

# News Platform

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## Despite Electoral Act Amendment

...2023 Polls can still be rigged

...Gov. Simon Lalong, Bishop Kukah others raise alarm.



OLD SEMINARIANS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA  
HONOUR NEW CLERK OF THE SENATE  
**BARR. CHINEDU AKUBUEZE**







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# Nigeria's Gas endowment enough to make West Africa energy self-sufficient – Sylva



**T**he Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva has said Nigeria's gas endowment is enough to make the West African sub-region become energy self-sufficient.

He explained that the Nigerian government is working on a Roadmap to Gas-Powered Economy by 2030 which requires input by stakeholders in the sector.

The Minister stated this at the Decade of Gas Day session during the 5th Nigeria International Energy Summit in Abuja.

According to him, "The President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration is bent on accomplishing its gas revolution agenda. More than ever before, Nigeria is uniquely positioned to make a success story out of this mantra.

"I can bet that if planned and ongoing gas facilities and infrastructure are completed, gas would not only lift millions of Nigerians out of poverty, but the West African sub-region could become energy self-sufficient as a result of Nigeria's gas revolution.

"We are on course to solving both domestic and sub-regional natural gas deficiencies.

"Like I said at this summit last year, the world expects so much from Nigeria's gas sector and we need to match that expectation with action. It is time to awaken the giant."

According to him, by the end of this year, the Year 2021 to Year 2030 Decade of Gas initiative would have hit the

two-year mark.

He said this leaves the country with eight years to plan in order to achieve its target, stressing that the government was taking the initiative very seriously because of Nigeria's huge gas potential.

"Our current natural gas reserves have risen to 206.53TCF, yet, we have not even scratched at the 600TCF potential.

"Nigeria has the largest proven gas reserves in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as enviable Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) infrastructure and export facilities.

"Interventions in the gas sector have a significant positive effect on power sector development.

"It has the ability to lift people out of energy poverty and foster economic development," Sylva said.

The Minister noted that Natural gas was a highly competitive source of power and it could replace more expensive fuel sources, thus reducing the cost of energy.

He added that with lower energy prices, businesses could thrive and more people could have access to electricity.

Sylva said the entire gas value chain also offers rich investment opportunities for Nigerian companies and entrepreneurs.

He said this included the ability of not only powering current industries today but also generating entirely new industries tomorrow, which means additional millions of new jobs for Nigerians.

# SENATE GET NEW CLERK.



**B**arrister Chinedu Akubueze has been appointed clerk of the Senate. A statement from the National Assembly Service Commission signed by its Executive Chairman Engr Ahmed Kadi Amshi confirmed the appointment and redeployment.

Until the appointment and redeployment Barrister Chinese Akubueze was the clerk of the House of Representatives.

The statement also indicated that Barrister Hahaha Danzariya was appointed acting clerk of the House of Representatives.

'On the other hand Barrister Henrietta Almus Ehikioya was redeployed as Secretary of Special Duties from the Directorate of Legal Services.







# PRO



## OF BARR.

## New **Substantive** Clerk Of The Senate

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**S**enate President Dr. Ahmad Lawan announced the appointment of Barr. Francis Chinedu Akubueze as the new Clerk of the Senate.

Francis Chinedu Akubueze (born December 11, 1964) hails from Idemili South LGA of Anambra State.

He graduated from University of Nigeria, Enugu in 1987 and attended the Nigerian Law School in 1988.

As a lawyer called to the Nigerian Bar, he had brief stint in the private practice. Between 1989 and 1990, Akubueze worked at Okey Muo Aroh & Co., in Onitsha, Anambra State before moving to the Federal Capital Territory in 1990 and worked at Sodangi Abubakar Danso and Co., from 1990 to 1992.

His legislative sojourn began on the 9th of April, 1992 at the National Assembly Legal Services Department. In 2010, Chinedu Akubueze was posted to the Directorate of House of Representatives.

At the House of Representatives, he served as Clerk-at-Table with a responsibility of taking notes during plenary and preparing votes and proceedings of the House.

In 2013, he was moved to House Committee on Rules and Business. In that

# FILE

## CHINEDU AKUBUEZE



committee, he was responsible for producing the order paper, notice papers, notice of motions, vetting motions, and advising on standing orders of the house during plenary.

Aside from the standing committees, Akubueze also served as Clerk of different ad hoc and special Committees of the House such as Constitution Review Committee in the 7th Assembly and ad hoc Committee on Review of the Standing Rules of the House.

Akubueze also served as the Director, charged with responsibility of supervising the Committee on Rules and Business. He served in this capacity until he was moved to Administration and later appointed as substantive Clerk of the House of Representatives taking effect from November 25, 2020.

### **Snapshot of his legislative trajectory...**

Employment into the Legal Services Department of the National Assembly - April 9, 1992 Posting from Directorate of Legal Services to the Directorate of House of Representatives – February 2010.

Clerk-at Table (Taking notes during Plenary sittings of the House and preparing the Votes and Proceedings - from February 2010 - November 2013 Clerk, Committee on Rules and Business (Preparing for the sittings of the House by producing the Order Papers, Notice Papers, Notice of Motions, Vetting Motions, Advising on the Standing Orders of the House during plenary, etc) (from November 2013 - March 2018) Clerk, Special Ad-Hoc Committee on the Review of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (from September 2011 - June 2015) Clerk, Ad-Hoc Committee on the Review of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives (from June - September 2015) Director, Department of Table Duties (Supervising the Committee on Rules and Business) March 2018 - June 2019 Acting Deputy Clerk (Administrative) House of Representatives July 2019 - Appointment as Clerk of the House.





**THE FACULTY OF LAW, UNEC, NAMED HER  
MOOT COURT AFTER JUSTICE CHIMA CENTUS NWEZE.  
THE COURT IS NOW KNOWN AS  
JUSTICE CHIMA CENTUS NWEZE MOOT COURT.**







# DESPITE ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT;

**...2023 Polls can still be rigged  
...Gov. Simon Lalong, Bishop Kukah others raise alarm.**

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**T**he Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Politicians have raised an alarm that the 2023 General Elections can still be rigged despite all the noise made about the amended electoral Act of 2022.

The conference noted that voter apathy, mindset about vote not counting could be explored by dubious politicians and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to rig the elections.

Speaking on the electoral Act Governor of Plateau state Simon Lalong said that the Biometric Voter Accreditation (BVA) machine is not fool proof.

He said if the card Reader reject your card, even if you still thumbprint and voted, your vote will not be counted or recorded by the Server.

The governor spoke in Abuja at the meeting between the Catholic Bishops and Catholic Politicians organized by the Catholic Secretariat.

The governor said 'there is the need for Mass mobilization of people especially Catholic faithful, if we must have a President who is Catholic.'

He said Mass mobilization is key. He explained that in 2007 former governor of Rivers State Dr. Peter Odili would have succeeded Obasanjo as the President of Nigeria. He said this is because Odili was able to mobilize voters and the public from parish to parish for his Presidential ambition but regretted that a disagreement between him and then President Obasanjo stopped the ambition.

The governor who was Speaker, Plateau state House of Assembly at that time noted that even Northerners were ready to vote for Peter Odili.

Confirming the Governors claim, the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Mathew Hassan Kukah said Obasanjo used the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) to intimidate Odili from contesting the election in 2007. 'Obasanjo used EFCC to stop Odili and others,' he lamented.



Bishop Kukah



Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong  
Executive Governor  
Plateau State



Bishop Kukah said some of the criticisms he has with the Buhari's administration is that he observed that the referees who could determine the outcome of the 2023 elections like INEC, EFCC, National Population Commission, Police etc are all headed by Northern muslims.

Speaking in the same way, former Minister of Information and National Orientation Frank Nweke jnr, said the church must take interest in Politics, this he said is because Politics and Leadership will determine the survival of the church.

He said if the government failed to provide welfare for the people, the responsibility will fall on the church stressing that leadership controls everything.

All the speakers who spoke at the event which included Prof Pat Utomi, Senator Nora Daduut, retired Justice K.B. Akaahs all spoke on the need for Mass mobilization from parish to Parish, for peoples participation in the electoral process and the need to change the mindset that vote do not count.



# NCDMB, Partners to Produce 10% Local LPG Demand



**T**he Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has secured approval to work with select partners to produce Liquefied Petroleum Gas (cooking gas) that would meet 10 percent of current nationwide demand.

The Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote announced this while speaking at the 2022 Nigerian International Energy Summit (NIES), which ended in Abuja.

He said the Board recently secured the approval of its Governing Council for a partnership to produce 123,000 metric tonnes per annum LPG, which is about 10 percent of current demand nationwide, from the Utorogu Gas Plant, in Warri, Delta State, to enhance local production of LPG and reduce import requirements.

The Board's latest efforts are geared towards actualizing the Federal Government's Decade of Gas Policy as well as the overarching Nigerian Content aspirations which are to deepen in-country capacities in the oil and gas industry, create jobs for the teeming youths and retain spending in the economy.

He explained that the Federal Government had introduced clear policies to make the nation become a gas-powered economy, one of which is the Decade of Gas that seeks to leverage on the country's huge gas reserves to become not just a major exporter but to become a major gas consuming nation.

He also highlighted other Board's investments and partnerships in the gas sector to include the creation of a 10 hectares gas hub in Polaku, Bayelsa State for hosting gas-based infrastructure and facilities, LPG jetties/terminals, storage facilities, inland transportation, cylinders manufacturing, bottling, and retail.

According to him, "Our partnerships in the gas sector have unlocked 6,000 metric tonnes of LPG storage facilities, annual production of 1.2 million LPG composite cylinders, and infrastructure and facilities for processing of 840MMscfd of gas across fourteen states of the federation namely Bayelsa, Delta, Edo, Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Zamfara, Niger, Plateau, Gombe, Jigawa states and the Federal Capital, Abuja."

Commenting on the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), Engr. Wabote encouraged international and local operators in the

industry to approve final investment decisions (FID) for new projects to justify the energies that went into enacting the business-friendly legislation.

He hinted that NCDMB was always eager for new projects to be approved for sustainable growth in the industry and expressed hope that some new projects would soon be announced on the back of the PIA 2021.

Contributing to the theme of the conference, which was on **"Revitalising the Industry: Future Fuels and Energy Transition"**, the NCDMB boss explained that various transitions from one form of energy to another have been driven by the availability and utilization of local resources.

He recalled that mankind used various energy sources, ranging from biomass in the 15th century, coal in the 19th century, and crude oil and its derivatives at the beginning of the 20th century, gas in the late 20th century, and now the push for renewable sources in the 21st century.

He remarked that the past energy transitions did not witness the total jettisoning of the previous form of energy, forecasting that what would be experienced in this era would also be a re-adjustment of the energy mix.

He argued that the western world's agenda for energy transition was motivated by the depletion of hydrocarbon reserves and forests in their locality, leading to their push for renewables and green energy to power their economies. He said that the United Kingdom and most European nations currently rely heavily on oil importation, and they consider this scenario a threat to their energy security, thus their push for the locally available form of energy to come into prominence in the mix.

He however insisted that forcing or nudging other nations to set timelines to reduce or abandon their locally available form of energy will be counter-productive and cause disruptions in global energy supply, hinting that it had already begun to demotivate new investments in oil and gas developments worldwide.

The Executive Secretary warned that the ongoing clamour for energy shift, energy swap, and energy transition by the western world is a pre-notice of the impending stoppage of production of equipment, technology, and consumables required to exploit and explore hydrocarbon resources.

To overcome this challenge, African nations must begin to develop or adapt technologies such as rigs, and other equipment that will enable the production and utilization of our hydrocarbons. "Homegrown technology and innovation are indispensable to ensure local resources are not discarded prematurely," he said.

He insisted that a nation's natural resources must remain on its energy mix as much as possible, adding that timely and full exploitation and utilization of natural resources are essential pre-requisites for the creation of employment opportunities and societal development.

He confirmed that Nigeria had developed a path for Research & Development in the oil and gas industry and NCDMB is paying attention to R&D through different platforms, including organising the Research & Development Fair event, launch of the \$50 million R&D Fund for basic research, commercialization of inventions, establishment of R&D Centers of Excellence and endowments.





# NCDMB LEADS STRUGGLE TO HARNESS AFRICA'S HUGE HYDROCARBON RESOURCES

**T**he Nigeria Content Development Monitoring Board, NCDMB, is promoting a new funding mechanism to transform Africa's oil and gas industry which faces major challenges as Western nations now move investment to renewable energy development.

At the maiden African Local Content Investment Forum (ALCIF) for African Oil Producing Countries, organised by the Board in Lagos, Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, Simbi Wabote said the situation on ground challenges African nations to develop a robust response to the push for Africa to abandon her hydrocarbon resources.

He also highlighted some of the bright spots of the business, both at the national and continental levels to attract or deploy funding to the oil and gas industry, and propose some ideas to enhance continental collaboration and global support for fossil fuels.

Wabote, said the African continent is blessed with enormous human and capital resources with a population of about 1.3 billion people, out of which a significant proportion are youths.

The continent is one that needs energy to fuel its developmental and economic activities, he said, adding

that African electricity requirement was estimated to be about two Terawatts out of which a paltry 162 Gigawatts or less than 10 per cent is generated.

According to available data, over 640 million people, representing about half of the total population in Africa have no access to electricity while the other half with access have unreliable supply of electricity and the challenge of inadequate energy is partly the reason why Africa is faced with poverty, conflicts, migration, brain drain and ranks very low on Human Development Index.

Wabote, noted that the African continent is reputed to hold vast deposits of natural resources including oil and gas and in the last four decades, the number of African countries producing oil has increased rapidly as new discoveries are made with the latest additions being the countries of Mozambique, Uganda, Namibia, Mauritania, and South Africa.

Continuing, he said, "The expectation is that the existing and new hydrocarbon discoveries would have presented additional opportunities to address the energy challenge in the African continent but the narratives we are hearing from most of the developed countries in Europe and North America are quite disturbing.

The quest for energy transition, as it is being advocated in some European countries and other parts of the world, is now taking centre stage and as this trend progresses, the hydrocarbon resources in Africa are becoming endangered resources.

He said that whereas the addition of a new form of energy into the mix of options available for utilization by mankind has always followed a normal course of acceptance and adoption but unfortunately this is the first time a group of nations in the name of mankind is setting deadline for adoption of one form of energy to the detriment of another.

"At the COP26 event held in Glasgow in late 2021, these countries made commitments on behalf of the rest of the global community to curb methane emissions, align the finance sector with net-zero by 2050, ditch the internal combustion engine, accelerate the phase-out of coal, and end international financing for fossil fuels.

"Already, some European banks are pulling out of hydrocarbons development projects and most International Operating Companies are shying away from investments in hydrocarbon projects to avoid backlash from green energy activists.

"This unfolding scenario is of huge concern to African leaders and policy makers in the oil and gas industry. It is therefore critical that we explore the necessary steps required to address this funding and investment challenge so that our hydrocarbon resources is not abandoned below the surface like many African countries including Nigeria abandoned their coal mines." Wabote warned.

However, the ES, stated that some African countries have made some in-roads in securing funding and investment for the development of hydrocarbon projects with strategic partnerships with countries that have not turned themselves to oil and gas adversaries such as China and India.

Other African countries are also doing their bit to develop infrastructure and processing plants for the hydrocarbon value chain but there is need to do more.

He identified one of such bright spots as the 650,000bpd Dangote Refinery which is now mechanically complete an investment he said represents a major testament of the emerging crop of bold and audacious African businessmen positioning themselves and the continent on the map of the required energy mix for mankind.

He further said that in respect of African institutions, one bright spot is the African Export-Import Bank (Afrexim Bank), a Pan-African multilateral financial institution mandated to finance and promote intra-and extra-African trade based in Cairo, Egypt.

"It is very instructive that AFREXIM Bank signed a \$US1.04 billion facility with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Limited to finance the exploration of petroleum during the second intra-Africa trade fair which held in Durban, South Africa few days after the completion of COP-26 event in Glasgow.

"For a bank that disbursed more than US\$42 billion between 2016 and 2020 in support of African enterprises, there is no doubt that AFREXIM bank is an institution of note in consideration of the quest for funding hydrocarbon development projects in Africa." he said.

In addition, Wabote expressed the confidence that the African Development Bank (AfDB), objective is to spur sustainable economic development and social progress in member countries thus contributing to poverty reduction.

He said, "AfDB has the African Development Fund (ADF) which became operational in 1974

and has cumulatively invested USD 45 billion over its 44 years of operation on the African continent. Although the Fund has not been used much in the hydrocarbon sector, there is opportunity to engage AfDB to utilize part of the Fund for gas development which could be of interest to its largely Western donor countries against the backdrop of disruption in gas supplies in Europe.”

At country level, Wabote observed that Nigeria represents a bright spot in the provision of funds that can be sourced for the execution of oil and gas projects.

The funds include the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund and other funds that can be sourced from Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) like the Bank of Industry, NEXIM bank and other special funds that are managed by the Central Bank, to mention a few.

For instance, NCDMB partnered with Bank of Industry to establish the USD300 million Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund). In addition, NCDMB partnered with NEXIM bank to create a USD50million fund for Working Capital and for Women in Energy.

In the area of research and development, he said the NCDMB has sponsored the patent for some inventions, and we have commenced the process for commercializing those inventions. A USD50 million Research and Development Fund was also launched to enable Research and Development in the oil and gas industry.

Beyond the provision of intervention funds as loans to industry players, the Board has also entered into partnerships with project promoters in the hydrocarbon sector.

In the aspect of Modular Refineries, NCDMB is serving as a catalyst in the development of four (4) modular refineries with the 5,000bpd Waltersmith Modular Refinery already in operation. Let me highlight that the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), played a role in seeing the project to fruition.

The other three under construction are the 2,500bpd Duport Modular Refinery, 2,000bpd Atlantic Refinery and the 12,000bpd Azikel Modular Refinery.

“Our partnership investments in the gas value-chain which span across development of LPG storage terminals and jetties, inland gas processing to produce LPG and propane, infrastructure for gas gathering and injection into gas pipeline networks, CNG facilities, and manufacturing of composite LPG cylinders.

Specifically, these partnerships include the following:

“Partnership with NEDO Gas Processing Company in Kwale, Delta State for the establishment of 80MMscfd of Gas Processing Plant and a 300MMscfd Kwale Gas Gathering hub.

“Partnership with Triansel Gas Limited in Koko, Delta State for the 5,000MT LPG Storage and Loading Terminal Facility.

Partnership with Brass Fertiliser for the development of a 10,000MT/day Methanol Plant at Odioma in Brass

Partnership with Butane Energy to roll out LPG Bottling Plants and Depots in Abuja and ten (10) Northern States of Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Zamfara, Niger, Plateau, Gombe, and Jigawa states.

The 123,000MTPA LPG production plant at Utorogu, Delta State.”





# NIGERIAN CONTENT FUND **Exceeds** \$500m - Wabote

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**T**he Nigerian Content Intervention (NCI) Fund has exceeded half a billion dollars, the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Engr. Simbi Wabote has said.

He spoke recently at the Sub-Saharan African International Petroleum Conference (SAIPEC) organised in Lagos by the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN),

He indicated that the NCI Fund which is extended as low-cost credit to qualified oil and gas companies covers asset acquisition, project financing, manufacturing, working capital, loan refinancing, women in oil and gas, and research and development.

The NCI Fund is a component of the Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF) which is accumulated through one percent deductions from contracts awarded in the upstream sector of the oil and gas industry.

Wabote added that the Board is using the NCDF to catalyse the construction of modular refineries, gas processing plants, LPG terminals and bottling plants, LPG Cylinders manufacturing plants, lube oil blending plants, base oil production plant, methanol production plant, and many others.

He canvassed that a similar fund replicated at the continental level and be utilized to develop huge mega oil and gas projects, particularly as world financial institutions were getting reluctant to finance hydrocarbon-related projects.

He said: "let me use this opportunity to once again canvass for the creation of an African Local Content Fund that could be utilised to set up a bank or finance institution to provide funding for the development of oil and gas projects in Africa. This is especially important against the backdrop of the reluctance and outright declaration by some banks and financial institutions to stop funding of hydrocarbon-related projects. I hope the AFRIEXIM Bank, AFDB, or the AU through the AFCFTA Secretariat need to institute a form of contribution, no matter how little, as a fund to support the continent's need for funds."

He explained that "in our own case, the deduction of one percent of every contract awarded to any contractor, subcontractor, alliance partner or any other entity involved in any project, operation, activity, or transaction in the upstream sector of the Nigeria oil and gas industry has resulted in us having a pool of funds to support various intervention programmes."

Speaking further, the Executive Secretary described the recent spike in crude oil prices above \$90 a barrel as an excellent opportunity for African oil producers and its service providers to develop new fields, ensure security of supply and affordability as well as increase revenue generation.

He noted that the price of crude oil has increased by 50 percent in 12 months and African oil producers should use the opportunity to also make plans towards energy transition, and lowering the cost of services.

Dwelling on the topic "Sub-Saharan Africa Local Content Collaboration Strategy," Wabote stated that an enabling regulatory framework backed with the appropriate legislation is very fundamental in Local Content practice and commended African oil producers for putting in place investor-friendly laws to promote the oil and gas industry as well as ongoing collaboration among the countries to advance the local content journey.

He noted that such laws will align with the goals of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AFCFTA) which seeks to create the world's largest free trade area by integrating 1.3 billion people across 54 African countries, with the objective of tapping into a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of over \$3 trillion

He described AFCFTA as the practice of Local Content on the continental level, noting that it is a huge trading and collaboration platform for the participating countries.

The NCDMB boss harped on the need for African oil producers to utilize existing cross-border infrastructures to unlock the development of stranded assets or bring energy closer to the people. He mentioned that the existing West Africa Gas Pipeline (WAGP) and ongoing AKK gas transmission infrastructure provide a good opportunity to serve regional markets. He also pointed out that the SHI-MCI yard in Lagos which is the only FPSO integration yard infrastructure in Africa has put Nigeria at a vantage position to serve the wider African market.

In his remarks, the Chairman, PETAN, Mr. Nicholas Odinuwe advocated for regional collaboration and innovation to enhance the future of energy sector. He disclosed that the key enabler for the continent is to create a collaborative ecosystem between the local industry stakeholders alongside the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA).

Odinuwe encouraged governments across Africa to provide necessary incentives to attract private sector investments across the entire value chain which would trigger a massive economic revolution, human capital development, and deepen local content across the continent.



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# ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

SINCE inception the university has been undergoing a lot of physical development. Right from the entrance of the University, the sports complex has been developed for the physical exercise of students and staff. Two hostels, each with a capacity to accommodate 640 students had been completed. We have just completed a twin hostel with 300-bed spaces. The access road to the hostel has also been tarred. The Law Faculty had been constructed and first set of law students in the 2020/2021 academic session had commenced after the NUC came for Resource Verification in October last year. The architectural and mechanical drawings for our college of Medicine has been completed. A new University Medical Centre is under construction to ensure that we have a well-equipped medical facility to cater to our students and staff. This is most crucial to us, especially in these present times of living with the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have also completed the architectural designs and the Bill of Quantities for Rev Sister Hostel and the Chaplain's House.. It has become a priority project for us because currently there are over 100 Rev Sisters sponsored by different groups to VERITAS University.

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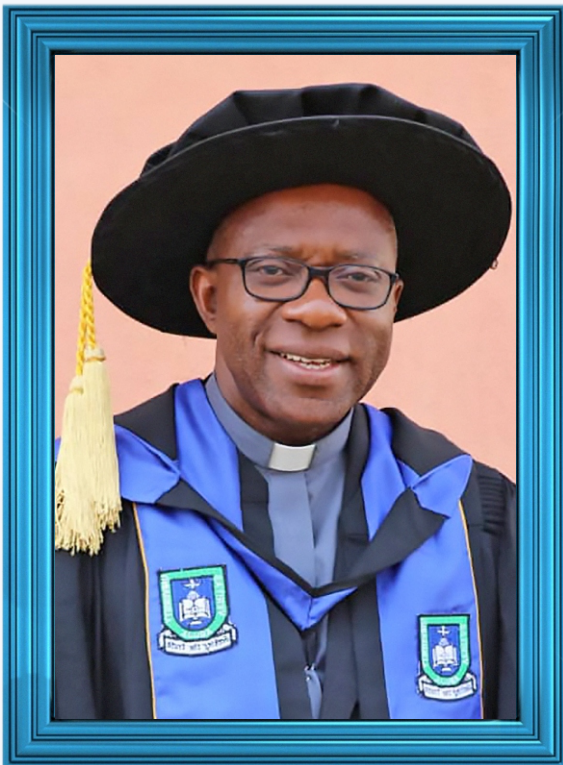


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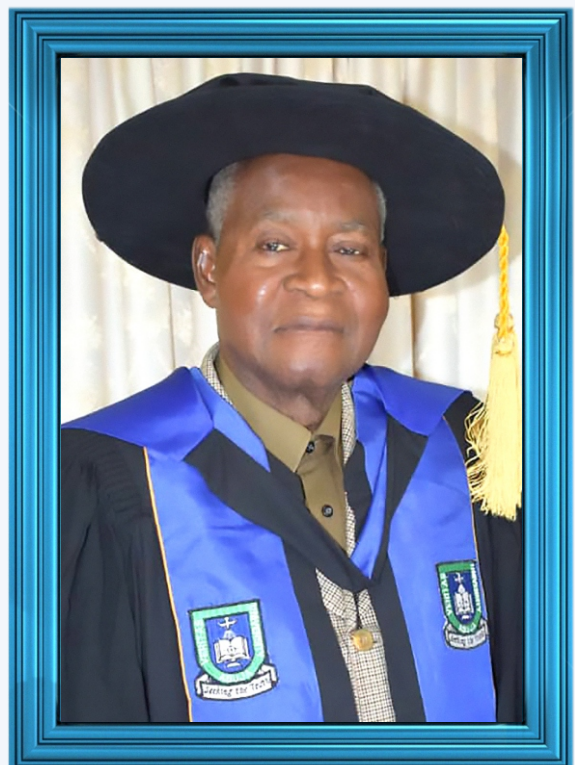
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# THE DUKE IGBINEDION INTERVIEW



**Did you say multiple and vast areas of incursion?**

Yes. The mind of the artist is always at work hence the multiple and vast areas of incursion..it is not enough to stay solely as a sculptor, if you are really a sculptor worth the onions, you put your brain always to work and think every day how to improve things, how to create things, how to make things better, how to leave the world a better place than you met it. That is the spirit behind the multiple and vast areas of incursion.

**What have you done on this multiple and vast areas of incursion, as you have said, beyond being a sculptor, or first, what have you done in the past that may interest our readers?**

Beyond reeling out a list of my works, this is quite unprofessional as some of those works are in the private homes of individuals and corporates, one that readily comes to mind is the 50-foot high sculptural work at the Ceremonial Plaza of The National Assembly, Abuja. My signature is there as DIVAS (an acronym for Duke Igbiniedion Visual Arts Scenta). That job is called THE MANDATE. You cannot claim to have gone to the National Assembly complex if you have not seen that work.

**You have another project (or child) you are nurturing; what is this new project?**

It is not just one project; it is a lot of projects and involves games invention. Yes, I am now into invention go games.

**Games invention; why games invention, and what kind of games**

Games invention because that is where my talent takes me to and besides, there have to be alternatives on how people recreate and enjoy themselves. We seem too boxed in by the existing games and when you talk of games, what readily comes to mind is football, football and football, especially in Nigeria where there is a bundle of talents that need to be given diverse opportunities. That is why I came up with the game



QWIVAS.

**QWIVAS, that sounds strange**

Sure! It is strange, and that is why it is QWIVAS.

**So what is QWIVAS?**

QWIVAS is a nine-person versus nine-person game played on a CANVAS with the instrument called the RHOMBO which is BLONGED through a FORTE to score a QWIVOO. Among the QWIVANDOS (players of the game) are the PALLO, PHILOSOFAS (EAGLES), STALLIONS (HORSES), AND THE BASERS (THE LIONS), with the PERO as the central umpire.

**Please take it one at a time. What did you say QWIVAS is?**

The game QWIVAS is played as a team game between nine people in each team with an instrument called THE RHOMBO. You may call it throw in the layman's language, but in the game, it is called BLONG into or through what I call a FORTE and a successful BLONG gets you a QWIVOO. The players and fans of the game are called QWIVANDOS and among the players are the PALLO, PHILOSOFAS (EAGLES), STALLIONS (HORSES), and the BASERS (THE LIONS). The PERO is the central umpire. The ground on which the game is played is called the CANVAS.

**All these sound quite strange, but how did you come about these words and what do they mean; I mean, can you describe the game the more to enable our readers get a clearer picture of what you are pushing out to the public. What would anybody who interested in the game get that is different from other games?**

The game being hereby introduced is a game packed with action that elicits mobility, a game that creates great excitement and entertainment, a game approved by the learned and the noble, a game that improves intelligence, a game for all ages, a game that is played with the RHOMBO – the most dynamic game instrument in the world, a game that pierces the long-known games and sets its own marks, a game that is played with the precision of Divinity, the aero-dynamism of the eagle and the aggression of the lion, a game that elicits boldness, agility and the spirit of a conqueror, a game from the ancient city of Benin, the cradle of black civilization, a game for Nigeria, Africa and the world...

**Take it easy, please. I know artists celebrate creativity and the next masterpiece. What is your vision in going into games invention and what other games do you have in your kitty?**

The concept, design, registers of the game are all exclusive to me and I am passionate about this invention as well as its potentials to alter the universal sporting firmament, as well as give the economy of Nigeria the needed push to international reckoning. If you talk about vision in its true concept, I have the vision that one day, there will be a national festival of all invented in Nigeria games, and this can happen, and it should happen. Can you imagine the quantum resources that will be tapped into the national economy if such a festival happens when we can

actualise a dream of making Nigeria in particular and Africa a hub of games invention and development, games equipment manufacture and game personnel development and export? It is instructive that at the last National Sports Festival hosted by Edo State, almost 90 percent of the games on parade are foreign. Do you envision the enormity of resources that go to those countries from where those games originated? We play a lot of football in Nigeria but do we manufacture any of the equipment used for playing the game? And is it not instructive that even until we have a foreign coach for football, Nigerian fans don't consider the government as serious about developing the game? Shouldn't we benefit more by trying local alternatives which we can develop and export? That is my vision with QWIVAS!

**I don't know the source of your confidence about this game and its potentials is, but one could guess that before you came this far, you must have done a lot of home work. What did you find?**

Oh! Yes, for the avoidance of doubt, the unique selling points of the game include, but are not limited to: the game has a popular appeal to both males and females; it attracts high target audience; the game is loved and played mostly by the youths who form the majority in the age bracket segments; it is a novel game very new, attracting attention and has lots of positives for schools, colleges and sports development-individuals and organisations, and the game if well managed and handled could serve as a new discovery to international sports or events. And beyond that, the game – QWIVAS – has the potentials to engender a giant industrial complex in Nigeria for the production of the equipment, kits, among others.

**You started off by saying that you are a games inventor and you have been talking so much about QWIVAS. Are there any other...?**

Yes, I have another which is called DI-MOBILE QUANTUM STADIUM. You can call it stadium on wheels. It is a platform on which can be played as many as a hundred Games some of which are QUANTUM BALLUSTICKS BRONZE, GEEDTARRWS etc. Some of the purposes of DI-MOBILE QUANTUM STADIUM is to provide an alternative for sporting, especially for organizations and entities including private schools, hotels, gymnasium and private residences that have space constraints but can still enjoy the same privileges as that that have ample space.

**Seeing the picture of this QWIVAS game and DI-MOBILE QUANTUM STADIUM, it is obvious that you must have invested much resource into getting them this far. How have you been coping with bankrolling them?**

Investing much resource seems to be an understatement. I can say I have invested my life because it takes a lot of sacrifices to get from where you are to where you really want to be. As a matter of fact, everything I get from friends, relatives and from the work I do as a sculptor and painter, go almost hundred percent into perfecting these games

## HUMAN FRATERNITY: PATH TO BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN NIGERIA



**A** Communiqué issued at the end of the First Plenary Meeting of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) at the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria Resource Centre, Durumi, Abuja, 5 – 11 March 2022.

**PREAMBLE** We, the Catholic Bishops of Nigeria, held our First Plenary Meeting for the year at the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria Resource Centre, Durumi, Abuja, from 5 – 11 March 2022. Having prayerfully reflected on issues affecting the Church and the Nigerian State, we now issue this Communiqué.<sup>2</sup> WE ALL ARE BROTHERS AND SISTERS On 4 February 2019, Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, published a joint document, Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together. Following that publication, on 4 October 2020 in Assisi, the Holy Father issued the Encyclical Letter, Fratelli Tutti (FT), On Fraternity and Social Friendship. Inspired by

these two documents, we invite all to a sincere acceptance that we are brothers and sisters and embrace the things that unite and bond us together irrespective of differences. By virtue of our being created by One God and our descent from a common ancestry (Gen. 2:4), we must go beyond sophistry and rhetoric and work towards a tradition of love that transcends the barriers of race, nationality, culture, ethnicity, religious or political affiliation and geographical distance. We call on our fellow countrymen and women, as well as all persons of goodwill to recognize that our common humanity is a gift and a challenge. We earnestly join millions of Catholics around the globe to pray for unity and peaceful dialogue between nations and communities, without which the deeply divided world cannot find the much-needed healing. We continue to pray especially for peace in Ukraine and Russia and other war-torn regions of the world. We, therefore, call for fair and equitable treatment of all those displaced by this avoidable conflict,



regardless of their origin, race and nationality. 3. THE STATE OF THE NATION Promoting Fraternity through Good Politics and Governance We note that politics is a noble vocation for the common good. We equally affirm that political office holders have a fundamental role to play in providing good governance. Although political parties are the platforms through which political offices are sought in Nigeria, elected officials should build fraternity among all citizens irrespective of differences in creed, ethnic group, sex, and political opinion. In our nation today, we observe that there is no evident fairness in the distribution of social amenities or in making appointments to offices despite the Federal Character principle enshrined in the Constitution. There is also no functional, stable, qualitative and affordable educational system that should be the bedrock of development. Currently, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is on strike with the consequent closure of our public universities, thereby leaving our young people roaming the streets. We urge the Federal Government to quickly and permanently settle the dispute in the interest of human and national growth. We observe a gross lack of job opportunities, equity, gender balance between male and female, good moral standards, an adequate justice system, transparency and accountability. We, therefore, call on governments at all levels to respect and protect people's fundamental rights and shun all forms of ethno-religious favouritism. We also urge political office holders to embrace a better kind of politics by proper application of the principles of equity and subsidiarity for programmes of development; and by "promoting an economy that favours productive diversity for job creation" in the interest of respect for human dignity (FT 168 & 175). We encourage all citizens to participate in the forthcoming national population census exercise to help Government have the data needed for proper policies that will aid development. Constitutional and Electoral Reforms: Recipe for Peace and Development We are aware that the Constitution of any nation is the primary law that provides for the organization and direction of the actions of governments about the welfare of citizens. We also know that a faulty Constitution can breed rancour, discontent, and maldevelopment. We thank the Government for initiating processes towards reforming our national Constitution handed down by the military Government. We urge the legislature and the executive to exercise their relevant roles to give the nation an adequate Constitution that reflects our common aspiration to live in unity, justice, and peace. We commend the efforts of the National Assembly, the President, and all who made it possible for our country to now have a reformed electoral law, the Electoral Act 2022. If well and sincerely implemented, we believe that this law will engender a better democracy in which there would be free, fair and transparent elections, through which people choose their leaders who would serve the common good. We gladly welcome the adoption of modern technology to improve the quality of our electoral process.

However, in and of itself, technology may not necessarily guarantee free and fair elections. We, therefore, draw attention to the need for sincerity and vigilance over the accuracy and objective use of the technology being adopted. We encourage good and qualified people with the right intention to vie for political offices. We ask all eligible citizens to secure their voter's cards and come out en masse to vote for those who can lead our people to a better life. We demand that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) register only qualified people and ensure that people's votes count and their mandates are respected. We also urge the electoral commission and other relevant bodies to organize and promote appropriate voter education. Need for Dialogue and Friendship to Counter Violence and Insecurity We have in our past Communiqués, press releases, and other relevant documents condemned the spate of violence and insecurity in our land. Yet, violence and insecurity have continued to rise unabated to our greatest disappointment. We are deeply saddened that kidnapping, abductions, armed robbery, assassinations and other incidents of shedding innocent blood have continued often without prompt and adequate response from the Government and the security agencies. We condemn these killings and call on Government to bring these to an end. In addition, we request the Governments at all levels to do more, especially by exploring the path of dialogue even with those opposed to its policies. For dialogue and friendship in society is "the desirable mean between selfish indifference and violent protest" (FT 203). 4. THE MEDIA: GOD'S GIFTS TO HUMANITY We firmly acknowledge the role and power of the media for influencing and creating a fraternity of humanity and serving as tools of positive social friendship. The media in themselves are gifts from God for the good of society. However, the media are sometimes manipulative and destructive. In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis calls for the use of media in a manner that not only connects people but also builds bridges, develops authentic interpersonal relationships and therefore builds community. He nevertheless cautions against the inappropriate use of digital media platforms. Today's realities call for a new media approach, which can help people listen to one another and resolve differences and conflicts. The willingness to listen to others is foundational to the readiness to accept and welcome those who are different from us. Together, therefore we must seek the truth in dialogue, for "the process of building fraternity, be it local or universal, can only be undertaken by spirits that are free and open to authentic encounters" (FT 50). We, the Catholic Bishops, have instituted Communications Week (COMWEEK) to facilitate the attainment of the above objective of the media. We call on the different segments of the particular Churches in Nigeria, the media organs and pastoral agents to work closely with the National Directorate of Social Communications, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, to ensure that the media literacy programme scheduled to run in our Parishes from 22 to 29 May this year is successful

(comweeknigeria.com). All Catholics and non-Catholics are also requested to log on to the Nigeria Catholic Network (nigeriacatholicnetwork.com) for synergy and pastoral guidance.

**5. THE SYNODAL JOURNEY, AN EXPRESSION OF FRATERNITY** We are once more grateful to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for convening the Synod on Synodality. This Synod is a dynamic process of convergence that calls for listening and dialogue, leading to greater collaboration, a more profound sense of communion and participation in Church life at various levels. As a Church, we are committed to making the sacrifices that foster genuine encounters and seek convergence by listening to one another, thereby making room for everyone. We firmly believe that if the synodal journey is faithfully undertaken, there will be a resurgence of faith and a more profound commitment to the Christian ideals and values. We are equally convinced that the ingredients of listening, dialogue and collaboration that flow from the Synod are the bedrock of building human fraternity and a world that will enjoy sustainable peace. The Church in Nigeria is of one mind and heart with the Holy Father on the Synod on Synodality the conclusive celebration of which is scheduled for October 2023. The experiences so far at the local levels have been very refreshing and pastorally enriching. Therefore, we request all Catholics to participate actively in the various phases of the Synod.

**6. EVENTS IN THE CHURCH** We are grateful to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for the appointment of Bishop Jonas Benson Okoye as the new Bishop of Nnewi Diocese. Likewise, we rejoice with Bishop Hilary Okeke on his retirement and thank him for his dedicated service to the Church and humanity. Similarly, we received with great joy the news of the appointment of Bishop Lucius Iwejuru Ugorji as the Metropolitan Archbishop of Owerri. His installation ceremony comes up on 23 June 2022. We congratulate him while we wish Archbishop Anthony Obinna a happy retirement. We equally thank the Holy Father for the appointment of Bishop Emmanuel Badejo as a member of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. We thank God for many other joyful events in the Church in Nigeria. The Diocese of Umuahia celebrated the Centenary of the Catholic faith in the land and the celebration of the Centenary of the foundation of Legion of Mary in Nigeria took place in Ikot-Ekpene Diocese. Likewise, the Diocese of Port Harcourt celebrated 60th Anniversary of its canonical erection, while the Diocese of Kafanchan celebrated the Silver Jubilee of its creation. May God be praised both now and forever. Amen. The National Pastoral Congress is scheduled for 7-11 November 2022 in Benin City. Immediately after the Pastoral Congress is the National Eucharistic Congress with the theme: "Becoming the Eucharist we Celebrate: A Call to live as one and serve the Weak", which holds in the Archdiocese of Benin City between 11 and 12 November 2022. We encourage all Catholics to participate actively at the various levels of the celebration while we pray for a renewed love of and firm belief in the Eucharist. Prior to the Eucharistic Congress is the National Bible

Week, which holds from 18 to 25 September 2022 with the theme: Proclaiming the Word of God: Gift of Life for a Fragile Nigeria. We urge all Dioceses and our Catholic institutions to celebrate this week in a befitting and profound manner. We, the Catholic Bishops of Nigeria have recently published a Book of the Prayer of the Faithful for the Church in Nigeria. This is to facilitate and promote the Christian faithful's active, conscious, and full participation in the Eucharistic Liturgy. We admonish all parishes, chaplaincies and other Catholic institutions to avail themselves of the opportunity this book of prayers provides. We are happy to announce a smooth change in the leadership of our Conference: Most Rev. Lucius Iwejuru Ugorji, the newly appointed Archbishop of Owerri, has been elected the President, while, Most Rev. Matthew Man-Oso Ndagoso, the Archbishop of Kaduna, is the Vice President. Similarly, Most Rev. Donatus Aihmision Ogun, OSA, the Bishop of Uromi, is the Secretary and Most Rev. Peter Odetoyinbo, Bishop of Abeokuta, is the Assistant Secretary. We wish them and the other elected officers a successful tenure. We thank Archbishop Augustine Akubeze, Archbishop Lucius Ugorji, Bishop Camillus Umoh, and Bishop Charles Hammawa and other officers for their years of dedicated service to the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria. With sadness but with a firm belief in the Resurrection, we note the passing on of Bishop Paul Olawoore. We are indeed grateful to God for the time he served as the Chief Shepherd of the Diocese of Ilorin. May God grant him eternal reward in His Kingdom. May he rest in peace. Amen.

**7. LENT, A PERIOD FOR INTERIOR CONVERSION** The message of Lent is straightforward: "repent and believe the Good News". The Season is a privileged moment for interior examination and conversion as we intensify our prayers to purify ourselves and for our spiritual rebirth. It is a period of internal renewal and service. We urge all Nigerians, especially our young people to eschew corrupt acquisition of wealth, and violent pursuit of power. More than ever before, we seek healing and reconciliation in this period as we open ourselves more readily for dialogue to achieve lasting peace. As we engage in prayer, fasting and almsgiving, may the swords, clubs, guns, bombs and knives used to maim, kill and destroy our brothers and sisters be beaten into ploughshares (Is. 2:4). Let us remember that prayer and hardwork remain the keys that open the gate to success.

**8. CONCLUSION** As we conclude this Communiqué, we recall the incisive admonition of Pope Francis: "Let us dream then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her beliefs and convictions, brothers and sisters of all" (FT 8). Through the intercession of Mary, Queen and Patroness of Nigeria, may we experience lasting peace and restored social friendship in our land. Amen.





# UNIVERSITY OF DELTA VC COMMEND GOV. OKOWA FOR CAPACITY BUILDING OF TEACHERS IN DELTA STATE

**T**he Vice Chancellor of the University of Delta, Agbor, Prof. Stella Chiemeka, has noted that the standard of education in Nigeria had been on consistent decline, stressing that stakeholders including teachers, parents and researchers had critical role to play towards improving the standards.

Prof. Chiemeka said that the main aim of pedagogy was to build on previous learning of the students and work on the development of skills as well as attitudes of the learners, adding that pedagogy would enable students to get a thorough understanding of the subject and help them in applying those learning in their daily lives outside of the classroom.

The University of Delta Vice Chancellor reminded them that a good teacher must constantly improve on his or her pedagogy which encompassed teaching quality and effectiveness even as she said that effective pedagogies focused on developing higher thinking and meta cognition as well as make good use of dialogue and questioning.

Prof. Chiemeka, however, lauded Senator Ifeanyi Okowa for deeming it necessary to train and retrain teachers in the state and for the growth and development of the education sector, explaining that the TPDC under the watch of the Director General, Dr. Tony Dibashi had continued to realise its objectives of training and retraining of teachers.

In the same vein Delta State Commissioner for Secondary Education, Mrs. Rose Ezewu has commended the State Governor, Senator (Dr.) Ifeanyi Okowa for his continued resolve to upgrade the capacity of teachers as well improving the standard of

education in the state.

Ezewu gave the commendation during capacity building workshop organised for teachers on training models on Pedagogical Skills and Strategies for secondary and technical schools held at the Teachers Professional Development Centre (TPDC), Owa-Oyibu in Ika North East Local Government Area of the state.

While declaring the workshop open, Ezewu described teaching profession as crucial to the growth and development of the society just as she said that teachers should be consistently trained in line with the modern trends.

She said that the training was aimed at equipping the teachers on appropriate methodology to improve the teaching and learning process, adding that the outcome of the workshop would be beneficial to teachers and learners in secondary and technical schools in the state.

Earlier in a goodwill message, the State Commissioner for Technical Education, Hon. Shola Ogbemi- Daibo, who enjoined the participants to take the training serious and ensure that they impact positively on the students just as the Director of Operations, Teachers Professional Development Centre, Mr. Peter Makpamekun appreciated the stakeholders in the education sector for their pivotal role in ensuring that the workshop was successful. Speaking in an interview with newsmen, the Director General of the Teachers Professional Development Centre, Dr. Tony Dibashi said that the training was to improve the teaching methodology of teachers and advised teachers to maximise the benefits of the workshop.

# ZIGELS PAINT



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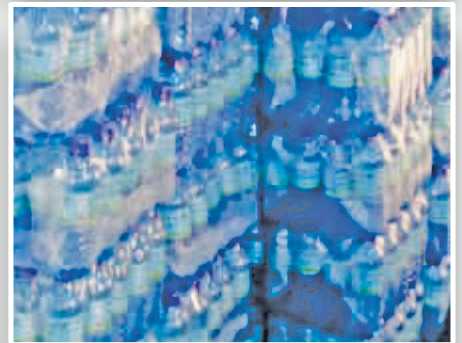
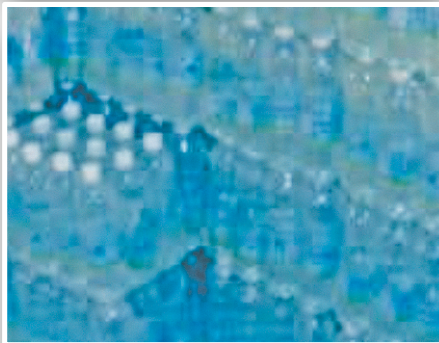
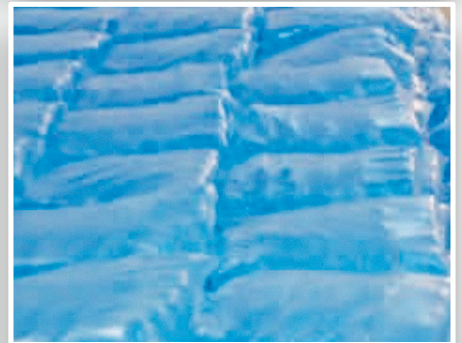


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