

# NEWS PLATFORM

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**2019 Election:**

**I Have Done My Best ... Buhari**  
**Your Best is Not Good Enough ... Atiku**



**Bodo-Bonny Road Exposes New Level  
Of Hydrocarbon Pollution In Ogoniland !**

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# Army Inaugurates 63 Brigade, Flags Off Operation Python Dance In Asaba

**T**he Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Tukur Buratai, inaugurated the 63 Brigade of Nigerian Army and flagged-off Operation Egwu Eke (Python Dance) in Asaba, Delta State.

Mr. Buratai, represented by Jamil Sarham, a Major General and General Officer Commanding (GOC), 6 Division, said the brigade would ensure peace, security and promote commerce in Asaba and its environs.

He said the essence was to checkmate the myriad of security challenges in the country.

He said the establishment of military formations required huge financial commitment, adding that while the various governments made provisions, other stakeholders would be required to support the project to

ensure adequate security.

"I therefore call on the government and the good people of Delta to support the operations of the 63 brigade and the formations in Koko and Oleh.

"I am also in Delta to flag off the operation Egwu Eke 3 (Python Dance), a Kin 11, Okpanam Road, Asaba," he said.

Mr. Buratai assured all law abiding people of the state that the Army would ensure adequate security and safety even as the nation approaches the 2019 general elections.

He said the Army would work in cooperation with other security agencies to ensure peace in the state. The army chief said at the end of the python dance exercise, "the python must have swallowed all the

hoodlums, bandits, kidnappers and militants among others in the country.

"The python will also address the issues of fake news by unpatriotic elements; it is a necessary that we draw the attention of all well-meaning Nigerian that they must have at the back of their minds the importance of national security," he said.

**"It is my great pleasure to inaugurate the 63 Brigade with its headquarters in Asaba, this is demonstration of President Muhammadu Buhari's desire to ensure security of lives and property across the country."**

# 'NSDC Generates N800m From Licences In 2018'

**T**he Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSDC) said it generated over N800 million as revenue from approval and renewal of licences of Private Guard Companies (PGCs) in 2018.

Media Assistant to the Commandant General of NSDC, Mr. Soji Alabi, said this in Abuja.

He said the amount was paid into the Federal Government coffers.

The aide added that the corps registered and licensed 1, 212 PGCs in the year under review.

Alabi said over 80 PGCs were sealed for non-renewal of their of their licenses even after they had been warned by the monitoring department of the corps. He said 102 licenses of some PGCs were

also revoked due to non compliance, and that the corps assisted PGCs in the training of over 4,000 personnel for effective performance.

He advised owners of PGCs to ensure internal security standards as there was high expectations from them.

Meanwhile the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Jigawa command, said it had recorded no fewer than 1,215 court cases between January and December, 2018.

The spokesman of the command, Mr. Abdullahi Adamu, said in a statement in Dutse that the cases included 487 civil issues.

The statement said the criminal cases comprised armed robbery, theft, burglary, conspiracy, gross indecency, vandalism, fraud rape, gross

**"Do not allow foreigners head your companies because it is against the law guiding the operations of PGSC in the country."**

misconduct, assault, use of illicit drugs, breach of trust and trespass, among others.

It explained that out of the 487 criminal cases, 44 were transferred to relevant agencies for further investigation, while 326 were successfully prosecuted in court and 117 were still awaiting trial.



# 4 Killed In Cult Clash In Edo

**F**our persons were reportedly killed during a fight between rival cult group in Benin, the Edo State capital. It was gathered that a fight broke out between the cult group on Monday over undisclosed issues, leading to the death of four people.

We learnt that three of victims were killed at different locations in Ogida axis, while the fourth one was shot dead at Ugborara.

Source said the the first victim at Ogida was killed by rival cult group after eating

a plate of pepper soup at a joint, adding that they were killed between 9 and 10pm.

The second victim was said to have been killed in his bedroom, when unidentified gunman shot him on his head through the window.

The third victim was allegedly chased by his attackers and killed with a battle axe.

It was gathered that the fourth victim said to be in company of his friend when his assailants shot him from the back severally.

"I learnt that the young man was with one of his friend when some people attacked him. His friend was said to have run into his house, thinking that the victim also escaped, unknown to him that his friend was shot dead by the gunmen," he said

When contacted, the state police police public relations officer, DSP Chidi Nwabuzor, said he was not aware of the killing at Ogida.

"I don't know about the Ogida incident, what I know is what I will tell you," he said.

## Gov. Ayade Urges Buhari, Atiku. Duke, Others To Take Vacation In Calabar



**G**overnor Ben Ayade of Cross River State has called on all the presidential candidates vying for the coveted seat of the president to take, at least, one week vacation in the city of Calabar.

He said the city will afford them the luxury of unwinding from the hectic presidential campaign that will soon ensue.

The governor made the call Sunday evening when he flagged off the 3<sup>rd</sup> dry run segment of the 30 day Calabar Carnival, stating that the vacation will enable them to relish, especially as it would be climaxing on December 28.

Speaking through the state deputy governor, Prof Ivora Edo, Ayade clarified that the invitation to the presidential candidates, including

President Muhammadu Buhari, Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, Former Governor of the state and presidential candidate of the SDP and others, has no political undertone as the carnival has no affiliation with any political parties.

"This is the final dry-run and the event is looking as if today is the grand finale. This shows that our first and second dry run was

successful.

"I want to use this opportunity, on behalf of the state governor to invite all the candidates of various political parties to come for this year's carnival.

"We want them to take off one week rest from their campaigns and come and enjoy themselves. Carnival Calabar does not know any political party or religion. "When you come to Calabar for the carnival, you are as free as air. I will like to invite them to come here and relax and as the people see them, maybe those who are able to dance better may attract more votes.

"So, we want to see the candidates who can come here and rock it better, in such a way some people may be encouraged to vote for them," he said. Earlier, the Chairman of the Calabar Carnival Commission, Mr Gabe Ona, said that the carnival has become the melting pot of Africa's hospitality.



# Work Towards A Peaceful Enthronement Of A New Paramount Ruler, Governor Wike Tells Eleme People



**R**ivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike has called on the people of Eleme to work towards the peaceful enthronement of a New Paramount Ruler following the passage of One-Eh Eleme X, King Samuel Oluka Ejire.

Speaking during the burial service of the late One-Eh Eleme X, King Samuel Oluka Ejire at Holy Trinity Anglican

Church, Nehia Eleme, Governor Wike said that Eleme is key to Rivers State and Nigeria, hence it must remain peaceful. He announced the appointment of an Acting Traditional Ruler of the area, who is expected to act till the people of the area choose another King.

The governor described the Late Traditional Ruler as a peaceful man who ensured that peace prevailed across

Eleme land.

"On behalf of the government and people of Rivers State I offer my heartfelt condolences and prayers to the entire people of Eleme at this period of sorrow.

"He lived a very good life. The family should continue to uphold his core values and promote peace at all times",

He prayed that the successor of the Late Traditional Ruler would be a man of peace, committed to the welfare of Eleme people. "A wise, kind-hearted and progressive monarch, His Majesty had been a partner with government and a champion of peace and sustainable development. It is to his credit that Eleme land witnessed peace and Development during his reign", he said.

The governor stated that only one person will succeed the Late King, adding that other leaders of the area should rally round the person for the good of the area. Governor Wike urged the people to work in unity for the early replacement of the Late Traditional Ruler, for the continuation of his good works. The funeral service attracted leaders and politicians from across the state.

## Ogoni clean up: FG handover sites to contractors

**T**he Minister of Environment, Suleiman Hassan Zarna said in Port Harcourt on Friday that Federal Government has commenced the handover of sites for the commencement of Ogoni clean up exercise.

Suleiman Hassan Zarna who disclosed this during a courtesy visit to Governor Wike at Government House, Port Harcourt, assured the Governor that the Ministry of Environment is working with the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP, to ensure that the cleanup of Ogoniland is carried out.

He said "We are here to set the tone to enable the foundation laying of a robust intergovernmental collaboration which you have been doing especially in the environmental sector."

Earlier Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike decried what he described as the deliberate neglect of the Niger Delta, despite the fact the region is suffering untold environmental hardship for keeping the country afloat.

Governor Wike said that environmental degradation caused by oil exploration is worse than insurgency.

He said: "While we support the fighting against insurgency, nothing is worse than environmental pollution. We suffer because we are allowing Nigeria to survive. We are suffering for Nigeria to survive. It is through our oil that Nigeria is surviving. "We are dying because we are keeping the country alive. Nobody wants to give us the attention required. These people who are suffering because of the nation's survival, why not give them priority to survive?"

He urged the Federal Government to withdraw funds from the Excess Crude Account to address the environmental challenges in Ogoni-land. The governor said it should be done in same manner that funds were withdrawn to tackle insurgency.

"They took \$1billion from the Excess Crude Accounts to fight insurgency. I say they should take \$500million from the Excess Crude Accounts for the Ogoni Clean up Exercise."

"If you had told me earlier that you were coming, I would have provided a helicopter for you to fly over Ogoni land. You will weep at the level of environmental damage", the governor said.

The governor regretted that the Ogoni Clean up Exercise has been politicised, pointing out that the Ministry of Environment is handing over sites to contractors three years after Vice President Yemi Osinbajo flagged off the exercise. He said the two

activities took place as elections approached.

"Three years ago, the President represented by the Vice President flagged off the clean up during the rerun elections. One month to the general elections, the Minister of Environment has come to hand over the sites.

"If I tell you I believe sincerely that you people want to clean up Ogoni land, I am telling you lies. Surprise me and prove me wrong", he said.

He called on the Minister of Environment to investigate cases of deduction of funds from contracts awarded for the clean up Exercise.

The governor urged the Federal Ministry of Environment to ensure the benefiting communities are patronized during the clean up and all approved steps taken by HYPREP.





President Buhari

## I Have Delivered On My Campaign Promises....Buhari

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari has challenged people doubting his achievements, saying that he has delivered on his campaign promises.

Speaking in Uyo during the flag-off of his campaigns in the South-South region, President Buhari said he has delivered in the area of security, economy and fighting corruption as he promised Nigerians.

He said though the menace of Boko Haram remains a challenge in some parts of the country, he has so far battled Boko Haram to a

standstill.

He noted that though members of the sect have adopted a new approach of indoctrinating young men and women to embark on suicide bombing, efforts were seriously being made to battle insurgency to a standstill.

He said however, unemployment remained a challenge in the country but that the government is working to tackle the problem.

He added that Nigerians will get periodic information on recovered loots and that the government will not stop prosecuting corrupt politicians.

He said the Single Treasury Account adopted by his administration has and will continue to assist the federal government in its fight against corruption.

He assured the people that they would not regret voting him into office and commended the party for organising the event.

"We promised to fight corruption, tackle insecurity and improve the economy, and as you can see, Boko Haram is no longer in control of Borno state, they have rather resorted to indoctrinating young men and





women to go on suicide bombing. By the grace of God we are going to clear them off.

"I will not stop arresting corrupt politicians. Very soon I will inform Nigerians of funds recovered from looters. I will ensure that I recover Nigeria and no Nigerian will ever regret voting me and the APC.

"We will not go back on Single Treasury Account, it is meant to ensure transparency, because every federal government money that goes in there can easily be traced," he said.

Also speaking, the National Leader of the All Progressives Congress party, Mr Bola Tinubu, said re-electing President Muhammadu Buhari in 2019 will give Nigerians hope and cause the diversification of the economy.

Tinubu who called on the people of the state to support President Buhari, stated that Buhari is strongly determined to redirect governance, adding that the APC government will continue to support Akwa Ibom in the renewal of sustainable development.

He said that Nigeria had been yearning for change from corruption, change from laziness

and change for development and for a diversified economy.

He noted that if the past administration in the country had concentrated on one project like electricity, it would have been better, adding that if the PDP come back, it would take the country backwards.

According to him, the country is marching forward for development and economic prosperity adding that the party would continue to support the fight against corruption in the country.

"Sixteen years of PDP will never come back to this country, we are strongly determined to reverse the course of governance, we are building on a new foundation for the youths and new generation yet unborn," he said.

The Director General of Buhari Campaign Organisation and Minister for Transportation, Mr. Chibuike Amacchi denied that the APC promised to make one Naira equivalent to \$1, and reduce the price of petrol when it was campaigning in 2015 to win the presidential election.

The minister said they were no magicians to have made such promises, adding that the party

promised to fight corruption which it has done and of which the opposition even testifies. He said the election of President Muhammadu Buhari would ensure the creation of more employment opportunities in the country with the construction of railway lines in many parts of the country.

According to him, Nigeria must change for the better saying that the federal government has been able to restrict attacks by Boko Haram insurgency to Borno State unlike in the past when many towns and cities in the country were randomly attacked by the insurgents.

Also speaking, APC National Chairman, Adams Oshiomole said character is what will form the basis of the campaign of the party.

He said though the opposition has continue to throw mud Buhari, the President can speak outside the country, a feat which the PDP candidate cannot achieve.

In the course of his speech, Oshiomole handed over the party's flag to the gubernatorial candidates representing Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Delta and Cross River states.

Earlier, the State Chairman of the APC in Akwa Ibom state, Mr Ini Okopido, said during his welcome speech that the party will deliver the state's vote for President in 2019.

Okopido who said the visit of President Buhari was symbolic, added that the party was pleased with the state appointments made so far by the President.

He said Akwa Ibom State will be one of the states to fall for APC come 2019 elections, and noted that the party was happy to have the President in the state.



# We Shall Frustrate Attempt To Make Kwara Part Of South West - Saraki



Kola Shittu said only PDP government will be beneficial to the people of the state and Nigerians in general. "PDP government will provide jobs for our youths. Many people have decamped to PDP because of our leaders sincerity and welfarism programmes," he added.

In his remarks, Atunwa promised to run a government of welfarism if elected as the state's next governor.

He lamented that "the APC led federal government denied Kwara youths job placements. Our government shall provide jobs for them. Women will be empowered.

In his opening remarks, the Director General of PDP campaign council in the

**T**he Senate President, Dr Bukola Saraki said that the people of Kwara state will frustrate any attempt by some desperate politicians and their local collaborators to annex the state to the south west using the All Progressives Congress and its candidates in the coming general elections.

The Senate President spoke at Bode Saadu, headquarters of Moro local government area, in Kwara north during the official flag off of the campaign of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Saying Kwara belongs to Kwarans and all efforts by seasonal politicians to hand it over to their Lagos and Abuja paymasters shall be frustrated.

"This election is not about me or our

governorship candidate, Razak Atunwa. It's about this state, our tradition. Time will tell about whatever we do today. We go back to PDP because we need a government that will care for our people, gives jobs to our people. We should not vote a candidate whose DG said 'he does not care, he does not know.'" Saraki said.

Also speaking, Kwara state governor, Alh Abdulfatah Ahmed said: "We've flagged off our campaign to usher in another PDP government. You can all see hunger, poverty in the last three years of APC government. We want to bring in PDP to change the narrative. We shall usher in PDP government in Nigeria and Kwara.

The state chairman of the PDP, Hon.

state, Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman described APC as a deceitful party which does not meant well for the people of Kwara state. He thanked Kwarans for their unwavering support for Saraki.

He added that: "Kwara election is between the real stakeholders and pretenders and those with territorial expansionist ambition. Kwara belongs to the north and we should not allow them to take the state to the south west. The APC has nothing to offer the state, they only have deception. We should vote for Atiku. Kwara should not vote for 'ghosts' because we don't know those parading themselves as gubernatorial candidate now. They have never contributed anything to the



# Atiku Pledges Jobs Creation, Revival Of Ajaokuta

**F**ormer Vice President Atiku Abubakar and presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the February 16 elections has promised to give top priority to jobs creation if elected in the forthcoming election.

Atiku who made the pledge in Lokoja during the PDP presidential campaign flag off, lamented the current high rates of unemployment and resultant poverty prevalent in the country.

He assured that his administration would ensure the revival of the moribund Ajaokuta Steel Complex which he noted, has the potential of generating millions of jobs for the people and as well boost the economy of the country.

According to him, his administration would restructure Nigeria in such a way that the people of Kogi State would enjoy maximum benefits of the abundant resources the state is endowed with.

Atiku, who decried the high level of hunger, poverty,

insecurity and hardships under the APC-led government, urged the people of Kogi State vote for all PDP candidates from "top to bottom" in the forthcoming election to change the negative narrative and get "Nigeria working again".

Director General of PDP Presidential Campaign Organisation and President of Senate, Dr Bukola Saraki urged people of the state vote for PDP candidates and should resist the temptation of exchanging their votes for the ruling party's "trader moni".

Former Governor of Kogi State and Chairman of the PDP Presidential Campaign Council in the state, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris aka Ibro, in his remarks urged people of the state vote massively for Atiku and all candidates to bring an end to hunger and suffering the ruling party had inflicted on them over the past three and half years.

He urged people of the state not sell their votes and should not succumb to any form of intimidation in the



forthcoming elections. On his part, former Governor Idris Wada of Kogi State described Atiku as the best man that can fix and get Nigeria working again, urging supports for him and all other candidates of the PDP.

The rally which held at the Lokoja Confluence Stadium witnessed turnout of mammoth crowd of PDP stalwarts, supporters and enthusiasts from across the state and beyond

## INEC Released Registered Voters List Per States

No.	States	No of Voters
1.	Abia	1,932,892
2	Adamawa	1,973,083
3	Akwa Ibom	2,119,727
4	Anambra	2,447,996
5	Bauchi	2,462,843
6	Bayelsa	923,182
7	Benue	2,480,131
8	Borno	2,315,956
9	Cross River	1,527,289
10	Delta	2,845,274
11	Ebonyi	1,459,933
12	Edo	2,210,534
13	Ekiti	909,967
14	Enugu	1,944,016
15	FCT	1,344,856
16	Gombe	1,394,393
17	Imo	2,272,293
18	Jigawa	2,111,106

19	Kaduna	3,932,492
20	Kano	5,457,747
21	Katsina	3,230,230
22	Kebbi	1,806,231
23	Kogi	1,646,350
24	Kwara	1,406,457
25	Lagos	6,570,291
26	Nasarawa	1,617,786
27	Niger	2,390,035
28	Ogun	2,375,003
29	Ondo	1,822,346
30	Osun	1,680,498
31	Oyo	2,934,107
32	Plateau	2,480,455
33	Rivers	3,215,273
34	Sokoto	1,903,166
35	Taraba	1,777,105
36	Yobe	1,365,913
37	Zamfara	1,717,128
<b>Total:</b>		<b>84,004,084</b>



# Governor Rochas Okorocha Urges **The Military** To Ensure Free & Fair Election



*Governor Rochas Okorocha with the new GOC 82 Division of the Nigeria Army Enugu, Major General A.C. Maikobi, (1stleft), Commander 34 FAB Obinze, Brigadier General H.I. Bature (2ndleft), Commissioner of Police Imo, Mr. Dasuki Galadanchi, (1stright) and other Senior Officers, when the GOC paid courtesy call on the governor at the Government House Owerri.*



*Governor Rochas Okorocha welcoming the new GOC 82 Division of the Nigeria Army Enugu, Major General A.C. Maikobi, when he paid on courtesy call with his team to the governor at the Government House Owerri.*

**T**he Imo State governor, Owele Rochas Okorocha has urged the military to ensure free and fair election during this year's Poll. He also called for severe Punishment for Politicians who clothe touts or hoodlums with army and Police uniforms during elections, adding that these hoodlums wearing these unauthorized uniforms commit heinous things during the elections.

The governor had spoken when the new General Officer Commanding (GOC) the 82 Division of the Nigeria Army, Enugu paid him courtesy call at the Government House Owerri, stressing that this is the time all hands





*Governor Rochas Okorocha receiving plaque from the new GOC 82 Division of the Nigeria Army when he paid courtesy call on the governor at the Government House Owerri.*

must be on deck and ensure that the nation's democracy is saved. Owelle told the GOC "You have been posted at a critical time in the period of electioneering. We request that the Military should do the needful to ensure free and fair election. I have no doubt that the army will do the needful by ensuring free Conduct of these elections".

He stated "We are not unmindful of the fact that some unpopular and unpatriotic Politicians sow Army, Police and Navy uniforms and give them to touts or hoodlums to use during elections. I urge the army to start by fishing out these unpatriotic Politicians and ensure that they get the kind of punishment they deserve, to help our democracy". He continued "One of the major problems we have as a nation is that people who are not chosen by the people are seen holding public offices because they won through the backyards. This is the major problem of our democracy. I urge you to correct this aspect of our democracy by ensuring free and fair Poll".

According to him "In Imo State, going by public opinion the people already know who will be their governor, Senators, House of Representatives etc. They know all of them by the way they pronounce them and their actions but sometimes it comes to them as a rude shock when somebody they never expected, emerges and the person did so through manipulations. This is a time for all hands to be on deck and ensure that our democracy is saved".

He added "We have all agreed that democracy is the best way of government but in this present democracy comes a lot of problems. It brings hatred, gossips, bickering and all forms of evil activities.

I want to urge all Nigerians to know that no matter what happens, we are members of this one family called Nigeria and we are duty bound to protect the integrity of Nigeria".

In his speech earlier, Major General Maikobi said he had come with his team to inform the governor that he has taken over as the GOC of the 82 Division of the Nigeria Army Enugu and to also inform him that they have flagged off operation Egwueke 3 in the South-East with their headquarters at Abakiliki, Ebonyi State.

General Maikobi said "For ease of command and administration we have divided the command into sectors, one in Owerri. The exercise is not aimed at any person or group. Our purpose is to apply every effort within our capacity to checkmate criminals and criminality.

We will work in accordance with the law and create an atmosphere of peace within our different localities".

He remarked "Our relationship with the people will be most cordial and the people have nothing to fear as our men have been warned to work according to laid down rules and principles".



# Governor Wike's N480billion Budget for 2019

## Appropriation Bill to Rivers State House of Assembly



Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike lays the 2019 Rivers State Budget to the House of Assembly on Monday.

**R**ivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike 2019 presented the 2019 Appropriation Bill of N480billion to the State House of Assembly for consideration and approval.

Presenting the 2019 Appropriation Bill to the House, Governor Wike said the strategic thrust for the 2019 budget is to promote economic growth and diversification, create jobs and reduce unemployment; take as many of Rivers people out of poverty and improve the standard of living of Rivers State. The budget is premised on an oil price bench mark of 55 United States Dollars per barrel, which is 5 dollars lower than that of the Federal Government.

The 2019 Rivers State Budget is Christened: "Budget of Sustainable Growth and Development."

The governor proposed N323, 288,970,085.00 as capital expenditure, while Recurrent Expenditure will gulp N157, 122,354,564.15.

He said: "The capital allocation of 323,288,970,085.00 for the 2019 fiscal year represents 65 per cent of the total budget. This sum is however less than the figure for 2018 by N57, 708,717,319.00 due to the reduction in the total size of the 2019 budget as against that of 2018.

He said because the 2019 Appropriation Bill has set priorities for human capital development and infrastructural provision, a substantial part of the capital budget is allocated to the Ministries of Agriculture; Education; Employment Generation and Empowerment; Health; Sports Development; Women Affairs; Works; and Youth Development.

The governor proposed N72, 911, 765,640.21 billion naira for the construction and improvement of the State's road network and transport infrastructure.

He said: "This sum, which constitute about 24 per cent of the total capital budget, will be utilized to continue with the funding of the construction and completion of roads".





**Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike (m), Deputy Governor Ipalibo Harry Banigo (r) and Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly, Mr Ikuimyi-Owaji Ibani during the Presentation of the 2019 Rivers State Budget to the House of Assembly on Monday.**

The sectoral allocation of the capital budget is as follows: (Proposed) Administration Sector; N17, 820,704,443.79 ,Economic Sector: N99, 053,565,640.20 ; Law and Justice Sector; N4,350,000,000.00; Social Sector; N127, 292,200,000.00 and ; Special Heads, N127, 347,500,000.00; Loan Repayments , N24, 425,000,000.00.

Governor Wike said the following roads will be completed in 2019. They include: the dualization of Kira – Sakpenwa – Bori – Kono road; the Andoni - Opobo Unity road; the Oyigbo town – Ebete road; Iema Ifoko road the Mbano camp road; Eleme -

Obete road; Eteo – Sime – Bayayira-Nunwa-Kira road; Rumuji – Ibaa – obele – isiokpo road; Akabuka - Omoku road; Flyover bridge at Garisson Junction abd Abonnemaring road.

Others are: Abua-Degema – Emoh-Iyak-Ighom Elok road; Ula Ehuda – Odioku – Anwunugboko – Ubeta – Ihuechi – Odieroke road; Rumuche road in Emouha Local Government Area; Flyover bridge at Rumuokwuta roundabout; Flyover bridge at University of Port Harcourt Junction Ahoada – Odiemerenyi – Ihugbogo-odieke road; Isiodu roads , Ahoada – Ekpena

road; Omoku-A igwu-Kreigani-Oduoboburu road, Odioku internal roads; Bolo internal roads; Rumupakani internal roads; and Umuogba – Umuokpurukpu – Umueke – Umunju Umuelechi – Eberi roundabout link road.

Governor Wike proposed the sum of N17,112,000,000.00 for the Bureau for Special Projects to fund the completion of land reclamation at Bakana in Degema Local Government Area, land reclamation at Abalama in Asari Toru Local Government Area; land reclamation and shore protection at Kula in Akuku Iorlu Local Government Area; the Secretariat buildings for Trade Union Congress, Nigeria Labour Congress, National Union of Rivers State Students and Rivers State Students Union Government; and the Fruit Garden market in Port Harcourt City Local Government Area.

The governor stated the administration allocated the sum of N25, 300,000,000.00 to fund healthcare delivery in the State. He said key projects in the sector will be completed and delivered in 2019. Governor Wike said his administration will continue to give security of lives and property all the attention that it deserves in spite of the obvious lack of cooperation from the Federal Government. He said: " The sum of 18,000,000,000.00





has been proposed to fund all aspects of securing and keeping Rivers State safe, peaceful and secure, including the operationalization of the recently established State Neighbourhood Safety Corps programme." The Neighbourhood Safety Corps programme is very dear to us as a government. Apart from the number of youths that it will employ, the programme has the potential to enhance our collective security. And so we are prepared to do whatever it will take to ensure its implementation in the course of 2019".

Governor Wike noted that the sum of N4,350,000,000.00 only has been proposed for the Law and Justice sector to further strengthen and enhance the justice delivery system in the State. For the recurrent expenditure, Governor Wike proposed to spend as follows: Personnel Emolument, N79,585,058,808.60; Overhead N17,025,380,000.00; Pension N33,000,000,000.00 and Other N27,511,915,255.55.

Through the recurrent proposals, Governor Wike accommodated the expected new minimum wage for the state and the handling of the pension challenges facing the state.

Governor Wike said: "With this, the State Government will be in a position to pay the minimum wage whenever the National Assembly approves it. We also made provisions for staff promotion arrears and new recruitments into the State's civil service.

"The sum of 33,000,000,000.00 is proposed for the settlement of pension liabilities. The challenge about the plight of pensioners has lingered for too long and we are determined to tackle it this time around. Certainly, our senior citizens deserve better treatment than what they are presently getting".

The 2019 Rivers State Budget will be financed as follows: Internally Generated Revenue N120,492,891,302.00; Statutory Allocation; N73,169,813,022.00; 13% oil minerals fund; N145,070,991,780.00; Value Added Tax; N26,377,628,543.00; Refunds; N27,337,926,155.08; Local Credits; N15,000,000,000.00; International Credits; N30,000,000,000.00; Capital receipts; N300,000,000,000.00 Exchange gain; N8,000,000,000.00 Prior year Balance; N4,662,073,844.92; N480,411,324,647.00 Governor Wike said for the 2018 Budget as at November 2018, total revenue receipts from all sources (except internal and external loans stood at 288,721,423,336, which represents about 79 per cent performance on the revenue side with respect to the totally projected IGR and FAAC receipts for 2018.

The governor said that the aggregate capital releases to MDAs as at November 2018 stood at over 65 per cent of the total capital expenditure.

Governor Wike said despite inheriting a collapsed economy from the immediate past APC administration in the state, his administration has revived the state's economy.

He said: "We came in with a clear vision and mission; a vision to repair and renew

the promise of our State; a mission to pull our people from the cesspool of despair and restore our hopes for brighter future.

"Three and half years after, we have substantially achieved our commitments on all directions of human advancement. Under our watch, Rivers State has emerged from the brink of economic disaster to an era of fiscal sustainability. Today, our Gross Domestic product has increased and our economy is growing at a rate above the national average and attracting new investments even when the national economy continues to be weak, wobbly and troubling.

"Under our guardianship, we have invested at record levels to provide critical social and economic infrastructure across the State; especially roads, schools, and health facilities.

In the process, we created hundreds of thousands of jobs across the construction value chain".

He said the 2019 budget is intended to consolidate on the administration's achievements and enable it to put the State on an irreversible path to sustainable economic growth and development. Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly, Mr Ikuinyi-Owaji Ibani said the House will give the budget the required consideration in the interest of the state. He noted that the House has already approved the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, which will form the basis of the budget's consideration.

The budget passed through its first reading after the State Governor laid the budget on the table.





# TANKO YAKASSAI TO NDIGBO:

## YOU WON'T GET PRESIDENCY IN NEXT 20 YEARS IF APC WINS IN 2019

...Says the president in Aso Rock is real Buhari, not his double



**S**econd republic politician, Alhaji Tanko Yakasai, has raised the alarm over the fate of the Igbo in the present political arrangement, expressing fears that the Southeast might be shut out of the presidency for the next 20 to 28 years should Muhammadu Buhari win the forthcoming general elections.

The octogenarian, who wants the people of the region to support the PDP presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, warned that the region may have none to blame, but themselves if they vote otherwise.

The elder statesman also cast a view on the forthcoming general elections, saying that the contest between Atiku and Buhari would be close in the

North even as he argued that the President Buhari we have in the Aso Rock is the real Buhari and not a double as have been alleged in some quarters. Excerpts:

**Ahead of the 2019 elections, what is your assessment of the political activities across the country?**

My general assessment of the 2019 general elections is that it would be something like the 1964 elections, where you had two major groupings, namely UPGIA comprising the NCNC, Action Group, NEPU and others and NNA made up of Northern Peoples Congress (NPC), Midwest Democratic Front (MDF) led by James Otoibo, Niger Delta Peoples Congress (NDPC) led by the late Chief Dappa Biriye, Chief S. A. Akinola's Nigeria National Democratic Party (NNDP) and some others. This kind of divide is what is going to play out in the general elections. APC and their allies in the Southwest already have their candidate in the person of President Muhammadu Buhari. And the other block is the PDP, which has Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi as their candidates. This is a divide with far reaching implications. Now, if Buhari who is now looking for a second term wins the election, he would complete his second term of four years. Since his running mate is from the Southwest, the natural thing is for APC to nominate his running mate from the Southwest. The candidate of the party would then come from the Southwest, who will naturally nominate his running mate among APC supporters from the North. If they succeed in winning the elections after Buhari, whoever wins the election on APC's platform would likely run for two terms of eight years. If you put the eight years plus Buhari's four years, it would amount to 12 years. And that is not all. After the man from the Southwest, it is impossible for somebody on the platform of the APC to aspire to be nominated to contest election from the entire South and, therefore, the candidature would now come back to the North after the Southwest. The North, naturally, with the trend started by Obasanjo, would also like to have

two terms of eight years. If you put together that eight years, plus the eight years of the Southwest and the remainder of four years for Buhari's second tenure, that would be a total of 20 years. That would be the time that it would take for anybody from the Southeast to have an opportunity to become the President of Nigeria, if elected. That is not all. The scenario is that by the time APC candidate from the North has completed his two terms, the slot will not automatically go to the Southeast or Igbo land, it will be available for both the Southeast and South-South geopolitical zones. But if, on the other hand, PDP with Atiku and a running mate from the Southeast in the person of Peter Obi, wins the election next year, they would run the government for a maximum of eight years, that is two successful terms. And after that government of eight years,



## INTERVIEW

automatically the shift would go to the Southeast and the possibility is that his running mate, who is from Igbo land and from the Southeast would become the candidate for the position of the President on the ticket of the party. In other words, if Buhari wins the coming election, it would take Igbo and the Southeast a minimum of 20 years or more before they can have the possibility of producing the President of Nigeria. Therefore, PDP's victory in next year's elections is the surest way of giving the Igbo man the opportunity to have one of their own becoming the President of Nigeria.

**The way you talked, you must have been concerned about something. What are your worries and fears? What is pushing you to go public, at this time, with this kind of insightful political calculation?**

My observation is this... you know I was a member of the NPN in the Second Republic. We in the NPN then decided to adopt zoning and rotation for the country in order for power to rotate among both the majority and minority ethnic groups both in the Southern and Northern parts of the country. Had President Shagari completed his two-term tenure, the late Dr Alex Ekwueme or somebody from Igbo land would have become the next President of Nigeria in that succession. That did not happen because of the military take over in 1983. So, the idea behind NPN adopting the concept of rotation is to ensure that every region or sub-region of this country has a taste of the Presidency within the quickest possible time. Now, the Yoruba under Chief Olusegun Obasanjo has had the opportunity to run the country for two consecutive terms of eight years. The South-South has had their opportunity under President Jonathan, but unfortunately, he could not make it because of the stiff resistance from the North on power shift because they believed that Jonathan should have allowed the North to complete the two term tenure of Yar'Adua. Now, we are back at it again. My sincere concern is that if it would take 20 years or more for an opportunity to present itself to the Southeast to produce the President of Nigeria, and in my judgment, that would be grossly unfair to the people in the Southeast, because all along, apart from Zik who held the position of ceremonial president and the brief stop by Ironsi, the Southeast has never produced a president for Nigeria from Independence to date. That does not and would not in future augur well for the unity and solidarity of the people of this country. This is my point.

**You have spoken well. One thing is to perceive a problem, but another and most important is to find the solution to the perceived problem. What, therefore, do you advise the political elements in the Southeast to do at this point in time to avert your fears?**

You earlier asked me about my concern? Didn't you? My concern is that I have seen some elements in position of influence in Igbo land thinking of their immediate interest rather than the overall interests of the Igbo as a people in Nigeria. Those of them who are complaining that the PDP candidate did not consult them and all that stuff are complaining so that they could draw the attention of the PDP candidate probably to settle them, failure of which they would support the other side or they would remain aloof, which is the same thing as supporting the other side. This is the reason I am concerned and I feel that Igbo people and their leaders should not sacrifice their overall interests on the altar of their narrow personal ambition or interest.

**The EFCC was recently alleged to have frozen some accounts belonging to the vice presidential candidate of the PDP, Peter Obi. What is your reaction to that development?**

Although there are speculation that they (EFCC) have denied the report, when I first heard the story, my immediate reaction was that this combination of Atiku and Peter Obi is now making the APC and its presidential candidate quite jittery to the extent that they can see themselves losing the coming election and, therefore, they are becoming more and more desperate. I have held the view all along that the security forces and INEC, whether anybody likes it or not, would like to dance to the tune of the APC and to the tune of President Buhari because to my mind, Buhari has carefully chosen the people who would definitely not go against his interest and put them in positions of authority in our country, including in INEC. I don't want to deal with individuals, but I know that some of the key figures at INEC are very close to President Buhari; some of them owe a favour to him because he had favoured them before either by working under him in the PTF or by getting contracts from him under that organization. So, there is a natural feeling on their part to return this favour to Buhari. So, INEC and the some individuals in the security in the country are intentionally or otherwise skewed to support the candidature of President Buhari. If you look at this fact, some of them who have completed their time in the service, have had their tenure of service virtually extended, despite reaching the stipulated retirement age of service as provided by our law. I cannot expect such individuals to become unconcerned on a possibility of their benefactor losing power. They can hardly be neutral in such a situation. The possibility of that type of people becoming neutral in the forthcoming elections is very difficult to imagine.

**But do you think that there is anything that can be done to address the issue of neutrality that you have just highlighted? The election is just weeks**

**away?**

I don't know... I don't know. But the question is why must we not allow the law to take their natural course? Why shouldn't they be allowed to retire like any other public servant and enjoy the rest of their lives like their likes as stipulated by the law? The aspiration of any employee is to reach the age of retirement so that he can join his loved ones to live in peace and harmony with them without let or hindrance from any unnecessary incumbency.

**There is a feeling that 2019 presidential election would be mainly a contest between Buhari and Atiku in the North. How do you size the strength of the two leading contestants in the North?**

You know that this is an era of hired crowd and all that. So, I do not judge one's political popularity based on the gatherings that appear at rallies and political occasions. Having said that, let me begin by saying that there are three important factors that helped Buhari in 2015 to win elections that year which would not be the same next year. One is the fact that he was a Moslem and his opponent was a Christian. That played a very important role particular here in the North. This is so when some Imams in their various Mosques, the Friday before the elections, had urged their respective congregations to vote for somebody who would promote interest of their religion. In other words, they were urging the people to vote for Buhari. That is factor number one. Factor number two, Buhari was a Northerner and Jonathan was a Southerner and as I said at the beginning of this interview, Northerners were voting for the North to complete the eight-year tenure of President Umaru Yar'Adua. There were a lot of people in the North who felt the region had been short-changed by Jonathan, and it was a genuine feeling. Number three, there is the factor that the Hausa-Fulani are largest ethnic group in Northern Nigeria and they have their cousins who always think and act together with them on matters of politics and other aspects of life. For instance, the Nupe people, the Igala people, the Igala people, the Jukun people, the Camba people, Gbagi and many others. They have been together with Hausa-Fulani for 100 years, they intermarry and do things together. These three factors contributed to the success of Buhari in the North in 2015. They are not there anymore. Today, Buhari is Hausa-Fulani, his rival Atiku is Hausa-Fulani. Buhari is from the North, his rival Atiku is from the North. Buhari is a Moslem, his rival, Atiku, is a Moslem. So, the tendency is for the two of them to share the votes cast in the North, maybe somebody would get 55 per cent of these votes while the other would get 45 per cent. But the scenario would certainly not be the same as what happened in 2015. That I am very sure would happen.



# *Inside* **Niger Delta**





# 200 Get Award Letters for NDDE 2018 Post-Graduate Foreign Scholarship

**T**he Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDE, has presented award letters to 200 graduates from the Niger Delta region for its 2018 Post-Graduate Foreign Scholarship Programme.

Making the presentations, during a pre-departure briefing and orientation at the Hotel Presidential in Port Harcourt, the former NDDE Managing Director, Mr Nsima Ekere, charged the scholars to be ambassadors of the Niger Delta

region as they carry the flag of Nigeria to foreign lands.

The NDDE Former Managing Director, who was represented by the Director Special Duties, Dr Princewill Ekanim, said that the Foreign Post-Graduate Scholarship Programme was an important component of the Commission's human capital development programme.

He said: "We recognise the need to bridge the huge manpower deficit in the Niger Delta region,

especially in Engineering, Science and Technology, EST, the fields that drive the oil industry.

Our aim is to build a pool of professionals that can compete at the global stage."

Ekere noted that the programme which started in 2010 had so far benefited 1,904 students, mostly at the Masters' Degree level. He said that about 4,000 candidates applied for this year's programme, out of which 200 were selected.



The NDDE Director Special Duties, Dr Princewill Ekanim, (left) presenting the award letter for the 2018 Foreign Post-Graduate Scholarship Programme to the best Ph.D. awardee, Miss Mary Essien, during a pre-departure briefing and orientation at the Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt.





The NDDC former boss said: "Our scholars over the years have made outstanding results. In 2016, one of the beneficiaries in the masters' programme, graduated as the overall best student at the Coventry University in the United Kingdom. In 2017, another beneficiary graduated with a distinction and was the best graduating student in the department as well as the entire post-graduate programme in environmental studies."

Ekere advised the scholarship beneficiaries to avoid distractions so as to also excel in their studies. "We are sending you out to go and study and come back to impact the Niger Delta region

and the entire Nigerian system for good. That is the essence of the scholarship programme," he emphasised.

In his opening remarks, the NDDC Director for Education, Health and Social Services, Mr. Goshua Okejoto, urged the beneficiaries to make the best use of the opportunity given to them to acquire technical expertise for the benefit of the people of the Niger Delta region.

The EHSS director, who was represented by the deputy director, Mrs. Winifred Madume, reminded the beneficiaries that they owed the Niger Delta a duty to succeed. He added: "As you

go to your various schools, conduct yourselves well as we expect excellent performance in all that you do."

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, the best Ph.D. awardee, Miss Mary Essien, thanked the NDDC for making the selection process fair and transparent. She pledged that they would do their best to be good ambassadors for the region.

The successful graduates for the 2018 post-graduate foreign scholarship programme had gone through electronic examination conducted at the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, before a final selection interview.



# Buhari Commission Multi Billion Naira Baro Port In Niger State



**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari recently commissioned the multi billion Naira Baro Port in Niger State. At the commissioning The President said if successive governments at the federal level had implemented the comprehensive master plan for the development of the Nigerian Inland Waterways across 28 states of the country initiated by the Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF), under his watch, the recurring accidents experienced on Nigeria roads could have been avoided.

The president promised to reactivate Minna/Baro standard gauge; complete Lagos/Kano railway line which would pass through Minna and Minna/Abuja light rail.

Buhari also said he would expedite action on the completion of Bida/Lapai/Lambata; Minna/Suleja dual carriage way; Mokwa/Jebba road amongst others.

He also pledged early completion of Zungeru Hydro power. Also speaking, Chairman of the Nigerian Inland Waterways (NIWA), Olorunnimbe Mamora said the Port has quay length of 150 Metres, Cargo Stacking Yard of 7,000 square meters, a Transit Shed of 3,600 square meters and estimated capacity of 5,000 TEU at a time.

He said some of the installed machinery are the 84-ton mobile harbour crane, one reach stacker, and three forklifts of varying capacities.

Other facilities according to him, include the administrative block, water treatment plant, power generating plant and

staff quarters among others.

A statement by Tayo Fadile the General Manager Corporate Affairs of Inland Water Ways Authority, The Baro River Port was built by Chinese firm (CGCC Global Project Nigeria Limited) at total cost of six billion naira, equipped with a Mobile Harbour Crane, Transit shed, Administrative block, fire hydrant system, water treatment plant, Reach stacker, 100KVA power generating set, and three numbers forklifts of various tonnages.

He said It is one of the River Ports built to support the dredging of Lower River Niger project. Onitsha River Port has already been rehabilitated while Oguta and Lokoja River Ports are nearing completion.

The Baro river port is expected to create at least two thousand direct jobs and hundreds of thousands indirect jobs. It will help keep off the road several heavy duty trailers and trucks, thereby extending the life span of our roads.

In the past, during the colonial era, Baro use to have a thriving River Port and a railway line which were used for evacuation of farm produce and mineral resources, it was a trading point between Nigeria and neighboring countries through the Inland Waterways transportation mode. here is hope that the old Rail lines used in the colonial days will be revived and the road network linking the port is already being upgraded.



# Buhari Commission Multi Billion Naira Baro Port In Niger State







# Onne Port, Hub For Oil, Gas Logistics In W' africa ~ Abubakar

**W**ith a dedicated container terminal and state of the art facilities, Onne Port in South-South Nigeria has been described as the hub for oil and gas logistics in the West African sub-region.

Manager of Onne Port, Alhaji Alhassan Ismaila Abubakar, during an interaction with maritime reporters noted that with an ongoing berth expansion programme, standard and state of the art facilities, dedicated workforce and a management dedicated to implementing the Ease of Doing Business policy of the federal government, Onne Port is engaged in creating a conducive environment for port users and investors.

"Onne port is a unique port, a port that is an example of public private partnership. We have state of the art facilities and our facilities are standard.

"We have berths 1 to 12 and there is a port expansion programme to increase it to 19. One of the berths has been completed and is the newest berth in the port.

"The port has one of the biggest cranes in Africa. We have a dedicated container terminal with two berths and also a modern terminal.

"Onne Port has the RORO, and is the biggest oil and gas logistics base in the whole of West Africa. So, invariably, it is the hub for oil and gas logistics in the whole of West Africa.

In a bid to make the waterways safe for vessels and cargoes for navigation, the management of the NPA, Onne port has evacuated two ship wrecks abandoned in its waterways to enhance free navigation by ship owners to the port.

Abubakar, who described ship wrecks as a serious challenge to the management and



vessel owners, said the abandoned wreck hinder free flow of vessels to the port, thereby lowering its revenue.

The manager said the removal of the two ship wrecks would enhance productivity, reduce water accidents and make the route safe for vessel owners.

Describing the removal of the wreckage as one of its achievements in 2018, Abubakar said the Onne port has also established a Safe Anchorage Area (SAA) to improve its activities and enhance productivity.

The manager also described the port as the most-friendly to its users, adding that management would continue to maintain

cordial relationship with its three terminal operators, the Brawal, Intel and the West African Container Terminals in the Onne Port complex to improve its productivity.

He explained that the ongoing Federal Government structural reforms on the nation's ports would increase port activities across the country as well as improve revenue generation to the nation.

As one of its major achievements, Abubakar said the Onne port has implemented the executive order on Ease of Doing Business, noting that the order will improve port productivity and better efficiency.







## LIST OF THE ELECTIONS TRIBUNAL

S/N NAMES STATE OF ORIGIN REMARK

1. HON. JUSTICE K. C. NWANKPA ABIA
2. HON. JUSTICE C. H. ATTUCHAOGU ABIA
3. HON. KADI M. M. ALKALI  
ADAMAWA
4. HON. JUSTICE F. C. NWIZU ANAMBRA
5. HON. JUSTICE A. C. EMEMBOLU ANAMBRA
6. HON. JUSTICE A. E. ARCHIBONG AKWA IBOM
7. HON. JUSTICE ALIYU M. LIMAN BAUCHI
8. HON. JUSTICE M. A. AYEMIEYE BAYELSA
9. HON. JUSTICE E. T. INEIFE BAYELSA
10. HON. JUSTICE A. KAKA'AN  
BENUE
11. HON. JUSTICE U. B. BWALA BORNO
12. HON. JUSTICE M. O. ENEJI CROSS RIVER
13. HON. JUSTICE P. O. ONAJITE-KUEJUBOLA  
DELTA
14. HON. JUSTICE A. E. UBIRI  
DELTA

15. HON. JUSTICE EZE UDU  
EBONYI
16. HON. JUSTICE PATRICK UTIJO EBONYI
17. HON. JUSTICE P. I. IMOFDEMHE EDO
18. HON. JUSTICE A. L. OGUNMOYE EKITI
19. HON. JUSTICE F. C. OBIEZE ENUGU
20. HON. JUSTICE G. C. NNAMANI ENUGU
21. HON. JUSTICE A. M. YAKUBU GOMBE
22. HON. JUSTICE C. I. OHAKWE IMO
23. ABDULHADI YELWA SULEIMAN JIGAWA
24. HON. JUSTICE KADI MUH'D INUWA ALI  
JIGAWA
25. HON. JUSTICE I. ALIYU KADUNA
26. HON. JUSTICE B. S. ADAMU KANO
27. HON. KADI ABDULLAH WAIYA KANO
28. HON. JUSTICE M. BAKO KATSINA
29. HON. JUSTICE E. A. KARATU KEBBI
30. HON. JUSTICE R. O. OKPANACHI KOGI
31. HON. JUSTICE A. N. AWULU KOGI



32. HON. JUSTICE H. O. AJAYI KWARA
  33. HON. JUSTICE I. O. KASALI (MRS) LAGOS
  34. HON. JUSTICE O. A. WILLIAMS (MRS) LAGOS
  35. HON. JUSTICE J. G. ABUNDAGA NASARAWA
  36. HON. JUSTICE A. A. BIMA NIGER
  37. HON. JUSTICE O. S. OLUSANYA OGUN
  38. HON. JUSTICE T. A. OKUNSOKAN OGUN
  39. HON. JUSTICE O. A. ADEGBEHIINGBE ONDO
  40. HON. JUSTICE A. B. ABDULKAREEM OSUN
  41. HON. JUSTICE A. D. OLADIMEJI OSUN
  42. HON. JUSTICE M. A. ADEGBOLA OYO
  43. HON. JUSTICE Y. B. NIMPAR PLATEAU
  44. HON. JUSTICE C. L. DABUP PLATEAU
  45. HON. JUSTICE B. E. UGBARI PLATEAU
  46. HON. JUSTICE M. H. BINJI SOKOTO
  47. HON. JUSTICE J. Y. TUKUR TARABA
  48. HON. JUSTICE YUSUF A. BASHIR TARABA
  49. HON. JUSTICE N. U. GUMMI ZAMFARA
  50. HON. JUSTICE BELLO MOH'D TUKUR ZAMFARA
  51. HON. JUSTICE D. Z. SENCII F.C.T.
  52. HON. JUSTICE A. M. LIMAN F.H.C.
  53. HON. JUSTICE S. F. CHUKWU F.H.C.
  54. HON. JUSTICE C. T. ADIELE ABIA
  55. HON. JUSTICE A. D. MAMMIDI ADAMAWA
  56. HON. KADI MUSA HASSAN BAZZA ADAMAWA
  57. HON. JUSTICE V. N. UMEHIANAMBRA
  58. HON. JUSTICE E. I. EDEMEKONG AKWA IBOM
  59. HON. JUSTICE IFIOK E. UKANNA AKWA IBOM
  60. HON. JUSTICE RABI MUSTAPHA BAUCHI
  61. HON. JUSTICE T. I. COCODIA BAYELSA
  62. HON. JUSTICE R. OMUKORO BAYELSA
  63. HON. JUSTICE E. N. KPOJME BENUE
  64. HON. JUSTICE C. A. MAMZA BORNO
  65. HON. JUSTICE O. A. OGAR CROSS RIVER
  66. HON. JUSTICE K. O. OKPU DELTA
  67. HON. JUSTICE P. O. ELECHI EBONYI
  68. HON. JUSTICE IL. A. NJOKU EBONYI
  69. HON. JUSTICE F. O. AKINBAMI EDO
  70. HON. JUSTICE A. EDOJO-ERUAGA EDO
  71. HON. JUSTICE O. I. O. OGUNYEMI EKITI
  72. HON. JUSTICE K. N. UDEH ENUGU
  73. HON. JUSTICE J. A. AWAK GOMBE
  74. HON. JUSTICE P. I. APOLLOS GOMBE
  75. HON. JUSTICE GODDY I. ANUNIHU IMO
  76. HON. JUSTICE AIMED ISA GUMEL JIGAWA
  77. HON. JUSTICE JIBRIN GANTA JIGAWA
  78. HON. JUSTICE M. M. LADAN KADUNA
  79. HON. JUSTICE N. Y. GALADANCHI KANO
  80. HON. JUSTICE KADI IBRAHIM DALIATU KANO
  81. HON. JUSTICE KADI KABIR ABUBAKAR KATSINA
  82. HON. JUSTICE SAMAILA BASHIR HARUNA KEBBI
  83. HON. JUSTICE H. A. OLUSIYI KOGI
  84. HON. JUSTICE A. O. SALIHU (MRS) KOGI
  85. HON. JUSTICE I. B. GARBA KWARA
  86. HON. JUSTICE A. O. GBAJABIAMILA LAGOS
  87. HON. JUSTICE L. B. LAVAL-AKAPO LAGOS
  88. HON. JUSTICE A. M. AHMED NASARAWA
  89. HON. JUSTICE AISHA A. L. B. BWARI NIGER
  90. HON. JUSTICE S. A. BOLA ONDO
  91. HON. JUSTICE N. S. ADEYANJU ONDO
  92. HON. JUSTICE O. D. AFOLABI OSUN
  93. HON. JUSTICE O. A. OJO OSUN
  94. HON. JUSTICE O. I. AKIN OYO
  95. HON. JUSTICE Y. G. DAKWAK PLATEAU
  96. HON. JUSTICE D. D. LONGJI PLATEAU
  97. HON. JUSTICE J. N. AKPUGIUNUM RIVERS
  98. HON. JUSTICE D. B. SAMBO SOKOTO
  99. HON. JUSTICE ALI ANDENYANGTSO TARABA
  100. HON. JUSTICE G. M. NABARUMA YOBE
- BATCH I
- S/N NAMES STATE OF ORIGIN REMARK
1. HON. JUSTICE C. I. JOMBO-OFO ABLA
  2. HON. JUSTICE A. U. KALU ABIA
  3. HON. JUSTICE W. I. LEHA ADAMAWA
  4. HON. JUSTICE C. O. NWEKE ANAMBRA
  5. HON. JUSTICE P. C. OBIORAH ANAMBRA
  6. HON. JUSTICE STEPHEN E. OKON AKWA IBOM
  7. HON. JUSTICE B. G. SANGA AKWA IBOM
  8. HON. JUSTICE RAPIHEAL AJUWA BAYELSA
  9. HON. JUSTICE T. TUR BENUE
  10. HON. JUSTICE T. A. KUME BENUE
  11. HON. KADI U. R. MUKATLA BORNO
  12. HON. JUSTICE ELIAS O. ABUA CROSS RIVER
  13. HON. JUSTICE V. I. OFFESI DELTA
  14. HON. JUSTICE A. A. NWAIGWE EBONYI
  15. HON. JUSTICE O' CONNEL OGBONNA EBONYI
  16. HON. JUSTICE M. O. IGHODALO EDO
  17. HON. JUSTICE M. O. ABODUNDE EKITI
  18. HON. JUSTICE N. P. EMEHELU ENUGU
  19. HON. JUSTICE NWOBODO ENUGU
  20. HON. JUSTICE HALIMA S. MOH'D GOMBE
  21. HON. JUSTICE U. D. OGWURIKE IMO



22. HON. JUSTICE K. A. OJIAGO IMO
23. HON. JUSTICE UBALE AHMED TAURA JIGAWA
24. HON. JUSTICE B. U. SUKOLA KADUNA
25. HON. JUSTICE B. MOHAMMED KADUNA
26. HON. JUSTICE LAWAN WADA MAIMOU KANO
27. HON. JUSTICE ABDULLAH YUSUF KATSINA
28. HON. JUSTICE SULFIMAN AMBURSA KEBBI
29. HON. JUSTICE ABBAS AHMAN KEBBI
30. HON. JUSTICE A. A. ADEBARA KWARA
31. HON. JUSTICE E. B. MOHAMMED KWARA
32. HON. JUSTICE W. A. E. AYO (MRS) LAGOS
33. HON. JUSTICE JOHN A. VIKO NASARAWA
34. HON. JUSTICE CHRISTOPHER I. AUTA NIGER
35. HON. JUSTICE M. A. OJO OGUN
36. HON. JUSTICE O. OGUNFOWORA OGUN
37. HON. JUSTICE W. A. AKINTOROYE ONDO
38. HON. JUSTICE F. E. AWOLALU (MRS) OSUN
39. HON. JUSTICE M. A. ADEIGHI OSUN
40. HON. JUSTICE S. A. AKINTEYE OYO
41. HON. JUSTICE M. O. ISHOLA OYO
42. HON. JUSTICE M. I. SIRAJU PLATEAU
43. HON. JUSTICE O. O. DANIEL-KALIO RIVERS
44. HON. JUSTICE S. O. THETTO RIVERS
45. HON. JUSTICE MOHAMMAD S. SIFAWA SOKOTO
46. HON. JUSTICE B. S. S. MOHAMMED TARABA
47. HON. JUSTICE G. K. KAIGAMA YOBE
48. HON. JUSTICE MUKTARI YUSILAU ZAMFARA
49. HON. JUSTICE F. A. OJO F.C.T
50. HON. JUSTICE C.M.A. OLATOREGUN-ISHOLA F.H.C.
51. HON. JUSTICE TIJANI ABUBAKAR F.I.L.C.
52. HON. JUSTICE ORY ZIK-IKEORHA ABIA
53. HON. JUSTICE HAFSATU ABDULRAHAMAN ADAMAWA
54. HON. JUSTICE KADI IBRAHIM WAKILI SUDI ADAMAWA
55. HON. JUSTICE O.M. ANYACHEBELU ANAMBRA
56. HON. JUSTICE UMOEKOYO E. ESSANG AKWA IBOM
57. HON. JUSTICE JOY I. UNWANA AKWA IBOM
58. HON. JUSTICE KUNAZA N. HAMID BAUCHI
59. HON. JUSTICE B. M. UGO BAYELSA
60. HON. JUSTICE A. O. ONUM BENUE
61. HON. JUSTICE A. K. BAAKI BENUE
62. HON. JUSTICE A. G. KWAJAFFA BORNO
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64. HON. JUSTICE G. E. GBEMRE DELTA
65. HON. JUSTICE BENSON OGBU EBONYI
66. HON. JUSTICE JOHN IGBOJI EBONYI
67. HON. JUSTICE J. I. ACTIA EDO
68. HON. JUSTICE J. O. OKEAYA-INNEH EDO
69. HON. JUSTICE A. A. ADELEYE EKITI
70. HON. JUSTICE L. O. OKERIKE ENUGU
71. HON. JUSTICE M. A. PINDIGA GOMBE
72. HON. JUSTICE P. O. NNADI IMO
73. HON. JUSTICE NONYE OKORONKWO IMO
74. HON. JUSTICE UMAR M. SADIQ JIGAWA
75. HON. JUSTICE M. L. MUHAMMED KADUNA
76. HON. JUSTICE L. D. ABA KADUNA
77. HON. JUSTICE DUE ABDO ABOKI KANO
78. HON. JUSTICE SADA ABDULMUMINI KATSINA
79. HON. JUSTICE SANI ADAMU KEBBI
80. HON. JUSTICE UMAR ABUBAKAR KEBBI
81. HON. JUSTICE S. O. OTU KOGI
82. HON. JUSTICE M. A. AKOJA KWARA
83. HON. JUSTICE H. A. SALEEMAN KWARA
84. HON. JUSTICE R. I. B. ADEBIYI (MRS) LAGOS
85. HON. JUSTICE S. U. DIKKO NASARAWA
86. HON. JUSTICE MARIA SANDA ZUKOGI NIGER
87. HON. JUSTICE AMINA A. WAMBAI NIGER
88. HON. JUSTICE O. A. JIBOGU OGUN
89. HON. JUSTICE T. O. OSOBA ONDO
90. HON. JUSTICE O. AKINTAN-OSADEBAY ONDO
91. HON. JUSTICE A. A. G. ONIBUKUN OSUN
92. HON. JUSTICE M. I. ABIMBOLA OYO
93. HON. JUSTICE A. L. AKINTOLA OYO
94. HON. JUSTICE D. G. MANN PLATEAU
95. HON. JUSTICE D. W. OKOCHA RIVERS
96. HON. JUSTICE S. O. IRAGUNTMA RIVERS
97. HON. JUSTICE BELLO DUWALE SOKOTO
98. HON. JUSTICE JOSEPH J. JELLA TARABA
99. HON. JUSTICE ALI GARBA YOBE
100. HON. JUSTICE BELLO MOH'D SHINKAFI ZAMFARA
101. HON. JUSTICE M. N. ONIYANGI F.C.T.
102. HON. JUSTICE P. O. AFFEN F.C.T.
103. HON. JUSTICE A. R. MOHAMMED F.H.C.
104. HON. JUSTICE E. O. OSINUGA OGUN
105. HON. JUSTICE I. U. BELLO F.C.T.
106. HON. JUSTICE O. A. ADENIYI F.C.T.
107. HON. JUSTICE A. L. ALLAGOA F.I.L.C.
108. HON. JUSTICE A. A. O. AJILEYE KOGI



# NGO Petitions NOSDRA Over Remediation In Niger Delta

By Gladys Nweke

A non-governmental organisation known as Oil and Gas Producing Areas Enlightenment and Empowerment Initiative, OGPAEEI, has petitioned the National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency, NOSDRA, for proper remediation process over an oil spill which occurred in Otuokpoti community in Bayelsa State, 2016.

Recall that a massive oil leak from an oilfield operated by both the Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, and the Nigeria Agip Oil Company, NAOC, had on 2nd November 2016, discharged an unquantified volume of crude into Ekoli Creek around Agbura and Otuokpoti communities in Ogbia and Yenagoa Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State.

Community residents had claimed that crude oil deposits from the spillage, measured about five centimetres thick on the surface of the water, destroyed farmlands and aquatic lives in the communities.

SPDC had on November 7, 2016, through its Spokesman, Mr. Precious Okolobo, confirmed the spill and said the source of the oil leak that polluted Otuokpoti communities in Bayelsa was being investigated.

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd (SPDC) is investigating reports of a leak around Otuokpoti community waterfront situated downstream the Ekoli River, where a section of SPDC's Nun River-Kolo Creek Pipeline is buried.

Preliminary site visits did not indicate any spill. SPDC has, however, shut the pipeline as a precautionary measure pending further investigation," SPDC had said.

But OGPAEEI, in the petition made available to newsmen, said that while the spill had polluted the Ekoli River and spread the oil discharge across communities along its bank, SPDC restricted its

community engagement to Otuokpoti community excluding other communities.

OGPAEEI in its petition addressed to the Director-General of NOSDRA, Dr. Peter Idabor dated Dec. 24, 2018, maintained that SPDC's response to the incident fell short of industry standards as spelled out in the NOSDRA Act, and urged NOSDRA to compel the oil firm to comply with industry standards in the spill.

The group further urged NOSDRA to compel SPDC to, as a matter of urgency, deploy spill response and containment teams for clean up and remediation of polluted sites, for short and long term, to bring lasting relief to the impacted communities. This spill affected more than 500 communities in Ogbia, Nembe, Brass, and Southern Ijaw Local Government Areas LGAs of Bayelsa. This is more so because these areas are in ebbs and tides within the floods plain.

We have not seen and felt a proper procedure of contentment and mitigation of this spill by following international best practices, we have also not seen a report of this spill to appropriate agencies of the Federal Government.

There was no comprehensive physical ecological and social mapping of the affected areas and ecosystems, we are yet to see any report of NOSDRA and its participation in containment and mitigation of short and long time impact.

Our call, therefore, is for NOSDRA to compel SPDC to involve the regulatory agency namely NOSDRA and other agencies involved in spill monitoring and management in the site visit to impacted areas.

We call for immediate comprehensive and holistic mapping of the impacted area in Yenagoa, Ogbia, Nembe, Brass and Southern LGAs, a Joint Investigation Visit could still be done to meet international best practices," the group said in the petition.





# Agip Trains 275 Youths In Modern Farming Techniques, Give Farming Tools



**T**he Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC), says that no fewer than 275 youths from the four states in the Niger Delta region have been trained on modern techniques in agriculture and farming equipments donated to them through its Green River Project Joint Venture (GRPJV).

The Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Nigerian Agip Oil Company Limited, Mr Lorenzo Fiorillio, who disclosed this during the 22nd Green River Project and farmer's day celebration of the company in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, added that while 170 youths were trained on farming in the plane land, 100 were trained in farming on the swampy areas.

Fiorillio, who listed the four beneficial states to includes; Bayelsa, Delta, Rivers and Imo states, explained that the programme is aimed at equipping the youths with relevant agro skills, he stated that 65 cooperative

societies from the beneficiary states have been screened for micro-credit loans from the company. According to him, about 350 additional youths from the NAOC's operational states are expected to benefit from the skill acquisition training in 2019, while 945 others will also be empowered with kits to enhance their businesses.

He said: "It is sad to note that this year has been particularly difficult for our farmers, following the devastating flood that ravaged most of the communities in the Niger Delta, however, as a company, we believe that this event will energize farmers all over our areas of operation to put every required effort towards a bountiful harvest in 2019.

"It is worthy to note that for the past 31 years, the NAOC's Green River Project has remained a success story by not only being a cardinal source of employment, but also a veritable

tool for sustainable development and food sufficiency.

In his remarks, the Chairman of Nigerian Agip Oil Company, Mr Guido Brusco, commended President Muhammadu Buhari and the governments of the four states of their operations for always supporting the initiative of green river projects.

Various farming tools, such as pumping machines, generating sets, motorcycles, wheelbarrows, and the rest were donated to the trainees

**"Our focus with the Green River Project has always been to make farming very attractive and accessible to our women, youths and children, particularly those in secondary schools through the exposure of these groups and communities to the formation of cooperative societies, techniques of modern farming, provision of necessary supports and tools, and various other schemes."**



# Akwa Ibom Deserve Better Than They Are Getting - Ekere

The gubernatorial candidate of All Progressives Congress party in Akwa Ibom State, Mr Nsima Ekere has said the state deserves better than what it is currently getting from the administration of Governor Udom Emmanuel.

Speaking in Uyo during a press conference on his plans for the state on assumption of office, Ekere said he wants to serve as governor because people of the state deserve the best in education, health, infrastructure, rural development, jobs, wealth creation, and security.

He said his administration will focus on five areas: economic prosperity; infrastructure and rural development; education, health and social protection; security; governance and institutional reforms.

He stated that he would address the twin challenges of mass unemployment and poverty with massive investment, noting that according to the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics, 1.8 million out of the 3.3 million economically active population of the state were unemployed.

He said he would build a state where hard work, innovation and determination are rewarded, such that everyone has equal chance to succeed.

He noted that he would work with governors of neighbouring states and the federal government to make sure that roads within and into the state were constructed, adding that he would resume work on the Uyo - Ikot Ekpene road, Ibom Tropicana Entertainment complex and implement the science park project.

He stated that he would increase support for students in tertiary institutions by raising student bursary from N5, 000 to N25, 000 per session, as well as convene a summit of stakeholders and experts to discuss the progress of the education sector.

He promised to restore financial autonomy to the local governments and adopt zero based budgeting in place of envelope style budgeting.

He promised to restructure the civil service as well as review the master plan of the state in line with current realities, adding that he would convene a security council meeting on conflict in border communities.

He said he is the man to be trusted to take the state to greater heights, build bridges of hope and bring real peace and healing to conflict areas within the state.

He said his administration would be interactive and inclusive, and appealed to



the people of the state to vote for him.

"Flag off conditional cash transfers of N5,000 to the extreme poor, N5, 000 to orphans, N100, 000 per delivery for multiple birth mothers and N5, 000 for the physically challenged, in addition to their participation in a skill acquisition programme.

"Empowerment training and funding for transformative entrepreneurs. Roll out the Graduate Farmers Scheme and other agricultural programmes.

"Address all outstanding pensions, gratuities, local government workers' salaries, primary school teacher's entitlements and allowances.

"Declare a state of emergency in the education sector and convene a summit of stakeholders and experts to discuss and adopt the way forward for the sector.

"Institute a comprehensive health policy titled Better Health + Care Initiative (BHI). Review the status of primary healthcare system to determine and address the weaknesses.

"Provide security patrol vehicles per local government, resettle internally displaced persons in their homes and restore financial autonomy to local governments," he said.

**"Within the first 100-180 days in office, my administration will embark on massive public works to reflate the create jobs and put money in the pocket of artisans, suppliers, and contractors."**



# We will Sustain Manpower Development in Niger Delta ... NDDC Assures

**T**he Former Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, Mr Nsima Ekere, has assured that the Commission will continue to support the development of appropriate manpower to facilitate the sustainable development of the Niger Delta region.

Ekere gave the assurance when members of the executive of the National Association of Nigerian students, NANS, paid him a courtesy visit at the headquarters of the Commission in Port Harcourt.

The NDDC Chief Executive Officer, who was represented by the Director Special Duties, Dr

Princewill Ekanim, declared that the Commission would continue to play its role in

developing and supporting efforts to advance education, stressing that "we can facilitate

sustainable developments if we build human capacity."

The NDDC boss affirmed the determination of the interventionist agency to continue investing in the education of the youths of the Niger Delta. He stated that the Commission

was currently involved in the 2018 Foreign Post-Graduate Scholarship Programme for students where 200 graduates have

been selected to study abroad.

He said: "We have sponsored over 1,409 post-graduate students to different foreign

universities in key skill areas needed in the oil and gas industry. The Foreign Post-Graduate Scholarship Programme has produced many great stories, including Mr. Obong Peters, a PhD Student who won the three minutes thesis competition in Australia and Mr. Augustine Osarogiagbon of Memorial University, who completed his PhD in less than the stipulated time."

Speaking earlier, the National President of NANS, Comrade Bamidele Danielson Akpan,

expressed gratitude to the NDDC for its numerous contributions to the development of education in the country, especially in the Niger Delta region.

He said: "We are here to celebrate excellence and class in NDDC. We have never had it this good. We appreciate the support the MD gave to us during the NANS election that saw the emergence of a student from the south-south region as the president.

Akpan commended the NDDC Managing Director for providing "purposeful leadership" and for promoting peace in the Niger Delta region. He pledged the support of NANS for the educational programmes of the NDDC.

## NDDC To Distribute Solar-powered Lamps To Niger Delta Communities

**T**he Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, is working to ensure the provision of solar power to communities of the Niger Delta region that are not covered by the national grid.

The NDDC Former Managing Director, Mr. Nsima Ekere, said this when the leader of the Sustainable Energy Practitioners of Nigeria, SEPAN, Federal Ministry of Environment and Asteven Group, Dr. Magnus Onuoha, paid him a courtesy call at the NDDC headquarters in Port Harcourt.

Mr. Ekere was presented with the Green Global Champion Award which the Agency won at the recently concluded global Climate Conference, at Katowice Poland for the contributions of the NDDC to the

development of the region.

The NDDC boss said the Commission had over the years been involved in a lot of projects in the Green Energy sector. He said: "We believe that one of the ways of closing the gap between electricity distributions in the country is to encourage green energy initiatives in a captive supply market."

Ekere stated that the NDDC was committed to the project and will deepen its collaboration with private sectors and organizations like Green Global Economy Initiative in providing green power to rural communities in Nigeria and the Niger Delta region in particular.

In his remarks Dr. Onuoha thanked the NDDC for ensuring that 20 per cent unconditional emissions reduction as committed to by the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari in 2015

was realized. He also lauded the NDDC for keying into the implementation of Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement of 2015, noting that the NDDC deserved commendation for being in the Vanguard of the promotion of low carbon resources efficient Nigerian green economy.

He noted with joy the agency's commitment to distribute 90,000 solar lanterns to tertiary institutions in the nine states of the region at 10,000 per state, with effect from January 2019.

Onuoha explained that the distribution was expected to generate 3.5 million metric tons of carbon and would be reported by the Department of Climate Change Federal Ministry of Environment as part of Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contribution efforts.





## Buhari loves the Niger Delta, Says New Ag. MD NDDC

**T**he Acting Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, Professor Nelson Brambaifa, has commended President Muhammadu Buhari for demonstrating an enduring love for the people of the Niger Delta region.

The new Chief Executive Officer of the interventionist agency, who spoke during the inaugural meeting of the new management, the directors and staff of the NDDC at the Commission's headquarters in Port Harcourt, noted that the Federal Government had "indeed begun refunding over N1.3 Trillion owed the Commission since inception."

Prof. Brambaifa, whose appointment was announced on Friday, January 25, 2019, alongside that of the Acting Executive Director Finance and Administration, Mr Chris Amadi and the Acting Executive Director Projects, Engr. Dr Samuel Adjogbe, FNSE, said the appointment of the new management team was a response to the growing unhappiness in the Niger Delta region over government's commitment to developing the region and improving the living conditions of the people.

The Acting Managing Director said that the Niger Delta region had suffered enough and President Buhari recognised this fact and that prompt action to redress the situation and reassure the people of the region of government's commitment to their welfare through infrastructural development and capacity building for the youths of the region.

Prof. Brambaifa reiterated that President Buhari, had for the

first time since the establishment of the NDDC, ensured that the Federal Government started to meet its statutory financial obligations to the Commission in full.

He said that President Buhari also ensured that all other statutory contributors to the funding of NDDC met their obligations, noting that the President also worked to restore peace and security in the region by tackling all grievances of the people.

The new NDDC boss said that the appointment of the management team was another step in the effort to offer hope to the Niger Delta people and restore their confidence and faith in rebuilding the Niger Delta region.

The Ag. MD pledged to do everything necessary to respect and implement the mandate of the Commission, "which is to facilitate the sustainable development of the Niger Delta, into a region that is socially stable, economically prosperous, politically peaceful and ecologically regenerative."

He stated that it was necessary to start work immediately, stating: "The task of developing the Niger Delta is too important to be toyed with, and too compelling to waste time on."

He urged all stakeholders in the Niger Delta to "join hands with members of the new executive management to ensure a smooth transition, as well as contribute to the immediate delivery on Mr President's mandate."

He enjoined the staff of the NDDC to embrace teamwork, hard work and professionalism in the discharge of their work and promised to "change NDDC and take it to the next level."



# Rehabilitation Of 75km Federal Road In Cross River To Gulp Over N14.17 Billion

**M**inister of state for works, power and housing, Hon. Mustapha Baba Shehuri has said that the federal government has voted over N14.17 Billion for the rehabilitation of the remaining 75 kilometre part of the Ogoja-Ikom-Calabar federal highway.

The Minister disclosed this in Biase LGA when he flagged off the Akpet to Odukpani section of the road in a big ceremony.

He said the federal government is very happy at the pace and quality of the rehabilitation of the first phase of 250 kilometer earlier completed.

He said except for paucity of funds the work would have been completed.

He said that the completion of the 75km stretch of the road will take up to 24 months.

"We have given the contractors, Semantech Nigeria Ltd to immediately embark on the job

and abide with the contractual terms. Giving briefs on the rehabilitation, director of highway in the South-South, Godwin Ekea revealed that they have seven road projects in the state, including ongoing and newly awarded contracts, adding that government was committed to good road network in the state.

Two traditional rulers in the state, Paramount ruler of Biase and Yakurr LGA, HRM Nicholas Odum and Obol Item Eteng heartily commended the president for rehabilitating the road which was constructed in 1975. They however requested that speed breakers should be constructed to avert speed, accidents and deaths.

Governor Ben Ayade represented by his commissioner for works, Mr Dane Osim-Asu commended the federal government for fixing the road which will boost economic activities and income and importantly reduce risks and travel time within the state.

## UTME: 'Uniben Denies Involvement In Pin Vending

**T**he management of the University of Benin has said that the institution is not charging above N700 as cost of registration for the Joint Admission Matriculation Board (JAMB) Computer Based Test (CBT).

A statement signed by the institution's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Michael Osasuyi, said JAMB was solely in charge of vending of Pins, while the Institution's Computer Based Test (CBT) Centre only charge the approved N700 only as cost of registration.

It said the suspension of the

institution's Information Communication Technology (ICT) Computer Based Test (CBT) Centre over alleged breach of the code governing the 2019 JAMB registration exercise was hastily done and without proper investigation.

Osasuyi said the suspension would amount to denying the University of Benin access code to clear the backlog of over 300 candidates.

"It is not proper for JAMB to withdraw our access without proper investigation of the accusation. For clarification, University of Benin is not vending JAMB PINs. We only attend to

candidate who have their pins and they pay only N700." he said.

He appealed to JAMB to restore access to the University Portal to enable candidates process their registration without delay, noting that the centre has a record of all the candidates that have registered to date while the N700 paid is on record for Auditing Process.

While commending JAMB for putting up measures to check extortion of candidates in the registration exercise, he said the University and JAMB remains partners in the quest for quality education delivery in the country.



# Modular Refineries

**Busy period for a Technocrat passionate about Nigeria's greatness**

**I**t was indeed a busy period for Engr. Simbi Wabote the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board. A Technocrat passionate about Nigeria's greatness, This is a man that is so passionate about Nigeria's greatness and development and is doing everything possible to make Nigeria great again. reports had it that Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) stakes \$10m on Waltersmiths Modular Refinery, an agreement he signed in

Lagos and the next Monday he was in Abuja for another National Assignment for a Nigerian Content seminar.

If all the government agencies are this busy and working hard to make Nigeria great the country would be a better place to be.



Recently in Lagos the Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring Board signed a \$10m equity investment agreement with Waltersmiths refining and petrochemical company limited for the construction of a 500 barrels per day modular refinery to be located in Ibigwe, Imo state.

The Executive Secretary of NCDMB Engr Simbi Kesiye Wabote and the Director of Finance and Personnel Managements Mr. Isaac Yalah signed on behalf of the Board while the Chairman of Waltersmiths Mr. Abdulrasaq Isah and the Executive Vice

Chairman Mr Danjuma Sale signed for the company. Engr Wabote said the investment decision was in line with the Board's vision to be the catalyst for the Industrialisation of the Nigeria oil and Gas industry and its linkage sectors.





**Nigerian Content powers Modular Refinery:** Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources performing the groundbreaking of 5,000 barrels per day Waltersmith's modular refinery at Ibigwe, Ohaji Egbema LGA, Imo State, funded partly by the NCDMB. (L-R) Mr. Danjuma Saleh, Executive Vice Chairman, Waltersmith Petroman Oil Ltd; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Senator Ita Giwa; Eze Ekwueme Paulinus Ekwueme, King of Ochia Autonomous Community; Engr. Saidu Mohammed, Chief Operating Officer, Gas & Power, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (left) and Mr. Abdulrazaq Iso, Chairman, Waltersmith Petroman Oil Ltd.

He added that the Board was also keen to support Federal Government's policy on modular refineries and meet the key objectives of the Petroleum Industry's seven big wins launched by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016. And the Economic Recovery and growth programme. It will be recalled that the Federal Government recently announced plans to replace

illegal oil refineries with modular refineries as part of a wider plan for the development of the Niger Delta, and the country's oil and gas industry. The Minister of state Petroleum Dr Ibe Kachikwu said recently that discussions have already begun on the modalities for operating modular refineries. He said "In the past few weeks, we have had open and prospective

discussions with some of the refiners and government is assiduously working to ensure this initiative is carefully implemented without destruction to the environment.

In another development the Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring Board is set to commence a forensic audit into \$200m Nigerian Content Development Fund. Executive





Secretary of NCDMB Engr Wabote stated this in Abuja on while speaking on the theme 'driving Nigeria's oil and gas industry towards sustained economic development and growth' at a seminar on Nigeria's oil and gas conference. Speaking at the conference Mr Wabote warned that if the Board discovers any sabotage in the remittance of one percent NCDF Charge it

will not hesitate to handover such defaulting company to the EFCC. He regretted that despite efforts of the Board to ensure the success of the local content in the country, some International oil companies were in the habit of coming up excuses why the local content cannot be achieved. He said 'this is no longer acceptable'.

**"This will not only provide a legal job and source of income for the populace, but also contribute to our national productivity."**



Akwa Ibom Redemption Frontiers  
Ikot Abasi LGA  
Akwa Ibom State.

## Open letter to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC Universal Energy Resources Limited: Questions Nsima Ekere must answer

In line with President Muhammadu Buhari's commitment to fight corruption, we hereby call on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, to investigate the role of Mr. Nsima Ekere who is Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Commission and APC governorship candidate in Akwa Ibom state in defrauding Akwa Ibom government and people of their shares in the state-owned Universal Energy Resources Limited.

A man aspiring to the office of governor should come clean. The people deserve to know the history of the man aspiring to control their common patrimony.

The EFCC should ask Mr. Nsima Ekere to answer the following questions:

1. What happened to the 51% shares that Akwa Ibom State Government had in Universal Energy?
2. What relationship does he have with Septa Energy known to have later shortchanged the Akwa Ibom state government vis-à-vis its investment?
3. What led to Universal Energy changing its name to Seven Energy at his instance?
4. What is his relationship with Mr. Philip Iheanacho of Septa Energy alongside Mr. Jide Omokore as well as Mr. Kola Aluko who was Managing Director of Septa Energy?
5. What interest does he have in Qua Iboe Gas Plant in Ibeno, a completely private investment that he got then Gov. Akpabio to spend millions of dollars, with both of them as shareholders?
6. Why was Akwa Ibom State Government's 51% shares in Universal Energy when he was Executive Chairman of AKIIFOC reduced to 20% by the time he left office?
7. What business interest and relationship does he have with these companies that he used to dupe the Akwa Ibom state government and buy off the shares in Universal Energy: Stallionet Limited, Zawadi Investment Nigeria Limited, Acrevine Nigeria Limited, Castlepines Property Limited, Engineer Hayatu Z. Abubakar, Nisa Oil & Gas Nigeria Limited, Casue Nigeria Limited, Toledote Consult Limited, Latorra Energy Limited, Septa Energy Nigeria Limited, Mutual Crown Investment Limited, Creek Tower Limited, Konokonics Ventures Nigeria Limited, Grandbond Integrated Services Limited, Donarson Services Limited, Workstation Limited, Sartoria Ventures and Stallion Business Systems etc.?
8. What did he do that Chief Godswill Akpabio as governor had to stop a Universal Energy Annual General Meeting, AGM, in January of 2014 from holding until he was briefed on 'what is going on' in the company?
9. Why was the then governor angry with him that his 'cut' of \$20million earlier promised him as part of his share of the embezzlement was not given to him?
10. The Stubb Creek Oil Field started producing about 3000bpd of crude oil from 2014. Where is the money and who are those benefitting from the sale of crude drilled from the oil field?
11. The Stubb Creek Oil Field in Mbo has been producing crude oil since 2014 through 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Where are the revenues derived from the over 1.86million barrel of oil drilled annually for the past five years?
12. What role did he play in changing the shareholders structure of the company on March 31st, 2008?

We call on the EFCC to invite Mr. Nsima Ekere to give answers to these questions and many more that we shall be asking him in the days ahead. We are ready to provide the EFCC with all relevant documents to assist the anti-corruption agency do its job effectively in line with its mandate.

Signed:

Akwa Ibom Redemption Frontiers  
Ikot Abasi LGA  
Akwa Ibom State





*Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike addressing thousands of Omuma people during the PDP Omuma LGA Campaign Rally at Eberri*

## Nigerians Are Suffering Because Buhari Cancelled All His Promises -Governor Wike

**R**ivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike has declared that the national developmental stagnation that has destroyed the nation's economy is a fallout of the cancellation of all the promises President

Muhammadu Buhari made to Nigerians in 2015.

Addressing thousands of Omuma people at the State Primary School, Eberri on Friday, Governor Wike said President Muhammadu Buhari made high sounding promises, only to deliberately refuse to keep his promises.

He said: "The new name of the APC is All Promises Cancelled. There is no single promise that has been fulfilled by the APC

Federal

Government. For us in Rivers State, we don't know if there is a federal government".

He said that Rivers people would overwhelmingly vote Atiku Abubakar because he has the business and leadership acumen to create employment opportunities and revive the economy.

"Whatever you are doing, on February 16, 2019, come out and vote Atiku Abubakar to revive the economy. Atiku Abubakar is a decent and law-abiding politician, who will develop the country rapidly", he said.

The governor said under the present dispensation, only PDP states are paying salaries,

executing and commissioning projects. He said APC State Governors have abandoned their people and refused to pay salaries.

Governor Wike commended Omuma people for their support for PDP, noting

that he has kept his promises by electrifying 19 communities, construction of a Zonal Hospital and the ongoing construction of a 17 kilometre road across several communities.

He assured them of more developmental projects during his second term

While praising Rt Hon Kelechi Nwogu for mobilising Omuma people to collect 90 percent of their permanent voters cards, Governor Wike challenged



other local government areas to mobilise their people to collect their voters cards for the 2019 General elections.

The governor reiterated his call for all Rivers PDP leaders to deliver their respective polling units. He said political recognition would be accorded leaders who deliver their units.

Chairman of Rivers State PDP, Bro Felix Obuah said that Omuma people by their overwhelming outing, have proved their total support for Governor Wike.

He urged them to intensify their support during the Presidential and governorship elections.

The PDP Chairman presented party flags to Rivers East Senatorial PDP Candidate, Senator George Sekibo, PDP House of Representatives Candidate for Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency, Ephraim Nwuzi and the PDP Candidate for Omuma State Constituency, Rt Hon Kelechi Nwogu.

Speaking at the rally, PDP Candidate for Omuma State Constituency, Rt Hon Kelechi Nwogu said the gathering was not a campaign rally, but a victory rally.

He said that Governor Wike has been magnanimous to Omuma people through projects and employment. He said that Omuma people will vote for Wike and PDP.

He said: "We are completely for PDP.

We will vote for you and protect our votes. We are ready for the election.

We have gone up to 90 percent PVC collection.

"We will show our commitment to PDP by voting out Buhari and voting in Atiku. We will vote all PDP candidates. For Governor Wike, take it for granted, he has won".

Chairman of PDP in Omuma Local Government Area, Mr Simeon Nwuju said

Governor Wike has passion for the development of Rivers State.

He said Governor Wike will win with a greater margin during the 2019 General elections.

Chairman of Omuma Local Government Area, Hon Chisom Nwaiwu declared that Omuma people will deliver Governor Wike one hundred percent across the area.

He said the people are happy with the several projects of Governor Wike planted in different communities of Omuma.

Rivers State Commissioner of Chieftaincy Affairs, Mr Sylvanus Nwankwo said that there is no need for Governor Wike to Campaign in the area,

because he has lived up to the expectations.





# Gen. Abubakar, SGF, Amaechi Lead Stakeholders to NIMASA Maritime Awards



Rotimi Amaechi



Peterside Dakuku

**F**ormer Head of State, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr. Boss Mustapha, and the Minister of Transportation, Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi, will be leading other stakeholders to the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) Maritime Awards scheduled to take place on Saturday, 12th January, 2019 at the Eko Hotels and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos at 6pm.

The Governors of Lagos, Ogun, Enugu, Ondo, Kaduna, Kebbi and Borno states as well as Honourable Ministers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria are also expected at the occasion. Others expected to attend are Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Mr. Femi Otedola, Dr. (Mrs.) Nike Akande, as well as royal fathers, including His Highness, the Emir of Kano, Mallam Sanusi Lamido, His Imperial Majesty, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, top government officials, National Assembly members and members of the diplomatic corps.

The event, tagged "NIMASA Merit Awards and Corporate Dinner", which will be hosted by the Minister of Transportation and chaired by the SGF, will also showcase an array of stakeholders in the Nigerian maritime industry, some of who will be recognised for their outstanding contributions to the

realisation of the Agency's mandate of driving the sector in 2018.

The award categories include Shipping Company of the Year 2018 (Dry Cargo), Shipping Company of the Year 2018 (Wet Cargo), Maritime Education and Training Institute of the Year 2018, Manning Agent of the Year 2018, and Seafarers' Employer of the Year 2018.

Themed "Our Journey to Excellence, it will be an evening to celebrate our Core Values of Commitment, Accountability, Professionalism, Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence, Leadership, and Discipline in the Agency and industry as a whole."

Staff of the Agency will be honoured for outstanding performance and an Employee of the Year will be picked from the 11 winners of the Employee of the Month awards from January to November 2018. It would be recalled that at last year's event, Maersk Nigeria Limited, Gulf Agency Company (GAC) Nigeria Ltd, Charkins Maritime, and Offshore Safety Centre, among others, were duly recognised with corporate and industry awards.

The NIMASA Merit Awards and corporate dinner will be an event of glitz, glamour and glitter to mark the end of year activities of the Agency.





## OBA OF BENIN RECEIVES SOME SERVICE CHIEFS, CHARGES THEM ON THE NEED TO TACKLE SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE STATE

**T**he new service chiefs in Edo State have been charged to join forces with the Palace and Edo State Government to tackle the security challenges confronting the people.

The charge was given by His Royal Majesty, Omon'Oba Ewuare II, Oba of Benin when he received separately the new Commander of the 4-Brigade Nigeria Army, Benin City, Brigadier-General Greg Osamwonyi Omorogbe, the new Commissioner of Police, Mr. Akeem Odumosun and the Flight Commander of the 107 Air Maritime Group, Benin City, Mr. Fatai Ayinla Ganiyu in his Palace.

Addressing the 4-Brigade Commander, Omon'Oba expresses delight that the first Edo man has been posted to the Brigade, and prayed God and the ancestors to guide and protect him, while assuring of

Palace support at all time.

Brigadier-General Omorogbe said he was in the Palace to introduce himself to the Oba as well as solicit for Royal blessings and support to enable him succeed in his new assignment.

He promised to join forces with the Oba of Benin to secure the Kingdom and protect the people from criminals.

The Benin Monarch reminded the new Commissioner of Police, Mr. Odumosun that this year is critical in the history of Nigeria because of the 2019 general elections, and urged him to put his experiences to bear on the job, and not be partial, but be diligent on the job.

While commending the former Commissioner of Police, Babatunde Kokumo for doing a good job and for always consulting with the Palace, the Oba of Benin enjoined the new Commissioner of Police to emulate his predecessor and assured him of the necessary support in order to succeed.

The Commissioner of Police, Akeem Odumosun promised to be loyal and remain dedicated to his duties, pointing out that he would ensure that officers and men of the command do their job within the ambit of the law.

He solicited the support and cooperation of the Palace in the successful discharge of his duties.

The former Commissioner of Police, Johnson Babatunde Kokumo thanked His Royal Majesty for the support and prayers which he said was responsible for his success and appealed for such hands of fellowship to be extended to his successor.

Addressing the Flight Commander of 107 Air Maritime Group,

the Omon'Oba assured him that the Palace would look into his requests, especially that of the Air Force land in dispute in some communities in the Kingdom.

The Benin Monarch expresses concern over the absence of Air Force Secondary School in Benin City, despite the allocation of land for that purpose.

The Flight Commander of the 107 Air Maritime Group, Benin City, Fatai Ayinla Ganiyu thanked the Oba of Benin for his assistance to the Air Force over the years, and promised to assist in making Edo State a crime-free state.

He drew Oba Ewuare II attention to the problems surrounding Air Force land in some communities in the Kingdom, especially Egor, and appealed for the Oba's intervention.



# We Will Obey Court On Rivers APC Candidates, Says INEC

## Don't Blame Wike for APC's Woes – Abe

**T**he Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, has said it will not hesitate to implement the order of court restraining the commission from listing candidates of the All Progressives Congress for the general elections in Rivers state.

INEC National Electoral Commissioner in charge of Operations, Festus Okoye in an interview with newsmen, said INEC will delist names of the candidates of the APC after studying and finding merit in the judgement. Okoye also said INEC was not concerned about the different interpretation of the judgement, adding that the commission has a team that will study the judgement and advise on the line of action.

According to him, "We are not interested in the conundrum in Rivers State. What we have said is that the moment any properly constituted court of law makes an order or gives a judgement and we obtain a certified true copy of that particular judgement and we confirm that it is a judgement from a properly constituted court of law and that the judgement affects any of our processes, we will give effect to that particular judgement. This applies across board."

"There is what we call the ratio of a matter. Why we insist on obtaining court judgements and studying it before giving effect to them is because we do not want to rely on the reportage on the pages of newspapers or posts on social media."

"We want to know the ratio and the order in the matter before the court and what were the orders of the court as it relates to the matter before it."

Recall that Justice James Kolawole Omosho of the Federal High Court in Port Harcourt issued a restraining order on INEC not to recognize any candidate of the APC for the general elections in Rivers State.

Meanwhile, Senator Magnus Abe of the All Progressive Congress (APC), representing Rivers South-East in the senate has urged supporters not to blame the present challenges of the party in the state on Governor Nyesom Wike.

Senator Abe made the call yesterday while reacting to the recent Federal High Court judgement which nullified the direct and indirect primaries allegedly held by two factions of the party in Rivers.

The court also ordered the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) not to recognize APC candidates for the 2019 elections in the state.

Senator Abe expressed worry at the present challenges being faced by the party, saying, "it is baseless blaming the governor".

He said the foundation for the crisis was laid by the leadership of the party, which he said decided to relegate some interests and stakeholders to the background.

"Was it Wike that excluded some members from the elective congress? Was it also Wike that went ahead to hold primaries in spite of pending court matter?" he queried.

Senator Abe said that Governor Nyesom Wike is the ultimate beneficiary of the crisis rocking the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Rivers State.

He declared that those accusing him of working with Governor Wike were part of the problems of the main opposition party in the state. Saying he neither being sponsored by Wike nor working for him.

Abe who stated this during a Radio interview yesterday monitored by *The Tide* accused the Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi of sponsoring a campaign of calumny against him ever since the governor honoured his invitation for his thanksgiving service held sometime in Port Harcourt.

He said, "That whole campaign of calumny against me was sponsored by the Minister of Transportation. And he did so in bad faith. And the person who is orchestrating that campaign is one Chief Chukwuemeka Eze."

"That I had a thanksgiving service and I invited Senators both from the APC and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and everybody in the senate well as the senate President."

"That is also invited the Governor of Rivers State who happens to be Barr. Nyesom Wike and he honoured my invitation on a day when the leader of our own party was holding a parallel even in Bori (Khana Local Government Area) against me. Is that the basis of coming to the conclusion that I am working for Wike?"

"Has it ever occurred to Rivers people that the ultimate beneficiary of the crisis in Rivers APC is Wike. Now who initiated the crisis? Was it Wike who said that the meeting all



INEC Chairman  
Prof. Mahmood-Yakubu

of us had and we agreed that should bring unity so that we should work together in the congresses should be thrown aside?

"Was it Wike who denied Ibrahim Umar and over sixteen thousand fellow members of your own party who fought with you during the last election some of them, their brothers lost their lives."

"Some of them had their houses destroyed and all that and they went to buy forms just for the right to take part in an APC activity and somebody decided that they cannot. Was it Wike who took that decision?"

"At the time we went to Court and the Court said do not proceed, deal with the issue of these people first. Was it Wike who said that? At the time we made a request that since we are in court let us do direct primaries in Rivers State and people said down and made request for direct primaries which they knew would be in total conflict with the existing case that was already on at that time in the court."

"And there were two orders of the court at that time that were still in operation but people still went ahead to make a request for indirect primaries. Was it Wike who did that?"

"When we set up the committee to say okay let us try and look for a solution and restore peace within the party and people refuse. Was it Wike who refuse? So all these people turning around to call Wike's name. They are the ones who are part of the problem," Senator Abe stated.

He described the situation the party in the state finds itself as a shame because some people mismanaged a situation that could have been managed.

On the way forward for the APC, he noted that members of the party should be able to think and reason for themselves, saying one man cannot think for all the party stakeholders in the state.

"My own suggestion on the way forward is that I want to talk to our party members. I want people to be able to reason for themselves. Because we are not in a position where it is clear that one person cannot reason for all of us."

"I think that as much as possible the party needs everybody. In this kind of situation that we have found ourselves, we simply have to accept the reality that where we are today as a political party is disgrace."





Bodo-Bonny road where sites of pollution could be seen many more kilometers away.

His words As we drove 7+900KMs (as seen written at the point we stopped) from Patrick Waterfront where Ogoni/Niger Cleanup was flagged-off on June 2, 2016 towards Bonny Island where the Bodo-Bonny road is being constructed to, we were greeted by a new sight of pollution and devastated environment that I never knew existed in Ogoniland, Fyनेface said.

Mr. Fyनेface who said the main purpose of the trip as a development

concerned citizen was to ascertain whether work was actually ongoing on the Bodo-Bonny road as stated by President Muhammadu Buhari during the presentation of the 2019 budget at the National Assembly on December 19, 2018 but was booed by some lawmakers including those from Rivers State told journalists that the visit did not only reveal that work is actually ongoing on the project as the President said but that the ongoing construction exposes a new level of pollution that may not have been captured or reported in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoniland released on August 4, 2011. "I was shocked to see this extent of pollution in that part of Ogoni alone.

I do not think that this level of pollution, stretching over 8kms from flag-off point and continuing as far as eyes can see towards Bonny Island was captured in the UNEP report on Ogoniland, Fyनेface said.

There is need to re-assess these new level of hydrocarbon pollution being revealed by ongoing construction of Bodo-Bonny road while the cleanup of other impacted sites commences. With what I saw today, Ogoniland cannot be cleaned up without simultaneously clearing the environment in neighbouring communities like Ogu/Bolo, Andoni, Opobo, Okrika, Bonny, etc. that share common water boundaries.

I use this opportunity to invite environmental justice activists, campaigners, environmental organizations, institutions and media organizations locally and globally to take advantage of the road being constructed to Bonny through Bodo creeks to visit the area and experience the new level of pollution I saw today. Such visits will enhance our collaboration for a strong campaign to stop re-pollution in Ogoniland and the Niger Delta region as cleanup gets on the way, Fyनेface noted.

It would be recalled that Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria (SPDC) accepted responsibility for multiple oil spills in the area up to 2009 and paid 55million British Pounds to the Bodo community in 2015 as part of out of court settlement following a case instituted by the community against it over the spills in a London Court.

Mr. Fyनेface reiterate call on the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to commence the actual cleanup of Ogoni environment without further delay while the Federal Government, SPDC, etc. should ensure the availability and adequate funding of the project.



# Bodo-bonny Road Exposes New Level Of Hydrocarbon Pollution In Ogoniland !

By Gladys Nweke



**A** new level of hydrocarbon pollution of Ogoni environment has been discovered as exposed by the ongoing construction of the N120.6billion Bodo-Bonny Road. The 34-kilometer long road is being constructed by Julius Berger Plc through the swampy and muddy creeks of Bodo community in

Gokana Local Government Area to Grand Bonny Kingdom in Bonny Local Government area of Rivers State.

A visit to the Bodo community axis of the project site today by a team comprising of environmental justice campaigners, environment monitors, and volunteers exposed a stretch of vast expanse of massively hydrocarbon

pollution devastated areas covering miles and miles away.

The team which was led by Fyनेface Dumnamene Fyनेface, Ogoni/Niger Delta Environmental Justice Campaigner said the team drove over 7km from Patrick Waterfront where Ogoni cleanup was flagged-off in 2016 up to kilometers 7 900 on the new





*Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike (m), Former Rivers State Governor, Sir Celestine Omehia (r) and Former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Prince Chibadum Nwuche (l) during the burial service of the Late Chief Maxwell Tasie Amadi at Isiokpo on Saturday*

## Governor Wike Assures Isiokpo People Of More Development Projects

**R**ivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike has assured Isiokpo people that he will continue to develop the area in honour of his commitment to the Late Chief Maxwell Tasie Amadi, the Eze Igo of Isiokpo. Speaking during the burial service of the Late Chief Maxwell Tasie Amadi at Isiokpo on Saturday, Governor Wike also assured the bereaved family that he will always stand with them. "Your father stood by us. Your father supported us. I will support you. I will stand by you. It doesn't matter what it is, I will stand you and weather the storm". The governor noted that the Late Chief Maxwell Tasie Amadi asked him to construct a major road in Isiokpo for the good of his people.

"Late 2017, he came to me and said several persons had made promises to him and none was fulfilled. He asked me to do something for him. He asked me to construct the major road in his part of Isiokpo. I thank God that we constructed that road. I feel happy that I listened to him", he said. He stated that before he started his political career, the Late Chief Maxwell Tasie Amadi gave him the required encouragement. The governor said that the Late Politician was not just a father, but a political mentor of note. He said: "A man full of honour, a man full of life. Whether young or old, Late Chief Maxwell Tasie Amadi mixed with all

persons. He was a friend to the young and the elderly". Governor Wike consoled with the family of Late Chief Maxwell Tasie Amadi and prayed God to grant them the strength to bear the irreparable loss.

**"I will continue to keep my promises to Isiokpo people. The only thing you can do to make your father happy is to ensure that you keep the flag flying"**





# Another Bombardment To The Nigeria State By Fearless Catholic Clergy Bishop Matthew Kukah.

*From Bishop Matthew Kukah*

**A**nyone who thinks the Biafra agitation is a nuisance and irritating should know that it is not the collective aspiration of all Igbos but especially that no one has the monopoly of nuisance. Nuisance begets nuisance. When you stay with potash loaders you too will share in their dusty hair. It is in this country that the same standards are not held against all.

Some can get away with anything but others cannot get away with something. I shudder at those who blame the agitators for agitating. Everyone knows what is good for them. If you don't know what is good for you then shut up and don't obstruct those who know what is good for them. If I have my way I will cease to be a Nigerian because there is no sense of nationhood. Those who have leverage over others use it to oppress them. Otherwise how can you explain the audacious impunity of a certain section of this country.

They can intimidate everybody even a sitting president and get away



with it. When GEJ was president he was literally harassed by this same people until they sent him packing and we thought they will be appeased.

But alas we were mistaken

Now how do I love a country where a murderous terrorist group like the herdsmen acclaimed even internationally as deadly is being openly defended by a govt. that wants my loyalty. Do you know as I

make this comment, a first class Chief of Bokkos LGA in Plateau state was murdered by a certain group of Fulanis almost a year now and no one has been arrested not to talk of prosecution; there are many villagers in my parish who cannot go to farm again except to farm their backyard because their farms have been forcefully annexed by their Fulani murderers; that in Bokkos a wife and a daughter can be taken away right before her

husband or father and be repeatedly raped then released at the convenience of the barbaric Fulani tribesmen and no one dares talk; police will advise you to go and settle the matter through dialogue? I want independence from a country where terrorists are embraced and agitators are terrorized. At the slightest excitement Hausa or Fulani man can kill you and get away with it; it has happened and continues to happen but when you gear up to defend yourself because security will not, then you are caught by the same security who will lecture you on how to be peaceful and law abiding. This country will end unless there is justice for all.

Rubbish! I hate the lie that Nigeria is. Let's say the truth and die but it is what will set us free. Nigeria is negotiable to me the oppressed even if it's not to the oppressor and that is normal.

**"The only right  
Nigerians concede  
to you is the right  
to agree with them"**



# Wabote Bags Fellowship Award For Engineering Excellence

**E**ngr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board was on Thursday in Port Harcourt, Rivers State inducted as a fellow of the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS), University of Port Harcourt for his exceptional accomplishments in engineering, strategic management and local content leadership in the Oil and Gas Industry. The prestigious award was part of the flagship program of the Institute's 15th Induction Ceremony/Exhibition which took place at Ebitimi Banigo Auditorium, University of Port Harcourt.

Wabote is one of the two persons admitted to fellowship of the Institute this year. The second person is Hervochon Joel, a French national and Executive Director, Deep Water District, TUPNI, Lagos. Both professionals were inducted for their distinguished career in the oil and gas sector, spanning nearly thirty years.

IPS was established fifteen years ago in collaboration with *Institut Francais du Petrole et Energies Nouvelle (IFP/New Energy)*, the *Ecole du Petrole et des Monteurs (IFP School)*, Paris, France. It was established primarily as a Centre of Excellence in Geosciences, Drilling

and Production technology, petroleum economics, policy and strategic studies. The goal of the Institute is to provide topnotch academic and hands-on education for young professionals to meet the needs of the Nigerian Petroleum Industry through a commitment to excellence in training, applied research, continuing education and capacity building. The main sponsor of the Institute is the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC)/Total E & P Nigeria Limited (TEPNG) Joint Venture.

In the citation read by the Institute, Mr. Wabote was described as an "experienced and excellent



The Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Engr. Simbi Wabote (right), being presented with the OGTA Local Content Award by former Vice President of World Bank, Dr. Oby Ezekwesile.





Engr. Simbl Wabote

professional ... who has recorded huge successes in the various assignments so far carried out, making him an effective and resourceful manager who is able to groom and manage diverse and high performing teams". According to the Institute, Wabote's spectacular performance across a wide spectrum of functional responsibilities in the Oil and Gas Industry, traversing engineering, procurement, process improvement, compliance and corporate governance, business and operational efficiency, local supply chain development and global local content leadership have distinguished him as an engineer and manager par excellence.

In his presentation titled, "**Sustaining Productivity in the Plateau Phase of Growth**", Engr. Wabote who was also the 15<sup>th</sup> Induction Guest Lecturer commended the Institute and University of Port Harcourt for the honor. He postulated that it is

imperative for the Institute and the industry as whole to pursue sustainable productivity in plateau phase of growth of oil and gas production and value addition in Nigerian and not give room to decline due to complacency.

He commended "Total/NNPC JV for its efforts, dedication, and continual

support to developing human capacity by adopting the University of Port - Harcourt to domicile IPS and creating a conducive learning environment for Nigerians to attain and share knowledge". He enjoined the sponsors of the Institute, "ensure you don't get into the **plateau of complacency** as it can only result in decline".





# FG To Activate 3 Modular Refineries ...Kachikwu



*Ibe Kachikwu*

**T**he minister of state for petroleum, Dr Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu has disclosed that the federal government will ensure that out of the 40 planned modular refineries 3 come on stream by end of 2019.

The minister disclosed this in Calabar at the ongoing 3rd technical meeting of the National Council on Hydrocarbons (NCH) where oil experts and stakeholders are reviewing extent of implementation of resolutions and decisions reached at last year's meeting in Akwa Ibom State. The

NCH is the highest policy making body in the Nigeria's oil and gas.

The minister spoke through the Permanent secretary in the ministry of petroleum resources, Dr. Folasade Yemi-Esan who declared the conferences nice open.

She said apart from the modular refineries, the ministry was also intervening in the Domestic Liquified Petroleum Gas Penetration Programme, where LPG has been identified as a viable source of stimulation for socioeconomic growth in Nigeria.

She said the ministry through the

Department of Petroleum Resources has achieved improved LPG penetration with local consumption from 390,000mt to 470,000mt.

The 5-day stakeholder conference which took place at the magnificent Calabar International Conference Centre with the theme: Oil and Gas Sector Reforms - The key to unlocking the potentials of Nigeria's hydrocarbons.

At the opening session, the permanent secretary, said that it has become pertinent to step up efforts at accelerating development of gas infrastructure along gas corridors to ease and boost gas supply to locations ice with oil and gas activities.

Stressing the need to meet the nation's energy requirements, she said there was also need to engage in intensive research with active involvement of the academia.

She disclosed that the National Gas Flaring Commercialisation Programme (NGFCP) was unveiled as part of Nigeria's contribution towards reducing global carbon emissions and climate change, adding that President Muhammadu Buhari has approved this the "Flare Gas (Prevention of Waste and Pollution) Regulations 2018 as the regulatory instrument that will underpin the implementation of the NGFCP.

Speaking on the sideline, the special adviser to Gov Ben Ayade of Cross River State, Maurice Ekong insisted that the state has oil bearing status and that there was sufficient hydrocarbons in the state.

Ekong appealed that to the federal government to grant the state the rights to prospect for more hydrocarbons.



# DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP

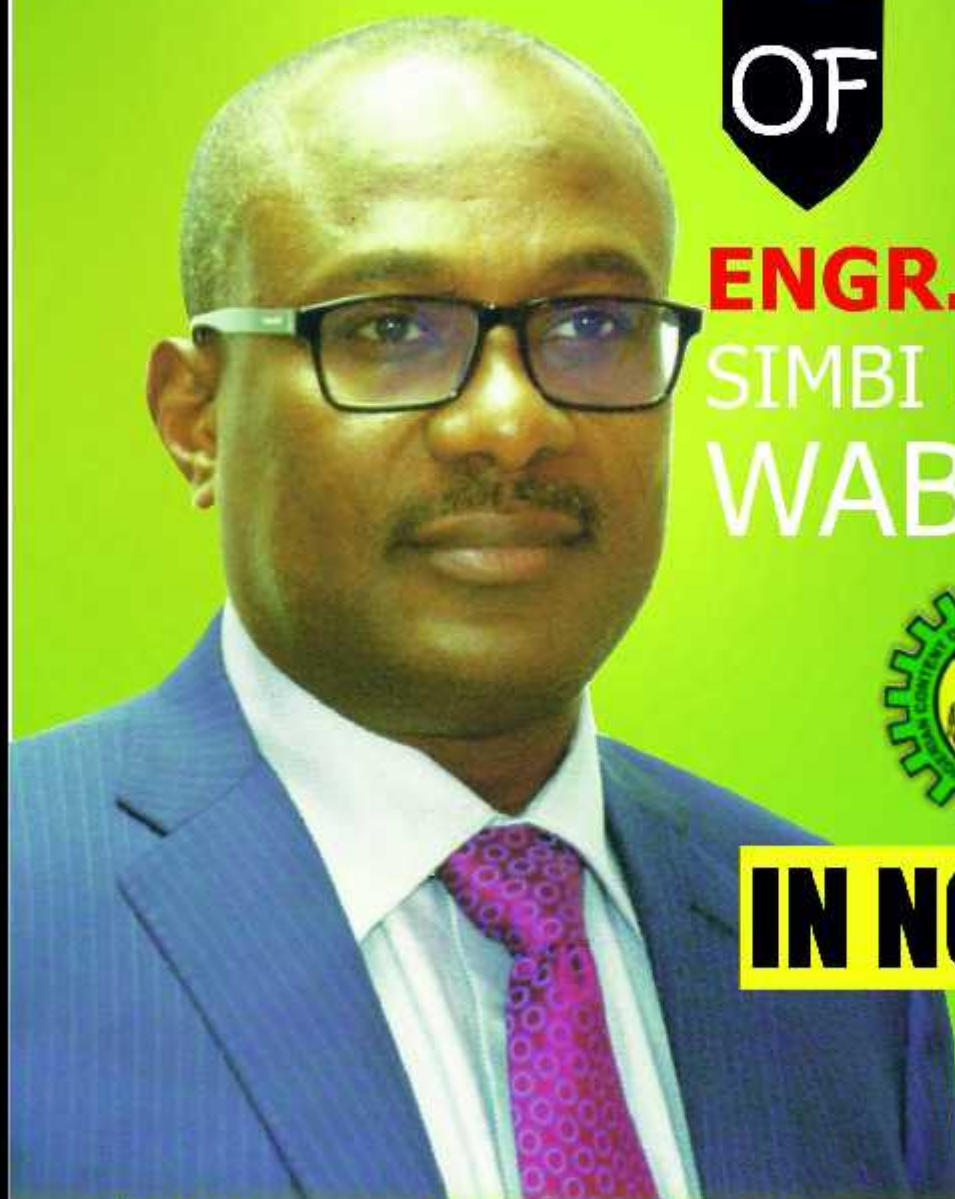


**ENGR.**

SIMBI KESIYE  
WABOTE



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