Mele Kyari: NNPC will Raise Bar on Transparency

Promises to fix nation’s refineries by 2023

To unveil new roadmap in couple of weeks

Kasim Sumaina in Abuja

Mallam Mele Kyari assumed duty yesterday as the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) with a pledge to continuously entrench transparency, accountability and performance excellence across all the oil corporation’s operations.

Kyari, who promised to make the nation’s refineries functional by 2023, said in a few weeks he would unveil his agenda for the nation’s oil sector.

He spoke in Abuja at a valedictory ceremony for his predecessor, Dr. Maikanti Baru. Kyari said: “In the next couple of weeks, the COOs (chief operating officers) will join me to unveil the NNPC Roadmap towards global excellence and the roadmap will guide our aspirations to achieve sustained outstanding performance to meet the short and long term growth objectives of the corporation as we transit to a national energy champion.”

Continued on page 8

Osinbajo: Ethno-Religious Suspicion Nigeria’s Greatest Problem... Page 6
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Osinbajo: Ethno-Religious Suspicion Nigeria’s Greatest Problem

The Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, yesterday lamented that ethno-religious suspicion has been Nigeria’s greatest problem, saying that the problem continued from the First Republic till date.

The problem is that the resort to the ethnic card is pulled out regularly in our political structure, thus drawing a conclusion that the country is not yet politically stable.

At that time, however, the vice president noted that it was not difficult to “begin a process of disillusioning it.”

He said: “We also use this opportunity to say to peace and to state that we are available for further discussions with our party, the National Congress, and the BoT on a way to resolve those issues and move our party forward.”

He added that the opposition leaders was in conformity with the sacred mandate given the June 12 mandate.

Osinbajo pointed out the position of the eastern NRC governors, who equally issued a joint statement embracing the unity of the eastern states from the rest of the country for the 1999 elections as the June 12 election was reversed.

He explained how the military dictatorship took advantage of the ethnic divisions to make it seem like a South-west struggle for one that is much more about a struggle for democracy and justice, in the process imposing one of the most massive repressions of liberties anywhere in the world.

He also cited the case of Abiola’s trial and the constitutionalism, leadership, at crucial moments, of the National Congress, as well as the real concerns of the millions of Nigerians.

Osinbajo, speaking on his evidence-in-chief, said this was among others.

The witness said: “You are not supposed to transmit results to the national office or to the local government or to INEC as a Registration Area.Transmitted election results to INEC are not wrong, sir. INEC trained us to do it after some of them were accused of breaking our ranks and prevents such divisive tendencies often working against the country’s peace and security.”

Osinbajo also expressed grave concern about the rising space of insecurity nationwide yesterday, the unraveling of former governor of Ogun State, Chief Obasanjo’s autobiography.

Battleshield: Adventures in Journalism and Politics, held in Lagos.

Eminent Nigerians including the National Leader of All Progress Congress (APC), Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Senate President, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, among others, attended the unveiling of Osinbajo’s personal publication.

The two leaders expressed their belief that the country could be all 111 of us who nominated from among others.

Minority Parties urge PDP to Lift Elumelu’s Suspension

Minority parties in the House of Representatives have appealed to the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to reverse the suspension slammed against Minority Leader, Dr. James Obi, who earlier adopted his resignation.

Minority Leadership positions have appealed to the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to lift the suspension slammed against Minority Leader, Dr. James Obi, who earlier adopted his resignation.

Obi, who earlier adopted his resignation on the floor of the House, was not aware of the guidelines used by INEC for the presidential election, but there were specific guidelines used for his party, the ethnic divisions to make it seem like a South-west struggle for one that is much more about a struggle for democracy and justice, in the process imposing one of the most massive repressions of liberties anywhere in the world.

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He added that he was not stationed at any polling unit during the election but visited the ones where his attention was drawn to the presence of card reader. There was no change in any polling unit during the election, but there were specific guidelines used for his party, the ethnic divisions to make it seem like a South-west struggle for one that is much more about a struggle for democracy and justice, in the process imposing one of the most massive repressions of liberties anywhere in the world.

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Olawale Ajimotokan in Abuja
The Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr. Boss Mustapha, has made the SGF following the almost two years after he was appointed as the SGF. He also said he was destined to work hard and give gratitude to the president for making him the SGF.

Mustapha said: “What that (the appointment) does is to motivate others to work harder and give me this confidence. It is a privilege to serve the country in this capacity while making sure that the government is meeting the needs of the people. I am very happy and very proud to announce that the country is going through the things that the country is going through.”

The SGF added that “all that calls to question is a rededication and recommitment to the cause of the Nigerian state. I will make every effort to have a virtual work that I need to do. I will not be at their mercy. And I am not the kind of man to be more committed and be more zealous for the things of Nigeria than I am right now. And I will do my very best to help the country in this capacity.”

The SGF also assured a timely start-up. This will be in the service and we will further encourage the government and INEC to address them. The TJU/IDU had skimmed the legal issues that arose from violence and intimidation of voters and election officials. It also called for the strengthening of the electoral process to ensure that the elections were free and fair.

Professor Mahmood Yakubu, at the “Review of the Independent National Electoral Commission’s Debriefing of the Media” in Lagos, identified constitutional, legal, administrative and policy issues arising from the elections itself, “The court in 809 cases relating to the election results to INEC server. He said it was painful that the INEC server was not used in the conduct of party primaries. That is more that the number of cases arising from the elections yesterday passed a damning result and we will further encourage the government and INEC to address them. The TJU/IDU had skimmed the legal issues that arose from violence and intimidation of voters and election officials. It also called for the strengthening of the electoral process to ensure that the elections were free and fair.”

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He said the acrimony that was witnessed in the elections was a result of constitutional, legal, administrative and policy issues arising from the elections. The EU EOM had slammed the INEC for declaring a presidential result without an official statement on oath in the petition. Apart from the witnesses, the witness said the INEC server was not used in the conduct of party primaries. That is more than the number of cases arising from the elections results to INEC server that are still pending.

Another witness to be called by the petitioners, Dr. Tunde Coker, counsel to the petitioners, also said there were 73 presidential candidates in the election.

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**Police Arraign Senator Abbo for Assaulting Woman**

**Alex Enamah in Abuja**

As exclusively reported by THISDAY on Monday, the Police yesterday arraigned Senator Abbo before a Zaghawa Magistrate Court in Adamawa State over an alleged assault on a young woman in the state capital.

The Act is a well-known law enforcement in Nigeria, which says that any person found guilty of a crime shall be punished according to the severity of the crime.

The Police had called the senator over for investigation after a video was caught in the act went viral.

**Buhari Returns to Abuja after Signing AfCFTA Agreement in Niamey**

**Omololu Ogunmade in Abuja**

President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday returned to Abuja three days after he left the country for Niamey, the capital of Niger, to sign the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement.

The phase one of the agreement was adopted by African Union (AU) Heads of States and Governments at its 10th Extraordinary Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, on March 21, 2018.

But Nigeria pulled out of the agreement signing ceremony at the last minute a month later following agitations from the private sector that the agreement that came from Niger Republic, Libya and other places. They want those people to settle in our midst. It is not the Fulani that go around with cattle that they want to settle. So, I disagree with that project. I was very happy that the vice president for the first time disagreed with the presidency.

Clark further said: “And everybody is now coming out to say that they were not convinced and they will not accept it. Whether they suspend it for another 10 years or so, if it comes back, Nigeria will not survive as a country. It is good they withdraw, they say they have just suspended it and they are bringing it back, no Nigerian will agree to it and that may be the beginning of the disintegration of this country.”
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C
christianity in Nigeria, on the evidence of filled church pews and mega-crusades, each heaving with millions of worshippers at any
given time, appear to be in rude
health. The perception of the faith
being in robust health finds expression in state-
ments such as “the Devil is a liar”, “the gates of Hell shall not prevail” and “the Kingdom of Christ is
marching on”.

While addressing State House correspondents on the suspension, 
Buhari, State Governor, Dave Umahi, declared that the scheme was not consistent with the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NTP). He insisted that the NTP approved by the National Economic Council (NEC) is a voluntary programme for interested states.

Meanwhile, in the middle of the Ruga hubbub, the social media was equally buzzing with the news of the new pastor of the large Anglican musician, Buseola Dakolo, who had announced the Senior Pastor of Com-
monwealth of Zion Assembly (COZA), Pastor Biodun Fatoyinbo, of Rape allegations. He had stepped down a week ago. She alleged that both incidents occurred before she turned 18.

Nigerians quickly shook the Ruga controversy to the background, and COZA became the trendy news. In the midst of it all, Pastor Fatoyinbo vehemently denied the allegation. In a post on his Instagram page, the pastor declared: “I have never in my life raped anybody even as an unbeliever and I am absolutely innocent of this.

While many analysts seem to agree that Fatoyinbo might be
right, they, nevertheless, opine it is possible he had consensual sex with
his accuser. This is not the first time the Abuja-based pastor will be
immersed in sex scandals. In 2013, Eze Walter, a member of his church
allegedly had a sexual relationship with a minor. But a few days ago, another lady accused the pastor of rape. What will be the outcome of this new development?

What is, however, in doubt is that we are in a season of drama. Senator representing Adamawa North, Mr Elisha Abbo, is in the centre of yet another blockbuster. Abbo was accused to have assaulted a shop attendant at a sex toy shop in Abja last May. Details of the gory event were published in Premium Times and it prompted national indignation.

Initially, Abbo’s wife demand the allegation, saying that her husband, a ‘distinguished’ senator of the Federal Republic is too decent to stoop so low. However, the senator was to later rubbish her wife’s claim when he opened up to containing the alleged crime. In an emotion laden press conference, the senator apologized for his heroic conduct.

He equally apologized to his victim and her family. As we were taught in Didactic Literature, for the discerning, we could learn vital lessons from our current national dramas. The first is that we cannot wish away our national problems. As much as people might think that the government Ruga plan will just be a monster that will still have a monster to contend with in the herdsmen/farmers’ crisis.

If we choose to underplay it under the carpet as we often do, we are merely postponing the inevitable to the future. The leader of the country must consult widely in order to find a generally acceptable solution to this issue. We cannot continue to write unnecessary killings of our citizens in avoidable circumstances.

The COZA affair is a reflection of moral decadence in our society. What was changing against the fabric of Christian ministry was that pastor remain monolithic, it is a wake-up call to clerics who indulge in despicable sexual acts that their sins will, one day catch up with them.

But in a sense, as bad as it is, the tale of the abortion and the apology is dismaying enough, it demonstrates pittance. With the resources at his disposal, he could have gone to court, hire a crafty lawyer that would use legal technicalities to drug the case for long but he chose to follow a more honourable path. He said sorry. In his case, it is not usual to see ‘your locker for life’ in a magazine.

Tayo Ogunbiyi, Ministry of Information & Strategy, Alausa, Lagos

Editor, Editorial Page
Email peter-ishaka@thisdaylive.com

CHRISTIANITY IN NIGERIA: IRRELEVANCE LOOMS

The church should rise and confront the prevailing corruption and injustice in the system; writes Zikyie John

In addition, the church needs to understand problems through adequate mobilization of Christians to demand social justice. A view, which I agree with, is that the church has aligned itself to the socio-economic issues. Politicians, sadly including people of other religious persuasions, are routinely permitted to use Christian gatherings for speaking and photo opportunities in pursuit of their political agenda, while private sector criminals, such as bankers, are allowed to use Christian gatherings for money laundering. These steps of the church make it less credible as a moral voice in achieving the desired socio-political and economic liberation in Nigeria.

There is no sugar-coating Christianity’s outlook in Nigeria. Despite the long and loud claim that the election of Christ is ‘fighting on’, the faith is in a bad place. For Christianity to regain its fast-disintegrating influence, its leaders need to act and very fast, too. Firstly, there must be robust and consistent prophetic denunciation of the oppressive mechanism. The prophetic stance of the church obligates her to confront and challenge the systems of corrup-
tion and injustice which exploit and deprive Christians by criticizing and judging them by Christian standards.

In addition, the church needs to understand the context in which it operates in Nigeria and to encourage its members to participate actively and fully in the life of the country as well as to assume their faith as bargaining chips for the nation.

Very importantly, the conversion of the ordinary man must run along with the conversion of the church. When the faith goes beyond commitment to philanthropic activism, protesting against social injustice and mobilizing for social transformation, it becomes a social force. When the church seeks to use Christian gatherings for money laundering, it becomes a social force.

I support the conversion of the ordinary man to a free thinking and critically-minded person. When the church seeks to use Christian gatherings for money laundering, it becomes a social force. When the church seeks to use Christian gatherings for money laundering, it becomes a social force. When the church seeks to use Christian gatherings for money laundering, it becomes a social force.
T o prohibit the illegal arrest and detention of the Nigerian people the constitution has decreed that any person detained and not granted bail by the Nigeria Police Force or any other security agency shall be arraigned in a competent court of law within a maximum period of 48 hours. In many instances, the courts have condemned the indiscriminate arrest and de- tention of citizens and awarded damages to victims in deserving cases. But such judicial indictment and administrative interventions have not ended the reckless vitiating of citizens to personal liberty and dignity guaranteed by the nation’s constitution and other international human rights instruments which have been ratified by the federal government.

For the past two months, renowned legal practi- tioner, Mr. Femi Falana, SAN, has been having a running battle with the authorities of the Nigerian Navy over the alleged detention of about 150 Nigeri- ans and foreigners. According to Falana, some of the suspects have been held incommunicado without trial for more than two years. As if that is not enough, the orders of two competent courts for the release of some of these suspects have been treated with disdain and ignored by the Nigerian navy. A few of the detainees are military personnel while the rest are civilians who ordinarily are not subject to the provisions of the Armed Forces Act. Apart from 10 of the detainees that are said to have been held inside a vessel in Marina, Lagos, the rest are detained in military detention facilities in Lagos, Abuja, Warri, Port Harcourt and Calabar. All the detainees are alleged to have been denied access to their family members, lawyers and doctors. Apparently embarrassed by Falana’s disclosure, the authorities initially denied holding any of the detainees in its custody. But when Falana revealed the names of 40 of the detainees and their places of detention the naval authorities recanted and admitted that they were detaining an undisclosed number of criminal suspects involved in maritime offences. A week later, the navy paraded 22 suspects and announced that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had taken over the investigation.

In order to ensure that Nigerian citizens are not detained without trial by the police and other law enforcement agencies the Nigerian Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015 has mandated all Chief Judges to designate Chief Magistrates and Judges to visit all detention facilities in Nigeria. During such visits the judicial officers shall order the immediate release of those who are illegally detained, grant bail or recommend the trial of indicted suspects. Based on the request of the human rights community, the Chief Justice of Nigeria has had cause to direct all chief judges to appoint chief magistrates and judges to conduct a monthly inspection of all detention facilities in the country. But in spite of the directive, it is sad to note that some chief judges have refused to designate judges and magistrates to visit police stations and other detention centres. Hence, the incessant arrest and detention of citizens has not ceased. However, we are not unaware that the Nigerian navy has alleged that the detained suspects were arrested for engaging in various acts of economic and financial crimes. But that is not a legal justifica- tion for detaining them indefinitely without trial. In fact, the investigation of such grave allegations ought to have been carried out speedily to facilitate the prosecution of the suspects by the EFCC. The contemptuous disregard of the court for the release of some of the detainees is therefore condemnable. We call on the authorities of the Nigerian navy to either admit the suspects to administrative bail or arraign them in competent courts.

NIGERIAN NAVY AND THE DETAINED SUSPECTS

The Navy should work within the laws of the country

Letters to the Editor

Letters in response to specific publications in THISDAY should not exceed 150-200 words and straightforward to the point. Interested readers may send such letters along with their contact details to opinion@thisdaylive.com. We also welcome comments and opinions on topical local, national and international issues provided they are well-written and should not be longer than 950-1000 words. They should be sent to opinion@thisdaylive.com along with the email address and phone number of the writer.

LOKOGOMA FLOOD: THE NEED FOR ACTION

O ver the last few weeks the issue of recurring flood- ing at the Lokogoma district of Abuja has gained media attention. Videos of rapidly flowing water wreaking havoc on properties in that area are astral on both the social and mainstream media. Also featuring prominently in news reports are the incidences of loss of lives due to drowning as the waters swept away those unfortunate enough to be caught in its path.

Floding across different parts of Nigeria are not new especially during the rainy season. However, until about a couple of years ago, the FCT has largely been spared the devastation and loss of lives. Despite the incidences of loss of lives due to flooding, the former Minister of the FCT Mallam Muhammad Musa Bello directed that some immediate remedial measures be taken to prevent a future occurrence. While this might have provided some respite, it became quite apparent that a permanent solution should have been implemented if the residents of that district are to be freed from the dangers posed by annual flooding. That solution came down to the removal of all illegal and encroaching structures erected on water courses. It must be mentioned at this point that River Kabusa and Wumba have their natural courses running through the district. Some estate developers however decided to either attempt to divert the natural waterway or worsen still exist structures on flood plains. This resulted in the substantial construction of these natural waterways and narrowed the right of water way and the result is severe flooding.

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Capital Territory Administra- tion, Sir Chimamaka Otsu paid an unscheduled visit to the Lokogoma district to assess the situation for himself. After a thorough examination of all the issues and recognising the dangers of not taking immediate action he directed that all illegal structures blocking natural waterways and flood plains should be removed and gave all those affected by this removal order two weeks to remove the illegal structures. This directive as expected elicited mixed reactions from members of the public. While a good majority of FCT residents support this policy based on reactions garnered from media feedbacks, some others have some reservations which can be summarised as follows: what happens to off-takers who bought or rented properties from developers? Two weeks is too short a notice for evictions.

As to what happens to residents who purchased or leased houses from developers that violated development control laws the permanent secretary responded that while their predicament is deserving of sympathy, they should have done their due diligence before purchasing or renting those properties. Indeed, the FCT, like other states of the federation has some unscrupulous property developers who have their sights fixed squarely on the bottom line and will not leave any line unexploited as long as it will fetch some money as any discerning property buyer should know.

Potential property buyers should ask questions and confirm the status of the properties they wish to purchase or rent from the developers. The FCT administration put minds at ease and save properties and even lives.

The developers who have violated the laws are liable for whatever losses their clients may incur from this removal exercise and victims possess the right to seek redress.

As to whether two weeks is too short a notice for those affected? The answer to that is rather simple. Nature gives no notice. In the event of another heavy downpour and lives or properties destroyed (God forbid) the two weeks’ notice would have proven to be too long indeed for those affected.
There have been rumours of a secret approach, championed by you, in the selection of a new Oneh-Eh Eleme. They say that you have instigated the sale of nomination forms for candidates wishing to vie for the throne of the Oneh-Eh Eleme. Such approach is totally against the custom and tradition of Eleme and is capable of leading Eleme into crises. According to Eleme custom and tradition:

1. There should be proper publicity and awareness for selection of the king among the sons and daughters of Eleme.
2. The Chiefs, elders, men, women, youth and stakeholders would then gather at the town square on the date scheduled for the selection, where, after due interactions and deliberations, the people would nominate the candidates of their choice.
3. The Chiefs and stakeholders, who constitute the jury, would then take the names of the candidates for consultation and evaluation while everyone else remains seated in the hall with the Land-priest awaiting the outcome of the evaluation process. The chiefs and stakeholders eventually return with one name—the name of their preferred candidate.
4. The Land-priest of Agbonchia, who is the most superior of the Land-priests in Eleme kingdom, is by our custom and tradition the only one who can crown the king of Eleme in our sacred shrine.
5. According to Eleme custom and tradition, forms are never sold for nomination of candidates for the throne. It is the people themselves who put forward the candidates they want. Anyone who buys a form to be a candidate for the throne is simply nominating himself.

This process is applicable to all levels of paramount rulers in Eleme land. The selection of the Oneh-Eh Eleme, Oneh-Eh Eta and the heads of the different sub-communities follow this same process. Eleme custom is one. If there is any need for amendment of the custom, it is the Eleme people themselves who would so decide after a referendum. People shouldn’t take advantage of their closeness to the government of the day to manipulate the process and ruin our custom and tradition. What happens when another administration comes on board that favours someone else for the throne? We should not allow politics to destroy our custom and tradition.

Not only is the traditional ruler the custodian of the customs and tradition of any people; his very office is sustained by tradition and custom. For such a person to subvert the tradition and culture would be tantamount to a man stripping himself naked in the market square. Like the president of a country who swears to protect and defend the constitution of the country, the traditional ruler swears to protect the customs and traditions of the people. If that same traditional ruler turns around to destroy the customs and tradition of the people, what would be left for him to protect? For a king to rubbish the custom and tradition of his people would be to take away the people’s custom and traditions. A people without custom and tradition are no people. As a matter of fact, such a people do not exist.

I urge you not to cause any damage to our kingdom so that it won’t be used against us tomorrow.

If the selection process for the Oneh-Eh Eleme does not follow the laid down custom and tradition of our people, I will not be able to crown anyone in the sacred shrine, so as not to attract any calamity to myself or my family. There are judges in our country but only the Chief Judge of the federation or state can legitimately swear in a president or governor. Anything outside that is illegal. I am aware that there may be a few land-priests from the other Eleme clans who would be willing to subvert the custom and crown a candidate that isn’t the product of due process, but the Land-priest of Agbonchia (as the superior land-priest) is traditionally mandated to crown the legitimate king of Eleme. Any person crowned by any other land priest in Eleme is illegitimate in the eyes of our custom and tradition. Any person who wishes to do otherwise is free to do so, but should understand it is their personal business and drama.

Let me restate it again that anyone who occupies the throne of Oneh-Eh Eleme without following due customary process is an usurper and no matter how long such a person remains on the throne, eventually the custom and tradition of our land will prevail.

That is why you, a traditional ruler in Eleme, ought to have declined when you were named the acting King of Eleme. There is no acting king in Eleme custom and tradition. When a king dies or is dethroned, the land-priest takes charge and conducts the process of electing a new king. You know that very well but you chose to take up that mantle contrary to the dictates of Eleme custom and tradition. Now you are using that office to set up a selection process that will favour you. Having accepted the position of acting king, good conscience demands that you exempt yourself from the race for a substantive king. Instead, you are not only vying for the throne, but also using your acting capacity in setting up a committee and drawing up strategies that will give you undue advantage over others who are contesting with you for the same throne. That is not proper.

It is to maintain the neutrality of contestants and impartiality of the selection process that our forefathers directed that the land-priest should take up the mantle of leadership upon the death of an incumbent king and oversee the selection and enthronement of a successor. How can you be a judge in a matter that concerns you? That is not right. I urge you therefore to abstain from giving room to or fuelling anything that could cause division and rancour in the kingdom. Put your personal interest aside and work for the common good of the land. I urge you to shun desperation by allowing the custom and tradition of the land to prevail in this matter. Above all, I urge you to do the right thing by exempting yourself from the contest and to willingly accept anyone (other than yourself) who emerges as the rightful Oneh-Eh Eleme.

May the spirits of our ancestors guide you to make the right decision and do the right thing for the betterment of our beloved kingdom!

Signed:

Eleme Land Priest,
EMERE ABBEY PRINCE OLUKA
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Terms & Conditions Apply
Traditionally, herdsmen were known to graze the arid and Sahel regions. However, as a result of the environmental conditions that limit the amount of land available for agriculture, they were not known to have competitors for land. This is according to a paper by the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS).

Also, due to recurrent droughts in the arid and Sahel regions, which led to unfavorable environmental development in the Sahel and Chad Basin, over time, the herdsmen began to move from place to place. Reduction in the Lake Chad Basin as a result of climate change, led to southern migration of the herders to the Guinean savannah and the rain forest in search of pasture. Adversely, their movement led to trespass on farmland and reverse-aggression between them (herders and farmers).

History has it that Fulani herdsmen migrated from Senegambia to Nigeria in the 13th to 14th century and became integrated into the Hausa culture of Northern Nigeria by the Uthman dan Fodio movement. With the reduction of Tsetse fly in the dry season, the herdsmen moved their cattle into the Middle-belt, South-west, South-east and South-south. Incidentally, these areas are dominated by non-Hausas and differ in language and culture, thus leading to trespass on lands owned legally or ancestrally by the affected farmers.

Dr. Umar Ardo, a one-time aide to former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, considered one of the Fulani intelligentsias, concluded that the herdsmen and farmers clash happened as a result of the drying up of the River Benue, as well as its tributaries. Specifically, he faulted the dam at the Cameroonian side of River Lado as contributing to the drying up. Ardo said that even the River Gongola and other rivers supplying water to River Benue are gradually drying up due to the negative effects of climate change. His extensive studies blamed the construction of the dam starting from the Cameroonian side, explaining that it was done against an agreement reached between the German and Cameroon governments. If it masters there should be no dam on the River Lado.

Brief History of Ranching In Nigeria

With a history that dates back to pre-Independence, the Obudu Ranch was the first ranch to be established in Nigeria. To be exact, it was developed in 1951 by one M. McCaughley, a Scot who first explored the mountain ranges in 1949. He camped on the mountaintop of the Oshee Ridge on the Sankwala Mountains for a month before returning with Mr. Hugh Jones, a fellow rancher, in 1951. Together with Dr. Crasfeld, they developed the campsite for it. The ranch is still in existence. Ranches were also established in different locations in Western Nigeria by the Chief Obafemi Awolowo government in the First Republic.

The Idea of RUGA Settlement

The federal government claims that it conceived the idea of Rural Grazing Area (RUGA) settlement initiative to address the incessant clashes between farmers and herdsmen in the country. The news of the idea was first dropped by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. However, the Senior Special Assistant to President Muhammadu Buhari, Garba Shehu, would later expatiate on the idea.

Describing opposing comments to the idea as “unhelpful”, he said what RUGA sought to achieve was “settle migrant pastoral families”, and “stop roaming of cattle herdsmen with the attendant clashes with farmers.” Shehu said that it was not just cattle herdsmen that would be settled, but everyone who is into animal farming. The government would equip each settlement with schools, hospitals, road networks, vet clinics, markets and meat processing factories; this was, curb the open grazing of cattle.

According to Shehu, the government hoped that aside from a reduction in conflict between herdsmen and farmers, other benefits would be “a boost in animal protection complete with a value chain that will increase the quality and hygiene of livestock in terms of beef and milk production, increased quality of feeding and access to animal care, as well as improved infrastructure of pasture production, job creation, access to credit facilities, security for pastoral families and curtailment of cattle rustling. Reassuring Nigerians that the government had no plans to seize lands to give away to any group of people, Garba Shehu went on to say that the government was not undeterred and has commenced the building of RUGA Settlements in some states. This day gathered that contracts have been awarded in several states. According to a letter of one of such contracts dated May 21, 2019, (name of contractor withheld) and signed by the Director of Procurement, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hussani Adamu, one contractor was mobilised to site and asked to deliver within four weeks and as per its specifications.

Part of the contract letter reads, “I am directed to inform you that the Federal Executive Council (FEC) at its meeting held on March 8, 2019, approves the award of contract for the construction of 8 Nos. RUGA Infrastructures with Sanitary facilities (Red brick Structure) each in Taraba State as detailed in the attached to your company at the total sum of N16,336,380.00 (One hundred and sixty six million, three hundred and thirty thousand, three hundred and eighty naira) only inclusive of VAT with a completion period of four (4) weeks with effect from the date on the letter.”

Politics

TRENDING NEWS

Still Wrapped in a Haze of Controversy

Nseobong Okon-Ekong, Chuks Okocha and Ojo Maduekwe write that the smouldering fire ignited by disagreement trailing the controversial idea by the federal government to establish a community for the nomadic Fulani herdsmen across the country through the Rural Grazing Area (RUGA) Settlement initiative may not have been quenched totally with its suspension
Ebonyi State. Other state governors on the committee and Working Group of NFC are those from Adamawa, Kaduna, Benue, Taraba, Edo, Plateau, Oyo and Zaria – mostly the frontline States in the farmer-herder crises, Akande said. Akande said that the NLTP would be implemented in the seven pilot states of Adamawa, Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Nasarawa, Taraba and Zamfara (as decided by NEC in January), being states in the frontlines of the farmer-herder crises, followed by six other states that have indicated readiness to also implement the plan. According to him, they are Katsina, Kano, Kogi, Kwara, Ondo, and Edo.

He also said that the plan had six pillars which he said would transform the livestock production system in Nigeria along market-oriented value chain, while ensuring an atmosphere of peace and justice. “The six key pillars include: economic investment, conflict resolution, justice and peace, humanitarian relief and early recovery, human capital development and cross-cutting issues such as gender, youth, research and information and strategic communications,” Akande said.

Buhari’s Aide Contradict Osinbajo

There have been insinuations that the RUGA controversy was pitting the Vice President against the President. If Nigerians still doubted this, the reaction by Akande to a question to the President on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, contradicting the Vice President’s claim on RUGA, was a pointer that all may not be well.

Speaking on The News at 10 on Channels Television last week, Shehu, when asked about the difference between the RUGA project and NLTI, said, “It is just another initiative. These herders who roam the entire country and overrun farmlands cause disaffection and the government wants to stop this.”

Issues Stoking the RUGA Controversy

Most opposition to the RUGA Settlement are borne out of the fear of ‘Fulanisation’ as enunciated by former President Olusegun Obasanjo. Delivering the keynote address at the 2019 Synod of the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, held in Ondo, Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State, sometime in May this year, Chief Obasanjo said the Boko Haram insurgency was no longer an issue in the north and had been reduced to a state of employment for Nigerian youths, which it began as, but now about “West African Fulanisation, African Islamisation and global organised crimes of human trafficking, money laundering, drug trafficking, illegal mining and regime change.”

In a public commentator and analyst, Nnamdi Elekwachi, shares the same view as Obasanjo. He argues that there’s a grand scheme by the Fulani to dominate other tribes and their ancestral lands through the RUGA project. According to him, the size of the first RUGA Settlement, the one in Kotonogra, Niger State, with a landmass of at least 31,000 hectares of land or 310 square kilometers was the size of an average Local Government Area (LGA) in many states in Nigeria. Anti-RUGA proponents argue that the average size of an LGA in the South East is 310 square km and in the South West, 574 sq.km. Katsina has the least average LGA size at 179 square km, Imo has average LGA size of 205sqkm, Akwa Ibom 229square km, Anambra 315sqkm and Osun 308 square km, to mention a few. In size, a RUGA Settlement or Fulani Cattle Colony is the size of a Local Government Area in Nigeria. One RUGA Settlement will comprise of six Fulani settlements in each of the 36 states in Nigeria. At completion, there will be 216 new exclusive Fulani LGAs in the country.

Describing the current RUGA Settlement, the President has also said that it is the first of its kind, having 774 LGAs, and a population of about two hundred million people, the average number of herders grazing 100,000 and more herdsmen and about a hundred and sixty thousand people. Presently, and according to the CIA Factbook on Nigeria, there are about 13 million Fulanis in Nigeria, which is just 0.6% of the total population of Nigeria. According to Elekwachi, the RUGA programme on completion is projected to increase the Fulani population in Nigeria by over 69 million.

He also argued that the implication of the above was that at the completion of the RUGA Settlement project, the Fulani would have become the most populous nationality in Nigeria (in today’s population figure) having approximately 63.9 million people (32.2 million). “In one fell swoop the Fulani becomes the majority nationality in Nigeria. The tripled population of the rest of the population in Nigeria by over 69 million,” he said.

He also argued that the federal government was engaging a group that is attempting to do so that the Fulani herdsmen could not convert their way into the South, where they are being requested to settle. “In one fell swoop the Fulani becomes the majority nationality in Nigeria,” he said.

The South-east Governors Forum

The South-east Governors Forum have weighed in on the controversial RUGA Settlement. Chairman of the forum and Governor of Ebonyi State, David Umahi, in a statement by his spokesman, Emmanuel Uzor, said there was no plan for a RUGA Settlement in any part of the South-east and South- south. According to him, the South-east is purely agrarian with limited land mass for farming and therefore cannot accommodate RUGA, what could happen is that more people in the Middle Belt and the South-east region would engage in symbiotic trade of cows and grass. “Umahi was the Chairman of Na- tional Economic Council sub-technical committee on farmers and herdsmen clash and he toured the states of Benue, Taraba, Nasarawa, Adamawa, Zamfara and two other states where he made one recommendation to the federal government for revamping of grazing reserve, where all the cattle breeders in the South will take their cattle to and rely on the grass grown in the South.”

Further expatiating, Umahi said, “the way it works is that the herdsmen will bring their cows to the Southeast, and sell to us as meat while they will load the grass which are grown here in the same trailer with which they transported their cows to feed their cows in the grazing reserve which should be made comfortable for them. By this, the government is expected to embrace open grazing by returning to the ranches in the North can do their business on the trade by buyer basis of selling cows to the South and buying grass to feed their cows in the North.”

Other Ethnic Nationalities React

Representatives from the Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum (CNG) weighed in on the matter. The groups said after reviewing all the arguments for and against the RUGA Settlements, it concluded that the plan was “repugnant to the national interest and general will of the country.” According to Elekwachi, the RUGA programme on completion is projected to increase the Fulani population in Nigeria by over 69 million.

He, like others, argued why the federal government was so much invested in the project, alleging that the federal government is turning a blind eye to all defaulting criminal herdsmen were being attended to. “They [herdsmen] are being treated with kid gloves,” he said.

Solutions 17 SDG Programme, Soyinka Foundation

Reacting to the ultimatum and threat by the CNG, the Igbo socio-cultural body, Ohanaeze Ndigbo, through its President-General, Chief Nnia Nwodo, said, “This irresponsible, unlawful and provocative outburst reminds me of the northern youths’ notice to quit the North to southerners two years ago. Despite the overtures and a Fulaniisation policy, Nwodo said that Ohanaeze would resist it, adding that without any conversion, Nigerians from their places of abode in northern Nigeria is treasonable and obviously like the gun-toting herdsmen will go unnoticed by our federal police and security agencies.”

He called on all Igbo to be ready to defend themselves. “We can no longer sit and accommodate a rising opposition to RUGA, Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka, has said, the scheme will set Nigeria on fire.”

The Rivers State Government has expressly said it will not participate in the project, conceived to find a lasting solution to the perennial problem of farmers-herders clash.

At a recent launch of United Nations’ Solutions 17 SDG Programme, Soyinka berated the federal government for the idea, which he said could Nigeria to explode.

He said, “Ruga is going to be an explosion if not handled with care. But why do we not take our policies from good models? This is not the way people and countries deal with issues of cattle.

I travel everywhere. It has to be handled in a way that is logical, comprehensive to the environment. When a cattle walks up to the window of any house in Abeokuta, a house which is located in a residential area, then there’s a problem.

What cattle go to Igbu Ode and eat up their plant seedlings and so on and you expect people to be quiet?”

According to him, the handling of the herdsman by President Muham- madu Buhari could have cost him his re-election.

He said, “President Buhari desired to have lost the last election for the lackadaisical attitude he took to the issue of cattle rearing in the country.

“People have been killed in hundreds just because of the failure of leadership at a critical time. And the cattle herdsmen have been given a sense of impunity. They will come into the south, and they drive away the farmers who have been contributing to the food solutions in the country: the cattle eat their crops and then you come up with RUGA. I don’t think that there is going to be trouble in this country if this RUGA thing is not handled imaginatively and with humanity as priority. Any country where cattle take priority over human life is definitely at an elementary stage.”
Massive Scale of Illegalities in Delta

After a short briefing on the operational activities of the Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS) DELTA, the team left the jetty at 10.45am in a convoy of five patrol boats. Soon after, we crossed the Channel River, a journey that took over 30 minutes from the NNS Delta jetty, the first port of call was Okorokiri community, then Efikama creek, as well as Nana creek, which connects to Sapele, Kokoro, Gbemre and connects to Palm Tree, which then connects to Lagos too, which perhaps explains why there are two houseboats performing as choke points to prevent illegal passage of illegal products siphoned from vandalised pipelines.

The second day saw the entourage move to Benet Island, where a massive illegal refinery running into millions of naira, was situated. At the different creeks where the defence journalists were taken to by the Executive Officer, NNS DELTA, Captain Festus Adeguyi, a massive and well-coordinated operation of crude distillation process was being carried out. The operators of the illegal refineries, especially at Benet Island, where over 50,000 litre metal tanks were found. In sites visited, the destruction of the illegal refineries were being done with the use of swamp buggies, an excavator used in swampy areas to crush metallic substances and render them unusable, thereby avoiding further pollution of the land and surrounding water.

Already, the navy has identified over 900 illegal refinery camps within NNS DELTA’s area of operation (AOG) with the bulk of it located around Ughelli and Warri South.

Consequences on the Environment

Man is often a product of his environment. In some instances, UNEP’s study showed that almost 50% of 2011 Ogoniland report by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), which revealed an unprecedented concentration of benzoic, a carcinogen and hydrocarbons occasioned by oil spillage that has polluted air and water in the Niger Delta. In some instances, UNEP’s study showed benzoic concentrate in outdoor air were 900 times higher than World Health Organisation’s (WHO) benchmark, while the contamination of drinking and ground water, it noted, posed serious threat to human health and distortion of the ecosystem and would take up to three decades to clear.

Although the federal government had approved the establishment of modular refineries as a way to checkmate crude oil theft, the syndicates involved in the crime have continued.

The arrest 19 suspects and the stolen crude at Bakana Creeks in Rivers State

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The swamp buggy crushing the vandal’s equipment found at the site of one of the illegal refineries at Yeye Creek in Delta State

 Like Delta,Like Rivers

Moving on to Rivers State from Delta, the destination was NNS PATHFINDER. It was even worse in Rivers as a visit to Bakana creeks revealed hundreds of metal tanks of about 10,000 litre-capacity each. On ground also were tents with makeshift beds and kitchen utensils, owned by the vandals. On sighting the navy gunboats, criminals load these products into waiting boats. There were underground pipes connecting crude oil reservoirs suspected to have been siphoned from wellheads along Trans-Forodaus by the criminals, who run other pipes to various tanks and dugout pits, such that diesel, kerosene and the waste products go into different channels from their heat exchangers through hoses and metal pipes.

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**Features**

**Swamp Buggy Operation**

To bring this menace to an end, the Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekong, anchored his NNS Delphi at the Delta creeks, with the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari, to combat the menace of crude oil theft and pipeline vandalism in the Niger Delta.

In Delta, the navy destroyed 30 illegal refineries, an item of which was used by criminals to siphon crude oil. The operation was carried out in person to consolidate the gains recorded by the navy in the last six months.

In Delta, the navy destroyed 50 illegal refineries, among which was a 250-litre AGO tank destroyed by the navy last December, and the 50 illegal refineries met with the navy’s first major challenge: the porous nature of the area.

The navy also believes one of the solutions is partnership. According to the CO NNS DELTA, "we understand that it is not a fight for the navy alone. It is something that requires all hands to be on deck. We are currently partnering sister security agencies in the state to deploy more hands and have more stations closer to such illegal camps so that the criminals will be prevented from coming in."

“We have brought the issue up at the state security council meeting and approached the local and state governments to hold meetings with traditional rulers and community leaders in order to bring an end to this problem.”

Recently, he said the Flag Officer Commanding (FOC), Eastern Naval Command, Rear Admiral David Adesarma, visited the Ohu of Warri and other monarchs in Delta and advised them to talk with their youths and community members on the dangers of illegal refining of crude oil.

He added, “there is no such thing as can go on in communities and the members of that community will not know. We need people to understand the danger these activities pose to their health and those of their loved ones. They should also understand that these criminals rob the country of resources that would have been used for development for the good of everyone.”

Combating, NNS PATHFINDER CO said the menace cannot be eradicated without the traditional rulers, community leaders, state and local governments and traditional rulers.

Will the navy and other agencies be able to curb this ugly practice of crude oil theft, pipeline vandalism and piracy in the Niger Delta? Although only time will tell, the end of these vices can only be near if all the aforementioned challenges are tackled and the solutions listed, embraced.

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**Arrests**

Although some of the suspects jumped into the polluted rivers and swam to the comfort of the thick mangroves, upon sighting the naval formation, many more were caught right in action.

In Delta, the navy arrested 20 suspects, who had been in the jetty for up to seven years, while another 14 suspects, who had been arrested for various maritime offences and had been arrested for various maritime offences and had been arrested for various maritime offences and had been arrested for various maritime offences, had been arrested for various maritime offences and had been arrested for various maritime offences and had been arrested for various maritime offences and had been arrested for various maritime offences.

At NNS PATHFINDER, the arrests were real time as the entourage patrolled the creeks and swam. At the creeks because sometimes they spend as much as 24 hours in the water, the total cost of hiring such equipment

**Challenges**

As expected in such operations, the challenges were inherent—funds to rent the necessary tools to safety of personnel, intimidation by these militants and vandals on those who rent the buggies from. It was gathered that the criminals have reconstructed and commenced their nefarious activity again.

On whether the navy has the manpower to deploy more hands and have more stations closer to such illegal camps so that the criminals will be prevented from coming in, "we have brought the issue up at the state security council meeting and approached the local and state governments to hold meetings with traditional rulers and community leaders in order to bring an end to this problem."
RE: SUSPENSION OF MINORITY PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OTHER MEMBERS: LETTERS OF APPEAL

THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN,
The Peoples Democratic Party,
PDP Secretariat, Jim Brown Plaza,
Wuse 2, Abuja.

Dear Sir,

Please refer to our letter dated 5th July, 2019, directed to the National Chairman of the Party seeking redress of the breach of procedures notified in your letter dated 4th July, 2019.

We have received your letter dated 4th July, 2019 which the副本 is enclosed for your information. The contents of the letter are not in line with the provisions of the Constitution of the PDP and the resolutions of the party.

We hereby appeal to you to review your letter dated 4th July, 2019 and to take appropriate action in line with the provisions of the Constitution of the PDP.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Chairman, PDP Minority Caucus

Subject:

RE: APPEAL AGAINST SUSPENSION OF MINORITY PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OTHER MEMBERS

Sir,

We write to appeal against the suspension of Minority Principal Officers and other members of the PDP as notified in your letter dated 4th July, 2019.

We hereby appeal to you to review your letter dated 4th July, 2019 and to take appropriate action in line with the provisions of the Constitution of the PDP.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Chairman, PDP Minority Caucus

THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN,
The Peoples Democratic Party,
PDP Secretariat, Jim Brown Plaza,
Wuse 2, Abuja.

Dear Sir,

In response to your letter dated 5th July, 2019, I wish to say that the provisions of the Constitution of the PDP and the resolutions of the party are clear and unambiguous.

We hereby appeal to you to review your letter dated 5th July, 2019 and to take appropriate action in line with the provisions of the Constitution of the PDP.

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[Signature]

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Yours faithfully,

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Chairman, PDP Minority Caucus
NBA-SBL PROFFERS ECONOMIC ROADMAP FOR THE NATION

L-R: Chairman, NBA-SBL 2019 Conference Planning Committee, Dr Adeoye Adefulu; NBA President, Paul Usoro, SAN, Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Chairman, NBA-SBL, Seni Adio, SAN; Speaker, House of Representatives, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Femi Gbajabiamila and Supreme Court Justice, Hon. Olabode Rhodes-Vivour at the opening ceremony of the 2019 Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law Conference
Constitutional and Statutory Status of Magisterial Appointment

Gov. AbdulRazaq Hails Kwara’s 34-year-old SAN, Oyetola Atoyebi

Drug War: Sanusi Hails Legal Aid Scheme, Commends FG for Ban on Codeine

Aelex Lecture: Looking for Strong Men and Strong Institutions

‘Patience, Sacrifice and Hard Work make a Good Lawyer’

Quotables:

Every State, will not have a ranch. Only States that desire ranches will have them, because under the Land Use Act, President Buhari does not have control over any land outside the Federal Capital Territory. In all the States, the entire land is vested in the Governors. So, if the Governor does not give land to the Federal Government, you cannot establish a ranch.

– Femi Falana, SAN, Human Rights Activist

Justice must not be dispensed by somebody who is unjust, because sitting on the fountain of justice to dispense it, if somebody is polluted, the entire system will be polluted.

– Monday Ubani, Legal Practitioner, former 2nd Vice President, Nigerian Bar Association

COLUMNIST

Dr. Mike Ozekhome, SAN, OFR, FCIARB, PhD, LL.D

Constitutional Democracy, means a system of government, in which political and governmental power, is defined, limited and shared by a grundnorm called the Constitution, which provides inbuilt checks and balances.

This column seeks to fiercely discuss constitutional, legal and political issues, with a view to strengthening, deepening and widening the plenitude and amplitude of democracy and good governance, without fear or favour.

The writer of this column, Dr. Mike Ozekhome, SAN, is a Constitutional Lawyer, Human Rights Activist, Pro-Democracy Campaigner, Notary Public and Motivational Speaker. He co-founded the Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO), Nigeria’s pioneer human rights league, on October 15, 1987, the Universal Defenders of Democracy (UDD), in 1992, and with Chief Gani Fawehinmi and others in 1998, the Joint Action Committee of Nigeria (JACON), to push out the military. In his early days, he lectured at the University of Ife. Dr. Ozekhome is an author of many books. He is also a Special Counsel at the International Criminal Court (ICC), at The Hague.
The Trials of Senathug Abbo

What Message will Nigeria send to the World?

One imagine the fear that I would have felt, if I was assaulted in a shop by some man, and dragged out of the Police station (where he was meant to protect me from the likes of such a notorious character). If Senator Elisha Abbo, representing Adamawa North Senatorial District, is allowed to get away with this deplorable criminal act against Biba and Kemi, which took place at Pleasure Chest Store, Banex Plaza, Abuja, it will not only send the worst message to the world about our law enforcement agencies, but also about Nigeria’s stand on the equality of all in the eyes of the law, prosecution of crimes irrespective of gender, and respect for the ‘undistinguished’. There is nothing more unseemly than a motorpark tout!

I was appalled that a man could treat a woman in such a terrible, degrading manner. I must say that, Senator Abbo is an ‘Undistinguished Senator’. As we are all aware, the definition of ‘Distinguished’, the prefix of Senator, is “very successful, authoritative, and command respect...dignified’. There is nothing distinguished or noteworthy, about the brutal, frenzied and intemperate actions of Senator Abbo, that commands anything other than condemnation and criminal prosecution, which will send a message to his fellow female-beaters, that such behaviour is not just reprehensible and unacceptable, but will be punished under the law.

Functions of the Police

During the nasty incident, Senator Abbo said in hauwa language, among other things that he had spoken to the AIG (Assistant Inspector General of Police). The first thought that crossed my mind when I heard that statement, was “with all the insecurity that has pervaded Nigeria, the AIG is still so jobless and idle, that he has time to attend to nonsensical calls from uncooth, violent people, who have inflated opinions of themselves. Obviously, if even high ranking Police Officers spend what should be useful man-hours, pandering to the whims and caprices of ‘spoilt brats’, because they are so-called ‘big men’, deploying police men who should be out fighting crime, to clean up their messes, how will we ever muster the strength and wherewithal, to overcome insecurity in this country?

For the avoidance of doubt, Section 4 of the Police Act provides for the general duties of the Police, which include, prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, preservation of law and order, protection of life and property, and enforcement of all laws and regulations. So far, I am unaware of any law which provides that an offence has been committed, if one makes utterances that do not go down well with a Senator or anyone else, for that matter! So what, if Kemi said Senator Abbo was drunk? If they have been acquitted for five years as the Senator himself claimed, should she not be able to tell if her friend is drunk?

It is trite that, no law enforcement agency can act outside the purview of the provisions of its establishing statute. In Skye Bank Plc v Emerson Njoku 2016 LPELR-40447 (CA), the Court of Appeal in Lagos, inter alia held that: Complainants who wrongly use agencies such as the Police or the EFCC to violate the rights of people, must be made to pay for their actions. Not only should the AIG who deployed police men to go on a foolish mission for Senator Abbo, be immediately issued with a query, the police personnel who were actually on the scene should be punished for rough handling Biba, instead of arresting Senator Abbo, who actually committed assault in their presence. Using the Police to violate the rights of Biba especially, and Kemi, is yet another infraction committed by Senator Abbo, which he is answerable for.

Assault

Senator Abbo clearly assaulted Biba, and Kemi, who he pushed and threatened with a slap, a threat which she had every reason to believe would be carried out, since he had slapped Biba several times in her presence. In the video, we clearly see that, Senator Abbo committed several offences, ranging from voluntarily causing hurt, the use of criminal force against another, threat of assault, assault, and criminal force against a woman, contrary to the provisions Chapter XVIII of the Penal Code Act 2006 (PCA) (Offences Affecting the Human Body) (applicable in Abuja), specifically, Sections 240, 242, 261, 262, 264, 265, 266, and 270 of the PCA, punishable by various terms of imprisonment ranging from one to three years, with options of fine, or both (Sections 246, 265(a), 268 and 270 of the PCA). Senator Abbo was arrested, and has been granted bail. The war against corruption, must go hand in hand with the war against impunity and abuse of power.

Unfortunately, Senator Abbo is not a government official, who can simply be relieved of his job. He was elected, into office. However, by virtue of Section 66 of the Constitution, he can be recalled by his constituents (which I do not think is likely to happen). Section 66(1)(c) of the Constitution can also be invoked against him, and render him disqualified from holding the office of a Senator, if he is found guilty and convicted for the assault of Biba and Kemi, and sentenced to any term of imprisonment.

Mrs Abbo

As for the ‘loyal’ Mrs Abbo, it would have been better for her to remain silent, unless she was tendering an apology to Biba and Kemi, on behalf of her oil-of-control husband, instead of publicising her husband’s innocence, iniquitously absolving his reprehensible behaviour. For one, I would be ashamed, if my husband was sighted at a sex shop in the company of other ladies, beating up women.

Stop this Bad Trend

This indefensible violence against women must stop. The other day, someone sent me a video of four people who were arrested by a crowd, for some ‘one chance’ criminal activities in Abuja - three women and a man. The three women were stripped completely naked on the road, while the man was only stripped of his shirt. This habit of degrading and humiliating women when they are accused of committing crimes, is disgraceful, deplorable, intolerable and offensive, and it should be criminalised. Surely, there are better ways to be deprecatory. If a woman has committed an offence, take her to the police station. Nigeria is fast developing a culture, where it is becoming the norm for women to be shamed publicly, when they are facing criminal or even allegations of adulterous relationships with other women’s husbands. It is indeed, a troubling trend. Would Senator Abbo have even thought of behaving so poorly in public, if such violence against women, was unheard of in our society? Could he have behaved so abominably in Australia or the UK, where he is said to have previously resided, or even in Accra? Certainly not.

Mrs Onikepo B. Braithwaite

THE ADVOCATE

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.stop this bad trend

"...SENATOR ABBO IS AN ‘UNDISTINGUISHED’ SENATOR.... THERE IS NOTHING DISTINGUISHED OR NOTEWORTHY, ABOUT THE BRUTAL, FRENZIED AND INTEMPERATE ACTIONS OF SENATOR ABBO, THAT COMMANDS ANYTHING OTHER THAN CONDEMNATION, AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION...."
Constitutional and Statutory Status of Magisterial Appointment

Facts

The Respondent was employed by the 1st Appellant, as a Magistrate Grade II on Grade Level 10. Soon thereafter, the Appellants received a Petition from a certain Abdul-Rasaq Tunde Raji, alleging that the Respondent misrepresented her marital status. The Respondent and her husband vehemently refuted the allegation in court, but the Appellants found the response as unsatisfactory; hence, her appointment was withdrawn. The Respondent filed a review of the withdrawal of her appointment, without success. She therefore, filed an action at the High Court of Kwara State, challenging the termination and/or withdrawal of her appointment.

At the hearing, the Secretary of the 1st Appellant testified that the marital status of the Respondent is not a factor for consideration for an appointment as a Magistrate, and that the termination of her appointment was not based on the misrepresentation of her marital status, but on the ground that she lied on oath stating in her form that she is “single”, which form was attested to by a Commissioner for Oaths. The anonymous Petitioner was not called to testify in proof of his assertion; hence, the court held that, the appeal by the Appellants to the Court of Appeal was also found to be unmeritorious; the learned Justices of the court held that, the Respondent did not lie on oath in her application Form (Exhibit 9), wherein she stated in relation to her marital status that she was “SINGLE.” The trial court found in favour of the Respondent, and declared that she should be paid the period of two months she legitimately worked before her appointment was wrongfully terminated, in addition to costs, and for an Order of costs, she should be allowed back to work.

Issue for Determination

The Appellants formulated three issues for determination of the appeal, while the Respondent identified two issues. The Supreme Court, however, adopted and utilized the third issue formulated by the Appellants, as the sole issue for determination of the appeal:

Whether the learned Justices of the Court of Appeal were right to have reinstated the Respondent, in the circumstances of the case.

Arguments

Counsel for the Appellants argued strenuously that, the evidence before the trial court showed that the appointment of the Respondent was temporary, the peculiar circumstances of the nature of the employment, does not clothe it with statutory flavour. He argued further that, the fact that an organisation or authority, which is an employer like the 1st Appellant, is a statutory body, does not necessarily translate to the fact that, the conditions of service of its employees must be of a special character, ruling out the incidence of mere master/servant relationship, which is the sine qua non of employment, without the contrivance of the terms and contract of service between the parties.

A. D. B. F. Oyebade, J.S.C.

Defining the issue in contention, the Supreme Court elucidated on the vital elements which must co-exist, for a contract to enjoy statutory flavour thus: (i) the employer must be a body set up by the Constitution or Statute; (ii) the Statute or Regulations made pursuant to the Constitution or principal Statute/Law, must make provisions regulating the employment of the staff of the category of the employee concerned, especially in the matter of discipline. From the facts before the court, the two factors above are present in the employment. The 1st Appellant is a creation of Section 197(1)(c) and Part II of the Third Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), by virtue of which the 1st Appellant is imbued with power to appoint, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over its staff, including Magistrates.

Pursuant to the powers conferred on the 1st Appellant by Paragraph 6(1) of Part I of the Third Schedule to the 1999 Constitution, it made the Kwara State Civil Service Regulations, 1980 which regulates the appointments, promotion, dismissal and disciplinary measures against employees of the 1st Appellant. The Respondent, in the alternative, was appointed as a Magistrate Grade II on Grade Level 10 by the 1st Appellant, and the position of a Magistrate is a creation of the 197(1)(c) of the 1999 Constitution, Part II of the Third Schedule thereto, and Sections 4 and 8 of the Criminal Procedure Code Law of Kwara State, 1994.

The law is that, an appellate court will strictly with its provisions in dismissing its employee, or where terminating his employment – COURT’S GENERAL OF CUSTOMS & ORS. v GUSAU (2017) 4 SC (Pt. II) 128. The appointment of the Respondent as a Magistrate was terminated on the ground that she lied on oath in her application Form (Exhibit 9), wherein she stated in relation to her marital status that she was “SINGLE.” The finding of the lower court that the Respondent represented herself as “SINGLE” in her application Form was false, and the unfounded rumour peddled by an anonymous Petitioner, who stated that she misrepresented her marital status. This finding of fact was erroneous, and for such to vitiate the decision of court, it must be shown to have materially or substantially affected the decision – OWOHUNDA v EKPECHI (2003) 9-10 SC 1 at 21. The law is that, an appellate court will not reverse the decision of the lower court, unless it is found that the ground on which the conclusion and decision were reached from a wrong reason. This is so, because, once the court is convinced that the lower court’s conclusion and decision were correct, there is no ground on which the appellate court can summarize, by giving the ground the conclusion and decision were reached from a wrong reason. This is so, because, once the court is convinced that the lower court’s conclusion and decision were correct, there is no ground on which the appellate court can summarize, by giving the ground the conclusion and decision were reached from a wrong reason.

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Lagos Courts to Begin Long Vacation on July 22

Akinwale Akinbunke

Lagos State High Court will be on long vacation, from July 22 to September 10. In a statement by Justice Hope Akerinle, the Acting Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Opeyemi Oke, held at the Foyer, Lagos High Court, Igbosere, the Judge said that the vacation was to allow the Division to adjourn the sitting of the Court. He added that the vacation would allow the Court to clear the backlog of cases that have not been concluded latest by July 22. The Judge also said that the vacation would commence on July 22 and end on September 10.

Drug War: Sanusi Hails Legal Aid Scheme, Commends FG for Ban on Codeine

Emeka Nwadioke

Former Central Bank Governor and Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi II, has applauded Lawyers under the aegis of Legal Aid Scheme in the fight against Drug Abuse, recommending a scheme for the government's support in fighting drug abuse. Sanusi, who was recently elevated to the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), said that the scheme was crucial in fighting drug abuse, as it provided free legal services to indigent drug arrestees.

Gov. AbdulRazaq Hails Kwara’s 34-year-old SAN, Oyetola Atoyebi

Hammed Shittu in Ilorin

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRazaq, on Saturday, July 20, praised Lawyer Oyetola Atoyebi, who was recently elevated to the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN). Oyetola, who hails from Alakija, Kwara State, is among the Lawyers recently induced in the roll of eminent legal practitioners.

Lawyer Drags CCB, NIC Commissioner, Deputies to Court for Alleged Non-Declaration of Assets

Akinwale Akinbunke

The Commissioner/Chief Executive Officer of the National Insurance Commission, Mohammed Kan, and his deputies, have been dragged before a Federal High Court sitting in Lagos, for allegedly failing to declare their assets, as required of public office holders.

The Plaintiff further prayed for, "an order directing the fifth Defendant (AGF) to prefer a charge against the second, third and fourth Defendants before the CCT for prosecution, having failed to declare their assets, as and when due.

In an affidavit in support, which was personally deposed to, Alabi recalled that, the CCB had invited the 2nd Defendant to appear before it on April 11, 2019, to respond to allegations of non-declaration of assets, as required of public office holders. He said the alleged non-declaration of assets by the Defendants, “is in the public domain and media.”

According to the Lawyer, he wrote to the CCB, Presiding Judge, Kwara State, Kwara State, for the said 2nd Defendant to appear before it on April 11, 2019, to respond to allegations of non-declaration of assets, as required of public office holders. He said the alleged non-declaration of assets by the Defendants, “is in the public domain and media.”

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Aelex Lecture: Looking for Strong Men and Strong Institutions

This year’s guest speaker at the Annual Aelex Lecture, Professor Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba, wowed the audience with his postulations on Africa’s peculiar democracy, and how strong democratic institutions can be built around strong men.

The theme for this year’s lecture was “STRONG MEN vs STRONG INSTITUTIONS: Strengthening Democracy in Africa”. The Mouson Centre venue of the event, was filled to the brim, and it was chaired by former Chief Justice on the cia, Hon. Justice Mariam Aloma Mukhtar (rtd). Panelists were former Director General, Bureau of Public Reform, Dr. Joe Abbah, and former Managing Director, Lagos State Security Trust Fund, Mr. Fola Arthur Worrey.

In her opening remarks, Aloma Mukhtar CJN (rtd) raised the posers rhetorically, “What are the strong men? Which are the strong institutions?” she concluded that, there cannot be strong institutions, without strong men. She further posited that, a strong man is one who is able to assert himself, in the face of adverse criticisms.

The keynote speaker, Prof Lumumba, former Director of Kenya’s Anti-corruption Commission, approached the topic in his characteristic audacious manner. Lumumba posited that, though the subject-matter of the lecture is important, it is equally controversial. He argued that, contrary to misconceptions by many, Africa is not in any way a homogeneous entity, but a diverse community of over 400 ethnic nationalities, with over 6,000 languages. That Africa had well organised societies and systems of governance, before the advent of colonization. That the Berlin Conference of 1884 divided Africa into artificial territories, undermining the orderly traditional institutions that existed. He noted sadly that, the project to colonise and gain complete control of colonised and strong men, is that they forget themselves, live long and outlive strong men.

He further said that, the strong man that has become a rogue, there may be tendencies of dictatorship, but the strong man is what we need. He concluded that, strong institutions are important to checkmate us accept this meaning.

“It is equally important that the strong men and women must be subject to the law, because we have not defined democracy to suit our own way. Democracy meaning a Multi-party politics, was defined this way for us by the West, and they made us accept this meaning. “There is no One-Size-Fits-All meaning of democracy, for the African continent.

We define democracy the way Abraham Lincoln defined it, but in the African society, where is the people? The people are nowhere to be found, because we have not defined democracy to suit our own way. Democracy meaning a Multi-party politics, was defined this way for us by the West, and they made us accept this meaning. “There is no One-Size-Fits-All meaning of democracy, for the African continent.

It should be practiced in a manner that suits the people of that region, so each country must define theirs. When we have strong men, and weak, or no institutions, it eventually leads to a collapse, just like the Soviet Union”, he added.

Furthermore, he emphasised that the African continent needs strong men and women, as they are useful, including strong institutions; that the constitution of a nation is very important, because our institutions must be strengthened by it. These strong men and women must be subject to the law, hence the need for strong institutions to put them in check, stressing that, we should know that the Westerners, still treat us as inferiors.

Prof Lumumba holds an LLD on the Law of the Sea from the University of Ghent, Belgium, and he is an Advocate of the High Courts of Kenya and Tanganyika, and founding Dean, Kabarak University of Law.

The Aelex Annual Lecture, which is in its 14th year, has had highly distinguished international legal personalities as keynote speakers including Prof Don Wallace, Prof Fredric Jenny, Judge Mervyn King, Dele Olojede, Dr. Kwabena Donkor, Dr. Kalu Iddia Kalu, John Cibongho, Prof Ali Mazrui, Prof Timothy Shah, Prof Bolaji Akinyemi, Mr Donald Duke, and Prof Biodapo Obe.

Legal Personality of the Week

Andrew Mwajim Malgwi

‘Patience, Sacrifice and Hard Work make a Good Lawyer’

Please, give a brief introduction of yourself.

My name is Andrew Mwajim Malgwi, I am a Legal Practitioner and Notary Public. I have been practicing law for 24 years now, and I am currently a Partner in the Law Firm of Rickey Tarfa & Co. I specialise in commercial litigation and dispute resolution, although I have also done one or two things, in other areas of the law. I have married, and we are blessed with two children.

Have you had any challenges in your career as a Lawyer, and if so, what were the main challenges?

Well yes, as with all aspects of our daily lives, there are challenges. A major challenge in the course of my career, has been the difficulty in concluding on my cases, which is due to the extremely long periods of time it takes to conclude litigation, in Nigeria.

What were your worst day as a Lawyer?

I have not had any worst day, so far. Every day presents its peculiar challenges, and I approach each with maximum determination and the best of my professional abilities.

What is your most memorable experience, as a Lawyer?

It was a day, early in my career; I was in court, and I had the privilege of witnessing a case in which the late Chief Rotimi Williams, SAN and late Chief GOK Ajayi, SAN were involved in, on opposing sides.

Who has been most influential in your life?

My late father has been the most influential person in my life. I have always tried to emulate him. Professionally, it has been my boss and mentor - Mr. Rickey Tarfa, SAN.

Why did you become a Lawyer?

Growing up, I had an Aunty who read law and was a Magistrate. I was always intrigued by the profession, the dress code, and the role Lawyers play.

What would be your advice to anyone wanting a career in law?

Go into the practice of law, with service at the back of your mind. Be prepared to sacrifice, to work very hard, be patient, and above all, be honourable.

If you had not become a Lawyer, what other career would you have chosen?

I would have become an Architect, I love to create things.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I hope to have reached, the pinnacle of my career. I hope to be in a position to give more to my profession, and the younger Lawyers.
Democracy and Autocracy: The Missing Link (Part 4)

Introduction

ast week, we saw that autocracy is not just a mere form of government, but one that conquers the mind, and subjects the people to being underlings and minions. The people are helpless against an autocrat, who dominates them with power and might. Today, we shall dissect this form of government in such a way as to show its limitation vis a vis democracy.

Types of Autocracy (continued)

Normally such a dictator has the best interest of his country and his citizens in mind, but it must necessarily take second place to protecting his power. In this sense, he is like a democratic President. The President normally aims at the good of his country, but he normally is more oriented towards safeguarding the next election. The objectives do not necessarily conflict, but when they do, the President is apt to give winning the election, priority. Similarly, a dictator will give preferring a coup or revolution priority, over simply benefiting his subjects.

One thing that should be kept in mind, dealing with either hereditary or non-hereditary autocrats, is that their attitude to what are commonly called public goods, is radically different from that of the ordinary person. For them, many public goods, are actually private goods. An improved road can be regarded as a public good from the standpoint of the citizens or the economic analysis, but, it may increase the wealth or security of the autocrat, and hence be a preferable good from his standpoint. This is, of course, one of the reasons why autocrats, in fact, provide so much in the way of public goods.

This should not be over-emphasised, however. The autocrat like a democratic politician, is aware of the fact that, the road may be as important to him, as to a whole, but also special-interest groups in it. Thus, like a democratic politician, he selects the public goods in part, in terms of what they will do in benefiting influential individuals and groups, who may repay that benefit by support. It is doubtful that, by simply examining the road network, or other costs of providing public goods, the autocrat will be able to tell whether the government was a dictatorship or a democracy. If the democracy is not particularly corrupt, one could tell by examining such things as, the Swiss bank accounts of the "President."

Examining the personal life of the ruler, is usually one way of telling whether he is a president or dictator. The dictator has far more facilities to keep things secret, than does the democratic politician. Unfortunately, for the people, such secrecy may be a dangerous thing. The people are helpless against an autocrat, to being underlings and minions. The autocrat, conquers the mind, and subjects the people to his whims. He is a mere form of government, but one that is far more effective, than democracy. Therefore, the cost of guarding an autocrat, is greater than the cost of guarding presidents and legislators.

The Third Reich. The guards serve a different purpose, to being underlings and minions. The autocrat, conquers the mind, and subjects the people to his whims. He is a mere form of government, but one that is far more effective, than democracy. Therefore, the cost of guarding an autocrat, is greater than the cost of guarding presidents and legislators.

The Hereditary Monarchy

We now turn to the more common type autocracy, the hereditary monarchy. It should be kept in mind, that, hereditary monarchies, if more stable than dictatorships, are by no means free of risk. Most of the readers of this encyclopedia, will be more familiar with English history than other monarchies, and, as it happens, the English throne was one of the least stable in Europe. It was decidedly uncommon in England, for a great-grandson to succeed to the throne peacefully. Most monarchies have been able to pass on their power with less difficulty, so that three generations after the founder, are reasonably common.

The hereditary king, is in personality and ability, quite different from the man who fought his way up the slippery pole to dictatorship. In the first place, the accidents of human heredity mean that the son of an extraordinarily capable and ambitious person, may well be quite stupid and lazy. Louis XVI seems to have been not very much above a moron, in intellectual ability. He used to fall asleep, at cabinet meetings. Since the United States was given its independence by his support, I suppose we should refrain from criticisms, though he was quickly abandoned by Thomas Jefferson, once his purpose had been served. From the standpoint of France, however, Louis XVI was a disaster.

Of course, some hereditary monarchs are of outstanding ability. Alexander the Great, is an excellent example. But, on the average, hereditary monarchs do not have intellectual or character capacity, greater than that of the average citizen. Typically, they receive special training as children, intended to prepare them for royal careers. Unfortunately, such special training may educate them in expensive and entertaining ways of spending leisure time, as well as in how to govern. In some cases, in fact, training in luxury takes full priority over training intended to increase the competence of the future monarch. All of this is rather similar to the training of the only son of a wealthy and powerful man, in an open society. Altogether, the hereditary monarch, is quite a different person from the dictator who has achieved power by competition. It is not obvious which of them is better, from the standpoint of the average citizen.

"The Prince" is largely devoted to advice to a sovereign ruler, on how to retain power. Napoleon liked to keep his generals, quarrelling, Machiavelli would surely have approved. Mussolini moved his higher officials around, and put some of them out of government for lengthy periods. He called this, “changing of the guard”. Once again, he would have liked to be the author of "The Prince".

Indeed, most rulers do rotate the armed men who provide physical security. In Stalin’s time, the secret police officers who guarded him and his higher officials, would not know where they were to serve on a given day, and there would be no secrets. These two things were determined by random draws, so that they could not conspire in advance to admit dangerous persons.

Precautions like this, have been most effective in maintaining order, among non-hereditary autocracies, than among hereditary monarchies. Nevertheless, crown prince’s have killed their fathers, and dynasties have been overthrown. So, at least, some precautions are always necessary. It is not obvious that the cost of guarding presidents and legislators, is greater than the cost of guarding presidents and legislators. Indeed, it seems likely that, the total cost in terms of office space, living place, and salaries, is less than the cost of guarding presidents and legislators.

This is a myth, but it does show the power that a central single person can have, even in so-called democracies.

The common man has little influence on policies in autocracies, is normally regarded as a disadvantage of that form of government. There are, however, a number of cases in which democracies have been overthrown by autocrats, with popular support. Both of the Napoléons, carried off such an operation with great success. Nevertheless, he requires guards, and so do the Senators, Congressman, and high level civil servants.

Differences between Autocracy and Democracy

The decision processes in democracies and in autocracies are quite different. Debates are conducted rather quietly in autocracies, whereas, they make a lot of noise in democracies. Further, although autocrats sometimes tell their cabinet to vote on policies, the final decision is theirs. There is a myth that, when Lincoln proposed the emancipation proclamation, his cabinet all voted against it. Lincoln said, ‘I have read the Constitution, and I have no cabinet’. This is a myth, but it does show the power that a central single person can have, even in so-called democracies.

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Address by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, at the 13th Annual Business Law Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law

NBA-SBL Proffers Economic Roadmap for Nigeria

Dr. Femi Gbajabiamila, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, delivered an address at the 13th Annual Business Law Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL) held in Abuja, Nigeria. His address was delivered in a three-day event, to report the proceeding.

Dr. Gbajabiamila’s keynote address titled “We Want to be a More Balanced Economic, We are not So Dependent on a Narrow Range of Economic Sectors, and We Need to Take Urgent Action, to Boost Entrepreneur and Develop a More Responsible Economic Model,” highlighted the need for a more balanced economic structure in Nigeria.

He said that the economic situation in Nigeria has been characterized by high levels of unemployment, poverty, and inequality. He stressed the importance of creating a more inclusive and balanced economy that can generate jobs, reduce poverty, and promote social cohesion.

The Speaker noted that the Nigerian economy has been heavily dependent on a few sectors, such as oil and gas, which have contributed significantly to the country’s GDP. However, he warned that this dependence on a narrow range of economic sectors was unsustainable and needed to be diversified.

He urged the government and private sector to work together to create a more balanced economy. This could be achieved by investing in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and technology. He emphasized the importance of developing a skilled workforce and creating a conducive business environment to support entrepreneurship.

Dr. Gbajabiamila also spoke about the need for investment in infrastructure, education, and healthcare. He noted that these sectors were crucial for long-term economic growth and development.

He concluded by urging all stakeholders to work together to create a more balanced economic model that can ensure sustainable and inclusive growth for all Nigerians.

The Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL) held its 13th Annual Business Law Conference from the 26th to 28th of June, 2019, at Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos and THiSAYDAYLAW was the three-day event to report the proceeding.
L-R: Former Chairman of the NBA-SBL, Gbenga Oyebode, Pioneer Chair, George Etomi, his wife, Efe and Immediate Past Chairman of the Section, Olumide Akpata.

L-R: Ayo Akintunde, SAN, and Dele Belgore, SAN.

L-R: Mrs. Layi-Babatunde, Hon. Justice Bode Rhodes-Vivour, JSC and Mr. Layi Babatunde, SAN.

L-R: NBA-SBL Vice Chair, Ayo Jemide, Editor, THISDAY LAWYER, Onikupo Braithwaite and Dele Belgore, SAN.

L-R: Hon Justice Bode Rhodes-Vivour, JSC, SBL Chairman, Mr. Seni Adio, SAN and Speaker, House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila.

L-R: L-R: Osahon Uhumuavbi, Osose Aziba and Seni Adio, SAN.

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L-R: L-R: Hon Justice Bode Rhodes-Vivour, JSC, SBL Chairman, Mr. Seni Adio, SAN and Speaker, House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila.

L-R: Council Members, Sam Alboni, Conference Vice Chair, Mrs Osofe Ogismudia and Mona Ajakpovi.
It is unlikely that, the dust raised by the allegation of rape made by Mrs. Busola Dakolo against the General Overseer of the Commonwealth of Zion Assembly (COZA), Pastor Biodun Fatoyinbo, will settle any time soon, in view of the fact that, not only are there other allegations of sexual indiscretion against the so-called Man of God, but because other Pastors have also been accused of sexually violating young women, in their flock. There have been mass protests by concerned Nigerians in Abuja and Lagos, over this dastardly act. Chidi Odinkalu, Bukky Shonibare, and Ossai Ojigao write about the COZA saga, vis a vis Nigeria’s outdated rape laws, positing that, the laws should not only be upgraded and modernised in line with current world standards, but must be crafted in such a way, as not to be seen to protect the interest of perpetrators of this heinous crime, to the detriment of victims, who face more than uphill task, proving their cases under the present legal regime. The COZA scandal will certainly set a much needed precedent, and test the integrity of a ‘Man of God’

When #MeToo Came to Church in Nigeria

Chidi Anselm Odinkalu

Mrs Busola Dakolo’s Allegations

At the end of June 2019, #MeToo became #ChurchToo, in Nigeria. Busola Dakolo, a mother of three, who grew up a gifted child, was the unlikely heroine in this script. In an interview with Chude Jideonwo, Lawyer and co-founder of the digital platform, YNaija, Mrs. Dakolo unfolded quite harrowing and detailed allegations of rape perpetrated against her by Pastor Biodun Fatoyinbo, best known as the Senior Pastor of the Commonwealth of Zion Assembly (COZA). To be clear, this was not the first time allegations of predatory sexual conduct or sexual violence, had been made against this Pastor. Mrs. Dakolo’s allegations, however, felt different. They were detailed; as a married mother, she had very little to gain from making these allegations public, and an awful blowback was both predictable and to be expected from partisans and propagandists of the alleged perpetrator. The first incident of sexual assault, allegedly took place when she was 17, in her parents’ house in Ilorin, Kwara State. Neither parent was at home, and the Pastor knew this. She had never experienced sexual intimacy, before then. She looked up to the Pastor, as her “Spiritual Father”. The facts would suggest that, the alleged perpetrator groomed her for this moment. After the sexual act, he gave her a bottle of “Krest”, a lemonade-flavoured soda, and forced her to drink it. There was a second incident which reportedly took place, in or on a car. As a young Christian girl from a polygamous home, Busola Amupitan, as she was when these sexual assaults reportedly took place, initially was unable to confide in anyone about these crimes.

Pastor Fatoyinbo’s Reaction

Expectedly, these allegations have set off a firestorm across Nigeria, and beyond. The alleged perpetrator, initially issued a statement offering a general denial of the allegations, and threatening both civil and criminal proceedings. There was evidence in his statement to show that, Mrs. Dakolo’s allegations were different. For the first time, Pastor Fatoyinbo found himself issuing a public response, to such allegations. In the past, he had not dignified similar allegations with an acknowledgement. While civil proceedings against Mrs. Dakolo sounded plausible, Pastor Fatoyinbo’s threat of criminal proceedings sounded like bluster. He did not have a plausible path, to criminal proceedings against her. This time also, the premises of his COZA Church in both Abuja and Lagos were besieged by protesters, who wanted the criminal justice system to show that it had the will to act on these allegations. In the end, these allegations have forced Pastor Fatoyinbo, to stand aside as the Senior Pastor of COZA. This case raises sundry questions about the state of both law and procedure concerning sexual assaults in Nigeria, especially, one reported so many years after it happened.

Issues

As a preliminary point of principle, there is no limitation on prosecution for rape or sexual violence. The fact that the allegations in this case happened long ago, does not preclude an investigation, or, if evidence of rape is in fact unearthed, of prosecution. Achieving such an outcome, however, would be dependent on overcoming some legal and practical constraints. It will be necessary, to explain some of these. Let us begin with the broad regime of laws affecting rape and sexual violence, in Nigeria. Present, Nigeria has a multiplicity of sources of laws about rape and sexual violence. There are, at least five. In the Federal Capital Territory, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act of 2015 (VAPP Act), applies. It has a robust definition of rape, as a crime that can be committed by men or women, and involves penetration of any body orifice. In 16 States of Northern Nigeria, rape is regulated by the Criminal Code. Lagos State enacted a Criminal Law in 2011, which defined rape in terms that both anticipated and resemble the VAPP Act. The 12 States of Northern Nigeria who have adopted Sharia, also recognise a Hudud crime of rape. Apart from these States, rape in the 19 States of Northern Nigeria, is governed by the Penal Code. Both the Criminal and Penal Codes are Victorian pieces of legislation, the gist of whose prescriptions on sexual violence, were defined in the last quarter of the 19th century during the reign of Queen Victoria. In the terms alleged, the crimes against Mrs. Dakolo took place in Kwara State, where the Penal Code is applicable. Section 282 of the Penal Code defines the crime of rape. The crime has four essential elements: (a) penetration of female genitals with the male phallus; (b) the act of penetration achieved without the consent of the woman or the consent – if one is alleged – was obtained by fraud, force, threat, intimidation, deceit or imposition of undue influence; (c) the woman is not the wife of the perpetrator; and (d) the perpetrator intended to achieve penetration of the woman without her consent or acted recklessly without regard to whether or not she consented.
Most rape cases take place outside public view. The invariable turns on these, making rape, in effect a trial of the physical act of penetration and the communicative material. By the time a rape kit is performed, essential biological evidence would have been lost, making prosecution of rape is rarely good, if the perpetrator is caught in the act (in flagrante delicto), and an admissible rape kit is performed as soon as possible after the act. The likelihood of achieving a coincidence of these two contingencies, is very rare indeed. Most rape cases, take place outside public view. The venues, in many cases, are remote. Overcome invariably by personal feelings of guilt and filthy, victims are often too ashamed in the immediate aftermath of the crime, to confide in anyone. As a result, rape kits are often performed, after loss of biological material. By the time a rape kit is performed, essential biological evidence would have been lost, making the likelihood of effective investigation or successful prosecution, rather low or non-existent. Criminal proceedings, if one were to take place in such cases, become a trial not of the alleged perpetrator, but an ordeal for the victim, in which her intimate life is subjected to humiliating micro-examination, for the purpose of granting the perpetrator a free pass. Unsurprisingly, many victims, unwilling to subject themselves to such ordeals, would rather nurse their violations, and not report rape nor press any charges for it.

This is the context, for assessing what could happen to the present allegations against Pastor Fatoyinbo. There is no suggestion, that there was a rape kit in this case. In all likelihood, there was none. The victim was too young and too adversely affected at the time, to be able to procure one. Biological evidence of either penetration or sexual activity, is unlikely to exist. Any other evidence, would be circumstantial.
made in the full knowledge that they
investigation or proceeding, must be
saying that, any suggestions of criminal
dists for the alleged perpetrator.
Unsurprisingly, the most ardent voices
opening in accountability for crimes of
tims will feel crushed, and an important
perpetrator would, and his supporters,
submission. In that event, the alleged
Penal Code, could fail on a no-case
chose to do so, the odds would be
her word against his. The Police could
and oral. In the absence of any wit-
traumatising. If the survivor is a girl,
relationship with the violator, are
survivors are the ones attacked. Their
is rape, sexual abuse of children, incest
and escape justice, because when there
acts, it becomes a daunting task. The
reasonable doubt. Where there are no
violated, and protects the family from
interest. It has unfortunately, allowed
result, there is a collective family
by himself, or against the trustees of
proceedings, either against the Pastor
where may also feel that they have overcome
just get on with theirs. This distancing
may also feel that they have overcome
woman calling out a powerful man,
violated. It violates a person’s rights
violation. It violates a person’s rights
the enjoyment of a range of human
and mental health. (CEDAW General
is rape, sexual abuse of children, incest
and not necessarily that of the
expressed are that of the author,
International Nigeria. Opinions
is now.

WHEN #METOO CAME TO CHURCH IN NIGERIA
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

and oral. In the absence of any wit-
nesses, any investigation would turn on
her word against his. The Police could
developed, to that effect, the incident
now in 2019. The doubters ask, why
she did not speak after it happened?
Why now? Indirectly, questioning the
intent behind the revelation. It seemed
that, she must want something. The
defendants appeared not to understand
what it was, and why she was calling
out an influential pastor. It was clear
to many of us who have been working
on sexual and gender-based violence
she was the only woman to come forward
several years, that if she wants anything,
it is closure and justice.

Rape
Rape takes many forms, the most
recognisable is rape. Rape is considered
one of the most heinous crimes, yet it
is often the most difficult to prosecute
and convict. In many conservative coun-
tries like Nigeria, women’s sexuality is of-
discussed along cultural or religious
lines, which links a girl or woman’s
reputation to her ‘sexual purity’. As a
result, there is a collective family
or community interest to project a
maintained image, a hallmark of a
decent family. This interest has unfortunately,
allowed sexual access of the survivor to
thrive and escape justice, because when
rape, sexual abuse of children, incest
incest and the like, the benefit of keeping
silent gives the false impression that
the girl or woman’s decency has not
been violated, and protects the family from
facing the shame of their violation.

Moreover, it has not helped that,
when cases of rape are known, the
survivors are often treated with
disregard. Their dressing, intelligence and
any priority relationship with the violator,
are questioned. It becomes an interrogation
for the rape survivor, which is equally
traumatising. It is almost as if the girl,
the survivor of law enforcement,
in addition, will blame the mother for
failing to protect her child, even if the
abuser is the girls’ father or relative.
The environment is so unfavourable
and unsupportive of rape survivors,
however, must be the possibility of civil
proceedings, either against the Pastor
himself, or against the trustees of
his faith community, on allegations
of failure of pastoral duty of care.
Whether such a case can be made out,
would be fact and evidence-dependent.
One clear difference between criminal
and proceedings, however, is
the standard of proof: while criminal
proceedings, either against the Pastor
himself, or against the trustees of
his faith community, on allegations
of failure of pastoral duty of care.

The twitter user shared a conversation
she had with her own mother.
Me: Have you ever been sexually
assaulted? Mum: Yes
Me: Who did you tell about it?
Mum: Hmmm... No one.

This provided the ground to share
her own experience of sexual assault
as a child, which until then, she
had never been prepared to reveal.
This was an enlightenment moment
for two women, different generations.

Whether a woman or girl speaks
immediately the rape happens, or later,
or many years later, or it comes
out after she has grown old and is dead,
there will still be people asking why
now? In the case of death, they would
say, she has died now, so it will not
help her. Those asking the questions,
miss the point. The silence demanded
of women and girls by our society and
institutions, have enabled the predators
and violators. Women and girls are
taking their voices back, and rising
and saying ‘no more’. Even if the law has
failed us, even if family has not helped
us, we are going to speak our truth
and expose those who are causing
us pain, and warn others, so that we are
war of such people, and prevent
further abuse.

Yet, the most appropriate question
should have been to get the facts: ‘Did
it happen or not?’ And then: “What
are we going to do about it? We
should no longer, keep quiet. When
a woman or girl is abused, we are all
abused. We need to help, and we
need justice. Today is a good time. The
time is now.

Osai Ojigbo, Lawyer and Human
Rights Expert, Director, Amnesty
International Nigeria. Opinions
expressed are that of the author,
and not necessarily that of the
organisation she works with

“RAPE IS A SERIOUS
OFFENCE, IN NIGERIA,
THE PUNISHMENT IS
LIFE IMPRISONMENT”
We Hold Your Brief

TOBI SONYI!

Dear Counsel,

Last week my neighbour was arrested by the Police at Agege, for what they alleged as, parking in a wrong spot. He was taken to the police station, and after three hours, he managed to get his vehicle released, after the payment of N7,000, for which he wasn’t given any receipt or acknowledgement.

He told us that, he saw many other people who were arrested and brought there, for allegedly violating one traffic offence or the other.

One is now compelled to ask, what really constitutes a traffic offence? Because, the new wave of harassment by the Police and LASTMA, has become a serious cause for concern.

Kindly, shed some light on this issue. Thank you.

Iju Waterworks.

Dear R.A.,

I feel just as worried, about this issue. I sincerely hope that, relevant authorities will intensify their efforts to enlighten the public about traffic offences, in Lagos State. The list of offences is quite long, but I hereby, highlight the salient ones which are commonly violated, and the penalties.

- Non-display of route and routes number on vehicle - 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00
- Disobeying traffic control personnel (LASTMA) - 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00
- Parking on yellow line on any public highway/ illegal parking 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00
- Staying within the yellow junction box/footside rule 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00
- Failure to yield to right of way of pedestrians at a Zebra crossing - 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00
- Smoking while driving - 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00
- Riding motorcycle without crash helmet for rider - 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00 or imprisonment for a term of six (6) months, or both fine and imprisonment.
- Motorcyclist operating horn designed for motor vehicles - 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00
- Wrongful overtaking of other vehicle - #100, 000
- Overloading of a commercial vehicle on the highway #50, 000.00
- Parking or stopping to pick passengers by a commercial vehicle on the highway #20, 000.00
- Bullion van driving in a direction prohibited by the Road Traffic law - forfeiture of vehicle, imprisonment for a term of three (3) years, or both fine and imprisonment.
- Abandoned vehicle on highway - #50, 000.00; cost of towing, imprisonment for a term of six (6) months, or both fine and imprisonment.
- Commuter or Conductor hanging on tailboard of moving vehicle - 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00
- Driving without a strapped seat belt for both driver and passengers - 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00
- Use of the wrong indicator in a corridor - 1st offender=20, 000.00 Subsequent offender=30, 000.00 or imprisonment for a term of three (3) years, or both fine and imprisonment.

The list is quite long, I implore the relevant authorities in Lagos State, to ensure that they promptly and effectively disseminate this information, so that citizens know what constitutes a traffic offence.

The Pope and a lawyer find themselves together before the Pearly Gates. After a small question of time was spent discussing their respective professions, of St. Peter shows up to usher them to their new Heavenly Station.

After passing out wings, harps, halos and such, St. Pete decides to show them to their new lodgings. Only a brief flight from the welcome, Pete brings them down on the front lawn (cloud-encrusted, natch) of a huge palatial estate, with all sorts of lavish trappings. This, Pete announces, is where the Lawyer will be spending eternity, (at least until the end of time.) “Hot Dang”, the Pope says to Himself, “If he’s getting a place like this, I can hardly wait to see paradise.”

They take flight once again, and as Pete leads on, the landscape below begins to appear more and more mundane, until they finally land on a street lined with Brownstone houses. Pete indicates the third walkup on the left, as the Pope’s new domicile and turns to leave, wishing the pontiff his best. The Pope, in a mild state of astonishment, cries out “Hey Pete! What’s the deal here? You put that Lawyer-feller in a beautiful estate home, and I, spiritual leader of terra-firma, end up with this dive?”

Pete looks at the pontiff amusedly, and replies: “Look here old fellow, this street is especially encrusted with spiritual leaders from many times and religions. We’re putting you here with them, so you guys can get your dogma together. That other guy gets an estate, because he’s the first (non-blamed Lawyer to make it up here!!)

Carlson was charged with stealing a Mercedes Benz, and after a long trial, the jury acquitted him. Later that day, Carlson came back to the Judge who had pronounced him innocent.

“You Honour,” he said, “I wanna get out a warrant for that dirty Lawyer of mine.”

“Why?” asked the Judge. “He won your acquittal. What do you want to have him arrested for?”

“Well, your Honour,” replied Carlson, “I didn’t have the money to pay his fee, so he went and took my car!l stole!”

NBA-SBL PROFFERS ECONOMIC ROADMAP FOR THE NATION

continues from page 9

education, agriculture, security and other relevant sectors to tackle unemployment, while keeping population growth in check through family planning and controlled immigration. • The Government should have a clear vision and direction for education, put in place knowledgeable and willing leaders to push the agenda, while heightening transparency and accountability within educational institutions. • Healthcare should be policy-driven - to ensure high health insurance coverage, the law governing health insurance should move from ‘mug’ to ‘shuttle’ - insurance should not be left optional. • The Government should demonstrate the political will to tackle insecurity, professionalise the Nigerian security apparatus, democratize and exercise more control of Nigeria’s borders. • Financial inclusion for the youth should be prioritised, to enable them access loans and other entrepreneurship benefits. • Nigeria should sign the ACTFA, in order to achieve its economic agenda. • Nigeria needs to be more strategic about its goal; the nation should not wait until all infrastructure is in place, before starting to grow the economy - there’s a very urgent need for nation should not wait until all infrastructure is in place, before economic agenda.

‘LAWYER DRAGS CCB, NIC COMMISSIONER, DEPUTIES TO COURT’

Defendants to the CTC, and for the fifth Defendant to prefer charges for their prosecution”, Alabi said.

The Plaintiff argued that, the AGF is constitutionally mandated to prosecute willful violators of the law. Alabi said he believes in the Buhari administration’s commitment to transparency in government, anti-corruption war, and determination to bring violators of the law to book. No date has been fixed, for hearing.

Continued from Page 5

The urge to address malnutrition among children should be supported through advocacy. • All businesses should establish clear sexual harassment policies, and sanction perpetrators adequately. • There is a need to nurture towards achieving demographic transition where women are more independent, can determine the number of children they wish to have, and be able to do so when they are ready, and fully participate in the labour force. • A Bill to address sexual harassment in Nigeria should be sponsored by the NBA-SBL. An anonymous help desk should be created in the NBA, to help address the issues of sexual harassment in law firms in Nigeria. Female Lawyers should develop an advocacy plan. • Lawyers should also build capacity around trade and investment. They should advise Government and private organisations on the impact of trade and investment to our economy. • Lawyers should help put structures around mining, and ensure that faulty legislation is amended.

The aforementioned encroachment of insecurity in accounting, to be able to function well as Tax Lawyers. Judges should be exposed to better training on tax laws. • Lawyers should utilise technology tools, and keep abreast of new practices and developments.

Lawyers should acquire in-depth understanding of the Nigerian market, to be able to better support non- Lawyers and render free legal education to MSMEs and indigents. • Lawyers should cooperate with law enforcement agencies in capacity building and investing in knowledge to enhance trade and investment.

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Continued from Page 5

wrote to the CCB on June 6, urging it to refer these Defendants to the CCT for prosecution, but, the “CCB never responded to the letter to date.”

“It is in the interest of justice, that the defaulters, notwithstanding the calibre of personalities they are, be brought to book before the Code of Conduct Tribunal.

“It is in the interest of justice to grant this motion to compel the first Defendant to render the second to fourth trade and facilitating industrialisation amongst African countries. • The policy formulation process in Nigeria, should be more consultative and inclusive.

• Regulations should be consistent, firm, coherent, address specific issues and minimise the burden to the market, without distorting market conditions.

• The Federal Government should implement mining policies, laws and regulations, especially with regard to the roles of the different tiers and agencies of Government.

• The licensing regime for mining should be made transparent, funding should be improved, illegal mining activities and security issues should be addressed, in order to protect local investors and attract their foreign counterparts. State and Local Governments should be made to adhere strictly to constitutional provisions and precedents, in the administration of Mineral Resources.

• Financial agencies should be properly coordinated, to improve access to funds by SMEs.

• Lawyers and the Private Sector • Every Nigerian should develop a sense of ownership for the country - Lawyers and other members of the business community in particular, are enjoined to embrace optimism and sell the Nigerian brand.

• The urgency to address malnutrition among children should be supported through advocacy.

• All businesses should establish clear sexual harassment policies, and sanction perpetrators adequately.

• There is a need to nurture towards achieving demographic transition where women are more independent, can determine the number of children they wish to have, and be able to do so when they are ready, and fully participate in the labour force.

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TUESDAY JULY 9, 2019 • THISDAY

ÆLEX

STRONG MEN VS.
STRONG INSTITUTIONS

ÆLEX Legal Practitioners and Arbitrators on Wednesday July 3rd 2019 held the 2019 edition of its Annual Lecture themed, “Strong Men Vs Strong Institutions – Strengthening Democracy In Nigeria” at the Agip Recital Hall, of Muson Centre, Lagos Nigeria. The lecture featured discussants and participants from the private and public sector, as well as the civil society, who all advocated for strong and transparent institutions with strong men, a viable legislature, an independent judiciary, an independent press; a vibrant private sector and a conscientious civil society, to give life to Africa’s vision of democracy. SEE PHOTOS BELOW

(L-R) Dr. Joe Abah (Panelist), Hon. Justice Aloma Mariam Mukhtar (Chairperson) and Professor Patrick L.O. Lumumba (Guest Speaker).

(L-R) Former Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in Lagos State, Mr. Fola Arthur-Worrey, Dr. Joe Abah, Professor Patrick L.O. Lumumba, Hon. Justice Aloma Mariam Mukhtar and Mr. Theophilus Emuwa (ÆLEX Managing Partner).

(L-R) Plenary Session; Mr. Fola Arthur-Worrey, Dr. Joe Abah, Prof. Patrick Lumumba and Hon. Justice Aloma Mariam Mukhtar.

(L-R) Mr. Fola Arthur-Worrey being presented with an award by Mr. Lawrence Fubara Anga (ÆLEX Partner).

(L-R) Dr. Joe Abah being presented with an award by Mr. Lawrence Fubara Anga (ÆLEX Partner).

(L-R) Prof. Patrick L.O. Lumumba being presented with an award by Mr. Lawrence Fubara Anga (ÆLEX Partner).

(L-R) Mr. Lawrence Fubara Anga, Partner, Aelex, Mr. Fola Arthur-Worrey, Dr. Joe Abah, Hon. Justice Aloma Mariam Mukhtar, Aëlex Partners, Mr. Theophilus Emuwa, Mrs. Funke Adekoya SAN and Mr. Olanipekun Orewale

Some members of Lecture Planning Committee
BPE: Nigeria’s Power Sector Can Still Be Salvaged

Chinemos Okara

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) has said that Nigeria’s electricity sector reform that saw the privatisation of the generation and distribution companies of defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) but now facing difficulties can still be revived.

To the agency, if the Power Sector Recovery Programme (PSRP) initiated by the federal government in 2016 with support from the World Bank is fully implemented, the reform could get back on track.

The BPE also gave reasons why it adopted the Aggregate Technical, Commercial and Collection (AT&C) losess framework for the sale of PHCN successor distribution companies (Discos), and noted the approach failed to yield results because the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) allegedly:

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Continued on page 24
The federal government has launched its new gas flaring plan – the Nigeria Gas Flare Commercialisation Programme (NGFCP) - to improve the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by $1 billion annually. It also has the capacity to cut down gas flaring by emission by 13 tons within the same period.

Overall, the NGFCP has the potential to unlock approximately $US3.5 billion of inward investment. The potential GDP impact is estimated at plus $US1 billion per annum.

“Globally, gas flaring costs are in the range of $10 to 40 million, the NGFCP has the potential of attracting the required $3.5 billion,” he said.

“Beyond the financial benefit, the programme could also bring inflow of new infrastructure players to enable gas pipeline and storage in previously uncharted regions and business development from gas companies to unlock new domestic markets for gas,” he explained.

Going further, he stated that assuming project sizes in the range of $10 to 40 million were executed, the NGFCP has a potential of triggering around $3.5 billion to $140 billion.

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**BUSINESS WORLD**

**NNPC Supports Displaced School Children with N500m**

**Chineme Okforo**

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has said it has spent N500 million supporting an initiative to get back to school children who were displaced by the Boko Haram sect in Borno State.

In its immediate past Group Managing Director, Dr. Mele Kyari, who had in 2018 visited the facility in Maiduguri, Borno State, three years ago with over N500 million.

He said: “We undertook to support the project with everything related to modern education. These include equipment, providing an e-library and a hybrid school system. The facility has already systemised vocational training equipment and even constructing e-library and IT Business classroom systems.”

According to Baru, the NNPC in line with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy, supported the Learning Centre of the North East Children’s Trust (NECT) in Maiduguri, Borno State, three years ago with over N500 million.

**Sterling Bank Named among Top Best Place to Work**

Nume Ekeoge

Sterling Bank Plc has been adjudged the third best place to work in Nigeria, at the 2019 edition of the Great Place To Work (GPTW) awards which held in Lagos recently.

The Chief Human Resources Officer, Sterling Bank, Tunji Olaniyi, while receiving the award, was quoted in a statement to have described a “great place to work” as one where people feel they are working in an environment, where employees trust the people they work with, and are therefore committed to work as an enabling environment.

The bank also clinched the Best Quality of Life at the 2018 edition of the awards. According to Kunle Malomo, Group Managing Director/CEO, GPTW, said the event attracted entries from more than 1000 companies, while adding that the event is aimed at recognizing only winners, but to also instill best practices in work places, adding that the company’s vision entails expanding the good workplace culture across Africa and that the coming editions will feature about 300 companies and more than 100 persons.

Firm Launches Dessert Kits in Nigeria

Raheem Akingbolu

Cosmos Africa, a supplier of ice cream, coffee and tea equipment and consultant which has introduced a new dessert kits to the Nigerian market.

Akinbolu, whose firm was recently displayed in the recent exhibition of a three-day training workshop on innovative recipes for gelato, ice cream and coffee production, was organised by Ice Cream University aims at introducing innovative recipes for gelato, coffee and ice cream machinery to start a gelato business at a very low cost with a small scale production. It is noteworthy that service to Cosmos is not just about selling machines but also, “to keep our trade partners in business in terms of the technical know-how, technical service and availability of spare parts.”


**A THREE-DAY INTENSIVE WORKSHOP IN DUBAI ON ENERGY CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION INSURANCE**

For: Key Staff/Directors of Oil & Gas companies, Reinsurers, Insurers & Brokers, Regulators, Loss Adjusters & Lawyers in Nigeria, UAE countries, South Africa, Ghana and other OPEC countries.

**DATE:** 10th - 13th September, 2019

**VENUE:** Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**TRAINING OBJECTIVES:**

- Oil and Gas value chain, offshore oil drilling and insurance coverage
- Underwriting issues in energy business and incorporating introductory overview
- Dynamic processing simulation of FPSO – functions and components
- Construction insurance module 1, main phases of the construction
- Offshore construction (module 2) coverage issues–scope of the policy
- Management of Subsea, Umbilicals, Risers and Flowlines (SURF) projects in offshore operations
- Offshore construction – module 3 - Introduction to Weir/Polycast
- Commodities and financial markets

**FACILITATORS:**

- Mr. David Sharp, the leading upstream and offshore insurance professional in UK and his colleagues at Lloyd’s, London.
- Dan Okehi, Ph.D., an oil and gas consultant in Nigeria and other renowned professionals in Africa and UAE

**PARTICIPATING FEE:** $3,500 (Three Thousand, Five Hundred US Dollars) per participant. (30% discount cost of accommodation for the three-day period, visa fee, cost of facilitation, conference bag with course materials, refreshments and lunch all through the program.)

**REGISTRATION AND ENQUIRIES:** Contact +234 (0) 803 644 3183, Emeka +234 (0) 803 302 7174 or info@brickredconsult.com, or visit www.brickredconsult.com for online registration.
For any electricity consumer in Nigeria, satisfactory service is never about the volume of electricity that was generated on a given day by the power generation companies (Gencos) in the country, or the volume the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) could not get to the national grid, but only about how much electricity hour their Discos supply to them.

Sadly, for the duo of the TCN and Discos, this straightforward reality is mostly lost on them as they constantly disagree over whose failures is most spectacular, and which of the entities hasn’t played its part well in the value chain, as against finding a united front to end their endlessly connected failures.

As it is, Gencos produce the power the TCN transmit to the Discos who eventually distribute to homes and offices. Reports from the System Operations (SO) department of the TCN however indicated that while Nigeria has an installed generation capacity of 12,910.40 megawatts (MW), the Gencos can at the moment generate 7,526.2MW, but cannot do that much because the Discos and TCN are allegedly unable to take all of that if generated.

Similarly, the SO records claimed that the TCN has a wheeling capacity of 8,103MW, yet it has only been able to transmit a one-time 5,375MW capacity which happened in February 2019. The Discos capacities as stated by their association – the Association of Nigerian Electricity Distributors (ANED) is 6,286.96MW, but they still quarrel over load management with the TCN.

Bone of contention

Over the years, the TCN and Discos have blamed each other for the poor power services to consumers in Nigeria. At a point, the TCN was regarded as the weakest link in the value chain, but today, it said it has upgraded its capacity and could no longer be regarded as that.

Instead, the TCN has turned to blame the Discos for reportedly failing to upgrade their networks to enable them take more electricity to consumers. Often, it would call out the Discos for system trip offs, claiming their rejection of allocated loads was mostly responsible for such trip offs.

The TCN in its explanation of reasons why the sector records system trip offs, stated that the Discos frequently reject allocated electricity loads from it because they lack the capacity to take increased power demands from their consumers, and that when such happened the national grid would be impacted, hence, the trip offs.

In defence of their actions, the Discos however, explained that when they request for loads from the TCN, it often sends to parts of their network that could not withstand the allocated load, or do not have a need for them, hence their rejection of such.

This thus suggest that both entities have for years failed to communicate clearly to each other especially on electricity load management.

A quarrel reignited

On the back of their communication failures, the TCN and Discos recently reignited their quarrel over load management when the national grid tripped off again in 2019.

Announcing the system collapse, the TCN in a statement from its General Manager, Public Affairs, Mrs. Nddidi Mbah, had stated that the grid experienced a system collapse on account of high voltage from a massive drop of load by the Discos.

It explained that the high voltage from the load drop also caused a fire incident in the 75MW-reactor in its Benin Substation, Sapele Road in Benin City, Edo State, adding that it led to high voltage in the system, which shattered the lightning arrester in close proximity to the 75MW-reactor in Benin.

“The shattered lightning arrester porcelain hit the reactor bushing causing further explosion on the reactor resulting in fire outbreak,” said the TCN, which disclosed that restoration of the grid however commenced immediately.

Furthermore, on the development, it said it has commenced the movement of another reactor to Benin to replace the burnt reactor and ensure voltage stability in the city as well as prevent a re-occurrence.

It noted that it would also review the entire protection and earthing system on its sub-stations and transmission infrastructure across the country, while upgrading its network through the Transmission Rehabilitation and Expansion Programme (TREP) which is financed by multilateral donors.

However, in a reaction akin to what has defined their relationship in a long time now, the Discos alleged that the frequent collapses of the country’s national grid have remained because the TCN lacked standard power protection equipment at its transmission substations.

The Discos in a statement sent by ANED, had blamed the TCN for the poor showings of the grid, stating that, “poor transmission network protection” were responsible for the nine system collapses they said have been recorded so far in 2019.

They further explained that they, “remain available to offer their technical assistance to TCN, to ensure that our valued customers do not remain in darkness,” adding that the failure of the TCN Benin substation was the second of such occurrence in the same city within a year. According to the Discos, they have records of the trend in burnt transmission stations and failed transmission substations of the TCN in Lagos; Calabar; Abuja; Enugu; and Onitsha as at May 8, 2019, which they alleged were caused by inadequate transmission protection mechanisms and procedures.

They also expressed disquiet over TCN’s practice of arbitrary load dumping on them whenever it had challenges managing energy on the grid. This, they added causes lots of commercial and technical problems to them.

These alleged deficiencies of the TCN, they noted were captured in a July 2017 System Adequacy Report published by the SO of the TCN.

ANED said a properly protected transmission system will isolate faults, but, “unfortunately, the resultant effect is that we have experienced the ninth total black out in Nigeria this year (five times in January; once in April; twice in May and once in June), a rate of transmission failure that is in excess of one blackout per month - far beyond any international standard.”

It also noted that over 100 partial and total transmission system collapses have been recorded since the sector was privatised in 2013, adding, “This magnitude of system collapses should not be a regular reality of our country.”

They further suggested that rather than trading blames, the TCN should focus on realising actual delivery of its acclaimed 8100MW wheeling capacity. They said: “The current figure is based on nothing more than a computer simulation.”

They also urged the TCN to address its radial transmission network for better power delivery, and procure the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) to monitor the grid and trace system collapse faults.

According to ANED, the Managing Director of the TCN, Mr. Usman Mohammed in 2018, equally agreed that a functional SCADA system will show clearly activities on the grid.

Ending the blame game

Considering that their continued quarrel has been felt mostly by electricity consumers whom the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has a mandate to protect, industry experts have suggested that the regulator takes up a proactive interest in the quarrel between both entities and address their challenges.

According to the experts, both entities have indicated that they have done poorly in communicating how to manage load allocation, and as such an intervention from the NERC would be the best alternative to getting them improve on their communications with each other.
Patterson: Nigeria Must Fix Power Sector to Drive Growth

H. Pierson Associates, a boutique-consulting firm with seasoned professionals with varied experiences in both the private and public sectors. The firm has been in operation for over 28 years, playing a leading role in providing consulting and capacity building solutions in various sectors of the economy. In this interview, Cathy Patterson, who is a Director in the firm advises President Muhammadu Buhari to focus on the power sector and energy. In the next four years, Obinna China presents the theme.

What is your take on the trade war between US and China and how best do you think investors should play to take advantage of the opportunities in the market?

I think one should remain cautious at this point because I think the China situation should resolve itself or at least show the direction it is going within the next 90 days. Meaning that it is going to either escalate or be prolonged or something will be worked out. With Brexit, no one knows.

What is your take on the Nigerian capital market?

I think that the Nigerian capital market has continued to mature and expand in terms of their depth of products. And the depth of their training and trading knowledge. I am very excited about that medium term is expanding and there is less reliance on short term debt and that the array of offerings has become more diverse. I think it is a maturing capital market.

Talking about maturity, we recently saw a major listing on that market, MTN. One of the biggest companies in Nigeria and another telco has also indicated plan to list, what is your take on that?

Well, MTN is such a large player not just in telecoms but also as part of the family. I think that it will have a large impact on the market.

There has been this debate about Nigeria's debt being too high, that we are borrowing too much, some even said we are in a debt trap. What is your opinion about Nigeria's debt profile?

There has always been a debate among the various school of thought economically over how do you work ones' self out of a recession. Is it based on aggressive borrowing to fill the market or with that weight of the debt press the country? I believe that a stimulus is required when the capital market is not operating at its peak.

How best do you think Nigeria can stimulate growth, we have been growing now at about two per cent for some years now? What do you think should be done to boost economic growth in Nigeria?

We know that power has always been the key, so once we get issues in the power sector sorted the economy will take off. I think that expansion of mid-range access to capital flow, midterm debt will help companies in terms of their stability in growth, having access to the capital market as opposed to the short term debt at reasonable rate.

What message do you have for your clients in Nigeria on the trade war?

I think bright days are here and Nigeria is clearly the economic engine of Africa. It will continue to dominate and its future is so bright. Sometimes it is hard to see that you are emerging from a severe recession. I have been visiting here since 1983 and sometimes when someone doesn't live in the environment every day, they can't see the dramatic changes that are occurring. I think that Nigeria has come a long way in the last 40 years but that it is futures is so bright. Because it is pulling together all the elements that it needs to succeed.

If you are to advise President Muhammadu on key areas he should focus on in the next four years, what will those areas be?

The economy and technology

Fed Faces Tough Rate Cut Decision

United States employers are hiring workers, but that is only making the Federal Reserve's job harder.

One of the Labor Depart ment said non-farm employers added 224,000 jobs last month - the most in five months, and not the kind of labor market that would normally ease the US central bank to cut interest rates. Continuing jobs gains Fed policymakers' debate over whether the economy needs stimulus even more difficult, setting up a possible clash with markets at their July 30-31 meeting.

"They are in a bit of a bind," said Karim Basta, chief economist at III Capital Management. "On the surface, the data, in my opinion, doesn't really support an imminent cut, but markets are expecting it, and I do think there's a risk at this stage that they disappoint," he told Reuters.

Meanwhile, the Fed is sending fairly optimistic economic signals after opening up the possibility of cuts last month, when they cited muted inflation pressures and an economic outlook clouded by a U.S. trade war and slower global growth. In its semi-annual report to Congress, the Fed on Friday repeated its pledge to "act as appropriate" to sustain the economic expansion, with possible rate cuts in coming months, but they notably cited a strengthening jobs market and described recent weak inflation as due to "transitory influences."

Markets are overwhelm ingly betting the Fed's next move will be its first rate cut since the financial crisis a decade ago. President Donald Trump on Friday renewed demands for lower rates to strengthen the economy.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell, who will testify before Congress on Wednesday and Thursday, has repeatedly said the Fed makes decisions inde pendently from markets and the White House, but failing to deliver a cut could selloff a stock and short-term bond selloff and hurt the economy.

US rates futures fell after the jobs report. Markets still see a rate cut this month at a near-certainty, though they largely priced out chances for an aggressive half-percentage-point cut. FF09

"A rate cut in July is still all but inevitable," said Luke Bartholomew, investment strat egist for Aberdeen Standard Investments. "Employment growth remains bright so apart from a fairly mixed bag of US data and yet markets have gone to expect a cut now so (they) will fall out of bed if they don't get one."

The US has not resolved its trade dispute with China, but the two countries agreed last weekend to resume trade talks, putting off new tariffs.
Student Accommod8, Nigeria’s leading developer, owner and manager of high-quality and Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA), has raised an undisclosed amount of debt funding from the Nigeria Infrastructure Debt Fund (NIDF), managed by Chapel Hill Denham Actis Ltd (CHDAL). The company said this in a statement, which described the facility as the ‘Pacific Lagos’ Debt Fund as Africa’s and Nigeria’s first listed infrastructure debt fund. Student Accommod8 is a product of many years of planning towards building the best educational environment in the country. The company said this in a statement, which described the facility as the ‘Pacific Lagos’ Debt Fund as Africa’s and Nigeria’s first listed infrastructure debt fund. The fund is structured to enable domestic long-term savings such as pension and retirement assets to be safely channelled into productive infrastructure assets in the country. While supporting commercially attractive projects, NIDF enables its investors to benefit from the predictable returns available from long dated infrastructure assets.

“The debt financing is being used for expansion of the projects across Lagos, and the development of real estate assets in the country. The investment in the ‘Pacific Lagos’ Debt Fund is not only the residents but also to the wider student community in the respective universities.

“Student Accommod8’s two existing PBSAs, University of Lagos (Olabisi Onabanjo University) and Olabisi Onabanjo University’s two existing PBSAs, University of Lagos (Olabisi Onabanjo University) and Olabisi Onabanjo University’s two existing PBSAs, University of Lagos (Olabisi Onabanjo University) and Olabisi Onabanjo University’s two existing PBSAs, University of Lagos (Olabisi Onabanjo University) and Olabisi Onabanjo University’s two existing PBSAs, University of Lagos (Olabisi Onabanjo University) and Olabisi Onabanjo University’s two existing PBSAs, University of Lagos (Olabisi Onabanjo University) and Olabisi Onabanjo University’s two existing PBSAs, University of Lagos (Olabisi Onabanjo University) and Olabisi Onabanjo University’s two existing PBSAs, University of Lagos (Olabisi Onabanjo University) and Olabisi Onabanjo University’s two existing PBSAs, University of Lagos (Olabisi Onabanjo University) and Olabisi Onabanjo University’s two existing PBSAs, University of Lagos 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AfDB Bans Oceanic Construction and Engineering Nigeria for Two Years

Bennett Oghifo

The African Development Bank Group has blacklisted Abuja-based construction firm, Ocean Construction and Engineering Nigeria for a minimum period of 48 months in all its non-financial and non-construction contracts. Bennett Oghifo, in a statement, said the bank had removed the firm from its lists of approved contractors and suppliers

According to a statement ADB, recently, an Integrity and Anti-Corruption established that the company misrepresented its year of incorporation, the value of its reference contracts, and the experience of its key personnel, while bidding for two works contracts under the Bank-financed Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project in Nigeria. "The Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption of the African Development Bank Group is responsible for preventing, deterring and investigating allegations of corruption, fraud and other sanctionable practices in Bank-financed activities and operations, the statement said. The Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project, it said "aims at enhancing access to water and sanitation services in the 13 Nigerian states of Oyo and Delta States, and other regions of the country. The project focuses on other components, extension and rehabilitation works on the water transmission and distribution network."

The firm was pronounced by the independent Sanctions Commissioner of the Bank, renders Ocean Construction and Engineering Nigeria ineligible to participate in Bank-financed projects during the debarment period. The bank guarantees for cross-debarment by other multilateral development banks and under the Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions, including the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank Group," the bank said in its statement. It said "the expiry of the debarment period, Ocean Construction and Engineering Nigeria shall be eligible again to participate in Bank-financed projects only conditional on the implementation of an integrity compliance programme consistent with its guidelines."

Edu Govt Plans 369-unit Housing Estate in Ekpoma

Adibe Emanuella

As part of efforts to boost the housing sector and make housing accessible in the state, the Edo State Government has announced the completion finalising to develop a 369-unit estate in a community in Esan West Local Government Area of the state.

The Executive Chairman, Edo Development and Property Agency (EDPA), Isoken Omo, who disclosed the programme during the tour of the site, said the agency is spearheading the development of the estate. Omo noted that EDPA is pursuing means to maximise its land bank across the three senatorial districts to drive affordable housing development for the masses. She said, "We are planning a public and impact on Esu Ekpoma. We have concentrated in Benin City, Edo State capital in the past two years, but we want to expand our scope now. We want to expand our projects to other parts of the state where we have land banks, especially in Uromi and Ekpoma."

She further explained that the development of the estate would commence before the end of 2019 and would be driven with an affordable payment plan, noting, "We have started finalising the designs. It is going to be an Estate for civil servants and low-income earners. The prices will be between N3 million to N4 million based on four付款 types. There will be 2 and 3-bedroom types."

The first phase of the Emanot Gardens Estate being developed in Benin City has been completed, and that arrangements have been concluded for the massive and the plan is to deliver the 1,400-units estate within four years. Its construction will be driven with an affordable payment plan.

NCF, Rivers University Confab Advocates Database on Marine, Coastal Biodiversity

Bennett Oghifo

Participants at a roundtable organised by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) and the Rivers State University of Science and Technology have recommended the establishment of a database on marine and coastal biodiversity in Nigeria, as well as identify other Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the marine and coastal habitat.

The pooled database on marine and coastal biodiversity should be able to incorporate existing data from baseline surveys (including PhD theses), Federal Ministry of Environment and Corporate Goods (FGC) and other reports), Development Agencies (including World Bank/WAFA, Cull of Government Agencies/NGOs, etc.)

The roundtable, held at the Amphitheatre of the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt recently, had representatives from academia, government ministries and agencies at states and federal levels, the private sector, the press, the parliament and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

They recommended the establishment of Marine Biological Stations in all coastal states and a National Marine Wildlife Reserve Institute; study of marine postgraduate programmes in all Universities within coastal states; the study of the role of the corals in the ecosystem; the collection of data by and for the public, the inclusion of biodiversity in the National Curriculum, and the establishment of a database on marine and coastal biodiversity in Nigeria, as well as identify other Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the marine and coastal habitat.

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ABCON Boss Urges Nigeria to Take Advantage of US-China Trade War

Obinna Chima

The ongoing trade war between the United States of America and some Asian countries presents a good opportunity for Nigeria to take advantage of. Dr. Aminu Gwadabe, President of the Association of Businessmen of Nigeria (ABCON), has said local banks and merchants will stand to gain more from the $2.5 billion currency swap deal concluded between Nigeria and China on the economy of both countries.

"The banks in both countries are not only earning foreign exchange fees from the ongoing transactions, but will begin to lend to businesses involved in trade. It was this gain and the need to keep the naira stable prompted the Bank of China to sign the bilateral currency swap agreement with the People’s Bank of China (PBoC)," he added.

He urged the federal government to take steps towards diversifying the economy. "Other great areas to focus on are the financial foreign exchange earnings include promising dividends to businesses and banks. It was these gains they have made significant contributions to the society. These awards were earned women who have broken glass ceilings, paved the way for others and to continue improving as well as to keep exceeding expectations." The bank’s chief executive officer, Anya Duroha said.

In fulfilling its desire to continuously find ways to serve its customers, the NOVA Merchant Bank (www.newambill.com) has announced the launch of its newly redesigned website.

They have created the game changer for gender equality and women’s empowerment as they have made significant contributions to the society. These awards were earned women who have broken glass ceilings, paved the way for others and to continue improving as well as to keep exceeding expectations. The bank’s chief executive officer, Anya Duroha said.

According to a statement, the new website features and functionalities to enhance accessibility of the platform. It stated that the new redesigned site had been simplified so that clients can easily access relevant information.

Chachikhe also noted that the new website is more robust and is designed to continuously improve and ways to keep customers’ expectations. "NOVA Merchant Bank remains committed to delivering on its overarching philosophy of “New Thinking, New Opportunities” to assist its clients achieve their strategic objectives,” it added.

In order to provide a system for prompt response during emergencies, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has completed its Communication Centre in Edo.

In his response, Edo State Governor, Godwin Obaseki, represented by his Chief of Staff, Mr. Taio Akeredolu, noted that the partnership between NCC and the state has yielded a positive result, adding that his administration would leverage on the Emergency Communication Centre to improve the quality of life of the people in times of emergency, rescue and recovery.

The price of OPEC basket of fourteen crudes stood at $63.55 a barrel on Friday, compared with $63.43 the previous day, according to OPEC Secretariat calculations. The OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Djeno (Congo), Oriente (Equatorial Guinea), Zafiro (Equatorial Guinea), Rabi Light (Gabon), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sidr (Libya), Bunyu Light (Nigeria), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

SOURCE: OPEC headquarters, Vienna

Ambrose Osula
Fidson Healthcare Raises N2.3bn Capital to Boost Operations

Goddy Egene

Fidson Healthcare Plc has successfully raised N2.345 billion equity capital from existing shareholders to boost its operations. However, the amount was about 78.18 per cent of the N3 billion the company targeted to raise. Fidson Healthcare Plc made a Rights Issue of 750 million shares of 50 kobo at N4.00 on the basis of one new share for every one share to raise N3 billion.

But at the end of the issue in April, a total of 586.360 million shares were accepted by shareholders at N4 per share, amounting to N2.345 billion, which is about 78.18 per cent. The additional shares were listed by the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) last week and have been fully paid up shares of Fidson Healthcare Plc.

The shareholders of Fidson Healthcare had in 2017 approved a plan by the company to raise N6 billion in new capital to boost its working capital and support its expansion plan. The shareholders had also increased the authorised share capital of the company from N1.2 billion to N1.5 billion by the creation of additional 600 million shares of 50 kobo each. According to the company, the new capital would be used to boost working capital that had been negatively impacted by the depreciation of Naira.

Meanwhile, trading resumed at the stock market yesterday on positive note to halt the losing streak recorded last week. Specifically, the NSE All-Share Index appreciated by 0.06 per cent to close at 29,292.66 as 17 stocks gained, while 14 lost. Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc led the price gainers with 10 per cent, trailed by Unity Bank Plc with 9.6 per cent. Redstar Express Plc garnered 9.0 per cent, while Wema Bank Plc and WAPIC Insurance Plc appreciated by 8.2 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively. Conversely, Forte Oil Plc led the price losers with 10 per cent, trailed by Eko Bank Plc with 9.6 per cent. Sovereign Trust Insurance Plc shed 4.7 per cent, while FCMB Group Plc went down by 1.9 per cent.

Activity level was mixed as volume traded declined by 27.5 per cent to 216.3 million shares while value traded advanced by 24.1 per cent to N2.3 billion. NAPIC Insurance Plc (84.9 million shares), FBN Holdings Plc (16.2 million shares), and Zenith Bank Plc (14.7 million shares) were the most traded stocks by volume. MTN Nigeria Plc (N1.1 billion), Zenith Bank Plc (N529.3 million) and Guaranty Trust Bank Plc (N275.9 million) led by value.
**Congo Warlord, Bosco Ntaganda Found Guilty of War Crimes at ICC**

Former Congolese warlord, Bosco Ntaganda, was on Monday found guilty of 18 count charge of war crimes, crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court (ICJ). Ntaganda, 45, who was nicknamed the “Terminator” over his brutality towards civilians and, reportedly, child soldiers.

In one incident, women had their stomachs cut open and children had their tongues ripped out, the court heard. Ntaganda was convicted on all 13 counts of war crimes, and five counts of crimes against humanity.

He faces life in prison at a minimum security facility, expected in the coming weeks.

The charges included murder, rape, enlisting children as soldiers and looting and displacement of civilians. The court heard that Ntaganda, who was sentenced, committed the war crimes, with the acting justice minister Azarias Ruberwa saying the government was keen to hear what sentence Ntaganda gets.

The Congolese government welcomes the verdict and anxiously awaits the sentencing.

Proceedings have been committed in this country and the perpetrators must be judged, Bosco Ntaganda’s lawyer, told reporters.

Monday’s verdict also marked the first successful prosecution of sexual violence as a weapon in the Congo conflict.

Ntaganda had pleaded not guilty to all the charges brought against him and asserted he was “a revolutionary, not a criminal.”

The crimes were committed when Ntaganda headed the Frotex Front for the Liberation of Congo (F TLC) the military wing of the Union of Congolese Patriots political group — in north-eastern province between 2012 and 2013.

A total of 2,123 victims were heard by the trial and the case was concluded in September 2015 in The Hague.

That’s governor Jean Bamanusa told dpa after the verdict that Ntaganda should be sentled to life imprisonment.

“He committed a lot of crimes here in Ituri, we are waiting for serious reparations for the victims who are today traumatised by his crimes,” he said.

Ntaganda’s former commander Thomas Lubanga was sentenced to 14 years in 2012 for using child soldiers, becoming the first person to be convicted by the ICC.

Dozens of armed groups remain active in eastern Congo, which has been ravaged by violence since the 1998-2003 Congo wars.

Joan Nanyangi, Amnesty International’s Director for East Africa, said in a statement “we can only hope that today’s verdict provides some consolation to those affected by the grotesque crimes perpetuated by Ntaganda.

She added that she prays it pave the way for victims and their families to finally obtain a measure of justice and reparations.

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**EU Working to Replace Lagarde at IMF, Official Says**

Though born and raised in Canada, Carney, who is also a former governor of the Bank of Canada, holds British and Irish passports in addition to his Canadian citizenship.

The issue is not on the formal agenda of Monday’s meeting as the IMF itself has not even yet opened the procedure to find a new managing director.
Conoil Records N1.8bn Profit After Tax, to Pay 200kobo Dividend

Conoil Plc, has reported a profit after tax (PAT) of N1.796 billion for the year ended December 31, 2018, showing an increase of 14 percent above the N1.579 billion profit recorded on the same period in 2017. Based on the result, directors of the petroleum products major have recommended a dividend of 200 kobo per share.

An analysis of the audited results showed that Conoil Plc, recorded a revenue of N23.223 billion, up from N15.53 billion. Cost of sales went up to N9.042 billion compared with N8.463 billion, bringing gross profit to N12.271 billion compared with N7.089 billion the previous year. Distribution expenses also rose from N1.995 billion to N2.571 billion. However, the company reduced its administrative expenses to N2.286 billion, a major decline from N2.195 billion in 2017. Consequently, profit before tax stood at N2.567 billion as against N2.305 billion, while PAT grew from N11.195 billion in 2017 to N1.796 billion compared with N2.305 billion. Earnings, per share was 258 kobo up from 227 kobo in 2017. The directors have therefore, recommended a dividend of 200 kobo which is about 77 percent.

Chairman of Conoil Plc, Mike Adagborun'o, laid last year assured shareholders that huge efforts would be directed at achieving the investment of value-added products and services especially in the areas of marketing and customer management.

He said company kept expanding its retail network across the country and the non-fuel retail business was being revamped with a view to achieving future growth targets.

He noted that every segment of the business from aviation to LPG to specialised products would continue to receive the desired attention with a view to achieving and maintaining world-class levels of operating and capital discipline.

He showed that the company was fully charged to consolidate its competitiveness in the different segments of its business by exploring and developing new emerging markets while holding its grounds in areas in which it has competitive advantage.

Offer price: The price at which units of a trust or ETF are bought by investors.

Bid price: The price at which investors redeem (sell) units of a trust or ETF.

Yield: Total Return: Denotes total return an investor would have earned on his investment in a Money Market Funds report yield while others report Year-to-date Total Return.

NAV: is value per share of the real estate assets held by a REIT on a specific date.

The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise. Past performance is a guide and not an indication of future returns. Fund prices published in this edition are also available on each fund manager's website and FMAN's website at www.fman.com.ng.

Fund prices are supplied by the operator of the relevant fund and are published for information purposes only.
**Court Restrains SEC from Enforcing N89m Fine against Oando**

Davidson Ikilekun

Justice Ayokunle Faji of the Federal High Court in Lagos on Monday restrained the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from enforcing a fine of N89.675m against Oando Plc.

The judge also restrained the commission from enforcing its decision to appoint new directors for the company.

Justice Faji directed Oando to ensure service of the orders of the court and the application for a judicial review within 48 hours.

He adjourned until July 22 for hearing of the application for judicial review before the vacation judge.

The judge had last month granted the Group Chief Executive Officer of Oando, Mr. Wale Tinubu and his deputy, Mr. Orinmole Boyo, leave to file a motion for a judicial review of the sanctions imposed on them.

This was after their counsel approached the court for an order to review their ban from being directors of public companies for a period of five years.

The court directed the state government to provide the best care possible to ensure that no other injuries are sustained.

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**Buhari’s Delay in Appointing Ministers Affecting Economy, Says PDP BoT**

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Walid Jibrin, has said the delay in appointing ministers by President Muhammadu Buhari is not good for the country.

The PDP BoT chairman urged Buhari to focus on the improvement of the economy, employment generation as well as human capital development and infrastructure.

He decried the rate of insecurity in some parts of the country and urged Buhari to address kidnapping, banditry and other forms of insecurity. He also urged him to focus on industrialisation and reviving and exempting of ailing industries as well as revival of dead ones.

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**Afreximbank Pledges $1bn for AfCFTA**

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the AfCFTA treaty on Sunday..

Muhammadu Buhari signed the AfCFTA treaty on Sunday.

Afreximbank has pledged $1 billion in support of the AfCFTA.

The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has said it will provide support to aid the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) treaty.

The bank has also stated that it will provide financial assistance to African countries and institutions to ensure that AfCFTA is implemented in a timely manner.

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**Lagos: 10 Victims of Ijegun Explosion Die in Hospitals**

Gboyega Akasimami

The Lagos State Government yesterday disclosed that 10 victims of the explosion in Ijegun on July 4, had eventually passed away at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) and Ogba General Hospital.

Also, the state government revealed that all survivors of the explosion that affected 22 persons, “are receiving quality care at designated government facilities free of charge,” declaring that it had already spent over N20 million to take care of the victims.

The explosion was revealed in a statement issued yesterday by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Titilayo Goncalves, after visiting the victims at the LASUTH, Ikeja alongside other government officials.

Goncalves said 10 of the patients that were transferred from LASUTH while seven died at LASUTH, while two others lost 10 of them due to high degree of burns the victims suffered, which is almost at 100 per cent.

However, the permanent secretary noted that the state government “is doing everything possible to ensure that no other harm befall the people in our provision to provide intensive care for the remaining. From the report received so far, three are responding to treatment.”

“Treatment of victims with a high percentage of burns requires intensive care and management which should follow some treatment protocol. This is why I am appealing to families of the victims to be calm and cooperate with our health workers as they care for their loved ones.”

Convincingly noted that the state government had expended over N20 million in the management of the victims. The state government has not abandoned the victims of the explosion spending over N20 million in management of the victims.

Secretary of the state government said the government is providing the best possible care to ensure their full recovery.

Vicinities of the injury are being provided with adequate with adequate and intensive care in the state.

The government declared a day of prayer and fast for the injured and for the intents and purposes of their full recovery and rehabilitation.

Of the 22 victims rescued by the Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMS), she said nine were taken to LASUTH, 12 taken to Alimosho General Hospital while one at Alimosho General Hospital.

The Lagos State Government has announced that the state will be providing compensation to the families of the victims as well as the provision of medical care to those injured in the incident.

The state government has also stated that it will provide financial assistance to the families of the victims and that the state will be providing compensation to the families of the victims as well as the provision of medical care to those injured in the incident.

*Source: The Punch*
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That an interim order of injunction restraining the Defendants by themselves, their servants, agents, officers or privies from interfering with, obstructing or harassing, in any manner whatsoever, the Plaintiff(s) in the performance of their constitutional duties as the Legislative Arm of the Edo State Government pending the hearing and determination of the motion on Notice for interlocutory injunction.

2. That an interim order of injunction is further granted restraining the 1st Defendant his agents, servants, officers or privies from publishing in any newspaper or other media any inciting publication concerning the inauguration of the 9th Assembly of the Edo State House of Assembly and the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker which took place on 17/9/2018 in the Edo State House of Assembly, Benin City, pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice for interlocutory injunction.

3. That interim order of injunction is also granted restraining the Defendants by themselves, their servants, agents, officers or privies from further committing any act tending to instigate, stir up or create anarchy in the Legislative Arm of the Edo State Government, and/or destabilizing the peace, order and good government of Edo State in general pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice for interlocutory injunction.

AND AFTER HEARING the affidavit of facts in support, the affidavit of urgency sworn to by Mr. Yakubu Akinsi Osagham, Mssu, citizen of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Public Defender of Edo State House of Assembly, Anthony Okojie Complex, Ring Road, Benin City and the written address filed at the Federal High Court Registry.

ISSUED AT BENIN CITY under the seal of the District Registrar and at the hand of the presiding Judge this 1st day of July, 2019.

MRS. OTUKHOFTOMILLA REGISTRAR

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Defendant, by default, is restrained by order of the Court to appear on Notice to appear on the 5th day of July, 2019 to be heard by the Court as prayed for in the instant suit.

2. That this case is adjourned to the 5th day of July, 2019 for hearing.

ISSUED AT BENIN CITY under the seal of the District Registrar and at the hand of the presiding Judge this 1st day of July, 2019.

MRS. OTUKHOFTOMILLA REGISTRAR

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AND AFTER HEARING the motion brought by the Plaintiff, the motion was adjourned to another date.
Air Peace Boss Denies Accusing FG of Impoverishing Nigerian Airlines

Chinedu Eze

The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Air Peace, Allen Onyema, has expressed shock, accused, or credited to him accusing the federal government of impoverishing Nigerian airlines, describing the report as false, malicious and malicious. Onyema who granted interview to a Nigerian journalists in Dubai to mark the inaugural flight of the airline at the weekend said that instead of criticising government he actually commended the current administration that made it possible for the airline to grow and be able to operate international service.

He wondered what might have motivated the report when he actually commended the government for removing tariff on aircraft spares for commercial operation and also five per cent VAT which saved domestic carriers billions of naira, adding that without the support of the federal government there would not have been Air Peace airline today.

"I was shocked when I read that report and I dissociate myself from it," he said.

He said the next step for the airline to grow and be able to operate international service was not done in good faith, recognising the fact that he gave government credit many times in the course of the interview for the support it has given us and other airlines. He was shocked.

"I want them to produce the tape where I made the statement, accusing government of impoverishing Nigerian airlines. So, I totally dissociate myself from the report and I insist that it was not done in good faith," he said.

During the interview, Onyema in response to a question on anti politics said, "Let me make this clear, Air Peace will never be able to combat international aeropolitics without the support of the government. We can only combat it if our government supports us. It is a shame that several Nigerian airlines have come here (Dubai) and they were pushed out either through unfair competition or some arm-twisting tactics; it is very unfair. The only plan we have is the plan for the development of our operations to the best of our abilities. There is so far we can go, if we are not being supported."

The Air Peace boss reiterated during the interview that, "The government of President Muhammadu Buhari has given support to the growth of indigenous investment and businesses, adding that if without government's support the airline would not have been able to acquire the number of aircraft it has acquired so far.

Peace Accord: Bandits to Release 26 More Captives in Zamfara

The Zamfara State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Usman Naggo, has announced that 26 more captives would be released by bandits following a peace accord.

Naggo who made the announcement yesterday while addressing journalists in Gusau, the state capital.

He explained that the peace accord between the government and the bandits had already succeeded in securing the freedom of the captives taken from the areas of Dansadau, Kaura, Maru and Shankinkin in less than a week.

"We have our contact committee that are discussing with the bandits and the reports we are receiving is encouraging, very soon the captives will regain their freedom," he said.

He said the next step for the bandits was to release all the captives to start disarmament and to end the conflict.

EYES ON THE MARKET...

L-R: Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), Mr. Oscar Onyema; Managing Director, Air Nigeria, Segun Ogunsanya; member, Airtel Africa Board, Awunna Alumogobia; and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Airtel Nigeria, Krishna Menon, at the Airtel Africa Plc Fact Before The Listing, held at the NSE Building, Marina, Lagos, weekend.

Auto Crash Claims 19 Lives in Kano

AbdulRana

Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano

At least, 19 people have been confirmed dead and seven others injured in a ghastly auto crash that occurred on Sunday at Diniyar Madikira, in Takai Local Government Area of Kano State.

The state Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, confirmed the incident yesterday.

"In a statement yesterday, the Kano State Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Mr. Zubair Mato, gave a breakdown of the fatality as 14 male and three female adults and two male children. Zubair said the incident involved four vehicles carrying 26 passengers and attributed the accident to over-speeding and dodging of potholes on the highway."

Appeal Court Reserves Judgment in Suit Challenging Buhari’s Academic Qualification

Alex Emuh/AmaUza

The Abuja division of the Court of Appeal has reserved judgment in the appeal filed against President Muhammadu Buhari’s academic qualification for the 2019 presidential poll.

The three-member panel of the appellate court presided over by Justice Attah Alao-Akala, reserved judgment after listening to the arguments canvassed by counsels to parties in the suit.

At yesterday’s proceedings, counsel to the appellant, Ukpai Onyia, insisted that President Buhari’s academic qualification is not qualified to have stood for the presidential poll on the grounds that the required certificates were not attached to his form CF01, submitted to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for clearance to contest the presidential poll.

The counsel, who defended the appeal in court, said that the suit the appellant was statute barred, having not been filed within the mandatory period stipulated by the law.

He urged the court to uphold the decision of the Federal High Court to the effect that the suit was not filed in line with the position of the law.

Counsel to the All Progressives Congress (APC), Babatunde Ogala, argued in line with Buhari’s position that the court dismiss the appeal, while counsel to INEC, Oyient Anthony, said the commission is neutral and would abide by the decision of the Court.

Kalu, Ismail and El-Kuris had approached the appellate court to nullify and set aside the judgment of the Abuja Division of the Federal High Court, which declined to hear their suit instituted to challenge the educational qualification of the President before the conduct of the 2019 general election.

The appellants in their appeal are asking the appellate court to reverse the judgment of Justice Ahmed Mohammed on the grounds that the processes filed by Buhari and used to strike out their suit were not competent.
Atiku, Lawan, Fayemi, Obaseki, Tambuwal, Ihedioha, Others Celebrate Okowa at 60

Chukwu Okocha forNigerian Observer

The presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2019 election and former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, and the Senate President, Senator Ahmed Lawan, yesterday felicitated with the Delta State Governor, Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, who turned 60 years yesterday.

Also, the Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, has joined his counterparts - Governor Emeka Ihedioha of Imo State, Governor Obaseki, Tambuwal of Sokoto State, as well as a former Governor of Delta State, Chief James Ibori, to celebrate with Okowa, on his 60th birthday celebration.

"Standing before Governor Okowa, I must note that the Delta State Governor is a man of faith, ennable impacts and of flawless reputation. He has indeed shown political prowess, genuine commitment to the welfare of the people of Delta State, through the infrastructural and human capital development efforts of the people of the state since he was elected on board as governor. "

"Above all, he is a patriot who is only determined to make a difference in governance in this country as well as a humble man with a kind heart, enviable impacts and of course, an individual not to be trifled with. "

The celebrant, Okowa thanked Nigerians for identifying with him as he celebrated his 60th birthday, noting, "your presence with him as he celebrated his birthday, noting, "your presence added a lot of colour to the occasion."

DAPPMAN Faults NNPC, Denies Accessing Forex at N305

Marketeters of petroleum products under the umbrella of Depot and Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (DAPPMAN) have said no member of the association has accessed foreign exchange for the importation of petrol at the rate of N305/$1 as allegedly claimed by the immediate-past Chief Operating Officer, Downstream of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mr. Henry Ikem-Obih.

The statement read: "We have read the comments purportedly expatiate on the comment."

"The $7.2 billion purportedly accessed by members of the association has no truth. We urge all marketers to be cautious in economic activities, especially in foreign exchange transactions."

"NNPC at that time, and till date, assumed the responsibility of the importation of this product because it is the only corporation that can access the foreign exchange proceeds of crude oil sales. We are more than ready to forward the purchased products to marketers.

"The $7.2 billion purportedly applied for and received by petroleum marketers as claimed by the NNPC chieftain was not accessed by members of DAPPMAN who by the spread of information,which could fuel importation of petrol and seek to clarify thus: "It is true that at various instances within the lifespan of the NNPC, the management of the NNPC, marketers were offered foreign exchange to import aviation fuel (ATK) and diesel at N305/$1 or N346/$1 but no marketer accessed forex at N305/$1 as claimed, and at no time did forex exchange sourcing for fuel importation by petroleum marketers through NNPC intervention sum up to $7.2 billion."

"DAPPMAN members and indeed all petroleum marketers ceased to import petrol before the fourth quarter of 2017 due to rising cost of crude oil in the international market and marketers' inability to access foreign exchange at the official CBN rate this precipitated the fuel scarcity the country experienced in December 2017 and far into 2018."

"NNPC at that time, and till date, assumed the responsibility of the importation of this product because it is the only corporation that can access the foreign exchange proceeds of crude oil sales. We are more than ready to forward the purchased products to marketers."

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MINISTRY OF MINES & STEEL DEVELOPMENT
MINERAL SECTOR SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION (MinDiver) Project

Country:Nigeria
Name of Project:Mineral Sector Support for Economic Diversification (MiDiver) Project
Contract Title:Procurement and Installation of Laboratory Equipment for Geological Survey Agency (NGSA) and National Steel Raw Materials Exploration Agency (NSRMEA)
Project ID: P195756
RFB Reference #: MINIDIVER/GORF/RFB/05/18
DATE:09/07/2019

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) has applied financing from the Bank towards the support of the Diversification of the Economy through the Minerals and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Procurement and Installation of Laboratory Equipment for Geological Survey Agency (NGSA) and National Steel Raw Materials Exploration Agency (NSRMEA).

2. The Ministry of Mines and Steel Development through the Mineral Sector Support for Economic Diversification (MinDiver) Project now invites sealed Bids from eligible Procurement and Installation of Laboratory Equipment for Geological Survey Agency (NGSA) and National Steel Raw Materials Exploration Agency (NSRMEA). The list of Goods required including quantity, delivery address, deliver etc. are given in the Schedule of Requirements contained in the bidding document.

3. Bidding will be conducted through international competitive Bidding process using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank’s Procurement Reg.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the MinDiver Office and inspect the bidding document during office hours from 10:00am – 1:00pm, Monday – Friday (excluding Public Holidays) at the address given below.

Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

5. Bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders upon the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifty United state dollars (USD 50), or Ten thousand naira (N10,000) for a set, through ‘REMITA’, web site www.remita.net to our Account; Miners Support for Economic Diversification (MinDiver) Project and Service ‘type’ sale document. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before August 23, 2019, El Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who choses to attend address below on August 23, 2019.

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of

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<th>NAIRA</th>
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8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to information on the successful bidder’s beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the document.

9. The address referred to above is:

The Project coordinator:
Mineral Sector Support for Economic Diversification Project (MinDiver)
10. Lolo Close, off Lauda Crescent, Off Ademola Adetokumbo Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +234 909 324 0644
Email: mindiverprocurement@fmm.gov.ng
mindiver@fmm.gov.ng
Edo Police Detain Three Personnel over Missing AK 47 Rifles
Adibe Emenyonu
Adibe Emenyonu

Three policemen are currently in detention at the Edo State Police Command Headquarters over alleged stolen fully loaded AK-47 rifles.

Consequently, a senior officer, security personnel and manager of the general depot where the guns were said to have been stolen went into hiding.

Names of the detained policemen, as gathered, are Sergeant Godwin Omoregie, Corporal Michael Akharamen and Constable Jimoh Aluyi.

Aluyi and Omoregie were allegedly assigned to them for duty patrol and were seen at an earlier time on the-own security outfit codenamed Operation Waligari, but could not return to base just this week to the command.

It was learnt that the two junior officers gave their guns to Sergeant Emmanuel who then claimed he had been the guest house at Uwassa area of Edo Local Government Area. Sources said Emmanuel was with a female friend inside the house, when four men were said to have raised an alarm that two of the three rifled he took it into his room, which had been stolen while he was inside the toilet.

The owners of the guest house, Mr. Odooba Otuoh, who called for full investigation into the incident, told journalists that claims by Emmanuel were questionable.

It was also reported that a letter from his staff that showed he examined with in one AK-47 rifle and a lady.

Edo Police spokesperson, DSP Chidi Nwabuzor, confirmed the incident, adding that investigation is still ongoing.

Bringing Service Closer

Protesters Storm RCCG, Ask Adeboye to Speak up against Injustice
Sharafadeen Alli, and Chief

The group also queried Pastor Adeboye over the recent deaths of the latter’s National President, Francis Johnson, who was your biological daughter,’ Charly Boy, Michael, who replaced Dr. Makarani Baru as head of the country’s top oil company, PENGASSAN, said police vandalism and fraud of oil are “issues the Nigerians really expect the new NNPC board to champion.”

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Kingsley Nwazeh

The United Nations yesterday sought expedited action on the North-east Stabilisation Plan for the North-east.

ECOWAS Parliament, 2.1m Displaced by Boko Haram in Nigeria

Deji Elumoye

The Secretary General of ECOWAS Parliament, Mr. John Azumah, has said over 70 million refugees in the world are drawn from the 16 West African nations with Boko Haram insurgency displacing 1.2 million Nigerians alone.

Azumah, who spoke yesterday at the launch of the joint report of the region on humanitarian situations, the MEPR of the ECOWAS Parliament, said many member states largely depend on donor agencies and international humanitarian organisations to fund their activities and programmes because their streams of revenues are very thin and many of them have run down the country and are replicating the situation in West Africa is one of the regions in the world that has a high rate of refugees in the world and the political crisis that has resulted in the killing of over 20,000 people and about 2.1 million people displaced.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Resident Representative to Nigeria, Aminu Dikko, yesterday said the UN was seeking ways to assist Nigeria to re-establish humanitarian architecture and the rule of law in the North-west.

He said the UN needed the assistance of the Nigerian Army to ensure that the stabilisation plan was implemented effectively.

"We are here to support the government of Nigeria in the process of stabilization, in particular in the North-east," he said.

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"We are here to support the government of Nigeria in the process of stabilization, in particular in the North-east," he said.

He expressed regret that despite the efforts being made in West Africa, the region is plagued with multiple crises.

"For instance, Nigeria’s Boko Haram insurgency, North- central governor, and farmer-herder clashes, which has resulted in the killing of over 20,000 people and about 2.1 million people displaced.

"This carnage has caused huge humanitarian crisis, which is compounded by the fact that the government has not been able to deliver the basic needs of its citizens, including food, education, and health care. Many of the people who have been displaced are children, women, and elderly people, and they are in urgent need of assistance."

The UN has called for an end to the violence and for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The UN has also called for increased funding to support humanitarian efforts in the region.

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CBN to Partner Varsities to Address Challenges in Poultry Sub-sector

James Emojaradogba

The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Godwin Emefiele, has said the bank has initiated a programme to boost poultry production in the country through the involvement of universities which will be part of the pilot team to run a university-based poultry Revival Programme.

Speaking at the objective of its intervention in the sub-sector to produce chicken meat and egg to reduce importation and close the existing demand and supply gap, raise a new crop of ‘agripreneurs’ in modern poultry production to provide infrastructure that would support the sustainable production of poultry as well as reduce pressure on foreign exchange demand through import substitution by local poultry production.

He said the sector is currently battered by the lack of access to low cost, long tenured finance, which is not however peculiar to the industry but must be resolved.

Speaking at an interactive session with vice chancellors of universities on the proposed project to boost poultry production,

Emefiele said the CBN would be committing human and financial resources to monitoring both the disbursement and utilisation of funds in a robust and verifiable manner.

He said the sector is currently battered by the lack of access to low cost, long tenured finance, which is not however peculiar to the industry but must be resolved.

He added that the CBN was ready to put it and end.

Emefiele said the intervention was directly in conformity with the apex bank’s resolve to always ensure the economy be catalyzed by job creation and inclusive economic growth.

The 35 suspects were yesterday arrested by Goodluck Jonathan, Mr. Bode Oyetola, describing him as “a mature leader that treats the people of his state with respect and do not talk down at them.

The monarch therefore urged Oyo not be drowned in the context of vehement mutual respect even in the ordinary citizens as their polity. Not to mention a federal polity, not to mention a federal polity."

He also said it would further solidify and entrench confidence in the ordinary citizens as their last hope.

He said his campaign would be anchored on the theme: “The Bridge to Bayelsa’s Prosperous Future.”

The lawyer-turned politician and pastor had also twice served actually anchor as follows: “We still have a lot to be proud of. We should be proud of.

For everyone, thereby establishing a health insurance scheme. The monarch therefore urged Oyo to be proud.

He said the mode of transport is to ensure that poultry production is increased as well as end the smuggling of poultry products into Nigeria.

According to him, “In order to ensure the involvement of people of our goals, therefore, the CBN would be committing considerable human, material, and financial resources to monitoring both the disbursement and utilisation of funds in a robust and verifiable manner.

Participating institutions will be required to submit periodic returns on disbursements as well as an analysis of the impacts of the funds they received.

The CBN will also undertake regular on and off-site checks to ascertain the veracity of the reports received.

“Therefore, I respectfully enjoyn you and your institutions to help us in achieving these goals by ensuring that these funds are deployed in the manner in which they were supposed to.

Represented by CBN Deputy Governor, Monetary Policy, Dr Joseph Nnanna, Emefiele said the poultry sub-sector was an opportunity to create a robust and verifiable manner.

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He said the sector is currently battered by the lack of access to low cost, long tenured finance, which is not however peculiar to the industry but must be resolved.

Furthermore, he said the Nigerian poultry industry faces production costs, safety concerns due to lack of sanitary controls, and technical constraints in processing, and marketing, stressing that production costs are increasingly high due to lack of an integrated and automated industrial poultry sector.

He said poultry producers lacked reliable access to inputs, including chicks and feed as well as costs of veterinary services.

The CBN governor also expressed worry that an estimated 12 million metric tonnes of poultry meat was being smuggled into the country from the neighbouring Benin Republic by some unscrupulous Nigerians, desecrating the apex bank’s resolve to always ensure the economy be catalyzed by job creation and inclusive economic growth.

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Furthermore, he said the Nigerian poultry industry faces production costs, safety concerns due to lack of sanitary controls, and technical constraints in processing, and marketing, stressing that production costs are increasingly high due to lack of an integrated and automated industrial poultry sector.

He said poultry producers lacked reliable access to inputs, including chicks and feed as well as costs of veterinary services.

The CBN governor also expressed worry that an estimated 12 million metric tonnes of poultry meat was being smuggled into the country from the neighbouring Benin Republic by some unscrupulous Nigerians, desecrating the apex bank’s resolve to always ensure the economy be catalyzed by job creation and inclusive economic growth.

The CBN will also undertake regular on and off-site checks to ascertain the veracity of the reports received.

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**NewsXtra**

**Army Kills Bandit, Rescues 13 Kidnap Victims in Kaduna**

By John Shiklam

The Nigerian army has killed a bandit and rescued 13 kidnapped victims in Kaduna, the state governor, Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, has announced.

According to a statement released by the army, the operation was conducted in the Kaduna State Commanding Officer (OC) Division Maj Gen Faruk Yahaya, has enjoined troops to always be proactive and decisive in dealing with criminals and associated issues in their respective areas of responsibilities.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, the OC said that the operation was carried out in the Kaduna State Commanding Officer (OC) Division Maj Gen Faruk Yahaya, has enjoined troops to always be proactive and decisive in dealing with criminals and associated issues in their respective areas of responsibilities.

The OC also commended the troops for their professionalism and courage in dealing with the criminals.

**Dickson's Team Begins Selection**

Deacon Adedeji, Anambra State Governor, has begun the process of selecting a successor for the governorship in the November gubernatorial election.

According to the governor's press statement, the selection process will be carried out in collaboration with the National Assembly, the State Judicial Reform Committee, and the State Judicial Reform Committee.

The governor said that the selection process will be guided by the principles of merit, integrity, and accountability.

**Insecurity: IT Expert Raises Alarm over Nigeria's Poor Data Mgt**

A United Kingdom (UK)-based Information Technology (IT) expert, Mr. Davies Bamigboye, has raised the alarm over the lack of proper data protection regulations in Nigeria.

Mr. Bamigboye expressed concern over the lack of proper data protection regulations in Nigeria, which he said is a major problem for businesses and individuals.

He called on the government to take urgent action to address the issue and protect the personal data of Nigerians.

**Hoodlums Invade Church in Anambra, Attack Clerics, Others**

Hoodlums invaded an Anglican church in Anambra State, attacking the clergy and others in attendance.

The hoodlums entered the church premises at 3:00 AM on Sunday, July 7, and proceeded to attack the clergy and others in attendance.

A source said that the hoodlums poured on Chukwu, using machetes and other weapons to cause harm.

**WORTHY HONOUR**

The Managing Director of FSDH Asset Management Limited, Olumuyiwa Ogunlana, has received the President-General of FSDH (PGFSDH) award for his contribution to the growth of the Nigerian banking sector.

The award was presented to Mr. Ogunlana during a ceremony held in Lagos on Monday.

The PGFSDH is a professional body that promotes the development of the financial services industry in Nigeria.

**NEWESXTRA**

**Five-man Robbery Gang Carts Away N34m in Early Morning Operation in Lagos**

Lalage Dipe

The police have begun a manhunt for five allegedly armed robbers who robbed a bank in Lagos yesterday.

According to a witness, the robbers entered the bank at about 7:00 AM and made away with N34 million in cash.

The police have also begun an investigation into the incident.

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**Putting the PR on display**

The Managing Director of FSDH Asset Management Limited, Olumuyiwa Ogunlana, has received the Great Place to Work award as the “Exceptional Woman Leader of the Year” in FSDH, from the Managing Director of FSDH Merchant Bank, Mrs Hamda Ambah, at a reception organised by Great Place to Work, to honour exceptional female leaders in Lagos recently.

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Oblaino Urges FG to Investigate Death of Nigerian Official in Southern Africa

Oblaino Urges FG to Investigate Death of Nigerian Official in Southern Africa

David-Oyedeyi Eleke

The Deputy Director General of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria (CIN), Dr. Nnadozie Ndubuisi-Chukwu was found dead in her Emperor Palace Hotel room on June 13.

Ndubuisi-Chukwu was reported to have died while attending a meeting of the African Insurance Organisation in the South African commercial capital.

She said: “It has become necessary to request the SGF (Secretary to the Government of the Federation) to personally wade into the killing.”

“The police in Johannesburg may be capitalizing on the absence of a forensic expert in Nigeria to treat the case with levity.”

According to him, the emergence of the National Assembly leadership in a rancour that the government to prevail on the federal government to investigate the peace, “This summit is important because it has brought together journalists and stakeholders to fashion a strategy to counter fake news, disinformation and misinformation. The apex court’s decision 2019 elections most acrimonious in Nigeria’s history.

Oblaino Urges FG to Investigate Death of Nigerian Official in Southern Africa

Members to Shun Criticism

Members are being considered for ministerial appointments by the new administration of the Nigerian government. Every other leader and every other leader is being consulted widely and reached out to by the new administration.

“Free state was a consequence of wide consultations. It is a demonstration of the leadership in a rancour that the government to prevail on the federal government to investigate the peace, “This summit is important because it has brought together journalists and stakeholders to fashion a strategy to counter fake news, disinformation and misinformation. The apex court’s decision 2019 elections most acrimonious in Nigeria’s history.”

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MISS YOU

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings: he shall not stand before mean men.”
Prov. 22:29

WITH HEAVY HEARTS
WE ANNOUNCE THE PASSING ON
OF OUR FOUNDER / CHAIRMAN
WHO DILIGENTLY BUILT DOWNTOWN
FROM OBSCURITY TO A KNOWN AND
PROMINENT BRAND.

ABOGO CHUKWUDI UGWOWEKEGBE (CHIEF)
1960 - 2019

His remains will be laid to rest on
Thursday, July 11, 2019
at his country home
Umudurunna, Abba
Nwangele LGA
Imo state.

He is survived by:

Mrs. Magdalene Ugochi UGWOWEKEGBE - Mother;
Mrs. Nkem Chizube ABOGO-UGWOWEKEGBE - Wife
Kamsiriochukwu N. ABOGO-UGWOWEKEGBE - Daughter
Chibulikem F. ABOGO-UGWOWEKEGBE - Son
Many Brothers, Sisters, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Uncles etc.

Adieu Sir. Rest in Peace

SIGNED
Management and Staff of
D SALON DOWNTOWN
DOWNTOWN BEAUTY ACADEMY
Call to Glory

With gratitude to The Lord for a life well spent and total submission to His will, we hereby formally announce the passing to glory of

LADY CLARA IJENWAYO CHINKKATA
1952 – 2019

on the 10th of May, 2019.
An accomplished lady, Amazon, Philanthropist-giver of no mean repute, Beautiful in and out.

We, her beloved friends, will miss her.

May God in His infinite mercy grant her eternal rest and give the family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

SIGNED

ACHARA OGUGUA
AGBUGBA BETTIE
ADIELE JOYCE
AJAKPO AKUNNA COLLETE
AJAYI-IKEJIANI NDIDI
AJUZIE PLEASURE
AKANBI TAIWO
ALALA OJI NGOZI
ALFA ADUKU
ANIS CLOTHING
ANUBI OBIAGELI
ANYANWU MGBECHI
ARABOME UCHE
ATONYE ONWUEGBUSIA
AWA CHINASA
AZUOGU OGERI
ARE NGOZI
ANYANWU CHRISTIANA
AMUTA VIOLA
AMADI JANECIN UEOMA
BENSON ANGELA
CHIORI JOY
CHIONUMA CELINA
EGBUCHUNAM CHINWE
EJIGBABA PAULA
EKUGO NNENNA
ESIABA CHINYERE
ETETE NDOKI
EZALEA CHIOMA
EZEWA REGINA
FOLORUNSO NGOZI
IBEANU JOY
IROZURU ELIJAH ALOZIE
IRONDI NENE
JIBRIN UEOMA OGUGUA
KALU CHINASA
KALU NNENNA
NGINI FRANCISCA
NGONADI CHINWE
NKOLENYI NGOZI
NKWOJI ONGODI
NMEJE JOY
NNAJI NWAMARA
NOSIRI ALAIKE CHRISTIE
NWACHUKU UGOCHI
NWAKWESI IFFY
NWANKWODI ADESUWA
NWAOKENNEYA WENDY
NWIGWE EKEOBA CHINYERE
NWOBIA MEG
NWUDOH NNONYE
NZEOGU ANACHEBE AMAKA
OBI UCHENNA
OFILI KEMI
OGUGBUE STELLA
OJI FLO
OJI GRACE
OJIAKO NNENNA
OKECHUKWU ANN
OKONKO JOY
OKOYE-Chuks UEOMA
OKPI GLORIA
SANG炒DEE NGOZI
UFERE, CAROLYN AKUM
UMOREN-AQUA CECILIA
UZOMA OGBONNA NGOZI
WABARA NGOZI
WOGU ONU NENE STELLA
With gratitude to God, we remember today the passing away of our dearly beloved Father, Grandfather and Great-grandfather

Elder SIMEON ADENIYI MAKINDE
who slept in the Lord on 20th May 1999 and was buried on 9th July 1999.

“The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance”
Psalm 112 v.6

Daddy, continue to rest in peace!

Super Eagles Land in Cairo for Bafana Clash

Emmanuel Amuneke has said to the media that the team has overcome all the injuries and is in full flight for their clash with South Africa today.

Amuneke, who was welcomed by numerous cheering Egyptians who now want to see Nigeria finally win a major African title, yesterday evening.

Along with his assistant coach, Muru Dodo, he has come back to Egypt after handling the team in the tournament in Cameroon.

Rohr has planned for the Super Eagles to train on Saturday, the day before the game.

Amuneke and Rohr are in Cairo today for the quarter-final clash with South Africa.

Amuneke said that the team is ready to face Bafana Bafana, who are also ready to face the Eagles.

The Eagles are to play South Africa in the Cairo International Stadium on Saturday, to set up another clash with familiar foes. The match will be a significant one in the quest for a place in the semi-finals.

Nigeria has won the Cup of Nations twice in the last 10 years, while South Africa has won it once. Both teams are determined to win the trophy.

Amuneke, who is known for his tactical brilliance, has prepared his team well for the encounter.

The Eagles have a record of 7-3-2 against South Africa in previous encounters.

The match will be held at 5:00 PM on Saturday in Cairo, with millions of Nigerians expected to watch the game at home and on television.

The Eagles are expected to win the match and secure their place in the semi-finals of the tournament.
Egypt’s talismanic player, Mohamed Salah has expressed sadness over his country’s ouster from the ongoing 2019 Africa Cup of Nations. Consequently, he has apologised to his countrymen.

“I’m very sad about our early exit from the Africa Cup of Nations. We had hoped to continue on the road to the title together, and give it to the fans whom I thank for their continuous support,”

“God willing we will learn from the mistakes we’ve made. And I wish good luck for the national team in the upcoming period,”

the 27-year-old winger tweeted on his official account, as revealed and translated by Al Ahram.

The tweet came after the massive criticism that the national team faced, after losing to South Africa 1-0 on Saturday. The defeat led to the sacking of the technical staff and the resignation of the Egyptian Football Association’s (EFA) board.

The former AS Roma winger, Salah, has participated in all four of Egypt’s matches and scored two goals.

Egypt bid farewell to the 2019 AFCON unexpectedly from the first knockout phase, after the Balana Balana midfielder Thembinkosi Lorch scored a late goal in the 85th minute of the game. The Pharaohs managed to control the ball over the game with 63% of possession, but without effectiveness and missed opportunities to score.

The hosts qualified for the Round of 16 with three successive victories against Zimbabwe, DR Congo, and Uganda.

Tunisia beat Ghana to Set up Clash with Madagascar

Tunisia beat Ghana on penalties to set up an Africa Cup of Nations quarter-final with Madagascar.

Goalkeeper Farouk Ben Mustapha was the hero, coming on for the shootout and saving Caleb Ekuban’s penalty.

Tunisia had been seconds away from winning in 90 minutes, but substitute Rami Bedoui headed into an open net in injury time, with his first touch.

They had led in Ismailia through Yassine Kechrida’s goal, but it had not settled the contest.

Leeds striker Ekuban was the only player to fail with his kick in the shootout, with Ferjani Sassi scoring the winning kick.

Tunisia, who lost the Africa Cup of Nations in 2004, now face surprise package Madagascar, ranked 80th in the world, in Alexandria yesterday.

Asamoah Gyan, who missed a penalty for Ghana in 2010 as they went out of the World Cup against Uruguay, did not miss this time forward to take one for Ghana last night.

Today is a day off at the Africa Cup of Nations and the first two quarter-finals take place on Wednesday with Senegal versus Egypt and Madagascar versus Benin (5:00pm) and then Nigeria versus South Africa (8:00pm).

Gafaar Thumbs up Sanwo-Olu’s Role in Eagles’ Defeat of Cameroon

The Director General, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Owolabi Gafaar has lauded the resilience of the Super Eagles following their 3-2 win over Cameroon at the on-going Africa Cup of Nations.

Commenting on the team who came from a goal deficit to pip their arch-rival and book a quarter-final ticket, he said the victory calmed frayed nerves after their loss against Egypt.

Gafaar commended the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu who was physically present to cheer the team to victory.

"Lagos State is known for excellence and this has once again been demonstrated by His Excellency on the international stage after motivating the Super Eagles to victory in Alexandria, Egypt at a critical moment when they were down,"

Gafaar described the gesture as a reflection of Sanwo-Olu’s understanding of sports’ terrain and importance of identifying with athletes.

"Every athlete derive greater motivation from being appreciated and that was exactly what His Excellency did by promising the Super Eagles’ players handsome reward if they turn the 2-1 deficit in the second half which they did in a grand style."

The DG said the incentive from the Lagos governor should not be seen or limited to the surface value by Lagoians.

According to Gafaar, if the governor could dedicate such time to sports less than two months after assuming office, then athletes and sport stakeholders are in for a good time in the state.

Neymar Dumps PSG’s Pre-season Training

The Brazilian striker Neymar Jr was not in training with PSG back at the club’s training complex on Wednesday as reported by France Football’s ‘inside paper’ source, ‘L’Equipe’.

The report said that Neymar Jr was not in the agreed training package with his teammates.

It is reported that Neymar Jr was not in training for the second day in a row as reported by ‘L’Equipe’.

The French sports newspaper reported that Neymar Jr was not present at PSG’s training ground on Wednesday.

Paris St-Germain have said that they will take appropriate action after Brazil striker Neymar Jr failed to turn up for the first day of pre-season training.

"The club regrets this situation," read a statement.

Neymar joined PSG from Barcelona for a world record 222m euros (£168m) in August 2017. He has scored 34 goals in 37 league appearances to help them to consecutive Ligue 1 titles but also been involved in a number of disciplinary incidents including being banned for three games for lashing out at a fan after PSG’s shock French Cup final defeat.

He will also miss his next three European matches for insulting officials.

The former Santos forwad was stripped of the Brazilian captaincy in May before suffering an ankle ankle injury during an international friendly against Qatar last month that forced him to miss his country’s Copa America triumph on home soil.

Nigeria’s U-16 coach, Fabusa Obyanabo has stated that his team will up their game when they file out at the on-going FIBA U-16 Basketball Championship in Praia, the capital city of Cape Verde.

The junior D’Tigers bounced back from their opening day loss to three-time champions Egypt with a resounding 64-39 win against host country Cape Verde with Rui Edson Chinyelu scoring a team-high of 20 points.

"We won’t show Angola respect, Onyanabo said.

"We will approach the game against Angola like we did against Cape Verde. In the court we’re not going to respect anybody, we are all here to ball.”

U-16 AFROBASKET

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T he Supreme Court of Nigeria delivered the final judgment on Friday, July 5, in the Osun State election petition, and the September 27 re-run in Osun State. On September 12, 2018, the court of original jurisdiction, the Osun Election Petition Tribunal, ruled 2 to 1 that the conduct of the election fell far short of international best practices. It announced that Gboyega Oyetola, now the incumbent Governor of Osun State, had won the election by a margin of 354 votes, but without addressing the issues of substantial compliance with the law and due process. Local and international monitors and observers expressed disappointment. They were of the view that the election fell far short of meeting international standards.

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2019
Price: N250

MISSILE
Sonjika to Buhari
“We have the issue of security, obeying the law which is one thing that equates all, President Muhammadu Buhari must be tested by example by obeying the dictates of the law, so that other Nigerians can follow suit. It is refusal to obey them that is the force to think that they are above the law and are causing anarchy in the country.”

Nobel laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka, said President Muhammadu Buhari’s refusal to obey law was fuelling lawlessness.

The Osun election was particularly considered inconclusive or flawed. It announced that Gboyega Oyetola as the validly elected winner of the election. As such, they ruled that the Supreme Court in recent times

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