

NEWS

PLATFORM

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**2019: BUHARI'S AMBITION
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NORTHERN CHRISTIANS BACK YAKUBU DOGARA FOR PRESIDENT

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Of Power*
- *To Pick Yoruba
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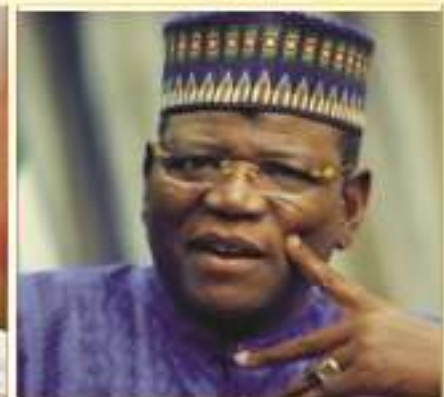
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2019: INEC Insists on Non-partisanship Says rigging may spark war

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has again given an undertaking to remain non-partisan to all political parties ahead of the 2019 general elections.

The commission also said it is aware that a badly conducted election can lead to civil war. The Chairman of INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, said this in Abuja on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, when the German Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Bernhard Schlagheide, paid a visit to the headquarters of the commission.

Yakubu said: "In many of the developing countries and emerging democracies, a good and well conducted election makes the difference between civil war and peace, and we are fully conscious of

our responsibility and we shall discharge our responsibilities with fairness to each and everyone and in a very transparent manner where the outcome of what we do would not be in doubt.

"We will show no partisanship to anyone or party and the will of the people must always prevail as we conduct elections.

"I assure you that we are fully conscious of our responsibilities as election managers. The next general election is just in 478 days and dates have already been fixed for the elections which are February 16 for the federal elections and March 2 for the states and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) elections."

In his remarks, the German ambassador commended INEC for its role thus far.



Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, INEC Chairman

While describing the commission as the engine room of democracy, Schlagheide urged Yakubu to ensure that the upcoming Anambra State governorship election is free and fair.

Herdsmen attack: Stop the circle of killings Catholic Bishops tell Buhari

Following recent killing of 29 persons, including women and children, in the Nkiedonwhro community of Plateau State by yet to be identified persons, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria, CBCN, has issued a strongly worded letter to the Federal Government to halt the circle of killings in the country. A statement signed by the president CBCN, Most Rev. Ignatius Kaigama said for over two years now, Plateau State has enjoyed happy and peaceful coexistence, giving birth to greater confidence and trust to its citizens and visitors alike that only the best will henceforth happen in the State. "This peace has unfortunately been rudely interrupted by the outburst of recent killings in Bassa Local Government between the Fulani and the Irigwe. "While the attacks are perhaps, as a result of bottled-up anger, unresolved social issues or ethnic chauvinism which have led to utter disrespect for the sacredness of human lives,

we Nigerians must find better ways of venting our anger," he reasoned. According to the CBCN President, an attempt by the Plateau State governor, Barr. Simon Bako Lalong, to inspire reconciliation and mutual forgiveness was not successfully implemented by the parties concerned. It is however still not too late. It is better late than never. "It is a fact that many Fulani speak the Irigwe language and many Irigwe speak the Fulani language which goes to show the long period of peaceful coexistence, but the events of the past week indicate that the peaceful, harmonious and fraternal coexistence has been severely wounded. "The two tribes offering the olive branch to each other is what can restore normalcy, healing, trust and confidence. The burial on Monday 16th October in Nkiedonwhro of 29 persons shows that a lot more needs to be done by both tribes to face their collective future with greater optimism. "Our thoughts go to all those affected, with fervent prayers that God will grant them all the needed consolation and the ability to say "never again" to the destruction of human lives, animal lives, farm produce, houses and all others

means of livelihood. May the dead rest in peace. "I pray that the long and intense security meetings by the governor, security officials and stakeholders will bear the necessary fruits of peace. It is so worrisome that despite the presence of security agents people could still be killed in a primary school where they took refuge, even during the hours of a curfew imposed on the Local Government! "How much of this is politics or how much is influenced by internal or external sponsors or complicity of certain individuals who should help but keep fanning the flame of violence needs to be investigated. The Presidency must show more concern and active interest in investigating the unfolding events and to intervene effectively. The evil doers should not go unpunished and necessary security lapses should be rectified. "To our dear brothers and sisters the Irigwe and the Fulani, please give peace a chance. Your losses may be enormous, but once there is life, there is hope," Kaigama appealed.

The Biggest Multi-Billion Dollar-Fertilizer Plant Comes On Stream In Bayelsa

The Executive Vice Chairman of the Brass Fertilizer and Petrochemical Company Ltd, Chief Ben Okoye says, the 3.6 billion dollars Fertilizer Plant Project is expected to generate 15,000 jobs during the construction phase of the project and 5,522 permanent employment opportunities, when completed.

Chief Okoye announced this, while receiving the Certificate of Occupancy (C/O) for the land allocated for the construction of the plant at the Brass Island, in Brass Local Government Area of the state from Governor Henry Seriake Dickson in Government House, Yenagoa on Wednesday.

A Government House press statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Bayelsa State Governor, Francis Otiag Agbo, noted that the Executive Vice Chairman, who highlighted the components of the Fertilizer plant, explained that, it would accommodate a Methanol, Urea Ammonia, Gas Processing Plants as well as a 35-kilometre Pipeline Project.

Describing the project as the single biggest private sector company in Africa with a 1 billion dollar equity fund, Chief Okoye canvassed the total support and cooperation of the Government towards the realization of the project and expressed optimism that, it would transform the state's economy and that of the country as a whole.

Chief Okoye said, "We are here today because we have achieved 95%, in terms of funding and equity for the project. You will agree with me that, raising 3.5 billion dollars in this time is not an easy task. And, this is the first private sector investment in Africa that has attracted 1 billion dollar equity fund."

Speaking shortly after presenting the Certificate of Occupancy to the Company officials, Governor Seriake Dickson assured the management of the Brass Fertilizer Company Ltd of his administration's readiness to sustain the existing conducive operating environment for business investments to thrive in the state.

Governor Dickson, who announced a 2 year tax holiday for the Company, explained that, the gesture was aimed at facilitating the early commencement of the much desired investment.

While commending the Management of the Company for its efforts, especially in the area of funding, the Governor re-echoed his call on the Federal Government, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC and other investing partners to urgently bring the Brass Liquefied Natural Gas project on stream.

His words, "We are delighted having you here and we appreciate all the efforts you have been making to raise money to fund this very ambitious project. I thank you for your continual interest in our state and for foreseeing what a number of people have not seen, which is that, Bayelsa is Nigeria's best kept investment secret."



Governor Henry Seriake Dickson

"On behalf of the Government, we assure you of our continued support, in terms of providing a conducive operating environment, which is what I've just demonstrated with the signing and presentation of the Certificate of Occupancy over the land you are interested in using to start up this all-important project."

"To further encourage you, I've also directed a waiver of all fees for two years so that in the next one or two years, when the project must have started, you will then pay up all fees to the last kobo. We want you to put that money into the project and get it started," the Governor stressed.

African Development Bank Calls Off Proposed Loans to Nigeria

The African Development Bank has called off a loan to Nigeria that would have helped fund the country's budget, instead redirecting the money to specific projects, a vice president at the lender said on Monday. The African Development Bank had been in talks with Nigeria for around a year to release the second, \$400 million tranche of a \$1 billion loan to shore up its budget for 2017, as the government tried to reinvigorate its stagnant economy with heavy spending. But Nigeria refused to meet the terms of international lenders, which also included the World Bank, to enact various reforms, including allowing its currency, the naira, to float freely on the foreign exchange market. Rather

Because prices for oil, on which

Nigeria's government relies for about two-thirds of its revenues, have risen and the naira-dollar exchange rate has improved, the country is relying less than expected on external borrowing, Hott said.

No one from the Nigerian finance ministry was immediately available to comment.

Nigeria's 2017 budget, 7.44 trillion naira, is just one in a series of record budgets that the government has faced obstacles funding, pushing it to seek loans from overseas.

In late 2016, the AfDB agreed to lend Nigeria a first tranche of \$600 million out of \$1 billion. But negotiations over economic reform later bogged down, blocking attempts to secure the second tranche of \$400 million, sources told Reuters then.

Now, AfDB's loans will be more targeted, Hott said.

"It's hundreds of millions of dollars, just in one go, that we were supposed to provide in budget support, but we will move into real projects..." he said.

Earlier this month, the head of Nigeria's Debt Management Office said the country is still in talks with the World Bank for a \$1.6 billion loan, which will help plug part of an expected \$7.5 billion deficit for 2017.

The administration is also trying to restructure its debt to move away from high-interest, naira-denominated loans and towards dollar loans, which carry lower rates.

Strategic Development Plan on Domestic Gas Export -NLNG MD

The Managing Director of Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG), Tony Attah, at the recently concluded Nigerian Economic Summit in Abuja, said that a long-term strategic development plan would encourage investments, improve infrastructure in the country and boost production of both export and domestic gas.

Chairing a breakout panel discussion at the Energy Session of the 23rd Nigerian Economic Summit (NES) titled "Exploring private sector opportunities and investment in gas," Attah remarked that the domestic gas export business could easily attract more investments which can be used to develop the much-needed infrastructure to unlock and unleash the potentials of proven and unproven domestic gas reserves of 187 and 600 trillion cubic feet (tcf) respectively in the country. He added that this can only be enabled via the right policies,

legislation, and incentives to drive investments in the sector.

The session was attended by the Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum, Dr. Ibe Kachikwu; the Group Managing Director of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Dr. Maikant Baru as well as the President of the Nigerian Gas Association, Engineer Dada Thomas and other industry chief executives.

Commenting on the potential of domestic gas in Nigeria, Attah stressed that it was time for gas development in Nigeria, adding that the industry can stimulate growth in every sector of the economy especially agriculture, industries, and power, but it will only do so if factors currently inhibiting rapid growth are effectively addressed.

"Underinvestment in appraisal and exploration activities due to inconsistent policies, unattractive commercial framework, security of investments, etc. invariably impact gas reserves, production, and commercialization".

Summarising short to long-term solutions reached by the panel, Attah stated that the gas industry should be liberalized and a climate of the willing seller and willing buyer should drive gas price, rather than the current practice of pricecapping.

He also remarked further that Nigeria and Qatar started out in the gas business about the same time, however, Qatar has rapidly developed its gas industry and produces 77 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) while Nigeria's current capacity is just about 22 mtpa.

Earlier, while opening the session, Dr. Kachikwu said the Federal Government is looking at more gas investments as part of a strategic move from oil. He stated that the government is reviewing the existing Production Sharing Contract (PSC) gas terms as well as strengthening implementation of gas policies to encourage exploration of gas, adding that "gas infrastructure is a key area but policies will have to drive tariff possibilities."

NLNG Demands USD 315 Million Judgment Debt From NIMASA

The Management of Nigeria LNG has formally issued a demand notice for the sum of USD \$315,598,821.29 judgment debt to the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA). The sum represents the payments made under protest to the Agency by NLNG since 2013, as well as direct and shipping losses incurred by NLNG due to the initial 2-day blockade of the Bonny Channel by

NIMASA in May 2013.

The development followed the decision on October 3, 2017, by the Federal High Court, Lagos that NLNG was not liable to make the said payments to NIMASA, and that all such payments already made by NLNG to NIMASA should be refunded forthwith. The Honourable Court Presided over by Justice M. B. Idris further held that NIMASA was wrong in blockading the Bonny Channel for the purpose of enforcing

the payments against NLNG.

Commenting on the development, General Manager External Relations Dr. Kudo Eresia Eke said: "The Federal High Court ruling transcends being simply a legal victory for NLNG. It must be viewed for what it really is: A resounding message from Nigeria to the global investment community. The message is that we can be trusted to keep our sovereign word and that Nigeria remains open for business partnership and investments."

NIMASA had alleged that NLNG was liable to pay three percent gross freight levy on its international inbound and outbound cargo, Sea Protection Levy, two percent cabotage surcharge as well as other sundry claims, all of which NLNG disputed. NLNG, in 2013 filed the case at the Federal High Court against NIMASA, seeking a judicial determination on, among other things, the legality or otherwise of the levies sought to be imposed on NLNG by NIMASA, and the consequent blockade of the Bonny Channel by NIMASA and its agent as a result of the dispute.

NLNG had also sought a Court Order restraining NIMASA from further blockade of the Channel. An Interim Injunction granted in favor of NLNG by the Federal High Court was disobeyed by NIMASA, which again blockaded the Bonny Channel over a three week period while the matter was pending, thereby preventing NLNG vessels and other vessels doing business with the Company from entry and exit through the Channel.



Tony Attah, MD NLNG



Dr. Dahunke Peterside, MD NIMASA

NNPC/Agip JV to Increase Power Generation by 480mw

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) Joint Venture is set to boost the Federal Government power generation aspiration by 480 megawatts (MW) through the completion of its Okpai Phase II Independent Power Project (IPP) by 2019.

This was disclosed in Abuja on Thursday during the inauguration of the Okpai Phase II power project by the Group Managing Director of NNPC Dr. Maikanti Kacalla Bara.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Bara said all partners were working round the clock to deliver on the project in terms of specifications, time and budget.

He said the decision by the partners to embark on the second phase of the Okpai power project was hinged on the enormous success of Okpai Phase I, which he described as the most consistent power plant in the country.

"Although it (Okpai Phase I) was meant to generate 450MW into national grid, it is now generating an average of 500MW due to evacuation challenge. This is a significant addition to the national grid," he said.



*Dr. Maikanti Kacalla Bara,
Group Managing Director of NNPC*

He said the Okpai Phase II project, on completion, would generate additional 480MW into the national grid.

He charged the 12-man committee to work hard and explore the possibility of

delivering the project ahead of the 2019 target date, stressing that the project was very critical to the nation's power aspirations.

The GMD also urged the JV partners to sustain the march towards transforming into an Independent JV in keeping with Presidential approval.

Earlier, the Managing Director of NAOC, Mr. Massimo Intala, who was represented by Mr. Luca Bai, said everything had been put in place to ensure that the Okpai Phase II Project was delivered on schedule.

In his remarks, Deputy CEO of Oando, Mr. Olanifemi Boyo, said his company was committed to sustaining the successes recorded in Phase I of the project, assuring that they would work with other partners to ensure prompt and timely delivery of the project.

'FG Owes N'Delta N1trn Gas Flare Debt'

A civil society organisation, Centre for Peace and Environmental Justice (CEPEJ) has accused the Federal Government of withholding gas flare penalty amounting to over N1trillion, meant for communities in the Niger Delta. Addressing newsmen in Abuja on its forthcoming annual conference tagged 'Edo 2017,' National Coordinator of CEPEJ, Comrade Sherriff Mulade also claimed that the three per cent statutory levy paid by oil companies to the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) over the years had not been utilised for the benefit of the region, alleging that the money had been diverted by politicians.

He said, "In the gas flare penalties paid to the Federal Government amounting to about N1trillion, we are shocked that up till this moment, none of this money has been released to the communities, and I believe this is mainly because none of these communities have the capacity to agitate for this fund."

He, however, stated that CEPEJ was aware of the challenges of the communities as regards accessing the gas flare penalty funds, stating

that it was in putting in place strategies to confront the Federal Government and ensure that the funds were released to the communities directly, not through a commission.

"This is because most of the commissions set up are politically-inclined and are used by politicians to compensate their friends," he explained.

Mulade said the conference with its theme: 'Sustainable Security and Environment in the Niger Delta: A Key to Nigeria Development,' and scheduled to hold November 7 and 8, 2017, would deliberate on the refusal of the Federal Government to release the gas flare penalty money and on other issues ranging from security and environmental challenges in the region.

Meanwhile, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), has said it has mapped out strategies to boost security around its depots and pump stations to ensure they remain functional.

In a statement, the NNPC explained that

this was part of efforts to consolidate on the successes recorded in the steady supply and distribution of petroleum products across the country.

According to the statement, Managing Director of the Nigerian Pipeline and Storage Company (NPSC), Mr. Luke Anle, spoke during a bid opening exercise for the selection of firms to provide security services at the company's depots and pump stations across the country.

Represented by NPSC's Executive Director in-charge of Pipelines, Mr. Daoladi Ahmed, Anle stated that the NPSC was desirous of engaging reputable and competent security firms to safeguard its critical assets to ensure unimpeded operations and efficient service.

Law Ministers Meeting ends with pledge to reform key legislation

Commonwealth citizens are set to benefit from improved legal services in a range of areas as law ministers ended their meeting in The Bahamas with a package of agreements and pledges. Tackling terrorism, addressing climate change, responding to natural disasters, meeting sustainable development goals and eradicating early and forced marriage were all on the wide-ranging agenda. After three days of deliberations, ministers pledged to pursue key law reforms in a number of



Commonwealth Lawyers

"This was a critical moment for the Commonwealth for so many reasons," said Secretary-General Patricia Scotland. "Dominica and Barbuda are still in ruins after devastating hurricanes Irma and Maria, and millions of people in Asia and Africa are still suffering the after-effects of mudslides, floods and desertification."

"Countries at the table are also dealing with a frightening escalation of violent and virtual crime, the impact of global terrorism and violent extremism, and with young girls being taken out of school and forced into marriage. These are just some of the challenges facing the nations represented at our meeting, and I am so proud of the diligence, commitment and resolutions of law ministers to find solutions to these issues."

Ministers and attorneys-general agreed to review and strengthen legal frameworks and legislation to prevent the grooming and recruitment of terrorists and to stop them crossing borders and being funded. They discussed how to make this aspiration a reality and recognised the importance of community involvement.

Delegates also focused on law reforms to help their countries achieve targets to lower global temperatures and to support the smooth operation of relief efforts during and after natural disasters. They discussed how they will work, as legal advisers to government, to develop legal frameworks to improve health, education, employment, financial and other critical services relevant to the

achievement of their sustainable development goals.

"There were many aspirations expressed at this meeting and to ensure that we are able to turn them into action, the Secretariat offered ministers a number of tools and support mechanisms," said the Secretary-General.

"Our new legislative drafting handbook and guide to law reform will take legal drafters and those responsible for law reform through a step by step, stage by stage guide to create or amend laws in any of the areas discussed. These are going to help all our countries, but will be particularly valuable to developing and smaller nations with limited resources."

She continued, "The theme of the meeting was Strengthening the Rule of Law through Technology, so we offered all ministers access to our Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform, which provides technical assistance and an online platform with best practice guides, model laws, standards, templates and legal insight on a range of issues."

The Secretariat also presented a new secure messaging mobile app which will be trialled in 2018. This app will enhance international cooperation by helping countries to collaborate to tackle cross-border and organised crime.

Delegates underscored the importance of these meetings as a forum for sharing best practice, one of the

Commonwealth's greatest advantages. Mariene Malahon-Forte, Attorney General of Jamaica, said this year's summit provided an opportunity for vibrant discussion and collaboration on key issues. Anisul Haq, Minister for Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs in Bangladesh, said "The issues that have been taken up in this conference are very pertinent to us and it is important that we come here, we share our experiences and we exchange ideas to improve on these issues."

Samoa's Minister of Justice & Courts Administration, Faanlessa Kanopau Aina'u, praised the Commonwealth Secretariat for preparing a strong agenda.

Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice & Electronics & Information Technology in India, said, "This is an occasion to share the best practices, the smaller countries, the big countries. In that way this interaction is very very meaningful, very very purposive. We make good friends, many of the problems are similar in many ways, the solutions can be similar."

The Bahamas' Attorney General, Carl Bethel, who hosted the event, described the summit as a very important forum for law ministers across the Commonwealth, "to come together to share best practices and consider our responses, both as a Commonwealth and as individual countries to shared challenges."

Russia Signs Agreement With Nigeria for Nuclear Power Plant

Russia has signed agreements with Nigeria to build and operate a nuclear power plant in the oil-rich West African nation that has a deficit of reliable power and faces security challenges by Islamist militants in the far northeast.

Feasibility studies for the plant and a research center construction will include site screening, capacity, financing, and time frames of the projects, state-owned Russian nuclear company Rosatom said in an emailed statement. Representatives from the firm and the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission signed the deal.

The nations in 2009 signed an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of the peaceful

usage of nuclear technologies. Nigeria in 2015 was in talks with Rosatom to build as many as four nuclear power plants costing about \$20 billion, the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission said at the time.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, distributes an average of 4,500 megawatts of electricity. Half the output of the Egbin power plant, the nation's biggest, is lost because of inadequate transmission infrastructure, its chief officer said last month.

Rosatom is seeking to build nuclear power plants in other countries on the continent including South Africa.



2019: ITS BUHARI VS DOGARA

From Vincent Egwunyenga

As the 2019 Presidential election gathers momentum, it is now getting clearer that the contest is likely to be between President Muhammadu Buhari and the Speaker of the House of Representatives Hon Yakubu Dogara.

This may come to many as a surprise as both are from the North and members of the ruling party the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Events in the last one week has indicated that President Muhammadu Buhari will be seeking a second term in term in office. He is said to be mobilizing his campaign machineries.

The Buhari Support Group, an amalgamation of about 189 different support groups that worked for President Muhammadu Buhari and the All Progressive Congress (APC), in the 2015 General Elections

has said he has no option but to contest the 2019 elections.

The leader of the group, Abu Ibrahim and Senate Leader, Ahmed Lawan, who were in the Presidential Villa to meet with Buhari, to intimate him of the activities of the group, said they believe in his philosophy.

Ibrahim said though the issue of 2019 did not come up at the meeting, the group believes Buhari can ensure the progress, stability and prosperity of the nation.

He said: "Well, we came here as members of the national committee of the Buhari support group. This is an amalgamation of about 189 different support groups that had worked for President Muhammadu Buhari and the APC to win the 2015 general election. We have been holding meetings, discussing the problems of this country, Nigeria. So, we thought it was high time we met with the President to intimate him about the activities of the group.

In the same vein Hameed Ali, comptroller-general of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), says the All Progressives Congress (APC)

government "cannot move forward" because 50 percent of those in the current administration are from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Ali said this on recently while speaking at the official commissioning of the national headquarters of Buhari Support Organisations (BSO) in Abuja.

The customs CG said the Buhari administration ought not to have allowed PDP members to call the shots.

He said some of those who played major roles for the party to come to power in 2015 had not been fully appreciated.

"Today, with all sense of responsibility, I want to say that we have 50 percent of PDP in our government. How can we move forward with this load? How can we achieve our target with this load? It is a spoilt system and so," he said.

"When you come in, you shake off everybody and bring in your own. That is what democracy is all about.

"Today, we have members of PDP calling the shots. That is what we will begin to fight for, we will fight for our right position, our vision and our mission for this government.

"I will, therefore, ask my colleagues of the BSO to go back to the

study room. This is a commission, but it is also the beginning of the fight for good governance. We must get back to the trenches, draw our own battle plan and battle line.

"I enjoin you that the same commitment we had in 2015, I employ you to bear with us and commit yourself to a better future for Nigeria. We will be calling on you from now on and we will be working day and night. "We must do so because we want to save our name and the name of the president for what he is doing."

Ali who had a face-off with the senate earlier in the year is not known for making political statements.

President Buhari who was also said to have held discussions with some Northern state governors at the Aso Rock Villa on Friday 27th October 2017 after the Friday Jumat Prayer was said to have told them of his plan to seek reelection in 2019.

Buhari is said to have won the 2015 Presidential election by mobilizing Muslim communities in the



President Muhammadu Buhari



Hon Yakubu Dogara. Speaker of the House of Representatives

country that the election against then incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan was a holy war. Many people especially from the North mobilized for him to win the election.

A former governor of Jigawa state Alihaji Sule Lamido confirmed this in a recent interview with newsmen shortly after the 2015 election that Buhari's supporters campaigned in the name of Islam and that those who do not support his candidacy were regarded as unbelievers.

No sooner than he was sworn in as President many started accusing his government of trying to Islamise the

country. An allegations that he himself has not tried to deny, leaving the Vice President Professor Yemi Oshinbajo and the Sultan of Sokoto and even the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja John Cardinal Onaiyekan to do the denial.

The appointments done so far by the President is said to have favoured only muslims.

MANY ARE HOWEVER MAKING MOVES to truncate the President's re election bid. The opponents of Buhari's reelection are conscious of his support and

popularity among the Northern poor most of whom are Muslims. These supporters are also fanatical.

The first moves to break Buhari's support base in the North was to bring another muslim to contest against him and split his votes among muslims. Names like former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, former Governor of Jigawa state Sule Lamido among others came up. But the Presidency is said to have begun moves to fight them back. Atiku's company INTELS contracts with the Nigeria Ports Authority was recently cancelled, while mob has continued to attack Sule Lamido.

THE JOKER AGAINST BUHARI'S RE ELECTION IS HON YAKUBU DOGARA THE SPEAKER OF THE NIGERIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A Christian and from Bauchi core North has become acceptable to many especially Christians in the North. With his emergence DOGARA will split the North along Muslim/Christian divide thereby reducing Buhari's popularity to only the North West of KANO, SOKOTO, KATSINA, JIGAWA, ZAMFARA AND KEBBI STATES.

A member of Northern Christian elders forum who spoke on condition of anonymity said although Dogara has been approached to carry the flag for them but he is yet to give a positive response.

The move by Northern Christians is however said to have received the blessing of Southern Nigerians majority of who are Christians. **YAKUBU DOGARA WILL BE EXPECTED TO PICK A YORUBA MUSLIM AS HIS RUNNING MATE.**

PART of the measures put in place to win the support of the South which will be used during the campaign included **CHRISTIAN SENTIMENTS, RESTRUCTURING, DEVOLUTION OF POWERS TO THE STATES, ETC.**

AMONG the grudges the North has against Buhari is the issue of Kidnapp of the Chibok girls most of whom are Christians and they believed it was a grand plan by Muslims to humiliate Christians. They also believe that after using them to win election IN 2015 Buhari had abandoned them while

doing nothing to end the killing in Benue and Plateau states by rampaging Fulani herdsmen.

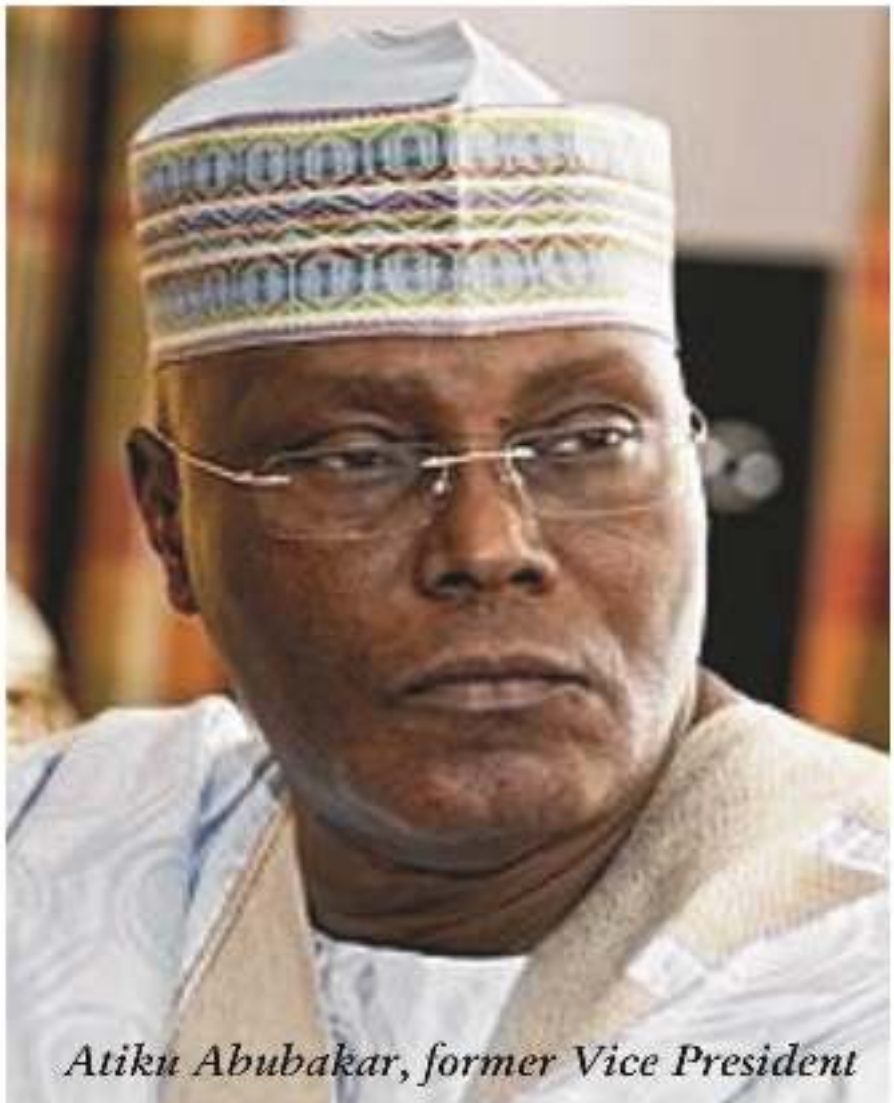
Meanwhile Speaker Yakubu Dogara has called on Nigerians to pray for him to be able to take a right decision at the right time saying that Nigeria's future is secured because of Nigerians' commitment to God.

Dogara made the assertion at the pre-event prayer session for National Prayer Breakfast, titled "The place of God in nation building".

He said at the prayer session organised by Christian Legislators that all hope was not yet lost for the country.

"As in the case of Abraham's encounter with God over the fate of the city Sodom and Gomorrah, God will intervene to save this country.

"What gives me hope is that we have so many people who are committed to God. The



Atiku Abubakar, former Vice President

future of Nigeria is secured.

"We have a very bright future, we have great army of leaders in this country," he said.

Reading from the book of Isaiah 60:12, he urged all Nigerians, to return to God.

He said that it was stated in the Holy Bible "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."

He also quoted from Robert Cooper, one of Europe's most respected scholar-diplomats.

His book titled: "The Breaking of Nations", warned that "the 21st century may be worse" than any previous time in history because "the new century risks being overrun by both anarchy and technology."

"I like the idea that only few of us are here. Jesus wasn't a fan of a crowd. He

chose few, almost all of them successful Professionals.

"Luke was a physician, Mathew an accountant, Peter and others running a successful fishing company.

"Every change or revolution has always been promoted by few change agents and early adaptors. Bults of the people always come later," he stated.

DOGARA has begun to receive endorsements from some Christian leaders in the country. General Overseer and founder of Living Faith Church, Bishop David Oyedepo, has said that he has zero doubt about the integrity and person of Speaker Yakubu Dogara of the House of Representatives.

Speaking when he hosted the Speaker and some members of the House of Representatives in Canaan Land, Ota, Ogun State, Bishop Oyedepo described Hon. Dogara as a true follower of God.

"I have zero doubt about his integrity, I will stand with him anywhere. The testimony of his front-

line role in the Christian youth Corper's Fellowship in Akwa Ibom is there in the record today. In spite of the attack on his health, he still went back to complete his mission there. It's not just about religion, it's about the fear of God and the love for humanity."

"The Honourable Speaker, Rt. Hon. Dogara is a follower of this Commission. And no wonder he's manifesting the Grace of this Commission. How could someone do away with his six months of salary? If he told me I would tell him don't do it. But he would do what his father does, and so he must see what his father sees. Your lifting has just started, your promotion has just begun. He has remained consistent in his walk with God."

Bishop Oyedepo admonished Nigerians to have faith in the country as according to him, "Nigeria is coming out" and prayed that "Every wish of the devil against Nigeria will not flourish. Nigeria will prosper again. And the kind of things we are hearing today are the only way out, let us sit down together and solve our problems. The whole world is watching, Syria is dead, no nation will come and take responsibility for you, we must wake up and take responsibility."



Sule Lamido, Former Governor of Jigawa State

Bishop David Oyedepo endorse Speaker Dogara, Commends His Integrity, Personality

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Dr. Oyedepo revealed that his driving motivation is that it doesn't have to be white, to be right because "the brain of man is the same world-over, same content, same weight, same color. There's no white brain and black brain, same color, what's the problem? With adequate engagement of this resource, we can solve our problems."

According to the Speaker's Special Adviser on Media and Public Affairs, Turaki Adamu Hassan, Hon. Dogara while speaking



Bishop David Oyedepo

earlier, revealed that he committed his six months salaries to the project of building Covenant University and how God's grace and favour has been upon him since then.

He showered encomiums on the man of God whom he said has been source of inspiration to him saying, "You have never ceased to inspire people like us and to inspire our generation. We pray that God will continue to increase and enlarge your coast. We pray God gives you uncommon and unparalleled wisdom. So that we can rescue not just Nigeria, but the black race. I see this as one of the arms of your investment that will achieve this in our life time."

Members who accompanied the Speaker to Canaan Land include Hon. Aminu Jaji (Zamfara), Hon. Golu Timothy (Plateau), Hon. E. J. Aghonayinma (Ido), Jonathan Gaza (Nasarawa), Hon. Kayode Oladele (Ogun), Akinlade Olajide (Ogun), and Hon. Jimoh Olusola Ojugbele (Ogun)

Pro-Buhari Group Flags off President's 2019 Reelection Campaign in Abuja



The Buhari Support Group, an amalgamation of about 189 different support groups that worked for President Muhammadu Buhari and the All Progressive Congress (APC), has said he has no option but to contest the 2019 elections.

The leader of the group, Abu Ibrahim and Senate Leader, Ahmed Lawan, who were in the Presidential Villa to meet with Buhari, to inform him of the activities of the group, said they believe in his philosophy.

Ibrahim said though the issue of 2019 did not come up at the meeting, the group believes Buhari can ensure the progress, stability and prosperity of the nation.

He said: "Well, we came here as members of the national committee of the Buhari support group. This is an amalgamation of about 189 different support groups that had worked for President

Muhammadu Buhari and the APC to win the 2015 general election. We have been holding meetings, discussing the problems of this country, Nigeria. So, we thought it was high time we met with the President to intimate him about the activities of the group.

"We discussed with him about the plans to improve the situation in Nigeria. Mr. President was very pleased with our programmes."

Asked if the group was trying to convince him to contest the 2019 Presidential election, Ibrahim said, "Well, that didn't come up actually. We only discussed the programmes of the organization and problems of the group. But we didn't go into the 2019 elections."

Asked if the group is going to encourage him, Ibrahim said: "Yes. Because I believe in his philosophy and I believe he can solve the problems of this nation. He can ensure the progress, stability and prosperity of this nation."

Lawan, on his part said it is not enough to help a party win election but also to support the government of the day to succeed.

"You know it is not enough to help in elections like most of us did. It is important that we continue to support the President and his administration across the nation as a group, this

is what we will continue to do. "We will continue to identify with and support all the programmes that this administration has set forward. And I believe that we have every justification to be happy because, the President campaigned on three major pillars of anti-corruption, fighting the insecurity across the country and revitalizing the economy of Nigeria. It has been a very, very good journey so far and also we believe that Mr. President and Nigerians have a future beyond 2019. What he has started, by the grace of God, he should be able to complete, up to 2023."

Asked the areas Buhari could improve upon ahead of 2019, Lawan said, "Well, we have issues we think that the administration will be dealing with very successfully, now that we have economic recovery and growth plan which encapsulates everything we need to move Nigeria forward. Now that Nigerians have continued to show love for Mr. President, I believe that we are going to achieve those things that we set for ourselves at the moment. I also believe that the future is bright and by the grace of God, by 2019, we would have achieved so much in this administration and Mr. President will have no option but continue the good work he has started."

Nigeria's future is secured, says Dogara



Hon Yakubu Dogara, Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Yakubu Dogara, says Nigeria's future is secured because of Nigerians' commitment to God.

Dogara made the assertion on Wednesday at the pre-event prayer session for National Prayer Breakfast, titled "The place of God in nation building".

He said at the prayer session organised by Christian Legislators that all hope was not yet lost for the country.

"As in the case of Abraham's encounter with God over the fate of the city Sodom and Gomorrah, God will intervene to save this country.

"What gives me hope is that we have so many people who are committed to God. The future of Nigeria is secured.

"We have a very bright future, we have great army of leaders in this

country," he said.

Reading from the book of Isaiah 60:12, he urged all Nigerians, to return to God.

He said that it was stated in the Holy Bible "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."

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"I like the idea that only few of us are here. Jesus wasn't a fan of a crowd. He chose few, almost all of them successful professionals.

"Luke was a physician, Mathew an accountant, Peter and others running a

successful fishing company.

"Every change or revolution has always been promoted by few change agents and early adaptors. Bulls of the people always come later," he stated.

The speaker argued that "no nation can be built without God who is the source, foundation, supporter, and sustainer of His people.

"The times in which we live, millions have watched the efforts of America, Britain and the United Nations to rebuild Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and other struggling countries.

"While it is shocking to see the devastation and suffering caused by war.

It has also been sobering to witness the difficulties, frustrations and intrigues that have accompanied these human-driven attempts to intervene and rebuild nations where millions have been abused and exploited."

He noted that failing nations and cultural decline had made nation building a major concern in our world today.

According to him, there is no shortage of candidates willing to tackle the challenge.

"Communists, socialists, monarchists, dictators and democracies and even religious leaders have all tried their hand at solving these problems.

"Yet none have found the key for building truly successful nations or salvaging faltering countries.

"All nations today are struggling with their peculiar problems; thus, according to him, "will God descend from heaven to rebuild this nation?

"Will God send angels to rebuild our nation? God didn't do it for Israel and He won't do it for Nigeria.

"This responsibility rests on our shoulders and whether we succeed or not depend on the source of our wisdom.

"Without God nothing works. Except we are back in our Eden, we cannot accomplish the task of nation building," he said.

The National Prayer Breakfast is organised annually on the last Thursday of the month and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo is expected to deliver the sermon at the main event on Thursday in Abuja.

2019: Buhari's Supporters Attacked Sule Lamido's campaign rally in Jigawa

A campaign rally of Alhaji Sule Lamido, former Jigawa governor and presidential hopeful on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), was attacked by thugs on Wednesday, October 25, The Sun reports.

The mayhem reportedly began when Lamido decided to address his supporters after inspecting his campaign office in Kaduna.

The hoodlums allegedly descended on the gathering just after the former governor blasted the Buhari administration for its poor handling of the country.

The thugs reportedly came in brandishing various weapons, and inflicted harm on Lamido's supporters.

As the attack unfolded, journalists reportedly took to their heels, while dignitaries tried to notify the relevant security agencies about the incident.

During his blistering speech against Buhari, Lamido had stated: "When there is peace in Nigeria there will be development and growth; when there is stability, people can invest.



Sule Lamido, Former Governor of Jigawa State

"Today there is instability in Nigeria because our chemistry cannot blend. We are busy maligning each other, dehumanizing each other and abusing each other.

"Nigerian government will mock you if you complain. If I am waiting my people will say, Sule what is your problem? This is the only government that people have been mocked for expressing their opinion.

"We have been demonised because of our opinion. We will not succumb, because this is our country. We shall revive Nigeria.

"Today, they have turned Nigeria

to a theatre. People have been demonized and mocked; so, I am telling you the youths, the future is yours.

"I will not tolerate any youth smoking marijuana, brandishing swords or cutlasses or any weapons.

"Today Nigeria is basically gone because our chemistry is not blending. There is so much hate and demonisation and persecution such that you are only accepted as a Nigerian if you are in APC.

"If you are in PDP, they see you as dirty, a ringer, thief and Boko Haram and yet, the APC government is a creation of PDP because it was conceived by some of our men. Minus PDP, APC couldn't have been in power."



Osinbajo condemns criticisms against Sukuk Bond, says nobody will Islamise Nigeria

Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, said that it was impossible for anyone to Islamise Nigeria, as claimed by Christian interests. He also noted that many people look for Islamic agenda everywhere as if they were looking for demons.

The Punch reports that Osinbajo, who was speaking in Lagos on Friday, October 27 during the Greater Nigeria Pastors Conference convened by Apostle Wale Adefarasin and Rev. Abayomi Kasali, explained that the recent uproar over the country's subscription to Sukuk Bonds was not justified.

Osinbajo said: *"Part of the problem is the failure of Christian leadership to take its rightful place. We focus our minds on something we call the Islamic agenda. We look for it everywhere as if we are looking for demons."*

"But where is the Christian agenda. Are we not entitled to one? We are too divided as Christians to have an agenda. The key to the unity and progress of Nigeria is in the church."

According to him, there were no plans to Islamise Nigeria through the Sukuk bond or the

country's membership of the Islamic Development Bank.

He said that apart from Nigeria, many nations of the world including the United States of America and the United Kingdom had also embraced the system as a result of its progressive nature.

He said: *"The Sukuk is an Islamic concept, which enables people to have access to credit. It is essentially like a bond. The*

US, UK, China, South Africa have all used the Sukuk. Once there is money in the market, let us not get sentimental. The most important thing is for us to use those monies well.

"Some people say there are some hidden things in this arrangement and that one day somebody is going to take us over. Where? How will that happen? These are straightforward financial systems used all over the world. I don't think it presents any real problem. It is a very progressive financial system."

"Nigeria became a member of the Islamic Development Bank in 2005 and the first person to sit as director of the bank was Nguzi Okonjo-Iweala. The second person to sit as a director is the current finance minister, Kemi Adenoso, and both of them are Christians. So, when people talk about Islamic agenda, sometimes I am lost."

"The person who brought us into the bank is not a Fulani or northerner, the person was a Christian, so why are we complaining? Nigeria is the fourth largest shareholder in the Islamic Bank. This wasn't Buhari's making. We must have facts before saying things. But above all, we must ask ourselves if being a member of the bank profits us or not."

"For me, I have no problem with this. We can use what we get there to develop our society. This is the most important for me."

Osinbajo also spoke on the case of a former Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Pension Reforms, Abdulrasheed Maina, who was discovered to have been reinstated in the Federal Civil Service, after he had earlier fled the country in 2013 after corruption charges were brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

The vice president said the country's system made it possible for criminals to go undetected.

He said: *"If you look at our present federal structure, it is designed in such a way that you may be able to hide somewhere for a day or two before you are found. Otherwise, how do you explain a situation where a fugitive suddenly appears and finds his way back into the system? How did he get there?"*

"What Buhari did immediately he heard about the matter was to query

how it happened and ordered his disengagement, which is the right thing to do. As for what will happen, we may have to wait and see."

Osinbajo accused the country's elite of working against the progress of the country.

While calling on citizens to support the current administration in its fight against corruption, the vice president said that Nigeria was at the threshold of history and would soon fulfil its full potential.

He said: *"We must deal with corruption decisively. It is created by leadership elite that includes not just politicians but also religious leaders and people in the private sector. We must also deal with tribalism, religious and other parochial tendencies. It is difficult to find national leaders today. Many Nigerians speak from a tribal perspective."*

"There is no nation on the face of the earth that would survive under the weight of corruption that our country had gone through. Nigeria's elite, regardless of political, religious or ethnic differences, think alike. They are driven largely by the same motive."

"They are selfish, unprepared to make the sacrifices either in service or self-restraint that leaders of successful societies make. High-level corruption knows no religion, ethnicity or other considerations."

"Corrupt elements in our society are united; they fight for each other and are prepared to go down together. They are actually one tribe, indivisible despite their diversity."

"We have to address the issue of corruption pointedly. The system is corrupt. Corruption is generally the rule in our society. This is a time to build. We can become Africa's most productive nation in the very near future."





Rt. Hon. **Yakubu Dogara**

Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara was born in December 1967 in Bauchi State, where he had his primary and secondary education before heading to the University of Jos in 1982 to study Law.

He currently represents Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa-Balewa Federal Constituency, and is serving his third term as a federal lawmaker, after first being elected in 2007.

Education

His education began in 1976 at Gwaramgah Primary School in Bauchi state. In 1982, he proceeded to the Bauchi Teachers' College for his secondary education, and obtained a Grade II Teachers' Certificate in 1987.

In 1988, he went on to the University of Jos, Plateau State, from where he obtained a Bachelor of Law (LLB Hons.) degree in 1992. He then proceeded to law school and was eventually called to the Bar in 1993.

He later obtained a Masters (LLM) in International Commercial Law at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen,

Scotland.

In 2006, he attended a course on Managing and Leading Strategic Change and in 2013, he completed another course on Negotiation at the Oxford University. In 2014, he went on to the Harvard Kennedy School for yet another course on Leadership.

Professional and Political Career

After graduating from the Bauchi Teachers' College, he took up employment in April 1988 as a teacher at the ATBU Staff School in Bauchi. In 1993, during the mandatory National Youth Service Corps, he served at NCCF, Akwa Ibom state, and upon completion of the NYSC programme in 1994, he went into private legal practice until 2005 when he was appointed Special Assistant to the then Minister of State for Transport.

He held this position until 2006, when he decided to contest to represent the Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa-Balewa constituency at the Federal House of Representatives. His bid proved successful and he has been a member of the House since 2007.

AMBASSADOR AKPANG ADE OBI ODU

4 BASIN ROAD. OGBOJA- OGOJA. CROSS RIVER STATE

The Executive Secretary
National Judiciary Service Commission
Supreme Court Complex
Abuja

Sir,

E- ELECTION PETITION TRIBUNAL IN CROSS RIVER STATE 2015 FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE OGOJA/YALA FEDERAL CONSTITUNCY/ DEMANDING FOR N750,000,000 (SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION NAIRA) AS DAMAGES FOR THE NON CONSTITUTION OF ANY ELECTION TRIBUNAL PANEL TO HEAR AND DETERMINE MY 2015 ELECTION PETITION ARISING FROM THE NATIONAL AND STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTION

1. The above subject matter refers.
2. I AKPANG ADE OBI ODU, male, retired Army Major, Politician, former Nigerian Ambassador to South Korea, One time Hon. Commissioner, Cross River State Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport, Christian and citizen of the Federal Republic of Nigeria now residing at Obi Odu Estate, No.4 Basin Road, Abakpa, Ogoja and a native of Adagom, Odajie- Mbube in Ogoja Local Government Area Cross River State.
3. I contested the House of Representatives Election under the platform of Labour Party during the recently concluded 2015 general elections and further lodged a petition before the National and State House of Assembly Election Tribunal holden in Calabar on the 17th April 2015. The petition was however, dismissed on technical grounds on the 5th of August 2015.
4. I went further to the Appeal Court to seek redress but the appeal was again dismissed by the Appeal Tribunal holden in Calabar on the 29th of September, 2015.
5. However, it then come to my notice that the Election Tribunal (Panel One) that dealt with my matter was not properly constituted according to law as regards qualification of the Chairman who is a Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal from Taraba State which negates the sixth schedule of the 1999 Constitution as amended that expressly provides: **The Chairman Shall be a Judge of the High Court.**
6. Consequently, all proceedings from the

National and State Assembly Election Petition Tribunal Chaired by Justice C. Awubra sitting as (Panel One) which dismissed my petition on technical grounds are a nullity and so are the Appeal Tribunal decision also a nullity. See Annexure A being judgment by the Tribunal (Panel One) disqualifying themselves.

7. On the 6th Oct 2015 I wrote a letter to the President of the Court of Appeal and raised the above issues in order that necessary action be taken to cause my matter to be heard by a competent court, see Annexures B and C the response from the President of the Court of Appeal which was dated 12th Oct 2015 and I have since then been very traumatized because of the way and manner the President of the Court of Appeal has used the office as President of the Appeal Court to inflict damage to my fundamental human right and also for laying the foundation for depriving me and **mischievously ensuring that my above matter was not heard before any competent court or Tribunal. And deny me any opportunity for fair hearing.**

8. As it stands, no Tribunal was set up to hear and determine my election petition in Cross River State consequently the **disqualification of the Chairman** of the Tribunal who is a **Judge of a Customary Court of Appeal in Taraba State of Nigeria and not a Judge of the High Court as required by the Constitution.**

9. The President of the Court of Appeal

cannot claim ignorance of the above and yet wrote Annexure B even when I raised the issue of the disqualification of the Chairman of the Election Tribunal and the Hon President of the Court of Appeal still had ample time to setup a Tribunal to properly handle my Election Petition Matter as required by law but to no avail.

10. I contended that the position the President of the Court of Appeal took was offensive to the tenets of constitutional democracy, rule of law and my well-being not given a thought to my rights as a human being who is entitled for justice and fair hearing.

11. The President of the Court of Appeal exhibited acts that were very unjust; never conveyed certainty for justice and as the guardian of the rule of law up to the Appeal Court, was also not only Undemocratic, anti-judicial; very mischievous and most tyrannical. This act led to the rape of my fundamental human rights as no remedy has been provided up till-date to enable me as a Petitioner who through no fault of mine filed my petition timorously to ventilate my grievances but have been deliberately denied and shut out of justice and the forum provided by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to ventilate my grievances and get the consequent judicial remedy.

12. From all indications I stand to be corrected, The President of the Court of Appeal deliberately perpetrated illegality with those Tribunal Panel One Hon. Judges in collaboration. It is shocking that the President of the Court of Appeal would indulge in illegalities in his administrative duties.

13. It is pertinent to state that the Cross River State (Panel One) of the National and States Houses of Assembly Tribunal which had a very high number of Petitions that stood at twenty-five Petitions; Petitioners suffered the **Biggest Judicial rape on Judicial processes that denied Cross Riverians and those who contested elections where never given the opportunity to ventilate their grievances and I have no doubts that these actions by the President of the Court of Appeal can lead to acrimony and anarchy if not properly handled.**

14. In fact these groups of Justices held all of us the Litigants under Election Tribunal (Panel One) to ransom. My Lord I humbly appeal that we must never again allow any group to hold the Nation; particularly Cross River State to ransom under whatever guise.

15. Basking on the change slogan which is not a campaign gimmick a promise by President Muhammadu Buhari that must be kept. I humbly wrote on the 12th Jan 2016 to then Chief justice of Nigeria and Chairman of the NJC and requested that the above matter be thoroughly investigated. It is on the above bases I felt the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman of the NJC would have had enough time to investigate my petition as contained in Annexure A. and respond to my appeal but unfortunately up till date they has been no response the reason for this letter.

16. Furthermore *the vexed issue of corruption amongst judicial officers once again took the center-stage at a thanksgiving service organized for My Lordship The Chief Justice of Nigeria at the Methodist Church, Nigeria, and Abuja Diocese. The occasion afforded My Lordship an opportunity to bare his mind on this matter that is questioning the integrity of the judiciary in the country.*

17. To check the problem, My Lord The Chief Justice of Nigeria advised Nigerians to petition the National Judicial Council (NJC) on the corruption and other unprofessional conduct of judges. My Lordship also advised the people to take advantage of relevant institutions and report all allegations of corrupt practices against judges, instead of smearing the image of the judiciary with unsubstantiated allegations in the mass media.

18. In retrospective because I never wanted my matter to be a media affair; then the seemingly cover up with no response or even an acknowledgement.

19. The matter no doubt is a high wired conspiracy and rascality of the first order on the part of the President of the Court of Appeal and the three Judges of the Election Tribunal (Panel One) who are Hon. Justice O. A. Adeniyi; Hon. Justice C. D. Awubra and Hon Justice J. U. Oyomirewho sat and master minded the rape and assassination of my Petition in Cross River State to favour the PDP Candidate.

20. It is unfathomable that the President of the Court of Appeal has decided to return the country to anarchy in a rather brazen and bizarre manner. It is not a case of oversight or lack of knowledge of the

President of the Court of Appeal or on the part of the Tribunal Judges who no doubt knew that their composition from day one was unconstitutional; but a mischievous, deliberate and judicial rascality to turn back the hand of the clock in the ongoing battle against impunity and trying erase the maxim that Democracy which is based on due process is being bastardized by Judicial Officers who have made up their minds to be unethically minded.

21. The President of the Court of Appeal and the three Judges of the Tribunal have succeeded in denying the fundamental rights of the Cross Riverians through authoritarianism and rascality. They have denied me and my constituents the right to vote and be voted; as earlier stated these actions brazenly manipulated against the wish of my people.

22. The President of the Court of Appeal and the three Judges of the Tribunal failed to play their role as impartial and neutral arbiter and no doubt allowed PDP in Cross River State to use them as pawns in their quest for power and thus defiled the constitution and the law of the land in a manner that demands concrete action; investigation and equally meet my humble demand.

23. During this period of waiting and demanding for justice I have been very traumatized because of the way and manner the President of the Court of Appeal has used the office as President of the Appeal Court to inflict damage to my fundamental human right and also for laying the foundation for the very many misfortunes that equally affected my business and have since left me unfocused and my health condition further deteriorated.

24. The high wired conspiracy by the President of the Court of Appeal and the Tribunal Judges is still shaking the fabrics of our Constitution; Cross Riverians and my humble self are still and remain in shock.

25. I am compelled at this juncture to raise this matter in view of the fact that they have been no response to my letter dated 6th Oct 2015 where I raised many issues which no doubt would be attended to this time as I cannot continue to wait in vain. In the light of the foregoing I do hereby call on The National Judicial Commission our highly esteemed Institution to use its good offices to look into the matter to forestall any future occurrence.

Am aware of the stand of the NJC to take the Judiciary to its enviable height, I urge The NJC to act accordingly with a view to bring an end to this issue raised above.

26:- PRAYERS:-

a. In the light of the above I humbly request the National Judicial Service Commission to invoke the provisions of the remedies for unconstitutional administrative and judicial acts to make it possible for my DEMAND FOR N750, 000,000 (SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION NAIRA) AS DAMAGES FOR THE NON CONSTITUTION OF ANY ELECTION TRIBUNAL PANEL TO HEAR AND DETERMINE MY 2015 ELECTION PETITION ARISING FROM THE NATIONAL AND STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTION AND FOR THEIR DAMAGES to be met.

b. A written apology from the president of the Court of Appeal for the very inhumanly and unfair treatment inflicted on my Person and all those associated with me.

c. We remain very loyal and law abiding citizens and believe very strongly in the rule of law and your leadership.

With highest regards

AMBASSADOR AKPANG ADE OBI ODU

EXTERNAL ACTION
The Chief Justice of Nigeria
Supreme Court of Nigeria
Supreme Court Complex
Abuja

The Hon Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Federal Ministry of Justice
Abuja

The Hon President Court of Appeal
Appeal Court of Nigeria
Three Arms Zone
Abuja

The Special Assistant to the President
On Criminal Prosecution
Federal Ministry of Justice
Abuja

Buhari Anti Corruption War

Maina isn't the first person that was fired for corruption that Buhari has brought back to government. Here are a few I can remember

1. AbdulRahman Danbazzau was fired as chief of army staff for corrupt practices in purchasing of arms and gas been appointed minister of interior by buhari

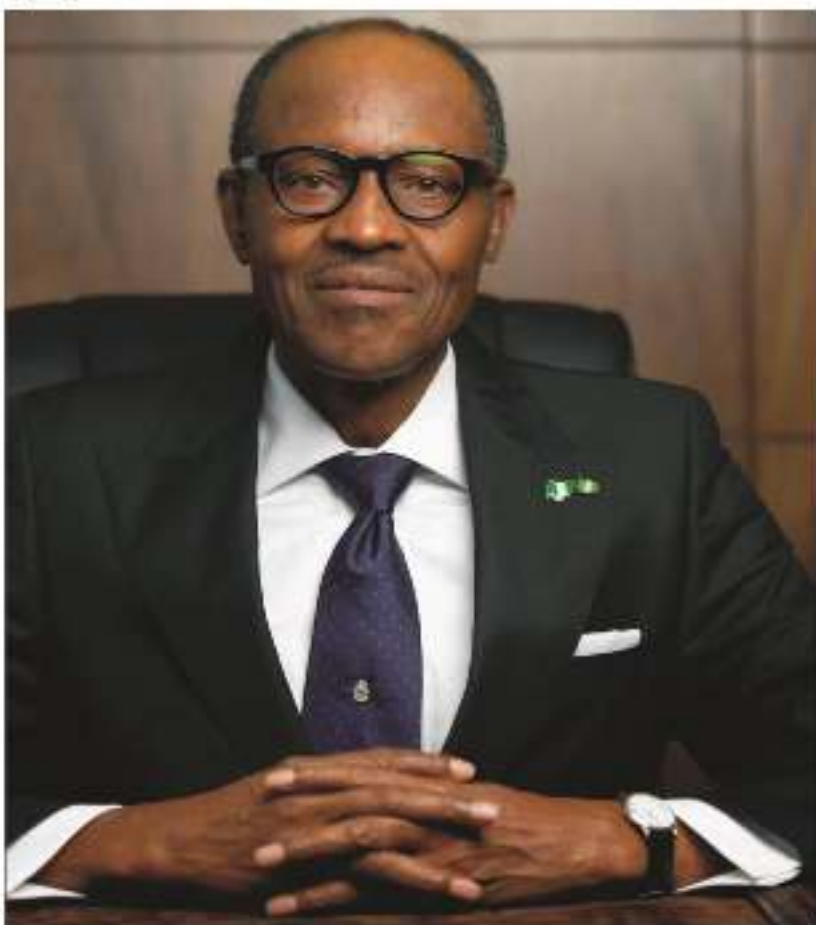
2. Mohammed Barkindo was removed as NNPC MD by the late yaradua for stealing huge kickbacks from oil and and been appointed as Nigeria's Secretary General to opec by Buhari

3. Acp Zakari Bui, a man accused and dismissed for aiding buko haram kingpin kahiru Sokoto to escape from detention was reinstated and promoted by buhari.

4. Abdul Rasheed Maina, a man that ran away since 2014 and has been declared wanted by efcc for embezzlement of N2bn pension funds have been reinstated as deputy director ministry of interior.

5. Ahmed Gambo Saleh, Registrar of the Supreme Court, He stole N2.2bn belonging to the Supreme court and was caught red handed and fire, today Ahmed Gambo Saleh has now been appointed the secretary of the committee monitoring corruption trials.

6. What about timipre Sylva? Over 46 houses seized by fg has been returned to him. This is a man



President Muhammadu Buhari

with no known business o.

I can go on and on listing names.

Buhari recall on Maina is a sign that any Govt no matter how reckless or irresponsible can be called to order by Citizen Power. I have no doubt in my mind though that the man's brazen recall was orchestrated at the highest levels of governance in our country. I have no confidence also in the fight against Corruption based on many instances of "see no evil; hear no evil" displayed so far by Buhari. If the highest office in the land could have been infiltrated by rats, it's possible that shady rats in human form also thrive there.

Maina seems to my mind to be another victim of the power-play in this same highest office with Buhari as the umpire who has lost his whistle. The entertainment from what should be a dignified office continues to amuse us as the umpire

Sack indicted government officials

- APC chieftains tell President Buhari

Some chieftains of the All Progressives Congress (APC) have said the integrity of President Muhammadu Buhari is now in doubt following his failure to sack indicted government officials in his administration.

Speaking in separate interviews with the Punch, the chieftains called on the president to sack the suspended secretary to the government of the federation Babachir Lawal, the suspended executive secretary of the national health insurance scheme, Usman Yusuf, and the suspended director-general of the national intelligence agency, Ayu Oke, to save his anti-graft war.

One of the chieftains in Adamawa state, Mark Wosi, said from all indications, Buhari was foot-dragging on the issues because the men involved were his loyalists.

"You can't keep telling us you are fighting corruption while there are corruption allegations against people around you and yet you can't do anything about it.

This only means you are the father of corruption. The integrity of President Muhammadu Buhari is now in doubt with all these fraud cases under his nose," he said.

Another top party member who serves as the chairman, House of Representatives committee on justice, Razaq Atunwa, called on the president to sack and prosecute the affected government officials.

He said: "If someone has committed a financial crime or fraud, he must not only be dismissed from office but be made to face the music. It is for the court to decide if the person is guilty of that offence or not."

An APC chieftain in Ogun state, Chief Bode Mustapha, said he would expect the president sack the officials involved if they were indicted by the reports.

"We don't need this kind of suspense now. It is capable of bringing President Muhammadu Buhari's administration into disrepute," he said.

"He (Buhari) is allowing the Peoples Democratic Party to have a field day in accusing the APC of shielding corrupt

people, whether rightly or wrongly. This is a big shame."

"It is high time the President took the bull by horns. Since he has made pronouncements in the case of the Abdulrasheed Maina (a former chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Pension Reform) by sacking him, he should also do the same thing on Lawal, Yusuf and others."

Meanwhile, Senator Shehu Sani has said that there are clear indications that the President Muhammadu Buhari administration has been hijacked by a cabal who are holding the

president hostage.

The senator representing Kaduna central, made the statement when speaking on the performance of the Buhari administration in an interview with Guardian on Friday, October 27. Sani stated that anti-corruption crusade of the administration had fallen short of the inability to address the fundamental problems undermining government's policies.

Sani stated that anti-corruption crusade of the administration had fallen short of the inability to address the fundamental problems undermining government's policies.



President Mubhammadu Buhari

56 YEARS OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA

The most talked about any topic in Nigeria today is corruption. It has become the most talked about topic because in Nigeria the best way to wage any war against your enemy is to accuse him or her of corruption. In every election in the country the first manifesto to get the support of the public is to talk about corruption and tell the nation how you intend to fight the scourge. Nigerians have the mindset that all public officers are corrupt, they only need someone to declare it and there might be a mob action. Incidentally too, corruption in Nigeria has tribal, Religious, Regional and Partisan coloration. An activity amount to corruption only if our opinion leaders say it is corruption otherwise it amount to persecution.

As a patriotic Nigeria I have decided to once again discuss the issue of corruption in the country as the current administration of President Muhammadu Buhari and the All Progressives Congress [APC] have been celebrating their war on corruption and want Nigerians to celebrate the war with them even when it has not transformed their lives or put food on their table.

Difference people across the country have given their own opinion on what should be done to corrupt officials. Some have said corrupt officials should be executed, some even said corrupt officials

From Vincent Ekwavenga

should be banned for life from holding any public office. But to the APC and the government their fight against corruption is meant to discredit the immediate past Administration of Goodluck Jonathan and use it to kill the PDP permanently.

Am not going to join issues with these arguments but to remind Nigerians that there was a time in this country when armed robbers were executed. We called it the bar beach show then. They were executed in bar beach in Lagos. But it did not end armed robbery in the country.

I will only give a literature review of the fight against corruption in Nigeria since 1960 and allow Nigerians to judge.

Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary defines corruption to mean, to make the purity, to taint, to debase, to spoil, to destroy the purity of, to pervert, to bribe. from the above definition Corruption is not just about stealing money, corruption includes rigging of an election, cheating during examinations, Nepotism, Match fixing etc. But in Nigeria corruption simply means stealing public funds, and the only person that can find you guilty of corruption is not the courts or the Judiciary but the leadership of political parties other than your own. Corruption allegations and wars have been on in Nigeria as far back as Independence in 1960. Every successful

government always accused the other of corruption. One of the reasons why the first military coupists struck was because they accused the politicians of the first Republic of corruption.

Corruption, though prevalent, was kept at manageable levels during the First Republic. However, the cases of corruption during the period were sometimes clouded by political infighting.

|| Azikiwe was the first major political figure investigated for questionable practices. In 1944, a firm belonging to Azikiwe and family bought a Bank in Lagos. The bank was procured to strengthen local control of the financial industry. Albeit, a report about transactions carried out by the bank showed though Azikiwe had resigned as chairman of the bank, the current chairman was an agent of his. The report wrote that most of the paid-up capital of the African Continental Bank were from the Eastern Regional Financial Corporation.

|| In western Nigeria, politician Adegoke Adedabu was investigated following charges of political corruption leveled against him by the



President Muhammadu Buhari



Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, former president

opposition. The report led to demand for his resignation as district council head.

- 1 In the Northern region, against the backdrop of corruption allegations leveled against some native authority officials in Bornu. The Northern Government enacted the Customary Presents order to forestall any further breach of regulations. Later on, it was the British administration that was accused of corrupt practices in the results of elections which enthroned a Fulani political leadership in Kano, reports later linking the British authorities to electoral irregularities were discovered.

The immediate reasons for the first-coup, however, concerned the nationwide disillusionment with the corrupt and selfish politicians, as well as with their inability to maintain law and order and guarantee the safety of lives and property. During the initial stages, Nzeugwu and his collaborators were hailed as national heroes. But the pattern of killings in the coup gave it a partisan appearance: killed were the prime minister, a northerner, the premier of the Northern Region, and the highest-ranking northern army officers; only one Igbo officer lost his life. Also killed was the premier of the Western Region who was closely allied with the NPC.

Corruption for the most part of Yakubu Gowon's administration was kept away from public view until 1975. However, informed officials voiced concerns. Critics said Gowon's governors acted like lords overseeing their personal fiefdom. He was viewed as timid, faced with corrupt elements in his government.

In 1975, a corruption scandal surrounding the importation of cement engulfed many officials of the defense ministry and the central bank of Nigeria. Officials were later accused of falsifying ships manifestos and inflating the amount of cement to be purchased.

During the Gowon administration, two individuals from the middle belt of the country were accused of corruption. The Nigerian government



Yar' Adua, Former President

controlled the newspapers, the Daily Times and the New Nigerian gave great publicity to denunciations of the administration of Gowon, and Federal Commissioner Joseph Tarka by the two critics. A situation which may signal a cause for exigent action on corruption.

On July 30, 1975, Brigadier (later General) Muhammad was made head of state, when General Gowon was overthrown while at an Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit in Kampala, Uganda. Brigadiers Obasanjo (later Lt. General) and Danjuma (later Lt. General) were appointed as Chief of Staff, Supreme HQ and Chief of Army Staff, respectively. In the coup d'état that brought him to power he introduced the phrases "Fellow Nigerians" and "with immediate effect" to the national lexicon. In a short time, Murtala Muhammed's policies won him broad popular support, and his decisiveness elevated him to the status of a folk hero.

One of his first acts was to scrap the 1973 census, which was weighted in favor of the north, and to revert to the 1963 count for official purposes. Murtala Muhammad removed top federal and state officials to break links with the Gowon regime and to restore public confidence in the federal government. More than 10,000 public officials and employees were dismissed without benefits, on account of age, health, incompetence, or malpractice. The purge affected the civil service, judiciary, police and armed forces, diplomatic service, public corporations, and universities. Some

officials were brought to trial on charges of corruption. He also began the demobilization of 100,000 troops from the swollen ranks of the armed forces.

During Olusegun Obasanjo first military administration there were allegations of corruption against his Administration. The most talked about at that time was the alleged missing of \$2.8 billion missing oil money, an enquiry was set up. At the end of the day a reporter with the Nigeria Television Dora Ifudu was sacked for having the audacity to air the news on a National Television.

The first administration of Olusegun Obasanjo was a continuation of the Murtala Mohammed administration, and was focused on completing the transition program to democracy, as well as implementing the national development plans. Major projects including building new refineries, pipelines, expanding the national shipping and airlines as well as hosting FESTAC was done during the administration. A number of these national projects were conduits to distribute favors and enrich connected politicians. The famous Afrobeat musician, Fela Kuti, sang variously about major scandals involving the international telecommunication firm ITT led by Chief MKO Abiola in Nigeria, which the then Head of State, Gen Olusegun Obasanjo was associated with. In addition to this, the Operation Feed the Nation Program, and the associated land grab under the Land Use Decree implemented by the then Head of State was used as conduits to reward cronies, and his now famous Otta Farm Nigeria (OFN) or Operation Foul the Nation [OFN] was supposedly a project borne out of this scandal.

Olusegun Obasanjo handed over the mantle of leadership to Alhaji Shehu Shagari in 1979.

This was regarded as the second Republic in the country. There were so many allegations of corruption during the Republic, there were allegations of rice scandal etc.

In December 1983 there was a bloodless Military coup led by the then General Muhammadu Buhari. General Buhari arrested almost all the Politicians that held public office. This included Ministers, Governors etc. even the Military was not left out as two senior military officers who headed the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) were dismissed and sent to life imprisonment. Special Military Tribunals were set up to try the politicians and they were all found guilty and sent to various prison sentences from twenty five years to life imprisonment. There were however doubts as to the integrity of the War on corruption and Indiscipline which was launched in 1984. Former governor of old Bendel state Professor Ambrose Ali, a Professor of Morbid Anatomy was sentenced to life imprisonment for stealing an amount that was less than one million Naira. At the time the man died later it was discovered that he had no personal house any where in the world, in fact the military administrator of Bendel state at that time had to build a house for him in Ekpoma where he was buried. The governor was so moved that he had to name the state University, Ambrose Ali University. This was someone that was sent to life imprisonment for corruption. That was not all, even the Buhari Administration then had its own scandal as the administration could not explain how 53 suit cases entered the country during the currency exchanges.

General Buhari himself was overthrown by General Ibrahim Babangida in a palace coup in 1985. Babangida did not make any noise about fighting corruption but concentrated on policies to help the poor. These include the Peoples Bank, Directorate of Food, Road Infrastructure (DIFFRI) and MAMSER. He set up different Political Reforms programmes, created two Political Parties, the National Republican Convention (NRC) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP). THIS he said was to prevent the rich from hijacking the Political system. He also created the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). HIS Administration was also accused of corruption especially the alleged swindling of \$12b dollars oil windfall. The biggest attempt to discredit anti corruption crusade in the country took place under this administration. There was an allegation in 1992 that the then first lady Maryam Babangida opened the biggest boutique in France and that it was published in the Ebony Magazine. There was a massive protest in the country especially in Lagos, organized by some Civil Society Organisations and students under the aegis of National Association of Nigeria Students. It was later discovered that the allegations was untrue and that Ebony Magazine never published any such story.

After Babangida came the Interim National Government headed by Chief Sonekan. Then General Sani Abacha swept Sonekan aside and took over power in 1993. Abacha came and said he wanted to fight corruption and to give credibility to his administration he invited General Muhammadu Buhari to be part of his government and made him the Chairman Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF). As part of his anti corruption fight, Abacha established the Money Laundering Law in 1995, established the Failed Bank Tribunal in 1995 and the Foreign Exchange Law also in 1995. As part of his anti corruption fight many banks, mortgaged and finance houses collapsed. Despite all these anti corruption fight, Abacha regime is reputed to be one of the most corrupt regime in the country. The Swiss bank has continued to return some of the money stolen from Nigeria by Abacha and members of his family.

The death of the general Sani Abacha revealed the global nature of graft.

French investigations of bribes paid to government officials to ease the award of a gas plant construction in Nigeria revealed the level of official graft in the country. The investigations led to the freezing of accounts containing about \$100 million United States dollars.

In 2000, two years after his death, a Swiss banking commission report indicted Swiss banks for failing to follow compliance process when they allowed Abacha's family and friends of access to his accounts and to deposit amounts totaling \$600 million US dollars into them. The same year, a total of more than \$1 billion US dollars were found in various accounts throughout Europe.

After Abacha regime came General Abdulsalami Abubakar whose interest was mainly to hand over power to civilian administration.

Abdulsalami administration was succeeded by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). OBASANJO also said he was to fight corruption. He said 'As torch bearers the elite must lead by examples and their conducts and character in both private and public service must reflect that spirit of total and undiluted opposition to corruption and any criminal conduct'.

As part of his anti corruption fight Chief Obasanjo set up the Economic and Financial Crime commission (EFCC). THE Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC); DUE PROCESS





*Nuhu Ribadu. Nuhu Ribadu
Former EFCC boss*



*Farida-waziri
Former EFCC Boss*



*Ibrahim-Lamorde
Former EFCC Boss*

OFFICE, SERVICOM etc. the EFCC under Obasanjo was headed by a retired commissioner of Police Nuhu Ribadu. Nuhu Ribadu who became very popular in the country for daring to harass and intimidate political office holders including Governors and two former Inspector General of Police. By the time Obasanjo ended his tenure Nuhu Ribadu report revealed that all the incumbent governors at that time between 1999 and 2007 were guilty of corruption. Some of the governors then are now godfathers, kingmakers and party leaders. There were however allegations of political intimidation as opposition political parties and the opposition within the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) accused the administration of shielding the President's men of allegations of corruption. An example of course was one Makanjuola a former Permanent Secretary Ministry of Defence who was accused of stealing four hundred million Naira. President Obasanjo ordered the Ministry of Justice to enter a Nolle Prosequere and the charges were withdrawn. At the end of Obasanjo regime there were also allegations of corruption against him, despite his perceived war against corruption, these include PTDF, SIEMENS, ALLIBURTON scandal among others.

In a lecture delivered by Professor Taheed Adedola at the Oyo state House of Chiefs in 2006 to commemorate the 46th Independent Anniversary of Nigeria problems associated with corruption include

1. loss of Revenue to government, for instance before EFCC, it is officially confirmed by Shell Oil Company that in 2004 over 100,000 barrels of crude oil was stolen daily.
2. Poor investment climate
3. Unemployment and low National productivity
4. Erratic services by state institutions
5. Lawlessness and disorder
6. Brain Drain
7. Negative National image
8. Poverty engendered principally by mediocre people that access and lead government institutions through corruption.

Under Jonathan Administration In 2014, Nigeria's rank improved from 143rd to the 136th position on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. In late 2013, Nigeria's then central bank governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi informed President Goodluck Jonathan that the state oil company, NNPC, had failed to remit US\$20 billion in oil revenues owed to the state. Jonathan however dismissed the claim and replaced Sanusi for his mismanagement of the central bank's budget. A Senate committee also found Sanusi's account to be lacking in substance. After the conclusion of the NNPC's account audit, it was announced in January 2015 that NNPC's non-remitted revenue is actually US\$1.48 billion, which it needs to refund to the government. Upon release of both the PwC and Deloitte report by the government at the eve of its exit, it was however determined that truly close to \$20 billion was indeed missing or misappropriated or spent without appropriation.

In addition to these, the government of Goodluck Jonathan had several running scandals including the BMW purchase by his Aviation Minister, \$250 million plus security contracts to militants in the Niger Delta, massive corruption and kickbacks in the Ministry of Petroleum, the Malibu Oil International scandal, and several scandals involving the Petroleum Ministry including accusations of sweetheart deals with select fronts and business people to divert public wealth. In the dying days of Goodluck Jonathan's administration, the Central Bank scandal of cash tripping of mutilated notes also broke out, where it was revealed that in a four-day period, 8 billion naira

was stolen directly by low-level workers in the CBN. This revelation excluded a crime that is suspected to have gone on for years and went undetected until revealed by whistle-blower. The Central Bank claim the heist undermined its monetary policy. In 2014, UNODC began an initiative to help combat corruption in Nigeria.

New allegations of corruption have begun to emerge since the departure of President Jonathan on May 29, 2015, including:

1. \$2.2 billion illegally withdrawn from Excess Crude Oil Accounts, of which \$1 billion supposedly approved by President Jonathan to fund his reelection campaign without the knowledge of the National Economic Council made up of state governors and the president and vice president.

2. NEITI discovered \$11.6 billion was missing from Nigeria LNG Company dividend payments.

3. 60 million barrels of oil valued at \$13.7 billion was stolen under the watch of the national oil company, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, from 2009 to 2012.

4. NEITI indicates losses due to crude swaps due to subsidy and domestic crude allocation from 2005 to 2012 indicated that \$11.63 billion had been paid to the NNPC but that "there is no evidence of the money being remitted to the federation account".

5. Diversion of 60% of \$1 billion foreign loans obtained from the Chinese by the Ministry of Finance

6. Massive scam in weapons and defense procurements, and misuse of 3 trillion naira defense budget since 2011 under the guise of fighting Boko Haram

7. Diversion of \$2.2 million vaccination medicine fund, by Ministry of Health

8. Diversion of Ebola fight fund up

to 1.9 bn naira

9. NIMASA fraud under investigation by EFCC, inclusive of accusation of funding PDP and buying a small piece of land for 13 billion naira

10. Ministry of Finance led by Okonjo Iweala hurried payment of \$2.2 million to health ministry contractor in disputed invoices

11. NDDC scams and multifarious scams including 2.7 billion naira worth of contracts that does not conform to the Public Procurement Act

12. Police Service Commission Scam investigated by ICPC that revealed misappropriation of over 150 million naira related to election related trainings. ICPC made refund recommendations, but many analysts indicated prosecution was more appropriate.

President Muhammadu Buhari has said he is committed to fighting corruption in the country; he said he wants to prove to Nigerians and indeed the world that the country can be governed with Integrity. Nigerians may have to wait till the end of the

administration to be able to know if it had also been guilty of corruption or not but Nigerians are also quick to remind the administration that Nepotism and election rigging is also corruption.

Probably corruption may never end in the country not even one hundred Buharis' as the country itself was structured on corruption. The Federal Government is too big, too powerful, too influential. Any body who gets government appointments see it as an opportunity to get rich too. We probably have to restructure the country to make it work. Let us adopt fiscal Federalism where every region or zone or states should take ownership of their resources and pay tax to the Federal Government. There will be competition and every region or state will compete to develop its own area based on their comparative advantage. Those who want to use their resources to build schools and give its people free education can go ahead and do so while those who want to use their resources to build places of worship should also be allowed to do so but no part of the country should be held back from its developmental programmes for other parts of the country to catch up later.



Ibrahim-Magu, EFCC Boss

LABOUR PARTY

OGOJA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CHAPTER

4 BASIN ROAD ABAKPA -OGOJA.CROSS RIVER STATE

25th May 2017

The DG SSS.

HQ. SSS. State House

Abuja, Nigeria

Sir,

AN URGENT REQUEST TO INVESTIGATE THE UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR AS FOLLOWING:-

1. THE CASE OF SHIELDING /FORGERY OF 2004 UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR DEGREE CERTIFICATE IN CHEMISTRY, NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE ; PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPONSORSHIP FORM CF 002(1) AND PERJURY ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY HON JARIGBE AGOM JARIGBE MEMBER REPRESENTING OGOJA /YALA FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY

2. AND ALSO IN CONSTITUTING IT SELF TO BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR PERPETUATING ELECTION FRAUD IN FAVOUR OF THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN THE SOUTH SOUTH REGION FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS.

1. As Labour Party Members and Patriots committed to the Change Agenda which no doubt will lead us to a new Nation and re-branding of our great Nation to take its rightful position as the Giant of Africa and a force to reckon with in the World Community of Nations; and also for the challenges ahead of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education, we cannot be unconcerned about acts and actions of certain individuals that tend to drag the University of Calabar a centre of excellence, pride and integrity for our Nation and its entire Community into disrepute.

2. In particular, we, as members of our great Nation and Party from Cross River State can no longer quietly join the crowd that "simply denies things and goes on."

3. about Change Agenda and highly desired rebranding as championed by our able and focused President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari in the fight against corruption in its carnification.

4. Most distinguished and Learned Vice Chancellor though you are just settling down in office as the New Vice Chancellor, we humbly appeal that you permit us at this juncture to draw your attention to just one of the several highly embarrassing CERTIFICATE SCANDALS that is systematically destroying faith in your Institution and one such is Hon. Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe, a PDP member of the Federal House of Representatives representing the good and hardworking people of Ogoja/Yala constituency in Cross River State.

5. Sir, Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe presented a B.Sc. Chemistry (2004) degree of the University of Calabar and an NYSC exemption certificate (2009 [see Annex A and B] to INEC to be elected to Nigeria's Federal House of Representatives in the recently concluded 2015 elections. However and sadly so, sir, the University of Calabar, known for its industry, resourcefulness and uprightness, wrote a letter to the Lawyers representing Amh. Akpang Ade Obi Oda who is in the Federal High Court challenging Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe credentials from the University of Calabar; see Annex C; denied ever awarding Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe the B.Sc. Chemistry degree he claims, and, consequently could not have mobilized him for NYSC about five years after the claimed graduation.

6. This, to say the least, is terribly unfortunate because the least qualification for election in Nigeria is WASC/GCE (O/L). What then was Jarigbe thinking? Is it sheer bravado? Pride? And why take the entire hardworking and resourceful youths of Cross River State; people of Ogoja/Yala as well as the good name and image of the University of Calabar to the mud on this exuberance? Is it then fair that we the members of Labour Party and also as a people under Ogoja/Yala Federal constituency remain in the mud with Jarigbe on whar was easily avoidable? Maybe it is precisely the fact that we have yet to deal honestly and openly with such questions that has brought us finally down the slippery slope to where we are.

7. Our Most Respected Vice Chancellor the Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe Unical and NYSC certificates scandals that we hear has been reported to The Inspector General of Police and the DG, SSS, just as it is all-over the social media and other platforms. Around the Cross River State, the scandal plays in front of us like a terribly directed movie which is gradually destroying our image as a People and of our esteemed Unical.

8. It is even most disheartening that this is happening in a state led by two distinguished academics (Professors Ben Ayade and Ivora Esu) who we are really proud of. To say this is really embarrassing to them is to say the least, AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

9. Even though the above matter has been reported to the Inspector General of Police and other security agencies steps must be taken urgently by the University to address this issue

on sound principles that will send the right message to those watching the University of Calabar.

10. It is also pertinent to state that not long ago The Federal University Nasarawa while conducting interviews for Lecturers had two candidates with master's degrees from Unical and when asked the name of the capital of Cross River State one said Port Harcourt and the second couldn't respond to the slogan of Unical 'mallaibites'. It is obvious that UNICAL has a CENTRE in Nasarawa where the University Certificates are forged and issued to people.

11. It is also worthy of note that it is the same Nasarawa State that in 1999/2000 UNICAL withdrew some over 500 students who had forged documents and where fraudulently mobilized for NYSC Service from the NYSC Camp in Nasarawa state and one such person whose name appeared in the Punch newspapers of that year was Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe.

12. There is no doubt that very bad characters within and outside the University of Calabar are still shielding Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe with letters purportedly written from the University to support and defend the forged certificates being carried about by Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe.

13. This is so because two memos that are making the rounds and more particularly a recent one dated 31/08/2015 that are causing undue damage to UNICAL even though the latest one is highly questionable.

14. After a thorough examination of the memo from the Head of Department Pure and Applied Chemistry signed by Prof. (Mrs) Ikama E. Uwah on the 28th July 2015 to PAR Verification, University of Calabar, Calabar and a second purported memo dated 31/08/2015 from the University of Calabar; Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry to the Vice Chancellor thro- The Dean Faculty of Science, University of Calabar, Calabar signed by Prof. (Mrs) I. E. Uwah, Head of Department; we wish to ask why the contradiction from the Head of Department Pure and Applied Chemistry of the University of Calabar.

15. There is also another letter purportedly written to Barr. Ojua's Chambers which is adding to the confusion.

16. This necessitate further investigation and urgent request for the following information without delay for forensic examination and analysis to enable us prosecute the above matter; since you don't want to do so:-

a. The yearly Composite Sheet as it affects Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe from the year of admission 1995/1996 academic session and through to his expected year of graduation in 1998/1999 academic session. And also 1999/2000 academic session to 2003/2004 academic session which he claimed him Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe graduated.

b. The yearly Course Registration form as it affects Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe from the year of admission 1995/1996 academic session and through to his expected year of graduation in 1998/1999 academic session. And also 1999/2000 academic session to 2003/2004 academic session which he claimed he Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe graduated.

c. The yearly Clearance from Exams and Records as it affects Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe from the year of admission 1995/1996 academic session and through to his expected year of graduation in 1998/1999 academic session. And also 1999/2000 academic session to 2003/2004 academic session which he claimed him Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe

graduated.

d. Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe must have no doubt paid college fees like other students on admission and until the last year of graduation. We demand copies of the Bank tellers for payment of Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe fees from the year of admission 1995/1996 and through to expected year of graduation 1999/2000.

e. Who was Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe (B.Sc) project Supervisor and the project topic? The Project must be made available more particularly the one submitted to the Dept.

f. We demand for the copy of the University of Calabar Senate meeting minutes; accompanied with a comprehensive list of the members of the Senate who sat and gave approval for the Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe B.Sc. Chemistry degree.

g. The University is also requested to show Prof whether Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe notified the University of Calabar at any time that his name was wrongly spelt as contained in his affidavit; see Annex G.

17. We humbly appeal that the University of Calabar takes urgent and necessary action to respond to our demands within two weeks and failure to do so; we shall have no option to report the Institution to:-

a. Mr. President and C n C Federal Republic of Nigeria.

B. The Hon Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of Nigeria

c. The Hon Minister Federal Ministry of Education

d. The National University Commission

For a Special Panel to be set up and probe UNICAL particularly in the issue of Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe.

18. Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe cannot be the SPECIAL ONE who was granted admission as confirmed by himself to read a degree programme in 1995/96 academic session and in one breath the same University in trying to shield Jarigbe Egom Jarigbe from fraud; claims he was to have finished his degree programme during a long vacation programme; using the same admission instruments which is tantamount to fraud and not acceptable by the laws guiding admissions into the University.

19. The signature of the Registrar are at variance in most of the correspondence.

20. We are compelled to ask the University of Calabar act swiftly and save its image by making a public statement as it does on its website on this matter.

21. We look forward to your urgent respond.

Signed:

Emmanuel Jonathan

Landmark Achievements Of Oba Ewuare II, The Messiah That Has Come To save His People

By: Desmond Aghama Chief Press Secretary to Oba of Benin

Before Oba Ewuare II ascended the throne of his fore fathers in Benin Kingdom on October 20, 2016, the people were faced with different challenges that hindered the rate of development in the various Villages, Towns or Local Government Areas. Some of these challenges include difficulties in acquiring and developing land, extortion and intimidation of developers by members of the outlawed Community Development Association CDA, Leadership tussles, family disputes, especially issue of inheritance, boundary disputes among Villages or communities. With regard to boundary dispute, the one between Iguomon and

Ikhuen-oboh, Egbirhe and Okhoromi are cases in point where several efforts to settle the matter did not yield result.

Furthermore, some Enligic, Edionwere and Ohen were either suspended or relegated to the background by the CDA members in the community or Villages where they are supposed to be the head. This was the case in Egba Village on Benin-Abraka road in Ikpoa-Okha local government area, Uteh Ekoko along upper mission extension and Azagba Village on Benin by-pass in Uhumwode local government area.

Since Oba Ewuare II ascended the throne a year ago, different innovations and initiatives have been introduced into Benin Kingdom, aimed at bringing sanity to the kingdom and ensuring peaceful co-existence among the people. One of the steps taken so far by the Benin Monarch was to commence open mediation at Ugha-Ozolua and Oguamanton in the Oba Palace to give opportunity for people, especially women whom culture and tradition places certain

restriction on to present their complaint for adjudication. The open mediation is usually presided over by His Royal Majesty Oba Ewuare II himself, with array of Palace chiefs in attendance. People usually take their turn every Tuesday and Thursday to present their complaints. The beauty of it all is that during the open mediation no complaint is presented in proxy, which means that both the complainant and the accused must be physically present before a matter is entertained.

Since the commencement of the open mediation, over 80 different cases have been presided over, while about 69 of the cases have been finally decided. It has been joy, happiness and jubilation for those who have secured justice from the Palace of the Oba of Benin, some of whom are even non indigenes. This goes to show the transparency, detribalized, impartial and fair nature of the open mediation.

Those who have obtained justice include Mrs Ann Aghayere whose land was forcefully taken from



Oba Ewuare II



her by the Odionwere and the Ohen in Amagba, Mrs Philo Akhere who was prevented from developing her land in Idunmwungha by youths loyal to the Odionwere. Others are the Enogie of Egba H.R.H Palmer Omuregie Uzama who was suspended by the chairman of the outlawed CDA, The confirmation of Enogie of Uteh-Ekoko H.R.H Ogieayevbona Ighinenikao whose leadership of the Village was been contested as the traditional ruler of the Village as well as the Ohen of Azagba, High Priest Nsakhare Ogieriakhi who was confirmed as the traditional head of Azagba Village as well as the confirmation of Ohen Okun N'Ovan as the head of Iguclaba village in Orhionmwon Local Government Area. How about the celebrated case of Mrs Angela Omoruyi whose husband's family members (Okunmafi family) were oppressing, along with her children after the death of her husband. The Oba of Benin did not only save the woman and her children from the shackles of the Okunmafi family members, but also offered scholarship to the first son of the deceased, Master Elnsa Divine Omoruyi. These landmark judgments by the Palace have no doubt restored hope to the

seemingly despondent people and it has brought peace as well as lay to rest the crisis or agitations that have persisted in those Villages and communities in the past.

On Thursday 12th October, 2017, His Royal Majesty Oba Ewuare II inaugurated the Benin Customary Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee BCADRC. This became necessary in order to address the frustration that the people were going through to obtain justice from the palace panel system which Oba Ewuare II set aside upon ascending the throne. Again, it is to bring justice, equity, sense of belonging, tolerance, transparency and accountability to palace administration. The committee is made up of men with proven integrity, including erudite jurists like retired Justices Samson Uwaifo, Samuel Elaiho, Joseph Oluber. Other members of the BCADRC are Prof. G. I. Akenzua,

Chief Edionwe Oliha, the Oliha of Benin, Mr. Daniel Innch, Chief Abel Ehigie, the Olaye of Benin and Surveyor James Osazuwa. They will arbitrate and mediate on disputes brought to the palace for attention of the committee, while a window still exist for requests to be made before His Royal Majesty to re-evaluate the merit of such cases.

At this point the Oba of Benin must be commended for coming like a

messiah to rescue the people from the shackles and stronghold of the shylock land speculators and CDA members. The ease and speed with which cases are decided also deserve commendation. This has further proved the saying that when the righteous are on the throne, the people usually rejoice. That is exactly what has been happening to the people living in Benin Kingdom since Oba Ewuare II, Ogidigan ascended the throne. The people's joy and happiness knew no bound each time they get justice on matters brought before His Royal Majesty.

However, the question on the lips of people out there is, what punishment awaits anyone who might go against the judgment delivered by the Palace on any matter? This is pertinent because some of the cases being brought before the Palace under the reigning Oba Ewuare II have been settled during the reign of Oba Erediauwa of blessed memory.

Such unrepentant and recalcitrant people must be handled with the seriousness they deserve, in order to keep the open mediation alive, relevant and effective Oba Ewuare II has received commendations from people from all walks of life for this laudable initiative, and for his efforts at restoring the lost glories of Benin Kingdom. That explains why everyone should key into the vision and mission of the Oba of Benin to ensure the full realization.

Events Marking the
ANNIVERSARY
of **OBA EWUARE II**



SCAHSA Honours Governor Wike With Global Human Settlements Outstanding Contribution Award



Nigeria's moment of glory peaked in New York City recently when the Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards (SCAHSA) presented the international award to Rivers state Governor Nyesom Wike. The award was given to the governor in the presence of international diplomats, development professionals, high-level administrators and leaders of international Non Governmental Organisations.

THE Global Human Settlements Outstanding Contribution Award was in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the area of urban renewal, sustainable development and provision of basic amenities to the residential areas of low-income earners.

The governor was accompanied to the International Award Ceremony by his wife, Justice Eberechi Suzzette Nyesom-Wike, two of his children, Chief Judge of Rivers State, Justice Adama Iyaye-Laminkara, Member Representing Port Harcourt Federal Constituency, Ken Chikere, Edo State PDP Chairman, Chief Dan Orbih, the Former Minister of Sport, Dr Tammy Danagogo, Rivers State Commissioner of Information, Barrister Emma Okah and Elder Statesman, Prince Emma

Anyanwu, Member of the House of Representatives, Mrs Betty Apiafi among others.

The 12th Global Forum on Human Settlements & Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony (GFHS XII) was jointly organized by the Permanent Mission of the Gambia to the UN, the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the UN (AU), the Global Forum on Human Settlements (GFHS), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the University Peace Federation (UPF), the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO) and the better City Institute (BCI).

Speaking at the award ceremony in New York, a Representative of the United Nations Environment, Mara Murillo said that the organisation salutes Global Forum on Human

Settlements & Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for having developed the awards and the constituency for which it has been organized.

The United Nations Environment Representative congratulated the 23 awardees who were selected for their positive achievements and leadership.

The Representative stated: "The awards recognise their feats which inspire and encourage others to innovate and replicate similar feats".

The Vice Chairman of Global Forum on Human Settlements & Sustainable Cities, Dr Taj Hamad said all the awardees have made great achievements that merit the awards.

Permanent Representative of the Gambia to the United Nations, Mamadou Tangara urged all awardees to continue to work for sustainable cities across the world.

Ms Mara Angelica of the United Nations Programme lent her voice to the calls for collaborations in developing habitable cities.

There were 23 awards in six



different categories. The Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike received his "Global Human Settlements Outstanding Contribution Award" under the "Individual Initiatives to Advance Sustainable Development Category".

The award was presented to the Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike by the Vice President of Global Forum on Human Settlements & Sustainable Cities, Dr Taj Hamad.

In an acceptance speech after receiving the award, Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike pledged before the global audience that he will continue his

landmark projects to improve the living condition of the Rivers people.

He said: "Let me on behalf of the Government and people of Rivers State sincerely thank the organisers of this award for the recognition."

"To also commit ourselves that we will progressively provide infrastructure and social services that will enhance the living standards of all Rivers people on a sustainable basis".

A video footage explaining the premise upon which Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike received the award lauded him for reducing urban slums and bridging poverty gaps. The footage further praised the Rivers State Governor for his positive leadership, provision of infrastructure and basic amenities.

The 23 awardees were drawn from different countries of the world. Prominent amongst them are: Nigeria, China, Bulgaria, Germany, USA, India and Indonesia.

The event was beamed live on different platforms by dedicated international broadcasters.





Why You Must Avoid Deadly Trips to Europe

An overland journey to Europe through the parched Sahara Desert has become the order of the day in recent times, and stakeholders have now fired warning to Nigerian youths against the growing trend.

There is a recent photograph believed to be that of migrants hounded in an inflated boat as they were trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

The picture is trending on social media alongside that of several bodies floating on the water and believed to be those of migrants who perished at sea after their boat had capsized.

The latter brings straight home the flipside of the desperation for illegal migration to Europe through the African land borders and the Mediterranean Sea.

Indeed, an overland journey to Europe via the parched Sahara Desert can

Youths Warned Against Desperate Overland Journeys to North Africa

be one deadly adventure. Yet, all that is being said about this trip, according to some observers, seems to fall on deaf ears, with many youths ever willing to defy the voice of reason.

First, they slip into Niger Republic. Then they make their way through Mali to Libya or Morocco, daring to cross the big, blue and bullish Mediterranean Sea to enter Italy or Spain.

Experts say that the migrants are usually driven by certain push factors, chiefly the harsh economic challenges buffeting most parts of the continent. They want to go to Europe where the streets are reportedly made of gold. So, with the very little money they lay their hands on, they hit the roads and refuse to count the cost.

But that is only where the story begins. Those who know the road through the desert to North Africa say that it is not the average one. Chances of survival on it are slim. The adventurers must fight the sand, the searing heat and stinging cold, the marauding Tuaregs bandits, hunger and thirst at their peak. The lucky ones

who manage to reach any of the Maghreb countries do so with lots of bruises.

When the migrants eventually reach North Africa, another phase of troubles begins. If they are lucky, they hike a ride, hounded into one dingy collapsible boat sailing for Europe. Such boats have clear potential of sinking at every approach of the least strand of misfortune needless to say that thousands drown every month. They are wholly at the mercy of the elements and the angry sea waves which lash at them without mercy as they rock along, enduring hours of numbness while praying to avoid vicious guards parading the waters for irritant migrants determined to reach Europe.

As the tale of Nigerian migrants streaming to Europe through the land borders continue to turn sour, some stakeholders over time have been doing their level best to stem the tide of this exodus. Recently, for instance, an initiative was launched to spread more awareness on the dangers inherent in this suicidal journey.

The progenitors called the initiative Migration Enlightenment Project in Nigeria (MEPN), with the support of the German Information office. At its launch in Lagos, one of its directors, Femi Awoniyi, said: *"The initiative seeks to raise fresh awareness about the dangers and risks of irregular migration to*

Europe and explain the legal requirement for regular migration with the overall objective of promoting safe migration.

"Most people who travel to Europe end up as irregular migrants. One boy wrote me from Spain complaining how he was imprisoned because he was accused of crimes he did not commit, all because he was an irregular migrant who didn't have any papers.

"Every now and then, we receive news of African migrants who died at sea while trying to cross to Europe to seek opportunities. The number is heartrending.

"Last year alone about 2,500 of such migrants who entered Europe were repatriated. This number is scary enough, but might be higher because Europe will not give us the right figures. We are sick of hearing of these calamities.

"The matter gets worse when we hear that parents close their businesses to finance their children's irregular migration. That is why the objective of this initiative is to increase public awareness on how to migrate to Europe legally. We want to make it clear that it is easy to get visas and there are other opportunities which Nigerians should know."

He regretted that some migrants were enticed with non-existent job offers, warning that it was better that people knew about the dangers involved in their actions before taking a leap. In

his words, according to reports, 21,461 Nigerians were refused asylum in 2016 alone while 12,000 in Germany were awaiting repatriation.

"Unfortunately, those who fail to get their stay don't wish to return home. They take to crime and prostitution."

While at the forum, Sadiat Hassan, a Deputy Comptroller of Immigration, who worked at Nigerian Embassy in Germany for five and half years, painted a sorry picture of the plight of Nigerians who migrated to Germany illegally.

"While I was in Germany, part of my job was issuing passports to Nigerians and visas to visitors.

"But I didn't enjoy supervising the deportation of Nigerian illegal migrants. Then, I used to take a lot of painkillers because of some of the pathetic cases I used to encounter. As a mother, most times I wept when German officials invited me to come and see what some of our youths were passing through.

"If you are living there without permit, that is illegal. One of the options is for you to marry their citizens. Because of this, some of our youths kept going from one woman to another. Often, they went into

trouble; the girls among them were regularly raped. For God's sake, these were youths whose parents were here in this country.

"I'm not a lawyer, so I couldn't defend them. But I saw the Germans coming out to defend their own.

"To be honest with you, so many Nigerians are in prison there. But I couldn't help them. Some would tell me: 'Ma, I'm tired; I want to go home; I'm married with kids' Each time I heard that, my heart always broke. That was how I started buying tickets for as many of them as I cannot now remember.

"Some couldn't even go home because of shame. They told me they sold everything they had to travel to Germany. And when they arrived, the story changed.

"Each time I visited the prisons, I felt sad. I always wept like a baby seeing lots of Nigerians and listening to their tales of suffering. Then, I concluded that it was not about going to Germany or any other European country that mattered.

"When they got there the story always changed. Germany, I know, no longer gives asylum to anyone. They have closed that policy a long time ago. So our youths need to go there now with dignity so that when they are returning, their dignity will remain intact.

"There was a Nigerian lady who was a prostitute. She was arrested 36 times by the German police. Each time I asked her to go home, she would say to me: 'Madam make I work small.'"

Former 'Mr Nigeria,' Deji Bakare, who was the compere on the occasion, recalled how he narrowly escaped going to Europe across the borders at the very last minute.

He said: "Fifteen years ago, some of my friends persuaded me to join them on their overland journey to Europe. I had prepared to travel with them; I had bought new clothes; I had N10,000 on me.

"But when I met them at Ojuelegba, Lagos, I changed my mind; I gave them my new clothes and left.

"Out of the number that embarked on that trip, it was only one that came back alive. Two died at sea, others perished in the desert.

"But here I am today. I have won the 'Mr Nigeria' contest once; I'm doing a whole lot of things with my life. What that means is that there are a lot of opportunities here in the country," he said.

Posted by Odunsha on Thu 02nd Nov, 2017 - waring



Abike-Dabiri, SA to the President on diaspora

Threats of new hostility in the Niger Delta signals failure of Osinbajo shuttle diplomacy



To the international oil companies working in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, a militant cease-fire is officially over, the Niger Delta Avengers said.

"Our next line of operation will not be like the 2016 campaign which we operated successfully without any casualties," spokesman Murdoch Agbinibu said in a statement. "This outing will be brutish, brutal and bloody."

It's been nearly a year to the day since the group took credit for an attack on oil infrastructure in the Niger Delta region. The last time it took credit for an attack of note was during the second week of November 2016 when it said its rebel forces attacked an export pipeline controlled in part by a regional subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell that has the capacity to carry as much as 300,000 barrels of oil per day.

The NDA accused the government of Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari of favoring oil and gas interests over the interests of the people in the Niger Delta and its campaign had been blamed for pushing total Nigerian crude oil production to a 30-year low last year.

This time, the NDA said it would target a floating production and storage facility under construction at a South Korean shipyard, to be operated by the Nigerian subsidiary of French supermajor Total.

"We are presently tracking and monitoring its movement," Agbinibu said. "And God

willing, it shall not operate successfully in amidst the return of the fury of the Niger Delta Avengers."

Total offered no comment when asked by UPI.

After slipping into a formal recession last year, the Nigerian government said the contribution of oil to economic growth slipped slightly more than 2 percent. The government's Bureau of Statistics said at the time the economy, measured by gross domestic product, declined 2 percent year-over-year.

Nigeria emerged from recession in the second quarter, after five straight quarters of contraction. Year-over-year growth for 2017 was about 0.6 percent. Economists at the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said Nigeria produced 1.8 million barrels of oil per day last month, up 19 percent from the 2016 average.

The NDA said some of its militants had switched sides and were now working with the Buhari administration, but it wouldn't stop its campaign until the Niger Delta was liberated.

"We can assure you that every oil installation in our region will feel warmth

of the wrath of the Niger Delta Avengers," it said.

Nigeria is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries exempt for a multilateral agreement to trim production to balance an oversupplied market. Nigeria asked for exemption so it can steer oil revenue toward national security efforts.

The emergence of President Muhammadu Buhari has brought with it a new hostility in the Niger Area of the country. The new hostility was expected as the President took some decisions and made some statements that were not attractive to the peace pact entered into by the previous administrations.

President Buhari started by cancelling contracts awarded to ex militants by former President Goodluck Jonathan to protect oil facilities, not only that, the regime also threatened to stop the Amnesty programme whereby some amount of money was paid to ex agitators to resettle them and integrate them into the society.

As if all that was not enough President Muhammadu Buhari himself openly declared in an interview with a foreign Journalist that his administration was going to pay more attention to the areas that gave him more than 97 percent of his votes as against the area that gave him less than 5 percent of his votes. This was seen as an insult to Nigerians especially taken into consideration that apart from the fact that the money he was going to spend in office belonged to all Nigerians, the areas that gave him less than 5 percent of his votes actually is the area where oil the main stay of the nations economy reside,

So the militants have to attack to bring him back to senses in case

he had forgotten that the economy of the country is still in the NIGER DELTA area. A militant group in Nigeria says it has bombed three pipelines in the south of the country in the latest attack on the country's crucial oil industry.

In order to bring President Buhari to his knees a new militant group known as the NIGER DELTA AVENGERS was formed. The new group is different from the old warlords that just wanted more money and development projects in the Regions. The Niger Delta Avengers is said to exist in all the states of the South East and South South with the aim of making Nigeria ungovernable for the Muhammadu Buhari administration.

They have sympathy for former President Goodluck Jonathan administration and are not happy with the way he was voted out of office.

They believe his fall had some connection with Boko Haram leaders who vowed to make Nigeria ungovernable and they carried out their threat until Jonathan was disgraced out of office.

The Avengers want to revenge the Boko Haram attack in the South, make Nigeria ungovernable under Buhari hence the name Niger Delta Avengers.

Former President Jonathan may not have anything to do with the group but that if Nigeria is renegotiated issues like Power Rotation, Resource Control or outright breakup of Nigeria may be in their agenda as they go along. This makes them different from the ex militants who only fought against environmental degradation in the oil rich region.

They are also said to have a relationship with the Independent People of Biafra [IPOB] and are being funded by some International Organisations.

With a name that sounds like it has come from the pages of a superhero comic book, the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) is the latest militant group to emerge in Nigeria - attacking oil installations in a campaign which threatens the economy of Africa's most populous state.

"We are a group of educated and well-travelled individuals that are poised to take the Niger Delta struggle to new heights that has never been seen in this nation before," the NDA proclaimed in one of their first statements on their website in April.

"We have well-equipped human resources to meet this goal."

It was not an idle threat. The NDA has carried out a barrage of attacks on oil installations in the Niger Delta region, causing a huge decline in oil production, which is the mainstay of the West African state's economy.

The NDA, the latest militant group to emerge in Nigeria, is demanding that a greater share of oil wealth be spent on ending poverty in local



communities.

Attacks resumed in 2016 after funding for former militants was slashed.

The NDA blew up three trunk lines carrying 300,000 barrels of oil a day to Shell's Bonny export terminal in southern Bayelsa state.

Destruction of oil installations by successive militant organisations have severely disrupted crude production.

But an amnesty programme for former militants led to a period of relative peace until earlier this year.

Talks to resolve the conflict have been taking place in recent months, resulting in a delicate ceasefire, but those talks stalled at the beginning of November 2015.

Since then there has been a sharp increase in attacks.

The continued attacks on pipelines are slashing Nigeria's oil production - and hammering an economy reeling from its worst recession in years.

The government also announced a vague plan to invest \$1bn in the region - although it didn't spell out where the cash would come from.

Since the high-profile meeting, there have been a slew of attacks.

One of the militants told the BBC that the government was "playing with us" and that it wasn't putting its words into action.

Militant groups say they're fighting for a greater share of the resources for local communities. They also want the government to honour a previous amnesty programme - which offers cash payments and retraining - after its budget was slashed by two-thirds at the start of the year.

The government, however, accuses the militants of holding the country to ransom.

The continued violence is designed to pressure the government into making an agreement.

Despite the enormous economic pain, the president stood his ground.

"The renewed activities of the militants in the Niger Delta is seriously affecting our oil production," Minister of Finance Kemi Adeosun admitted on state-owned NTA television.

Who is their leader?

This is the first armed group to emerge in the region - where most people are poor despite the fact that it is rich in oil - since late Nigerian President Umar Musa Yar'Adua granted amnesty to militants there seven years ago.

At the time, militants in the region said they wanted a better deal for their people who have suffered environmental degradation and economic dislocation because of oil production by some of the world's leading firms.

Many of the militants were encouraged to drop their arms and agitation in exchange for some cash incentives and training. Former President Goodluck Jonathan, who comes from the Niger Delta, continued the scheme.

The amnesty programme, which provides tens of thousands of former oil militants with a monthly stipend from the government, stemmed the level of violence.



But in the latest budget, President Muhammadu Buhari reduced funding for it by 70%, and has spoken of phasing it out entirely by 2018.

Many say the NDA militants are followers of former Niger Delta warlords like Government Ekpemupolo, who has the alias Tompolo.

He signed up to the amnesty programme but has been on the run since February, refusing to be questioned by Nigeria's anti-corruption agency in connection with \$231m (£163m) in missing government funds.

Mr Ekpemupolo has dissociated himself from the group - but none of the former militant leaders have commented.

Others believe the new militants are criminal elements that want to draw attention to themselves

now that their kinsman, ex-President Jonathan, is out of power.

Currently, it is not known who officially leads the group, although a Col Mudoch Agbinibo has been signing press releases on behalf of the NDA.

There are suggestions that "Mudoch" is a pseudonym, like the one-time "Jumbe Gbomo" of Mend.

Whatever perceptions people might have of the group, its activities in the Niger Delta appear well co-ordinated with a high level of technical expertise.

Oil production down

The NDA has stated unambiguously what it is setting out to achieve: "Our goal is to cripple Nigeria's economy."

After declaring what it called "Operation Red Economy" in February, it blew up an underwater pipeline forcing Royal Dutch

Shell to shut down a terminal which normally produces 250,000 barrels of oil a day (bpd).

Last month, Shell declared a force majeure, which excuses a company from contractual agreements because events beyond its control, on exports of high grade crude oil after an attack on one of its trunk lines.

A few days later, US firm Chevron shut its Valve Platform following another attack, also claimed by the Avengers.

And ahead of President Buhari's first expected visit to the region, the NDA said it had blown up two Chevron export terminals.

These attacks have dealt a huge blow to the revenue of the Nigerian government, which says the renewed activities of the militants are seriously affecting oil production.

In fact the country's production has dropped to 1.65 million bpd, as against the projected 2.2 million bpd.

The military has issued a stern warning that it will deal decisively with any group fermenting trouble in the country, including those it has described as "criminal elements in the Niger Delta".

But this appears to have

emboldened the Avengers into more attacks that have had a knock-on effect on the supply of electricity that depends on gas from the oil-producing companies.

For President Buhari, administration the NDA presents another fresh security challenge to the government which has been grappling with Islamist insurgency in the north-east of the country.

As Nigerian troops continue to comb the entire Niger Delta regions and the creeks in search of ex Militants over the new bombings of oil facilities by an organization known as Niger Delta Avengers our investigations has revealed that the group may not have anything to do the ex Militants after all.

OSINBAJO'S SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY

The Federal Government of Nigeria is aware of the dangers allowing another hostility in the oil rich Niger Delta of the country. Not only is the fact that the crisis in the Niger Delta will deny the country much needed revenue to boost its economy and development, the government is also doing all it could to ensure that there is no synergy and collaboration between the people of the South South and the secessionist movements of the Independent Peoples Of Biafra (IPOB) South East.

It is in this regard that the Vice President of Nigeria Professor Yemi Osinbajo undertook a shuttle diplomacy in the entire Region..

This is because the Federal Government will need the support of all Nigerians to succeed in office. He is also aware that most of the states in the Niger Delta region were state on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) a party in opposition to his own party the All Progressives Congress (APC). He had to break political parties barriers.

In Rivers state the Vice President declared that Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike deserves the appellation of "Mr Projects " because of his high profile projects across the state.

Speaking at the Government House, Port Harcourt during the State Dinner organised in his honour, Acting President Yemi Osinbajo said he was impressed by the project sites he visited.

He said: "I think he deserves the title: 'Mr Projects '. He is indeed Mr Projects. As we came in today, we had to visit some project sites".

He noted that the visit to Rivers State was critical because of the position of the state in the country.

"Rivers State is very important to us. We take matters concerning the state seriously. We will cooperate with Rivers State to develop Nigeria.

"It is in the interest of our people and nation, that we work together for the good of our people. We need to get together to chart the pathway of growth", the Acting President said.

In his address, Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike said that the state government will cooperate with the Federal Government to deliver development to the people.

He said the issues of development should not be politicised, because the people look up to different tiers of government for empowerment and projects.

He said: "I believe that





the visit of the Acting President will bring good relationship between the Federal Government and Rivers State.

"Let us allow the interest of the majority in whatever we do. Party must take the back seat. The interest of Rivers State is paramount. That is why we are doing everything we can to cooperate with the Federal Government because we believe in the unity of this nation."

He explained that Rivers State is a state that the Federal Government needs to partner with, to consolidate the development process.

In his visit to Bayelsa state, he affirmed that the Federal Government would provide rapid development for oil-bearing communities in the Niger Delta.

The visit to the state was in continuation of his tour of the zone for peace talks with oil communities and leaders.

Osinbajo said at the stakeholders meeting that the oil industry was the dominant source of foreign exchange earnings for the country and that it was time the country added value to crude oil.

According to him, adding value to crude oil will bring enormous economic benefits to oil-bearing communities.

Osinbajo assured that the Federal Government was committed to rapid development of the communities and urged stakeholders to support the peace efforts.

He pointed out that oil communities were fundamental to the development plans of the Federal Government and urged stakeholders to embrace peace for development to take place.

Earlier, Bayelsa Governor, Mr Seriake Dickson, said that dialogue and consultation remained the most effective solution to Niger Delta crisis rather than military option.

He solicited the support of the Federal Government to tackle development challenges facing the state as the difficult terrain had made the cost of providing infrastructure quite exorbitant for the state government to cope.

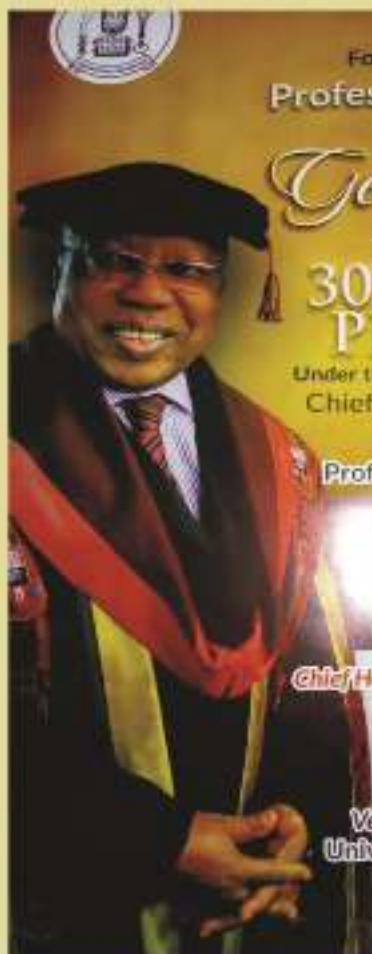
President, Ijaw Youths Council, Mr Udens Eradiri, appealed to the Federal Government to legalize the operation of artisanal refineries to create jobs for the teeming youths and save the environment.

He said that if legalised, the refineries would operate in an environmentally-sustainable

REASONS FOR NEW THREATS

Despite the promises made by the Federal Government to the people of the Niger Delta, nothing seems to have been done to show the seriousness of government.

The promises included the return of the oil companies to relocate their headquarters to the region, allowing the establishment of modular refineries among others. Worst still is the plan by the Federal Government to employ 10,000 people for pipeline security and surveillance contract. Most of those to be engaged are not ex-agitators and the participation of the ex-agitators in the surveillance contract is said to be ignored by government.



A Committee of
Former Students and Friends of
Professor E. A. C. Nwanze
Invites the
General Public
to the Celebration of His
**30TH YEAR AS
PROFESSOR**
Under the Distinguished Chairmanship of
Chief Charles Edosomwan (SAN)
Guest Speaker:
Prof. Abubakar Sani Sambo (CON)
Special Guests of Honour:
• HE, Mr Godwin Obaseki
(Executive Governor, Edo State)
• Senator (Dr) Ifeanyi Okowa
(Executive Governor, Delta State)
Chief Host: Prof. F. F. O. Orumwense
(Vice Chancellor, University of Benin)
Date: Wed. Nov. 1, 2017
Time: 10:00am
Venue: Akin Deko Main Auditorium
University of Benin, Ugbowo Campus

E. A. C Nwanze CELEBRATE 30 YEARS AS PROFESSOR





HON JUSTICE ZAINAB A. BULKACHUWA, CFR, PRESIDENT COURT OF APPEAL, NIGERIA



Hon Justice Zainab A. Bulkachuwa, CFR

Taking into account the generally unfavourable attitude towards girl child education prevalent during her growing up years in Nigeria especially in Northern Nigeria, it is no mean achievements that Hon Justice Zainab Bulkachuwa managed to rise academically and professionally to the pinnacle of her career. This has rubbished the myth of the superiority of one gender over the other.

Her emergence as the first female President of the Court of Appeal in Nigeria in April 2014, did not come as a surprise, it was a culmination of sterling records and her reputation as an upright Judicial officer. A woman that has not only carved a niche for herself, but has made a respectable name and reputation in the legal profession.

Young Zainab had her early education at Tundan Wada primary school Kaduna between 1957 and 1960 before proceeding to Senior Primary school where she obtained her School Leaving Certificate in 1963. She had her West African School Certificate from Queen Elizabeth School, Ilorin between 1964 and 1968 before proceeding to the Abdullahi Bayero college / Ahmadu bello University, Kano between January 1971 and June 1972 for her GCE A level.

After completing her secondary education, she was given out in marriage at a relatively young age. For several young girls marriage would normally bring about the end or at least the suspension of their Educational career. This was not so for the young Zainab. Determined to continue her Education, she combined being a student with motherhood and child bearing. She had three of her six children while she was a student and during her National Youth Service.

Yet she performed brilliantly in both spheres. However she, she prefers to give the credit to her late father who agreed to give her out in marriage only on the condition that her husband allow her to continue her education despite being married. She also give credit to her late Uncle who ensured that her late father's wish was carried out.

An indigene of Nafada Local Government, Gombe state. Hon Justice Zainab Bulkachuwa was born 6th March 1950 in Bauchi state, she is the daughter of Alhaji Abubakar Gidado El Nafaty and Hajiya Aishatu Dudu El Nafaty. A contemporary of late sir Tafawa Balewa, her late father was an astute Educationist and broadcaster, fluent in Arabic, English, Fulfulde and Hausa, he served as a controller of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation and was a co founder along with the late Sheikh Gumi and others of Jama'atu Nasril Islam.

With sound education and proper upbringing there is no telling how far a female child, just like her male counterpart can go in life, while a woman may marry early, marriage must not be a reason to terminate her education career. As the society comes to terms with the importance of educating the girl child, the potentials of women and their capabilities will be unleashed for the greater good of the country and humanity.

She later proceeded to the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria where she obtained her LL.B (Hons) between 1972 and 1975. Between 1975 and 1976 Bulkachuwa had her programme at the Nigerian Law School before being called to the bar in 3rd of July 1976.

An integrity driven woman, Justice Bulkachuwa believes in hard work, truthfulness and Integrity

and has attributed success in the legal system to all these. " Integrity pays, I have based all my life in putting Integrity first in all that I do right from my childhood days, the teaching from my parent was the foundation of what am today," She said.

A woman with formidable profile and Charismatic personality, after the completion of her LL.B (Hons) from ABU Bulkachuwa service traits, exemplary commitment to duty and outstanding leadership qualities manifested throughout her service years.

In 1996 when Gombe state was created she had the unique honour of being appointed as the Chief Judge of the state from 1997 to 1998. In 1998 she was elevated to the Federal Judiciary as a Justice of the Court of Appeal. Between 2005 and 2012 she was the presiding Justice over the court of Appeal until she became acting President of the same court in November 2012. She was eventually confirmed as the President of the Court of Appeal in April 2014. By that appointment she became the first woman in the Legal History of Nigeria to serve as the President of the Court of Appeal.

Over the years Her Lordship has not only actively worked in the Nigerian Judiciary, she has played several oversight and participatory roles on several other national platforms including Legal Adviser Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria from 1988 to 1990, President OSOQUES, Bauchi, Member Board of Governors of the National Judicial Council from 1997 to 1998, member Body of Benchers 1997 to 1998, President National Association of women Judges 2000 to 2003, Initaitor of the Jurisprudence of Equality project 2001 to 2008, member of the Nigerian Rule of Law Assistant project between 2003 and 2005, acting Chairman of the Legal Practitioner's Disciplinary Committee.

WORKING EXPERIENCE:

On completion of her National Youth Service, His Lordship joined the public service as Pupil State Counsel Grade I. Following her service at the Ministry of Justice in Kaduna, she was elevated to the Bench; first as Magistrate Grade I, then Senior Magistrate I & II before becoming Chief Magistrate II all between 1980 and 1985 in the Kaduna State Judiciary. It was during this period that she attended Yale University, Connecticut, USA as a Visiting Scholar for 3 months.

In 1986, she continued her career in the Bauchi State Judiciary first as Chief Magistrate I and then as Deputy Chief Registrar to later become Acting Chief Registrar. Her late husband, Prof. Abubakar Yaya Aliyu began his career as a Research Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos. He later transferred his services to Ahmadu Bello University and rose to become a Professor before the age of 40.



However, he died in 1987 when she was appointed a Judge of the High Court of Bauchi State.

She married Ambassador Adamu Bulkachuwa in 199. He is now the Sarkin Bai Katagum and the District Head of Bulkachuwa.

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Appeal.

This Legal Luminary's contribution to the Nigerian Judiciary is unquantifiable. She has devoted her years to the selfless service of our great nation while also playing the role of a mother to 6 children and the lovely wife since 1991 of Ambassador Adamu Bulkachuwa.

In recognition of her service to the Judiciary and to the nation, His Lordship was awarded the Title of the Officer of the Federal Republic (OFR) in 2007/2008. In 2014, she was honoured with the award of Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR). Hon. Justice Z a i n a b A d a m u Bulkachuwa is a recipient of several awards from various organizations.

Chatham House Lecture: **GOVERNOR WIKE URGES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SAVE NIGERIA'S DEMOCRACY**



Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike on Monday at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) delivering a lecture on the topic: "Defining Development for Rivers State and Steps to Sustainable Implementation".

Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike has declared that there is an urgent need for the international community to save Nigeria's democracy from imminent collapse by mounting sufficient pressures on the APC Federal Government to uphold the rule of law and guarantee the integrity of the electoral system.

Governor Wike also stated that the current flawed revenue sharing formula in the country has made development difficult in states as the Federal Government carts away 53 percent of national revenue, while the 36 states share a meagre 22 percent.

Governor Wike spoke on Monday at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), London when he delivered a lecture on the topic: "Defining Development for Rivers State and Steps to Sustainable Implementation".

The governor said: "There is need for the international community to save the country and its democracy from imminent collapse by

putting sufficient pressures on the Federal Government to uphold the rule of law, guarantee the integrity of the electoral system and do socio-economic justice to all segments of the Nigerian society.

"The fact cannot be disputed that States bear greater development burden than the Federal Government. However, under the flawed revenue allocation regime, the Federal Government alone retains 53% of national revenue and allocates only 22% to the entire 36 States of the federation.

"Obviously, when 22% percent of national revenue is disaggregated among 36 States, what comes to each State is not more than 0.6 per cent on the average per annum, which by any stretch of imagination is incapable of funding serious

developmental programmes for any State".

He said the country is in serious political and economic decline, pointing out that Nigeria is presently caught up in a serious existential crisis, which is self-evident.

According to Governor Wike: "The politicization and active involvement of key national institutions, such as the Independent National Electoral Commission and the Police in the rigging of the re-run elections in Rivers State was not only an affront to democracy, such acts constitute a serious invitation to chaos with destructive consequences of unknown dimensions".

The governor explained to the

International Community that despite generating a huge percentage of the nation's resources, Rivers State has suffered untold neglect and deprivation by the Federal Government over the years.

He said: "As an integral part of the country Rivers State is entitled to development support from the federal government through the direct provision of projects and programmes in the State. This is even more so considering the State's enormous contributions to the national revenue bowl. Unfortunately, this is not the case as the Federal Government continues to neglect and marginalize the State in the provision of development projects.

"For instance, the Federal Government has not undertaken any new development project in the State for the last two decades. Even the existing ones, such as the Port Harcourt international airport, the two seaports and the East-West highway have severely degenerated without attention for years. These are important economic projects that needed to function maximally to drive the socio-economic development of the State, yet the Federal Government continues to turn a blind eye to

them with impunity".

Governor Wike lamented the developmental challenges that have bedevilled Rivers State, despite her enormous resources. He said though previous administrations have played key roles in developing the state, the immediate past Amaechi administration stunted development through unbridled theft of state funds during an era of resource boom.

"Although successive governments tried to move it forward, the eight years of the immediate past government were the most regrettable in the State's history as there were no tangible achievements to justify the huge resources that accrued to the State during the period of unprecedented oil boom. In stead, so much public money was either siphoned into private pockets or wasted on bogus and unsustainable projects", he said.

He informed that despite the ugly state that the Amaechi administration left the state, his administration has over the last 29 months embarked on meaningful development projects and programmes in the areas of infrastructure, human capital



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development and security of lives and property.

He said: "We picked up this challenge as a matter of urgent priority by launching the "operation zero pothole programme" on our first day in office, which has successfully repaired and cleared most of our streets and roads of potholes.

"Thereafter, we dedicated an unprecedented 65% of the State's capital expenditure to the provision of infrastructure. As at today, we have committed over 170 billion naira to construct, upgrade and expand several roads, bridges and jetties and linking up communities and settlements across the entire State".

The governor added: "We increased public spending on education from 4.2% to about 12% on the average and deployed substantial resources for the renovation and equipping of over 180 basic education and secondary schools across the State to improve the quality of education at that level.

"We have also constructed, upgraded and rehabilitated several faculty buildings, lecture halls, workshops, staff offices as well as student hostels in all the tertiary institutions. These interventions have expanded access,



improved quality and placed our tertiary institutions on the path to producing the skillful and innovative graduates that we need to drive the development of the State and the nation.

"Within the last two years of our administration, we have renovated 13 general hospitals in 13 local government areas of the State, established a teaching hospital for the State University to train medical personnel as well as restarted work on the construction of 3 regional health facilities and a mother and child hospital which were started but abandoned by the previous administration.

"We recognize the importance of the private sector in the healthcare delivery system. Consequently, we have also supported private hospitals in the State with interest-free revolving loans to enable them to improve their facilities and deliver better services to the public".

Governor Wike said despite the man-made challenges confronting his administration, the State Government has proved that

"a committed government can even in a short period impact positively on the State's sustainable development."

Governor Wike declared: "I want to assure you that our resolve is strong, our commitment to Rivers State and our people remain unchanged and unchangeable. We shall continue to do our best within the limits of available resources to deliver on our development priorities to the State on sustainable bases and enhance the wellbeing of our people."

Chair of the presentation, Sir Richard

Gozney KCMG CVO, Lieutenant Governor, Isle of Man; British High Commissioner to Nigeria (2004-07) noted that Rivers State is important to the development of Nigeria and plays a significant role in regional affairs.

Incumbent British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr Paul Awkright who attended Governor Wike's presentation urged him to continue to work for the improvement of security in the state for the increase in foreign direct investments.

Responding to questions from the diverse audience, Governor Wike regretted that the Ogoni clean up has been politicised by the APC Federal Government, pointing out that the administration had no intention of executing the project.

On foreign scholarships, Governor Wike reiterated that the State Government will pay for final year students in critical science courses, while those studying arts courses were advised to return to Nigeria with the Rivers State Government footing their bills.

Prominent Rivers Leaders who attended the presentation at Chatham House include: Former Rivers State Governor, Sir Celestine Omechia, Senator Osinakachukwu Ideozu, Senator George Thompson Sekibo, Rt Hon. Ken Chikere, Hon. Boma Goodhead, Hon. Betty Apiafi, Former Minister of Sport, Dr Tammy Danagogo, Former Minister of Transport, Dr Abiye Sekibo, Senator Olaka Nwogu, Commissioner of Information, Barrister Emma Okah, Former Commissioner of Transport, Chief Glory Enech, Ambassador Desmond Azawor amongst others.

INDORAMA PARTNERING WITH FG TO BOOST FOOD PRODUCTION



Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has presented a certificate for the Formal Release Ceremony to discharge Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals Limited, (IEPL), from the mandatory five-year Monitoring Programme of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE).

Presenting the certificate to Indorama at the company's premises in Eleme, Professor Osinbajo said 75% of Eleme Petrochemical Limited's equity was sold to Indorama for \$225million while 10% was sold to the NNPC Pension Fund for \$30million.

He said following the transaction, the company was handed over to its new owners on October 26, 2026.

He said the National Council on Privatization (NCP) in 2009 approved the sale of 7.5% and 2.5% of the remaining government's 15% reserved equity in the company to the community and staff of the company respectively, saying that a balance of 5% was left with the BPE on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

He said "Following the 2006 handover, the BPE carried out routine monitoring on the enterprise to ensure that the core investor adhered to and implemented the post-acquisition plan it had laid out for the company."

"Today is the culmination of that process of monitoring and oversight by the BPE. I am delighted that it is taking place on an inspiring and hopeful note, and that we are all here today celebrating a thriving and promising company."

"We should not take this state of affairs for granted. The Buhari administration is unequivocally committed to the success of the private sector. This is why a lot of our focus has been on significantly improving the business environment for businesses, small and large."

He said President Buhari last year established a Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), whose results he said are "now starting to be felt across the country."

According to him "The kind of economic growth and prosperity that we're aiming for cannot happen without private capital, and that private capital cannot be unlocked without reforming the business environment by removing obstacles and roadblocks to investment and to business operations."

He added "We know for a fact that it is impossible for government to ever be able to provide all the capital needed to invest in infrastructure, or to catalyse economic activity. The best that we can do, and what we should be putting all our energy into, as government, is acting as a catalyst, an enabler, supporting private capital to achieve maximum impact in an economy that so desperately needs all the investment it can get"

"And this is the entire point of the privatisation programme in the first place it is about getting government out of the way so that businesses can do what they need to do to create jobs and prosperity. I am glad that we are here today to see one of the success stories of the Federal Government's privatisation programme."

He said what Indorama has accomplished is very much in line with President Buhari's vision for a country that produces what it consumes and grows what it eats.

"If you had to sum up our vision for the Nigerian economy in a few words, these would suffice. Grow what we eat,



produce what we consume," he said.

He pointed out that President Buhari launched a Presidential Fertilizer

Initiative last year to ensure the availability of cheaper fertilizer to farmers, as to support what the government is doing in agriculture as well as in the production of rice and wheat and other staples.

He noted that Fertilizer Initiative has created significant economic opportunities for companies like the Indorama stressing that he has been informed that Indorama will this year alone supply about 360,000 MT of Urea to

Fertilizer blenders, who according to him will in turn produce NPK fertilizer for the benefit of

farmers across the country. "This is the kind of economic progress we are after, in which every unlocked opportunity proceeds to unlock several others, across multiple sectors of the economy"

"In equally exciting news, Indorama has now pushed ahead deeper into the value chain by going into fertilizer production. Their Fertilizer

plant, commissioned today, is, I am told, one of the largest in the world, designed to produce 1.5 metric tons of Urea fertilizer per annum, for the domestic and foreign markets," he stated.

He said federal government will continue to support Indorama's expansion ambitions.

Earlier the Chairman of Indorama Fertilizer Chemical Ltd., Siri Prakash Lohia said the plant is the largest angle train Urea in the world with a capacity of 1.4 million tons per year.

He said the journey to realise the project has taken over 3 years saying that they were able to achieve their objectives despite the initial obstacles.

He said with a total of \$1.4bn in the plant, pipelines and export terminal the fertilizer company is one of the largest investment done in the non oil and gas sector.

Rivers State governor, Nyesom Wike said the State government has an investment interest in the company saying that it will continue to support the company.





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