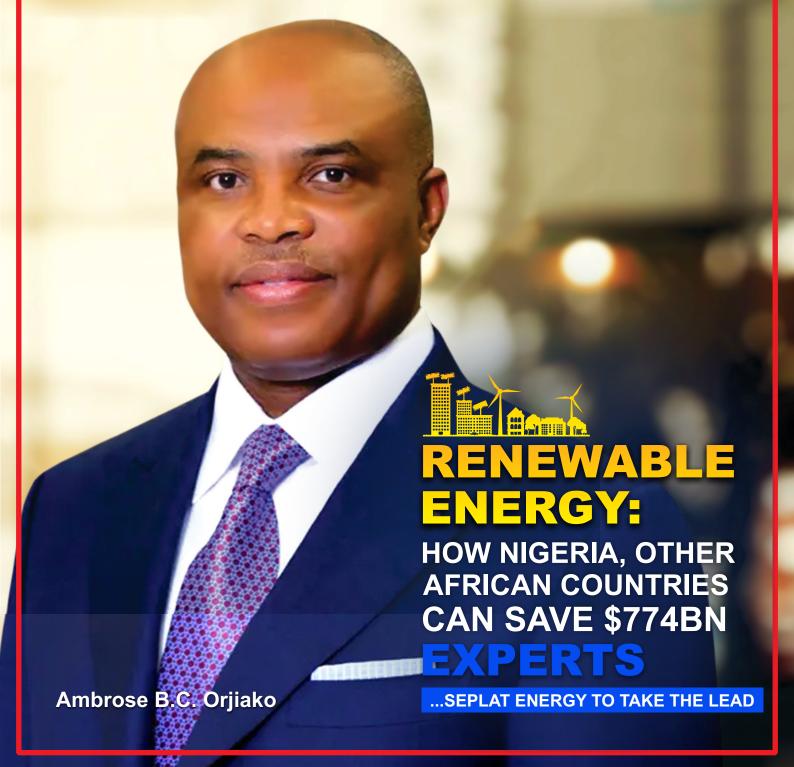
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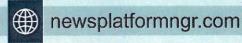




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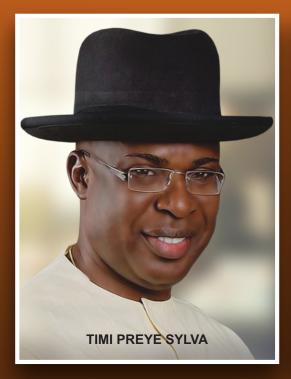
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SYLVA, MABOTE GET SUPPORT OF EX-AGITATORS, OTHERS

5

takeholders from the Niger Delta region have sent a protest letter to President Muhammadu Buhari faulting the allegation of perjury against the Minister of State Petroleum Resource Chief Timipreye Sylva describing the petition as cooked,

doctored, fake, frivolous and laughable, Describing it as an open display of dangerous politics ahead of 2023.

According to the stakeholders, made up of civil right activists and ex-agitators from the region, though preliminary investigations into the

purported petition and the bribery allegations level against Chief Timipre Sylva and Engr Simbi Wabote showed that the signatory are ghosts being used by some corrupt minded politicians against the sterling achievements recorded by Mr President in the nation's oil and gas sector for the last six years. Chief Timipre Sylva is being used as a soft target to get to President Muhammadu Buhari.

The Niger Delta stakeholders under the aegis of the Niger Delta APC Youth Vanguard with the coalition ex-agitators under Niger Delta Advocate for Peace and Good Governance group, argued that the allegations against Chief Sylva and Engr Wabote is fake and should be discountenanced.

"Today, we can categorically state here, without mincing words, that the false allegations was cooked and doctored by a group of criminal elements who are bereft of ideas and are not aware that it is no longer business as usual in the nation's oil and gas Industry."

The stakeholders, led by the National Coordinator, Comrade Fiawei Emmanuel Pathfinder; Deputy Coordinator, Comrade Bekes Apere; Secetary, Comrade A.K. Peters; Gen. Peres Ayama, Gen Kingsley Tamaramienye and others, warned those behind the purported petition that "the present administration of President Muhammadu Buhari have gone beyond the era of blackmail of officials of government.

"The use of a fake name of Ahmed Yusuf and non-exitent group, will not push the sound policies of this present administration in the oil and gas sector into tumoil as planned by these devilish detractors."

The group also condemned in strong term the desperate attempt to indict the Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board(NCDMB), Engr Simbi Wabote over alleged involvement in bribery allegations involving Saipem train 7 NLNG project.

According to the group, "the name Engr. Simbi Wabote the Executive Secretary of Local content development board is a household name that is known for transparency, accountability and open door policies with so much achievements recorded so far since he took over the helms of affairs of NCDMB.

"He is not known for any corrupt practice and has nothing to hide in his cupboard like other politicians from the region. And the financial books of the NCDMB is wide open for audit at all times. Since Engr Wabote took over the NCDMB board as Executive Secretary there has been a lot of turn around and massive infrastructural developmental projects attributed to the region and have contributed a lot to the reforms and policy implementation in the nation's oil industry. And never a day has his name been involved in fraudulent claims. He is a man known as icon of local content development in Nigeria and African continent.

"Therefore, the group of ex-agitators warn those who are blackmailing the duo of Chief Sylva and the Engr Wabote to henceforth desist and hide there corrupt faces in shame. They should stay clear from blackmailing the two prominent sons

of the Niger Delta region who are performing excellently well in their various offices.

"If we may ask, what is the fake group, New Nigeria Global Initiative looking for? They are looking for nothing other than stomach infrastructure through a fraudulent means with blackmail and come up with frivolous petitions in other to extort money by any means.

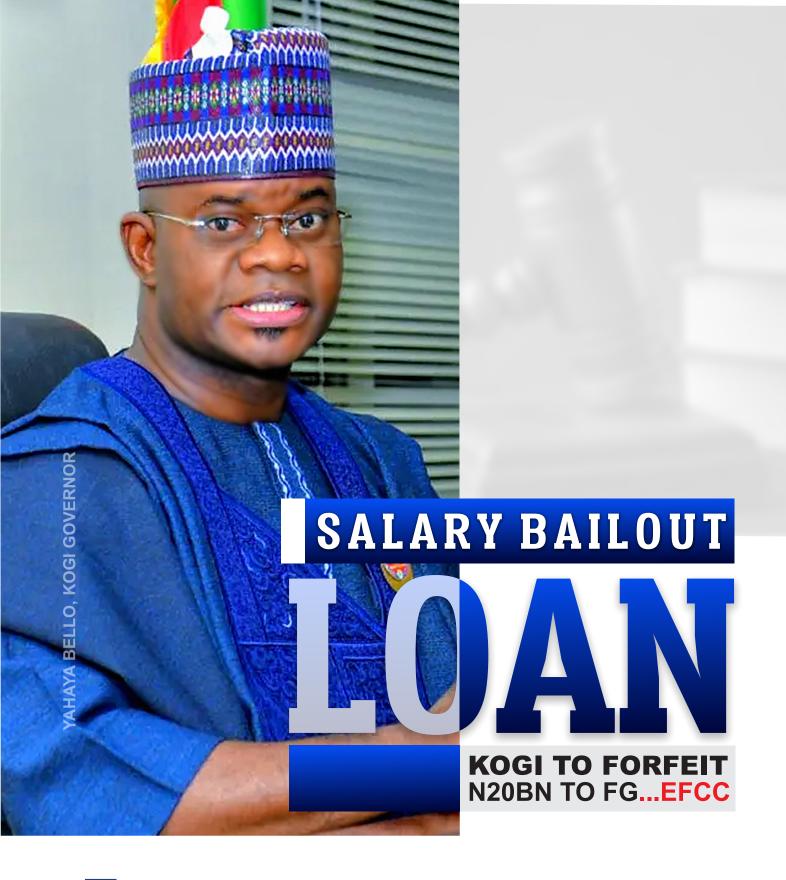
"For the sake of the general public, the leadership of Niger Delta APC Youth Vanguard, who are core believers of President Muhammad Buhari led federal government, want to state that the so called petition is false, fake, laughable and outrageous.

"The so-called petition does not have any iota of evidence and cannot hold water as the Minister Of Petroleum Resources State, Chief Timipre Sylva and Engr Simbi Wabote are too busy with national assignments of importance to have time to engage in such baseless banter with paid petitioners and to distract them from doing their job in the Presidency.

"Those behind these false allegations and character assassination will be fished out and unveiled before the public. And they will be made to face the wrath of the law for defamation of character, false allegation and character assassination.

"At this juncture, the Niger Delta Stakeholders under the aegis of the Niger Delta APC Youth Vanguard with the coalition of ex- agitators under Niger Delta Advocate for Peace and Good Governance group, want to use this opportunity to call on President Muhammadu Buhari, Ambassador of the United States of America here in Nigeria and the general public to disregard and ignore the so called paid false allegation emanating from a non-existent group, New Nigeria Global Initiative. These are known fraudsters with stock in trade as blackmailers and extortionists.

"The leadership of Niger Delta APC Youth Vanguard with the coalition of ex-agitators condemn in totality these fictitious, outrageous and paid petitioners of wanting to dent the good image of the Honorable Minister of Petroleum Resources and trying to drag his name to the mud. We warn them in strong term to desist from such activities, and if they refuse to stay clear from blackmailing and withdraw allegations against Chief Sylva and Engr Wabote then we will be forced to declare war against them and tag them as enemies to the President Muhammad Buhari led APC administration and the peace and development of the Niger Delta region."



ustice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, October 15, 2021, granted the application filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, seeking to discontinue the matter in Suit No. FHC/L/ CS, 1086/2021 involving the N20bn Kogi State Salary bail-out loan. The application, according to the Commission's counsel, Kemi Pinheiro, SAN, is sequel to the decision of the management of Sterling Bank Plc to return the total sum of N19, 333,333,333.36 standing in the credit of the frozen account back to the Central Bank of Nigeria.

On August 31, 2021, Justice Tijani Garba Ringim, a vacation Judge, had ordered the freezing of the account, following an ex-parte application filed by the EFCC.

According to Head Media and Publicity of Economic and Financial Crime Commission Wilson Uwajaren the EFCC, in a 13-paragraph affidavit in support of the ex-parte application, had stated that it received a credible and direct intelligence, which led to the tracing of the funds reasonably suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activities in an account No. 0073572696 domiciled in Sterling Bank, Plc with the name Kogi State Salary Bailout Account.

Moving the application for the interim forfeiture of the funds on August 31, 2021, A. O. Mohammed, counsel to the EFCC, had urged the court to grant the Order so as to prevent further dissipation of the funds in the account.

Mohammed had also told Justice Ringim that the N20 billion loan meant to augment the salary payment and running cost of the government was kept in an interest-yielding account with the Bank.

According to him, "Instead of using the money for the purpose it was meant for, Sterling Bank Plc, acting on the instruction of the Kogi State Government, transferred the money from the loan account and placed it in a fixed deposit account."

Mohammed further told the court that the Bank had yet to present any credible evidence to show that the facility was well secured.

After listening to the applicant's counsel, Justice Ringim had ordered the freezing of the account number 0073572696, and also directed the publication of the order in a national newspaper by the EFCC.

At the last adjourned sitting, counsel to the Kogi State government, Prof. Sam Eguro, SAN, had told Justice Aneke, whom the matter was reassigned to, that his client had filed processes against the interim order granted by Justice Ringim, and that the EFCC had equally filed reply to the same.

Erogbo, had, therefore, told the court that he needed time to respond to the EFCC's counter-

claim and also asked for a short date to hear his applications.

In his response, counsel to the EFCC, Rotimi Oyedepo, had admitted being served with the processes, and added that he had equally filed his counter.

Consequently, Justice Aneke adjourned to today for hearing of all applications.

At the resumed sitting today, counsel to the EFCC, Kemi Pinheiro, SAN, told the court that the management of Sterling Bank Plc, where the account number 0063572696 with the name Kogi State Salary Bail-out account is domiciled had acknowledged the existence of the said account in its book, "but claimed the same was a mirror account."

He further told the court that the management of Sterling Bank, where account number 0073572696 with the name Kogi State Salary Bail-out account is domiciled had clarified the questions leading to the commencement of the suit.

He further told the court that "The sum of N19, 333,333,333.36 is still standing in the

Credit of the account frozen pursuant to the Order of this Honorable Court", adding that "That the management of Sterling Bank Plc, where account No. 0073572696 is domiciled has, pursuant to a letter dated 15 September, 2021, signed by its Managing Director ,indicated intention to return the total sum of N19,333,333,333.36 back to the Central Bank of Nigeria."

He, therefore, prayed that it "is expedient for the instant suit to be discontinued and

the account unfrozen to enable the management of Sterling Bank Plc effect the transfer/ return of the sum of the sum of N19, 333, 333, 333.36 back to the coffer of the Central Bank of Nigeria, where the said bailout funds was disbursed."

In his response, counsel to the respondent, Eguro, acknowledged the notice of discontinuation.

In his ruling, Justice Aneke held that, "since this is what they are asking for, the application is therefore granted as plead."





the feat was repeated with the 2021 budget.

Speaking also, the Speaker, House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila also assured that the House of Representatives will work together with the Senate to pass the budget before the end of the year.

In his words: "Let me express my profound gratitude to the senators and members of the House of Representatives who have through the budget cycle shown an unmatched determination to deliver the annual budget on time, in line with our commitment to a January to December budget cycle. I have seen legislators, working through day and night foregoing all the considerations in a joint effort to deliver a national budget that meets the highest expectations of the Nigerian people.

"Therefore, I am confident that the National Assembly will give the Appropriation Bill the prompt consideration it demands. And the next two to three months will be for the strictest scrutiny of the budget estimates."

PARAMETERS AND KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM 2022 BUDGET ESTIMATION

The 2022 to 2024 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper sets out the parameters for the 2022 Budget as follows:

a. Conservative oil price benchmark of 57 US Dollars per barrel;

- **b.** Daily oil production estimate of 1.88 million barrels (inclusive of Condensates of 300,000 to 400,000 barrels per day);
- **c.** Exchange rate of four 410.15 per US Dollar; and
- **d.** Projected GDP growth rate of 4.2 percent and 13 percent inflation rate.

2022 REVENUE ESTIMATES

Based on these fiscal assumptions and parameters, total federally-collectible revenue is estimated at 17.70 trillion Naira in 2022.

Total federally distributable revenue is estimated at 12.72 trillion Naira in 2022 while total revenue available to fund the 2022 Federal Budget is estimated at 10.13 trillion Naira. This includes Grants and Aid of 63.38 billion Naira, as well as the revenues of 63 Government-Owned Enterprises.

Oil revenue is projected at 3.16 trillion, Non-oil taxes are estimated at 2.13 trillion Naira and FGN Independent revenues are projected to be 1.82 trillion Naira.

PLANNED 2022 EXPENDITURE

A total expenditure of sixteen point three-nine (16.39) trillion Naira is proposed for the Federal Government in 2022. The proposed expenditure comprises:

NDDC DEDICATES NEW HEADQUARTERS TO GOD

he Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, has formally dedicated its new headquarters building at the Marine Base, Port Harcourt to God.

Speaking at a praise and worship ceremony, attended by directors and staff of the Commission, at the new office complex, the NDDC Interim Administrator, Dr Efiong Akwa, stated that the Commission was at the dawn of a new era.

The NDDC Director Corporate Affairs, Dr Ibitoye Abosede, quotes Akwa as saying: "Except the Lord builds a house, the builders build but in vain. That is why we have come here to surrender and thank God for preserving us and giving us peace in Rivers State and indeed, the Niger Delta region."

The NDDC Chief Executive Officer said: "It's a good thing to thank God and also dedicate the new building to Him. As Christians, whatever is dedicated unto God is preserved forever. We have collectively prayed that no calamity will befall any person here. No evil will take place here and the almighty God will protect all our staff and contractors.

"With God, nothing shall be impossible for NDDC." It is the almighty God that rules in the affairs of men. As we have

come together to seek the face of the Lord, nothing shall hinder our progress."

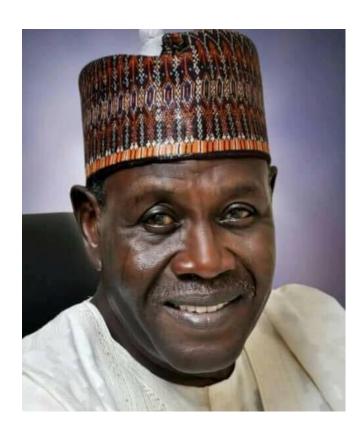
Akwa used the prayer session to appeal to oil companies that were not forthcoming in discharging their statutory obligations to the NDDC to do so earnestly. He prayed: "God will touch their hearts to make their remittances to the Commission to enable us to fulfill our mandate and the purpose for which the NDDC was established."

In his exhortations, the Special Adviser on Technical Matters to the Interim Administrator, Engr. Ubong James said that the dedication was a confirmation that the NDDC was repositioning for better service delivery to the people of the Niger Delta region.

According to him: "God has given us a new NDDC and we have every reason to give praise to the Lord. This edifice is a living example that the NDDC is at a new dawn on the goodness of God."

In his own remarks, the NDDC Director Administration, Dr Charles Akpan, said that the dedication was a significant event in the annals of the Commission. He affirmed that the NDDC fellowship group had been given a befitting place for worshiping God in the Commission's Christian complex.

KINGIBE SAYS NIGERIA'S UNITY NEGOTIABLE,



A

Former Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Alhaji Babagana Kingibe, said that the unity of Nigeria was negotiable.

Speaking at The Sun Newspaper Awards for 2020 held in Lagos, Kingibe however said even the union between a husband and wife was negotiable.

The accomplished diplomat further stated that any part of Nigeria that wanted to pull out of the country should be advised to think about the implications of leaving Nigeria and what would happen to its landmass.

He reminded separatist agitators that the land they resided on would not be carved out and taken to anywhere in the event of their leaving Nigeria, pointing out that the land would remain where it was.

Kingibe, who received the newspaper's "Lifetime Achievement Award," called on Nigerians to learn to respect one another.

He pointed out that he recorded all his achievements as a Nigerian.

"I was born in Nigeria. I was groomed in Nigeria. I believe in Nigeria. People of my generation believe in Nigeria. We have no doubt about the fact that we have no option, but Nigeria.

"However, I think that a few of my colleagues believe that the unity of Nigeria is not negotiable. Of course, it is negotiable. Even the unity of a family is negotiable. Even the constitution of husband and wife is negotiable. The moment either parties feels this union is no longer bearable, that he or she will rather go his/her way. You help them to sit down consider their condition after a careful and rational examination of the pros and cons of how to be married that they take the decision which suit them best.

"It is enough just to say I do not farewell where I am. So, I am going," Kingibe stated.

He, however, added that any party that wanted to pull out from the union should consider the implications.

"Are you sure where you are going? Are you sure of the consequence of where you are going? Do you really feel that the grass is greener on the other side? If you do, sit with your partner in respect, in mutual respect, in love if possible, but without demonising your husband or your wife because you will always remain the ex of the other person. But discuss quietly so that even if you separate in the future you can inter-relate with love and respect," he advised.

Speaking specifically on the issue of those agitating to leave the country, Kingibe said: "When we ever say we want to go away, I do not think they realise the going away. It is not that you carve out the piece of land, take it up and put it in other side of Ghana. The piece of land will be here. You will be here. Everybody will be here. And we all want to prosper.

"My appeal to everyone is, please, let us be respectful of one another. Let us not demonise one another. Let us respect the views of everybody."

Kingibe hailed a former Governor of Abia State, Senator Orji Uzor Kalu for creating a platform that would enable this dialogue.

"The awardees are from everywhere. I listened carefully to the remarks made by the awardees before me. Two of them from the South-east ended their remarks by saying, I 'believe in one Nigeria.' I presume, it is a reflection of the fact that they achieved whatever they did because they are Nigerians. We can all achieve our goals in Nigeria. We are only part of a greater entity, be it ECOWAS. ECOWAS is one part of a greater entity called Africa and Africa exists in a globalised world.

"Wherever you go, you will remain a Nigeria, an ECOWAS citizen, an African citizen or a global citizen. So, please, let us mind our language as we address national issues. Whatever I achieved, I stood on the shoulders of great people, many of whom have deserted us, but without them, I cannot be what I am today," Kingibe said.

ARMY CONDUCTS MEDICAL OUTREACH,

launches security operations in Cross River







13 Brigade of the Nigerian Army are conducting medical outreach in Bakassi LGA of Cross River State.

Increasing numbers of persons from mostly Bakassi and nearby Akpabuyo LGAs of the state have already received treatment.

Commander of the Brigade, Brigadier General Peter Malla said the medical outreach is part of their corporate social responsibility.

He said it is one of the highpoints of the Exercise Still Water launched at same venue in Ikang in Bakassi LGA of the state.

He said they are expecting huge turnout of natives and other residents to attend the medical clinics and benefit from the free professional attention from their medics.

The free medical attention includes health status check, blood pressure, sugar level, eye checks as well as actual treatment and referrals to recognised hospitals.

One of the beneficiaries, 70 year old Madam Eka Ekpo Ekpenyong from Esighi community commended the soldiers for the treatment, saying she would not have had the means to access such professional attention. Meanwhile, Brigadier general Malla said conduct of Exercise Still Water has commenced in parts of the state, explaining that it is aimed at curtailing insecurity and allow the people freedom to live in peace and safety.

He said operations which is multi-faceted will persist for three months from Ooctober 4 to December 2021.

Malla said the exercise is a field training exercise designed to give aid to civil authority, where troops will conduct operations in both land and riverine using the Super Camp Concept.

"The real time operations would be used as measure to defeat security threats in state ranging from kidnapping, armed banditry, arms smuggling, proliferation, militancy and cultism to mention a few.

"It would also serve as an avenue to assess commanders at all levels in their understanding and application of the tactics, techniques and procedures of various scenarios of Internal Security operations.

He added that they will consolidate on the gains of Exercise Crocodile Smile V conducted last year.

He said: "During the conduct of the exercise, participants are expected to conduct roadblocks, mobile patrols, Riverine patrols, cordon and search, crowd dispersal, VIP Protection, guarding of Key Points and

Vulnerable Points, escort duties, imposition of curfew, rescue operations and raids to contain and deny freedom of action for criminals. They are also expected to practice continuous troops administration in the field as well as regular training and rehearsals and coordination for impending operations. The exercise will also entail logistics planning and support from the established Super Camp here in Ikang."

Addressing the dignitaries of security agencies present including Obong of Calabar and other traditional heads, Governor Ben Ayade, represented by Dr Alfred Mboto, permanent secretary State security matters, expressed happiness for the exercise.

He assured that his government will accord necessary supports to its success.

"I urge the participants to desist from highhandedness and overzealousness during the exercise, while enhancing the civilian-military relationship."



We are eager to sustain the peace prevailing, which reason we give our total supports to this and similar exercises, believing that it will complement our own internal security arrangements.

PRESIDENT BUHARI HAILS NODC FOR ENHANCING POLICE PERFORMANCE



resident Muhammadu Buhari has applauded the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, for supporting the security agencies in the Niger Delta region in their efforts to ensure a peaceful environment.

The President, who was represented by the Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, spoke at the inauguration of the Nigeria Police Barracks, Special Protection Unit, SPU, Base 6 Project, at Omagwa in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State.

He said that the Police Force was a crucial component of the nation's law enforcement architecture; being a civil force that was closest to the people in various communities.

The President stated: "In the past month, we have been undertaking a major reform of the Police Force. We believe that we must increase the number of police personnel hence, we have set yearly recruitment targets.

"We are also in the process of re-equipping both in personnel and hardware. An important feature of the reform is accommodation for officers and I have directed that building of barracks for men and women of the police force should be done in collaboration with the Social Housing effort of the Family Home Funds.

"Today's event meets two objectives, the first being that it is an important part of our government's effort to improve the lives and livelihood of our police officers. It is also another important milestone in my administration's pursuit of peace, prosperity and development of the Niger Delta region. We recognize that establishing adequate security is absolutely integral to the fulfilment of this objective."

President Buhari observed that funding of the Police Force remained a huge challenge, which was why the Federal Government was working with the National Assembly to enact the Police Trust Fund Act, adding that efforts were being made to improve funding for the police.

In his own remarks, the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio, thanked the NDDC Interim Administrator, Mr Efiong Akwa, "for doing a difficult job well."

The Minister noted: "This is the second step in our march to development. The first step was the commissioning of the new NDDC headquarters."

Akpabio said that the NDDC would continue to invite the





President to commission projects, stating: "We have a big project that we will also invite Mr. President to commission in November this year and the Commission has completed 77 road projects hitherto abandoned."

He assured that his ministry would persist in its quest to complete the East West road from Warri to Oron in the shortest possible time.

Also speaking, the Inspector-General of Police, Alkali Baba Usman, said the event represented a landmark for the police. He said: "This is very significant for the police. It is a legacy project for the SPU since its creation in 2009. It shows NDDC's commitment to support the police. It will help the police a lot.

"This has made a bold statement that the NDDC is out to support the police. We urge other organizations to also support the police force. This project is a model we want to adopt for the police across the country.

In his welcome address, the NDDC Interim Administrator, Dr Efiong Akwa, said the barracks shows NDDC's continued commitment to fostering security in the Niger Delta region through the provision of befitting and comfortable accommodation for security personnel. The NDDC Chief Executive Officer noted that the facility consisted of an administrative block, including the

armoury, gate house, underground cell and 66 units of accommodation. These 66 units include the commander's residence, second-in-command's residence and 64 one-bedroom flats.

He said: "We acknowledge that the NDDC will not have been able to perform well without the support of the security agencies, especially the police. It follows, therefore, that it is in our best interest to continue to assist the Police to combat crime effectively within the region."

The Governor of Rivers State, Chief Nyesom Wike, said he was delighted to hear that the era of taking NDDC as a cash cow was over. He commended the NDDC Interim Administration for realising that government was a continuum and that all projects needed to be completed.

He said that the Interim Administrator would feel fulfilled to let the world know some of the projects he had been able to complete. He also stressed the need for synergy between the governors of the region and the NDDC.

In his goodwill message, the Chairman of the House Committee on NDDC, Hon. Bunmi Tunji-Ojo, said that the mandate of the NDDC was gradually being achieved, with projects such as the barracks for the police.

UZODIMMA:

43 oil wells in Imo wrongfully Allocated to Rivers



overnor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State has called for the establishment of special fund to compensate the South-East, as a result of the devastation of the area during the civil war.

Uzodimma made the call in Owerri while declaring open a

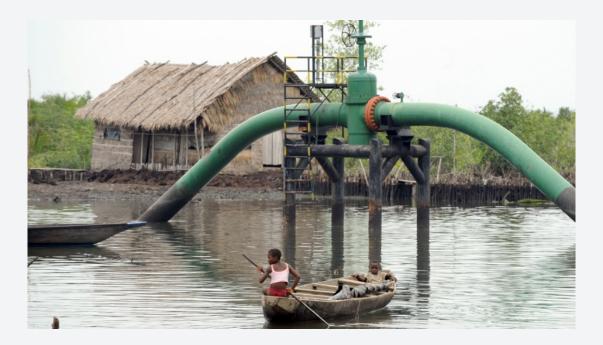
zonal public hearing on the review of the current revenue allocation sharing formula, organised by Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) for South-East zone.

"I think the debacles of the civil war led the South-East into a deep poverty level; houses were burnt down, people were killed. "Only recently, a special law was enacted as the North-East Development Commission arising from the disaster of Boko Haram incidents.

"But the 30-month civil war that ended in 1970 left the South-East in a state of penury," the governor noted.

He said, if created, the special fund would provide succour to those who lost their properties and family members during the civil war. The governor also said that the current revenue allocation formula which was last reviewed in 1992 was obsolete, given the reality of the economy and developments that followed the last review.

Uzodimma, who called for a review of the sharing



formula, said the South-East has suffered great injustice on how revenues accruing from the zone are being shared.

"Today, as it stands, the Federal Government takes home 52.68 per cent, state governments, 26.72 per cent, while the 774 local government areas take home 20.60 per cent," he noted.

He said Imo currently has seven oil producing companies, but expressed concern that 43 oil wells were wrongfully allocated to Rivers.

According to him, 25 per cent of gas production in Bonny is piped from Imo, but revenue accruing from this is not coming to Imo, while pollution is threatening the lives and assets of residents of the area.

He urged the RMAFC to look into the matter with a view to resolving it. He urged the Federal Government to also establish petrochemical industries, fertiliser plants and other value chain in the oil and gas industries that would create employment opportunities for youths.

"It should not just be about multi-billion dollar pipeline projects that siphons oil and gas from the state which results to youth restiveness, quantum violence and subsequent deaths.

"I think that God did not make mistake endowing Imo with natural resources," he said. The governor also called for laws empowering the Commission to compel high yielding government agencies including FIRS, NPA and Customs to remit funds into the federation account.

He said such power would enable the Commission introduce checks and balances in the country's revenue earning stream.

"These challenges can be handled administratively and by constitutional amendment," he noted.

Other state governments within the zone also presented their positions through their respective Finance Commissioners.

On his part, the Ebonyi State Commissioner for Finance, Mr Orlando Nweze, lamented the imbalance in the sharing formula of the country's revenue.

Nweze said revenue allocation should be reviewed to 40 per cent for the Federal Government, 35 per cent for state governments and 25 per cent for local government areas. RMAFC Chairman, Elias Mbam, who also spoke, said that several socio-economic and political changes since the last review informed the Commission's decision for the current review.

He explained that the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) empowered it to review the revenue allocation formula and principles in operation to ensure conformity with changing realities.

"To ensure wide coverage of participation, the commission invited memoranda from the stakeholders in both print and electronic media on the review of the revenue allocation formula.

"The commission also undertook sensitisation tours to all the states and local governments of the country, while studies on fiscal matters relating to revenue allocation and collection of data from government agencies were carried out," he explained.

He assured that the Commission would take serious consideration all views and recommendations that would emanate from the public hearing.



FCTA KICKS OFF PROVISIONS OF 4,104 AFFORDABLE HOLLSES

CT Minister of State, Dr. Ramatu
Tijjani Aliyu, performed the
official site handover/ground
breaking ceremony of
Muhammadu Buhari Staff
Affordable Housing Estate in
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The Federal Capital Territory Administration has commenced the provisions of 4,104 affordable houses for staff of the administration as part of activities to commemorate Nigeria's 61st Independence Anniversary.

FCT Minister of State, Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu, performed the official site handover/ground breaking ceremony of Muhammadu Buhari Staff Affordable Housing Estate in Karshi, to signpost the commencement of the project.

The minister also noted that the project was a bold step by the administration towards addressing the deficit in the housing sector especially among civil servants.

Aliyu, used the occasion to assure staff that modalities have been put in place to guarantee accessibility and affordability to deserving beneficiaries, including funding and repayment arrangements with primary mortgage institutions.

She also stressed that layouts have been identified for affordable housing provision in all the six area councils, while development plans have been prepared for the layouts and prototype designs have been produced for various housing types.

According to her: "that Nigeria is witnessing a crisis in quality housing provision, is not in doubt. Increasing numbers from amongst the youth population are abandoning rural farmlands in the search for better living conditions in the urban areas.

"Sadly, these multitudes, unable to afford the relatively higher costs of living, are left with no

choice other than to find accommodation in shanties and other unwholesome settings.

"It is in recognition of this housing deficit in the nation's capital, reputed to be the number one urban centre in Nigeria with the most housing-challenged humans (especially among civil servants) that we have completed a review of previous attempts at providing affordable housing for staff of the FCTA/FCDA".

The minister identified high cost of land registration and irregularity of land title, policy implementation somersaults, licencing issues, inadequate funding, legislation as some of the major issues that continue to confront the housing sector in Nigeria.

She affirmed that the administration was working assiduously to address some of these challenges so that private sector entities could feel encouraged to invest more in affordable housing provision.

In his remarks, FCTA Permanent Secretary, Mr. Olusade Adesola, revealed that the present administration had inception pursued the actualization of this project, just as he stressed that the provision of affordable housing was a conscious effort by the FCT Administration in solving the housing needs of its low and medium cadre in the civil service.

Adesola also noted that the project would create jobs for the teeming youth of Federal Capital Territory, and opportunities for the artisans, thereby preventing youth restiveness. Speaking on the project concept, the Director Housing, Satellite Towns Development Department, Arc. Usman Isyaku Bala, called for deliberate housing policies and concession in the provision of land, primary and secondary infrastructure, ease of titles aimed at solving housing needs in the country.

The Managing Director, Auto-North Limited, Mallam Baba Gombe Muhammad, who spoke

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CROSS RIVER SPENDS N27 BILLION TO CONSTRUCT OBUDU AIRPORT - AYADE'S COMMISSIONER



ross River State Government has spent over N27 Billion to construct t h e O b u d u International Cargo and Passengers airport, near the popular Obudu

Mountain Resort.

Commissioner for aviation in the State, Jake Otu Enyia disclosed this in an interview in Calabar.

According to him, the sum is far less than what some other state governments have expended to build theirs because the Obudu topography is not very rugged or swampy.

He said that the amount covers all the contracts for runway, control tower, fire service, and others, adding that they were not owing any contractor.

"Were it not for the rains and COVID-19 restrictions last year by now we would be thinking of flying our airlines from the airport.

"I can assure that by December 2022 the airport will be ready for commissioning, and our CallyAir will take off from and land there."

Enyia also added that they are ready to purchase the number three aircraft to increase the number of to three so far.

He said they have not yet given a thought to privatising the airline because they have not yet completed requirements for its legal status and acquiring of Air Operating Licence.

"There is however possibility of going into or continuing partnership with Aero Contractors in future, and also selling shares to members of the public.", He said

1

HOW NIGERIA, OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES CAN SAVE \$774BN - EXPERTS





nergy experts have disclosed that Nigeria and other African countries can save as much as \$774 billion by promoting the adoption of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as a cleaner cooking

fuel alternative.

They stated that the amount could be achieved if 50 per cent of Africans adopted the use of LPG as cooking energy by 2030.

The experts noted that the total cost of continued use of biomass, charcoal and other pollutants as cooking fuels rather than cleaner alternatives like LPG could lead to premature deaths, time wasted on fuel collection cooking, increased childhood and adult illnesses, attendant environmental issues and strain on the healthcare system amounting to over \$774 billion. Speaking at the 15th anniversary of the African Refiners and Distributions Association (ARDA) annual ARDA Week conference, held virtually, yesterday, they held that the adoption

of LPG remained critical to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number seven of Universal Access to Energy.

Despite the rising cost of LPG across the globe, Executive Director at Sahara Group, Temitope Shonubi said converting just 30 per cent of Africa's vehicle fleet to run on LPG would result in \$3 billion annual fuelcost savings and ~40 billion gram in CO2 emission reductions.

Shonubi who spoke on the "Role of LPG in Africa's Energy Transition" at the event, noted that the indirect cost savings (from health and infrastructure) would exceed \$15 billion yearly.

He further disclosed that only six African nations have combined LPG storage capacity greater than 50,000 Metric Tons (MTs), stressing that such lack of large-scale infrastructure would lead to uneconomic cargo sizes thereby resulting in increased landed LPG costs.

On his part, Executive Secretary of

ARDA, Anibor Kragha had earlier warned of imminent danger if Africa fails to quickly adopt modern clean energy as over 850 million Africans still depend on solid fuels (biomass) for cooking.

According to him, without strategic efforts towards energy transition, especially replacement of solid cooking fuels like biomass and charcoal with cleaner alternatives like LPG, over 600,000 Africans annually will continue to die prematurely due to household air pollution.

Also speaking, Chairman, the Global LPG Partnership, Kimball Chen, said LPG markets were already established in Africa with downstream marketers/investors in place and interested in growth of the sector.

Chen added that functional LPG policies, regulations, standards and market models were being widely implemented across Africa, noting that global development institutions and multilateral banks continue to hold back on scaling up support for LPG because it was still considered a fossil fuel.



Seplot Energy To Provide Solution To Africa's Energy Challenge. Get Govt Support





eplat Energy PLC Nigeria's foremost indigenous energy company has disclosed its readiness to champion the quest to improve Africa's energy access by repurposing its operations with a focus on cleaner energy.

This came from the decision to make sure that Seplat is committed to carbon neutrality upon the realization that something must be done by everyone concerning decarburization.

This, as Nigeria's government said to achieve its energy transition plan, universal access to energy by by 2030; zero carbon emission by 2050 and industrialization to alleviate poverty and drive economic growth and his ready to partner with SEPLAT ENERGY.

This was disclosed by the Vice President Professor Yemi Osinbajo at the second Seplat Energy summit where the company transitioned from an oil and gas company to an energy company with renewable and cleaner energy.



Seplat energy chairman Ambrose B.C. Orjiako said to achieve the cleaner energy provision goal, they plan with associates to replace all of the wood people use in homes with the use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) which is cleaner energy.

The transitioning to a cleaner energy company aligns with global trends in energy transition where there is proactive planning for a world where fossil fuels will start to decline in the global energy mix and aligns with the company's renewal focus on the entire energy value chain with an emphasis on cleaner and more sustainable forms of energy to power Nigeria.

Orjiakor said the company believes that gas, the transistion fuel and SEPLAT today delivers 50 percent of gas needs in the country. 'we are very aligned with the Federal government initiative in this regard and can only see this increasing, replacing diesel generators with cleaner renewable energy will solve Nigeria power deficit'.

He stated that one of the ways the company is focused on making sure the environment is well protected aside from launching its 'tree for life' project to plant trees that would create and improve the environment from the first quarter of 2022 is its determined commitment towards ending gas flaring in all of its operations by 2024, six years ahead of government targets.

Minister of State Petroleum Resources Timipreye Sylva said the Ministry endorsed Seplat Energy as the flagship company to drive Nigeria's energy transition while he calls for multiple pathways to energy transition to ensure that no country is left in the process of achieving net zero emission by 2050.

Sylva said it was important to ensure massive efforts towards increasing energy efficiency and productivity by facilitating changes in the consumption pattern and lifestyle choices which will expand renewable energy for power supply and directions within and across the country stressing, 'we believe that renewable energy offers favourable prospects for localized entities because of the complexities of technology transfer and the intensity of the slow and medium scale for segments'.

The Group Managing Director of Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Mele Kyari said gas resources would help Nigeria to close the gap in the transition to clean energy.

Seplat Energy CEO Roger Brown said the name change reflects the company's belief that the greatest opportunity ahead is to supply the right mix of energy for Nigeria's young and rapidly growing population.





he Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on thursday launched the 2021 edition of its Annual Statistical Bulletin (ASB), via video conference.

The launch was attended by HE Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, OPEC Secretary General;

Professor Thomas Lindner of the Executive Academy at the Vienna University of Economics and Business; as well as Members of Management at the Secretariat.

It was live streamed via the Organization's website and official YouTube account. In its 56 edition, the ASB continues to provide a wide range of data on the global oil and gas industry, in addition to key economic indicators, serving as a leading industry reference for reliable and timely information for various industry stakeholders, including policymakers, academics and industry analysts.

The publication contains time-series data detailing key aspects of the petroleum industry, such as production, demand, imports, exports, exploration, transportation and refining.

It also features key statistics on the oil and gas activities in OPEC's 13 Member Countries: Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, IR Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. In his remarks, the Secretary General emphasized the crucial importance of data accuracy and transparency to supporting stability in the global oil market.

"We at OPEC are dedicated to enhancing data transparency through broad dissemination of accurate and timely oil and gas data, not only for the ASB, but for all of our publications," he stated. "Indeed, maintaining transparency in all that we do underpins our core goal of establishing sustainable oil market stability."

The opening remarks were followed by a panel discussion led by Ms. Boshra AlSeiari, Head of OPEC's Data Services Department, focusing on the publication's key highlights, including:

Total world crude oil production declined in 2020 by 6.15 million barrels per day (mb/d), or 8.2 per cent, as compared to 2019, to average 69.09 mb/d, marking a historical year-on-year drop notably after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. OPEC crude oil production declined sharply year-on-year by 3.72 mb/d, or 12.7 per cent, while crude production by non-OPEC countries fell by 2.43 mb/d, or 5.3 per cent. With an average of 90.73 mb/d in 2020, world oil demand was heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and fell by a historic 9.30 mb/d y-o-y. OECD oil demand fell sharply in 2020, while in the non-OECD it declined for the first year in history. Oil demand in OPEC

Member Countries was sluggish in 2020, losing 8.2 per cent y-o-y. Distillates and gasoline accounted for around 55.1 per cent of 2020 world oil demand with a steep downward trend, amid COVID-19 containment measures. Residual fuel oil requirements were about 7.1 per cent of total oil demand in 2020. OPEC Member Countries exported an average of 19.70 mb/d of crude oil in 2020, a sharp decrease of about 2.78 mb/d, or 12.4 per cent, compared to 2019 and marking the fourth consecutive annual decline.

Following the pattern in previous years, the bulk of crude oil from OPEC Member Countries -14.43 mb/d or 73.2 per cent – was exported to Asia, particularly China and India. Considerable volumes of crude oil - about 3.13 mb/d - were also exported to OECD Europe in 2020, which, however, represents a decline compared with 3.74 mb/d recorded in 2019. OECD Americas imported 0.84 mb/d of crude oil from OPEC Member Countries, which was about 0.38 mb/d, or 31.1 per cent, less than the 2019 volumes. Exports of petroleum products from OPEC Member Countries averaged 3.48 mb/d during 2020, down by around 0.40 mb/d, or 10.4 per cent, compared to 2019. Imports of petroleum products by OPEC Member Countries averaged at 1.52 mb/d in 2020, roughly 0.17 mb/d, or 9.8 per cent, lower than in 2019.

World proven crude oil reserves stood at 1,549 billion barrels at the end of 2020, increasing by 0.2 per cent from the level of 1,546 billion barrels recorded at the end of 2019. Proven crude oil reserves in OPEC Member Countries increased by 0.3 per cent to 1,237 billion barrels at the end of 2020, following a firm increase during 2019.

At the end of 2020, world proven natural gas reserves fell by 0.4 per cent to approximately 206.7 trillion standard cubic metres (cu m). Proven natural gas reserves in OPEC Member Countries stood at 73.74 tr standard cu m at the end of 2020, down 1.4 per cent from the level at the end of 2019.

World refinery capacity shrank by 0.3 m barrels/calendar day (b/cd) to stand at 101.1 m b/cd during 2020. The non-OECD region, particularly China, other Asia and the Middle East, recorded refining capacity additions. Refinery capacity in the OECD declined sharply in 2020, as compared to 2019. Globally, refinery throughput fell by a historic 9.1 per cent to reach 78.0 mb/d in 2020, amid bearish oil demand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The OPEC Reference Basket averaged \$41.47/b in nominal terms during 2020, down from \$64.04/b in 2019, a strong decrease of \$22.57/b, or 35.2 per cent. The volatility level was \$12.55/b, or 30.3 per cent, relative to the yearly average.



PDP WILL HOLD GOV AYADE

ACCOUNT FOR MISGOVERNANCE - IKEM

he newly elected chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party in Cross River State. Venatius Ikem has alerted that the party will ensure that Governor Ben Ayade who defected to ruling APC in May 2021 is held to render account of his alleged mis-governance. The former national publicity Secretary of the party spoke to NEWS PLATFORM and select

journalists in the state....

If you win in 2023, will you hold Gov Ben Ayade to account for his 8-years tenure?

There is no greater imperative for the next governor as far as I am concerned than to show Cross Riverians that he has called Gov. Ayade to account for his misdeeds. Anyone who campaigns to my hearing that he will "draw a line" and continue from where Gov. Ayade stopped will lose any semblance of sympathy from me and I will deploy the entire capacity within my control to stop him. The reason is clear: it will mean that person intends to do the same and might do worst than Gov. Ayade. Cross River State cannot afford another "Ayade" even for one year! Our children deserve better. The younger generation is restive for positive examples. We must show them that there are consequences for bad behavior, otherwise, they will grow with the wrong values. That brothers me more than the stupidity of stealing what you may never need, depriving those in need in the process. It is evil and ungodly and the God I know and worship, will exert His own recompense at the appropriate time.

But we must first do our part as human beings and as citizens. We must reject what is bad and point the way towards preferred values.

Will you work to reconcile former Senate leader, Victor Ndoma-Egba with Liyel Imoke and other party leaders as a way of luring him back to PDP?

That's a very specific and personal question. I would rather say I will work to bring back to the party all former members who are willing to come back to the party. I don't like to personalize some issues. It is possible some people have found comfort where they are and it's unlikely that anything can persuade them to come back. I like to accept the things I cannot change. I am, nevertheless, aware that most of our members who went to APC are only still there because of the feeling of humiliation. And I have said to them, just look at me here and understand that you can come back home and be received like a prodigal son, with pomp. Some are still hopeful that something might happen by way of appointment, but time is running out. It is this later category that I think I will invest my time and energy on. Others can come as usual when we have won. You know what I mean.

Gov Ayade reportedly plans to unleash govt might to install a successor come 2023. What will happen if you perceive that coming?

That's only to be expected. What other instrument does he have? He is aware that he has lost the support of the People of Cross River State completely. All he flaunts is

that he is governor. If a lion has to announce that he is a lion then something is terribly wrong. The efficacy of power is in its subtlety. Not in it's brash application. There are many lessons Gov Ayade will learn about power only when it has left him. Indeed as far as I am concerned, he is no longer in Power. He remains only in Govt and it is an unfortunate disaster. He might learn the difference some day. Suffice it to say that we are counting on our ability to mobilize our people to admit the reality that Gov Ayade hasn't done well and deserves no consideration in evolving a successor.

At your inauguration as PDP chairman, stalwarts said upcoming Yala/Ogoja federal constituency byelection as well as guber election in 2023 will be carted away by your party. Former deputy governor, Efiok Cobham even said your eggheads will deploy tricks they did not show Ayade. What will you do differently to recover power from APC?

There is the politics of the soapbox, then there is politics. Don't take everything politicians say literally when they mount the soapbox.

The Ogoja/ Yala Federal constituency election is going to be a test case for our new assertion to control of the politics of the Northern Senatorial district, post Gov. Ayade's exit from the PDP, as exhibited by the emergence of Sen. Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe. The echoes of that election will be felt far beyond the constituency. Indeed it will be a foretell of the near future of the politics of Cross River State.

Consequently, I can only tell you that we will take it as seriously, if not more seriously than the Senatorial bye elections and deploy whatever electoral assets that will be required to win. So far I am satisfied with the sheer determination of our people in the constituency to win the election. The challenge mostly is with how we as Party executives and other leaders manage the contending aspirations within the Party. At every opportunity I get I remind our party members that aspirants do not work against the party because they lost primaries. They do only if the process of selection of a candidate is not transparent and they feel shortchanged.

I continue to pledge my total commitment on behalf of our new executive, to a free, fair and transparent selection process that will guarantee everyone a level playing field and the confidence that he or she did his best. Once a candidate emerges from a free, fair and transparent process, he will enjoy the support of the people as well as that of his opponents.

Are you scared over speculations that Ayade is plotting a return to the Senate at expiration of his tenure to unseat Jarigbe Jarigbe?

It's actually scary to me I won't lie. Scary because he knows he has failed and because he cannot face people after office, he wants to seek shelter in the Senate so that he can postulate ideas he had the opportunity to implement but failed woefully.

There is this thing about believing that he can take all the people for fools all the time that I find disgusting. There is always a day for reckoning. Our people will not vote Ayade to represent them again even as a Town Hall representative, but knowing that the electoral process is malleable, he hopes to exploit it to his advantage. We won't let him. If he attempts it, we will ensure that he gets such a resounding electoral trouncing that will make him weep Publicly for real, unlike the crocodile tears he sheds for the cameras.

There are indications that Ayade might not let go your former Secretariat. How will your chairmanship contain that?

He wouldn't have a choice, by the time we finish exploring all the legal assets available to us. The last time I checked this Country was still run on rules and Laws, not by the whims of one man. He has only exhibited again, his childish inclination that makes him mistake everything brought under his consideration for personal property in clear violation of his oath of office and i think it is tragic.

How worried are you over alleged plundering of state's commonwealth, including alleged land grabbing, CallyAir, Obudu airport and initiation of capital intensive projects which reportedly never passed through state House of Assembly?

Saying I am "worried" is an understatement. I am petrified that one man mistakenly given the instruments of state power for only 8 years can almost wreck the entire society, destroy almost all known institutions, formal and informal that have been put in place for decades, for the evolment of a civil society, for it's growth and nurturing of our collective aspirations as a people. It challenges all of us to rise to the imperative of getting involved with how leadership emerges. Charles De Gaulle said Politics is too serious a matter to be left to politicians. Our elites must rise up from the comfort they may have earned for themselves to say, enough is enough and this cannot continue. Can you imagine the audacity in seeking to sell the so-called Industries he claims to have built to himself, and his cronies in the guise of privatisation? All these are gimmicks to obfuscate a future inquiry into how they were set up and at what cost in the first place. What does Gov. Ayade take us for? He has to be prepared to face the consequences of his reckless dealing with public funds because there is no place to hide.

Again, Ayade preferred jamboree in France to attending South-South govs meeting last week. How does this tell on Cross River State?

It remains a regular routine of reminders of how grave a mistake we made in electing him and how great a task we have to stop him from attempting at all to perpetuate same by way of giving us a successor.

For me, here clearly, my job has been cut out for me.

FG INCREASES TETFUND GRANTS TO VARSITIES, OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS TO N8.5BN – MINISTER

T

he Federal Government on Tuesday announced an increment of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) research grants to universities and other tertiary institutions to N8.5 billion, up from the N7.5 billion it doled out in 2020.

The Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, who announced the increment while declaring open the first

National Conference on Research, Training and Development in Zaria, noted that in 2019, the grants totalled N5 billion.

The conference, under the theme: "Research, Training and Development in Nigeria's educational system in the 21st century: challenges and way forward" was organized by the Institute of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, (ABU) Zaria.

The minister, represented by the Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Prof. Suleiman Bogoro, commended President Muhammadu Buhari for doing a lot in the area of education.

He added that the Federal Government had decided to raise its budgetary allocation to the education sector by 50 per cent in next year's budget, with a view to addressing the funding shortfall for the sector.

The minister stressed the global importance of research in any academic community, saying that the number of academic publications were not enough, as what mattered most was the amount of research grants one attracted to his or her university as a professor or senior academic officer.

The minister congratulated ABU for winning a total of 12 research grants in 2020 from the TETFund as against the five it won in 2019.

"I am really happy that things are gradually changing in ABU. As one of the first generation universities in Nigeria, ABU should not take the rear seat in the area of research and other academic activities," he said.

The minister recalled with nostalgia some of vibrant intellectual activities organised by students that attracted many to ABU, citing the examples of the popular Moot Court at the Faculty of Law and the Mock Summit at the Department of Political Science and International Studies.



he Anambra governorship election is another test for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Nigeria. There are lots of expectations from the polls. This is coming because of the insecurity situation in the country. This is more so especially in the South Eastern parts of the country where the Indegenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB), The Eastern

Indegenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB), The Eastern Security Network (ESN) among others have continued to call for the sit at home since the arrest and detention of their leader Mazi Nnamdi Kanu by the Directorate of State Services (DSS)

There has been fear across the country of the possibility of holding any election in the state or even the South East in general.

But talking about the election proper odds seem to favour the candidate of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) Professor Charles Chukwuma Soludo and the candidate of Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) Obiora Okonkwo.

There may be no other reason other than the protest vote against the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC). By far the most popular party in Anambra state is the PDP but it has not been able to transfer the popularity into votes for a long time now.

After the party primaries and the emergence of Val

Ozigbo as its governorship candidate in the November election, the PDP was not able to reconcile aggrieved members making some of them to decamp to other parties.

Infact there is no major or serious candidate in this election that was not formerly a member of the PDP. This is one of the major reasons why the party may not win the election. The party is seriously saving its money for the 2023 Presidential election and so is not ready to waste money and time on the governorship election.

This is mores so as almost all the candidates from Andy Uba, of APC, Obiora Okonkwo of ZLP, Charles Soludo of APGA, and even Godwin Maduka of Accord party were all PDP members. For them its like a family affairs despite the platforms.

It is still very difficult for the APC to win any free and fair election in the South East and particularly in Anambra state except it is rigged or gotten through the courts as in Imo state.

The leader of the APC in Anambra state is Dr Chris Ngige, Nigeria's current Minister of Labour. Ngige will never allow any member of the Uba family to win election considering the role they played in his abduction when he was the governor.

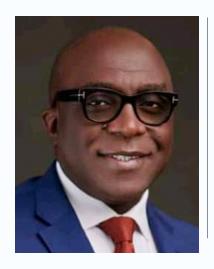
This may give advantage to Charles Soludo as APGA is in power in the state and will spend the state resources to win.





GODWIN MADUKA

Candidate of the Accord party. He is inexperienced. From Umuchukwu in Orumba local government Area. He is responsible for the change of the name of the village to Umuchukwu but the process leading to the change was bloody and some traditionalist had to clash with Christians. He is said to have provided weapons for the bloody crisis as many lives were lost in the process. This may work against him.



OBIORA OKONKWO

The candidate of Zenith Labour Party. He is from Ogidi in Idemili North local government Area of the state. His local government Area which is both Idemili North and South especially Obosi and Nkpor has the highest number of voters register in the state.



VALENTINE OZIGBO

He Is a candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party. He is from Ezinifite in Nnewi. He is said to a product of god fatherism. This may work against him.



PATRICK IFEANYI UBA

He is the candidate of YPP from Nnewi. He has money but people fear he may not be controlled and is hot tempered.



PROF. CHARLES SOLUDO

A former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). He is from Nanka in Aguata local government Area of the state. He is said to have helped both Peter Obi and Willy Obiano to win their elections for them to become governor.



ANDY UBA

He is the candidate of the APC. The hatred for Buhari in the South East may work against him. His performance as the Special Assistant to former President Olusegun Obasanjo was one of the bloodiest in the state. He is also said not to have attracted any constituency project to the state since he became a Senator.



r e s i d e n t
M u h a m m a d u
Buhari presides
over a security
meeting in Abuja
on October 21,
2021. President
M u h a m m a d u
Buhari has directed the Nigerian
Armed Forces and law enforcement
agencies to ensure that no group or
individual is allowed to stimulate
anarchy and chaos in Anambra
State.

According to the president, peace must be maintained in Anambra, even if it requires dominating the state ahead of the governorship election scheduled for November 6.

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Babagana Monguno, disclosed this after a security meeting presided by President Buhari at the State House on Thursday.

He explained that the President gave the injunction because the implications of sabotage by nonstate actors on the Anambra poll would set a dangerous precedence for future elections in the country.

In a similar vein, Minister of Police Affairs, Muhammad Dingyadi, said the security alert level in Anambra needed to be upped in a bid to ensure that people were not disenfranchised in the coming election.

At a media chat following a meeting with the President, the minister noted that escalating security within Anambra was done purposely to wither the operations of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and to engender a calm atmosphere and embolden the people to vote.

Before the briefing by his cabinet members, President Buhari presided over a security meeting with the nation's service chiefs and heads of intelligence agencies. The meeting was attended by the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo; Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha; and Chief of Staff to the President, Professor Ibrahim Gambari, among others.

The Chief of Defence Staff, General Lucky Irabor, led the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Farouk Yahaya; Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo, and other security chiefs to the meeting.

They are Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Oladayo Amao; Director-General of the Department of State Service (DSS), Yusuf Bichi; and the Director-General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Ahmed Rufai Abubakar.

Although the Inspector General of Police, Usman Baba, was absent at the meeting, he was represented by a Deputy Inspector General of Police, Sanusi Lemu.

NORTHERN STUDENTS HONOUR PROF. IFEOMA NWOYE WITH SIR AHMADU BELLO LEADERSHIP AWARD















he National Association of Northern Nigerian Students has honoured a foremost female Academic Professor May Ifeoma Nwoye Sir Ahmadu Bello Leadership award of excellence for her contributions to Educational development of the country.

The leadership of the students body led by its President Abdulrahman Ibrahim gave the in Abuja at the occasion of the United Nations

award to her in Abuja at the occasion of the United Nations International Day of Peace lecture.

At the occasion Mr Ibrahim read the full speech on behalf of the students body 'Let me briefly introduce to you the National Association Of Northern Nigerian Students which is an umbrella body of the Nineteen Northern States and Abuja indigenous Students and is the largest students movement in the Northern Nigeria. It has come to together to form a common platform to protect the interest of its members as well as to address the issues concerning Northern Nigeria as a region and Nigeria at large.

It gives us a great joy, immense pleasure and honor to stand before you today in our capacity as the leaders of this union for this special historical event.

We the members of this great Association deem it fit that, when the role of honor is called, visionary leaders of the like Prof. May Ifeoma Nwoye deserves to be mentioned.

This quintessential woman is a true leader, transformer, Icon of hope in all ramifications, Human Developer, capacity Builder, Peace builder and Excellence ability of Administration. She is a Leader per excellence, a woman of humor, generous, Astute Professor and distinguished intellectual personality who deserves to be commended and given all the credit. She has done it before in several capacity and various Environs, but her outstanding and extraordinary performances in the Academic ecosystem are just too imposing to be ignored.

Her approach towards Educational and Youth development and among other things is very peculiar, contentious, brilliant, astute, beguiling and inspiring. No doubt one can judge and determine the altitude and superiority of one Aptitude by the quality of his/her Attitude. She is one of the best syndicated Professional icons known for her powerful, innovative razor-sharp and well-coming ideas.

Her ability to explore opportunity through any good means leads to the successive expansion of her flourishing humanitarian gesture and interest while also included Education. She has and continues to live a modest, exemplary life of humility despite her vast knowledge and vast wealth of thinking, Despite her humble beginning, she has attained great height by far. Not only did her life mirror aspire possibility, also her philanthropic spirit was positively inspirational. She gave generously to the Vulnerable and students, donating to the less privilege and has served as the Voice of the voiceless.

Ma, I must confess to you that your Spartan virtue of leadership is what has provoke our

superlative encomium to have come this far, your exemplary life style in the discharge of your God's given ability towards humanity is highly commendable by the northern students.

Ma, it is pertinent to note that what we are doing here today was base on our secret assessment and it shows that you

made wave in all ramifications.

All these are few, to mention among other parameters we used in cause of our secret assessment, this is to officially say that what we are doing here today has not been masterminded by an individual or any group of persons as it is purely on merit.

The council of NANNS exercises the discretion to elect distinguished personality of your kind into the cadre of honorary of life membership having being considered to have advanced the prospection and commitment toward Educational Development.

Prof. May Ofeoma Nwoye is not the richest Professor nor the richest Politician, neither is she the businessman in the country but we have received and recorded severally her philanthropic gestures towards Educational Development and Students welfare across the country, irrespective of their ethnic group, religious belief, creed, and political affiliation. So considering all points of views as a view point, we are of no doubt how she has come about those great achievements.

We the members of (NANNS) are fascinated at your large-heartedness even in the face of needless distractions. We reckon that if all those unqualified, who has paraded themselves as leaders, were like her, the country would have been a better place for us all especially for those who cannot provide for themselves. We are giving you this award to encourage your commitment and trigger the effort of others (personalities) towards Students and Educational development.

Today is a great honor to you Ma. The Sir Ahmadu Bello (Sardauna) Platinum Leadership Award of Excellence conferred to you as "ICON OF EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION" by the Association is more than deserved. Unless for someone that makes failed effort to deliberately try to change what is evident and testified by the majority, many Nigerian Students if not all have acknowledged your level of commitment, patriotism, doggedness and courage in steering the affairs of Students and Educational development in the country.

I must not forget to mention that Prof. May Ofeoma Nwoye has live above suspicious just like the Caesar's wives who live above suspicious. No doubt that she has written her name in gold which will forever remain indelible. No doubt the sky has become just her starting point.

On behalf of the entire members of National Association Of Northern Nigerian Students, I hope you will accept our warmest regard as we welcome you into the (NANNS) HALL OF FAME.

Responding the recipient Professor Nwoye thanked the students for the honour and promised to continue to do her best to promote Education, youths development, human capital development and unity in Nigeria.

FG SCRAPS DPR, PPPRA, PEF, SACKS **CEOS, INAUGURATES NEW AGENCIES**

he Department of

Petroleum Resources, the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency and the Petroleum Equalisation Fund are all officially scrapped and do not exist anymore.

It also said while workers of the three agencies would be protected, their chief executives had been relieved of their various appointments.

The Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, stated this while speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration of the boards of the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority and the Nigerian Upstream Regulatory Commission in Abuja.

He explained that with the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act, the NPRA and NURC had taken over the functions of the DPR, PPPRA and PEF.

Responding to a question on what would happen to DPR following the inauguration of the board of NURC, Sylva said. "It is now a matter of law.

"The law states that all the assets and even the staff of the DPR are to be invested on the commission and also in the authority. So that means the DPR doesn't exist anymore.

"And, of course, the law specifically repeals the DPR Act, the Petroleum Inspectorate Act, the Petroleum Equalisation Fund Act and the PPPRA Act. The law specifically repeals them. It is very clear that those agencies do not exist anymore."

On what would happen to the chief executives and employees of DPR, PEF and PPPRA, the minister replied, "The law also provides for the staff and the jobs in those agencies to be protected.

"But I'm sure that that doesn't cover, unfortunately, the chief executives, who were on political appointments."

He stated that the process for aligning the workers of the defunct agencies with the new regulatory bodies had already commenced, as the staff had to be rationalised.

Sylva said, "The authority has its staff

coming from the defunct PEF. PPPRA and DPR. The commission has staff coming over from DPR and the process is going on for the next few weeks.'

Sylva stated that the inauguration of the boards on Monday marked the beginning of the successor agencies.

He said, "The PIA provides for the upstream regulatory commission and the establishment of the midstream and downstream authority.

"So far, the chief executives of these agencies have not been in place, but of course, Mr President in his wisdom made the appointment a few weeks ago and they went through a rigorous process of confirmation at the National Assembly.

"The agencies have now taken off because they now have clear leadership and today's event marks that beginning for the new agencies."

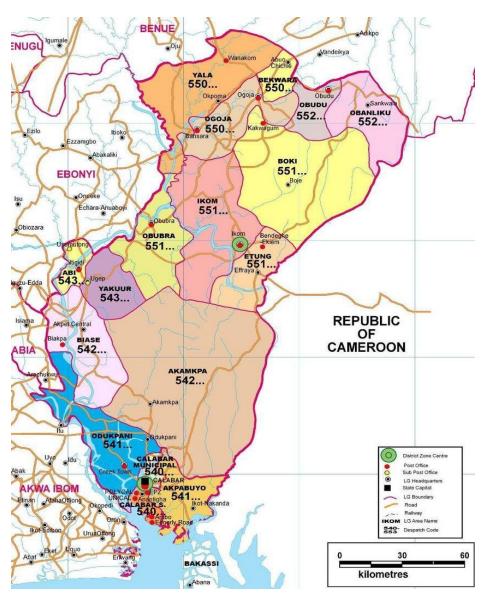
He further stated that with the passage of the PIA into law, after spending over 20 years in the process, the coast was now clear for investors to fully invest in Nigeria's oil sector.



EJAGHAM NATIONAL FORUM

Motto: light, love and power

CROSS RIVER STATE MAP WHO ARE THE EJAGHAM IN CROSS RIVER STATE (THE SPREAD OF THE EJAGHAM NATIONALITIES)



WHERE I STAND.

THE POSITION OF EJAGHAM NATION WITH RESPECT TO THE ON GOING CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW CARRIED OUT BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

he people of Ejagham are predominantly the largest ethnic group spread across the present day Cross River State with the following Local Governments (YALA; OGOJA; BEKWARA; OBUDU; OBANLIKU; B O K I; E T U N G; I K O M; OBUBRA; YAKURR; ABI; BIASSE; AKAMKPA;

CALABAR MUNICIPALITY) EJAGHAMS ARE KNOWN TO SPREAD INTO OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS NOT MENTIONED and a modest population of almost 2.5 million people in present day Cross River State and some part of them in English speaking Cameroon with the same culture, language and tradition suffices to say that, the people of Ejagham with her brothers in the Cameroon can conveniently be a sovereign nation of their own, with rich tropical rainforest laced with high deposit of oil and gas, but all along have been and chose to remain with Nigeria, since her creation in 1914 by Fredrick Lord Lugard till date believing to have a fair deal with other nationalities that form the present Nation Nigeria, Unfortunately the Ejagham nation has not had a fair share in the political equation of this country hence, have not only remained under developed but being enslaved in this contraption call Nigeria, as was aptly described by Late Obafemi Awolowo "as a mere geographical expression that must be corrected" similarly Sir Ahmadu Bello a Northern Premier has this to say about Nigeria, as "Nigeria is the mistake of 1914". All this Lend credence to the fact that the country is made up of several Nationalities that were forged together for the sole purpose of our colonial masters. However, the time has changed and if we must move with the currents for CHANGE, we have to charge with it. The Ejagam People have taken a critical look at the going constitutional amendment, and came up with their position, if they must remain a part of this complex whole as follows-:

- That the Ejagham Nation is prepared to continue her own contribution towards nation building, but it must be based on
 - (a). Equity Justice and fair play.
 - (b). A brand new constitution that will be autochthonous with the contribution of all stake holders as opposed to what

- we have today as
- (c). 1999 constitution as amended which emanated from a few privilege individuals.
- (d). Mutual respect for one another.
- (e). A state with a circular religion.
- (f). An apology for maligning the People of Ejagham Nation. Eg. The forceful removal from office of the former Chief Justice of Nigeria His Lordship Justice. Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen; former Head of Civil Service of the Federation Mrs. Winifred Ekanem Oyo-Etta and former Director General SPIB Chief Obono Obla just to mention But a few.
- That the sovereign conference of the indigenous ethnic nationalities must be truly independent and totally represented by duly appointed or selected or elected representatives of the indigenous ethnic nationalities themselves without any interference by any government, State or Federal.
- 3. That the agenda of the conference is solely to negotiate the terms of a new Union to be fashioned on point 2 and 3 above, at least that's the major plank for the Ejagham Nation; and
- 4. That apart from providing the venue and conference facilities cum secretariat, each indigenous ethnic nationality should fund its delegates, without any government interference in any other form than venue and secretariat.
- 5. The new constitution must qualify as a supreme, inflexible and autochthonous constitution that provides for the supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law and must be essentially the product of Nigerians and based on indigenous dictum and precedent.



WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT NIGER DELTA UNIVERSITIES, NODC DIRECTOR ASSURES

he Niger Delta
Development
Commission, NDDC,
has re-affirmed its
commitment to assist
universities and
polytechnics in the
Niger Delta region by
providing basic infrastructure in their
various campuses.

The NDDC Director Corporate Affairs, Dr Ibitoye Abosede, spoke about the Commission's resolve to advance the course of education in the region, during a courtesy visit by a delegation from the Alumni Association of Imo State University, IMSU, at the Commission's headquarters in Port Harcourt.

He thanked the Alumni Association for recognizing his contributions to learning through the NDDC and nominating him for a Meritorious Award for Corporate Governance.

Abosede noted that the NDDC had executed many projects in Imo State, including a modern hostel at the Imo State University, Owerri. He said that the commission would soon inaugurate a similar 1,000-bed students' hostel at the University of Uyo in Akwa Ibom State.

Apart from these two hostels, he said, the NDDC had built and handed over six other prototype hostels to the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, the University of Benin, Federal University of Science and Technology, Owerri. Delta State University, Abraka, University of Uyo Teaching Hospital, and the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike in Abia State.

Speaking earlier, the National President of the IMSU Alumni Association, Mr. Ferdinand Ezeala, said the association was getting ready for its Annual Convention in

Port Harcourt on October 30.

He said that the association would use the occasion to honour some deserving individuals and corporate organizations by presenting different categories of awards to them. In this wise, he said, the NDDC Director Corporate Affairs, Dr Abosede, would be honoured for excelling in Corporate Governance.

Ezeala, who was accompanied by the National Secretary of the Alumni Association, Dr Anayo Uhiara, commended the efforts of the NDDC in building the capacity of universities in the Niger Delta region.

He observed that one way the association could contribute in building synergy between the universities and the NDDC was to encourage good corporate governance between the institutions that add value to the society.











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