy use of firewood and charcoal for cooking and other domestic energy needs.

He said that this latest development was depleting the nation's forest resources and eco-system as well as endangering its trees.

"This is setting us back from all the campaign and sensitisation that many of us have concluded to encourage transition to the use of cooking gas as a cleaner energy alternative for the betterment of our environment," he added.



Christian Madu

Dangote partners agencies, stakeholders on environmental sustainability

By AHERHOKE OKIOMA, YENAGOA.

Nigeria's bid to reduce carbon emissions has received a boost as Dangote Cement Plc entered into partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and National Environmental Standards and the Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA). It is to promote environmental sustainability.

Dangote Cement also collaborated with the Lagos Business School Sustainability Centre, and Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) as part of the

Company's initiatives to mark the 2022 World Environment Day in all its 14 production plants in Nigeria and Pan Africa.

Dangote Cement's Environment Week programme supports African countries and the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) joint venture (JV) agreement to invest in carbon avoidance and offsetting projects.

In carrying out the initiatives, Dangote Cement engaged experts to build the capacity of employees, local communities and other stakeholders on biodiversity conservation and progressive reclamation

of mining sites. Other topics addressed were soil rehabilitation and carbon mitigation. The company also set up a biodiversity garden at one of its mines in Nigeria to serve as model.

Mr Michel Pucheros, the Group Managing Director of Dangote Cement Plc, noted that the company demonstrated support for governments' efforts by contributing climate solutions that would reduce Nigeria's carbon emissions.

The World Environment Day featured a web forum entitled 'Only one Earth: Conserving the Values of Biodiversity'. It centered on the need for humans to

make deliberate efforts to save the earth by conserving biodiversity. The forum brought together about 560 participants from the manufacturing and extractive industries, academia, government agencies, international agencies, civil society (NGOs), media, and environment enthusiasts across Africa.

Dr Igazeuma Okoroba, the Head of Sustainability, Dangote Cement Plc, gave insights into the activities of Dangote Cement during the forum stating that the organisation is complementing government efforts through collaboration with stakeholders in civil society and industry. She noted that as Africa's leading Day commemoration avails us the opportunity to create awareness on sustainability initiatives to conserve the earth and maintain the values of biodiversity." business, the "World Environment

According to Dr Okoroba, the initiatives were "aimed at entrenching sustainability consciousness across the business' value chain. One of the ways Dangote Cement seeks to achieve this is by complying with rehabilitation plans and exploring ways to protect the ecosystem in the communities where we operate."

Engr Tukur Lawal, the Head of Environment and Social Performance, Dangote Cement Plc, while speaking on World Environment Day, said the objective of the initiative was to make mining sites safe for current and future land use. Specific goals include creating awareness amongst mining personnel, enabling mining stakeholders to understand the processes of identifying and evaluating species, flora and fauna for climate risk management.

Adducing reasons on why Dangote Cement is taking the challenge, Engr. Lawal asserted that "The Company is ready to engage with stakeholders to conserve biodiversity, mitigate carbon emission and make the environment safer".





Why APC lost Osun and the danger ahead

By SOLA FASURE

Saturday July 16, 2022, loss of the Osun governorship election by the All Progressives Congress to the Peoples Democratic Party was long in coming. It will take naivety or dishonesty or both not to acknowledge this.

It was an election the APC could have won hands down for many reasons. The first is the national weakening of the PDP. The party, having been alienated from power since 2015 and having no coherent leadership, is grossly and hopelessly adrift. It is no longer in a position to rally its members and command resources; many of its havens already crossed to the APC or Peter Obi's Labour Party.

Secondly, the party in Osun is divided into three factions, with three governorship candidates emerging from its fold; the main candidate (who eventually won), Senator Ademola Adeleke, Dr Akin Ogunbiyi, who flew the flag of the Accord Party, and Dotun Babayemi, who stepped down and supported Adeleke. At a point, Babayemi briefly enjoyed the ownership of the party's flag, following an interlocutory grant from a court and it looked then like Adeleke was out of the race.

The third factor was the quality of the PDP candidate. Adeleke is a scion of the Adeleke dynasty in Ede. Their father, Ayoola Adeleke, was Chief Obafemi Awolowo's ally and a Second Republic senator. Isiaka Adeleke, Demola's brother, was the Third Republic and Osun's first democratically elected governor and serving senator before his death on April 23, 2017. Demola brought nothing, other than his gawdy dance steps and unending controversy on his educational qualification.

The last is the fillip that the emergence of Asiawaju Bola Tinubu ought to have given to the candidate of the APC. It is well known that Osun is the ancestral home of the APC presidential candidate and Governor Gboyega Oyetola is his uterine relation. This should have rubbed off very well on the Osun election. Indeed, Asiawaju was in Osun a whole week before the election, coordinating the campaign and mobilising resources.

On a good day, it would have been impossible for the PDP to have won against the APC, given these factors.

It is curious then how the PDP won against all rational considerations and the APC managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

The first is the crisis that began shortly after the inauguration of Governor Oyetola in 2018. He probably felt he was his own man and wanted to assert his bona fide on the state and its politics. But he forgot that he became governor ex nihilo and his emergence as the candidate of APC was a result of the influence of Asiawaju, which almost cost the party the election. He saw the immediate past governor, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, his benefactor, under whom he served as Chief of Staff for eight years, as a competitor. He, therefore, failed Green's first law of power which says, 'Never outshine the master.' The party never got over the crisis, going into the election, which eventually did



Senator Ademola Adeleke

them in.

The power of incumbency tends to give the occupier a false sense of superiority. Oyetola and his men were never short of this. His own is compounded by his blood relationship with Asiawaju. He had false confidence that Asiawaju alone would win the election for him. When the crisis in the party began, his supporters were wont to tell anyone that urged caution that just one word from Asiawaju to Aregbesola to go and work for Oyetola's re-election was enough.

Going into the election, he had divided the party into his loyalists versus Aregbesola loyalists; as if the election was between him and the former governor. He never made any attempt to reconcile the two sides, being fully persuaded that the other side was inconsequential to his re-election. Aregbesola was not a member of the APC election council nor was he personally invited by the governor to help him.

Rather, Oyetola surrounded himself with political minions, especially those who left the party in 2018 to contest against him. He added to the mix the traditional and ideological enemies of the party and enlisted just anyone who would join him in the fight against Aregbesola. They did not disappoint him. His term was noticeable for the fight with his former principal and everyone associated with him. He practically undid Aregbesola's programmes one after the other and stopped the ones he could not undo.

He was implacable and totally uninterested in any other thing. Anti-Aregbesola became the principal directive and guiding principle of governance. In that instance, sycophancy was not in short supply, as government officials openly

attacked Aregbesola and competed to outdo each other in this macabre dance.

Things began to deteriorate as the governor unofficially banned Aregbesola from coming to the state. Anytime the minister was billed to come to Osun for one assignment or the other, the governor's men will plant in the media, allegations that he was coming to foment trouble. It took a turn for the worse, out of power drunkenness, I guess, as Aregbesola's men were being arrested by the police and arraigned in court for no particular offence. Oyetola destroyed the coalition that made him governor.

Going into the election, the APC had become the old PDP, everything the people loathed, their nightmare long forgotten—in brigandage, thuggery, wickedness, selfish, patently anti-people, careless, rudderless, chaotic, vote-buying and worse, lacking ideological focus.

In contrast, Aregbesola as governor, after his inauguration in November 2010, hit the ground running. He had panache and engaged the people politically and governmentally. He was accessible, as his office and homes were accessible to the people 24 hours. His human intervention programmes touched every segment of society. Through it, he was able to transfer resources directly to the people. Even vagrants and lunatics were touched by his administration. He was able to expand microeconomics and unleashed prosperity never before experienced in Osun, which made him win elections, even after he demolished houses and owed workers salaries.

He raised the bar of governance and never ceased to excite the people until he completed his record two terms and left. He endeared himself to the people and they were hoping that his successor

would maintain the tempo.

But Oyetola was elitist, with his government lacking any ideological focus. He was paying salaries and concentrated on programmes that reached not more than 25 per cent of the people, without much backwash effect. He was inaccessible, as the gates of his office and residence were shut against party members and the people. This amounts to disengagement from the people, and it came with serious deleterious consequences as the same people now look at the Aregbesola administration that Oyetola is fighting with nostalgia. It is not difficult for them, therefore, to decide on whom to support in the fight.

Going into an election, Aregbesola would leverage his performance. The party would have been organised in a top to bottom way, as members would be well mobilised on election day to the polling booths. But the party had been destroyed by Oyetola so he relied on vote-buying, even as his henchmen were boasting that they would simply write the result. While this policy got him a lot of votes, it could not get him enough to win. Many voters got his money and voted for the opposition, others simply refused to collect money and would rather vote their conscience.

The PDP winning, therefore, is rather a protest vote against Oyetola and not as much the love for Adeleke or his PDP.

Going into the general elections next year, there is still room to make amends and approach it with a united house, failing which the consequences would be disastrous for the party. This is because the PDP would be enlivened by this victory and would have more resources by then.

• Sola Fasure writes from Osogbo

El-rufai under attack for denying LP supporters usage of Arewa House

● *'It shows APC's jittery over Obi's rising profile'*

BY TUNDE JOSHUA, ABUJA

Governor Nasir El-rufai has come under heavy criticism for the denial by Kaduna government of the usage of Arewa House in the state capital for a planned summit of the Peter Obi Support Network (PSON).

The frontline support group had unveiled plans to hold a summit specifically designed to interact with supporters of the frontline presidential candidate across the 19 Northern states of the country.

PSON berated the governor for his act of political intolerance while noting that the Arewa House is a public property and not El-rufai's personal building.

The state government had on Monday prevented the planned Northern Summit of the PSN in Kaduna. The summit was to further build support base for Obi ahead of the 2023 election.

The Governor was said to have ordered the denial through his spokesperson who allegedly called the Manager of Arewa House to notify PSN spokesman that

"we cannot have Peter/Datti Northern Summit in Arewa House", less than 24 hours to the event.

The state government, however, failed to give further reason for turning down the group's widely advertised use of the venue.

Comrade Sani Saeed Altukry, Spokesman, Peter Obi Support Network (POSN) told newsmen that the summit is not a political campaign of any sorts, but a converge of volunteers and would-be volunteers and supporters of the Obi-Datti project, for necessary interaction and cross-fertilization of ideas.

"The event was initially billed to hold on the 19th of July 2022 at the popular Arewa House, Raba Road, Kaduna, Kaduna State, but the governor issued a directive cancelling the use of the venue after the group had paid for its use," he said.

POSN further stated that Governor El-rufai is too small to stop the "Peoples Movement" which Peter Obi represents vowing not to succumb to intimidation aimed at suppressing the liberation of

northern Nigeria from under-development and poverty.

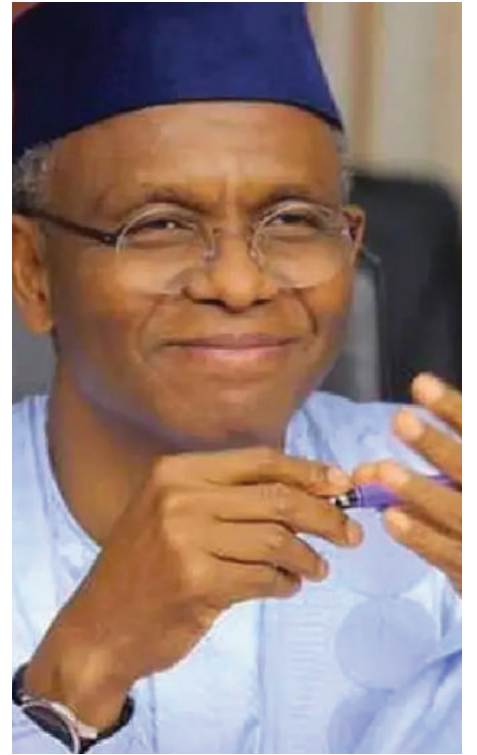
The statement reads, "we condemn the decision of the Governor of Kaduna state, Mallam Nasir El-rufai to block the hosting of the Northern Summit for Peter Obi and Senator Yusuf Datti Baba-Ahmed, the Presidential candidate of Labour Party (LP) and his running mate at the Arewa House in the state.

"The decision of the Governor is disheartening at the critical point in time when Northern Nigerians are desperate for development and liberation from poverty due to maladministration.

"The Governor of Kaduna state is intimidated by the rising profile of Peter Obi, the Labour Party's presidential candidate, across the length and breadth of the country.

"The Governor should know that this is a "Peoples Movement" which can never be stopped.

"The Movement represents all oppressed Nigerians and everyone that desires good governance, and Governor El-rufai is too small to suppress it."



Malam Nasir El-Rufai

Tinubu visits Adeboye, to meet CAN, PFN, other leaders over single religion ticket

BY TUNDE JOSHUA, ABUJA

Apparently unsettled by spontaneous reactions and outright rejection of his choice of a Muslim running mate by the christian community, the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, is meeting with the religious leaders to assuage their feelings.

A source in the Bola Ahmed Tinubu

Campaign Organisation said the presidential candidate took the decision after a thorough meeting with members of a think- thank team which found it expedient that Tinubu need to go round the christian leaders to diffuse the notion that both the candidate and his party, the APC, plans a regime of christians exclusion after winning the 2023 polls.

Asiwaju, whose wife, Senator Oluremi

Tinubu, is a pastor in the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), hence kick-started the persuasive drive with the denomination by visiting its General Overseer, Pastor Enoch Adeboye at Redemption Camp, Lagos - Ibadan expressway on Sunday.

His wife, a few Yoruba elder statemen and politicians went with him.

Though details of the closed door meeting was not made known but a senior pastor in the protocol department at the Redemption Camp said the head of RCCG's recently created Politics and Policy Section was at the meeting.

He said "knowing fully the influence that Daddy G.O (as Adeboye is widely called) wield in Nigeria's Christian community and among the big men of God, the politician thinks he can explore such influence to reach out to other church leaders and christian associations to see reason why he should not be denied christians votes in next year's election."

Also, the source at the Tinubu campaign team said the former Lagos State governor has kicked the ground running with the visit to Adeboye.

Next on the list of consultation will be other leaders of churches with large congregations and christian bodies like the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN).

Tinubu, it was gathered will be accompanied on these consultations with select leaders of both religious faiths in the party.

Recall that the candidate drew the fury of many Nigerians, majorly christians when he announced the choice of former governor of Borno State, Kashim Shettima as the Vice Presidential candidate of APC.

Though party chieftains have frantically been defending APC choice of a Muslim/ Muslim presidential ticket, outrage against the choice continue to grow.

Ondo PDP congratulates Osun Governor-Elect

● *Says victory sign of things to come*

BY FRIDAY OMOSOLA, AKURE

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Ondo State Chapter, has congratulated Senator Ademola Adeleke on his victory at the just concluded 2022 Osun gubernatorial election.

The party in a statement by its Publicity Secretary, Kennedy Peretei, said the victory demonstrated unequalled resilience, doggedness, commitment and determination to consign All Progressives Congress (APC) and its lackluster Candidate, Oyetola to the dustbin of history.

"Our party congratulates the National Chairman, Senator Iyorchia Ayu and members of the National Working Committee of our great PDP, Osun State National Campaign Council under the Chairmanship of H.E Douye Diri, and all other stakeholders who contributed to this hard won victory in Osun State."

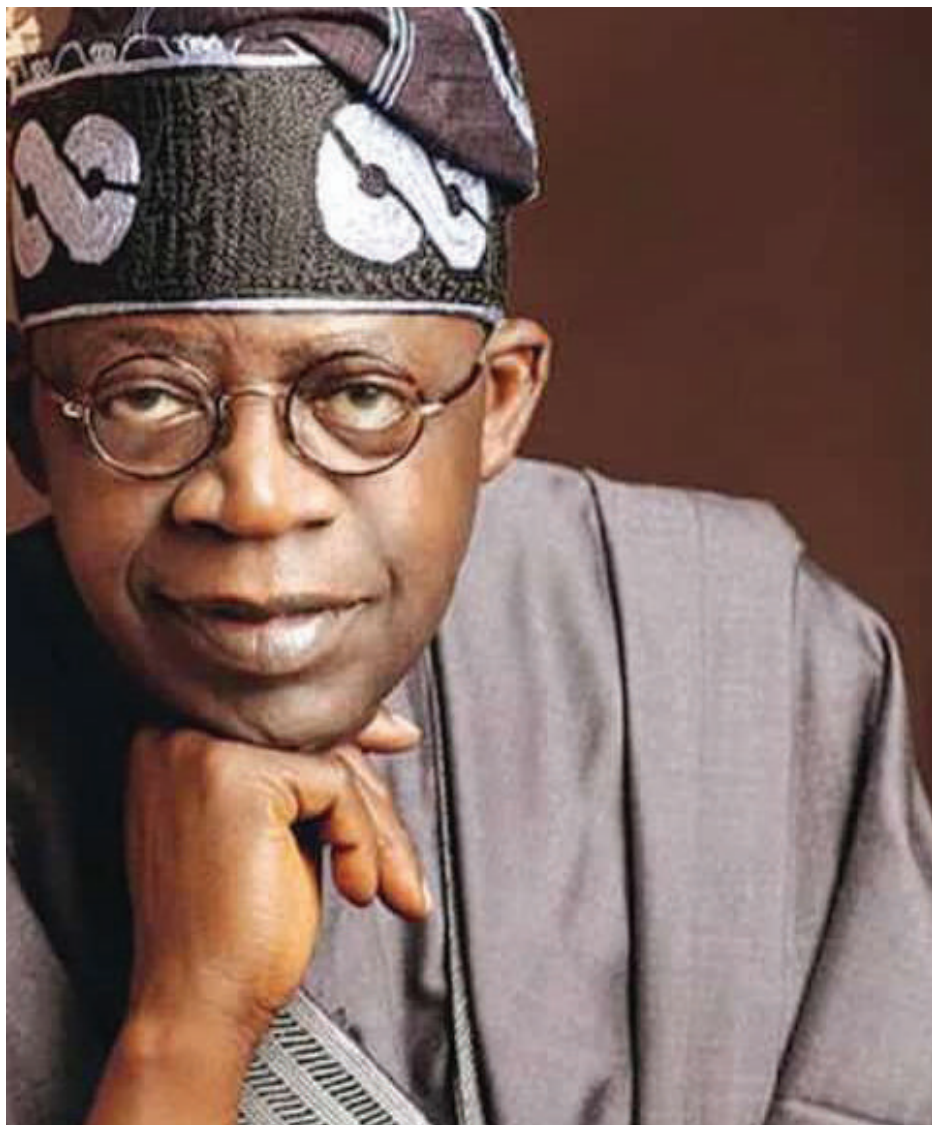
PDP expressed optimism that Nigerians would continue to reject the APC and its candidates for foisting and presiding over unimaginable hunger and frustration in the country.

The party stated that the outcome of the Osun State Gubernatorial election was the dress rehearsal for the 2023 general elections, noting that it was a sign and confirmation of a new dawn where bullion van politics would no longer hold sway.

"Once again, we congratulate Governor-Elect, Senator Adeleke and the entire PDP family in Osun State, South West Nigeria and indeed all over Nigeria."



Senator Ademola Adeleke



Bola Tinubu

Money laundering Act invalidates SCUML certificates

● *issuance of new ones begins soon*

BY PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Money Laundering Act 2022 has invalidated the old Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering (SCUML) Certificates issued by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

EFCC Spokesperson, Wilson Uwujaren, in a statement said the fresh law altered existing regulatory framework, and renders all certificates not reflecting SCUML's new status as an agency domiciled in the EFCC invalid.

Uwujaren said the issuance of SCUML Certificate to businesses was suspended

for administrative reasons to bring the Agency to fill compliance with its statutory responsibility. He assured that issuance shall soon commence.

"The Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering, SCUML is aware of the difficulties currently being experienced by successful applicants for the SCUML Certificate. This development was caused by the suspension of the issuance of certificates to successful applicants by the SCUML.

"The move is an administrative measure designed to bring the agency to full compliance with its statutory responsibilities and obligations under the new Money

laundering Act, 2022.

"The law fundamentally altered the existing regulatory framework and substantially invalidates the certificates issued by SCUML, which did not reflect its new status as an agency fully domiciled in the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

"It therefore became imperative to suspend the issuance of the old certificates until a new one that takes into account the new regulatory environment is printed. Being a security document, there are processes involved in printing the new document.

"However, SCUML is delighted to announce that the procurement process for the production of the new certificates have been concluded and, a very soon, successful applicants will begin to receive notification to collect their certificates as machinery have been set in motion to ensure that the backlog is cleared with dispatch," he said.

SCUML empathised with applicants for the difficulties of the past few days to secure the certificate while assuring that all arrangements have been made to ensure that the process is returned to the established order of prompt and excellent service delivery.

Senator admits receiving vehicles from Omokore in money laundering case

BY PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Fresh facts have emerged in the ongoing trial of Senator Albert Bassey before Justice Agatha Okeke of the Federal High Court sitting in Uyo, as he admitted on Thursday that he received vehicles from a contractor, Olajide Omokore while he was a commissioner in Akwa Ibom State.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is prosecuting Bassey for alleged money laundering and being in possession of six vehicles worth N204 million, at the instance of Omokore, whose companies allegedly executed contracts for the Akwa Ibom State government.

According to the EFCC, the cars include Infinity QX 56 BP, valued at the sum of N45million; Toyota Land Cruiser V8 B, valued at the sum of N40million; Range Rover, valued at the sum of N40million; Toyota Hiace high-roof, valued at the sum of N27million, another Toyota Hiace high-roof valued at the sum of N16million and Toyota Hilux 4X4 valued at the sum

of N36million.

"That you Albert Bassey (whilst being the Commissioner for Finance, Akwa Ibom State and Chairman of Akwa Ibom State Inter-Ministerial Direct Labour Coordinating Committee (IMDLCC) sometime in December, 2012 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, indirectly took possession of a vehicle (Infinity QX 56 BP) valued at N45,000, 000.00 at the instance of one Olajide Jones Omokore (whose companies had contracts with Akwa Ibom State Government at that material time), when you reasonably ought to have known that the said vehicle formed part of proceed of unlawful activity (to wit: corruption) and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 15 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 (as amended) and punishable under Section 15 (3) of the same Act," one of the charges against the Senator read.

At the resumed trial of the matter on Thursday, July 14, 2022, Bassey, while being led in evidence by the lead defence counsel,

Kanu Agabi SAN, admitted receiving cars from Omokore.

According to him, he had been friends with Omokore for nine years before he joined politics. He, however, denied knowing Omokore's companies, and also denied being involved in the award of contracts to any of his companies in November 2013 before he left office as the Commissioner for Finance in April 2014.

In a cross-examination by the EFCC's counsel, E. E. Iheanacho, Bassey admitted that he was aware that contracts were awarded to companies while he was the Commissioner for Finance and the Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Direct Labour Coordinating Committee-IMDLCC, but did not know if the said Committee he chaired received over N30billion as alleged.

The prosecutor further asked the Senator if he knew that the cars mentioned in the charge were luxury cars, Bassey affirmed that they were bullet-proof cars, but denied knowing if they were luxury cars.

Bassey was also asked if he would be

surprised to know that the said Committee he chaired, made payments to Omokore's companies during the period in question, and he responded that he would not be surprised.

Justice Okeke adjourned the matter to September 26, 2022 for adoption of written addresses.



Senator Albert Bassey

Court adjourns till Sept 26 in Naira Marley trial as EFCC presents more evidence

BY PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Trial of Azeez Fashola also known as Naira Marley continued on Friday, July 15, 2022, before Justice I. Nicholas Oweibo of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos with a prosecuting witness, Dein Whyte, an operative of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) continuing his evidence even as the court dismissed the defendant's objection to the forensic evidence earlier presented by the witness.

Fashola is standing trial on an 11-count charge bordering on credit card fraud brought against him by the EFCC.

At the last sitting on June 9, 2022, the defence counsel, Olalekan Ojo SAN had objected to the witness's opinion on the forensic evidence linking the defendant to credit card fraud. He had argued that only the court could make pronouncements on the defendant's culpability, not an investigator.

However, at the resumed trial on Friday, Justice Oweibo delivered a short ruling in which he dismissed the defence's objection.

"It is the duty of the law enforcement agency or Police, charging a person to court to investigate if the defendant committed the crime or not. The investigator must be able to link the defendant to the commission of the crime. The prosecutor must have made up his mind as to the involvement of the defendant before bringing the case

to court. I do not agree that the prosecution has declared the defendant guilty," the Judge ruled.

Continuing his evidence, PW3, Whyte, who was led by the EFCC Counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo, told the court that findings from his investigation, "clearly established that the defendant through his phone had in his possession credit card details that did not belong to him.

"That he shared this credit card information with another person and it was also discovered that a fraud report had been generated for the same credit card stating that it had been used fraudulently."

He said, investigation also revealed that the defendant had on his laptop "electronic tools that are specifically used for accessing compromised credit card information as well as other electronic tools that are used to disguise both the identity and location of anybody accessing compromised credit cards in real time on the internet."

Explaining the role of his team before Exhibit E (forensic analysis) was produced, the witness said it was procedural in investigation for investigators to make a request to the Digital Forensic and Crime Laboratory Services Department to carry out forensic analysis of the content of recovered digital device of evidential value to a case.

"In doing so, the investigator or investigating team will include specifics to guide the Forensic as to what is of importance

to the investigation. These specifics guide the Forensic examiner in narrowing down the analysis and search", Whyte said.

While analyzing the forensics report, the PW3 revealed that the defendant had running on his computer, a VPN called IP Varnish (a tool used to disguise identity and location of the user).

According to him, "In relation to the contents found on the NOTES (a software application) on the devices of the defendant, wherein counterfeit card number was found alongside the details of the cardholder and an IP address, It would suggest that the only reason the possessor of this information will need an IP address attached to it, would be to satisfy the location specifics for consumption of transaction for merchants who require cards to be used only within countries and locations recognized by them.

"If these cards were to be used on the internet from Nigeria, the browser that is stated here will attribute in real time the location of the user to the IP address. And, If Nigeria is not the compliant location of the card issuer, the transaction will be blocked. But if this card when being used passes through a VPN and assigned with the IP address to conform with the compliant location of the card issuer, the Nigerian Location will be disguised and substituted to be Cardiff, thereby giving the merchant the impression that the card is being used from Cardiff or otherwise

the compliant location."

Counsel to the defendant, Olalekan Ojo SAN objected to the evidence of PW3, on the grounds that he was not competent to give evidence on what went on in the mind of the user of the laptop.

"I wish to rely on the Provisions of S11(2) of Evidence Act in support of my objection. An investigating officer is not competent to ascribe a state of mind to any defendant. Whether the state of mind exists or not is a matter for judicial determination. PW3, though an investigator is not a psychologist but a forensic officer who cannot give evidence on the state of mind of a defendant", he submitted.

Responding to the objection, the defence counsel, Oyedepo said the learned silk missed the point. According to him, the "the question being answered by the witness is to connect if there is any relationship between Pages 8 & 27 of Exhibit E (The forensic analysis).

"The witness is not only competent to give that evidence, but rather in the circumstance of this case, is in the best position to bring life in the best way by explaining the relevance of the report of the forensic analysis that he sought for and obtained.

"I agree that the state of mind of the defendant is for the court to determine, however, it is also the power of the court to rely on the facts and evidence."

Yes Mr. President, enough is enough!

At this year's Eid/Sallah celebrations, a delegation of APC Governors paid President Muhammadu Buhari the traditional Sallah visit as part of felicitations. At the occasion, the president took to the podium and charged striking university lecturers to return to the classroom saying "Enough is enough". Not only is this statement unfair, insensitive, threatening, non-conciliatory, indelicate, and uncalled for, it raises the disturbing suspicion that the president is clueless or ignorant of the negotiations that have been going on between ASUU and representatives of the federal government. IS this President abreast of developments in his administration?

For what is now the fifth month, Nigerian students have been languishing at home because of the strike which Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and other unions embarked upon to drive home their demands. Time and again ASUU representatives have sat at the negotiating table with different committees and sub-committees appointed by the federal government. The impression given to the Nigerian public by the Minister of Education and ASUU president is that finally, the negotiations have been concluded, and that the President's final approval was being awaited.

So, it was quite puzzling when the President made that insensitive, out-of-sync statement knowing full well that ASUU has repeated time and again that it was ready to return to the classroom once the federal government fulfilled its side of the bargain. Buhari's utterance therefore begs the question – are these negotiations reported to the president at all or is he being kept in the dark about the situation with ASUU? Something is certainly amiss, thus subscribing to the prevailing narrative that the President is suffering from the debilitating effect of age. .

But enough is, indeed, enough. Enough of the incompetence which has characterized the federal government's approach to the Nigerian education sector. Enough of this administration's spinelessness and scapegoatism, casting about for whom to blame when the blame lies squarely at

its doorstep and fully within its sight. Enough of the poor treatment of our teachers who work endlessly for a pittance in their patriotic attempt to keep a sinking system afloat. Enough of the decaying infrastructure and miserable working conditions of our universities. Enough of watching the children of this administration's elite graduating from universities abroad, smiling happily and confidently into the camera while our own children, the children of the average Nigerian, cry the tears of frustration, a frustration forced upon them by an insensitive and uncaring administration – an administration of which you, Mr. President, are the Head.

Again, enough is enough. Enough of this administration's attempts to brainwash the public and cast ASUU in bad light. Enough of the dishonourable resort to sophistry and propaganda

in this administration's attempts to dodge the issue. Enough of portraying teachers as selfish and unpatriotic when this administration is the very definition of selfishness. An administration run by incompetent and self-serving goons who are out to make a fast buck off the backs of suffering Nigerians. Enough of the laziness, incompetence and disrespect from your administration, Mr. President. Academics deserve better.

And while we are at it, enough of the endless deaths of innocent Nigerians. Enough of the insecurity that has plunged Nigeria into a terror-filled darkness. Enough of the threats to lives and property forcing Nigerians to sleep with one eye open. Enough of the hunger and poverty killing Nigerians or pushing them to the brink of insanity. But even more, enough of the corruption and stealing by members of your administration who are robbing this country blind, determined to cripple Nigeria and bring it to its knees.

When terrorists break into a prison in the Federal Capital Territory, the seat of government, and carry out their operations for three hours unchecked, then, Mr. President should say "Enough is enough". When the President's convoy is attacked in a brazen show of impunity, then, Mr. President, should say "Enough is enough". When the very people responsible for shaping and grooming the next generation of Nigerians go on strike, when Nigerian children remain at home doing nothing, time and lives wasting away in dejection and despair, then Mr. President should examine his administration, and say "Enough is Enough!".

President Buhari should charge his officials to do their job and make things right by Nigerian citizens. It is a welcome development that he has ordered the Minister of Education Mallam Adamu Adamu to resolve the ASUU strike within two weeks. This order ought to have been given months ago. Mr. President end the strike now by doing the right thing, by ensuring that the Ministers carry out the marching order without equivocation. History will judge the Buhari administration not by his much-vaunted personal integrity, but by his performance – and history never forgets.



THE TRUMPET

PUBLISHER/CHAIRMAN: **JOEL-ONOWAKPO THOMAS**

GMD/MICE CHAIRMAN: **GLORIA JOEL-ONOWAKPO**

EDITOR/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: **OMOKIOJA JJK ETO**

WEEKEND EDITOR/DEIC: **OBAB SYLVA**

ELOMAZ COMMUNICATIONS LTD

DIRECTOR: **NDUBISI FRANCES**

MANAGING DIRECTOR: **ENDURANCE EDAFEWOTU**

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN: **CHIEF JOHN ARAKA**

ASSOCIATE CHAIRMAN: **PROF. HOPE EGHAGHA**

MALLAM LAWAL MOHAMMED HAMIDU

DR. PROMISE ADIELE

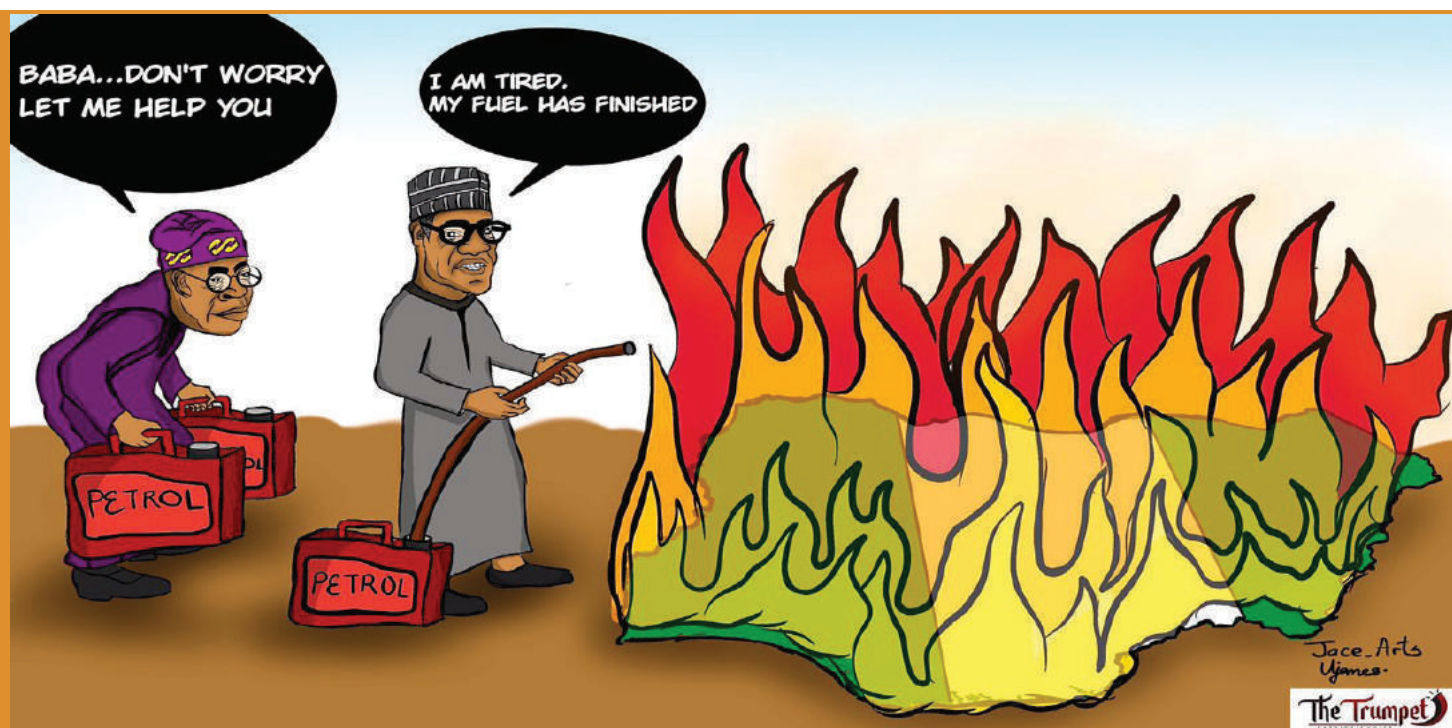
DR. KAYODE EESUOLA

ASSOC. PROF. SAMSON ALHAJI SHAIBU

DR. RALIA MAIJAMA'A ABDULLAHI

PROF OGHENEKARO OGBINAKA

EMAIL US @: **trumpetng@gmail.com**



Open letter to Mohammadu Buhari

I greet you sir. Ordinarily, I should genuflect and grovel before you but, like millions of Nigerians, I am not happy. I am compelled, as a matter of responsibility, to write this letter to you because I campaigned and voted for you in 2015. Sir, I do not know if you read newspapers. I am also not convinced your aides and assistants tell you the truth. If they do, or if you listen to the news and read newspapers, you will realize Nigerians think you are the worst president in the country's history. Sir, I just told you the truth. I am embarrassed because I was part of the human machinery that foisted this hellish APC government on Nigerians. On your watch sir, Nigeria has unfortunately regressed beyond anybody's wildest imagination. Your leadership of Nigeria affirms the position that countries can exist without leadership. Nigeria does not seem to have a leader except in principles. Sir, we wail, we shout, we complain, yet nothing happens. You hardly communicate or talk to Nigerians. You are so aloof. The distance between you and Nigerians makes a caricature of the Bermuda Triangle. When you were aspiring to occupy Aso Rock, you shed tears which we can now call crocodile tears. Nigerians thought you were genuinely weeping for a country you love. Nigerians thought you had something to offer. But after seven years, your administration has inflicted anguish and insufferable conditions on the populace. Your shedding of tears was absolutely for nothing. You knew you had nothing to offer Nigerians yet you

were insisting to occupy Aso Rock. My Oga at the top let us look at the issues.

There are no words to describe Nigeria's security situation under you. Many people would have sworn with their lives that, even if you fail on all fronts, you will secure Nigeria and cleanse the land of marauding bandits and terrorists. But regrettably, on your watch, insecurity has grown to enterprising dimensions. Bandits and terrorists now flourish like trees in a mangrove. Let us consider the following sir. On 2nd November 2012, the Nation Newspaper reported that the terrorist group Boko Haram picked you to moderate talks between them and the federal government. On the 2nd of June 2013, Pointblank news online quoted you as telling the federal government to stop killing Boko Haram members. On the 2nd June 2013, The Nation Newspaper quoted you as faulting the clampdown on Boko Haram members. On 3rd of June 2013, All Africa News quoted you as saying that the military offensive against Boko Haram is anti-North. On the 26th of November 2018, The Guardian Newspaper reported how South African mercenaries declared that you stopped them from fighting Boko Haram. On the 11th of February 2020, The Cable news reported that your government was setting Boko Haram terrorists free. On the 12th of July 2020, The Punch Newspaper reported that 356 soldiers resigned from the Nigerian army citing a loss of sincerity in the fight against Boko Haram. The list goes on and on.

Sir, if the above reports are true,

it will be difficult to exonerate your government of complicities in the current wave of terrorism and banditry in the country. Ironically, you respond differently when there are cases of banditry or violence in other parts of the country. You immediately deploy a battalion of soldiers to kill and maim. Recently, your convoy was attacked and the Kuje correctional facility was invaded by terrorists. They operated there for more than three hours without resistance from any quarters. How possible is that? The personal assistant to Sheikh Ahmad Gumi confirmed that he alerted the military intelligence about the impending terrorist attack but his warnings were ignored. Also, it was reported that military officers on duty were removed shortly before the attack on Kuje prison. Why were they removed? Who removed them? Not long ago, news outlets reported that you gave \$1,000,000 (One million US Dollars) to the terrorist government in Afghanistan when other countries were condemning their rise to power. Your empathy for terrorism is inexplicable. Since the Kuje prison attack, no one has been sacked, arrested or held responsible. The height of indifference was your immediate travel to Senegal while your country's security architecture was being compromised by terrorists. *Sir, you no dey try at all.*

Nigeria's education sector is in a tailspin. As I write this letter to you, universities across the country are closed because lecturers are on strike. When you joined politics, you promised Nigerians that you have become a progressive democrat. But

Promise ADIELE
08037197590
e-mail:
promee01@yahoo.com



your treatment of university lecturers and the education sector does not portray you as a progressive. Sir, how do you go to bed and sleep when universities across the country are closed? Have you considered how the lecturers are feeding and taking care of their families? Have you considered what millions of Nigerian undergraduates and their parents are going through? Has it occurred to you that with universities closed, research is suffering and laboratories have been taken over by rats and other rodents? Interestingly, you and your fellow politicians don't patronize Nigerian universities, therefore the pain is not deep. What is it that university lecturers are asking for that your government cannot provide? What?

Nigerians are getting ready for the 2023 elections. Sir, please, we want you to allow the choice of the people to emerge in next year's election. Nigerians do not trust the electoral umpire much. But we know that if you insist on honesty and transparency, your APC will never smell Aso Rock next year. Nigerians have rejected

APC. We will all be termed sick if we don't reject APC, a party that has dragged Nigerians from top to bottom by your admission. If you watch closely, you will notice the new wave of consciousness across the country driven by the youths. Please, sir, let the will of the people prevail. There are rumours and unconfirmed reports that APC has earmarked a humongous amount of money in USD to rig next year's election. Do not be like Okonkwo in Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* who killed Ikemefuna, a boy that called him father. You are like a father in Nigeria. Please do not bear a hand in the death of millions of Nigerian youths by inflicting more misery on them through the wilful manipulation of the 2023 elections. Help us to usher in a government of the people. That way posterity will judge you kindly. May Almighty God protect you and your family, grant you good health, and long life.

Ndewo Sir! Nagode!
Yours OBIDIENT citizen,

Promise Adiele PhD

The blunder in not having state police (1)

By ERIC TENIOLA

The non inclusion of State Police in the Constitution was an error. It was a grave omission. The lapse occurred in 1976, forty-six years ago.

No one could have imagined forty-six years ago that our security challenges would become so grave to this level, that we now live in perpetual fear at the mercy of terrorists, kidnappers, Boko Haram, ISWAP, political thugs, armed robbers and the rest.

Who could have imagined that our country will be so mismanaged like this, to the extent that we are experiencing depression and bewilderment of crippling fear like a nagging hound of hell pursuing our every footstep, certainly no one.

Instead of emotional lamentation, bewailing or grieving, if we really wanted State Police, we could have had it. No need crying over spilled milk. There is no use stressing out over things that have already happened.

But if we have really wanted State Police, that blunder should have been corrected by now. And perhaps our security apparatus would have improved. For some of us who grew up in this country before independence and even during the first Republic, we experienced the services of regional police and local government native police called AKODA.

If you look at Section 106(4) of the 1963 Constitution, the establishment of regional police was recognized. The Section states that "Subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, the Commissioner of Police of a Region shall comply with the directions of the Premier of the Region or such other Minister of the Government of the Region as may be authorized in that behalf by the Premier with respect to the maintaining and securing of public safety and public order within the Region or cause them to be complied with."

When we have issues like the creation of State Police, we have no choice than to trace how the Presidential Constitution was made with particular reference to the founding fathers no matter how often we make that reference. They are the framers of our constitution. Moreso, when our Presidential Constitution did not pass through a referendum, plebiscite, initiative or mandate.

General Johnson Thomas Umunnakwe Aguiyi-Ironsi MVO, MBE (3 March 1924 – 29 July 1966), the first Military Head of State of Nigeria, on assuming power on January 1, 1966, suspended the 1963 Constitution and with it, the Regional Police. General Ironsi promulgated the Constitution (Suspension and Modification Decree 1966), Decree 1 dated January 17, 1966 but not published

in the official gazette until March 4, 1966. The decree pronounced the death of Regional Police.

Even in his speech at the Lugard Hall in Kaduna on April 19, 1967, at a meeting with Emirs and Chiefs, the then Military Governor of the Northern Region, Lt-Colonel Hassan Usman Katsina (31 March 1933 – 24 July 1995) emphasized that Regional Police and native authority had become a thing of the past. He said on that day that "one of the main features of the Panel's recommendations was a closer control of the native courts of the Government. The taking over of the native courts by the Government was in fact accepted in principle by the civilian Government and judging from some of the legislation it had passed since 1958 there is no doubt that it was working towards the goal" he declared. Throughout the tenure of General Yakubu Gowon (87) GCFR from 1966-1975, there was no mention on the need to create State Police.

It was against this background that the Constitutional Drafting Committee was announced by the then Head of State in 1975, General Ramat Murtala Mohammed (8 November 1938 – 13 February 1976) on October 1, 1975 in his broadcast. The committee was headed by Chief Frederick Rotimi Alade Williams, QC, SAN (16 December 1920 – 26 March 2005). The committee

then established seven sub committees. The subcommittee on Public Services including the Armed forces and the Police was headed by Dr. Obi Wali (February 27, 1932-26 April, 1993). Other members of the subcommittee were Alhaji Ahmed Talib, Colonel M. Pedro Martins, Dr. O. Idris, Mr. A. Makele, Alhaji Mammam Daura and Chief Ekanem Ita.

Alhaji Ahmed Talib was the Chairman of New Nigerian Development Bank and the former deputy governor of Central Bank of Nigeria.

Chief Ekanem Ita, who died on Thursday, 03 September, 2009, was a former Registrar and Secretary to Council of the University of Ibadan (1982 – 1994). High Chief Ekanem-Ita attended the University College, Ibadan, from (1960 – 1963); Columbia University, New York, U.S.A. (1972-1973) and University of London Institute of Education, (1989). He obtained a B.A. (Hons) History (Ibadan), a Masters Degree (Columbia), a Certificate in University Administration (London) and was honoured with a Doctor of Literature degree by the University of Calabar. High Chief Ekanem-Ita was a Government, a Rockefeller Foundation and a British Council Scholar. He joined the services of the University of Ibadan as a Graduate Assistant/Administrative Officer in 1963, was promoted Assistant/Senior Assistant Registrar (1968 -1975), became a Deputy/

Senior Deputy Registrar (1975-1982) and was the Registrar and Secretary to Council, Senate, Congregation and Convocation from 1982 to 1994. The late High Chief Ekanem-Ita was a member of the American Association for Higher Education, Washington; Association of Commonwealth Universities; International Association of World Universities and the International Committee of University Administrators. He was a member of the FG/NUC Panels on University Administration Review; a Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Councils of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka (1997-2000) and Cross River State University of Technology (2000 – 2003). Some other national assignments included membership of the Constitution Drafting Committee (1975-76); and membership of the Visitation Panel to Rivers State University of Science and Technology (1995-1996 and 2005-2006). A traditional title holder, late High Chief Ekanem-Ita was the Ada-idaha-ke-Eburutu; Etonwed Efik Eburutu; Mkpisong Ukara Ekondo Efik; Ikpamfum Calabar and Ntufam of Qua Nation, Calabar. High Chief Ekanem-Ita who was nick-named 'Registrar Emeritus', held the record of being the longest serving Registrar in any Nigerian University, a position he held for twelve years!

To be continued next edition

Failure of govt promotes proliferation of small arms, light weapons, says Ochoche

By PAUL MICHAEL, DEFENCE EDITOR, ABUJA

Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Nigerian Foundation for the Support of Victims of Terrorism, Professor Sunday Ochoche, has said that government is not innocent in the problem of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the country.

He stated this at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre in Abuja during a one day interactive session organised by the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) to interface with relevant Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on how to eradicate the proliferation of illicit weapons.

While presenting a paper on the theme, 'Harnessing the Capacities of the Civil Society Towards Promoting an Illicit Arms-free Society in Nigeria', Prof Ochoche said the failure or limitation of government has in several ways contributed to the problem of illicit weapons.

According to the professor, who

is also a Senior Policy Advisor with the United Nations, insurgency is driven and nursed by bad governance.

"In several ways, it is the failure or the limitations of the State that brings the problem of illicit small arms and light weapons to the fore.

"Insurgency for example, which creates a larger demand for light weapons, is largely politically driven and nursed by bad governance.

"General insecurity leads to citizens seeking to protect themselves by acquiring their own weapons.

"Of significance concern is the leakages of national arsenals to mainly groups, that now use them to form different insurgency and militia groups. So, the State is implicated in a number of challenges we face in small arms and light weapons," he said.

Ochoche faulted the call by Zamfara State government and Minister of Defence on citizens to take up arms and defend themselves.

"In Nigeria, the insecurity has reached a point that the Zamfara State government is calling on

the citizens to acquire weapons to defend themselves.

"The Minister of Defence has made similar calls and I dare say that there is no better promotion for the proliferation of small arms and light weapons than seeing high level government officials urging citizens to go acquire weapons to defend themselves.

"There is no better acknowledgement of the failure of the State to deliver its primary responsibility to the people than those responsible for the provision of security now to begin to call on people to go and acquire weapons to protect themselves," he added.

Ochoche said it is paramount for government to partner with CSOs in tackling the menace of illicit weapons in the hands of unauthorised persons.

"Civil society organizations have important roles to play especially in societies emerging from arms conflicts in supporting the collection of arms and supervision of the public destruction of collected shucks at local level and help to reassure communities that weapons



Professor Sunday Ochoche

surrendered will not re-enter any conflict situation," he said.

According to him, CSOs also have significant roles to play in educating the media and by extension the public on the challenges posed by illicit weapons, train security agents, monitor who buys what, where it goes, who moves it to where, and Why is it going there.

Earlier in his opening remark,

National Coordinator of NCCSALW, AM Dikko said the interactive session was specifically organised to interfaced with CSOs on the way to tackle proliferation of small arms and light weapons, saying that government is determined to mop up illicit weapons.

Meanwhile, in an interview with one of the CSOs, which were carefully drawn from all the six geo-political zones, Ms Temitope Lamidi, President of Gender Equality Advocacy and Development Initiative (GEADI) said that collaboration between NCCSALW and the CSOs is a step in the right direction in solving the problem of illicit weapons.

According to her, "most of the CSOs have first hand knowledge of what happens and how to curb the menace of arms trafficking and proliferation."

She noted that security is the work of every citizen and not only the government while assuring the Centre of the commitment of the network of CSOs under the West African Action Network against Small Arms - WAANSA-NIGERIA, where she also served.

CSO lauds Nigerian military for restoring peace in Liberia

● Seeks NAF's support

By PAUL MICHAEL



Major General Prince Charles Johnson III

Chief of Staff (COS), Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Major General Prince Charles Johnson III has commended the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) for playing a vital role in the restoration of peace and stability in Liberia.

Major General Johnson gave the commendation on Friday 15 July 2022 when he visited the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Lucky Irabor at the Defence Headquarters, Abuja.

He also paid tributes to late Lieutenant General LN Yusuf and Major General SA Abdurrahman, who served as the first and second COS of the new AFL before handing over to an indigenous COS.

According to him, Nigeria and Liberia have had long standing

defence and bilateral relations, saying that "today Liberia has witnessed seventeen years of relative peace and stability because of the sacrifices of men and women of the AFN, for which Liberia is ever grateful and indebted to Nigeria."

As an expression of Liberia's depth of gratitude, he said, a befitting memorial was being planned to honour and immortalize the AFN in the annals of Liberia's history especially, those who paid the supreme price with their lives to bring peace to Liberia.

Responding, General Irabor said the AFN remains proud to have actively participated in the restoration of peace, law and order to Liberia during the period of the country's security challenges.

Meanwhile, the Chief of the Air

Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Oladayo Amao has expressed the willingness of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) to assist the AFL in developing its airpower capability.

The Liberia COS with his team had paid similar visits to the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Farouk Yahaya, Chief of Navy Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Gambo and the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Oladayo Amao in their offices at the Armed Forces Complex in Abuja after visiting General Irabor.

The CAS while receiving Major General Johnson, who sought for assistance of NAF in developing Liberian Air Wing, said "Whenever you have pilots for further training, be rest assured that our training schools are open for them to become full-fledged pilots under the

Nigerian Air Force pilots training programme."

Amao further advised the AFL to take advantage of NAF's technical and engineering schools for non-pilot courses such as the Air Traffic Control and ground support crew.

The CAS also noted that the NAF would support the AFL in providing airlift capability for AFL contingent to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSMA) in Mali once the request is made.

The visiting COS was accompanied by Colonel JS Willie (Commander Liberia Coast Guard), Colonel ON Ejiga (a Nigeria, who is a Senior Adviser ECOWAS Advisory Training Team to Liberia) and Captain JJ Dwanah (Liberia Military Pilot).

How vigilantes killed, burnt 90-year-old man in Sokoto

● Suspects to be arraigned in court

By PAUL MICHAEL

A 90-year-old man, Muhammad Riskuwa, has been killed and burnt beyond recognition, robbed of N430,000 and his house set ablaze by members of an outlawed vigilance group, who were armed with guns, cutlasses and sticks at Zangon Atti village in Gwadabawa LGA of Sokoto State.

Shehu Mamman, a son of the victim while narrating the ordeal to the police, said he was molding blocks with his father on 21st June, 2022, around 08:00 am when the criminal gang attacked them.

Mamman said one of the hood-

lums shot his father dead, while others ransacked the house, made away with the sum of N430,000, set their house ablaze and also burnt the corpse of his father beyond recognition.

DSP Sanusi Abubakar, Police Public Relations Officer of Sokoto Command, said on Friday that a full scale investigation was launched by the police following the report of Mamman, which led to the arrest of six suspects.

"A full scale police investigation was promptly commenced by state CID. Shehu Mamman who recognized identity of some of the assailants led the

investigation team to the arrest of Aliyu Abdulrazak and Rabi'u Abdullahi, both members of the outlawed vigilante that lunched the attacks.

"Their arrest further drawn some vital confessions which led to the arrest of other key suspects that physically took part in the commission of the crimes. They are all male residents of the same address as follows: Mustapha Yakubu, Abdul'aziz Suleiman, Abdulbasiru Alhaji Idi, and Isah Musa," Abubakar said.

He said all the suspects have confessed to committing the

crimes, so shall be arraigned in court soon by the police.

In another development, police in the State on Wednesday foiled the kidnap and robbery attempt of hoodlums armed with dangerous weapons after they invaded Tungan liman village, Wurno LGA in two teams and began shooting sporadically.

The hoodlums, who were already breaking and ransacking shops and houses in the village took to their heels following a quick response from the police. Police from Wurno Divisional Police Headquarters gave them a hot chase leading to the recovering

of one tecno cell phone, two live ammunitions 62 X 39 mm and a pair of sandals.

Meanwhile, three suspects were arrested by men of the Wamakko Police Station for robbing and attacking one Mamuda Mande on 7th July, 2022. The victim was said to have been dispossessed of N100,000 cash and injured on the head.

Abubakar gave the names of the arrested suspects as Hussaini Harande, Shehu Aliyu, and Aliyu Abubakar. He said the suspects will be arraigned in court immediately police investigation is completed.



ADVERT RATES

SERIES DISCOUNT
 5-10 Insertions - 2.5% Extra
 10-15 Insertions - 5% Extra
 15-20 Insertions - 7.5% Extra
 21 Insertions and above - 10% Extra

All materials saved in CD or Flash Drive
 CorelDraw with All Fonts Curved.
 Colour - JPEG or PDF in CMYK
 Black and White - JPEG or PDF in Grayscale
 Proof must be attached with CD or Flash Drive
 All materials to reach us maximum 24hrs before publication

For Advert booking, pls call: Tel: 08025823524, 08060102368 09155587787

COLOR RATE			PUBLIC NOTICE			CORPORATE NOTICE			PRODUCT, COMPULIFE AND PROPERTY			
SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	Obituary, Goodwill Message, Annual Reports & AGMS, Financial Statements	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
1 x 1	6,135.10	6,595.23	1 x 1	5,664.59	6,089.43	1 x 1	4,587.47	4,931.53	1 x 1	3,786.98	4,071.00	
1 x 2	12,448.80	13,382.46	1 x 2	11,294.45	12,141.54	1 x 2	9,174.94	9,863.07	1 x 2	7,573.97	8,142.02	
2 x 2	24,941.96	26,812.61	2 x 2	22,588.91	24,283.09	2 x 2	18,349.89	19,716.64	2 x 2	15,147.94	16,284.03	
3 x 2	37,413.09	40,219.07	3 x 2	33,987.48	36,622.04	3 x 2	27,524.84	29,589.20	3 x 2	22,721.91	24,426.05	
4 x 2	49,884.02	53,625.42	4 x 2	45,177.83	48,566.17	4 x 2	36,700.09	39,452.60	4 x 2	30,295.53	32,657.70	
5 x 2	62,355.15	67,031.71	5 x 2	56,472.29	60,707.71	5 x 2	45,866.19	49,315.34	5 x 2	37,863.00	40,710.09	
6 x 2	76,142.50	81,853.18	6 x 2	67,975.12	73,073.25	6 x 2	55,049.68	59,178.41	6 x 2	45,443.82	48,852.10	
7 x 2	87,297.21	93,844.50	6 x 3	101,962.78	109,609.99	6 x 3	54,074.55	61,200.90	7 x 2	53,017.79	56,993.61	
7 x 3	166,172.00	179,229.37	6.5 x 3	110,459.64	118,744.11	6.5 x 3	89,455.78	96,164.94	8 x 2	60,591.76	65,136.14	
7 x 4	197,125.00	211,909.37	7 x 2	79,304.29	85,252.11	7 x 2	64,224.63	69,041.48	9 x 2	80,454.83	86,488.95	
8 x 2	99,768.24	107,250.85	7 x 3	128,456.43	138,090.67	7 x 3	96,336.94	103,562.21	10 x 2	86,147.92	92,609.02	
9 x 2	112,183.69	120,597.47	7 x 4	158,608.73	170,504.38	7 x 4	145,965.10	156,912.48	14.5 x 2	124,915.92	134,284.61	
9 x 3	168,358.90	180,985.39	7 x 5	198,260.25	213,129.77	7 x 5	182,500.19	196,187.71	5 x 3	56,804.77	61,065.13	
10 x 3	187,065.45	201,095.35	8 x 2	90,633.42	97,430.92	8 x 2	73,399.58	78,904.54	6 x 3	68,170.86	73,283.67	
14.5 x 2	260,395.00	279,924.62	8 x 3	135,950.22	146,146.48	8 x 3	125,871.78	134,674.05	7 x 3	79,526.68	85,491.18	
8 x 4	199,536.48	214,501.71	8 x 4	181,266.93	194,841.95	8 x 4	167,043.40	179,022.80	8 x 3	103,375.58	111,130.80	
9 x 4	224,478.54	241,314.43	8 x 5	226,238.74	254,477.52	8 x 5	208,805.79	224,469.23	6 x 4	100,634.10	110,944.41	
10 x 4	299,302.72	321,752.57	8 x 6	271,900.48	292,008.02	8 x 6	250,284.32	269,911.09	7 x 4	120,404.56	129,434.90	
14.5 x 4	520,790.19	559,849.45	9 x 2	101,962.78	109,609.99	9 x 2	93,773.60	100,872.44	8 x 4	137,692.17	148,019.082	
7 x 5	218,243.02	234,629.74	9 x 3	152,944.01	164,414.81	9 x 3	141,108.54	151,691.68	10 x 4	172,301.37	185,224.22	
8 x 5	299,304.72	321,752.57	9 x 4	203,925.29	219,219.69	9 x 4	187,921.52	202,015.71	14.5 x 3	187,057.43	201,086.73	
8 x 6	359,165.65	386,103.08	9 x 5	305,373.04	328,276.02	9 x 5	281,288.07	303,022.10	14.5 x 4	249,838.03	268,575.88	
9 x 5	404,061.37	434,365.97	9 x 6	367,065.92	394,595.86	9 x 6	337,805.68	363,141.11	7 x 5	141,001.98	161,793.93	
10 x 5	448,957.08	482,628.86	10 x 3	169,651.36	182,375.21	10 x 3	156,602.81	168,348.02	8 x 5	172,116.65	185,025.40	
11 x 5	493,852.78	530,891.74	10 x 4	226,258.00	243,176.28	10 x 4	208,808.58	224,469.23	9 x 6	278,649.91	299,548.66	
9 x 6	484,873.39	521,239.16	10 x 5	354,037.54	380,590.16	10 x 5	325,815.11	349,966.25	11 x 5	295,636.20	317,808.91	
10 x 6	538,748.49	579,154.53	10 x 6	424,845.04	456,708.42	10 x 6	390,978.13	420,320.48	11 x 6	340,573.10	340,466.08	
11 x 6	592,622.16	637,068.82	11 x 5	389,441.887	418,650.01	11 x 5	358,396.62	385,276.37	HP7.25 X 6	218,226.87	234,593.89	
HP 7.25 x 6	317,178.40	340,337.5	11 x 6	447,303.49	480,851.24	11 x 6	412,916.45	443,885.19	FP14.5 X 6	379,943.00	408,438.72	
FP 14.5 x 6	560,500.00	602,537.50	14.5 X 2	197,128.09	211,912.70	14.5 x 2	151,178.45	162,516.84				
			14.5 X 4	394,256.19	423,825.40	14.5 x 4	362,827.71	390,039.79				
			14.5 X 5	472,286.06	507,707.52	HP7.25 X 6	246,131.63	264,591.50				
			HP7.25 X 6	269,191.05	289,380.38	14.5 X 5	431,525.39	463,889.79				
			FP 14.5 X 6	460,275.00	594,225.62	FP14.5 X 5	423,373.39	455,126.39				
						Double Spread Half Page	832,371.68	894,805.68				
						Double Spread Full Page	1,334,669.15	1,434,769.344				

SPECIAL POSITIONS

SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
Earpiece Front Page 1x2	201,875.00	217,015.62	Page 8 (Full Page)	750,000.00	806,787.50
Earpiece Front Page 2x2	403,750.00	434,031.25	Page 9 (Full Page)	674,500.00	725,087.00
Earpiece Front Page 3x2	593,750.00	638,281.25	Wrap around 1 Front Strip 1 Back Strip 4 Full Page Pull Out	25,650,000.00	27,573,750.00
Earpiece Back Page 2x2	409,687.50	440,414.06	4x6 Front Page	5,187,000.00	5,576,025.00
Earpiece Back Page 3x2	628,187.50	675,301.56	6x6 Front Page	6,982,500.00	7,506,187.50
Inside Earpiece 2x2	199,500.00	214,462.50	7x6 Front Page	9,975,000.00	10,723,220.00
Inside Earpiece 3x2	285,000.00	307,325.00	10x6 Front Page	14,250,000.00	15,318,750.00
Centre Spread	1,795,500.00	1,930,162.50	FP (Strip) 2x6	641,891.25	690,033.09
Double Spread	1,558,000.00	1,674,850.00	BP (Strip) 2x6	625,452.64	670,319.08
Centre Spread (HP)	1,017,063.80	1,093,343.59	Back Page 10x6	5,320,000.00	5,782,750.00
Double Spread (HP)	741,000.00	796,575.00	ROP 2x12	771,400.00	829,255.00
Page 2 (Full Page)	1,420,250.00	1,526,768.75	ROP (Strip) 2x6 Colour	266,000.00	285,950.00
Page 3 (Full Page)	1,311,000.00	1,409,325.00	ROP (Strip) 2.6 (B/W)	717,000.00	768,825.00
Page 4 (Full Page)	1,187,500.00	1,276,562.50	3x6 Front Page	1,140,000.00	1,225,500.00
Page 5 (Full Page)	1,064,000.00	1,143,800.00	2x6 Under Mast Head	3,990,000.00	4,289,250.00
Page 6 (Full Page)	940,500.00	993,937.50	12x2 Front Page	4,788,000.00	5,147,100.00
Page 7 (Full Page)	817,000.00	878,275.00			

LOOSE INSERT ADVERTS

Handling Charge	95,000.00
RATE PER 1,000 COPIES	
SINGLE	19,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	38,000.00
NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS	
Technical Data	
Number of Columns	- Six (06)
Full Page Depth	- 14.5 inches
Full Page Width	- 10 3/8 inches
Print Process	- Web Offset Litho
OPTIONS FOR ADVERT MATERIAL	
COPY DATE	
WITHIN ABUJA	- 5 Days prior to publication
OUTSIDE ABUJA	- 7 Days prior to publication
CANCELLATION	
Cancellation will only be accepted stated in writing at least five working days before publication.	
Note: Late Cancellation of Advert will Attract 40% Penalty	
For more information, contact: The Advertisement Department, THE TRUMPET Head Office: 506 Oladipo Diya Street, Abuja, FCT. www.thetrumpet.ng, Email: info@elomazmedia.com Tel: 08025823524, 08060102368	



NNPC will continue to fix fuel price on FG's behalf

• Fixed it at N179 per litre for petrol • N1.89tr realised in five months, but money to share among tiers of govt'

By EDU ABADE and JOHNMARK UKOKO

Despite its transformation into a commercial entity, Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited, the government-controlled firm will continue to determine the prices of oil products

This was disclosed by the Group Managing Director of NNPC, Mele Kyari, who said the company would henceforth carry out the exercise for a fee on behalf of the Federal Government. He explained that whereas before its transformation, which took place yesterday in Abuja, the company functioned as the sole importer, it could not have done so as a commercial entity, but by the unveiling of the company in Abuja by President Muhammadu Buhari, the company would now charge a fee for such function.

"In the case of the price of petroleum, this is a policy matter. NNPC is going to be a supplier to the federation for a fee, so the price at which sell the product is sold will be the decision of the state.

The state has continued to maintain that we must continue to pay subsidy on petroleum products. We are happy to do this, but as a commercial venture, we will have a service level agreement between us to render that service" he said.

With the unveiling of the NNPC yesterday by President Buhari, the company has been incorporated into a limited liability company, as a result of the provision of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA).

It would be recalled that the President recently delayed the full deregulation of the sector, which would have ensured the removal of the controversial and opaque petrol subsidy for which the Federal Government budgeted N4 trillion in the 2022 fiscal policy document.

Kyari restated that it would no longer be business as usual, insisting that as a commercial venture, NNPC would now be a service provider to the Federal Government, rather than shouldering the responsibility of importation and allowing it to be hurt company's bottom line.

He said: "We will procure the products and we will sell to the state and will be step-on-step with the country and literally I have seen no indication at this point in time that the state was ready to phase out any price of petroleum products, it has nothing to do with our operations.

"The new NNPC will not withdraw from the international organisation, but will rather continue to ensure more openness in its operations to attract more investments and foreign partnership. There is now more demand to be more transparent in our operations. NNPC is a partner company for the global initiative that voluntarily chose to become partner companies to Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

"The meaning of this is that we are going to make certain disclosure to your shareholders and to the world community that companies ordinarily are not required to do and we will keep to that because we are not going to withdraw as a partner



Mele Kyari

company to the EITI."

Meanwhile, motorists across the country will now pay between N179 and N180 per litre of petrol from N165 per litre, a development expected to raise the cost of transportation across the country.

The NNPC authorised the increase in the pump price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) from N165 to N179 per litre on Monday, which took effect from July 19, 2022 as the NNPC had already directed oil marketers to change the petrol price on pumps to the new price. NNPC also increased the ex-depot price from N148.17 to N167 per litre following scarcity of

petrol, which resurfaced across the country as fuel marketers seek to force a new price which they have finally achieved.

Filling stations have already adjusted their pump price, as most filling stations in Lagos have embraced various pricing patterns. The Trumpet learnt that the price has not stabilised yet, as some filling stations in Lagos State are selling fuel for N170, N175, N180, N190 and N200 respectively, depending on the area and marketer supplying them.

While some filling stations have adjusted the pricing on their meters to reflect the actual price, others have left theirs to reflect the approved retail price at N165 per litre, but were selling over the displayed price.

For instance, the Mobil Filling Station on Agidingbi sold a litre of petrol for N170, as indicated on its meters, Enyo Filling Station at Chisco Bus Stop in Lekki, sold for N170 per litre, Eterna Filling Station at Jankade Bus Stop in Lekki sold for N180 per litre, while Mobil Filling Station at Osapa London in Lekki sold at N180 per litre.

Also, the NNPC has announced that there was no money to share among federal, states and local governments. Providing a breakdown of its finance, NNPC revealed that it realised N1.89 trillion in five months between January and May this year, but that most of the money has been spent, a situation which made the World Bank to earlier express concern that Nigeria could be heading for serious fiscal crisis due to continued payment for subsidy.

Why Aero Contractors suspended passenger operations

Aero Contractors has announced that it has temporarily suspended scheduled passenger service operations with effect from today, July 20, 2022.

A statement issued by the company revealed that the decision was taken due to the impact of daily operations, which has led to high cost of operations, aircraft maintenance, aviation fuel, also known as Jet A1 oil, high inflation and scarcity of foreign exchange.

A statement made available to The Trumpet said: "The past few months have been very challenging for the aviation industry and the airline operators in particular. The decision was carefully considered and taken due to the fact that most of our aircrafts are currently undergoing maintenance resulting in our inability to offers a seamless and efficient service to our esteemed customers.

"We are working to bring the aircrafts back to service in the next few weeks, so that we can continue to offer our passengers safe, efficient and reliable services that Aero Contractors is known for, which is the hallmark of Aero Contractors Company of Nigeria Limited," the statement reads.

It apologised for the inconveniences the service suspension would cause its passengers, promising that management of the company was working assiduously to return to service as quickly as possible, adding that it was also working with its partners to assuage and ensure minimum discomfort to ticket holders.

"It also assured that this does not, in any way, affect the Aviation Maintenance Organisation (AMO) otherwise known as Aero MRO, the Approval Training Organisation (ATO), also known as Aero Training School, as well as the Helicopter and charter service operations.

"As a member of Spring Alliance, a commercial alliance with member airlines providing mutual support in the areas of operations, we are liaising with our partner airlines to minimise the impact on our esteemed customers. Our Customers Service team will be working to help affected esteemed customers reach their destination," the statement added.

IMB confirms decline of piracy in Gulf of Guinea

• BIMCO seeks full deployment of Deep Blue assets • Collaboration key to success, says Jamoh

By EDU ABADE, Business Editor

International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has lauded the reduction in piracy in the globe and expressed optimism that it is a new dawn for the shipping community globally.

In its 2022 half-year report 2022, the bureau disclosed that



Bashir Jamoh

received the lowest number of reported incidents for the first half of the year since 1994, which is evident in its efforts at raising awareness to make the waters safe globally.

The Gulf of Guinea Declaration on Suppression of Piracy has confirmed that there has not been any case of kidnapping of seafarers kidnap one year after the May 2021 declaration. This is considered commendable progress in comparison to the 2020 statistics when 130 seafarers were kidnapped. The status report from the GoG declaration also confirmed that there has not been any case of kidnapping for ransom in 2022, as against 20 cases in 2020 and 12 in 2021.

Director-General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh, said Nigeria is committed to sustaining the momentum of the success recorded in recent times in the fight against piracy in the region.

"It is heart-warming that the international maritime community is acknowledging the progress made so far. It is a direct result

of collaboration amongst national, regional and non-regional stakeholders. It is our hope that this trend will be sustained and very soon, we will start reaping the benefits such as a change of status concerning the Insurance premium paid on Nigerian bound cargoes; the War Risk premium being paid at the moment. We hope this status will change very soon," he said.

While commending the progress, Baltic and International Maritime Council, BIMCO the world's largest direct-membership organization for ship-owners, charterers, shipbrokers and agents called for the effective and full deployment of Deep Blue Assets on Anti-piracy tasking. Efforts of the Nigerian Navy in clamping down on pirates camps, the Deep Blue project C4i coastal surveillance and collaboration with international Navies for law enforcement off Nigerian waters and the series of meetings under the umbrella of the Gulf of Guinea maritime coordination Forum, Shared Awareness and De-confliction, GoG/SHADE were identified as key to the success in the war against Piracy in the Region.

On its part, the International Maritime Bureau IMB has also confirmed that no case of vessel hijack took place in Nigerian waters in the first half of 2022. The ICC and International Maritime Bureau (IMB) have confirmed that the first half of 2022 witnessed the least cases of piracy globally in 28 years with only 58 reported cases as compared to 68 within same period in 2021. Of the 58 incidents, 2 were classified as Piracy attacks in the Gulf of Guinea, with NONE of them occurring in Nigerian waters. While the reduction in reported incidents is indeed encouraging, the IMB PRC continues to caution against complacency.

IMB Director, Michael Howlett said, "Not only is this good news for the seafarers and the shipping industry, it is positive news for trade which promotes economic growth. But the areas of risk shift and the shipping community must remain vigilant. We encourage governments and responding authorities to continue their patrols which create a deterrent effect."

NAGAFF heads to Appeal Court to challenge CRFFN status

AMCON receives N126b from commercial banks in Q1 2022

Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) has received N125.9 billion from commercial banks listed on the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX), as part of the financial sector resolution funds in the first quarter of 2022.

Data obtained from the financial reports of the listed banks indicate that AMCON's bank charges increased by 29.5 per cent from N97.18 billion paid in the corresponding period of 2021 to N125.9 billion during the same period under review.

The banks are Access Bank, First City Monument Bank (FCMB), Fidelity Bank, First Bank of Nigeria, Guaranty Trust Bank, Stanbic IBTC Sterling Bank, United Bank for Africa (UBA), Union Bank, WEMA Bank and Zenith Bank Plc.

The Trumpet learnt the increase in AMCON's charges were attributed to the impressive rise in the total assets of the banks, just as the aggregate total assets of the banks stood at N61.23 trillion in the first quarter of 2022, representing a 5.29 per cent increase compared to the beginning of the year.

In the previous year, the total assets of the 12 banks had increased by N8.75 trillion largely due to increased customer loans.

The funds is part of the requirement of the AMCON (Amended) Act 2915, which mandated banks to make contributions to a fund established by the AMCON Act effective from January 1, 2013.

Banks are required to contribute an equivalent of 0.5 per cent of their total assets plus 0.5 per cent of all contingent assets as of the preceding year-end to AMCON sinking fund in line with existing guidelines.

This contribution is for a period of 10 years from 2013, it non-refundable and does not represent any ownership interest.

A cursory look at the data shows that the 12 banks have paid in excess of N1 trillion to AMCON between January 2017 and March 2022. It is worth nothing that the charge is sometimes expressed as sector resolution fund, AMCON Resolution Fund AMCON sinking fund or part of regulatory costs.

NAGAFF heads to Appeal Court to challenge CRFFN status

National Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF) has decided to head to the Appeal Court to ascertain if the Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria (CRFFN) is an agency of the Federal Government.

Founder of NAGAFF and the New Nigerian Peoples Party (NNPP), Dr. Boniface Aniebonam, who gave the hint in Lagos at a roundtable organised by the Maritime Journalists Association of Nigeria (MAJAN), expressed disappointment that a body his group founded as a private sector initiative was being hijacked by a cabal as an agency of government over pecuniary interests.

He, therefore, vowed that NAGAFF would pursue the case to the Supreme Court, adding that there was no justification for such going by the letters of the Act establishing the council.

He expressed displeasure, while reacting to the issue of setting an agenda for the new Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo, who he said, should strive write his name in gold by correcting the errors of his predecessors concerning the CRFFN.

"For the new minister, I advise him to write his name in gold by correcting the mistakes of his predecessors like Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi by implementing provisions of the CRFFN Act.

"If the CRFFN is an agency

of government, why should the Chairman of the Governing Board be chosen through election from the Register of Freight Forwarders? Which other government agency has the Managing Director or Director-General appointed through election?

"Are the heads of NIMASA, NPA, the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) and others appointed through elections like the CRFFN? Just because a set of people want to be collecting money from government, they said it is a government agency. Our lawyers are heading to the Appeal Court to continue the case. We went to the Federal High Court to challenge the hijack of the council We are ready to pursue the case up to the Supreme Court," he said.

It would be recalled that some years back NAGAFF had challenged the conversion of the council to an agency of government at the Federal High Court in Lagos and lost. Thereafter, the association raised an alarm sometime ago as moves were allegedly made by ministry officials to the National Assembly to amend the CRFFN Act in line with NAGAFF argument in court on why the council should not be an agency of government.

Meanwhile, Aniebonam reminded Sambo that by the Act establishing the council, the freight forwarding body was supposed to be akin to



Boniface Aniebonam

the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), adding that the body should be independently funded as spelt out in the Act instead of through appropriation as presently being done and clarified that all freight forwarders, including former board chairmen, agreed that the council was a private initiative and should be managed as such.

"I urge the minister to thoroughly investigate the real status of the council and look at the Act, ask relevant questions and he will find out the truth and do the needful. Government needs money for a lot of things calling for attention, yet some people are taking

money from the government to run an organisation which the law says should be funded independently.

"Imagine Amaechi, who hurriedly inaugurated the Council Board on the eve of his exit saying some people were saying the CRFFN should not belong to government, but to the private sector," he said.

The council was established by the CRFFN Act 16 of 2007, with a mandate to, among other things, regulate and better control freight forwarding business, promote the highest standard of competence, practice and conduct among members of the profession.

Naira falls to N430 per dollar at official window

The Exchange rate between the Naira and the United States of America dollar closed at N430.33 to the dollar at the official Investors and Exporters (I&E) window.

Naira depreciated massively against the dollar at

the official market on Friday, July 15, 2022 with a 1.34 per cent decline to close at N430.33 to \$1 compared to N424.62 to \$1 recorded as at the close of trading session, the lowest rate on record apart from the rate as of December 31, 2021.

The depreciation of the local currency followed sustained low foreign exchange (forex) turnover in the market with a total of \$63.19 million on Friday, July 15, 2022, representing a decrease of 28.15 per cent compared to \$87.95 million that exchange on Thursday.

Also, the peer-to-peer exchange rate depreciated by 0.14 per cent on Saturday morning to trade at a minimum of N622.25 to \$1 as earlier recorded on Friday, being the highest rate recorded at the official market.

The Trumpet learnt from a Bureau De Change (BDC) operator in Lagos that the exchange rate at the parallel market remained at N618.20 to \$1 as of Friday morning as the Nigeria External Reserve had been on the downward trend due to the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) interventions in the forex market with a view to ensuring stability of the local currency Naira.

However, rising crude oil prices have seen the reserve level improve marginally in the recent weeks, but the exchange rate at the official market depreciated on Friday, July 15, 2022, dropping by 1.34 per cent to close at N430.33 to \$1, as against the N424.02 to \$1 recorded on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at the official Investors and Exporters (I&E) window.

The opening indicative rate closed at N424.03 to \$1 on Thursday July 14th, 2022 from N424.04 to \$1 in the previous trading day.

Furthermore an exchange rate of N444 to \$1 was the highest rate recorded during intra - day trading before it settled at N414 to one dollar during day trading.

A total of \$87.95 million in Foreign Exchange value exchanged hands on Thursday, which is 44.56 per cent higher than the \$66.84 million traded in the previous session.



Godwin Emefiele, CBN Governor

Air fares may rise as aviation fuel hits N822 per litre

•Airline operators propose 25% surcharge, flay FAAN over closure of runway 18L

Stories by **ADAKU WALTER**

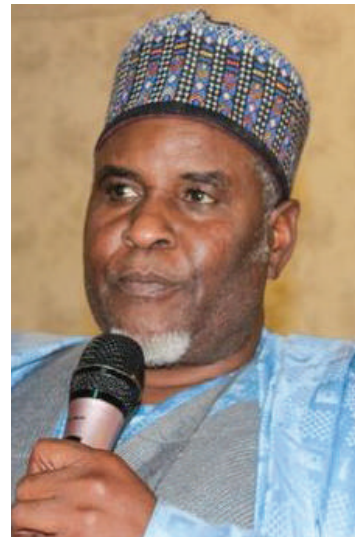
Travelers may pay more for air fares as the price of Aviation Fuel Jet A1 fuel now sells at over N800 per litre across the country. Also, airline operators are set to increase fares through a proposed 25 per cent surcharge. *The Trumpet* learnt that jet

A1 in Lagos sells for N822 per litre, N859 in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, N852 per litre in Port Harcourt, while it sells for N890 in Yola and N892 in Maiduguri.

Airline operators under the auspices of the Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON) demanded the removal of five per cent on Fuel Surcharge

by the Federal Government, leading to a situation where almost all airlines are beginning to anticipate delays and cancellations due to increase which will jack up.

The new price regime may have caused fear in many airlines as the conditions for operating in Nigeria currently were strangulating, a situation



Abdulmunaf Yunusa

an airline operator described as extremely serious and further reduced the profit margin that was hitherto almost seemingly non-existent.

"Aero Contractors just suspended operations and you do know that the non-stop hike in the price of Jet A1 is partly a contributory factor to that. We used to complain when Jet A1 was taking 40 per cent of our operating cost, but now that has doubled and there is no respite in sight.

"This will indeed affect operations because what was planned for has gone straight out of the window and this may lead to increment because the airlines cannot handle this cost on their own and this is just fuel, we've not talked of salaries and maintenance of the aircraft. If we get the product tomorrow we will operate as scheduled, but it is not that easy as someone has to pay for it and there may be delays, truly airlines are suffering."

Disturbed by the steady increase in cost of operations in the aviation sector, Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON) have requested that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) approve its proposed fuel surcharge.

This, they said, would help to cushion the effect of a continuous hike in the price of Jet A-1 (aviation fuel) on the operations of airlines in the country.

This is contained in a letter signed by AON President, Abdulmunaf Yunusa, addressed to the Director-General of NCAA and dated July 18, 2022. The implication of this is that air fares would rise and further compound air travelers' woes.

The airline operators indicated that apart from the "crippling effect" of the intermittent shortages of Jet A-1, the price has risen from N200 per litre in February 2022 to over N800 currently.

Such increment, it said, had consequently shut up the

operational cost of airlines by over 130 per cent, even as the airlines are unable to increase fares; and also suffer from the challenge of sourcing foreign exchange to conduct operations due to biting scarcity.

"To forestall a backlash and total shutdown of the system, airlines are hoping to resort to an introduction of a fuel surcharge of between 25 per cent and 40 per cent of NUC as a way of offsetting the additional burden brought about by increased fuel cost bearing in mind that jet fuel accounts for about 40 per cent of total operational expenses," it stated.

To this end, the airline operators, therefore, requested a review of some policies by the NCAA which include: a review of the decision that airlines are required to obtain approval for an initial three months before implementation of a fuel surcharge; waiver of demand that airlines pay an additional 5 per cent on the fuel surcharge entirely separate from the 5 per cent Ticket Sales Charge (TSC)."

They also requested that taxes should be based on the proportion of the fare due to airlines, meaning that the fuel surcharge should be exempted from the TSC and called for an urgent meeting of chief executive officers of airlines to urgently address the issues.

Meanwhile, the AON blamed the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) for closure of the 18L runway on a short notice for causing additional costs to the airlines operations.

The operators questioned why FAAN did not ensure the contractor do the work at night as the current move is disrupting airlines operations.

In a letter written by President of AON, Abdulmunaf Yunusa, the group flayed the 90-day period stipulated for the installation of the Air Field Lighting, stressing that the closure of the main domestic runway of MMA automatically adds an additional 10-15 per cent more fuel costs per sector into and out of MMA, based on the additional flight and taxi time incurred.

The group urged the Managing Director of the FAAN, Captain Rabi Yuadudu, to convene a stakeholders consultation meeting to urgently review the closure of Runway 18L and discuss the procedure for the project in such a way that it would limit the cost implications on airlines and disruption of normal flight operations.

Expert seeks recognition of Federal High Court on admiralty claims

Maritime expert, Dr. Emeka Akabogu, has urged Judges to appreciate the Admiralty Jurisdiction Act that confers jurisdiction on the Federal High Court to determine admiralty claims. He said such claims arise from the carriage of goods by sea and all other aspects maritime business.

The expert, Dr. Emeka Akabogu lamented that more often than not when claims arise and are filed at the Federal High Court, they are truncated due to wrong application or appreciation of Admiralty jurisdiction issues.

He said the claim issues were usually successful at the Federal High Court and then when the claim is appealed at the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court, the court will come up with the position that the Federal High Court did not have jurisdiction in the first place.

Akabogu said the appellate court had often suggested that the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court should end when the cargo is discharged from

the vessels but unfortunately such decision does not favor the consignees as many losses/damages occur after the cargo was discharged from the vessel and before being delivered to the consignee.

Speaking to journalists said: "I will like to advise and encourage all judges at the high court level and appellate level to better appreciate the significance of foundational maritime laws, particularly the Admiralty Jurisdiction Act which confers jurisdiction on the Federal High Court to determine such matters.

"It will enable them make better decisions that will impact on free flow of goods, quick vessel turn around, trade facilitation and better business enablement at the ports as lots of port congestion and associated constraints arises from people who have rights which have been breached, but cannot be fully ventilated at that point."

He further lamented that people have their cargoes stuck at the ports due to breaches of their economic rights, but are

constrained in dealing with it due to technical issues in the law and courts bordering on jurisdiction and often, the value of the cargo will dissipate over time and they will not even have any encouragement or any desire to go and clear it from the ports anymore, leading to congestion.

He stated that these are some of the type claims that Nigerians need to have adjudicated upon to enhance business at the ports.

Akabogu said if the court says the Federal High Court does not have jurisdiction because the cargo has been discharged, it meant that many people who lose their cargoes or suffer damages at the ports after their cargoes have been discharged from the vessel would have their rights extinguished.

He pointed out that the same thing has happened to those who have losses occurring in the course of carriage to deliver to the consignee or in their ware houses or similar other things. Continuous enlightenment is necessary to resolve this challenge.

STOAN pledges support for minister to boost maritime sector



Abdulmunaf Yunusa

Seaport Terminal Operators Association of Nigeria (STOAN) has assured the new transportation ministers of the full cooperation of port terminal operators in the discharge of their duties.

Chairman of STOAN, Princess Vicky Haastrup, gave the pledge in a statement while felicitating with the Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Sambo and the Minister of State for Transportation, Ademola Adegoroye, on their recent appointment.

Haastrup expressed confidence in the ability of the new ministers to transform and fulfill the vision for the transportation and maritime sector for economic development.

She said Sambo's previous work experience in the maritime industry would help him to succeed in the new his task assignment, adding: "We are particularly happy with your appointment considering your

rich work experience and numerous contributions to nation building both within and outside the maritime industry.

"With your experience as the immediate past Minister of State in the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, and previous work experience in the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Savannah Bank, Allied Bank, NICON Insurance Corporation and as the General Manager Lagos Zone of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), where you retired from service in 2019, we have no doubt that you will make significant positive impact in the ministry."

She assured the new ministers that all the port terminal operators across the country will support them in the discharge of their duties as they move to boost the maritime and transport sectors, even as she prayed for God's guidance for the duo in their new assignment.

JAMB decides admission cut-off marks, NATAP-M Awards

Stories by **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH** Education Correspondent

Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and stakeholders are to meet to decide the minimum admission cut-off mark for the 2022/2023 academic session.

This was disclosed in the board's weekly bulletin, which was made available in Abuja.

The meeting between the board and other agencies which is scheduled for Thursday July 21, 2022 would be presided over by the Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu.

The examination body noted that Thursday is scheduled for two events which will be held at the same place. The Policy Meeting and the third edition of the NATAP-M Awards, the Minister of Education would chair the policy meeting as well as serve as the chief host of the NATAP-M Awards Ceremony.

According to JAMB, "The two events, which are scheduled to be held on the same day and place, will have in attendance heads of tertiary institutions, heads of regulatory agencies in the education sector, and other critical stakeholders such as Chairmen of the Committee on Education at the lower and upper chambers of the National Assembly."

According to the management of the board, the policy meeting, which is to kick-start the 2022 admission process into the nation's tertiary institutions, will be held before the National Tertiary Admissions Performance-Merit Awards (NATAP-M).

The board added that the policy meeting will discuss critical issues emanating from the presentation to be given by the Registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, on the just-concluded 2022 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination, Direct Entry Applications, in addition to setting the tone for the 2022/2023 admission exercise.

"The policy meeting is expected to chart policy directions for the nation's tertiary institutions, set admission guidelines and present application statistics, candidates' performance, as well as evaluate the 2021 admission exercise. The meeting, among other things, will take a stand on acceptable minimum admission standards to be applied in all admissions to be undertaken by all tertiary institutions."

The second event of the day, which is the 3rd Edition of the NATAP-M Awards, is an initiative of the Board to promote excellence in tertiary institutions.

The year 2022 NATAP-M Awards is the third edition and is meant for the 2020 Admission Session, which could not

be in 2021 as most institutions were unable to conduct their admissions within the specified time frame due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Awards are in five categories: the Most Subscribed Institutions by Candidates, the Most National Institution in terms of Admission Spread, and

the Most Compliant in Keeping the Rules and Regulations on Admissions.

Other categories are: the Institution with the Highest Number of Admission of International Students and the Most Improved Institution in Gender Balance over Previous Year.

For this 3rd Edition, the Board

disclosed that it had obtained relevant approvals to increase by 150% the value of its previous Awards for maximum impact.

Based on the newly-approved rates for the 3rd Edition, the winner of each of the five categories would take home the sum of N75m while the first runner-up for each of the

categories would take N15m, the second runner up would take N10m, making a total of N100m per each category of award.

The NATAP-M Awards first edition was held in 2018, which was meant for admissions conducted in 2017, the 2nd Edition was held in 2019.



Adamu Adamu

NLNG, Rivers harp on science education for nation building

Nigerian LNG Limited (NLNG) and Rivers State Government have said that with global trends in technologies, investments in science education is key to nation building and should be encouraged.

Speaking on the issue in Port Harcourt at the grand finale of the NLNG 2022 Rivers State Science Quiz Competition for Junior and Senior Secondary school pupils was Commissioner for Education, Prof. Prince Chinedu Mmom. He said Nigeria cannot develop as a nation if it fails to invest in science and technology education.

"The world is moving ahead, we can't afford to lag behind. So Nigeria must buy into the global trend of science and educational training and development, that's the way we can grow and that's why I keep giving kudos to NLNG," he said.

He charged corporate organisations to emulate NLNG and invest in science education with the aim of building and developing the nation's indigenous technology, saying: "It is high time we developed ours instead of depending on western technology. The students have done well, they should keep it up."

The General Manager External Relations and Sustainable Development, Mr. Andy Odeh, described investment in science education as a dream for better

tomorrow and sustainable future where the inputs of today will materialise as gains.

The competition, according to him, aims at inspiring healthy competition among youths and to spur interest in science and technology as a way of equipping young minds for nation building.

Bonny National Grammar School clinched the first prize in the secondary school category. This year's competition comes after the pilot edition in 2021 on Bonny Island. The competition, which is open to secondary schools in Rivers State, is in partnership with the Rivers State Ministry of Education and the Science Teachers Association of Nigeria (STAN), Rivers State chapter.

Bonny National Grammar School emerged out of seven finalists in the grand finale. Enitonna High School and Niger Delta Science School took the second and third positions, respectively. Other schools that participated in the finals were Community Comprehensive Secondary School, Obio-Apkor (4th position); Government Secondary School, Eneka (5th position); Community Secondary School, Kiran; (6th position) and 7th position: and Okrika National Secondary School, Okrika (7th position).

Nigerian-born tech execs

convicted in US for laundering \$167 million

Three businessmen of Nigerian descent – Anslem Oshionebo, Opeyemi Odeyale and Aleoghena Okhumale – have been convicted for money laundering in the United States.

Their fate was sealed after Ping Express U.S. LLC pleaded guilty to failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program.

The Texas company, which transferred millions of dollars from America to Africa, admitted that it failed to play by the rules.

Though the company was licensed to transmit money, it had no approval to conduct currency exchange.

Ping Express charged U.S. customers a fee to remit money to beneficiaries in Nigeria and other countries in the continent.

The company confessed to allowing over 1,500 customers to violate the laws. One customer remitted \$80,000 in one single month, more than 17 times the limit.

Ping Express transmitted more than \$167million outside America, including \$160million to Nigeria, since 2019,

The company admitted it failed to request sufficient details about the sources or purposes of the funds involved in the transactions, or the customers.

A customer, Collins Orogun acknowledged accepting a fee in exchange for transferring money for "romance scam" fraudsters and other criminals.

Orogun received at least \$1.3million, cashier's checks, wires into U.S. bank accounts and moved more than \$1million to Africa through Ping.

The defendant faces up to 20 years in federal prison; his sentencing is set for January 23, 2023.

Ping CEO Oshionebo and Ping COO Odeyale were sentenced to 27 months in prison; IT/Business Development Manager Okhumale got a 42 months jail term.

The company now faces five years of probation and a fine of up to \$500,000; sentencing has been set for December 19, 2022.

Christopher Miller, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Dallas said agents and forensic accountants work to eradicate bulk cash smuggling.

"Our investigative reach provides access to a wide range of financial networks allowing HSI to disrupt any criminal organization attempting to exploit global trade", Miller noted.

HSI Dallas Field Office conducted the probe in collaboration with the Texas Department of Banking. Assistant U.S. Attorney John de la Garza is the prosecutor.

The Trumpet

PATRIOTIC VOICE

www.thetrumpet.ng

 ThetrumpetTv

 @TheTrumpetNig

 @thetrumpetngr

 @thetrumpetng

 0915 558 7787

Best Western Plus Elomaz Hotel, Asaba.

Address: Plot 22 A/B -27 Core Area, DBS Road,
GRA, Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria.

Tel: +2348038193264





Valiant Falcons displayed patriotism against Morocco, says Amaju Pinnick

Stories By **OVIRI KELVIN**, Sports Editor, Abuja

Team to get adequate prep for World Cup



President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) and FIFA Council Member, Mr Amaju Melvin Pinnick has showered encomiums on nine-time African champions, Super Falcons for a valiant display despite several odds and obstacles in their Women's AFCON semi-final encounter against host nation Morocco in Rabat on Monday night.

"Of course, we would have been happy to be in the Final and chase a 10th title. But I am happy with the performance of the team and the way and manner they approached the game despite all sorts of setbacks and intimidation," Pinnick said.

"To play 50 minutes of a game with only nine players is not an easy task. The Super Falcons gave their all and were truly fabulous. They had the 'Nigeria spirit' in them and showed a sense of patriotism, were dogged and refused to give up. Penalties are forever a lottery, so it could have gone either way. I commend the team for the outing," he added.

The expulsion of midfielder Halimat Ayinde in the 49th minute reduced Nigeria to 10 players before referee Maria Rivet from Mauritius handed forward Rasheedat Ajibade a red card in the 70th minute, which cut Nigeria's playing strength

by two for the remaining 50 minutes (20 minutes of regulation and 30 minutes of extra time) of the thrilling encounter.

Uchenna Kanu had a touch on Nigeria's goal in the 62nd minute though it was recorded as an own goal by Yasmin Mrabet, and Nigeria could have put the match in the bag when substitute Gift Monday rocked the crossbar with a well-taken shot from outside the box 11 minutes into extra time.

Pinnick continued: "Our girls did a massive job on a night they were not only depleted but challenged by laser lights trained on their eyes by the crowd. I am enamoured by their resilience and tenacity."

"The next step now is for the Federation to do everything possible to

prepare the team adequately for the FIFA World Cup finals coming up next year," he stated.

Pinnick added that he is delighted with the strong pipeline at the moment, with the U20 girls and U17 girls having also qualified for their respective FIFA World Cup tournaments and boasting interesting prospects who can easily fit into the senior team.

"The supply line looks strong enough to continue to present us with good and ambitious players for the coming years. We will have a delightful combination of experienced and youthful players for the World Cup finals," Pinnick acknowledged.

Already, the NFF has secured a total of four friendly matches for the Falcons in the

Fall, with the team scheduled to play the United States Women's National Team in Kansas City and Washington D. C in September, and also to fly to Japan to take on that country's women's squad in Kobe in October. Both opponents offer diversity in style and approach.

Nigeria, Morocco, South Africa and Zambia have qualified automatically for the 32-team FIFA Women's World Cup fiesta to be staged in five Australian cities and four New Zealand cities from 20th July – 20th August 2023. Cameroon and Senegal will battle for slots at a 10-team Playoff Tournament in New Zealand early next year.

The Super Falcons arrived in Casablanca on Tuesday for Friday's third-place match against Zambia at the Complexe Mohamed V.

English clubs meet next week on betting sponsorship ban

Premier League clubs are on the verge to phase out jerseys with betting inscriptions a report from UK has revealed.

According to the report on Tuesday, a decision will be reached next week by the stakeholders to 'fend off blanket ban on betting sponsorship from the government'.

This decision will affect Everton, who have a sponsorship deal with Stake.com, with its club's jersey having the inscription of the company's logo on its front.

However, The Times reported that a White Paper may recommend a reform in the United Kingdom on wholesale gambling and is expected to be published soon, 'having recently been delayed for the fourth time due to the ongoing Conservative leadership elections'.

Snippets from several media outlets in UK have claimed that 'shirt sponsorship by betting companies will be one of the things outlawed following the publication of the report'.

Before the White Paper report will take the 20 Premier League clubs

unaware, they are fashioning out a way to end such deals voluntarily.

Presently, about 7 Premier League sides display a betting company on the front of their shirts, with Nottingham Forest and Fulham still to reveal their jersey sponsors for the season.

The Times reiterated that the 'clubs will discuss the ban at their next shareholders' meeting, though a formal vote will not take place until September'.

For the resolve among the Premier League clubs to be effective, 14 clubs out of 20 are expected to support such a move.

'Although front-of-shirt sponsorship is set to be phased out, clubs are eager to retain sleeve sponsorship deals'.

'Additionally, the ban would likely not extend to EFL clubs, for whom betting companies offer the most lucrative deals'.

'It is also believed that the Premier League will use the voluntarily ban on shirt sponsorship by betting companies to justify paying less to EFL clubs in solidarity grants'.

Bremer set to snub Inter join Juventus

Torino defender Gleison Bremer is set to snub a move to Inter Milan to join Juventus The Trumpet gathered.

Brewer has long had a verbal agreement to join last season's Coppa Italiana champions but the slow move to enter into formal negotiations with Torino has made the defender perturbed.

Juventus, according to La Gazzetta dello Sport, have presented a better offer which will see the Brazilian earn a higher wage in Turin resulting in Bremer reconsidering the wait for Inter.

Findings reveal that the uncertainty of Milan Skriniar's future in Inter whom the Nerazzurri need above €70m for his sale to PSG has affected Bremer's move to the San

Siro.

According to Italian journalist Toni Wheeler, Bremer has waited patiently for Inter Milan to wrap up the deal but the club has not impressed him so far which has made him rethink a move to jettison their verbal agreement and join Bianconeri.

Inter and Juventus will have to contend for the signature of the 25-year-old Brazilian who joined Torino four years ago from Atletico Mineiro on €5.8m in 2018.

Since Bremer landed in Torino from Brazil where he started his football career through the youth rank of Atletico Mineiro, he has netted 13 goals coupled with 5 assists in Italy from 110 appearances in all



competitions.

Juventus need Bremer who has been targeted as Matthijs de Ligt's replacement after they reached an agreement with Bayern Munich for the Dutch defender.

Reports reveal that

though Inter Milan are confident to sign the Brazilian from Torino ahead of Juventus, they have also eyed Turkey's defender Merih Demiral who plays for Atalanta BC as a potential target.

Chelsea, Barcelona to battle for Sevilla's Kounde

Chelsea have made the first offer for Sevilla defender Jules Kounde but will have to contend with Barcelona who are eager to bolster their club for next season's campaign.

The Frenchman has been on the radar of Thomas Tuchel's side since they lost Antonio Rudiger and Andreas Christensen to Real Madrid and Barcelona respectively but the west London club has finally made an offer reported to be around €55m plus add-ons.

Although Sevilla appreciate Chelsea's interest and bid for Kounde which they signed five years ago for €25m from French topflight Bordeaux, the Spanish club need more than that to augment their summer transfer target.

According to a Spanish report, Sevilla have pencilled Marcao as a prime target to

replace Diego Carlos this summer but without Kounde's sale to muster the funds to perfect the deal, their interest only remains like a hope.

Reportedly, Barcelona have already contacted the club President, Sánchez Pizjuán, for the 23-year-old who made his debut for the French national team on June 2, 2021, but Rojiblancos need €65m to allow the player to switch allegiance.

Kounde is already growing impatient with the anticipated interest from both clubs and wants an agreement reached to decide on what the future holds for him.

Should none of the club can finalise a deal with Sevilla until Wednesday, Kounde who is enjoying his vacation will resume training since he is the only international player yet to arrive at the training grounds a report revealed.

Laporta unperturbed over Lewandowski's age

Stories By **OVIRI KELVIN**,
Sports Editor, Abuja

Barcelona President Joan Laporta is unperturbed over the age bracket of Bayern Munich wantaway striker, Robert Lewandowski to Camp Nou and is pleased with the latter's insistence to unite with Xavi Hernandez.

Laporta, in an interview recently, praised the Polish striker who he said chose to move to Catalunya despite interest with higher bids from other clubs like Paris Saint Germain and Chelsea.

The Polish striker has been on the headlines in Europe lately with reports claiming he wants to force his way out of Allianz Arena despite the plea from Bavarians who have already signed Senegalese Sadio Mane to complement their attack.

During the interview with Hristo Stoichkov, Laporta conceded that players like



Lewandowski who are ready to give their all to come to Camp Nou, are what the clubs need.

More so, Barcelona's President disclosed that the Pole has proven to be a reliable goalscorer over time whilst winning the 'Golden Boot' in the German Bundesliga. He added that Lewandowski agreed to take a pay cut to fit into the wage bill of the club adding that about €45m plus add-ons were reached with the Bavarian.

"We made a first offer and

it ended at 45, plus add-ons. It's within our possibilities, the player has also adjusted his salary to be within our possibilities and the Catalans are now very happy," Laporta told Stoichkov.

"We have competed with teams like PSG, Chelsea and the player wanted to come to Barça.

"This is what I like. As Johan said, I want players who want to come to Barça, and we have to thank him because he has been earning less and enduring great pressure from Bayern, for

whom I have great respect," he added.

Lewandowski will be 34 next month but Laporta believes for his age the player looks well kept and healthy.

Jocularly, he said the striker's wife is a nutritionist and must have played a significant role in keeping the player fit.

He continued: "He is a man who takes great care of himself, his wife is a nutritionist when you have a woman who controls you.

"Barça needs, like any great team, a goalscoring striker. He is a machine gunner for scoring goals. This player has been awarded the Golden Shoe several times, if you look at his record he guarantees a goal and every great team needs a striker who guarantees you goals," Barça's president added.

Laporta acknowledged Lewandowski goalscoring prowess when he stated that Johan Cruyff will like the striker who he claims is different from every other striker that have joined the Catalans.

NFF celebrates Mimi Calvin-Onwuka, Pat-Ndidi Madu on WAFCON feats

The Nigeria Football Federation has congratulated Nigerian officials, Patience Ndidi Madu and Mimisen Iyorhe Calvin-Onwuka, for their historic feats in their various roles at the ongoing 12th Women Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco.

Madu, who also officiated at the Olympic Games in Tokyo last year, became the first Nigerian referee to officiate in a Women's AFCON match using the Video Assistant Referee device when she took charge of the group stage encounter between Burkina Faso and Uganda. She served as the fourth official in two other games.

Mimisen Calvin-Onwuka became the first Nigeria assistant referee in the quarter-finals of a Women's AFCON that deployed the Video Assistant Referee, when she played that role during the quarter-final encounter between South Africa's Banyana Banyana and Tunisia. Calvin-Onwuka had earlier been part of the group stage encounters between Togo and Tunisia, and the match between Burkina Faso and Uganda where Madu was the referee.

"We congratulate Patience Madu and Mimisen Calvin-Onwuka for their historic outings and we urge them to continue to do Nigeria proud at all matches and tournaments in which they find themselves," NFF General Secretary, Dr Mohammed Sanusi said on Tuesday.

"Both officials have

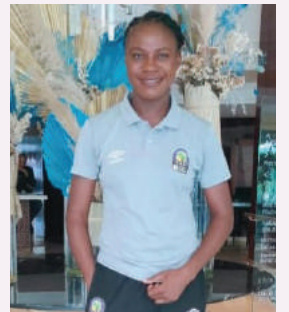
been improving brilliantly in the past years and we commend them for their strong determination to keep improving themselves, self-motivating and performing diligently at a high level," he added.

In her quarter-final experience, Calvin-Onwuka was yoked with Salima Mukansanga – the Rwandan official who is widely regarded as the leading woman referee on the African continent.

The 33-year-old officiated at the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup finals and is one of three women referees globally who have been shortlisted for the FIFA World Cup finals in Qatar later this year. She has also officiated at the Olympics and the CAF Women's Champions League.

Earlier this year in Cameroon, Mukansanga became the first woman to referee an Africa Cup of Nations match.

Mimisen Calvin-Onwuka is one of the referees shortlisted to perform at the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup finals in Costa Rica, slated for 10th – 28th August.



NPFL survival: 3SC appreciates Gov Makinde, others for support



Executive Chairman, Shooting Stars Sports Club (3SC) of Ibadan, Hon Babatunde David Olaniyan has commended the Executive Governor of Oyo State, Engineer Oluseyi Abiodun Makinde, for his efforts in ensuring that the club retain its status in the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL).

The Ibadan-based club struggled through the season but reignited their campaign towards the season's end, recording good results with a 3-2 win against league champions Rivers United.

Despite the Oluyole boys losing in their final league game to relegated Kano Pillars at the Sani Abacha Stadium, Kano, they were able to beat the likes of Katsina United, and Heartland of Owerri to finished 16th on the NPFL chart.

Astonished by the contributions made by Governor Makinde and other stakeholders to charge the club to victory in the turbulent season, Babatunde who was a former deputy speaker in the Oyo State House of Assembly, stressed that without their support it could have been impossible to record such a feat.

In a statement released by the 3SC media department

on Monday and signed by the chairman of the club, Babatunde also appreciated the media for their criticism which he acknowledged spurred them to improve on their game.

"It was a very difficult season for us, it was not easy but we thank God for seeing us through at the end of the day," Babatunde said.

"On behalf of the management and the entire team, I want to thank specially our amiable governor, the number one supporter of 3SC, His Excellency Engineer Seyi Makinde for his commitment and support, which in no small means, aided the survival of the club from an imminent relegation.

"We cannot quantify His Excellency's unflinching support and total commitment. The fact is, without the governor's backing in all

ramifications, our survival would not have been possible, hence the need to express our profound appreciation to His Excellency.

"Our appreciation also goes to every stakeholder including the State Ministry of Youth and Sports, under the able leadership of Asiwaju Seun Fakorede, Oyo State Sports Council, led by Honourable Gbenga Adewusi Arole, the Oyo State Football Association, under the chairmanship of Oba James Odeniran as well as the Supporters Club and the fans in general, for their support through their prayers.

"We cannot also forget our friends in the media, whose criticism put us on our toes and always pushed us to correct every wrong in the course of the season, which to a large extent helped us.

"I also give kudos to the entire team, the technical

crew and the players for their commitment and determination towards making the survival possible. The teamwork really paid off.

"Let me also use this medium to promise that next season will be positively different as we will commence efforts immediately, to correct all the lapses discovered in the just concluded season, with a view to putting up a more rewarding performance next season," the 3SC chairman assured.

Spectacularly, 3SC after matchday 32 defeat to Dakkada FC in Uyo, on June 5, 2022, kick-started a reverberated campaign with a 2-1 win against Plateau United and sustained three draws thereafter before picking three points from the Pride of Rivers to go unbeaten in 5 consecutive games.

Boxing heavyweight rematch: 'Joshua in trouble'

Ahead of the August 20 boxing heavyweight rematch between Anthony Joshua and Aleksandr Usyk in Saudi Arabia, Kazakh champion Nursultan Amanzholov has been recalled to spar with the Ukrainian in preparation for the fight.

Amanzholov, who in the previous fight against the British last year was responsible for sparring Usyk, was recalled after the Ukrainian returned from the press conference held in Jeddah last month.

According to Kazakh's manager, Aamir Ali, Usyk is looking too dangerous and will treat the fight in a war-like manner.

"He [Amanzholov] says there are days when Usyk goes to war with him. It's not easy to hurt Nursultan but he's been on the receiving

end a few times," Ali told Sky Sports.

"But a lot of his heavyweights have been sent back home if they can't stay in camp.

"As soon as [Usyk] came back from Jeddah, from the press conference, he phoned up Nursultan who was sitting in his hotel and said to him, 'I want you sparring today.'

"Literally, he got off the plane and started sparring straightaway and [Amanzholov] said he was in a foul mood. He was in a really angry mood, wanted to go to war," Ali revealed.

Furthermore, Ali described the Kazakh as a formidable boxer who Usyk has been unable to disengage since both met.

Amanzholov's manager stressed that since the world

heavyweight champion started the preparation ahead of the August 20 bout, he has sent several boxers back home but not Kazakh, who has proven to be formidable.

Ali continued: "He was sending heavyweights, six foot six and whatnot back home. Nursultan was one of the only heavyweights that he kept on, throughout the whole camp.

"Because he would actually challenge him and give him a very tough time and from what I understand there were points where Nursultan was being told by Usyk, 'No I need you to come on harder.' Like don't hold back on me, just go to war," he added.

However, Ali explained that the tough 'Kazakh had over 300 amateur fights' and can take a lot of punishment.

AIU commends Nigeria on anti-doping measures

■ Sports Ministry strict measures responsible - AFN

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), a disciplinary organ and integrity unit of World Athletics, responsible for anti-doping, have commended Nigeria on its commitment to rid the sport of doping incidents.

These commendations were made by the chairman of the AIU board, David Howman, who is pleased with the significant improvements recorded by the nation's efforts to clean up the sport.

According to the report released by the Athletic Federation of Nigeria (AFN) on Sunday, June 17, 2022, Howman acknowledged the improvements recorded by the nation in this regard but added that there is more work to be accomplished.

"I particularly commend the Nigerian team. It is amazing what can be achieved when the domestic authorities start taking anti-doping seriously," Howman said.

"While there have clearly been positive steps across the board, there are still many improvements to be made in the application of the rule and we will continue to work with the Category A Federations to do so," the AIU chairman added.

Nigeria is placed under Category A which is the lowest ranking of Federations and the athletes from countries in this category must have at least 3 Out of Competition Testings (OCTs), each test 3 weeks apart within the 10 months leading to a major international event like the Olympic Games and the World Championships.

AFN claimed that the insistence of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development on stricter anti-doping measures and the increase in the number of tests by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has earned Nigeria commendation from the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU).

Sports Minister Sunday Dare has been the driving force in the push to improve Nigeria's anti-doping status and image.

"We cannot afford a repeat of the embarrassment we got in Tokyo where ten of our athletes were declared ineligible to compete on technical grounds as a result of the breach of the AIU rule," Dare responded to AIU's commendation to affirm that the Sports Ministry is doing the right thing.

“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.”

— Leo Tolstoy



Nigerian-born Kemi Badenoch knocked out of Tory leadership race

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH**

Ms Kemi Badenoch is the latest leadership contender to be knocked out of the race to become United Kingdom's Prime Minister.

The former equalities minister finished bottom on Tuesday in the fourth round of voting by Conservative MPs and was eliminated, leaving Rishi Sunak, Liz Truss and Penny Mordaunt as the final three in the contest to replace Boris Johnson.

Badenoch exited the race with 59 votes, while former chancellor Rishi Sunak again topped the fourth ballot with 118, adding three to his tally from Monday suggesting he is likely to secure a spot in the final two places.

Mordaunt came second, adding 10 supporters to reach 92, while Foreign Secretary Li Truss had the most cause for optimism with 86 votes, an increase of 15 in a day.

Badenoch took to Twitter to thank her supporters for what her campaign had achieved in two weeks.

A spokesman for Ms Badenoch said, “this is a great achievement and demonstrates the support for her honest politics and vision of change for the country and the Conservative Party.”

The three remaining candidates will face a further vote by MPs on Wednesday to decide who will make the final two.

The remaining runners will not face each other in a debate that had been scheduled by Sky News for Tuesday

night. It was planned to give Tory MPs a final chance to assess the contenders before Wednesday's ballot, but it was canceled after Mr. Sunak and Truss said they would not take part.

They tore shreds out of each other during ITV's debate on Friday.

Conservative MPs are said to be concerned about the damage the previous debates have done to the image of the party after exposing disagreements and splits between the leading candidates.

The leadership contest was triggered after Johnson announced he would be leaving Downing Street after a large mass of ministerial resignations over series of scandals.

He will remain as prime minister until his successor has been named.



Kemi Badenoch

Ukraine's Zelensky fires top security chief, prosecutor over collaboration with Russia

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH** with agency report

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has dismissed two top security officials of Ukraine. They are the prosecutor general and the head of the powerful Security Service of Ukraine (SBU).

Citing many cases of treason in the two powerful organisations, the president's executive orders announced the sacking of SBU chief Ivan Bakanov, a childhood friend of Zelenskyy, and Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova. They led the effort to prosecute Russian war crimes in Ukraine, were published on the president's official website.

In a separate Telegram post, Zelenskyy said he had fired the top officials because many cases had come to light of members of their agencies collaborating with Russia.

He said 651 treason and collaboration cases had been opened against prosecutorial and law enforcement officials, and that more than 60 officials from Bakanov and Venediktova's agencies were now working against Ukraine in Russian-occupied territories.

“Such an array of crimes against the foundations of the national security of the state pose very serious questions to the relevant leaders,” Zelenskyy said.

“Each of these questions will receive a proper answer,” he added.

Senior officials in the SBU in southern Ukraine have been blamed for the ease with which Russian forces were able to capture large areas of the south within a week of the invasion.

Zelenskyy replaced Venediktova with her deputy Oleksiy Symonenko as the new prosecutor general in a separate executive order that was also published on the president's site.

The President also said the Prime Minister would be tasked with intensifying the search for a new head of the National Anticorruption Bureau.

EU to soften sanctions on Russian banks for food trade

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH** with agency report

Unfreezing of some funds of top Russian banks that may be required to ease blockages in the global trade of food and fertilisers is on the cards, a draft document showed.

The European Union (EU) will amend its sanctions on Moscow amid criticism from African leaders about the negative impact of the penalties on the trade, which may have

worsened shortages caused by Russia's attacks on Ukraine and its blockading of ports in the Black Sea.

Under the changed regulation, which is expected to be adopted by EU envoys on Wednesday, EU nations will be able to unfreeze previously blocked economic resources owned by top Russian lenders VTB (VTBR.MM), Sovcombank, Novikombank, Otkritie FC Bank, VEB, Promsvyazbank and Bank Rossiya, the

document said.

Separately, under the new sanctions to be approved, Sberbank (SBER.MM), Russia's largest bank, will also become subject to the freezing of its assets, with the exception of resources needed for food trade.

The draft document said money could be released after determining that such funds or economic resources are necessary for the purchase, import or transport of agricultural and food

products, including wheat and fertilizers.

The EU also plans to facilitate exports of food from Russian ports, which traders had stopped using after EU sanctions despite the measures explicitly exempting food exports.

The European Union has so far denied its sanctions affected food trade.

Meanwhile Russian forces continue with their bombardment of cities across Ukraine with intense shelling

of Sumy in the north, cluster bombs targeting Mykolaiv, and a missile strike in Odesa in the south.

The EU, along with the United States, Britain and others, imposed sweeping sanctions on Russia after its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24. Russia calls its actions a “special military operation” to disarm and “denazify” Ukraine. Kyiv and the West say Moscow is waging an unprovoked war of aggression.