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YOU CONTROL ECONOMIC POWER ...YOU CAN'T CONTROL POLITICAL POWER

...Buhari's respond to Igbos cry of marginalisation

















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CAACER

WARNS FG AGAINST DEMONIZING RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

he Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), on Sunday, warned the Federal Government of Nigeria against demonizing the right to selfdetermination in the midst of worsening insecurity in the country.

The bishops noted that the right to selfdetermination should instead follow a civilized partner rather than demonizing it, just as they said the call for constitutional reforms that respect the

rights of every Nigerian and provide opportunities for equal access to the resources of Nigeria was something that should be debated fairly.

President of the Catholic Bishops', Achbishop Augustine Akubeze, gave the warning in his address during the opening Mass of the Second CBCN Plenary in Enugu.

Archbishop Akubueze however, noted that the church was keenly interested in the political situation in the country, even as he said that the Church does not support any political party, but praises every government that prioritizes the welfare of the citizens.

While he explained that Catholic Church condemns vehemently any government policies that are not people-friendly, he restated that it was uncatholic for any cleric to use his position or ecclesiastical property for promoting what appears to be partisan politics.

He said, "we must make it clear once again, that no cleric is expected to use his position or ecclesiastical property for promoting what appears to be partisan politics. The Church strongly believes that all political parties do have something or persons that can lead. There is no political party monopoly of good leaders. There is no political party monopoly of bad leaders.

"Therefore, it is imperative that clerics must avoid

every form of political endorsement using the ecclesiastical positions given to them. At the same time, it is not the practice of the Church to identify unelected leaders through some form of prophetic visions or dreams or revelation. The Church does not and no one who speaks as a cleric represents the Church when he pronounces a particular candidate as God's anointed political leader. The role of clerics is to educate the people to choose leaders who will work for the good of humanity. We call on diocesan bishops to ensure that appropriate actions are taken immediately when any priest or religious violates this traditional Catholic belief."

On the situation in Nigeria, the Bishops' commended Nigerians for their patience in the face of what they described as "repeated government failure to meet the minimum requirement of the government. Nigerians are bearing a high level of inflation, depreciation of the naira, increased poverty, shortage of food because of herders/farmers crisis, insecurity to life and property, insensitivity and lack of Federal Government response to the cries of many Nigerians in the area of economic revolution, structural development, through eradication of corruption, avoidance of selective sectional appointments to important Federal positions.

"The call for constitutional reforms that respect the rights of every Nigerian, and provide opportunities for equal access to the resources of Nigeria is something that should be debated fairly. The right to selfdetermination should follow a civilized pattern and should not be demonized. The Church believes that the Government must avoid criminalizing those who disagree with them.

"The Federal Government has changed the service chiefs after many Nigerians have cried out loudly for change. The change is yet to produce the desired effect. The level of insecurity in every part of the country is of great concern to us Bishops. Many of us Bishops have had to bury our faithful who died because of attacks of insurgents, bandits, kidnappers, cultists, and those who have died because of road accidents caused by bad roads. Too many Nigerians are dying of preventable deaths, the Federal Government, State Government, and Local Government must rise to their responsibility."

On the Electoral Reform, Akubueze said that Catholic Bishops' reject any form of electoral system that would makes it possible for the votes of Nigerians not to be respected, while backing electronic transmission of election results.

He said, "the world is moving towards a more digital system of administration. The electoral reform in Nigeria must align itself with this change. Electoral transmission of results should be worked on so that rigging of elections at the various points of collection should become a thing of the past.

"Furthermore, the electoral reform should allow a more transparent declaration of election results and expeditious judicial adjudication of electoral matters. Every one of us must work for a better Nigeria. We must develop a culture of taking personal responsibility for our actions. The electorate must learn to hold their political leaders accountable for their actions."

On the call for independence being demanded by some parts of the country, the Bishops' appealed for calm while extensive consultation was exhausted.

"The Federal Government as well as those leading the call for independence of some regions should be listened to. Everyone must avoid the temptation to demonize those who disagree with them. The first step that should be taken is an open and unconditional dialogue with every group. Dialogue is always better than the taking up of arms. No one should call for the killing of military personnel, and no military personnel should intimidate any Nigeria because of their view. Freedom of speech and respect for diversities of opinions must be respected."

The cleric however, enjoined Nigerians not to lose hope but still believe in God, adding "hope is not predicated upon the economic or human analysis of our present situation. If we rely on our human strength alone to get us out of the terrible situation we are in now, we will certainly not come out of it. I, therefore, want us to pick up the second theological virtue, which is Hope in God."

On the third wave of coronavirus pandemic, he stated that God is merciful to Nigerian noting, "If we were hit as hard as Western Europe and America and even South Africa our poor health care facility would have not been able to handle the problem. God has been good to us but we on our part must do what is expected of Us. Let us not treat Covid-19 pandemic for granted and stop observing the established protocol for the prevention and spread of the virus."

He however, thanked the representative of Pope, Papal Nuncio, Most Rev. Antonio Filipazzi, for the close working relationship with CBCN.

Earlier in a homily during the opening mass entitled, "Will You Also Go Away?", the Catholic Bishop of Enugu Diocese and host of the conference, Dr Callistus Onaga said that the worsening insecurity was about the greatest of all the threats to Nigeria's existence as a single sovereign country.

He regreted that in some cases, it appears that even the government had lost control of the country, noting that the situation is quite a pathetic and miserable one.

Onaga, however, advocated as a way forward, "to build a United, cohesive and progressive Nigeria, therefore, every Nigerian should feel a sense of belonging and feel safe wherever they are in any part of this country.

"Resources and investments should be deployed equitably and strategically to achieve this feeling of inclusiveness across the nation, and to aid in calming the nerves of all those clamouring for selfdetermination."

The government, beyond condemning insecurity in the most absolute terms, Onaga insisted that government must design, promulgate and be seen to be really implementing result-oriented policies to arrest the security deterioration.

He advised the various separatist agitators and their followers to give peace a chance, considering that "nothing is lost by peace; everything may be lost by war."

He appealed to the youths to always listen to the voice of reason and wise counsels of the good and patriotic elders who really experienced the ravages of the civil war.



THE PETROLEUM INDUS TRY BILL (PIB): TOP 20 CHANGES YOU S HOULD KNOW!

The PIB seeks to provide legal, governance, regulatory and fiscal framework for the Nigerian Petroleum Industry and development of Host Communities. It contains 5 Chapters, 319 Sections and, 8 Schedules.

Chapter 1 - Governance and Institutions

1. The key objective is ensuring good governance and accountability, creation of a commercially oriented national petroleum company, and fostering a conducive business environment for petroleum operations.

2. Creation of the Nigerian Upstream Regulatory Commission responsible for the technical and commercial regulation of the upstream petroleum operations; and the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority responsible for the technical and commercial regulation of the midstream and downstream operations in Nigeria. The Commission and Authority are exempted from the provisions of any enactment relating to the taxation of companies or Trust Funds

3. Imposition of up to 1% levy on the wholesale price of petroleum products sold in the country (0.5% each for the Authority Fund and Midstream Gas Infrastructure Fund)

4. Incorporation of a commercial and profit focused NNPC Limited under CAMA within 6 months from commencement of the new law with ownership vested in the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (and Ministry of Petroleum Incorporated) on behalf of the Federation to take over assets, interests and liabilities of NNPC. This structure is expected to pave the way for eventually sale of shares to Nigerians.

5. Any assets, interest and liabilities not transferred to NNPC Limited will remain with NNPC until extinguished or transferred to the government after which NNPC shall cease to exist. Transfer and sale of the shares are subject to approval by the government and endorsement by the National Economic Council.

6. NNPC Limited will earn 10% of proceeds of the sale of profit oil and profit gas as management fee while 30% will be remitted to Frontier Exploration Fund for the development of frontier acreages in addition to 10% of rents on petroleum prospecting licences and mining leases.

Chapter 2 - Administration

7. The main objective is to promote the exploration and exploitation of petroleum resources in Nigeria for the benefit of the Nigerian people and promote sustainable development of the industry, ensure safe, efficient transportation and distribution infrastructure, and transparency and accountability in the administration of petroleum resources in Nigeria.

8. Avoid economic distortions and ensure a competitive market for the sale and distribution of petroleum products and natural gas in Nigeria; and avoid cross-subsidies among different categories of consumers.

9. The Commission is required to develop a model licence and model lease to include a carried interest provision giving NNPC Limited the right to participate up to 60% in a contract.

Chapter 3 - Host communities development

10. The main objective is to foster sustainable prosperity within host communities, provide direct social and economic benefits and enhance harmonious co-existence.

11. Any company granted an oil prospecting licence or mining lease or an operating company on behalf of joint venture partners (settlor) is required to contribute 3% - 5% (upstream Companies) and 2% (other companies) of its actual operating expenditure in the immediately preceding calendar year to the host communities development trust fund. This is in addition to the existing contribution of 3% to the NDDC. The Fund is tax exempt and any contributions by a settlor is tax deductible.

12. Board of trustees and executive members of the management committee may include persons of high integrity and professional standing who may not necessarily come from any of the host communities.

13. Available funds are to be allocated 75% for capital projects, 20% as reserve and 5% for administrative expenses. However, a community will forfeit the cost of repairs in the event of vandalism, sabotage and other civil unrest causing damage to petroleum facilities or disruption of production activities.

Chapter 4 - Fiscal framework

14. The key objective is to establish a progressive fiscal framework that encourages investment in the Nigerian petroleum industry, provides clarity, enhances revenues for the government while ensuring a fair return for investors.

15. FIRS to collect Hydrocarbon Tax of 15% - 30% on profits from crude oil production, CIT at 30% and Education Tax at 2% which will no longer be tax deductible. The Commission will collect rents, royalties, and production shares as applicable while the Authority will collect gas flare penalty from midstream operations. Late filing of tax returns will attract N10m on the first day and N2m for each subsequent day the failure continues. A N20m fine is applicable to an offense where no penalty is prescribed.

16. Generally, expenses must be wholly, reasonably, exclusively and necessarily incurred to be tax deductible. However, a cost price ratio limit of 65% of gross revenue is imposed for hydrocarbon tax deduction purposes, any excess cost incurred may be carried forward.

17. No tax deduction for head office costs while tax deduction of interest on monies borrowed is subject to the satisfaction of the commission that the fund was employed for upstream operations and the interest rates reflect market conditions.

18. Royalties are payable at the rates of 15% for onshore areas, 12.5% for shallow water, and 7.5% for deep offshore and frontier basins, 2.5% - 5% for natural gas. In addition, a price-based royalty ranging from 0% - 10% is payable to be credited to the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority.

19. Gas utilisation incentive will apply to midstream petroleum operations and large-scale gas utilisation industries. An additional 5-years tax holiday will be granted to investors in gas pipelines.

Chapter 5 - Miscellaneous provisions

20. The PIB repeals about 10 laws including the Associated Gas Reinjection Act; Hydrocarbon Oil Refineries Act; Motor Spirit Act; NNPC (Projects) Act; NNPC Act (when NNPC ceases to exist); PPPRA Act; Petroleum Equalisation Fund Act; PPTA; and Deep Offshore and Inland Basin PSC Act. It amends the Pre-Shipment Inspection of Oil Exports Act while the provisions of certain laws are saved until termination or expiration of the relevant oil prospecting licenses and mining leases including the Petroleum Act, PPTA, Oil Pipelines Act, Deep Offshore and Inland Basin PSC Act.

Sylva seeks specialized bank to finance hydrocarbon projects In Africa

n the face of dwindling investment financing for hydrocarbon projects, the Minister of State Petroleum Resources Chief Timipre Sylva has called for the establishment of a specialized bank to finance investments in the energy sector in Africa.

Chief Sylva who stated this when he hosted the Equatorial Guinea Minister of Hydrocarbon, Mr Gabriel Lima, in Abuja, said such a bank would finance hydrocarbon exploration on the continent and ensure He explained that since western nations were scaling down funding for

hydrocarbon exploration across the world due to the race for renewable energies, setting up an African energy bank would be the only alternative available to African countries to continue to explore the vast hydrocarbon resources in the continent.

He noted that the call for the establishment of the energy bank is heightened by the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), stressing that the Act will open up the oil and gas sector for huge investments going forward.

According to him, "The PIA is a watershed moment for us in Nigeria. This is the time for us to get out of Nigeria to market this investment environment. We must not go out of Africa to attract investments. We must setup structures to fund our system. If we insist on the exploration of our oil and gas reserves when the world is cutting down on investments in the sector, we must set a financial institution, an African Energy Bank to develop the oil and gas sector".

Chief Sylva added: "If we go into more exploration in Africa, we will find more oil and gas and must we leave it under the ground because the other countries are racing for renewable energy? We must find a way to explore it and that's why we need an energy bank along the line of the African Development Bank (AfDB)".

While calling for synergy among African nations, the minster noted that no country in the world would help Africa develop other than Africans themselves and therefore called for unity among nations in the continent.

He said "none of us can grow without each other. It is not all the time that we run to Europe or America or elsewhere for support. We need to keep talking and we need mutual cooperation to solve our own problem. We can achieve this under African Petroleum Producers' Organization's (APPO)".

Earlier, Lima congratulated Nigeria for the historic passage of the PIA and noted that with the passage of the law the country was ready for serious business in the oil and gas sector of the economy.

He emphasized the need for Africa to strengthen the South-South cooperation stressing that "it is not good for us to go far to do business. We need to cooperate with our neighbours".

We can't expect to find solutions to our Problems in Europe and America.

FCT MINISTER COMMENDS NIGERIAN SURVEYORS IN ENHANCING SECURITY AGRICULTURE







he FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello has commended Surveyors in the country for the professional services they render for the development of the Nigeria particularly in the areas of security and agriculture.

The Minister gave the commendation when he received members of the Surveyors Council of Nigeria (SURCON) led by the President, Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS), Surveyor David Kayode Oluwamotemi on a courtesy visit to the

FCTA.

In the words of the Minister, "I want to commend you in the appreciation that survey data is now critical in managing national security, as well as keying in and providing the bedrock and foundation for the agricultural policy of the government of President Muhammadu Buhari".

"I am very much aware that your professional colleagues were able to survey farmlands, thereby making them eligible to get a lot of the empowerment and palliative measures that the Federal Government has towards improving agriculture, especially under agencies like the Central Bank of Nigeria and other subsidiary agencies. All these are being done using your professional input and that is very commendable", the Minister added

The Minister also expressed satisfaction with members of NIS in the FCTA while urging the institute to continue its programmes towards enhancing the professional competence of its members especially the young surveyors.

He said "For the younger ones coming in into the system, I hope the council has a robust training mechanism and system for them to be able to do it, particularly looking to advances in technology and other activities".

Speaking earlier Surveyor Kayode Oluwamotemi said that the visit was to seek partnership with the FCTA to enhance land administration and revenue drive in the FCT.

Present at the meeting were the Registrar, Surveyors Council of Nigeria, Surveyors Kabir Mohammed Mamman, Permanent Secretary, FCTA, Mr Olusade Adesola, Chief of Staff to FCT Minister, Malam Bashir Mai-Bornu, Ag ES FCDA, TPL Zaliha"u Ahmed, Surveyors General of Koi, Cross River, Adamawa and Borno States, and other senior management staff of the FCTA.

NIGERIA'S UNITY CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED....ATIKUSays Nigeria Should Restructure Now.

ormer Vice President of Nigeria Atiku Abubakar has once again re-iterated that Nigeria can be great again and remain a strong, united and developed country but such development should not be granted. The former Vice President and also the Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2019 Presidential election stated this in Abuja recently at the public presentation of the book

recently at the public presentation of the book REMAKING NIGERIA: SIXTY YEARS, SIXTY VOICES.

He said 'I strongly believe that Nigeria can and will remain one strong and united nation with significant strides in economic development to improve the lives of our peoples. However, we must not take it for granted. We must work hard at it and make necessary compromises to accommodate one another. Hard work and compromises are necessary for restructuring the country, especially in terms of the relationship between the centre and the constituent states and between the public sector and the private sector. We do not need to reinvent the wheel; there are numerous examples of success from around the world for us to borrow from while adapting them to our local conditions.'

Speaking on the theme Development and Nation-Building for Nigeria's Future, Atiku who was the chairman of the occasion said 'On May 31st, 2016, at this very venue, I chaired the public presentation of a book by Chido Onumah with the eye-catching title: We are all Biafrans. In the book, Chido used Biafra as a metaphor for the



legitimate feelings of marginalization by diverse segments of Nigerians that cut across the country and the growing agitations by many thoughtful Nigerians for a reset, for a less controlling, less suffocating, and less dictatorial centre. More than five years later it is obvious that Chido's admonition that we needed to fix Nigeria, by heeding those calls, in order to avoid sleep-walking our way towards disaster has not been heeded. Rather, and as a result, we seem to be sprinting full speed towards disaster.

Yes, the Chibok girls had been kidnapped and held in captivity 7 years ago. Yes, conflicts between herders and farmers had been with us before 2016. But who would have thought that our country would become a haven for kidnappers and all manner of bandits to the extent that their nefarious activities would become a major industry?. They have been allowed to operate so openly and brazenly that it would surprise no one if they applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission and listing on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. Five years ago, the Abuja - Kaduna Road was not a virtual no-go area. The South- East was not a



virtual war-zone, and Amotekun was not needed to protect lives and property in the South West. These are among the clearest evidence that the issues that were the focal point of the book that brought us here more than five years ago have become even worse.

The calls for restructuring have not been heeded. Constitutional provisions on federal character have been ignored and even symbolic gestures to make all groups feel that they are part of the Nigerian family have been scorned as though they are a sign of weakness. As a result, the agitations that turned more groups into "Biafrans" have become even more strident and, in some cases, violent.

The book for which we are gathered here today-Remaking Nigeria: Sixty Years, Sixty Voices, goes a long distance in completing the circle started with We are all Biafrans. It is an edited work with contributions from 60 Nigerians from a variety of backgrounds, callings, and ideological viewpoints. I will leave the detailed review to the book reviewer, but permit me to point out that the contributors, while not agreeing on everything, have a number of key things in common. These are their love for Nigeria, their desire that Nigeria remains one united country, and their demonstration that Nigeria, in its current form, is not working for Nigerians and needs to be fixed urgently so it can do so.

That fixing or restructuring will help in our nationbuilding project because it will help to foster a sense of nationhood out of our disparate groups, cultures, religions, and regions. It is obvious that a country is not necessarily a nation. Nationhood has to be forged through what we do as a country, and leadership is critical in the process of nationbuilding. Leaders give direction and the example they set determines the extent to which their followers will trust them. Without trust, there's no leadership. Without leadership, a country drifts and becomes more difficult to forge into a nation.

Some contributors to the book have gone as far as to say that development will continue to elude us until we are able to forge that sense of nationhood, that is, until we deepen our nation-building process. This is understandable because of the growing frustrations we all feel at the slow pace of development and reversals in nation-building.

Let me say, however, that both theoretically and historically such sequencing is not entirely correct. Development cannot wait for nation-building. In fact, neither development nor nation-building needs wait for the other. Development can indeed help in nation-building. We can work and talk at the same time.

Nation-building has not ended in the United States of America, United Kingdom, Russia, China, and Belgium, to cite a few examples. Yet they are among the most developed countries in the world. What we need to do is work hard at both.

In my view, we must restructure our country in a manner that allows various segments to develop at their own pace and not be held back by the centre or other segments. Developed segments will spur development in other segments because what they do well will attract the attention of others. That may make a Nigerian union more attractive and nation-building easier. Our poor nation-building record should not be an excuse for developmental inaction or backwardness.

There is nothing in the current state of our nation-building that prevents Adamawa, Kano, Lagos or Rivers States from enumerating the number of existing and prospective primary and secondary school students and properly planning educational development in their respective states for the next five or ten years: – classroom blocks to be built, teachers to be hired and/or trained, textbooks to acquire, salaries to be paid, university spaces that would be required in the years to come, and so on. The same goes for roads and bridges, hospitals, and water supply. If they do these well wouldn't Taraba and Benue States copy them? If they do them well wouldn't Anambra and Kogi States emulate them?

Nation-building is not just what elites or government officials do. Trade, social and cultural exchanges by ordinary people are critical components of nation-building. In fact, you cannot build a nation out of people who do not have meaningful interaction. And to facilitate meaningful interaction among peoples you need infrastructural development, including roads, bridges, ports, markets, parks and so on. In these efforts governments lead the way although the private sector has important roles to play once the government does the heavy lifting, provides incentives, and sets the rules for competition.

Nothing in our imperfect union prevents Imo, Anambra, and Abia States from cooperating on infrastructure provisioning. In fact, I would argue that part of what is holding back our nation-building is the lack of what we call development. Would anybody really argue that illiteracy, poverty, lack of opportunities and hope are not contributing to the insurgencies that are tearing our country apart? What about the divisive rhetoric that have followed those insurgencies and agitations as well as the banditry that are now rampant? Didn't the school leavers and graduates of the 1960s and 1970s, who had easier access to jobs and other opportunities, have more faith in Nigeria than the school leavers and graduates of today who lack those opportunities?

If the North, as a region, and Nigeria as a nation, have done enough to check the encroachment of the Sahara Desert and the drying out of Lake Chad, would the trajectory of the insurgency in the Northeast and the banditry across the north have been different? Very likely. If our youths are in school or gainfully employed, they would not be available in large numbers for recruitment into extremist or criminal organizations. And, as we know, an organization that fails to recruit new members rarely lasts long.

Some years ago, the late distinguished economist, Professor Ojetunji Aboyade observed that his generation has the dubious distinction of having had better opportunities than their children. The same is the case with my generation, and it makes me very sad. So, while our nation-building has been imperfect and wobbly, it is not and should not be a good excuse for our very poor effort at development. Development inspires pride, hope, patriotism, emulation and is a great magnet for patriots.

When we start developing with what we have, more of our people will want to identify with the country, love the country and commit their lives to the country. When that happens, especially with fairness and justice, nationbuilding accelerates, however imperfectly. This is why I find it amusing when people declare Nigeria's unity as fixed and non-negotiable while doing everything in their power to destroy that fragile unity. Nothing in the relationships among peoples is fixed for eternity. You cannot declare your marriage as non-negotiable while doing everything to sow seeds of discord in that same marriage. Countries can be created by force. You can whip groups of people into forming a country but you cannot whip them into forming a nation. Nations are built through conscious or even unconscious agreement by peoples who believe that being together is, on balance, more beneficial than being apart.

Development and nation-building do not happen by themselves. They are guided by people, especially leaders, thoughtful, insightful, and visionary leaders who are willing to make sacrifices and reach compromises. When people see their leaders making those efforts genuinely, and experience improvements in their lives, they are likely to follow. Over the past six years the leadership of this country at the federal level hardly embarked on nationbuilding. They may have been making (utterly confusing and unproductive) efforts at economic development. However, it can be rightly argued that they have been unbuilding the nation by taking conscious and deliberate actions that not only make nation-building more difficult but also undo the achievements made in that regard by previous administrations.

As we all know there were deliberate attempts made since the 1960s to forge a nation out of Nigeria: states creation, federal character, the NYSC, power rotation, unity schools, and multiple federal agencies. However imperfect, these were genuine attempts at giving each segment of the country a sense of belonging and a semblance of justice and equity and promote interactions among our peoples. All it has taken is one administration in six short years to tear up the fabric of that unity and make more Nigerians lose faith in Nigeria and question the rationale for having one united



Buhari says Nigeria lost **\$50bn** Investment in 10 years due to stagnation, uncertainty over PIB



resident Muhammadu B u h a r i o n Wednesday in Abuja said Nigeria lost an estimated \$50billion worth of investments in 10 years, created by the uncertainty of non-passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), lack of progress and stagnation in the petroleum industry.

According to a statement by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity Femi Adesina, the President in his remarks at a ceremony on passage of the PIA, which preceded the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, said the stagnation affected growth of the economy, citing lack of political will on the part of past administrations to actualize the needed transformation.

President Buhari said assent of the Petroleum Industry Bill on August 16, 2021, marks the end of decades of uncertainty and under-investment in the petroleum industry. "We are all aware that past administrations have identified the need to further align the industry for global competitiveness, but there was lack of political will to actualize this needed transformation.

"This lack of progress has stagnated the growth of the industry and the prosperity of our economy. In the past ten years, Nigeria has lost an estimated US\$50billion worth of investments due to uncertainty created by the non-passage of the PIB.

"This administration believes that the timely passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill will help our country attract investments across the oil and gas value chain.

"In view of the value our nation and investors will derive from a stable fiscal framework for the oil and gas industry, our administration has found it necessary to work with the two chambers of the National Assembly to ensure the passage of the PIB," he said.

President Buhari noted that signing of the bill was part of the administration's commitment to building a competitive and resilient petroleum industry that will attract investment, improve our revenue base, create jobs and support our economic diversification agenda.

The president said as a "nation that depends on oil resources for the development of other sectors, Nigeria runs a petroleum industry that is governed largely by laws enacted over 50 years ago such as the principal legislation; the Petroleum Act of 1969 and other obsolete legislations."

He said the presidential assent of the bill to "Petroleum Industry Act 2021" marked the beginning of the journey towards a competitive and resilient petroleum industry that will attract investments to support the nation's economic recovery and growth plan.

"The Petroleum Industry Act 2021 creates a regulatory environment that would ensure

efficiency and accountability across the oil and gas value chain and reposition NNPC to a commercially driven National Petroleum Company that is accountable to the Federation.

"The Act also provides for a direct benefit framework that will enable sustainable development of Host Communities. I appeal to the host communities to look carefully at the contents of the Bill which in the implementation will bring real and lasting benefits to them.

"Furthermore, the Act provides for deliberate end to gas flaring which would facilitate the attainment of Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions of the Paris Agreement through a funding mechanism to support gas flare out project in host communities," he added.

President Buhari said the administration believes that the timely passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill will help our country attract investments across the oil and gas value chain.

While directing immediate implementation of the framework for the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), he urged all relevant stakeholders to comply and reposition for full activation within 12 months.

The president said the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Timipre Sylva, will head the implementation team, urging all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) to adjust to the transition, designed to reposition the economy.

WELCOME ADDRESS PRESENTED BY

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CHINEDU FRANCIS AKUBUEZE PRESIDENT, OLD SEMINARIANS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (OSAN) ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE ASSOCIATION ON SATURDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2021.

PROTOCOLS

It is with a deep sense of humility and appreciation to God for His numerous mercies that I, on behalf of the members of the Old Seminarians Association of Nigeria (OSAN) welcome everyone to this gathering. Our sense of appreciation springs from the marvellous and dramatic emergence of the Old Seminarians Association of Nigeria (OSAN) on the national consciousness, within the short time this idea

came to us, like a blood dropped on a forehead. It is another great thing the Lord has done and it is marvellous in our sight.

I particularly want to offer praises, worship, honour and adoration to the Almighty God who made this day possible. The history of the formation of OSAN has been documented in the brochure for posterity. I need, only to make a little highlight that there is a hand of God in the coming together of Old Seminarians following a fortuitous encounter with Dr. Ugo Jim-Nwoko on 1st November, 2020 at the Church of the Twelve Apostles, Central Business District, Abuja.

The All Hallows Seminary, Onitsha Old Boys Association, Abuja chapter, which incidentally, I am the Chairman of, had gone for a thanksgiving in commemoration of the feast of All Saints which is the Patron Saint of All Hallows Seminary.

It was while we were taking photographs after the

thanksgiving that Dr. Nwoko met us and introduced himself as an Old Seminarian whereupon, we invited him to join us in both the photograph session and lunch thereafter. It was a tale of fraternal love and togetherness that bore the footprints of our common heritage and humanity.

It is now history that it was this chance encounter that was the spark which engendered subsequent discussions that led to the formation of OSAN.

Thus, it was in that All Hallows gathering of brethren with Ugo Jim-Nwoko, as the special brother from the St. Peter Claver Seminary (SPCS) Okpala in our midst, that the idea of a common forum for Old Seminarians in Nigeria came up. His brief remarks at the event which he started by quoting from Psalm 133, "Ecce-Quam Bonum et Quam Iucundum Habitare Fratres in Unum", (Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity), concluded with a suggestion on the need for Old Seminarians all over Nigeria to come together under one umbrella.

We held the first meeting on 25th February, 2021 and through the immense mobilizational efforts of Dr. Ugo Jim-Nwoko, a sizeable number of Old Seminarians from various Seminaries across Nigeria were in attendance. During subsequent meetings between then and that of August 22nd, more Old Seminarians from various other Seminaries continued to join up. I can safely inform that as at today, over 90% of

Catholic Seminaries in Nigeria, have their products as members of OSAN, and we are still counting.

A lot has been said about the uniqueness of Catholic brand of education, hence it is greatly sought after by parents for their children. It does not matter which faith they profess, all they want is to provide that unique experience for their children, and those of us who had the privilege of acquiring our post-primary education in various Seminaries, whether we ended up becoming Priests or not, have remained proud of our heritage, hence our decision to announce ourselves to the world through OSAN.

There is this nagging misunderstanding of the essence of establishment of minor Seminaries by the Catholic Church which needs to be dispelled.

A Seminary is not a secondary school; it rather has secondary education as its integral part. It is much more than the usual secular post-primary institution. A Seminary is a nursery home, separated from the secular world for the formation of new human persons who will function as the light of world and a salt of the earth. Hence, it is said that "A DAY IN THE SEMINARY IS NEVERAJOKE"!

The erroneous impression has fostered that every child who enters the Seminary must end-up becoming a Priest, and therefore, when some leave, people tend to brand them as having run away from the Priesthood.

I wish to dispel this erroneous impression and state that the primary reason for establishment of Seminaries is to bring up good Catholic boys and somewhere along the line, those of them who receive the calling to the vocation of Priesthood, would then proceed to the major Seminaries where they train to become Priests. Those others, like us, who did not receive the calling, would then go into other vocations, giving that Priesthood is just one of the many vocations in life.

This essence finds Biblical justification in the Book of Proverbs Chapter 22, Verse 6 which enjoins that we should "Teach a child the way he should go, and he will not stray from it even when he is old".

We are therefore striving, through the formation of OSAN, to live out this Biblical injunction by trying to draw from our root, the enviable heritage that Catholic education bequeathed on us.

Based on our principles and values, we as Old Seminarians and Nigerians, have confidence that our togetherness will impact the future style of Nigerian society positively. As a united body with members from all parts of Nigeria; we have a lot of contributions to make in the promotion of national unity, peace and development of our dear country.

OSAN draws its membership from Old Seminarians, most of whom are still ardent Catholics, but some may have left the Catholic fold for one reason or the other. We understand that possibility, and have decided to accommodate it. We are a fraternal and voluntary Association that will seek for partnership and collaboration with other existing Organizations such as the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) in the bid to reposition the mother Church to deliver on its Biblical mandate of assisting its adherents to attain eternal life after their sojourn on earth and to proffer advice and suggestions to governments, at various levels, to enable them provide enlightened leadership that would help improve the living conditions of our compatriots and contain the security challenges currently assailing the country.

In conclusion, I want to thank our guests who answered our calls to attend this inauguration.

I want to particularly thank our members, especially those who came from outside the country or had to cut short their vacations abroad to attend this ceremony and those who came from other parts of the country for this event.

My prayers are that Almighty God will grant you journey mercies back to your various abodes at the end of these events.

And to our members in Abuja who had been toiling these past seven months and attending meetings upon meetings preparatory to this event, I say thank you.

And then, to the members of the Inauguration Committee, I lack words to appreciate you. We have worked as a team. Even people who are on salaries could not have worked as devotedly and with as much passion and sacrifice as you have. I owe you all a measure of gratitude.

To all our members, for investing trust in us and paying money when we requested you to, without having met us physically, we hope we hadn't betrayed your trust. I believe that we are on the cusp of history and with all hands-on deck, OSAN will attain its manifest destiny. Thank you very much and may God bless all of us, bless the Roman Catholic Church, bless OSAN and bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you for listening.

ECCE FRATER MEUS!

Chinedu Francis Akubueze Clerk, House of Representatives Federal Republic of Nigeria President, OSAN.















USE ELECTORAL ACT TO REDUCE MISCREANTS FROM VYING FOR POLITICAL OFFICES, SAYS JUSTICE NWEZE



ustice Chima Nweze of the Supreme Court has said if the constitutional provisions dealing with the disqualification for elective offices are properly utilised, it would prune the number of 'hoodlums and sundry miscreants' vying for political offices in the country.

Justice Nweze stated this while delivering a keynote address titled: 'Age Quod Agis: the Route to National Cohesion and Integration', at the inaugural ceremony of the Old Seminarians Association of Nigeria (OSAN).

He also called on the Nigerian Church to enlighten the people on how to invoke the provisions of the Electoral Act dealing with the questions of character, credentials and the antecedents of contestants.

Nweze was of the opinion that priests can no longer remain aloof and indifferent to the corrupt leadership, which he said has inflicted so much pain on the people.

The Supreme Court Justice pointed out that it would be correct to assert that the dogmatic constitution of the Church endorses the concept of evangelisation of human structures through confrontation with those factors that contribute to economic injustice.

He stated: "It lies within your power to stem the influx of persons whose credentials are of dubious origin, and candidates who have found themselves in conflict with the law, particularly, on matters verging on fraud and dishonesty, into the various legislative houses.

"Certainly, the constitutional provisions dealing with disqualification for elective offices, if properly utilised, would prune the share number of hoodlums and sundry miscreants vying for political offices."

Nweze lamented that Nigeria is highly divided along ethnic,

religious, political and ideological lines, adding that this division comes with serious suspicion, distrust, and hatred among the diverse citizens.

The Justice said efforts towards national integration as a national interest and project in Nigeria were challenged by corruption, baseless party politics and worst of all, insecurity.

The Supreme Court Justice said the country, in the face of these challenges, requires that its citizens think beyond their differences to propel the country into maximising its potential towards the actualisation of greatness.

Nweze noted that without love encapsulated in good neighbourliness, and imbibed by the citizens, the different components that make up the country would persist as dividing factors among the people.

He therefore called on the Nigerian Church to espouse what a theologian once called 'the evangelisation of human structures'.

He said the Nigerian Church should be reminded that the biblical Prophets of old, Isaiah; Jeremiah; Amos; Hosea: Micah, among others, did not play the ostrich with regard to the socio-economic challenges that confronted the people of their times.

On his part, human rights lawyer, Femi Falana, said the security challenges facing the country have shown that the federal government lacks the capacity to police the country.

He described the killing of the younger brother of the Publisher of Sahara Reporters, Omoyele Swore, as 'extremely disturbing', saying all these developments confirm that nobody is safe in the country.

Falana noted that the country needs 500,000 police personnel to be able to police the country effectively.

Falana stated: "Right now, security forces are overstretched, and I was reading somewhere this morning that the government is trying to recruit 20,000 policemen, to do what? Over 10,000 police personnel are leaving the service every year, so you are recruiting nobody.

"The position on ground is that not less than a million police personnel be recruited and wellequipped to man the security of the country. But right now, you have the military in the Federal Capital Territory and 34 out of 36 states. You can't police a country with the army or with the armed forces because that is the business of the police. And so, the government will have to equip the police and we have to acquire security gadgets."



he Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, disclosed this in a statement titled, 'Jinxes broken by the Muhammadu Buhari administration – Presidency'.

"NNPC's success is by no means the only major jinx broken in the lifetime of the Buhari administration. They abound. And here are just some of them. The list is by no

means exhaustive:

"Policies and legislation: Petroleum Industry Bill signed into law in 2021, after almost two decades in the works. It is aimed at reforming a Petroleum Act dating back to 1969, as well as other supplementary laws and regulations.

"Deep Offshore and Inland Basin (Production Sharing Contracts) Act, 2019, amended for the first time since 1993."

It also listed the over \$6bn of inherited Cash Call Arrears now being cleared by the regime since 2016; adding that more than \$3bn of the arrears (due to International Oil Companies) had since been paid.

The Presidency also added that it undertook the first overhaul of the Company and Allied Matters Act in 30 years as well as the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018.

It listed the Itakpe-Warri Rail Line which started in 1987 but was abandoned and later completed in 2020.

The statement read, "Completion of four standard gauge railway projects between 2016 and 2021: Abuja-Kaduna Rail Line, Abuja Metro Line, Itakpe-Warri Rail Line and Lagos-Ibadan Rail Line."

Speaking of the Lagos-Ibadan Rail, it said, "President Buhari is the first President to start and complete a rail project in Nigeria's history.

"Bodo-Bonny bridges and road: Construction finally kicked off in 2017, after several decades of planning, and three false starts. The long-awaited Ogoni clean-up kicked off under the Buhari administration.

Buhari should be ashamed that Nigeria is worse today-PDP

Reacting, the Peoples Democratic Party said the President ought to be ashamed that Nigerians were worse off than they were in 2015 when Buhari took office, instead of celebrating "phantom achievements."

OPEN GRAZING: FG creating crises for State governors – Falana

MR FALANA SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEVER CREATED GRAZING ROUTES AND HAS NO BUSINESS REVIEWING THEM.

uman rights lawyer, <u>Femi Falana</u>, h as asked the federal government to allow the state governments to decide the livestock policy.

He urged the federal government to desist from creating problems for states with the grazing

reserves policy it embarked upon.

While speaking with journalists at the inaugural ceremony of the Old Seminarian Association of Nigeria (OSAN) in Abuja, Mr Falana, who is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, said the government cannot claim ownership of grazing routes when it never had one.

Mr Falana stated that the existing grazing reserves and routes belonged to the government of the old Northern Region.

"Take the question of animal husbandry, where herders—armed herders are killing people. This is a problem that can be solved scientifically. Today, the governors of Kaduna, Zamfara and Katsina states have banned the interstate movement of cattle. Which is a ban on open grazing. The Kano State Government is investing massively in RUGA settlement.

"In July, President Buhari gave N6.2 billion to Katsina State government for ranching. So if you are giving money for ranching to Katsina state, why are you now looking for grazing routes in other states?

"In any case, the federal government never had a grazing reserve or grazing route. They were owned by the government of the old northern region. And we are talking of the 19 northern states now. So, what the federal government never had cannot be reclaimed.

"This problem should be left to the states because aside from the Federal Capital Territory, the land in every state is vested in the state governor on behalf of the people. So, the federal government should not continue to cause problems for our people."

The lawyer said the northern governors and their counterparts in the south had already kicked against open grazing because ranching was the more acceptable method and it was also part of the National Livestock Transformation Plan of the federal government.

He added," This is a country of wonderful opportunity. We have always been united in our diversity. Right now, our country is sharply divided. Christians against Muslims, one ethnic group against another, and these are all diversionary tactics by the ruling class to keep our people divided. "The problem of this country is the same. Poverty is the same all over the place. Notwithstanding that the northern part of the country has produced more rulers, poverty in the north, particularly in the Northwest is higher than in other regions, and this is why our people must be united. The oppressed must be united. The exploited must be united and we must examine those problems that are being used to divide our people."

He also questioned the recent announcement by the government that it plans to recruit 20,000 policemen.

According to him, the country needs half a million policemen to meet its security challenge.

Mr Falana also endorsed the creation of state police, while harping on the need for northern governors to adopt the domestication of the child rights act which will reduce illiteracy in the region.

"Right now, security forces are overstretched and I was reading somewhere this morning that the government is trying to recruit 20,000 policemen. To do what? Over 10,000 police personnel are leaving the service every year, so you are recruiting anybody.

"The position on ground is that not less than half a million police personnel should be recruited, well equipped to man the security of the country. But right now, you have the military in the Federal Capital Territory and 34 out of 36 States. You can't police a country with the army or with the armed forces? That is the business of the police. And so the government will have to equip the police and will have to acquire gadgets.

On the child rights Act, Mr Falana said, "We also have to educate young people. Out of 36 States in Nigeria, 11 states in the north have not adopted the Child Rights Act – to make education free and compulsory for every child from primary to junior secondary school."



SAED HAO

CONVOKE NATIONAL DIALOGUE, OKOWA URGES FG





elta Governor, Sen. (Dr) Ifeanyi Okowa, has called on the Federal Government to create avenue for a national dialogue to dissect and seek panacea to various challenges facing the country.

Okowa made the call at an interdenominational thanksgiving

service to mark the 30th anniversary of the creation of Delta State held at St. Peters Anglican Cathedral, Asaba.

He said that there were too many voices of anger calling for justice, fairness and equity in the affairs of the nation and urged the Federal Government to take steps to listen to the voices.

According to him, if is not well with the nation, it will not be well with the component parts.

The governor cautioned that the country should not be built for the elite and the rich, saying "the rich and the



elite will not live peacefully in a country where there are many poor people.

"We are still in a nation where so much power rests at the centre, with the Federal Government and I believe that it is not right and it is time for more powers to be devolved to the states and more money and resources given to the states.

"Nigeria will be better for it if we restructure but the greatest challenge we have is as a result of insecurity and it is pushing many people more into the poverty line.

"As a country, we are troubled and there are so many ethno-religious crises but it's time for us to sit down and talk otherwise we may not be able to continue as a nation

"In staying as a nation, we must find solutions to the voices of anger and we must dispassionately look for the opinion leaders in the different parts of Nigeria and speak truth to ourselves."

He congratulated Deltans on the 30th anniversary of the creation of the state and noted that the state had come thus far because God's presence had been with it.

Okowa recalled that when the state was created in 1991, it was greeted with cautious optimism but thanked God that, 30 years after, Deltans had become more united as a people.

He paid tribute to past leaders of the state for laying a solid foundation for its development, saying "we have come to realise that we are one people though with different ethnic groups and we have come to realise that we can only do better if we work together as one state.

"I thank our past leaders for laying a solid foundation for the development of the state which we have been building upon.

"We thank God because that foundation is truly strong. Today in Delta we can look round and find that there are many growing towns in the state unlike most states.

"We have several growing cities in Delta State and when you take a tour to many states, you will find out that God has truly blessed us in Delta.

"We are growing at our own pace; we may not all be able to grow at the same pace and we must realise this as a nation," he stated.

Bishop of Anglican Diocese of Asaba, Rt. Rev'd Justus Mogekwu, in his sermon said that Delta was a microcosm of Nigeria because of the diverse ethnic groups in the state, but stated that in spite of the diversity, the people had lived together in unity, love and peace.

He commended Deltans for their resolve to work and live together in the overall interest of the state, adding that a state where bigotry, bloodshed, bitterness, intolerance among other vices existed could hardly make any progress.

Quoting from the Bible, Mogekwu said that the future was bright for the state as long as Deltans continued to put their trust in God in all their ways. He pointed out that politics without integrity was the bane of Nigeria's development and urged politicians to stop cross-carpeting from one

political party to another. The thanksgiving service was attended by wife of the Governor, Dame Edith Okowa, Deputy Governor, Mr Kingsley Otuaro; former governor of the state, Chief James Ibori; his former deputy, Sir Benjamin Elue and former military administrator of the state, Navy Captain Walter Feghabo (retd).

Others include Minority Leader of House of Representatives, Chief Ndudi Elumelu; Senator James Manager, Speaker of Delta House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori; Chief Judge of the state, Justice Theresa Diai; President, Customary Court of Appeal, Justice Patience Elumeze and Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state, Chief Kingsley Esiso.



INSURGENCY IN NORTHEAST CLAIMS 37, 000 LIVES, DISPLACES 2.2 MILLION PEOPLE, SAYS UN

he conflict occasioned by the Bokoharam insurgency in the North East which is in its 12th year has claimed the lives of over 37,000 people, with 2.2million people displaced, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Edward Kallon, has said.

He spoke at the opening of the maiden United Nations humanitarian retreat organised to bring

lasting peace to the NorthEast at the Transcorp Hilton in Abuja.

He said, "At the peak of the crisis, over 2.2 million people were displaced in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States and another 303,963 Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries in Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

"The situation is also very dynamic and 1.9 million people remain internally displaced in the worst affected States and an estimated 1.6 million people that have returned to relatively safe areas "We are currently facing unprecedented challenges with increasing levels of violence, not just in the north-east but also elsewhere in Nigeria.

"We are also facing, as a result of this, a shrinking humanitarian space, a real threat to humanitarian staff, facilities and operations.

"We are still reeling from the impact of Covid-19, including the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in Nigeria. "The Covid 19 pandemic will also likely have a profound impact on our funding environment, with available funding either stagnant or reducing in the year and, likely, beyond 2021.

He said at the same time, humanitarian needs are increasing due to continuing violence displacing people, as well as a looming food crisis putting up to 4.4 million people at risk. "Unless we manage to stave off and prevent this crisis, it could deteriorate to catastrophic levels". Kallon congratulated the Borno State Government for the recent options provided to displaced persons on return and sought collaboration with other state governments to find ways to jointly find solutions without putting people at risk.

He indicated that peace remains the only solution to humanitarian problems in the North East and called for the prioritization of crisis prevention through dialogue.

The Federal Government on its part reiterated its commitment to providing the needed humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable across the country as the world recovers from the COVID-19 effect.

This Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sadiya Umar Farouq made this known at the two-day Humanitarian Country Team Retreat seeking lasting solutions to the crises in the North East.

The Minister in her address at the event thanked the Humanitarian Country Team under the leadership of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Edward Kallon for being a worthy and reliable partner at the forefront of supporting the government in providing the needed assistance to the vulnerable across Nigeria.

Umar Farouq also reeled out government's medium and long term plans to tackle its humanitarian needs.

"The Government is scaling up efforts to provide durable solutions for the return, reintegration and resettlement of affected communities".

According to her, the launch of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan by the ministry and the UN Office for the Coordination of Affairs (UNOCHA) will go a long way in addressing those in need.

"As part of the commitment of the Federal Government to coherently coordinate humanitarian assistance in the country, it has developed a National Humanitarian Development Peace Framework (NHDPF) through the National Humanitarian Coordination Committee (NHCC)."

This framework she said seeks to ensure peace, stability and resilience in Nigeria, by promoting home-grown approaches to proactively address critical humanitarian and development challenges. She observed that to successfully address the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria, collaboration is needed from all relevant stakeholders, continuous interaction and cooperation between the Humanitarian Country Team, the Federal Government, Security Agencies and other relevant actors.

This she said will enhance sustainable peace and simultaneously provide development opportunities especially in conflict affected areas in the country

FG RAISE ALARM OVER FRAUD IN NDDC



he Federal Government has raised concerns that over 13,777 projects handled by the Niger Delta Development Commission with their execution "substantially compromised."

The government also said the NDDC has about 362 bank accounts without proper reconciliation.

This was disclosed by the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, as he received the final report on the forensic audit of the NDDC from the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Godswill Akpabio in Abuja.

Malami reiterated government's concerns on a colossal loss as result of uncompleted and unverified development projects in the Niger Delta region, despite the release of about N6trillion to the NDDC in eight years.

Malami said the forensic audit was to ensure accountability in the use of public funds.

"It is on record that between 2001 and 2019, the Federal Government has approved N3, 375, 735,776,794.93 as budgetary allocation and N2,420,948,894,191.00 as Income from Statutory and Non Statutory Sources, which brings the total figure to the sum of approximately N6 trillion given to the Niger Delta Development Commission.

"The Federal Government is particularly concerned with the colossal loss occasioned by uncompleted and unverified development projects in the Niger Delta region, in spite of the huge resources made available to uplift the living standard of the citizens.



he President General of Ohanaeze Nd'Igbo, the Igbo apex unifying body, Prof. George Obiozor has told President Muhammadu Buhari that no matter the extent of overwhelming calls for separatism and secession, none would be successful if the

government of Nigeria at the centre has fairness and equity as standard.

The reference was a tacit call on the president to reassure Nigerians of their oneness through fairness, justice and equity in his government.

The Igbo leader reminded Buhari that: "In spite of all the threats of secession or

LEADERS CALL FOR RELEASE OF IGBO YOUTHS IN PRISON ACROSS THE COUNTRY

...AS BUHARI VISIT IMO STATE



separatism facing the country, there is no doubt that no secessionist element can succeed in Nigeria provided there is good governance based on equity, justice and fairness to all the citizens."

In addition, Obiozor charged Buhari to release Igbo youths detained all over the country on allegations of causing security breach.

Obiozor made the calls in Owerri when the president visited Imo State on official trip.

Ambassador Obiozor also reminded the president that above all else, what the Igbo want is restoring them as part of the country in a situation they have faced alienation.

The Igbo leader also noted that "the most urgent and imperative need of Nd'Igbo today is security. The security of Nd'Igbo in Nigeria and beyond has become a compelling primary responsibility of serious concern for Nd'Igbo. Regrettably our South East Zone has recently become a theatre of conflict, negating the peace-loving nature of our people. In this context Ohanaeze Nd'Igbo call for the establishment of a zonal and state police apparatus to support and complement the existing federal security architecture.

It is in this same vein that Ohanaeze Nd'Igbo, appeals to you, Mr. President, to see to the release of Igbo youths detained by various security agencies across the country."

Addressing the false tag given the Igbo since 2015 as people who don't want the continuation of Nigeria, Obiozor clarified that all that the Igbo need all over the country, especially in Igbo land is their safety and security and treating them as people not taken as outsiders.

HOK DERESANJO, MADE NIGERIANS JOBLESS.

A. Niger Dock is the largest ship fabrication yard in West Africa sub region. When it was sold, its Ex-MD Engr. Nkpubre Okon, openly stated how "Mr Job Creator" ignored the Transport Ministry then to Open bid for Niger Dock.

Atiku's preferred bidder, 'Global Energy' that agreed to increase Niger Dock's workforce from 4,800 to 6,000 as part of privatization agreement dismissed 2,200 immediately it took ownership. Jagal Group that took over after Global Energy lost out on power play also sacked 1,400. B. Nigeria Port Authority reform was purely contrived to grab landed properties. 10,000 workers were sacked & 133 bids opened for NPA properties consisting of 68 properties in Apapa, 28 houses in Ikoyi. The highest reserves bid was for a property in Ikoyi fixed at N390.4 Million.

C. NIGERIA RAILWAY

Did Atiku forget how 7000 railway workers were sacked in 2005 without compensation to reduce its workforce to 6,300? Another 1,260 were fired in 2006. When ATIKU and his Headmaster were leaving in 2007, they left ~N5 Billion in unpaid Railway pension arrears.



Former Vice President and presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in the 2019 election, Atiku Abubakar (L), in a handshake with former Governor of Kaduna State and erstwhile interim national chairman of the PDP, Ahmed Makarfi at the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of the PDP at the party's national secretariat.

ATIKU

...APC LAUNCHES MASSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST PDP, ATIKU



D. FEDERAL SECRETARIAT IKOYI

In 2006, Babalakin's Resort Ltd acquired this 15 storeys prime asset overgrown with weeds from atiku and OBJ through a Development Lease Agreement (DLA) for N7.2Billion. A Court has asked Buhari to pay N54 Billion to Babalakin for that blunder.

The DLA, dated October 10, 2006, granted Babalakin Resort Ltd a 99-years lease to redevelop the Federal Secretariat complex, that OBJ & ATIKU had abandoned for 7 years into 480 luxury apartments.



Former Vice President and presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in the 2019 election, Atiku Abubakar (R) in a conversation with Chairman, Board of Trustees of the PDP, Senator Walid Jibrin (L) and former Senate President and member of the PDP BOT, Senator Adolphos Wabara, during the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of the PDP at the party's national secretariat,



This was at the eve of their departure from government. The transaction was one for the road.

The DLA hit the rocks when Lagos State Govt in the interest of the public indicated willingness in acquiring the Federal Secretariat complex. LASG insisted it should be accorded right of first refusal since LASG is the Issuing Authority of the C of O, coupled with other reasons.

Finally, lets compare OBJ & Atiku's first 3yrs in power to the first 3yrs of PMB that hasn't retrenched one civil servant, but has bailed out states on salaries. Lets not forget Atiku was in charge of the economy and OBJ gave him free hand until Galaxy Backbone scandal happened.

In 2002, first 3yrs of the Obasanjo/Atiku, manufacturing accounts for 6% of GDP. Nigeria's GDP fell by half for d first time in 20yrs. This was d year all textile factories in Nigeria closed down and unemployment was 28% within d formal sector alone; I repeat, alone!!

In 2002, UN estimated that 70% of Nigerians live below poverty line compared to 48.5% in 1998 under a military rule. Life expectancy fell from 54yrs to 51yrs. Two-fifth of every child below age 5 were malnourished and only 50% of the 128Million Nigerians have access to clean water.

FACTUAL REPORT ON HOW ATIKU SUPERVISED THE SALES OF OVER 145 FG INVESTMENTS AS A VICE PRESIDENT !!!

Please any or all ATIKU supporters or his campaign structure are free to deny these submission with facts not sentiments.

"As Head of National Council on Privatization (NCP), from 1999, atiku dug Nigeria's economic grave for today's extreme poverty and unemployment.

There were over 600 federal assets when Atiku's NCP started selling.

Atiku should tell us who bought what and what was left for the country when he left power. To who did Atiku sell the following companies:

Nafcon Eleme Petrochemical Daily Times Ughelli Power Egbin Power NICON Insurance ALSCON Transcorp Hilton Hotel NICON Luxury Hotel Sunti Sugar Ltd NetCom House Bacita Sugar Ltd MM2 In 2007, Onigbolo Cement operating at 500,000 tonnes per annum was sold to Dangote at N1.7Bn

To those selling Atiku, let me remind you of Senate public hearing of August, 2011 which succinctly captures how Atiku through retinue of cohorts, fronts, shell companies, ring fenced over 70% of FG's assets through a brazen daylight robbery privatization that he supervised.

This is nothing sensational. Its real life facts and all the

Senators are alive today.

The 2011 privatization Senate committee was made up of Senator Ahmed Lawan – Chairman, Senators Babafemi Ojudu, Philip Aduda, Mohammed Ndume, Ifeanyi Okowa, Hope Uzodinma and Mohammadu Magoro.

Lets look at Aluminium Smelting Company, ALSCON, that Atiku privatized.

ALSCON which Nigeria built with \$3.2 billion, was sold to a Russian firm, Russal, for \$130million. As of the time of sale, ALSCON had received \$120million for the dredging of Imo River, but was never done.

When the Senate Sitting of August, 2011 asked the Russian company the whereabouts of the \$120million dredging money, the company's Deputy Managing Director, Vitaly Kuzrestov, said that the money has been used for Environment ImpactAssessment."

FG's Five percent share in Eleme Petrochemical worth USD27 million was never presented at the National Council on Privatization before it was sold to Indorama.

Indorama recovered this amount selling Polyethylene and Urea to the entire west Africa sub-region in just 14 months.

The Atikulate Business Theory: Sell to yourself Government assets that leaves millions in penury, to set up personal businesses that provides for a few. Atiku didn't employ the few hundreds he employed because he likes them, he needs them to work to preserve what he took from Government

A man who supervised sales of over 145 federal investments as a vice president, without a thought for today wants to be president.

He didnt revitalize them.

He didnt resuscitate them.

He sold them to whomever agrees to his personal terms

THOSE WHO STOLE YOUR 2015--2030 IN 1999--2014 ARE THE SAME THIEVES YOU ARE NOW ROMANCING TO COME BACK!!!

For how long will you allow a few to steal your future and your children's future and be giving you crumbs. Look at 1999--2015 everything we grew up to know were sold to themselves or the scrap sold for cash.

Nigeria Airways and their houses in GRA Ikeja, what happened to them? When we were growing up most of the houses in GRA Ikeja were owned by the Nigeria Airways and all now sold to whom? Nigeria RE. The biggest re insurance company in Africa who bought it? NICON Insurance who bought it?

NITEL was sold for peanuts and killed by them so that their investment in AiRTEL, MTN, GLO etc will yield dividends

NITEL House one of the tallest in Marina was sold cheap to former Speaker Bankole.

What is the Status of National Stadium Surulere? Millions was budgeted for refurbishment by the sports ministry and nothing to show. Compare that stadium to Lagos State owned Thunder Balogun stadium and the difference is clear.

Nigerian National Shipping line? Where are the ships? They disappeared between 1999-2015

NEPA after Obasanjo spent \$16 billion, they broke down NEPA to several units and sold it to themselves and NEPA is still not efficient while Atiku's Mikano Generators is powering Nigeria & her businesses!

Obasanjo/Atiku sold Port Harcourt Refinery to their cronies in 2007 and thank God, President Yar' Adua reversed it .

All of these happened in the 16 disastrous locust years of the PDPigs! Recession didn't just happen! They looted us into recession! I cannot stand and watch those who plundered the nation come back in 2019. I will choose an imperfect Buhari a hundred times over them because he is not a thief. Stop praising and voting for individuals who took your future away and stop them from coming back to steal your generation away. It is better you go though pain today so that your kids will enjoy a better Nigeria.

Nigeria has a population of 200million people we are told.

Our 2018 budget is 9 trillion Naira.

The Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria AMCON, the company that was set up to help the rich buy their debts, told us last month that, 350 Nigerians {out of 200million citizens} are responsible for 80% of AMCON's N5.4 trillion debt portfolio. May be you did not hear that well!

AMCON said only 350 Nigerians borrowed N5.4trillion from banks, which they could not pay and AMCON came in to buy up those debts in other to save the commercial banks from collapsing.

To put that in perspective; 2018 Capital Budget is N2.4 trillion

2018 Recurrent Budget is N3.4 trillion

Add both capital and recurrent votes and you will get N5.8 trillion.

But 350 Nigerians, out of 200 million of us borrowed that same amount, they refused to pay and government came round to buy the debts over through AMCON.

The corporation also pointed out that, out of the millions of BVN numbers with the banks, only 100 BVNs collect 60% of bank lendings.

And this has left the banks with 13,000 bad loans worth 5.6trillion borrowed by "big men" who are now fighting to remove this administration so that they wont ever pay their debts!

Now, when they go to recover from defaulters like they did with Silverbird for example, the same cheated ignorant commoners are the first to cry fowl.

Some of the companies owing include:

Seaworlf Nig Ltd - 160billion Arik Air - 300billion Tanzila Petroleum Ltd 49.2billion Resort Int'l Ltd - 36.3billion Home Trust Savings - 25.75billion Suru worldwide ventures - 24.4billion Roygate properties- 23.26 billion Ziglagsis network Ltd - 20.33 billion Lexcap partners - 18billion Anyiam Osigwe Ltd - 17.25billion Silverbird - 11 billion Wokson International - 5 billion

From the figures above:

Arik alone is owing more than the 2018 Ministry of Transportation budget which is N263 billion.

Seaworlf Nig Ltd, is also owing more than the 2018 Ministry of Defence budget which is N145 billion.

It's not rocket science to know why they want PMB out but our ignorant gullibility which is a product of our contrived emotions not our lack of education is exonerating, encouraging and emboldening them to make desperate attempts to come back to power! Enough of this madness brethren and sisthren!

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JOINS OIL PRODUCING STATES, TO BENEFIT FROM 13% DERIVATION FUND





nambra state has finally joined the league of Oil Producing States in Nigeria, as it would soon start to benefit from the 13 percent Derivation fund.

This is sequel to the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation And

Fiscal Commission's approval of Governor Willie Obiano's request for due share of revenue accruing to the nation from oil and gas production activities in Anambra state.

According to the approval letter through its secretary, Mr M.B. Shehu, and addressed to Governor Obiano, the Commission, approved the attribution of 11 oil wells wholly to Anambra state.

It also approved attribution of Anambra River One, Two, and Three oil wells, to be shared on fifty- fifty percent basis between Anambra and Kogi states, pending the final delineation of boundaries of the two states.

The 11 oil wells wholly attributed to Anambra state, are; Nzam-One oil well, Alo- One oil well, and Ogbu- One oil well.

Others are Ameshi One, Two, Three and Four oil wells, as well as Enyie One, Two, Three, and Four oil wells.

Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission's approval was at its 139th plenary session, held on twenty seventh July, 2021.

It said the 13 percent derivation will take effect when the said revenue from the operations of the said oil wells starts contributing into the federation account.



YOU CANNOT CONTROL ECONOMIC POWER AND CONTROL POLITICAL POWER ... BUHARI TELL NDIGBO

resident Muhammadu Buhari has said the Igbo controlled the economy of Nigeria.

The President stated this in Owerri the Imo state capital at a town hall meeting during his one day visit to the state.

In what seem to be the reaction of the people of the South East that they are been marginalized by the Buhari administration especially in the area of appointment.

The President who did not defend his appointments or denied marginalizing Igbos While acknowledging the resourcefulness and enterprising spirit of Igbo people,: said "The fundamental thing about the Igbo people is that there is no town you will visit in Nigeria without seeing the Igbo being in-charge of either infrastructure or pharmaceutical industry.

"Therefore, it is unthinkable for me that any Igbo man would consider himself not to be a part of Nigeria.

"The evidence is there for everyone to see that Igbo are in charge of Nigeria's economy."

The president, who expressed regret that successive governments at the federal level contributed to the decay of critical infrastructure in the country, said no country could make any meaningful progress without the development of infrastructure.

He promised that the Federal Government would complete ongoing key projects in the South East, including the 2nd Niger Bridge as well as the railway lines and routes linking the region with other parts of the country.

"I firmly believe that when you get infrastructure right, Nigerians will mind their own businesses," he said, adding that as a group, the Igbos stand to benefit more from the ongoing development of infrastructure in the country because "they are more enterprising".

While acknowledging the resourcefulness and enterprising spirit of Igbo people, the president said:

"The fundamental thing about the Igbo people is that there is no town you will visit in Nigeria without seeing the Igbo being in-charge of either infrastructure or pharmaceutical industry.

"Therefore, it is unthinkable for me that any Igbo man would consider himself not to be a part of Nigeria.

"The evidence is there for everyone to see that Igbo are in charge of Nigeria's economy."

IGB/JS DOMINATE IJGERIA'S E'SONONY

uring the last visit of President Muhammadu Buhari to Imo state, the President had said it was unthinkable to imagine why and how the Igbos will be thinking of secession or leaving Nigeria for any reason. He said Igbos are all over the country doing their legitimate business. He concluded that Igbos control and dominate the Nigeria economy.

The President cannot understand why the tribe that controls the Economy of the Largest economy in Africa and the populous black race could be thinking of secession, just because some political appointments were not given to them. You need to visit some International markets in the country to understand what the President said. In Lagos which is the commercial nerve centre and Economic capital of Nigeria. You need to visit markets like Alaba International market, Idumota market, Ladipo market etc it is highly dominated by Igbos. Visit the Ports in the country like the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) also in Lagos to understand who control the imports and container business. The same with Port Harcourt sea ports.

The Igbos have always dominated the economy of Nigeria. It was only temporarily halted or slowed down during the Nigerian civil war.

Some Igbo Business Men and Women that are highly successful entrepreneur ranging from banking, automobile, oil and gas, aviation, pharmaceuticals, commerce, import and export, buying and selling, properties, ICT, Telecommunication, hospitality, entertainment etc. Igbos have excelled. They Include:



TOMELIA

Nigerian Economist.

Tony Onyemaechi Elumelu is a Nigerian economist, Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist. He is the chairman of Heirs Holdings, the United Bank for Africa, Transcorp and founder of The Tony Elumelu Foundation. Elumelu is included in Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2020.





Nigerian Businessman.

Jim James Ovia is a Nigerian businessman, a native of Agbor in Delta State. He founded Zenith Bank in 1990



HEBERVØR

Managing Director of the Access Bank Group. Herbert Onyewumbu Wigwe to parents of Ikwerre descent from Omueke Isiokpo, is a Nigerian banker and entrepreneur. He is currently CEO and Group managing director of Access Bank plc, one of Nigeria's top five banking institutions, after succeeding his business partner, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede in January 2014.



MOENCEKNA

CEO of Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing. Chief Innocent Ifediaso Chukwuma is a Nigerian business magnate and investor. He is the founder and CEO of Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing, Nigeria's first indigenous automobile manufacturing company. Innocent Chukwuma was born into the family of Chukwuma Mojekwu. He is the youngest child in a family of six.



Allen Ifechukwu Onyema born in 1964 is a Nigeria lawyer and Entrepreneur. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Air Peace Airlines, which he established in 2013.



CSASIADIA

Businessman

Cosmas Maduka CON is a Nigerian businessman and philanthropist, the Founder, President and Chairman of the Coscharis Group.



Nigerian Businessman

Patrick Ifeanyi Ubah, is a Nigerian businessman, entrepreneur and currently the Senator, representing Anambra South Senatorial District in the Nigerian senate and CEO of Capital Oil, which he founded in 2001



BOISHA

Nigerian Pharmacist

Stella Chinyelu Okoli is a Nigerian pharmacist, philanthropist and entrepreneur. She is the founder and current Chief Executive Officer of Emzor Pharmaceutical, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company founded in 1977.



EEEEBERK

The Ogidi-born billionaire, Obiora F. Okonkwo who is popularly known as the owner of the events center called **The Dome** in *Abuja* is an astute *Anambra son* born on the 5th of December 1965 in *Gombe*, North-eastern part of Nigeria. The political economist is also the Executive chairman of *United Nigeria Airlines* founded in the year, 2020 and has been in operation till date.

The United Nigeria Airline was founded in the year, 2020 by its Executive Chairman, Chief Obiorah Okonkwo Ph.D. The airline has its headquarters in *Enugu* but has offices in Abuja. In February 1st 2021, *Private Airlines Services Limited* received Air Operators Certificate (AOC), valid for two years from the *Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority*. As at 2021, the company has a total of 4 aircraft making flights trips.



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