

# NEWS

# PLATFORM

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## OPEN GRAZING:

Don't Test My Might

Buhari Warns **Southern States** Governors.

**HOW HADIZA BALA USMAN**  
LOOTED NIGERIA PORT AUTHORITY

**WHY GOVERNOR AYADE**  
DUMPED PDP FOR APC



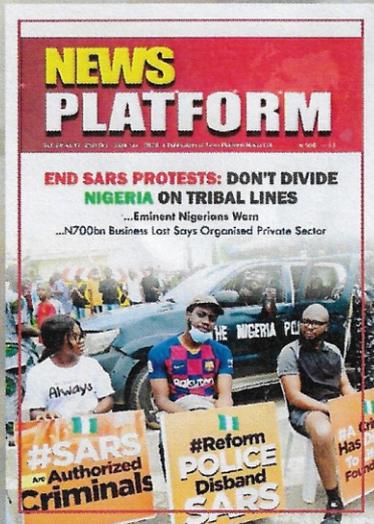
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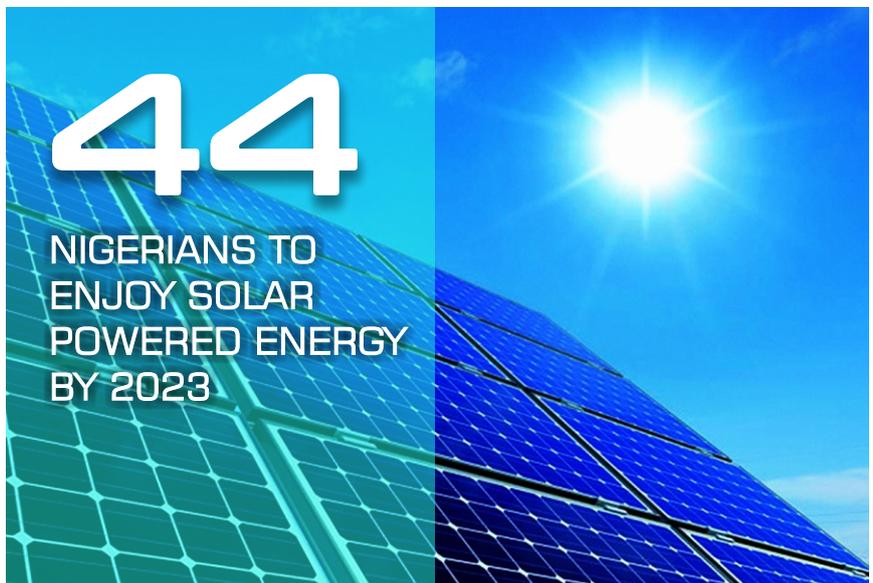
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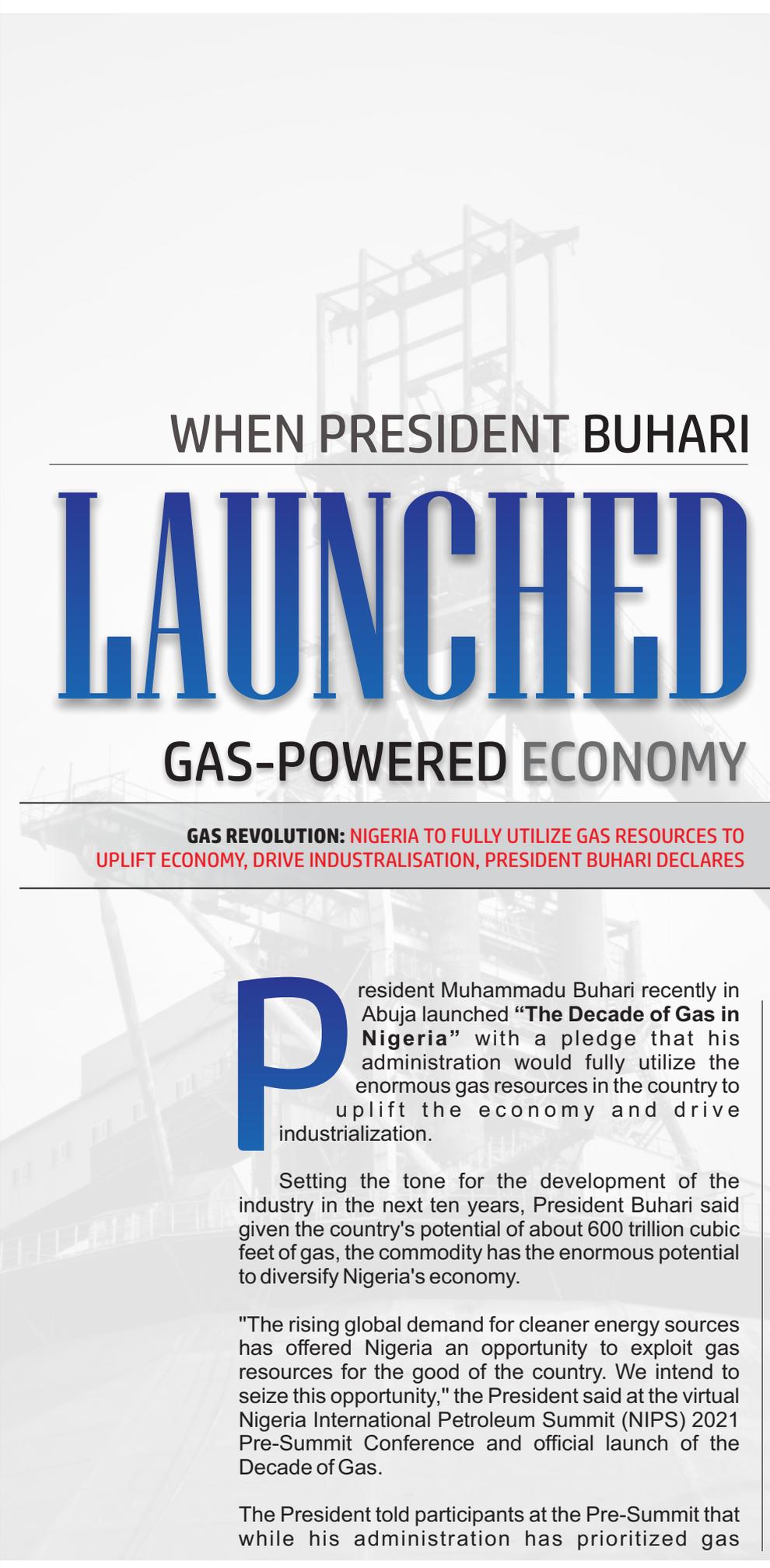
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# WHEN PRESIDENT BUHARI LAUNCHED GAS-POWERED ECONOMY

**GAS REVOLUTION: NIGERIA TO FULLY UTILIZE GAS RESOURCES TO UPLIFT ECONOMY, DRIVE INDUSTRIALISATION, PRESIDENT BUHARI DECLARES**

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari recently in Abuja launched “**The Decade of Gas in Nigeria**” with a pledge that his administration would fully utilize the enormous gas resources in the country to uplift the economy and drive industrialization.

Setting the tone for the development of the industry in the next ten years, President Buhari said given the country's potential of about 600 trillion cubic feet of gas, the commodity has the enormous potential to diversify Nigeria's economy.

"The rising global demand for cleaner energy sources has offered Nigeria an opportunity to exploit gas resources for the good of the country. We intend to seize this opportunity," the President said at the virtual Nigeria International Petroleum Summit (NIPS) 2021 Pre-Summit Conference and official launch of the Decade of Gas.

The President told participants at the Pre-Summit that while his administration has prioritized gas







development and recorded remarkable progress, it is well known that Nigeria is a gas nation with a little oil, but the country has focused on oil over the years.

"That is the paradox that this Administration decided to confront when we declared the year 2020 as "The Year of Gas" in Nigeria.

"It was a bold statement to demonstrate the resolve of this Administration that gas development and utilization should be a national priority to stimulate economic growth, further improve Nigeria's energy mix, drive investments, and provide the much-needed jobs for our citizens in the country.

"Before the declaration of Year 2020 as The Year of Gas, this Administration had shown commitment to the development of Nigeria's vast gas resources and strengthening of the gas value chain by reviewing and gazetting policies and regulations to enhance operations in the sector as encapsulated in the National Gas Policy of 2017.

"Our major objective for the gas sector is to transform Nigeria into an industrialized nation with gas playing a major role and we demonstrated this through enhanced accelerated gas revolution," he said.

Enumerating what his administration has done to energise the sector, the President said the development of gas infrastructure has commenced along with the domestic utilization of LPG and CNG, as well as the process of commercializing gas flares, development of industrial and transport gas markets,



H.E. Joseph McMonigle  
Secretary General, International Energy  
Forum (IEF)







We also kick started other policies and projects like the National Gas Expansion Programme, Autogas policy and the construction of the 614km Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano gas pipeline.

and increasing gas to power. 'After a thorough review of these laudable achievements and successes in the gas space, we acknowledge that Nigeria still has more work to do in the gas space.

"This has led the Federal Government to begin a more proactive push towards gas development. This initiative will ensure further optimal exploitation and utilization of the country's vast gas resources.

A statement by Femi Adesina Special Adviser to the President, President Buhari commended the collaboration between the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and the Nigeria LNG Limited to actualize the dream of transforming Nigeria with its massive gas resources."

He described the NLNG as the Federal Government's arrowhead in the reduction of gas flaring in Nigeria.

According to the President, NLNG, which contributes about one percent to GDP, has generated \$114 billion in revenues over the years, \$9 billion in taxes, \$18 billion in dividends to the Federal Government and \$15 billion in Feed gas Purchase.

The President noted that these achievements were accomplished with 100 percent Nigerian Management and 95 percent Nigerian workforce.

He also applauded NLNG for winning the award for outstanding business strategy, in 2020, for going ahead with Train 7 during the global pandemic.

"The Ministry of Petroleum Resources and NNPC are in various regards setting the pace.

"I would like to charge all other relevant MDAs on the need to partner with the international oil companies, the indigenous oil companies and financial institutions to actualize the dream of fully utilizing our gas resources to uplift our economy," he said. President Buhari affirmed that later this year, Nigeria will host the 4th International Petroleum Summit in Abuja.

He invited delegates at the NIPS Pre-Summit to attend the flagship event of the Ministry of Petroleum Resources that "will once more allow us to engage our partners and friends from around the world, exchange ideas and policy options and set the tone for the industry in the next few years."



**RESTRUCTURING:  
SOUTHERN GOVERNORS  
OPT FOR RETURN TO  
1960 CONSTITUTION.**

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**T**he governors of the 17 states in Southern Nigeria met recently in Asaba to deliberate on the state of the nation. They came up with 12 points agenda that are of great importance to Nigeria. The most important of the decisions reached by the governors was RESTRUCTURING.

The word restructuring means different things to different people. But for the purpose of this edition let us stay with the definition as provided by the former Secretary to the Federal Government of Nigeria, former Minister of Finance and Leader of the South West to the Constitutional Reform Conference Chief Olu Falae.

He started by saying FOR THOSE STILL GREETED BY THE TERM, RESTRUCTURING, THIS IS THE MEANING OF RESTRUCTURING AS CANVASSED BY SOUTHERN NIGERIA BY CHIEF OLU FALAE.

You know am a leader of the South West and at the National convention, I was elected as the leader of the Yoruba delegation. So am central to the Yoruba position. The Yoruba position is my position, I canvassed it in my book. The way forward for Nigeria which I launched since 2005 in Lagos. What we mean by restructuring is going back to the 1960 constitution, which our leaders negotiated with the British between 1957 and 1959. It was on that basis that the three regions agreed to go to independence on one united country. So, it was a Regional Constitution. This is because, if the three Regions were not able to agree, there would not have been one united Independent Nigeria. But because the three Regions at that time negotiated and agreed to package a constitution that is why they agree to go to Independence together. When the Military came in 1966 and threw away the constitution, they threw away the negotiated agreement among the three Regions, which was the foundation of a united Nigeria.

So the military did not only throw away the constitution but a political consensus negotiated and agreed by our leaders of the three Regions in those days. When we say Restructuring now, we are saying let us go back substantially to that constitution which gave considerable

autonomy to the Regions. For example each Region at that time collected its revenue and contributed the agreed proportion to the centre. But when the military came, they turned it around and took everything to the centre. That could not have been accepted by Ahmadu Bello, Nnamdi Azikwe or Obafemi Awolowo.

The constitution we are using was made by late Gen. Sani Abacha and the military, and Abacha came from only one part of Nigeria. So he wrote a constitution that favoured his own part of Nigeria, that is why am saying, let us restructure and go back to what all of us agreed before. The Regions used to be Federating units, but in today's Nigeria, they would now be called federal regions because states have been created in the regions. So in the West you now have federation of Yoruba states, which would belong to the Nigerian union at the centre. So its not like the region of old with all the powers. No. its now going to be a coordination of the states in the zone. That's what we mean by restructuring. And the regions will have a considerable autonomy as they used to have. For example, for the younger people, they may not know that every region then had its own constitution.

There were four constitutions at Independence, the Federal constitution, Western constitution,, Eastern constitution and the Northern constitution. That was how Independent they were and every region had an Ambassador in London. The Ambassadors for the regions were called Agent General so that you do not confuse them with that of Nigeria then called High Commissioner. So Nigeria had four Ambassadors in London.

The Ambassador for Nigeria then called a High Commissioner was M.T. Mbu, the Ambassador for Eastern Nigeria then was Mr Jonah Chinyere Achara, Western Nigeria was Mr Omolodun and for Northern Nigeria Alhaji Abdulmalik. So we are saying let us go back to that arrangement which all of us agreed at independence and not what Abacha imposed on us, which is very very partial, unfair and one sided. THAT IS THE MEANING OF RESTRUCTURING.

***Chief Olu Falae is a leading Yoruba leader and was Head of the South West delegation to the Jonathan National constitutional conference.***

# FCT MINISTER RECEIVES UNIABUJA VISITATION PANEL

**T**he Honourable Minister of the FCT, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello, recently received members of the Presidential Visitation Panel to the University of Abuja on courtesy visit to his office.

In his remarks to the members of the Panel led by its Chairman, Alh. Bukar Goni Aji, the FCT Minister said that the University of Abuja is an institution that is closely linked with the FCT Administration as well as the growth and development of the city.

According to the Minister, the presence of the University of Abuja and the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital in Gwagwalada has immensely enhanced the growth and development of the Satellite town to the benefit of the host community.

The University, Malam Bello also said has also partnered with the Administration in order to solve specific matters such as the seismic issues regarding some rock formations in some parts of the FCT.

Malam Bello added that the University has contributed to the manpower development of the Administration as many of its staff have taken advantage of the proximity of the University to improve on their academic and professional qualifications.

He also said that judging from the caliber and antecedents of the members of the Visitation Panel, he was confident they will carry out a very good job of reviewing the situation in the university and guiding its administration properly in the management of the university.

The Minister also urged the Panel to ensure that town planning and development control regulations in the university are met and that they fit into the overall FCT Masterplan.

He emphasized that the FCT is a creation of law and thus, every part of it has to be developed based on a systematic, coordinated and codified manner.



FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello (left) University of Abuja Alh. Bukar Goni Aji during the



FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello (6th left), Chairman, Presidential Visitation Panel to the University of Abuja Alh. Bukar Goni Aji (7th left) flanked by other members of the Panel and FCTA officials during the Visitation Panel's visit to the FCTA



Alh. Bukar Goni Aji and the Chairman, Presidential Visitation Panel to the University of Abuja during the Panel's visit to the FCTA

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of the Visitation Panel, Alh. Bukar Goni Aji said that the purpose of its visit was to formally inform the Minister and the residents of the FCT that the Presidential Visitation Panel on the University of Abuja has commenced its assignment.

The visitation exercise the Chairman said was a fact finding one as part of a statutory responsibility that happens every five years and a critical part of its assignment includes an objective examination of the affairs of the University.

He added that its terms of reference includes examining issues relating to governance, accountability, evaluation of the progress made in the university after the last visitation exercise as well as looking into the working relationship between the host community and the University.

Other members of the Panel present for the courtesy visit were Professor Ahmed Ali Yakassai, Dr Ibinag Oden Ewa, Col. Danladi N. Adamu (Rtd), Engr Abubakar A, Matazu and Arc Samuel Ikani who is the Secretary.

Also present were the Chief of Staff to the FCT Minister, Malam Bashir Mai-Bornu, the Director Department of Human resources Management, Dr. Bashir Muhammed, the Director Project in the Office of the Hon Minister, Engr Saka Ahmed amongst others.



## NCDMB Sets Up \$20m Loan Support For Women In Business

**T**he Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has announced the setting up of a \$20million loan scheme to support women in business especially in the oil and gas sector.

Executive Secretary of the Board, Engr. Simbi Wabote, stated this at a virtual roundtable by the Diversity Sectoral Working Group (SWG) of the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum (NCCF).

In his remarks, Wabote stated that the mandate of the Board has always been the need to promote local content in every sphere of the oil and gas sector.

Quoting Section 57 of the NCDMB Act, he said the role of the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum is to provide a platform for information sharing and support in order to chart way for local content development in Nigeria.

According to Wabote, "The basic aim of the NCCF is to seek how to harness ideas and collaborative efforts for women development with basic emphasis in the oil and gas sector which is why I need to emphasize that this is a purely professional group and not a political group that will begin to advocate for political offices or positions for women.

"Therefore all our communications with with all

women group will be through the NCCF."

Speaking further on the need for funding in the local content sector, he said the agency was committed fully in that aspect.

"Key enablers to local content development is funding which is why we approached the governing council of the NCDMB and they graciously approved \$20 million loan support scheme to support women in business which will be domiciled in the Bank of Industry and collaboratively managed by the BoI and the NCDMB," he added.

Earlier in her remarks, the chairperson of the Diversity SWG of the NCCF, Mrs. Alero Onosode, said the working group was established to identify areas of collaborations as there are about 9 groups working together to harness value for women in the oil and gas sector.

She added that, "The group has four key pillars of which centers on how to impact the lives of women in the sector as well as research to know the current data of women participation as there is no confirmed data yet."

Others, according to Mrs. Onosode include: "Policy advocacy and capacity development which will enhance networking and stakeholder engagement."

She noted that the target is that by the end of 2021, there should be a valuable data of women in business and women in organisation available by the group.



## Why i Dumped PDP For APC | – Governor Ayade

**G**overnor Ben Ayade of Cross River State says he decided to dump his former party, the Peoples Democratic Party for the All Progressives Congress (APC) to assist the President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration to fix the country's problem.

He said his defection was also to return Cross River state to national politics. Ayade, a professor of Environmental Microbiology, gave the reasons moment after being received by APC governors led by the national caretaker committee chairman and governor of Yobe State, Mai Mala Buni at the Government House in Calabar.

According to him, "We need to join hands with President Buhari in his determination to enhance the fortunes of the country. I need all governors to similarly join me and understand my decision to join the APC. "We need to work ahead with the president for the future and unity of Nigeria. We all need to sit at the same dining table with Mr Presidential to save Nigeria.

"It is my responsibility to bring back Cross River to the centre in order to enhance her fortunes.

"I therefore formally declare myself a member and leader of APC in Cross River State."

While welcoming Ayade into the APC, Governor Buni said President Buhari and party leaders are happy to receive the Cross River governor into the party.

Buni stressed that the governor had automatically becomes the leader of the party in the state and urged members of the party in the state to unit.

He appealed to other governors in the south-south region to join the APC to secure the future of Nigeria.

Among the governors that received Prof. Ayade into the party were Governors Kayode Fayemi (Ekiti), Mohammed Badaru (Jigawa), Abubakar Atiku Bagudu (Kebbi) Hope Uzodima (Imo) and Simon Lalung (Plateau).

Also in attendance were the Minister of State for Petroleum, Timipre Sylva, Senatir Florence Ita-Giwa and other senior chieftains of the APC in Cross River.

# Nigeria is better as one United country ...Osinbajo

...Inaugurates FRSC Training School in Delta



**T**he Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo recently inaugurated the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Marshal Inspectorate Training School, built by Delta State Government in Owa-Alero, Ika North East Local Government Area.

Speaking during the ceremony, Osinbajo said Nigeria remains better as one united country. He said that Nigeria was a great nation notwithstanding its diversity and current challenges, adding that Nigerians

should harness the inherent benefits in the country to promote sustainable socio-economic growth and development. "To truly achieve this, Nigeria as a nation, must continue to promote justice, equity and fairness among the diverse groups in the country.

"We must caution those who are agitating for the break-up of the country against such agitation. It is important for our people to understand that the unity of this country must not be compromised," Osinbajo said.



He commended Delta State Government under Governor Ifeanyi Okowa for building the training institute for the federal agency and said that such partnership between states and the Federal Government was needed to promote sustainable development in the country.

"The development of the country depends, to a very large extent, on this type of cooperation between states and the Federal Government.

"The greater the co-operation between states and the Federal Government, the greater the development that Nigerians will

witness will be," he said.

The vice president remarked that the FRSC training school was fully furnished for the training of non-commissioned officers of the corps, and commended the management for its commitment towards delivery on its core mandate of reducing road crashes in the country.

"This far-sighted contribution of the Delta State Government is worthy of all commendation and it's an excellent example of the collaboration between state and the Federal government.

"The ultimate beneficiaries of the project are the people of Delta and of course, the country at large. I must encourage all other states to emulate what Delta has done and exemplify this spirit of cooperation for development.

"Road safety is a collective responsibility and that is what the government of Delta has demonstrated today.

"The Federal Government will continue to support organisations that demonstrate commitment to their statutory duties. Let me again appreciate the Delta state government for the huge financial resource invested in this project," he said.

In his remarks, Gov. Okowa said that a well-trained road safety marshal would impact positively on road safety standards and safe-driving practices in the state and the country.

He said that his administration had completed 483 road projects across the state, including the riverside areas.

"In 2019, the FRSC intimated me of their plan to establish a Marshal Inspectorate Training School (for non-commissioned officers) in Delta State on the condition that the state government will provide a safe, functional and adequate campus for its take-off.

"We knew the project would stretch our already limited resources but we were also confident that in the final analysis the benefits of locating the school in our state far outweighed the costs.

"It is also our pride that through this project, the Delta State Government is able to contribute in a significant way to the overall improvement of road safety in Nigeria.

"Our administration will continue to avail itself of any opportunity to improve road and physical infrastructure, grow the local economy, especially the informal sector, create employment opportunities and advance the general well-being of our people, while contributing our quota towards the advancement of "Project Nigeria," Okowa stated.

Corps Marshall and Chief Executive Officer of FRSC, Dr Boboye Oyeyemi, commended Delta State Government for building and handing over of the training school to the corps.

He said that the successful inauguration of the training institute would add value to human capital development in the Corps.

On his part, the Obi of Owa Kingdom, Dr. Emmanuel Efeizomor II, said that the place of education as the path of dignity and mental erudition could not be over-emphasized.

He described Gov. Okowa as a partner in national development and called on politicians to live in conviviality as the nation could only grow when leaders worked together in the interest of the nation.

"It is only education that can liberate the country and we will support you to ensure that Nigeria remains one; it will not break up in our time," the monarch stated.

# Clark Lauds NDDC, Commissions 3.4-Km Kiagbodo Road

**T**he Ijaw National leader and Chairman of Pan-Niger Delta Forum, PANDEF, Chief Edwin Clark has applauded the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, for embarking on projects and programmes that are impacting positively on the lives of the people of the Niger Delta region

Speaking during the commissioning of the 3.2-kilometre rigid pavement Chief Ambakederemo Road in Kiagbodo, Burutu Local Government Area of Delta State, Clark gave kudos to the NDDC Interim Administrator, Mr Efiang Akwa, whom he described as a shining light in the Niger Delta.

The Ijaw leader, who was represented by his son, Chief Anthony Clark, remarked that NDDC was expected to be the guiding light for the social and economic development of Nigeria's oil-rich region.

He noted that the inauguration of the road, which was preceded by the flag-off of donation of education and essential science equipment in Warri, was part of remarkable achievements recorded by the Interim Administrator in his short period as the Chief Executive Officer of the NDDC.

Clark said: "As you commission this Ambakederemo Road, Kiagbodo, today, I want to assure you that we the communities of Kiagbodo, and our neighbours, will ensure that we play our part, that the road will be well protected for the good of the people."

The elder statesman called on the Federal Government to ensure the sustainable funding of the NDDC, expressing concern that the Commission was still being owed a lot of money by the Federal Government unlike similar bodies such as the recently set up North East Development Commission.

He said that a country where different standards exist for similar organisations was not in the collective interest of the



country, stating that this was more so when the NDDC was the body responsible for the development of the Niger Delta region.

Clark stated: "A situation where the Federal Government spends so much on roads, while the East-West Road, running from Edo-Delta-Bayelsa-Rivers-Akwa Ibom and Cross River States, is not funded by the Federal Government, and thus remains deplorable, and has become death traps to users, and a waste of time and resources, as commuters go through the horrendous experience of travelling on the road is quite unacceptable."

In his own remarks, the NDDC Interim Administrator, Mr Akwa, gave credit to President Muhammadu Buhari and the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio, for galvanising the Commission to deliver on its mandate. He paid tribute to Chief Edwin Clark, whom he described as a model leader, who was always



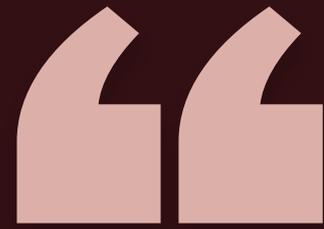
looking out for the things that would benefit the people of the Niger Delta region. According to him, the Ijaw leader was more interested in projects that would help his community, in particular, and Niger Delta at large.

Akwa commended the youths of Kiagbodo for being very peaceful and providing the enabling environment for the contractor to deliver on the road, which he noted was a link between Burutu Local Government and Ughelli council area.

The NDDC boss commended the contractor for doing a good job and equally thanked the community for appreciating the efforts of the Commission, promising that another road would soon be built in the area. He said: "Because you like good things, good things will follow you."

Giving details of the project, the Director, NDDC Delta State Office, Engr. Dr Emmanuel Audu-Ohwavorua said that solid infrastructure was the pillar upon which any meaningful economic or social growth of any society rested, noting that the security of any community was enhanced by infrastructural development.

He observed that Kiagbodo community, before the construction of the Chief Ambakederemo Road, was prone to perennial flooding, youth restiveness occasioned by mass poverty and unemployment.



Today, the story is different due to the conception and implementation of this very important road, and other interventions (projects and programs) by the NDDC over the years. Economic activities are on the rise, the community is now more peaceful as both young and old are now busy with increased access to their farmlands and other business places.

# HOW | HADIZA BALA USMAN LOOTED

## N165BILLION IN



## NIGERIA PORT AUTHORITY

**T**he former Managing Director of the Nigerian Port Authority, NPA, Hadiza Bala Usman, has been accused of looting the NPA yearly remittance operating surplus of over N165 billion between 2016-2020.

Her suspension was announced by the presidential spokesperson, Garba Shehu on Thursday but no reason was given why she was relieved of her duty.

Prof. brahim A. Gambari, Chief of Staff to the President had in a memo to the Minister of Transportation, Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi conveyed the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari, the suspension of Hadiza Bala Usman over a humongous sleaze.

The Minister had in a memo titled "Remittance of operating surplus to the Consolidated Revenue Fund Account (CRF) by the Nigerian Ports Authority from 2016 – date" requested for the approval "that the account and remittance of NPA in the period of 2016 – 2020 be audited to account for the gross shortfall of remitted public funds."

According to the memo, "It has been observed from the records submitted by the Budget Office of the Federation that the yearly remittance of operating surpluses by the Nigerian Ports Authority from year 2016 -2020 has been far short of the amount due for actual remittance.

"In view of the above i wish to suggest that the financial account of the activities of Nigerian Ports Authority be investigated for the period 2016 to 2020 to ascertain the true financial position and the outstanding unremitted balance of One hundred and sixty five billion, three hundred and twenty million, nine hundred and sixty two thousand, six hundred and ninety seven naira only

(N165,320,962,697)."

In response to a request by the Minister of Transportation, the Director-General of the Budget Office of the Federation, Ben Akabueze confirmed that indeed that the accounts of the NPA has not balanced in the last four years.

The memo from the DG Budget Office states, "Please refer to your letter dated 19" February, 2021 ref. PS/MOT/143/II/27 on the above subject. Kindly find attached the underlisted data on Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA):

"1. Summary of Operating Surplus Payment (OPS); II. Actual Revenue and Expenditure Performance, 2017-2020; and III. Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework, 2021-2023.

"2. The above listed Government Owned Enterprise (GOE) is supervised by the Federal Ministry of Transportation.

"3. The data is attached as submitted by the above agency to the Budget Office. The Operating Surplus Remittances are evidenced by Treasury Receipts."

This revelations have put in nullity efforts by the office of the Auditor – General for the Federation to

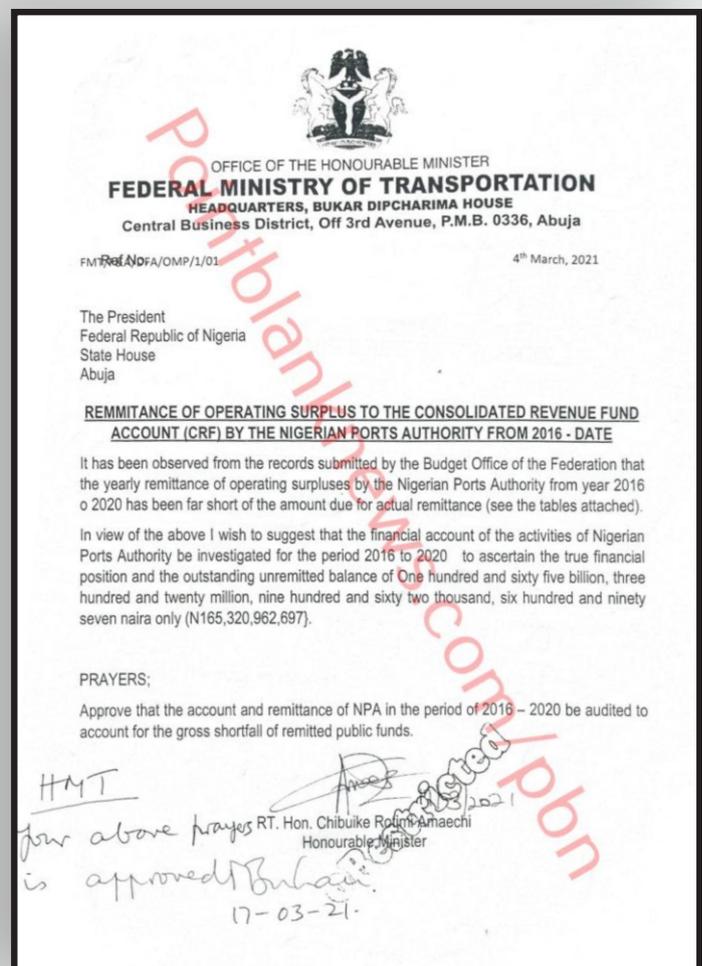
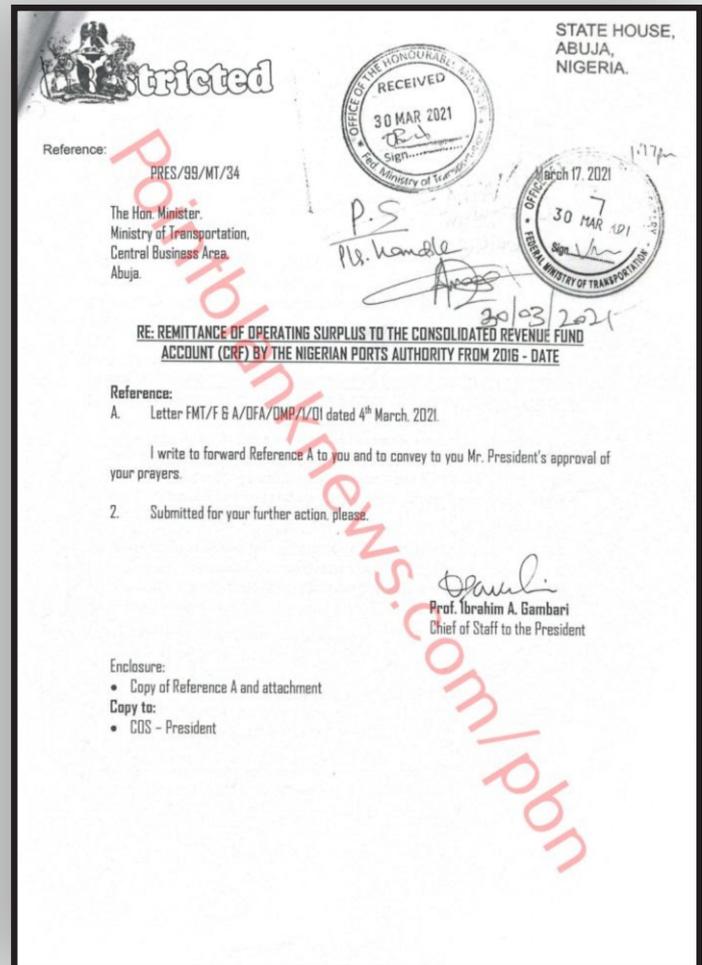


delay or kill the investigation.

A document in our possession had clearly showed how the AGF office refused to carry out an investigation on the activities of Nigerian Ports Authority as requested by the Minister of Transportation.

The Minister had in April forwarded and conveyed to the AGF, the President's approval of the Ministry's request that the Financial Activities including but not limited to the remittances of operating surpluses of Nigerian Ports Authority for the period 2016 — 2020 which was meant to be holistically and comprehensively investigated and audited.

The Minister had also suggested five reputable professional Audit firms in Nigeria that can be recruited for the job which include KPMG NIGERIA, DELOITTE NIGERIA, PRICE WATER HOUSE COOPERS INC (PWC) NIGERIA, ERNEST AND YOUNG (EY) NIGERIA as well as MCKINSEY AND COMPANY NIGERIA. But the Auditor General of the Federation, Aghughu Adolphus in his wisdom insisted that it



can only intervene when auditors appointed by the Nigeria Port Authority must have submitted its report and that it was not within the powers of the Minister to suggest to him the Audit firms to carry out such task now.

The AGF in a with reference number FMOT/F&A/AUGF/2017/4/1/T dated 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 said, "The Board shall cause to be kept proper accounts of the Authority and proper records, in relation thereto and when certified by the Board, the accounts shall be audited by auditors appointed by the Authority from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation". (See subparagraph 2 of paragraph 20 of NPAAct),

"Nothing in Sub-section (2) of this Section shall be construed as authorising the Auditor-General to audit the accounts of or appoint auditors for government statutory corporations, commissions authorities, agencies, including all persons and bodies established by an Act of the National Assembly, but the AuditorGeneral shall: (a) provide such bodies with: (i) a list of auditors qualified to be appointed by them as external auditors and from which the bodies shall appoint their external auditors.

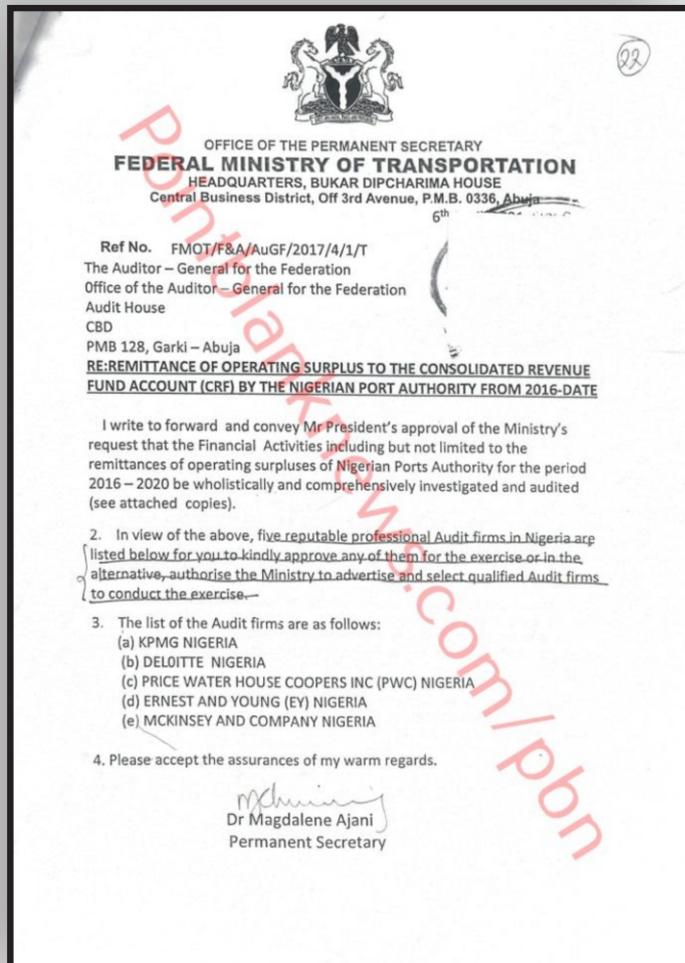
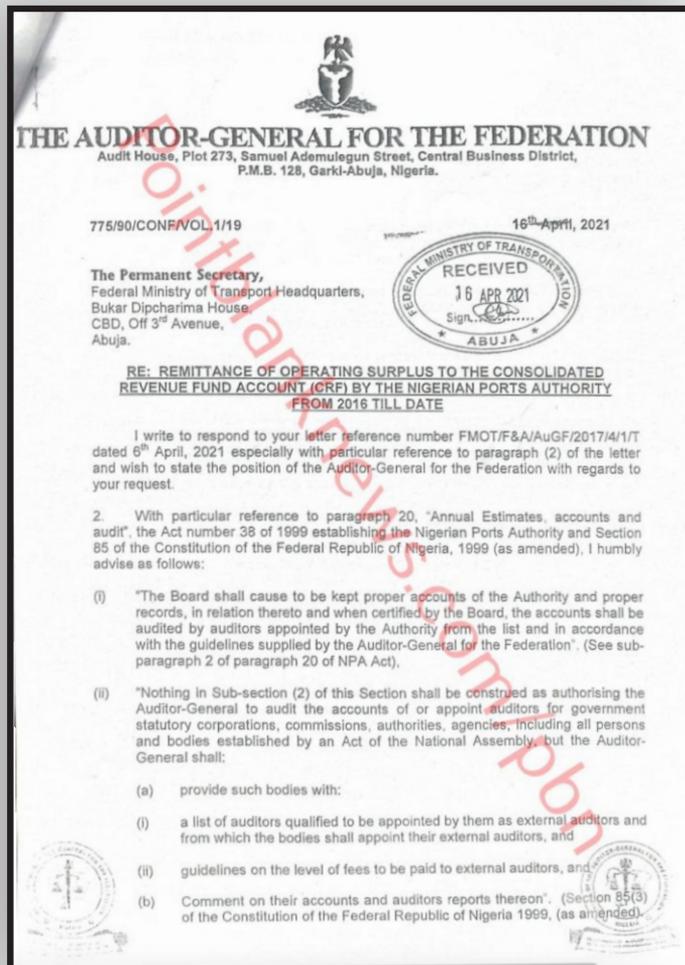
"The NPA Board has duly engaged the External Audit firms — Messrs Muhtari Dangana & Co. (Chartered Accountants) and SIAO Chartered Accountants. The said Audit firms audited and published the audited accounts of NPA duly approved by the Board for the years ended: 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2016, 31 December, 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 respectively.

"The audit of 2019 by Messrs. Muhtari Dangana & Co. (Chartered Accountants) and SIAO Chartered Accountants is on-going, awaiting NPA Board's approval to be published.

"Also, my Office has conducted periodic checks for the years 2016 — 2018, and issued Periodic Checks Reports along with comments on their annual accounts and auditor's reports thereon, and reputable Professional Audit firms are already being engaged by the Board in line with the enabling Act. Hence no justification for the Ministry "to advertise and select qualified Audit firms to conduct the exercise".

Faced with this roadblock, the Minister quickly resorted to the Budget Office of the Federation where he was given a detail information that finally nailed Hadiza Bala Usman.

Bala Usman appointment was on a recommendation of the Kaduna State governor, Malam Nasir el-Rufai who is belived to be in a different political camp with Rotimi Amaechi. It is believed that the attack on Hadiza Bala Usman was an indirect affront on el-Rufai who is also leading another camp in preparation for the 2023 general elections.



5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

*MB/17/MO/USC-XX/574*

The Chief of Staff to the President,  
Presidential Villa,  
Abuja.

Dear Sir,

**RE: REQUEST FOR THE RECORD OF REMITTANCE OF OPERATING SURPLUS TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUNDS ACCOUNT CRF BY THE NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY**

The attention of the Authority has been drawn to a letter conveying Mr. President's approval for the Federal Ministry of Transportation (FMoT) to conduct an audit of the accounts of the Authority and its remittances to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CFR). This arose from a correspondence between the Budget Office of the Federation (BOF) and the Federal ministry of Transportation where the Budget Office of the Federation conveyed to the FMoT an observed shortfall of the Authorities remittances to the CFR. (copy attached for ease of reference)

We wish to state that the Authority's basis for arriving at the Operating Surplus on which basis the amount due for remittance to the CFR is guided by the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 as amended and further based on the statutory mandate Part 1, S.3(1) (b) &(d) whereby the Fiscal Responsibility Commission issued a

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template for the computation of Operating Surplus for the purpose of calculating amount due for remittance to the CRF ( attached herewith as annex 2 is the template as conveyed to the Authority)

Accordingly, the figures so provided by the Budget Office of the Federation as the Operating Surplus for the respective years on which basis they arrived at the shortfall are derived from submission of **budgetary provision** not the **actual amounts derived following the statutory audit of the Authorities financial statements.**

**2017 and 2018 Remittances**

Audited Financial Statements of the Authority for the period 2017 and 2018 (copies herewith attached) provides operating surpluses of **N76.782 billion** and **N71.480 billion** for 2017 and 2018 respectively as contrary to the sums of **N133.084 billion** and **N88.79 billion** arrived at by your office from the budgetary submission.

In line with the template issued by the Fiscal Responsibility Commission, the accessible Operating Surplus of the Authority stands at **N51.09 billion** and **N42.51 billion** for 2017 and 2018 respectively. This amounts will give rise to a remittance due to the CFR in the sum of **N40.873 billion** and **N34.065 billion** representing 80% of the surpluses for the year 2017 and 2018 respectively. (Attached herewith as annex 3 is the schedule of the computed template for the respective years). Accordingly, the Authority consequently made a remittance of **N42.415 billion** and **N33.969 billion** for the years 2017 and 2018 respectively for the full amount required as remittance for the period (attached herewith are the treasury receipts).

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**2019 – 2020 Remittances**

The Audit of the 2019 Financial Statement has been completed and awaiting consideration of the Authorities Board at which point the final figures for the 2019 operating surplus will be determined for consequent computation of the amount due for remittance to the CFR. But thus far the Authority has made a remittance of **N31.683 billion** for the 2019 remittance while the sum of **N51.049 billion** has also thus far been remitted for 2020 while awaiting the audited of the financial statement to determine the final amount required for both 2019 and 2020 at which point the Authority will make the payment of the balance as required. (Attached is are the treasury receipt for the respective payments).

Based on the above, we wish to clarify the following:

1. The Authority's computation of its remittances to the CFR are concluded arising from numbers from Audited Financial Statements using the template forwarded to the Authority from the Fiscal Responsibility Commission as herewith attached and not budgetary provision
2. That the Authority has remitted the **full amount** due to CFR for the periods 2017 and 2018 arising from the Operating Surplus derived from the Audited Financial Statement for the period totaling **N 76.384 billion** as evidenced in attached treasury receipts.
3. That the Authority has remitted a total of **N 82.687 billion** for the period 2019 and 2020 pending the audit of the financial statement at which point the amount so computed arising from the value of the Operating Surplus in the audited financial statement will be remitted to the CFR.

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We wish to request that the Chief of Staff requests the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation who are the statutorily custodian of status of payment to the CRF to provide clarification on the above so as to establish the true position of the Authorities remittances to the CFR

Respectfully Submitted

*Hadiza*  
**Hadiza Bala Usman**  
Managing Director/CEO

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# *Amaechi Inaugurates 11-member committee to probe activities Of NPA*

**T**he Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, has inaugurated an 11-member committee to investigate activities of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA).

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that on May 6, President Muhammadu Buhari approved the recommendation of the Amaechi for the setting up of an Administrative Panel of Inquiry to investigate the Management of the NPA.

Amaechi, while inaugurating the committee on Monday in Abuja, charged the members to be diligent and ensure they do a thorough job.

The committee's terms of reference, he said, include examining and investigating the administrative policies and strategies adopted by NPA's Managing Director, Hadiza Usman, and confirm compliance with extant laws and rules from 2016 till date.

"Examine and investigate issues leading to the termination of other contracts of NPA and confirm compliance with the terms of the respective contracts, court ruling and presidential directives.

"Examine and investigate compliance with communication channel, as obtained in the public service.

"Examine and investigate the procurement of contracts from 2016 to date.

"Come up with suggestions and advice that would strengthen the operations of NPA and forestall such occurrences in future.

"And any other matter that may be necessary in the course of the assignment," the minister said.

According to Amaechi, the investigation is part of the mandate of the ministry to oversee activities of its various parastatal agencies.

"This is in the discharge of our responsibility as a ministry and I don't see why anybody is complaining.

"What is wrong in looking at what is happening in NPA? I don't see what is wrong in that. As the Minister of Transportation for four years, I

*Cont. on page 28*

hardly know what is happening and I want to know now.

“The president agrees with me that it's my responsibility as minister to find out what is going on.

“It worries me that people are saying we should not ask questions. Nobody has been indicted.

“It is just, can we know what is going on in NPA? That's the question.

“If everything is right, why do we have to bother at the end of the day?

“When you have completed your assignment, we will be glad to pass on the report to the President, but don't forget your assignment will include activities of procurement and its processes from 2016 till date.

“And that is why you do not have a time limit. So, it will take you some time. You are not auditing, but to find out the processes.

“Please be diligent, invite anybody you want to invite, including the minister, if there are infractions you need me to clarify,” he said.

According to Amaechi, NPA is an agency that manages maritime trading activities in Nigeria and should be able to get in a lot of resources for the government to run the country.

He thanked the committee for accepting to serve and also appreciated the Minister of State for Transport, Sen. Gbemisola Saraki, for her diligence on the matter.

The minister then reiterated that the public should allow the ministry do its job.

“Let us reduce the shouting and allow the committee to do their job. Then, we will come out with a report, which we will avail to the public after it is being passed to the President,” he said.

Similarly, the minister of state, describing public reactions as surprising, said the investigation was within the purview of the ministry.

“This is why the ministry supervises and part of that role is looking, asking questions and ensuring that things are done in due process.

“For the panel, there is so much noise, so it's best you block your ears, keep your head down and do what is in the interest of the entire country,” Saraki said.

Responding, the Chairman of the committee, Mr Suleiman Auwalu, Director of Maritime Services of the ministry pledged the commitment of other members to diligently carry out the duties assigned to them.

Auwalu said: “I assure you that we are going to work; we are going to be honest and fair in the discharge of this responsibility.

”At the end of the day, we want to turn up a report that will be true and it will be in the interest of the country.

“So, we are seeking for God's guidance for us to do the right thing at the right time.”

NAN reports that Buhari also approved that Usman steps aside for the period of the investigation, while directing Mr Mohammed Koko to serve as the acting head of the authority. (NAN).



# INEC creates additional 998 polling units in Cross River



**T**he Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) says it has created additional 998 Polling Units in the 18 Local Government Areas of Cross River.

The Resident Electoral Commission (REC) in the state, Dr Emmanuel Hart made the disclosure in Calabar on Monday at a stakeholder's forum on Expanding Voter Access to Polling Units Engagements.

"INEC Cross River State is happy to announce to you that when the proposed new polling units are verified and approved by the commission, Cross River will boast of an additional 998 polling units.

"The 998 PUs will be added to the existing 2,283 Polling Units and will increase the number of Polling Units in Cross River to 3281," Hart said.

The commissioner said that the idea of additional Polling Units was to solve the problem of overcrowding during voting.

"By the special grace of God, the 1,527,055 registered voters in the state and new registrants will have decongested Polling Units in the forthcoming elections.

"It is also expected that with the full participation of voters in the electoral process, voter apathy will be reduced," he said.

Hart further said that the additional PUs would guarantee short queues at Polling Units and provide a healthy environment in compliance with the COVID-19 protocols.

He announced the commencement of Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) for 2023 election from June 28.

He solicited the continued cooperation of stakeholders in the participation of the electoral process for a free, fair and transparent election in the state.

In his remarks, the State Commissioner for Information, Mr. Asu Okang commended INEC for carrying out the exercise.

He urged the commission to look at all the grey areas and rectify whatever observations made by the stakeholders. (NAN)



# SECURITY

## FCT MINISTER CALLS FOR PUBLIC COOPERATION WITH SECURITY AGENCIES

...CP ASSURES OF ADEQUATE SECURITY DURING SALLAH FESTIVITIES

**T**he Honourable Minister of the FCT, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello has called on residents of the Territory to always collaborate with security agencies to guarantee the safety and security of lives and property within their communities.

The Minister said this following the monthly FCT Security Committee meeting which took place recently.

He assured residents that the various security agencies were committed to ensuring the safety of residents and that community, traditional, political and religious leaders have been enjoined to encourage their members to understand that security should not be left to the security personnel alone but should be a collaborative effort of all.

The Minister said “ We have to ensure that communities make efforts to know who they stay with and also ensure that information is gathered and sent appropriately to the right people”

Malam Bello also revealed that the issue of security in schools was discussed extensively during the meeting and said that measures were being taken to ensure safety in all educational institutions in the FCT.



According to the Minister, also discussed were the negative effects of urbanization and the issue of shanties around the city as well as cult activities caused mainly because of a breakdown of family structures. He also assured that specific criminality identified in specific communities would also be addressed.

He also decried the activities of individuals who deliberately set out to misinform the public through negative posts especially through the social media and revealed that some arrests have so far been made.

In her comments, the Hon. Minister of State, Dr Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu also said that the issue of beggars on FCT streets which she said constitutes security risks was also being addressed.

The FCT Commissioner of Police also assured residents that FCT Police Command would ensure the safety of lives and property during and after the Eid El- Fitr celebrations saying that the police was always rejigging its strategies to meet ever evolving challenges.

Also present at the Security Committee meeting were the heads of the various military and para-military formations in the FCT, Area Council Chairmen, head of the FCT traditional institutions, religious leaders and heads of the various SDAs within the FCTA.



**We have to ensure that communities make efforts to know who they stay with and also ensure that information is gathered and sent appropriately to the right people”**



# DELEGATION FROM GHANA PORTS AND HARBOURS ENDS ONE - DAY VISIT TO ONNE PORT, NIGERIA

...Commend NPA/INTELS facilities at Terminals

**A** special delegation from Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority has commended Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and Intels Logistics Services over their impressive facilities at their terminals.

The two major Terminals are: Federal Ocean Terminal (FOT) and Federal Lighter Terminal (FLT) in Onne Rivers State, Nigeria. The delegation was led by Captain Ebenezer Afadzi - Director of Port of Tekoradi, Ghana.

In a welcome speech, Onne Port Manager, Dr Abubakar Dantsoho said on behalf of NPA top management and staff, they welcome the delegation of GPHA, to Onne Port. He said that NPA top management is happy for this visit and has accordingly directed that Onne Port accord them all the necessary co – operations needed to make the visit a success.

Onne Port Manager said they are also especially welcome to Rivers State, and Nigeria. He observed that Onne Port is big and accommodates four major 'Terminal Operators', who are also concessionaires.

According to Onne Port Manager, the major concessionaires are "Intels Logistics Services, Brawal Oil Services, West African Container Terminal and ICTNL". He said there are other operators in the oil and gas sector, which includes West African Ventures (WAV), INDORAMA, Dangote etc.

The Port Manager also remarked that Intels contributes positively to the development of the maritime activities in the country. He noted that they enter into concession agreement for 25 years with the company, which allows them to develop the facility, and operate same, though with options to review the agreement at the end of 25 years.

The Port Manager also said that Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG), at Bonny constitutes another huge revenue earner for NPA and Federal Government (FG). "Onne Port is the most modern port. Intels came in 1988, while other concessionaire came in from the year 2006", he observed.

The Port Manager who said he has visited ports in Ghana, commended them for the visit, and wished them well. He assured them that they will get better insight when they arrive Intels Terminal on facility tour.

In his response, Captain Ebenezer Kojo Afadzi, Director Port of Takoradi, Ghana thanks NPA for the honour accorded them. He said that Nigeria is Ghana's big brother, because they have a lot they share in common.

"We are here because Nigeria is our big brother. We need help from Nigeria to grow our maritime and shipping sector. And we

are here to learn a lot from your port and to see things for ourselves in Onne Port", Capt. Kojo Afadzi said. He added that their coming is to learn what has made Onne Port thick. He requested to get more clarifications on the operations of service boats and container vessels and how they help NPA to generate more revenue.

Among delegation from Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority who visited NPA Onne Port Complex Administrative building at FLT, includes Peter Ambo – Dediello Public Affairs Manager Ghana's Port of Takoradi, Samuel Neto – Kummi, John Atsu Dzere and Fortune Agbodua. Others are Deacon Douglas Oppong, Shirly Braimoh and Divine Tamaklee etc.

The high point of the visit was the presentation of NPA Plaque to the leader of the delegation from Ghana Ports and Harbours, Capt. Ebenezer Afadzi.

Meanwhile, Ghana Port and Harbours Authority delegation also in the company of Onne Port Manager and some of his Exco also visited Intels Logistics Services facilities at Federal Ocean Terminal (FOT), Onne Port.

Receiving the Ghanaian delegation, the Managing Director of Intels, Mr Paskal Fiori welcomes the guests from Ghana to Intels Headquarters, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Building, FOT, Onne. He noted that Intels is a leading logistics services organization, and observed that they are a major concessionaire. "On behalf of the Board of Intels, I welcome our guests from Ghana. We are leading Logistics organization and we offer 'one – stop shop services' to our valued clients", Intels CEO remarked.

Mr Fiori said they have the best policies on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), to their host communities of Onne and Ogu, including well packaged policies on health, safety and environment, in their areas of operations.

Responding the Leader of Ghana's delegation to Intels, Capt Ebenezer thanks NPA and Intels for their warm reception. On behalf of Ghana, he thanks Intels for their contributions to the global maritime sector, and describes the facilities as good and amazing.

He added that there is a lot for GHANA to learn from their visit, and express hope for similar facilities to be replicated in Ghana.

In a brief Interview, Mr Peter AMBO - Dediello, Public Affairs Manager, of Port Of Takoradi, Ghana said they are very grateful to NPA, Intels and Nigeria for giving them access to their port facilities.

The Ghana delegation, together with Onne Port Manager and his team accompanied the visitors on Intels guided tour of their facilities at FOT and FLT Terminals, Onne Port in Rivers State Nigeria.



## Southern Governors meet

**T**he governors in 17 states of the southern part of Nigeria have demanded the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), to address Nigerians on the challenges of insecurity and restore the confidence of the people.

The Forum stated this in a 12-point communique read by its Chairman, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State at the end of its four hours meeting held in Asaba, the Delta state capital.

The governors affirmed that the people of Southern Nigeria remain committed to the unity of Nigeria on the basis of justice, fairness, equity and oneness, and peaceful co-existence between and among its peoples with a focus on the attainment of shared goals for economic development and prosperity.

He said, "Southern Governors expressed very grave concern on the security challenges currently plaguing the nation and strongly urged that Mr. President should address Nigerians on the challenges of insecurity and restore the

confidence of our people.

"We observed that the incursion of armed herders, criminals, and bandits into the Southern part of the country has presented a severe security challenge such that citizens are not able to live their normal lives including pursuing various productive activities leading to a threat to food supply and general security.

"Consequently, the meeting resolved that open grazing of cattle be banned across Southern Nigeria;

"Agreed that the progress of the nation requires that urgent and bold steps be taken to restructure the Nigerian Federation leading to the evolution of state police, review of revenue allocation formula in favour of the sub-national governments and creation of other institutions which legitimately advance our commitment to and practice of true federalism.

"In view of widespread agitations among our various peoples for greater inclusiveness in existing governance arrangements, the Federal Government should convoke a national dialogue as a matter of urgency."

The forum expressed concern on the continued gridlock on the Oshodi-Apapa Expressway.

The meeting, therefore, recommended the activation and establishment of ports in other states of the federation to create new jobs and promote socio-economic activities in the country.

The Southern Governors also expressed concern on the economic implications of another lockdown on the country and therefore suggested greater coordination and cooperation between Federal and State Governments in evolving strategies for dealing with the pandemic.

Fifteen governors were in attendance at the meeting.

# over insecurity.

**They are Delta State Governor Ifeanyi Okowa, Dr Kayode Fayemi (Ekiti), Nyesom Wike (Rivers), Godwin Obaseki (Edo), Dapo Abiodun (Ogun), Seyi Makinde (Oyo), and Babajide Sanwo-Olu (Lagos). Others are Douye Diri (Bayelsa), Okezie Ikpeazu (Abia), Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi (Enugu), Rotimi Akeredolu (Ondo), David Umahi (Ebonyi), Willie Obiano (Anambra). Imo and Akwa Ibom States were represented by their deputy governors, while Osun and Cross Rivers states were absent at the meeting.**

## Southern Senators' Forum Lauds Governors On Security Steps

**T**he Southern Senators' Forum has commended steps taken by state governors from the region to stem the rise in insecurity.

The forum disclosed this on Wednesday in a statement jointly signed by its Chairman, Secretary General and Publicity Secretary, Senators Opeyemi Bamidele (APC-Ekiti), Matthew Uroghide (PDP-Edo) and Chukwuka

Utazi (PDP-Enugu).

The forum lauded the governors for outrightly taking a firm position on burning national issues, including banning the open grazing of cattle.

The senators said that such a unanimous policy would check those hiding under cattle grazing to unleash terror of kidnapping and killing on the residents of the region.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the governors at a meeting in Asaba, on Tuesday, unanimously passed a verdict prohibiting open grazing in the region among other positions.

The senators said the step would help secure the region and return it to the path of peace.

The senators lamented how farmers in the region were losing millions of Naira to plundering of food crops through encroachments on farmlands thereby exposing the region to famine and acute food scarcity.

"At this critical point of our national life when the economy is being bedeviled by galloping inflation, youth unemployment and insecurity, food security is very crucial to mitigate the effects of these diverse evils on the citizens.

"Available records have shown that attaining food security status would remain a mirage in the south owing to ravaging effect of outdated livestock grazing policy being unleashed on farmlands by some unscrupulous herders.

"Most appalling is the seemingly unabated kidnapping, raping and killing of our people by suspected herdsmen, who have become bandits heating up the system.

"With this uniform resolve by our governors to initiate no-open grazing policy, the region will return to its peaceful and agriculturally self-sufficient status it had assumed even long before Nigeria's amalgamation in 1914," they said.

They also saluted the governors for the expediency and the need for speedy restructuring of the country.

They said it would help to remove the incessant agitations over alleged neglect of certain sections of the country.

The forum stated that only equity and justice in the running of the country would wipe out ethnic tension, restore peace and stability and end ethnic agitations

They, therefore, encouraged the governors to swiftly follow up their resolutions by immediately approaching the leadership of the National Assembly with a view to working together.

They said the National Assembly would ensure that their positions on restructuring, state police and the ban on open grazing were addressed through the ongoing constitution review.

## MALAMI TO SOUTHERN GOVERNORS:

“

**Banning Open  
Grazing Is Like  
Banning Selling  
Spare Parts**



**A**bubakar Malami, Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), laboured to shoot down the decisions of the governors of Southern Nigeria to ban open grazing of cattle in their area, as well as calling for restructuring of the country.

Malami, who spoke while appearing as a guest of *Politics Today*, on Channels Television, reechoing the voices of northern stakeholders, who had earlier condemned the resolution, a fortnight ago, dismissed both decisions as a non-issue, saying that the 17 governors, should first start from their states, by granting the local governments and legislatures the autonomy they needed to operate.

He also dismissed the ban of open grazing, which was also top on the list of the Wednesday, May 12, 2021 resolution of the governors at their meeting in Asaba, Delta State, saying it was akin to their northern counterparts placing a blanket ban on trading in spare parts in their states.



The nation's number one law officer, who pointedly said he did not understand what the governors were driving at by demanding restructuring, argued that the open grazing ban was a constitutional matter bordering on freedom of movement, which required a total review of the constitution.

For this to happen, he further stressed, the matter must be tabled before the National Assembly to deliberate upon and take decisions, otherwise, the idea would go into no issue as it would not be forceable within the Nigerian constitution.

Hear him: "They (southern governors) cannot deny the local governments to operate optimally, they cannot deny the autonomy of

the state legislature and state judiciary and still be clamouring for restructuring. What restructuring are we talking about? All powers are indeed embedded in financial autonomy. What have they done to allow the local government structures to operate optimally?

"Take for example a situation whereby the local government council is entitled among others to participate in the security arrangement of a state and the local government chairman is denied the funds to run the local government; with the funds, he can now deploy the resources down to the village heads, down to some other associations working within; but now you deny him the resources available to make same available to the village head, even if a village head has an intelligence report about a criminal existing within the society, he is denied of the limited resources that he could use to come over to see the local government chairman and notify him and for the local government chairman to come to the state headquarters to notify the DSS (Department of State Services), or the police to notify, so what are you talking about?"

"They should address it (restructuring), at their own level first and let's see what happens before now coming over to the President. It is not about the President. It is about the denial of the structures at the bottom level. That indeed is what restructuring is all about.

"If you allow the state legislature to operate optimally, the checks and balances required will be there. If you allow the local government councils to operate optimally, the necessary development in terms of devolution powers are there. But once you deny them the resources to operate, the autonomy to operate, then certainly, you do not have a legitimate right to clamour and agitate for any restructuring, because you are not a believer in allowing the process to operate optimally in terms of taking its natural course.

"I don't even understand what they're talking about restructuring, against the backdrop of denial of the other existing structures to operate."

Hear him on open grazing ban: "It's all about constitutionality. Within the context of the freedoms expressed in our constitution, enshrined in our constitution, can you deny the right of a Nigerian? It's as good as the northern governors coming together to say they prohibit spare parts trading in the north. Does it hold water? Does it hold for a northern governor to say expressly that he now prohibits spare parts selling in the north?"

"Look, if you're talking of a constitutionally-guaranteed right, the better approach to it is to, perhaps go back to ensure that the constitution is amended. In the constitution, freedom and liberty of movement, among other things, are established by the constitution. If by an inch, you want to have any compromise over it, the better approach is to go back to the National Assembly to canvass that open grazing should be prohibited and see whether you can have the desired support for the constitution to be amended in that respect.

"But it is indeed a dangerous position for any governor in Nigeria to think that he can bring any compromise on the freedom and liberty of individuals to move around."

# PROF NWOYE BAGS INTERNATIONAL AWARD



**A**n Editorial consultant with the Newsplatform Media and former Bursar of the University of Benin Professor May Nwoye has bagged United Nations Eminent Ambassador of World Peace Award.

The award was given to her by International Association of World Peace Advocate during the Abuja Leadership Summit and and the celebration of United Nations Development Day and UN at 76.

The Award which was presented to her in the presence of her husband Professor Greg Nwoye, friends and well wishers was

meant to appreciate her contribution and determination in promoting Democracy and support good governance in Nigeria. By the award Prof Nwoye is expected to participate in any of the United Nations events which include,

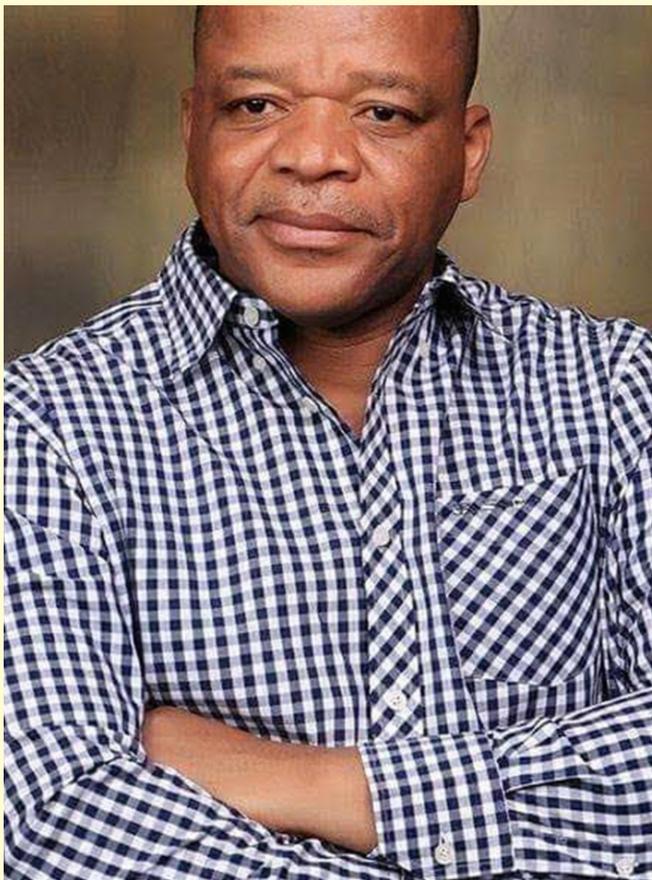
- (A) United Nations for sustainable Development in Germany
- (B) UN 2021 Ocean conference in France
- (C) UN High level Political Forum in New York and
- (D) UN WHO Health conference in Uganda



# PROFILE OF

# CHINEDU AKUBUEZE

Clerk, House of Reps, a personality of impeccable integrity and a Proactive Public Servant



**V**ndoubtedly, the nation's public service is composed of seasoned, tested and trusted technocrats and accomplished administrators who have proved their mettle in taking their various agencies and establishments to the next level in the crucial scheme of things thus contributing substantially to the nation's political stability, fast track economic growth and rapid infrastructural development in all positive ramifications.

Indeed Barrister Chinedu Akubueze, Clerk of the House of Representatives belongs to this committed and dedicated corps of public servants who have shown uncommon zest for hard work, resilience, foresight and erudition in executing their official duties and functions to the extent that they have become a reference point for emulation and enunciation by their peers, underlings and even superiors both within their organizations, the public and the society at large.

Barrister Chinedu Akubueze is a Graduate of the prestigious University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Enugu Campus) where he excelled with a proficient Bachelor of Law (L.L.B.) degree before he proceeded to the famous Nigerian Law School, Victoria island in 1987 and emerged with flying colours with a resounding Barrister at Law professional qualification which has served him in good stead in his prolific public services career.

In the National Assembly, where he has served meritoriously for many years in the Legal Department and later in the House of Representatives, Barr Chinedu Akubueze has brought his tremendous force of conviction, erudition of thought, clarity of vision and sagacity of intellect in the crucial discharge of his official duties and functions.

As Clerk of several committees, including the Committee on Review of the 1999 Constitution, he has trained his focus on ensuring that the oversight activities of the relevant committees are conducted transparently and in accordance with due process and the rule of law.

The articulate legal titan and constitutional avatar knows the House Rules of Business like his palm while the 1999 constitution, relevant laws and statutes relating to the apex legislature forms the backbone of his intellectual vigour, and rigour as he knows his onion and cannot be faulted on any legal or constitutional issue whatsoever.

Indeed, the Clerk is a moving encyclopedia of knowledge, practice and experience to the extent that he is regularly consulted on crucial matters of the day. He is a role model worthy of emulation by his colleagues, underling and even superiors in the administrative milieu as his humility foresight, firmness of principle and purposefulness of direction propelled him to the position of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, an office that is exalted as it is challenging requiring the action, oriented disposition of Barr Chinedu Akubueze who moves smoothly and seamlessly in the discharge of statutory duties.

One of the reasons cited for the high level of performance and competence exhibited by the intuitive Barr Chinedu Akubueze is his extensive reliance on consensus building, holistic cooperation and collaboration with his committee members and staff as well as other interlinked departments and committees within the precincts of the National Assembly and beyond. For one, the Clerk believes in team work and exhaustive consultation with all and sundry in order to achieve desired goals and objectives and is ready to listen to all manner of ideas no matter how differing or dissenting as far as they are geared towards the achievement of set policy objectives an targeted programs that will move the NASS legislative agenda forward.

Despite the fact that he works in a highly politicized environment composed of numerous political parties represented in the National Assembly, Barr Chinedu Akubueze has demonstrated a positive knack for neutrality, impartiality and non-partisanship preferring to work in diligent compliance with extant civil and public service statues, rules and regulations.

This abiding trait of the Anambra-born constitutional leviathan has won him deserved plaudits, accolades and commendations from his plethora of admirers and associates and even grudging respect from his perceived rivals and competitors. Across the board, is well regarded for his stoic and hardworking disposition, a calm and matured temperament and an action-oriented persona that has no truck for idleness, sloth, gossip or malingering in the work place of no discernable benefits for his department of NASS as a whole.

Also the cerebral bureaucratic titan is a multitasking supremo who can handle numerous assignments at the same time while delegating to subordinates and underlings as the need arises and he hardly speaks on crucial issues of the day adopting a strict `need to know` basis as a criteria for discussing or dissecting key information, data or statistics. Many who have interacted with the resourceful Barr Chinedu Akubueze are aware that he is a first class technocratic avatar, legislative paragon, seasoned administrator and highly accomplished public servant par excellence who has without doubt is poised to take the House of Representatives to the pivotal level in the crucial scheme of things and is poised to achieve more success, glory and honour as the days and years roll by.

# OHANAEZE NDIGBO:

**VIOLENCE IN ANY PART OF LAGOS STATE  
IS VIOLENCE ON ALL OF US.**

**W**e thank you most sincerely for the honour of this emergency visit which you have graciously granted us in spite of the short notice of our request for an audience with you.

We must first commend you for the exemplary leadership you exhibited at the peak of Covid-19 Pandemic that ravaged the country, most especially Lagos state, and the demonstrable success that you recorded, in both controlling and restricting the spread, with your quick response. This went a long way to save life's in Lagos state and beyond.

More so, I commend you most sincerely for the freshness you have brought to governance together with humility and a rare sense of focus.

Today, the leadership of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide, in the company of Igbo Elders and Leaders in Lagos, are here to pay you a solidarity visit and to further reassure you that Ndigbo are not violent in nature, neither are we known for acts of violence anywhere we live in any part of the country and the world at large.

Your Excellency, I received with great concern the news report that members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) are planning to unleash violence in some parts of Lagos State. Ndigbo as law abiding citizens of the State have special interest in the peace and tranquility of Lagos State, and it will be suicidal to contemplate any acts of violence in any part of Lagos State. It is evident that Lagos has a high concentration of Igbo



**BABAJIDE-SANWO-OLU**

population and investments which makes it highly improbable that they should resort to or support such acts. It is the second home of several Ndigbo.

The quick denial of this rumor by members of IPOB and Yoruba groups with affirmative love for peace and unity in Lagos and across the South West made the whole thing look disturbing and makes one more concerned. We urge the authorities to take the time to properly investigate and access all information relating to this.

I am aware that the Government and good people of Lagos State under your able leadership, and through their hospitable gestures, have continually kept the trust and friendship between Ndigbo and our host communities in Lagos State alive.

Ndigbo cannot indulge in any act that will harm this harmonious peace and cordial relationship.

We call on any person or group nursing such inhuman and unlawful intentions to desist. Lagos is the economic nerve centre of Nigeria and home for all. It is our collective responsibility to contribute our quotas to the development of the state for the benefit of all.

Your Excellency, We commend the Lagos State security agencies for their efforts



**AMB. PROF. GEORGE OBIOZOR**

toward the protection of all residents of the State. However, we urge them to undertake proper investigations and avoid unnecessary and false alarms which will do no one any good.

We think that this rumor is intended to distract the Lagos State Government from its efforts to provide good governance for all and cause disaffection between Ndigbo who live in Lagos and their host community. The harmonious coexistence between Ndigbo and the indigenes of Lagos dates back to pre Colonial times. We should not allow mischief-makers to take undue advantage of the prevailing fragile security challenges in Nigeria to sow seeds of discord among us.

While we condemn any act of violence in

Lagos State or anywhere else in the country, we must do everything humanly possible to avoid pointing accusing fingers at innocent sections of the populace and putting them in harm's way.

Your Excellency, Ohanaeze Ndigbo through this medium, reiterates total support to the state government and the security agencies in their patriotic efforts to keep everyone safe in Lagos and throughout the country. The Igbo nation is renowned for being agents of development, not destruction. Ndigbo are builders, and their contributions to the development of Lagos State is evident and exemplary.

Let us all close ranks because any act of violence or attack in any part of Lagos is an attack on all of us!

Your Excellency once again thank you most sincerely for welcoming our delegation.

Your Excellency I have lead Igbo leaders and stakeholders to inform you that we are concerned and disturbed about the constant and periodic dangerous insinuations, rumors, gossips and callous statements that Ndigbo in Lagos or any part of Yoruba land contemplate to harm or instigate violence in Lagos or any part of Yoruba land; we wish to state clearly that anywhere this dangerous rumors or statements is emanating from is aimed to sow discord, ill-will and violence between Ndigbo and Yoruba people in Lagos and Yoruba land.

As implied earlier, divided and rule tactics were used to divide us in the past, now we know better both Ndigbo and Yoruba leaders, never again will Ndigbo be a victim of circumstances they did not create nor can control alone.

As history of Nigeria in general, Lagos and Yoruba land in particular can bear witness: Ndigbo are nation builders not violent people.

Thank you for your kind audience.

**AMB. PROF. GEORGE OBIOZOR  
ALAUSA, LAGOS**

**NIGERIANS TO ENJOY  
SOLAR POWERED ENERGY  
BY 2023 ...VICE PRESIDENT OSINBAJO**



**VICE PRESIDENT OSINBAJO**



**N**igeria's Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo has assured that 25 million Nigerians will enjoy electricity in the country by 2023.

“We have developed an Economic Sustainability Plan, which includes our flagship Solar Power Naija programme aiming to electrify 5 million households and 25 million people by 2023, leveraging solar mini-grids and stand-alone systems.”

Professor Osinbajo, who spoke at the 7th Annual New York-based Columbia University Global Energy Summit organized by the Columbia Centre on Global Energy Policy, said that Nigeria believe in the potential of off-grid renewables to close the energy deficit even across Africa.

“But we also look to developed countries, the private sector, and development agencies to recognise the potential that a just and clean energy transition can bring to the development of our continent and other developing regions.

“We hope to work jointly towards common goals including the market and environmental opportunity presented by the financing of clean energy assets in growing energy

markets.”

The Vice President stressed the need for equity, adding: “limiting the development of gas projects, poses dire challenges for African nations, while making an insignificant dent in global emissions.”

He emphasized the need for justice, social justice, and fairness, even as he said: “what is often not sufficiently considered in thinking through the transition to net-zero emissions is the critical role that energy, in our case, gas plays in catalyzing economic development and supporting people's health and livelihoods, especially in poorer countries.

“Natural gas is currently used for industry, fertilizer manufacturing, and cooking – which are more difficult to transition than power generation.”

On the access element of the energy transition, the Vice President explained that “it must be linked with the emission reduction aspect.

“Pathways to reaching net-zero by 2050 have to include first ending energy poverty by 2030. If energy access issues are left unaddressed, we will continue to see growing energy demand being addressed with high polluting and deforesting fuels such as diesel, kerosene, and firewood.”



## South-East Security: IGP flags off 'Operation Restore Peace' in Enugu

**T**he Inspector-General of Police, Ag. IGP Usman Alkali Baba, has flagged-off a new special operational action plan code-named "OPERATION RP" for the stabilization of security order in the South-East Geopolitical Zone of the country.

The IGP launched the special operation, recently at the Michael Okpara Square, Enugu as part of efforts targeted at returning the South-Eastern region to its historical pride of place where its people are known to be peaceful, tolerant, innovative, industrious and entrepreneurial.

The Force Public Relations Officer, Force Headquarters Abuja, CP Frank Mba made this known in a statement.

The IGP noted that the special operation has become necessary to engender all-inclusive security actions to roll-back the murderous attacks, violence, proliferation of weapons and other threats to law and order occasioned by the separatist agenda being heightened by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its armed wing, the Eastern Security Network (ESN) in the South-East region.

He observed that activities of the group in the region have assumed an armed dimension in which important political and community leaders as well as personnel

and assets of the Nigeria Police, Military and other security agencies, critical national infrastructure are being constantly targeted in clearly well-coordinated, premeditated manners.

According to him, this is in addition to deepening inter-ethnic prejudice and intolerance, unjustifiable inter-ethnic violence and counter-violence, loss of lives and massive destruction of properties.

The IGP, appreciated the individual and collective efforts of all the South-East Governors and other critical stakeholders in the region towards supporting the Police in restoring security and strengthening national unity.

He assured the nation, that in the coming days the special operation will be extended to other parts of the South-East region to confront criminal elements, take the battle to their doorsteps and re-order the cherished national values in the region. The IGP further noted that the "Operation RP" will be replicated in other parts of the country, to address peculiar crimes including banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism, amongst others.

"The 'Operation' will be carried out by operatives of the Force in collaboration with the Armed Forces, the intelligence community and other sister security agencies.

"The personnel deployed have been charged to be civil with the law-abiding citizens, but firm and ruthless with criminal elements operating under any guise whatsoever who may attempt to test the collective will of the people," the IGP stressed.

In his remarks, the host Governor, the Governor of Enugu State, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, commended the IGP for initiating the special operation.

He described the operation as timely, and believes it will help in rejigging and re-tooling the security architecture of the South-East.

Other dignitaries at the event are; the Deputy Governors of Abia, Ebonyi and Imo States, traditional rulers, religious leaders, amongst others.

Meanwhile, the IGP thanked President Buhari for approving the special operation and providing the support needed to fully achieve the objects of the special operation.

He solicits the full support of the civil populace, particularly, traditional rulers, religious leaders, youth associations, market bodies, cultural associations and professionals, among others.

The IGP expressed his belief that with the support of all strategic stakeholders, the operation will in due course, change the current security narratives in the South-Eastern region for good.



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