

NEWS PLATFORM

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**Fear of Violence Threatens Bayelsa
Governorship polls As Dickson, Silva test
Strenght again ... Odds Favour APC Candidate David Lyon**



World Bank Says
Akwa Ibom best Performing
state In South-South

OML 25: Balema Oil
Resumes Operation
In Kula



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To be a leading news magazine in
Nigeria and indeed in Africa

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Our mission include to inform, Educate,
Entertain and serve as status
conferral to Personalities, issues and
events across the globe with special
emphasis on development in Nigeria
and indeed Africa. Keeping to the
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Nigerians live In **Poverty** Says FG

Ms Sadiya Farouq, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, however expressed the government resolve towards reversing the ugly trend.

Farouq spoke while presenting the 2020 budget estimates N44.21 billion for the approval of the House Committee on Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees chaired by Rep. Mohammed Jega.

The minister said the ministry was tasked with the responsibility to address some of the underlying causes, drivers and consequences of humanitarian crises and underdevelopment including

She said this included the relatively high level of poverty of nearly half (90 million) of the country's 198 million people.

The minister assured that the new ministry would strengthen the coordination of humanitarian and disaster management efforts by stakeholders.

The breakdown of the proposed 2020 budget for National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons include N474,306,285 for personnel, N165 million for resettlement of IDPs in the North East and Bakkasi returnees in the 2020 budget proposal

Others are N15 million for 1,000 IDPs enrolment into NHIS; N105 million for renovation/rent of 21,000,000 per state; N60 million Back to school fees; N105 million for drilling of borehole; N184



million for securing land for relocation and reintegration of IDPs in FCT, Nasarawa States and N110 million for 2,200 families as return assistance to North East, among others.

Speaking, the chairman of the committee assured that the budget will impact positively on all Nigerians.

"We are therefore poised for a collaborative action with the Executive arm of government to ensure that we design a performing budget that will meet the expectations of the teeming populace," he said.

He also applauded the resolution of President Muhammadu Buhari for creating the Ministry with a view to address the numerous humanitarian challenges in the country as a result of insurgency, armed conflicts and other forms of conflicts.

The House Committee on Women Affairs, Rep. Oriyomi Onanuga, earlier before the presentation, said the federal government has resolved to address the "relatively high unemployment (at 23.2 per cent) with over 40 million unemployed or underemployed".

He said the plan captures over two million IDPs, 230,000 Nigerian refugees in Niger, Chad and Cameroon and 45,000 refugees in Nigeria", in addition to about 22 million persons with disabilities.

Onanuga added that "over 14 million persons in one form of drug and substance abuse or the other and growing needs of the elderly and vulnerable groups".



Oil theft:

JTF foils 313 attacks on pipelines in nine months in Niger Delta

By Gladys Nweke

As part of efforts to carry out its mandate in curbing oil theft in the Niger Delta, the Joint Task Force Operation Delta Safe (OPDS), says it has foiled over 313 attempts to vandalise major crude oil export pipelines in the region.

The vandalism incidents, according to OPDS Commander, Rear Admiral Akinjide Akinrinade, occurred between January and September 2019.

The pipelines are the Trans Niger Pipeline, Trans Escravos Pipeline and Trans Ramos

Pipeline, operated by the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, SPDC, and Chevron Nigeria Limited, CNL.

Speaking during the flag off of Operation Safety Check 6th, in Alakiri, Okrika Local Government Area of Rivers State, OPDS Commander, Rear Admiral Akinjide Akinrinade, said 988 illegal crude refining camps were also destroyed during the period under review.

Akinrinade explained that Operation Safety Check 6th, was aimed at stepping



Statistics available reveals that OPDS averted over 313 infractions on Trans Niger, Trans Ramos and Trans Escravos Pipeline which is 71.6 percent of the total attempts made on the pipelines between January and September 2019, The OPDS Commander commended the Governor of Rivers State as well as the management of Eroton Exploration and Production Limited for their support and collaborations with the JTF.

up operation tempo in the joint operation area as the year gradually comes to an end. The OPDS boss said the objective of the operation is to sustain the successes recorded so far and improve on operational efforts in order to deny criminal elements the space within the joint task force area.

He urged the people to always involve themselves in legitimate business, and ensure they avoid illegality, which according to him, does not pay.

It could be recalled that OPDS successfully conducted Safety Checks 1-5 with

tremendous achievements.

Safety Check 5 which was conducted from March 19 to Sept 9, 2019 resulted to the arrest of about 553 suspects, destructions of 988 illegal refineries and 15 sea pirates camps.

Also, OPDS impounded items used to facilitate economic crimes, which include 22 vessels, 42 barges, 210 outboard motor engines and 410 other types of boats. Additionally, OPDS arrested 36 tankers and 313 other vehicles.

We Will Impact All Rural Communities in Niger Delta

- Nunieh, New NDDC Boss Assures



The new Acting Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Ghene Dr Jai Nunieh, has assured that the Commission will impact on all rural communities spread across the Niger Delta region.

Dr Nunieh, who gave the assurance when she assumed office at the commission's headquarters in Port Harcourt, stated that her team would pursue

the developmental programme of President Muhammadu Buhari.

The new NDDC Chief Executive Officer spoke shortly after the erstwhile Acting Managing Director, Dr Akwagaga Enyia, handed over to her in the presence of the Acting Executive Director, Projects, Dr. Cairo Ojoughoh and the Acting Executive Director, Finance and Administration, Chief Ibanga Bassey Olang, who constitute the three-man Interim Management Committee.

The committee, inaugurated by the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio, was charged to oversee the activities of the NDDC during the period of the forensic audit ordered by President Buhari.

Nunieh expressed appreciation to President Buhari for the opportunity given to the Interim Committee to serve and assured that the team would not disappoint the President, people of the Niger Delta region and indeed the whole country in carrying out their mandate.

She stated: "The Committee will take the NDDC to the next level and we will not fail the people of the Niger Delta. The youths that came to

the NDDC headquarters to welcome us were very positive. We cannot afford to fail the people.

"We are here because Mr. President expects that the forensic audit should be done properly from 2001 to date. There will be no compromises and the people will know that a new team is here to work."

Nunieh assured that every village in the Niger Delta will feel the impact of the new management team. We will reach out to all the villages because rural development is very important to us.

She added: "I want to assure everyone in the region that every village in the Niger Delta will know that there is a new team in the NDDC. We will produce the list of every village in the region."

Earlier in her remarks, Dr Enyia urged the NDDC management team to work in unison with the Interim Management Committee to forge ahead and achieve the objective of fast-tracking the development of Nigeria's oil-rich region.

She said that the Federal Government made the right choice in appointing the new management team and prayed that they would lead the Commission to achieve the mandate for which it was set up.

Dr Enyia said that with the wealth of experiences of members of the new team, she was confident that they would leave an indelible mark in the annals of the Niger Delta region.

She urged the directors of the Commission to cooperate with the new team to check the negative publicity that had been the lot of the Commission in recent times.

Supreme Court verdict; Tambuwal Congratulate Buhari, urged him to be Maganimous in victory ...Commend Atiku"s doggedness

The Supreme Court had ruled in favour of the candidate of the ruling All Progressive Congress APC, president Muhammadu Buhari dismissing the application of the PDP and its candidate Atiku Abubakar.

The verdict of the Supreme Court brought to a conclusion the long drawn legal battle between APC Buhari and PDP Atiku.

In a statement made available to the press the Sokoto state governor commended Alhaji Atiku Abubakar for his doggedness, tenacity and strong belief in the judicial process. He noted that his "stance has contributed in no small measure in advancing our democracy. He is without doubt an icon of democracy. His place in Nigeria's democratic journey is assured".

He urge fellow PDP members not to be dismayed noting that, "The legal way has a

terminal stage. The verdict of the Supreme Court is final. In politics you win some, you lose some. Since our dear presidential candidate chose the legal way, it is a clear indication of the fact that he is not a supporter of resort to self-help, or violence, after all power comes from God and He alone gives it to whom He wishes at His own time and on His own terms".

Tambuwal congratulated President Muhammadu Buhari for his victory and urge him to be magnanimous.

He however cautioned that, "Rather than encourage his supporters to engage in wild jubulations, this is a time for circumspection and rallying of Nigerians for the arduous task of tackling our huge developmental challenges. This is a time for Mr. President to run an inclusive government and strive to forge a true Nigerian nation and spirit" the statement concluded.

APC may lose more states because of Oshiomhole's aggression, approach – Sagay

Inse Sagay, Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption, PACAC, has pointed out why the All Progressives Congress, APC, lost control of some states

Sagay observed that the aggressive behaviour and approach of Adams Oshiomhole, National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, APC, towards members made the party lose control of some state. He said the party will lose most of the states it currently controls if the former Edo State governor continues to handle issues the same way.

Speaking with newsmen, the PACAC Chairman recalled that Oshiomhole once ignored his advice on the need to be less combative in

dealing with APC members.

He said: "I have advised Oshiomhole rather unsuccessfully to stop being combative, to stop punching and all these aggressive behaviour.

"In a leadership position, you need to stoop to conquer, you need to be restrained.

"Even when people are wrong and you want to correct them, you need to show that you are not after humiliating them and that you will work with them to correct things; not to be aggressive, threatening and engaging in pugilistic method.

"I told him this but he ignored it. Because of his aggression, we have lost quite a number of states."

Buhari Commends Navy For Leading The Fight In Niger Delta



The Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari, has commended the Nigerian Navy for its role in spearheading the fight against crude oil theft, sea piracy, illegal oil refining and bunkering activities in the Niger Delta areas.

President Buhari, gave the commendation at the passing out parade of 199 cadets of Direct Short Service and Special Duty Courses, where he was the ceremony's review officer at the Nigerian Naval College, Ondo, Ondo Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The President, represented by the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Abayomi Olonisakin, said the Nigerian Navy has acquired more patrol vessels and over 250 patrol boats, as well as substantial infrastructural development, a strategy which was yielding good results in the country's waterways.

He noted that it was a very good one that the Nigerian Navy was not only assisting in the fight against Boko Haram insurgents in the North East, but was also leading the fight against sea pirates, crude oil thieves and illegal bunkers of petroleum products in the Niger Delta.

Our nation and indeed the entire gulf of Guinea has in the last few years been challenged by asymmetric and converging security threats emanating from insurgent groups, militants and economic saboteurs, this has warranted critical operational and security engagements of the armed forces of Nigeria across different theatres.

I am glad to note that in addition to assisting sister services in the North East operations against the Boko Haram insurgents, the Nigerian Navy has continued to spearhead internal security operations in the Niger Delta region against militants, pirates, operators of illegal refineries and crude oil thieves.

As can be clearly observed, the Nigerian Navy has matched intent with practical steps, evident by the ongoing fleet expansion programme that has led to the acquisition of several offshore patrol vessels.

seaward defence boats and induction of over 250 patrol boats with substantial infrastructural and manpower development as well as forging of strategic collaborations with regional and more advanced navies.

President Buhari also charged the newly commissioned officers to be dedicated, selfless and professional in the discharge of their duties especially towards the fight against insecurity in the country.

To the proud passing out cadets of the Direct Short Service Course 26 and Special Duty Course 19, the past few months must have been challenging given the rigor that training entail; However, today, marks the beginning of the service to your fatherland.

You must not rest on your oars, a lot is expected of you as newly commissioned officers, especially in the light of the contemporary security challenges our nation faces, these challenges call for dedication, selflessness, professionalism and chivalry as I'm sure you discovered during the course of your training.



Abia To Invest On Automated Shoe Factory to Produce Military Boots, Cortina Shoes - Gov Ikpeazu

Mass production of military boots and cortina for school use is expected to commence in Abia state by the end of the year following the proposed automated shoe factory to be invested at the commercial city if Abia

Aba is already famous for production of foot wears, bags, belts and other leather products by creative artisans working in shops located at Ariaria international market and other locations in Abia.

As Governor Okezie Ikpeazu felt that there was need to embark on large scale production of shoes in order to meet the increasing demand for locally made products, hence the idea of automated production.

Speaking with the Journalists at government lodge in Aba, the governor said that imported components of the machines for the factory would be ready by December.

Everything we need to set up the shoe factory is ready, he enthused, adding that production of shoes would commence in earnest by December.

The governor stated that the automated shoe

factory would specifically concentrate on production of military boots and Cortina, in the meantime, while other types of footwear could be added in the long run.

No fewer than 30 young men and women from Abia were sent to China last year where they were trained in automated production of shoes.

Ikpeazu, said that the 30 persons who have since returned from the China training programme would be fully engaged in the Aba automated shoe factory

He said with large scale production of military boots, the automated shoe factory at Aba would not only meet the needs of Nigeria's military and paramilitary organisations, but take good slice of the international market.

According to him, the company in China which is collaborating with Abia to set up the shoe factory and training of the personnel, produces 34,000 pairs per day.

He noted that the Chinese company is presently overstretched to meet the demands placed by its international customers for military boots.

Tourism Can Favourably Compete With Oil In Revenue Generation For The Nation – Senator Rochas Okorocha

Regrets That The Sector Has Suffered undue Neglect

Former governor of Imo State and Senator representing Imo West Senatorial District, Owelle Rochas Okorocha has said that the tourism sector has the capacity to compete favourably with the Oil Sector in revenue generation for the nation if given the attention it deserves.

Senator Okorocha also said that the tourism and culture aspects of the nation's life have suffered undue neglect for quite a long time and noted that, such ugly development had denied the nation the huge revenue that would have been generated from those sectors.

Okorocha who is the Chairman, senate Committee on culture and tourism spoke when he met with stakeholders in the culture and tourism sectors at the Senate Committee room, National Assembly, Abuja, stating too that, outside Agriculture, Tourism and Culture should be the highest employers of labour in the

Country.

His words “The Nigerian government at this time is committed to the transformation of the tourism industry into the nation's new oil. The tourism sector has the potential to compete with crude oil in generating revenue for Nigeria. Outside agriculture, the highest employer of labour should be tourism. But its contribution to our Gross Domestic Product is too meager and it is unacceptable. Today, destiny has brought on my shoulder and my colleagues' the task of steering the ship. Our mission is to revive it.”

He added “as part of our plans to make the tourism sector very productive, I have had discussion with the Minister of Federal Capital Territory, Musa Bello, on the possibility of acquiring expansive land for the promotion of leisure. And I call on the Chief Executive officers of the parastatals in the tourism sector for cooperation in

Finance Ministers To Discuss Joint Action To Prevent Future Debt Crises

Commonwealth finance ministers will meet in Washington D.C. on 17 October 2019 to discuss coordinated interventions to prevent future debt crises.

The meeting will be chaired by the Finance Minister of Cyprus, Harris Georgiades,

under the theme 'Preventing Debt Crises: The Roles of Creditors and Debtors'. It will be preceded by sessions for senior finance ministry officials and central bank governors.

Ministers will explore policy options and strategies by

which debtor countries can work with creditors to prevent the recurrence of debt crises. Debt crises, as witnessed recently in Greece and Argentina, can devastate economic growth, increase poverty and derail global agendas such as the UN Sustainable Development



moving the sector forward”.

Senator Okorocha further stated “this is not my area of expertise. I would have loved to be the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education. But I will do my best. Working together, we shall give the nation the best that will meet the aspirations of Nigerians”.

In his speech, the Director-General of the National Centre for Arts and Culture,

Segun Runsewe, decried the neglect of the tourism sector by successive administrations, adding that the sector could make a lot of difference in revenue-generation if only it could be put to work.

He urged the Senate to show serious concern to the indiscriminate issuance of the nation's international passport, adding that some of those being nabbed abroad for heinous crimes were not Nigerians”.

Goals and Paris Agreement.

Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said: “The meeting comes at a time when global financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, have indicated another global debt crisis could be on the horizon.

“We have seen the calamitous impact that the Asian debt crisis and the 2008 global financial crisis had in our member countries of, and we know the grave threat that the recurrence of such crises would have on

the health of the global economy. So the countries of the Commonwealth are determined to work together to prevent this from happening.

“The Finance Ministers of our member nations will explore economic policy instruments to curtail rising household debt as well as how technological advancements and other approaches can promote debt transparency for improved risk assessment and debt sustainability.”

The Secretary-General will

present findings of the 2019 Commonwealth Economic Development Report, which examines the debt challenges member countries had to tackle in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis.

At the meeting, ministers will also consider ways in which the newly-developed Commonwealth financial technology (fin-tech) toolkit can be deployed to help countries create and share innovative, technology-driven responses to emerging financial

LADOL will Support Female Entrepreneurs Globally – Jadesimi



The Managing Director of LADOL Free Zone, Dr Amy Jadesimi assured of her commitment to continue to empower women efforts not only in Nigeria, but globally.

While celebrating the noteworthy contributions of Women in the Maritime industry had quietly predicted, the emancipation of the Nigerian Woman is most likely to come from the Nigerian

Maritime industry.

Amy Jadesimi indicated this, while speaking as one of the five industry leaders chosen to select the winner of the Globally. WE Empower female Entrepreneurship challenge at the just concluded United Nations General Assembly week in New York.

The WE Empower UN SDG Challenge is the first-of-its-kind global business competition for women entrepreneurs who are advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and inspiring entire communities to act to create the world we want by 2030.

The WE Empower Challenge honours five women entrepreneurs, one from each of the five UN regions, who are advancing the SDGs through their business practices. The opportunity recognises their innovative work, provides capacity-building training sessions and high-level advocacy



We need to exponentially expand the work of organisations such as We Empower, so that millions of sustainable businesses and business leaders can be identified and supported across the world.

opportunities to the awardees, and ignites awareness about the valuable contribution women entrepreneurs can make toward the SDGs.

Christelle Kwizera, from Rwanda (founder of Water Access Rwanda, providing reliable and affordable access to safe water in rural and semi-urban communities in Rwanda

using their flagship solution, INUMA Groundwater Solar Kiosks, while also professionally maintaining safe water microgrid systems.), Dr. Amy Jadesimi (MD LADOL)

The WE Empower Awardees convened in New York City during the week of the UN General Assembly. The first major event was a dynamic pitch competition hosted by fashion designer, activist and Vital Voices Board Member Diane von Furstenberg, and judged by the – Dr. Amy Jadesimi (MD LADOL), Sam Chung (EVP Finance and Strategy, Salesforce.com), Anu Duggal (Founding Partner, Female Founders Fund), Cameron Fowler (President, North American Personal & Banking, BMO Financial Group) and moderated by Stephanie Mehta (Editor-in-Chief, Fast Company).

The \$20,000 grant was awarded to Leah Lizarondo, CEO and Co-Founder, 412 Food Rescue but all five of the awardees were highly commended.

After judging the pitches Dr. Jadesimi commented, We Empower is putting brilliant female entrepreneurs on a global stage. All 5 of the awardees were impressive – both in terms of the bankability of their business models and their passionate dedication to the SDGs. These are the business models of the future.

The mainstream financial sector is largely oblivious to such opportunities, meaning they are also great undervalued investment opportunities. Sustainable businesses, such as these, will be the drivers of global prosperity. 80% of the 680 million new jobs the world needs will come from SMEs.

Judging Panel: Diane von Furstenberg, Dr. Amy Jadesimi (MD LADOL), Sam Chung (EVP Finance and Strategy, Salesforce.com), Anu Duggal (Founding Partner, Female Founders Fund), Cameron Fowler (President, North American Personal & Banking, BMO Financial Group)

As part of LADOL's ongoing development we will be developing infrastructure and facilities to support a range of sustainable entrepreneurs and SMEs – developing innovative customised solutions for the West African market.

Dr. Amy Jadesimi Investing in female entrepreneurs with sustainable business plans is one of the most lucrative way.

Quality Healthcare: Governor Wike Commissions Re-Equipped Radiology Department of Rivers State University Teaching Hospital



Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike has commissioned the New Radiology Department of the State University Teaching Hospital, upgraded and re-equipped by his administration.

Commissioning the new health facility, Governor Wike reiterated his commitment to quality healthcare for the people of Rivers State.

Governor Wike described the Rivers State University Teaching Hospital and the College of Medicine as his initiatives, saying that he will continue to invest in their rapid development.

"We will do everything possible to promote quality healthcare for our people. We need good healthcare for people to carry out their daily activities.

"We have good doctors, but there are no good equipment. What we are doing is to provide the right equipment", he said.

He stated that he has approved contract for the total furnishing of the hospital. Governor Wike said 70 percent of the funds will be released to the contractor to speed up implementation.

The Rivers State Governor said by May Next Year, his administration will deliver a State of the Art Government House Clinic. He said the New Government House Clinic will be open to the public and the less privileged.

Governor Wike declared that in the absence of Federal Presence and Projects, the Rivers State Government is committed to working round the clock to develop the State.

"Nobody can develop Rivers State more than us. There is no federal Presence and there are no federal projects here. Therefore, we must work together to develop the State.

"We must relegate party differences and focus on working for the good of our people", he said.

Governor Wike said that with the high quality equipment installed at the Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, it is incumbent on the Hospital management to effectively utilize their internally generated revenue.

He said after the key interventions by his administration, the management of Rivers State University Teaching Hospital will be under obligation to cater for its basic needs.

He announced that the total reconstruction of the State School of Nursing will commence next week. He noted that the school will be part of the Rivers State University Teaching Hospital.

Governor Wike also announced that his administration will release the outstanding funds for the training of resident doctors by next week.

The State Governor also said that his administration will attend to the welfare of doctors and other health professionals for the development of the health sector.

Permanent Secretary, Rivers State Ministry of Health, Mrs Caroline Wali said before the handover, the equipment at the department were obsolete and dysfunctional. She thanked Governor Wike for the intervention and transformation.

Chief Medical Director of Rivers State University Teaching Hospital, Dr Friday Aaron said the Radiology Department is strategic in healthcare delivery. He said the upgrade and re-equipping of the department will serve the entire South-South and South-East Geo-political zones.

He appealed to the Rivers State Governor to continue to invest in the development of the healthcare system. He specifically asked for the governor's intervention in the area of employment, health professionals welfare and more facilities.

World Bank says Akwa Ibom best Performing state in South-South



THE WORLD BANK

The World Bank has described Akwa Ibom State as the best performing state in the South-South region during the 2019 fiscal year by the World Bank Project Implementation.

World Bank Country Director for Nigeria, Africa Region, Rachid Bannessaoud said this in a Commendable Performance letter addressed to the State government.

Bannessaoud who congratulated the Akwa Ibom State government for also being recognised by the World Bank Task Team Leaders on its performance in project implementation said the commitment of Governor Udom Emmanuel earned the state the award.

This is to appreciate your state's participation in the just concluded Nigeria Portfolio Performance Awards ceremony hosted by the World Bank Country Office in Abuja, and to congratulate you on your state's commendable performance which led to winning first position, as the best performing state under the South-South Region.

"The event recognised the performance of project implementation teams across the states and Federal institutions.

"Through this event and award, we also believe Akwa Ibom State will significantly improve the overall momentum in the implementations of projects in the State," he said.



FG Has Licensed Six Modular Refineries To Begin Operation ...Presidential Aide

The Federal Government has given license to six modular refineries to begin operations across the country. Senior Special Assistant to the President on Niger Delta Affairs, Mr. Edozor Iyamu, said this in Uyo at a Dialogue on Critically Appraising Mechanisms Used to Transfer Benefits of Resource Extraction to the Niger Delta Region.

He said the establishment of the refineries were deliberate efforts by the government of President Muhammadu Buhari to grow local content in the region.

He said to ensure that the Niger Delta Region benefits from the opportunities that accrue from oil exploration, the federal government has kept its word by ensuring that the refineries were not only given licenses but also encouraged to begin production.

Iyamu noted that the federal government has made the environment conducive for investors to open modular refineries in the country, adding that the government has approved zero duties to investors on modular refinery equipment.

He said strengthening the local content act was one of the policies set up by the government to encourage local content in the oil and gas sector.

"Let us not forget that in previous administration, 35 modular licenses were issued but nobody did anything about it. The licenses were issued and people just put the licenses in their suitcases because they were benefiting from the era of petroleum subsidy."

Also speaking, Dr Ukoah Ukiwo, member of the Nigeria Extractive Industries and Transparent Initiative Expert Advisory Panel said framework and mechanisms that would be beneficial to the region would not succeed if trust was not built through engagement between the

“

The policy of this government which is zero duties has encouraged a lot of investors into the space. So, today, we have six modular refineries, and I have been there myself; I am not talking about things I read or saw in the newspapers. I went there physically to inspect the modular refineries.

government, oil companies and the communities.

Ukiwo said harmony could be created in the region and benefits derived if opportunities were created for people of the area to participate in the process of production, adding that it will help to improve the economy of the communities.

Dr. Chris Okorode of Stakeholders Democratic Network, appealed to the government and oil companies to work towards minimizing the negative impact of oil exploration in the region.

On her part, Programme Coordinator of the Nigeria Natural Resources Charter, Miss Iengi George-Ikoli, advised the people of the region to hold government accountable for how the oil and gas resources are managed to ensure that communities enjoy the benefits from their resources.

NCDMB Recognises **Shell** For Leading IOCs in **Local Content**



The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) recognized Shell as the most impactful International Oil Corporation (IOC) on Local Content Initiatives in the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry.

The Shell Companies in Nigeria clinched the laurels in the upstream category at the just concluded 2019 Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF) in Niger Delta. Shell beat Total and ExxonMobil to the second and third positions at the 2nd edition of the fair organised by NCDMB.

The Executive Secretary of NCDMB, Mr Simbi Wabote who presented the award, lauded Shell for support to local vendors and suppliers in the oil and gas industry.

Wabote said Shell's patronage to indigenous firms had enabled greater participation of Nigerians in the oil and gas industry to service value chain. Osagie Okunbo, Managing Director of Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC) and Country Chair, Shell Companies in Nigeria, received the award.

The Shell Nigeria Chair, described the recognition as an important acknowledgement of the work Shell companies continued to do in Nigerian content development.

This award is a strong recognition of our

leadership in the Nigerian content development space.

Nigerian content development remains a very important step in our growth aspiration as Shell Companies in Nigeria roll out the next phase of major projects, Okunbor said.

Shell's Nigerian Content Development Manager, Olanrewaju Olawuyi, described the NOGOF award as well-earned, given the pioneering initiatives and strides by Shell companies in Nigeria.

According to him, the efforts have put the oil and gas industry in the hands of Nigerians. We are motivated by the award to continue to pursue in-country value addition in the oil and gas sector as this aligns with the government's aspiration in local capacity development. The NOGOF award is a confirmation of the leadership position of Shell in local capacity development in the oil and gas industry.

In 2018, Shell Companies were named the Local Content Operator of the Year at the Annual Oil Industry Achievement Awards Dinner of the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN). In addition to awards from PETAN, Shell Companies in Nigeria have also been honoured for Nigerian content development by the Nigeria Oil and Gas Conference, the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE). Other organizations that have recognized Shell include the Nigerian Chamber of Shipping and at the Social Enterprise Report and Award.



NLNG Is To Deliver Cooking Gas Directly to Rivers State

The Nigeria Liquidified Natural Gas Limited, NLNG, is to supply liquefied petroleum gas, LPG, or cooking gas directly to Rivers State instead of being routed through Lagos.

NLNG managing director, Mr. Tony Attah, gave this assurance to Rivers State governor, Nyesom Wike, during a courtesy visit by the management of the gas firm to the governor at Government House, Port Harcourt.

Attah announced, during the visit, that the Final Investment Decision, FID, on the NLNG Train-7 project would be taken in this year.

He said the project was expected to cost \$6-\$7 billion, adding that on the employment side, the project will create 10-15 thousand jobs for the people of the state. It will also build the skills and capacity of the people.

He appealed to the Rivers State governor to assist in realizing the project by dredging the Iwofe waterway, while commending the governor for promoting security in the state, which, according to him, has created the right environment for investment.

Responding, the Rivers State governor declared that the state government will support the NLNG Train-7 project to take off because of its potential to create over 15,000 jobs and boost the state's economy.

Governor Wike commended NLNG for establishing its headquarters, adding that Rivers people are happy that the NLNG Train-7 will soon come on stream.

He also commended the management of NLNG for initiating the Community Health Insurance Scheme for Bonny Island, saying that the state government will partner with the company to achieve the objectives of the programme.



On NLNG's initiative on supplying cooking gas directly to Rivers State, instead of passing through Lagos, Governor Wike assured that the state government will dredge the Iwofe waterway for that purpose.

Unemployment: 60% NCDMB trainees secure jobs



Unemployment crises in the country may have received the required attention as sixty per cent of the participants in the Smart Electrical Engineering Training organized by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) have secured employment placements.

Four of the 50 engineers secured international placements with BIC Electric and now work in Europe, while other successful participants

got employments in Nigeria with AOS Orwell, Daystar Power Group, Eauxwell, Jubaili Bros and PNN amongst others.

The six-month classroom and on the job training was conducted at the Lagos Energy Academy (LEA) by AOS Orwell, an oil and gas servicing company on behalf of the NCDMB.

The second batch of 50 engineers commenced their training in September at the same location. The beneficiaries, like all other trainees of NCDMB were selected from the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Joint Qualification System (NOGICJQS)

and underwent qualifying tests and interviews.

Speaking in Lagos at the certificates presentation ceremony, the Executive Secretary of NCDMB, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, commended AOS Orwell for the success recorded with the Smart Electrical Engineering Training.

He described it as a validation of the Board's new model for human capacity building, which emphasizes the delivery of trainings with a line of sight to employment opportunities. He stated that the Board has now adopted a 60-20-20 model for human capital development, whereby 60 percent of the training spend and efforts gets devoted to programmes that guarantee jobs for the participants.

"Before we give a training contract to any company, the firm must undertake that 60 percent of the people they would train must secure employments."

He added that 20 percent of the Board's trainings would be designed to improve the skills of persons already employed while the remaining 20 percent will cater for general and non-certificated trainings.

According to him, the Board's new capacity building model would contribute to meeting the targets set in the Nigerian Content 10-year roadmap and achieving the drive of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration to create employment for young persons from the activities of the oil and gas industry and ancillary sectors.

OML 25: Balema Oil Resumes Operation In Kula

...As Gov Wike Receives Sylva, Kyari And Okunbo In
Rivers Govt House



Rivers Governor, chief, barrister E. z e n w o Nyesom Wike has called on oil companies to respect the memoranda of understanding signed by the host communities to ensure peaceful coexistence and Cooperation in their various areas of their operations.

He said this at the Government House Port Harcourt during a courtesy visit by the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Timipre Silva, the Group Managing Director of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, Mele Kyari and the Managing Director of Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, Osagie Okunbo.

Governor Wike also stressed that his administration will continue to develop the rightful environment for all the investors to operate in the State.

Also, emphasized that oil companies should also respect the Memoranda of Understanding signed with the host communities.

As the SPDC goes in, whatever they have agreed with the communities should be implemented. If they implement it, they should do their work as promised. If they don't implement, there will be crisis. And then, they will call Government to come in.

Ours as government is to ensure that people carry out their businesses in a very conducive environment. This is the role the Rivers State Government will

always play.

He said that the fundamental focus of the Rivers State Government is for the OML 25 to be operational and productive. He regretted that for over two years, the Oil Facility was shutdown and nobody acted on it.

I don't know the role of the security agencies in all of these. We will meet here and agree that the people should vacate the place and let Shell resume work, but the security agencies will do something else altogether.

He noted that Rivers State is a very peaceful State where oil companies have always been supported to carry out their legitimate activities.

We took it on ourselves to see that Shell reconciles with the communities.

Governor Wike noted that during the days of pipeline vandalism, Rivers State witnessed the least cases of vandalism because of the security investment of the State Government.

When there was this issue of vandalism of oil facilities, Rivers State Government gave the highest support to stop it. In the Niger Delta, Rivers State had the least cases of vandalism.

I have always supported efforts to protect national assets in the state. Anybody can tell you that. I will continue to create the right environment for investment. If I don't do it, how will I get funds to execute key projects.

Wike urged the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources to prevail on the APC Federal Government to execute projects in Rivers State.

Also speaking, the Minister of State for Petroleum, Timipre Silva expressed his joy that they are in the state to celebrate the return of peace to the OML 25 and the host communities. It is a good signal and we should adapt to this. The Niger Delta has struggled for peace. We have lost a lot and more than we have gained.

He noted that some people are causing problems for business opportunities to leave Rivers State. He said that this is the right time for all stakeholders to work for more investors in the state.

Silva stressed that the successful resolution of the OML 25 conflict is a right starting point to change the insinuation in Rivers State and Niger Delta.

I believe we can use this time to turn a new leaf. And use this as a model to show other communities.

Oil is a depleting resource. One day, we may wake up and oil companies would have left because it is no longer profitable for them. Oloribori is an example of all these.

Noting that leaders should work and solve all the challenges to promote and bring development to their respective domain. I pray we close ranks as a people and ensure that the problem is put to rest finally, he stressed.



Kwale Industrial Park: Okowa in China, Pledges \$10m Counterpart Fund to Investors

Governor Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta said the state govt. was ready to provide 10 million dollars counterpart fund for prospective investors towards the construction of Kwale Industrial Park in the state.

He made this known at Kwale Industrial Park Road Show in Shenyang, China.

At the event which was attended by Chinese Government officials and potential investors, Okowa outlined the vision of the state government for an aggressive industrialization agenda.

Explaining the initiative, he said "I am here personally and along with key members of the state executive council and legislators as a sign and demonstration of our commitment to this initiative.

"Nigeria is open for business and I make bold to say that Kwale Industrial Park is a compelling investment choice.

"I want to say upfront that locating in Kwale, an industrial park opens your business to Africa's biggest market, Nigeria, and Africa as a whole, is the world's next frontier business to be reft from that growth.

"In Delta, we are working relentlessly to make Kwale the most investor-friendly location in Nigeria. It is a peaceful community and the support and cooperation of the community is already assured.

"I can tell you that they are eagerly waiting for the park to take off."

On incentives, the governor affirmed that the state government was creating an intervention fund of 10 million dollars in the first instance.

According to him, this is to support investors that are able to make an early decision to set up their plants in the Kwale Industrial Park.

"The money will be utilized as a counterpart start-up equity fund from the state government to enable investors to partially de-risk their investment.

"I am confident that some of you who have existing plants will find such equity contribution helpful in kick-starting your venture into the park.

"Delta State is also looking to collaborate with the Province of Liaoning formally in a strategic partnership.

"We believe that such government-to-government partnership will be a confidence-booster for prospective investors and we

assure them of the security of their investment," he stated.

In his remarks, Nigeria's Ambassador to China, Mr. Baba Jidda, lauded the governor's initiative, and challenged other state governors to key into initiative for the development of the nation.

"I am highly impressed by the initiative of Gov. Ifeanyi Okowa in establishing the Kwale Industrial Park.

"Our responsibility here in China is to promote investment between Nigeria and China, and Delta State Government led by the governor himself has really shown the way.

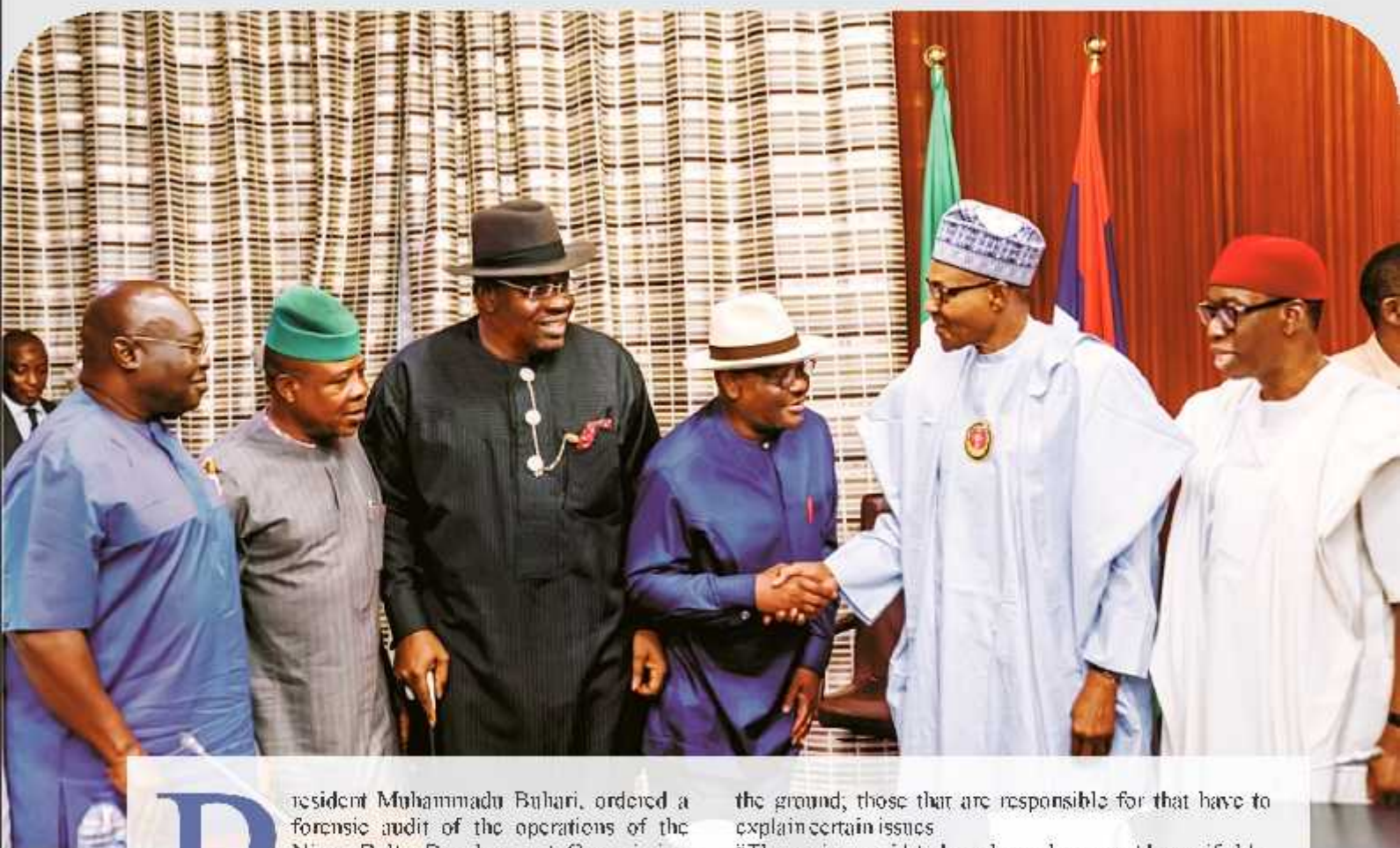
"We are highly encouraged by the initiative and I want to assure you that the Chinese investors that attended the roadshow were highly impressed.

"We at the embassy will do our very best to support the initiative as we encourage other governors to emulate this positive step," he said.

The highpoint of the roadshow was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Delta government and a Chinese agricultural company to grow and process soya bean at the Kwale park.

Buhari Orders Forensic Audit Of NDDC

...Slashes Ministers' Foreign Trips, Estacodes To Cut Cost



President Muhammadu Buhari, ordered a forensic audit of the operations of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) from 2001 to 2019.

Buhari, in statement issued by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Chief Ferni Adesina, said the action was taken out of worry over criticisms of the operations of the commission, and after he received governors of nine states that make up the commission, who had called for the repositioning of the NDDC. The delegation was led by Governor Seriake Dickson of Bayelsa State.

According to the President, what is presently on the ground in the South-South region does not justify the huge resources that have been made available to the organisation.

He said, "I try to follow the Act setting up these institutions, especially the NDDC. With the amount of money that the Federal Government has religiously allocated to the NDDC, we will like to see the results on

the ground; those that are responsible for that have to explain certain issues.

"The projects said to have been done must be verifiable. You just cannot say you spent so much billions and when the place is visited, one cannot see the structures that have been done. The consultants must also prove that they are competent."

"The President admitted that developing the Niger Delta area required enormous resources compared to other parts of the country with fatter lands."

He said, "I am acutely aware, with my experience, that projects in your area are very expensive. That is why if any job is given, we must make sure that the company is competent and has the capacity to do it well with experienced consultants."

He, however, said that he would wait for the report of the audit before deciding on the next line of action regarding the NDDC.

Dickson had earlier expressed the disappointment of other governors with the operations of the NDDC, which

they said was characterised by poor choice of projects, shoddy handling, uncompleted jobs and lack of the required support for the efforts of the states and local government administration in the region covered by the organisation. He called for the repositioning of the NDDC in order to achieve the objectives for which it was set up. Briefing journalists after the meeting, Dickson, who is also chairman of the South-South Governors Forum, listed the NDDC states as Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Edo, Cross River, Bayelsa, Abia, Imo and Ondo.

He said, "Our concern has to do with the stability and development of the Niger Delta. We had a robust discussion with Mr. President who fully understands the challenges that come with development, and he promised to look into the challenges which he's aware of and we all agreed to work together".

Present at the meeting were Governors Ifeanyi Okowa (Delta); Nyesom Wike (Rivers); Sereke Dickson (Bayelsa); Deputy Governor of Edo State, Philip Shaiibu; Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio; Minister of State for Niger Delta, Senator Iyabo Alasoadura; among others.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari has reduced the number and duration of foreign trips for ministers and other categories of government officials in a move described as cost-saving measure to achieve fiscal prudence. In a statement signed by the Director of Information at the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Willie Bassey, the President also removed travelling financial benefit known as estacode allowance and cut down the number of persons permitted to travel with the ministers and other government officials for official trips.

The President, however, approved the use of business class for ministers and economy class for lower categories of government officials.

However, approval for such trips must be sought through the office of the SGF or Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, the statement added.

The statement read, "In a bid to curb leakages and ensure efficiency in the management of resources of government, President Muhammadu Buhari has approved, for immediate implementation, additional cost-saving measures aimed at instilling financial discipline and prudence, particularly, in the area of official travels. "Henceforth, all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are required to submit their yearly travel plans for statutory meetings and engagements to the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and/or the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation for express clearance within the first quarter of the fiscal year, before implementation.

"For class of air travels, the President has approved that ministers, permanent secretaries, special advisers, senior special assistants to the President, chairmen of extra-ministerial departments and chief executive officers of parastatals, who are entitled will continue to fly business class while other categories of public officers are to travel on economy class.

"Travel days will no longer attract payment of estacode allowances as duration of official trips shall be limited to only the number of days of the event as contained in the supporting documents to qualify for public funding"

The statement added that only trips that would benefit the country must be embarked upon by the affected officials, noting also that ministers and other categories of government officials must not travel more than twice within a quarter of a year except with the permission of the President.

It noted, "On the nature and frequency of travels, all public funded travels (local and foreign), must be strictly for official purposes backed with documentary evidence. In this regard, all foreign travels must be for highly essential statutory engagements that are beneficial to the interest of the country.

"Except with the express approval of Mr President, ministers, permanent secretaries, chairmen of extra-ministerial departments, chief executive officers and directors are restricted to not more than two foreign travels in a quarter. The Auditor-General of the Federation has been directed to treat all expenditures that contravene these guidelines as ineligible."

Reacting, a financial expert, Mr Momoh Aliyu, has urged state governors to emulate the Federal Government by cutting down their travelling expenses and utilise it for development projects.

Aliyu gave the advice in an interview with newsmen, in Abuja, yesterday.

The expert was reacting to directive by the Federal Government that henceforth there would be slash in travelling expenses of its officials.

Aliyu, who is also the managing director of Cyberl Systems Network International, explained that the development was a wake-up call to governors, and indeed, all other governments' agencies in the country. He said overhead cost of travelling in the budget was alarming and taking chunks of the vote heads. "The action by the president is an act of setting the pace to other parastatals, ministries and states governments," he said.

The expert said that the Nigerian Government had over the years been criticised of wasting and mismanaging the scarce resources.

He described the development as the right step in the right direction.

"The ministers and other government functionaries should understand the need to be on seat to attend to pressing issues."

Aliyu also acknowledged the efforts of the ministry of technology in ensuring e-government systems. But the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), yesterday, reacted after President Muhammadu Buhari restricted foreign travels to two per quarter for heads of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

The government also cancelled first-class air tickets for some category of officials.

However, PDP challenged Buhari to "lead by example by ending the profligacy that pervades his Presidency in order to give validity to his directives to ministers and other functionaries."

In a statement by its spokesperson, Kola Ologbondiyan, the former ruling party berated the President for approving the appointment of two aides for his wife, Aisha. The party charged the Buhari Presidency to explain the "basis and source of Presidential support for the Office of the First Lady, including the appointment of aides, contrary to his promise not to run that office.

PANDEF supports FG's Forensic audit of NDDC, seeks Public exposure of contract beneficiaries

Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF) has welcomed the decision of President Muhammadu Buhari to carry out a forensic audit of the accounts of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

The group also urged the President to publicly expose the names of beneficiaries of NDDC contracts awarded between 2001 and 2019, as well as carry out a forensic audit of other interventionist organisations like the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF).

Arising from a 3-day National Leadership retreat held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, the group in a communique signed by its National Chairman, Air Commodore Idongesit Nkanga (ret) and Deputy National Chairman, Chief Francis Doukpilea among others, said that for the NDDC to be effective, there must be less political interference in the operations of the commission.

The group which had the theme: "Re-engineering for the Future Together" said NDDC must be adequately funded, and lamented the poor state of critical infrastructure in the Niger Delta region especially the roads.

It called on the Federal Government to give immediate attention to the East-West road from Benin to Calabar, Calabar-Itu-Ikot Ekpene-Aba road, Ogoja-Ikom-Calabar road and the Port Harcourt to Aba road.

PANDEF commended the FG for the peaceful resolution of the contention surrounding the license and operation of

Oil Varginal License (OVL) 25 located in Belema, Oforinma and Nggie communities in Keta Kingdom of Akuku Toru local government area in Rivers State.

It pleaded with the FG to also use the same approach to resolve the OVL disputes in other Niger Delta oil host communities.

While commending Belema Oil for the human and infrastructural development in its oil and gas bearing host communities, it encouraged international and indigenous oil companies operating in the region to respect the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) they have with their host communities.

"PANDEF welcomes the order of President Muhammadu Buhari of a forensic audit of the NDDC accounts from 2001 to 2019. However demands that names of beneficiaries of contracts of the commission over the period under review should be made public.

"In addition, insists that for NDDC to function effectively there must be adequate funding and less political interference.

"PANDEF further urges Mr President to extend the order of forensic audit to other national interventionist organisations like the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF).

"Restates its position on Restructuring and calls on the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency begin a constructive dialogue process on the restructuring of the country," they stated.

The group charged the governors of the region and all political office holders to give greater attention to job creation, rural women and youth development, healthcare and education to check the growing rate of youth delinquency.

It urged youths of the region to eschew actions and behaviours that could endanger the security and peace of the region as well as their future, and condemned the increasing rate of criminality and cult related activities in the region.

PANDEF noted that it was committed to the pursuit of understanding and peaceful co-existence among other ethnic groups in the region, saying it would continue to work with other regional bodies in the country to enshrine an egalitarian nation.

RSG, UBEC Procure Vehicles, Motorcycles To Boost Education

As part of concerted efforts to ensure qualitative education system in the state, the Federal Govt. through the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and the Rivers State Government have procured vehicles, motorcycles, ICT equipment to boost basic education in the state.

The UBEC procured 17 motorcycles and one Toyota Hummer bus, while the state government bought two Hilux pick up vans to compliment the efforts of the Federal Govt.

Our correspondent reports that the flag-off of the equipment at the River State Universal Basic Education Board (RSUBEB) headquarters in Port Harcourt, was to herald the full implementation of quality assurance policies and programmes to advance the development of basic education as well as ensure daily supervision and monitoring of schools in the state.

Speaking at the commissioning of the equipment at RSUBEB Office, the Executive Secretary of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Abuja, Dr. Hamad Boboyi, said the equipment were procured from the 2 per cent portion of UBEC Consolidated Funds as approved for the state Universal Basic Education Board to boost its quality assurance programme in

line with the UBEC policies. Represented on the occasion by the state UBEB Coordinator, Mr Isaac Ichenwa, said the items commissioned would help the board monitor schools in the rural areas, especially those in the coastal areas.

He commended the efforts of teachers in the state for their dexterity in the discharge of their duties, adding that the SUBEB was the first among other states in the country to adopt the quality assurance policy of the commission.

"Our teachers are doing well here, especially in the quality assurance area as schools in the state can be accessed from anywhere.

"The girl and boy child at the rural areas need to be accessed, while our teachers must be supervised to see how they are doing their duties in order to justify their salary", he stated. Also speaking, the Chairman of the Rivers State Universal Basic Education Board (RSUBEB), Ven Fynesace Ndubuisi Akah, commended the Federal Govt. and state government for the value attached to the monitoring and evaluation policy of the board through the release of funds for the procurement of the various equipment.

Akah noted that the world over, quality assurance has become the key for the

development of education, adding that everybody must cue into the concept in order to know how to do things differently.

He expressed happiness with the Federal Government support through the UBEC and that of the state government in complimenting the efforts of the Federal Government in ensuring that the quality assurance programme of the board works effectively.

"The essence of quality assurance is for us to show our quality content. So, we need men and women who will devote their time for this great task. So, staff of Quality Assurance Department and those for monitoring and supervision of our schools must rise up to this task", he stated.

Earlier in his opening remarks, the RSUBEB Director in charge of Quality Assurance, Mr Ibama Owukio, had said the quality assurance policy has ensured the sustained inspection and supervision of schools, adding that quality assurance uncovers the strength and weakness of schools.

He averred that quality assurance was the heartbeat of the policy, adding that whatever provision made must be thoroughly monitored to yield the expected results.

Senate Panel Vows To Unravel NEPZA Alleged N14bn Scam

The Senate Committee on Trade and Investment vowed to get to the root of the N14,376,027,584.65 illegally transferred from the 2017 Appropriation Budget of the Nigerian Export Processing Zones Authority to the Nigeria Special Economic Zones Company.

Chairman of the committee, Senator Rose Okoh, stated this during the budget defence of the agencies under the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment. She said the Senate was aware of the existing legislative query on the ministry and NEPZA over the N14.3bn said to have been illegally transferred from the 2017 Appropriation Budget of NEPZA to Nigeria Special Economic Zones Company.

She said, "This is a breach of the 2017 Appropriation Act. This committee intends to see the query and the inquiry to a logical conclusion. We will seek an explanation on how that sum got moved from government coffers ostensibly to a private company without due process and without the provision of goods and services.

"We are aware that some of the agencies such as NEPZA and Onne Oil and Gas Authority have overlapping functions. In our view, this needs to be streamlined to reduce wastages."

Okoh said the ministry had critical

roles to play in the development of the nation's economy, adding that all the agencies under the ministry must be up and doing to achieve their set goals.

She said, "Henceforth, the committee will like to be apprised of details of your investment drive, especially the FDIs and have details of the non-oil trade that Nigeria is currently engaged in." Responding, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Investment, Mr.

Edet Akpan, said the N14.3bn in respect of NEPZA was an item NEPZA should be in a very proper position to explain to the committee.

He expressed the belief that NEPZA would find a way of doing that, adding, "But the idea of opening an equity company was the creative idea of the former minister."

The permanent secretary said it was proper to have a centralized equity company that could manage all Free Trade Zones in the country.



Rivers State Govt. Flags Off The Construction Of Rumuogba Flyover Bridge



The construction of the imposing Rumuogba Flyover Bridge in the heart of Fort Harcourt has been flagged off by Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde.

Performing the flag off on behalf of the Rivers State Government in a ceremony attended by Rivers Frankland Leaders and Traditional Rulers, the Oyo State Governor declared that Governor Nyeson Ezenwo Wike has developed a legacy of promises kept.

The Rumuogba Flyover Bridge is one of the three flyover bridges that Governor Wike promised the good people of Rivers State during his inauguration for a second term.

Governor Makinde said: "This is what the Rivers State Governor promised the people of Rivers State and he is delivering on his promise.

"By paying 70 percent in advance, Governor Wike is saying that there should be no variation. He has provided the yam, he has provided the knife and nothing should stop the peeling of the yam.

"During his first term, Governor Wike was known as Mr Projects. Uptill now he is still Mr Projects."

He said that by investing in good roads, Governor Wike is improving the economy of Rivers State.

"Good roads mean easier commute for the people of Rivers State. This will easily result to economic development for the state.

"Bad roads mean wastage of time and hour.

The investment in roads is for the good of our people.

"With 70 percent of the funds released, Julius Berger is duty bound to use the funds judiciously. I urge Governor Wike to maintain this energy and momentum", he said.

Makinde said that the Oyo State Government under his leadership is also delivering democracy



dividends. He said that the construction of Iwo Interchange is one of such initiatives.

In his address, Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike informed that the Rivers State Government has released 70 percent of the total contract sum to Julius Berger.

"We will pay the balance when the construction work gets to 90 percent. We have paid you during the rainy season. So you will work during rainy season. The 16 months slated for the completion of the three flyover bridges started on the day we paid. That is our agreement with Julius Berger", he said.

Governor Wike announced that the bridge will be called Rumuogba Flyover bridge. He said Artillery is a military concept, pointing out that the Rivers State Government is committed to promoting names of communities where projects are sited.

The Governor charged Julius Berger Nigeria Plc to use Rivers People as sub-contractors for the projects.

"We have sourced money to pay for these projects. Therefore, all the sub-contractors should be from Rivers State. I will not

be happy with Julius Berger if they do anything different", he said.

He urged the Traditional Ruler of the area to work hard to ensure that the youths cooperate with the contractor to deliver on the project.

He said that he will personally supervise the project to ensure that Julius Berger does not face any hindrance.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Works, Dr Walter Ndu said that the Rumuogba Flyover Bridge will cover a length of 517.5 metres, with a width of 14.6 metres.

He said that the bridge has two roundabouts and will be a dual carriageway. He assured that the Ministry will provide the necessary technical supervision to ensure that the project is delivered in line with approved specifications.

Paramount Ruler of Rumuogba Town, Eze Temple Ejekwu commended Governor Wike for the project. He urged the Rivers State Governor to change the name of the bridge from Artillery to Rumuogba Flyover Bridge.

Project Manager of Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, Mr Daniel Ediss assured that the company will deliver the work on schedule and in line with specifications.

Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, Solomon Eke said the people of the Area are happy with the project delivery efforts of the Rivers State Governor.

Akpabio Cries Out: FG Not Releasing Money For Projects in Niger Delta



The Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Godswill Akpabio on Monday said, though in 2019, N35.2 billion and N877 million were allocated to the Ministry of Niger Delta for Capital and Overhead Expenditure, no refunds have been released by the Federal Government since January for the capital projects in the region.

He spoke at the National Assembly while defending his Ministry's 2020, which was rejected by the Senate. He asserted that out of the capital appropriation of N35.2 billion, no fund had been received for capital projects.

"A total budget of N25.9 billion was allocated to the ministry, personnel: N1.11 billion overhead; N877 million and capital N23.8 billion."

While reacting to the rejection of the budget by the

committee, Akpabio said that the budget "was not rejected."

"The senators feel that there ought to be completion of major projects that are already in the Niger Delta."

"I agree with them but unfortunately, we are working under a very tight envelope."

"The ministry was allocated the sum of about N23 billion and 60 per cent of it will go to already existing projects in the region and so 40 per cent will go to probably new projects in the region."

"So if you look at it very well, it is not possible for you to capture all projects with that amount and it is not even going to be possible to complete even 10 kilometers of road in the region."

"So I think instead of saying that the budget was rejected, I think that the distinguished senators should collectively make an appeal to the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning to improve upon the envelope to expand it a little. This, the minister said, could help to capture substantially most of the yearnings and aspirations of the good people of the Niger Delta. Meanwhile, the Senate Committee on Niger Delta, on Monday, rejected the 2020 capital budget of N23 billion for the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs due to uncompleted projects in the region. Chairman of the Committee, Sen. Peter Kwambashi made this known when the Minister, Godswill Akpabio appeared before the committee to defend the ministry's budget of N25,916,486,285.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the ministry is to reappear before the Committee on Monday, Oct. 28.

Kwambashi said that with the oversight function carried out in the ministry, it was realized that the bone of the ministry was abandoned projects littered all over the nine Niger Delta states.

"There is no state I dare to say that there is no local government where there is no abandoned projects in the Niger Delta."

"We cannot continue like that. With all the abandoned projects in the Niger Delta and we are talking about new projects, these new projects are designed to fail," he said.

"Honourable minister, we need to look at this budget again and we expect you to do your cleanup because the document we needed were not supplied to us."

Sen. Sandy Ojang (PDP-Cross River) said: "we just looked at the presentation and we are faced again with the vanity of having a budget and almost through the budget year, there are no capital release."

"It calls for concern and deep worry. A budget situation where the capital outlay is even lower than personnel and other cost is problem."

"Tid to speak of a situation where nothing is released for capital is tragedy," Ojang said.

Pope, Others, Eulogise Nigeria's 'martyr' Vivian Ogu

His Holiness, Pope Francis, has described late 14-year-old Vivian Ogu as an example to all Christians not only in Nigeria but all over the world.

Recall that Vivian was on November 15, 2009, was shot dead by armed robbers after she resisted being raped by them when they invaded her family house in Benin City.

The robbers were said to have taken her and her sister out of town to a rural area where she was killed.

The pope, represented by Archbishop Guampetun Dal Toso, International President of Pontifical Mission Societies, spoke at the closing ceremony of the National Mission Congress of Nigeria at the Vivian Ogu Missionary Animation Centre in Benin City at the weekend.

"She showed us how we can live our faith without minding the consequences," the pope said and expressed joy that "we have here in Nigeria, this good example of a young woman who gave her life for her fidelity of her faith."

Similarly, Ido State governor, Mr. Gbolurin Obaseki; Cardinal John Onaiyekan, Catholic Archbishop of Abuja and Archbishop Augustine Akubeze, President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), eulogised the life and times Vivian Ogu, saying her life was worth emulating.

Specifically, Governor Obaseki said the late Vivian led an exemplary holy life which had become an enduring legacy for the present and future generation.

He noted that Vivian died for what she believed in rather than succumbing to the whim and caprices of the armed robbers who shot and killed her for refusing to be raped.

"We are here in memory of the life of a young girl who at the age of 14 paid the supreme price for her refusal to be raped by



the armed robbers that robbed her family that fateful night.

"At this juncture, it is my esteemed pleasure to welcome all of you to Benin City on this memorable occasion for the consecration of the grounds on which Vivian Ogu was martyred.

"Believe me, this is the most befitting honour in preserving the memory of a timely and painful death of a heroine who strongly affirmed her belief in the teaching and doctrine of her Christian faith," Obaseki said.

In his speech, Cardinal John Onaiyekan, said God has a message which He wants to pass across to the world through Vivian's death, stressing that there had been a series of similar deaths in the country yet there was no much news about them but Vivian's case had proved otherwise.

"You must see the hand of God in this. How

many times have we been hearing that armed robbers killed people? This is not the first time armed robbers are killing people but this particular case is special.

"I must be because God wants to use her to tell a story that we are so anxious to try to save our lives and in that, like the governor said, in an effort to save our lives, we give in to everything thinking that we are saving our lives whereas Jesus says those who want to save their lives will lose it and those who lose their lives for his sake will gain it.

"The question I ask as we sit down now today is, is Vivian dead?"

Also speaking, Archbishop Augustine Akubeze, said her death was a clarion call for Christians to practise their faith.

"She preached purity of life and she died protecting that and it is a sign for all young people to practise their faith: she practised her faith till the end and that is why the



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Indorama Investing in the Economic and Human Capital Development of Nigeria.



Manish Mundra
MD Indorama - Nigeria

Indorama operations in Nigeria included Petrochemicals namely Olofin Polyethylene and Polypropylene plants that produce raw materials for plastics and Allied Industries.

The company's world class Train 1 fertiliser plant produces 1.5 metric tons of Urea per annum, which it supplies to farmers nationwide. The train 2 fertiliser project is expected to produce another 1.5 million metric Tons per Annum on completion in 2021.

According to the Managing Director of Indorama Mr Manish Mundra Indorama built the world's largest single Urea train in Nigeria.

He noted that the company has improved the Socio Economic Development of the Niger Delta in particular and Nigeria in general. The company also produces PET, Industrial sacks which are highly needed in many factories to keep their operations going. The company also has an 83 kilometre gas pipeline as well as an export jetty at Onne port complex.

All these operations according to the Managing Director 'impact hugely on the Economy of the Niger Delta Region in particular and Nigeria in general, creating jobs, raising revenue for government, developing host communities and supplying fertilizers to farmers nationwide and Petrochemicals to industries'.

According to Dr Balbir Singh, Chief Economist, Indorama the company has trained 200,000 farmers in 2017, 300,000 farmers in 2018 and at the end of 2019 would have trained 400,000 farmers.

Bloodless Governorship Election In Bayelsa State Is Possible.

...Odds Favour APC Candidate As PDP, APC Back To
The Trenches

The race for the governorship poll in Bayelsa state continue to hot up. There are about 40 Political Parties but the major contenders for plumb job is the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its candidate Senator Douye Diri and the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its candidate Chief David Lyon.

Already there has been accusations and counter accusations coming from the camps of the two political parties. These accusations bother on alleged rigging plans and plotting violence during and after the elections. These has made many stakeholders to fear if we will ever have free, fair and credible elections in the state come 16th November 2019. The fear is genuine considering the fact that of the violence that took place in the 2015 elections in the state that claimed many lives.

Just recently the PDP candidate in the election Senator Douye Diri alerted the United States and the United Kingdom to

the alleged plan by the APC to collude with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to rig the elections.

He also raised the concern over what he called intelligence report indicating that the APC was planning to intimidate voters and unleash violence during the election.

Diri spoke in Yenagoa after after meetings with officials of the United States Embassy and the British High Commissioner.

The United States delegation was led by the Consul General Claire Fierangelo while the second Secretary (Political) Mr Sarabjit Singh led the British High Commission team.

The PDP's standard bearer further alleged that the APC was recruiting militants and criminals within and outside the state to unleash violence and ensure that they get results that is favourable to them.

The APC candidate Chief David Lyon has some advantage going for him in this election. He is from Southern Ijaw which is said to be the largest Local Government Area of the state. He is a popular candidate and the most popular among the two. Certainly funding is not going to be a problem for him as he goes into the election. His godfather and sponsor Chief Tinripere Silva is the Minister of State Petroleum in President Muhammadu Buhari's government. He is also said to have the backing of the camp of the former President Goodluck Jonathan who is also from the state.

The PDP candidate on the other hand has the backing of the incumbent state governor Seriki Dickson. He is certainly going to mobilize the state resources to prosecute the election. But the PDP candidate may not have the backing of notable PDP chieftains in the state, notable among them being former President Goodluck Jonathan, Timi Abubakar among others.

Police call for free Election in Bayelsa to Avoid violence

Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of Zone five, Mr Dibal Yakudi, has advised the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ensure that the November 16 governorship election in Bayelsa State is Free, fair and credible to curb violence during and after the poll. Yakudi, while speaking yesterday in Yenagoa, the state capital, during a stakeholders meeting for political actors in the state, also cautioned political party

supporters to go about their campaigns peacefully, as the force will deal decisively with troublemakers.

He ascribed the cause of election violence to include; unemployment and poverty, get-rich-quick syndrome among youths, proliferation of fire arms in the country and lack of societal values.

He urged the stakeholders, including the

contestants and party supporters, not to see election as a do or die affair.

He said: "INEC should ensure that Bayelsa governorship election meets and satisfies international best practices. They should regularly partner with the security agencies and create a conducive environment for all stakeholders to ensure credible election in Bayelsa State. INEC should enlighten and sensitize all political parties.

All Eyes On Timipreye Silva To deliver Bayelsa To APC.



As the people of Bayelsa state go to the poll to elect a new governor for the state, all eyes seem to be on the former governor of the state Timipreye Silva who is currently Minister of State Petroleum in President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. He was the candidate of the APC in the 2014 governorship election but lost to the incumbent governor Serike Dickson of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). APC lost the election in 2014 because of the sympathy vote given to Former President Goodluck Jonathan who is from the state. In the Southern part of Nigeria the APC is seen as a Northern party but a victory for the party in Bayelsa state will help change the narrative. In less than one hundred days as Minister Timipreye Silva already has some achievements to his credit. This include the granting of licence for Modular Refineries as well as resumption of oil and gas production in Kula, Rivers state by Bakana oil an indigenous oil giants.

It will be recalled that The Federal Government has given license to six modular refineries to begin operations across the country.

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Niger Delta Affairs, Mr Edohor Iyamu, said this in Uyo at a Dialogue on Critically Appraising Mechanisms Used to Transfer Benefits of Resource Extraction to the Niger Delta Region. He said the establishment of the refineries were deliberate efforts by the government of President Muhammadu Buhari to grow local content in the region.

He said to ensure that the Niger Delta Region benefits from the opportunities that accrue from oil exploration, the federal government has kept it's word by ensuring that the refineries were not only given licenses but also encouraged to begin production.

Iyamu noted that the federal government has made the environment conducive for investors to open modular refineries in the country, adding that the government has approved zero duties to investors on modular refinery equipment.

He said strengthening the local content act was one of the policies set up by the government to encourage local content in the oil and gas sector.

"Let us not forget that in previous administration, 35 modular licenses were issued but nobody did anything about it. The licenses were issued and people just put the licenses in their suitcases because they were benefiting from the era of petroleum subsidy.

"The policy of this government which is zero duties, has encouraged a lot of investors into the space. So, today, we have six modular refineries, and I have been there myself. I am not talking about things I read or saw in the newspapers. I went there physically to inspect the modular refineries," he said.

In the same vein Two years after its was shut down and occupied by women and youths of Belama, Oflion-Ama and Ngeje communities in Akuku-tori Local Government Area of Rivers state the Belama OML-25, flow station was officially opened by the Minister of State for Petroleum, Timipre Silva.

The event which was a carnival of sort was witnessed by the Group Managing Director of NNPC, Mele Kolo Kyari,



Founder and President of Belama Oil Producing limited, Jack-Rich Tein Jr., and Osagie Okunbor, Country Chair and Managing Director of Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, prominent chiefs and elders of the host Communities.

The Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Tinipre Silver had on arrival to Belama addressed the aggrieved host communities on negotiations and agreement reached with the President of Belama Oil Producing Limited and other stakeholders in the Joint Venture to address their concerns.

He assured the host communities that they will not be taken for granted saying that their interests will henceforth be paramount in new Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, signed with SPDC, NNPC and other Joint Venture Partners to re-open the facility.

He told the host communities that they have fought a good fight and urged them to maintain cordial relationship with companies operating in area as to attract more development.

Also speaking the Managing Director of NNPC, Male Kolo Kyari said that he was in the community to ensure that peace return in the area.

As part of ceremony marking the reopening of the flow station, the Minister of State for Petroleum commissioned an NNPC/Belama Oil Joint Venture Water project, lay the foundation for Kula Primary/Secondary School, Medical Centre, Women/Youth Training Centre and ground Breaking of President Muhammadu Buhari 8.5 km Kula-Degema-Port Harcourt Expressway.

President Muhammadu Buhari's popularity in the Niger Delta area has grown in the last few months, a popularity that the APC is ready to explore.

Bayelsa PDP in Panic mode ahead of Poll'...APC

The Bayelsa State chapter of the All Progressives Congress on Thursday accused the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of trying to create panic in the state to prepare the ground for "a state government-sponsored violence" ahead of the November 16 governorship election.

The state APC Publicity Secretary, Mr Dofie Buakoribo, made the accusation in a reaction to the allegations of election rigging and violence earlier made by the state PDP chairman, Mr Cleopas Moses.

Buakoribo, who doubles as the Secretary, Media and Publicity Committee of the APC Bayelsa Governorship Campaign Council, made his position known in a statement.

The statement read, "It is clear to the people of Bayelsa State and, indeed, Nigeria that the Peoples Democratic Party in the state is in a terrible panic mode. Raising a false alarm is only a way of managing their anxiety.

"False accusation and panic-mongering have been their signature election eve dress rehearsal for violence and electoral manipulation. The whole country saw it in 2015/2016.

"Ahead of November 16, the PDP in the state is engaged in another full-scale practice before the launch of their terror assault on our democracy.

"The party seems even more desperate this time. Hit by a wave of defections and imminent consequence of its poor performance, the PDP in Bayelsa is nervous and it has entered a persecution complex mode."



PROFILE ▶



Prof.

Ndowa

E.S Lale

VICE CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1984-1987	University of Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Ph.D (Agricultural Entomology).
1978-1981	University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Nigeria. B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture (Crop Science), First Class.
1976-1978	Federal Government College, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. West African Advanced Level G.C.E. (Biology, Chemistry & Geography).
1972-1976	Ascension High School, Ogale Elame, Rivers State, Nigeria. West African School Certificate (Division -)

GRADUATE SUPERVISION

1996-date	Has supervised and graduated several MSc and PhD candidates
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PARTICIPATION IN AND ADMINISTRATION OF WORLD BANK FUNDED PROJECTS

1994 - 1996	Millet/Cowpea Intercropping Systems (National Agricultural Research Project under the coordination of Lake Chad Research Institute, Maiduguri, Nigeria).
1995 - 1996	Integrated Striga Control in cereals (National Agricultural Research Project under the coordination of Lake Chad Research Institute, Maiduguri, Nigeria).
1996 - 2003	Joint Coordinator for Nationally Coordinated Cowpea Research (National Agricultural Research Project).

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

1989-date	Resource Extensionist on Pest Control and Pesticide Education for Agricultural Development Programmes in Adamawa, Borno, Rivers and Taraba States, Nigeria.
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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

1990-date	Member, Entomological Society of Nigeria.
2007	Fellow of Entomological Society of Nigeria.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

1. Ecology, biology and control of stored-product Coleoptera
2. Development of natural pesticides for the management of insect pests
3. Integrated management of stored-product Coleoptera in tropical post-harvest systems

PUBLICATIONS

Over hundred journal articles and chapters plus books cited by over 264,000 people across the globe on the net (www.google.com)



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The Nigeria Healthcare Dilemma:

»» The Way Forward

By Chukwuma Charles SOLUDO, CFR

I: Introduction

Let me thank LAPO for the honour to chair its 26th Annual Development Forum. In that capacity, let me also join the organizers in welcoming all of you to the forum. The theme of the Forum, "The Nigeria Healthcare Dilemma: The Way Forward" draws attention to a very critical pillar of national transformation. As the saying goes, health is wealth, and hence a healthy nation is a wealthy nation. You are the experts on the subject—policymakers and regulators, NGOs and CSOs, health and insurance practitioners, government officials and legislators, health researchers and Think Tanks, development partners, organized private sector, etc. Beside an interest in development economics and concerns as a citizen, I must confess that this is a subject that I know very little about. It is said that it is better to keep quiet and let the audience think that you are a fool than to open your mouth and confirm it. I should therefore respect myself and keep quiet rather than expose my ignorance by dabbling into a subject that should be better left for the experts. I am glad that we have as keynote speaker, a renowned expert on public health.

In this short introductory note which I hastily scribbled last night, I try (as a layman) to draw attention to a few issues for you, the experts, to take into account as you deliberate and fashion out 'the way forward'. I have entitled this chairman's opening remarks: "*Activating the Other Hand: Towards a Citizens' Approach to Healthcare Delivery*".

In most conferences and development fora, the recommendations or action agenda dwell essentially on "what government should do". For most issues, especially those bordering on social actions/outcomes such as healthcare and which also depend on behaviour and lifestyle of citizens, an often neglected missing link is the action agenda for the individuals and non-state actors such as the community, the religious organizations (churches and mosques), social and cultural organizations, professional associations, corporations, NGOs and CSOs etc. Our thesis is that by often focusing a most exclusively upon government action on matters such as healthcare, we have been clapping with one hand and expecting a loud sound. It is time to active the other hand—the Citizens' United Action for Healthcare (CUAH)! LAPO observes that "government expenditure on health is only 25.15% of all the

money spent on health across the nation... and that Healthcare delivery in Nigeria has experienced progressive decline due to "multifarious challenges that have beset the health sector for decades". While government expenditure on health (like other sectors) needs to be ratcheted up and its facilitation and regulatory functions strengthened, serious attention at fora like this one, should also focus on how to maximize the latent potentials of the "other hand"—individuals and non-state actors—in reversing what LAPO identifies as the "progressive decline" of healthcare delivery in Nigeria.

II: Unpacking the Healthcare Statistics for Effective Intervention

Nigeria's healthcare statistics are as scary as its poverty and unemployment statistics. Using the average life expectancy as summary indicator of state of health of a society/country, it is evident that a strong correlation exists between the level of poverty/inequality and the state of health. The global rankings of per capita income vis-à-vis average life expectancy of countries illustrate this point. Studies have shown that poverty is both a cause as well as a consequence of poor health. This point should be self-evident. However, a careful examination of the country statistics will suggest that healthcare status is not always and everywhere a matter of just money (size of income per capita or poverty). There are enough African examples to buttress this point. For example, while Nigeria Africa's largest economy with per capita income of about \$2,000 has a life expectancy of about 54 years, several poorer African countries (on per capita terms) have far higher life expectancies: Rwanda (68.75 years; \$825); Ethiopia (66.33 years; \$790); Eritrea (66.08 years; \$1,100); DR Congo (60.48 years; \$500), etc, etc. It is important to understand why an average Rwandese (with about one-third of the average income of a Nigerian) manages to live about 15 years longer.

Furthermore, average or aggregate national statistics are useful in many cases, but for effective intervention programmes, we must carefully unpack the averages or aggregates. Spatial and demographic distributions of healthcare can be critical. In other words, when one churns out the statistics on Nigeria, someone might rightly ask: "which Nigeria are you referring to?"

Cont. on our online platform. www.newsplatformngr.com

Omeruo Praises Governor Wike for Grooming Future Stars



Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike and Nigerian International, Kenneth Omeruo in Madrid.



I have been around the football circles and I have never seen such investment. This will equip the upcoming players with skills and education.

Nigerian International and Defender of La Liga Club, Leganes, Kenneth Omeruo has commended Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike for his commitment to the grooming of young football stars.

Speaking during a meeting with Governor Wike in Madrid on Tuesday, Omeruo said that the establishment of an Academy would create a generation of great football stars.

"Initially, when I heard that the Governor was to set up an academy of this nature, I thought it was a mere promise. But I am happy that it has

become a reality. I don't know of any place in Africa where we have such an academy."

He urged Governor Wike to continue investing in sports, especially football as a way of empowering less privileged children.

Responding, Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike expressed happiness with the contributions of Kenneth Omeruo to the successes of the national team.

He said through his International exploits in different clubs, Kenneth Omeruo has served as a worthy ambassador of the country. The Governor urged him to continue to promote Nigeria on and off the pitch of play.

Governor Wike urged the Nigerian International to invest his resources to cater for retirement time.

"I advise you to be prudent with whatever you get. Don't live a very bogus life. Always remember that there is still life after football.

"Look at Ronaldo and Messi, they cannot be poor because they invested their resources. So always invest your resources", he said.

The Rivers State Governor stated that he will continue with investment to promote the empowerment of youths through sports. He said that the Real Madrid Academy in Port Harcourt has come to stay.

Highpoint of the visit was the presentation of his club's Jersey to the Rivers State Governor.

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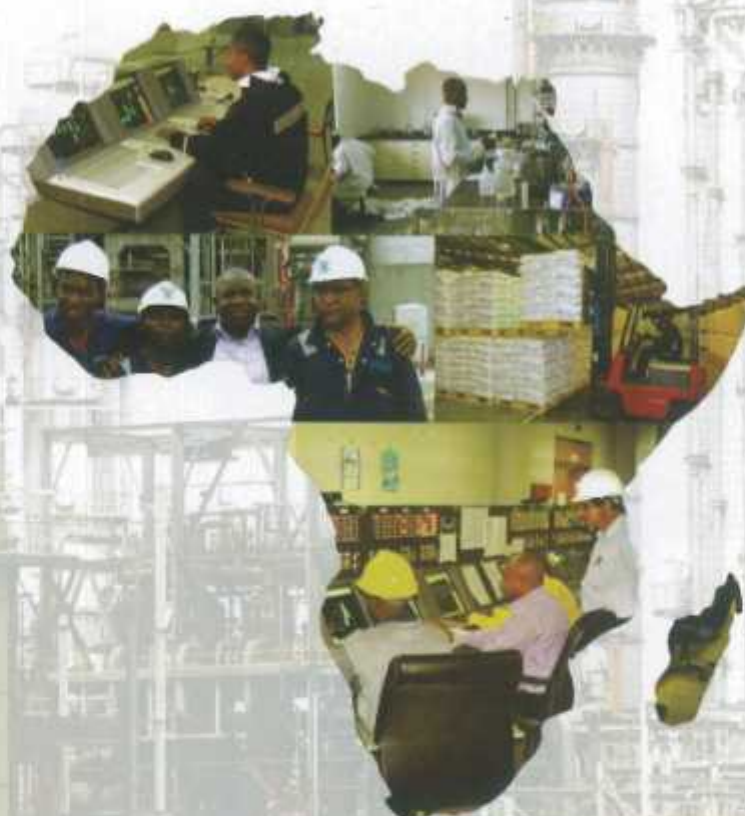
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