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TRANSPORT SAFETY

Magashi: With latest Hardware, we are set to overcome Waterways Insecurity

As Nigeria gets set to deploy maritime security assets acquired under the Integrated National Security and Waterways Protection Infrastructure, members of the Deep Blue Project Steering Committee have visited Lagos, Warri, Benin, and Onne to inspect the assets at the various locations.

The delegation, led by Minister of Defence, Maj-Gen. Bashir Salihi Magashi (rtd), included Minister of Transportation, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi, and Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ibok Ekwe Ibas. They were joined by Director-General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr Bashir Jamoh, and other members of the presidential committee on the inspection tour meant to confirm the readiness of the maritime assets for deployment.

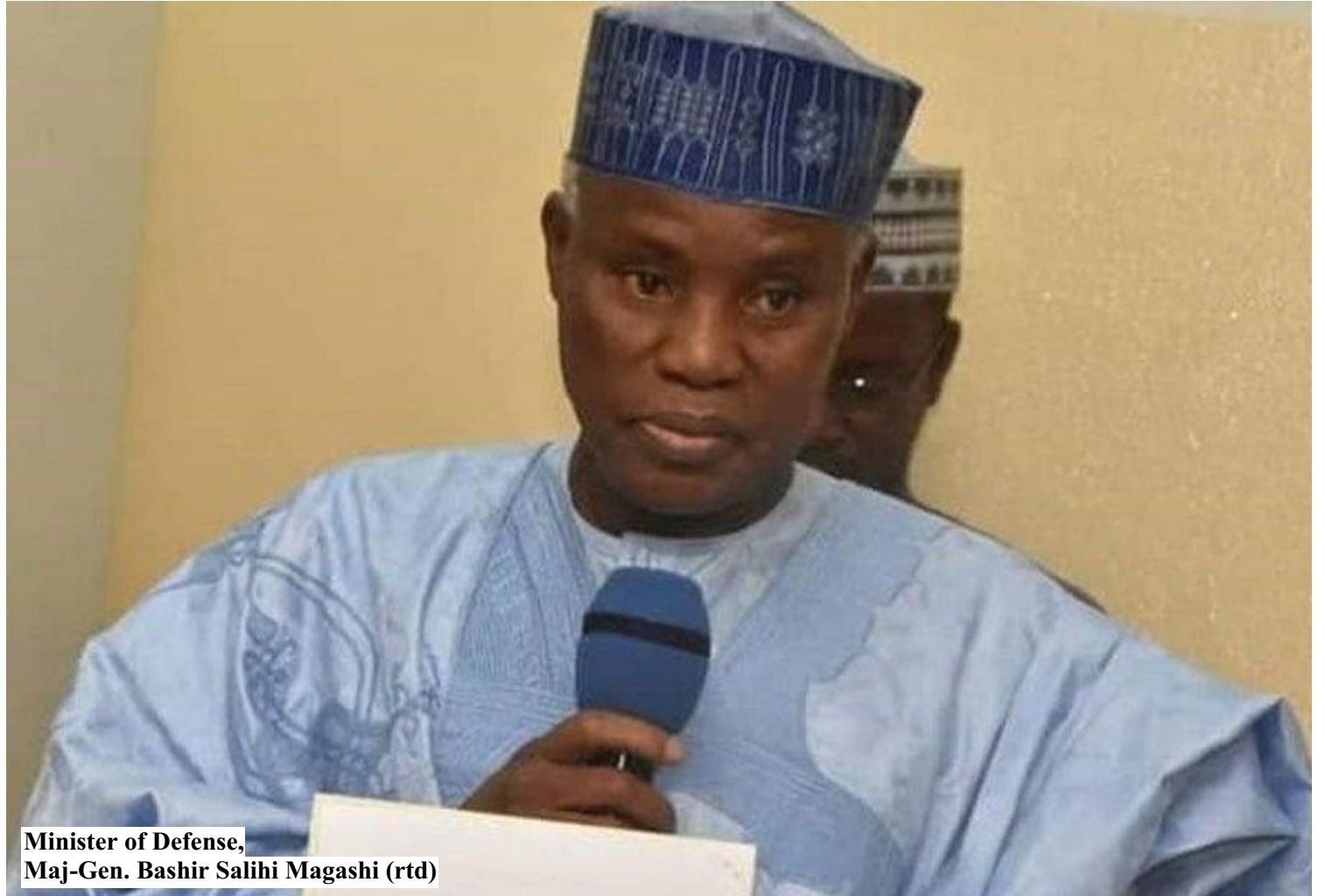
The committee members said they were optimistic about the Integrated National Security and Waterways Protection Infrastructure, also called the Deep Blue Project. They held that from what was on the ground, the project would deliver the national expectation of safety and security in Nigeria's waters and the Gulf of Guinea.

Speaking to journalists after the inspection concluded at the weekend, Magashi, who is also Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Deep Blue Project, expressed satisfaction with the level of preparedness for the launch of the assets. He assured of the Federal Government's determination to continue to improve security in the country.

Magashi said the specifications of the latest intelligence and military hardware given to the contractors of the security project would be met. "So far, so good, I think we are on the right course," he said.

The Defence minister added, "Sea piracy is already being tackled by our naval men, whose responsibility is to protect our waterways and they are doing a good job. The Gulf of Guinea is so vast; it involves many countries, with crimes being committed by citizens of these countries. But with the acquisition of these security equipment, we should be able to observe, detect and solve the problem of sea piracy.

"The navy is already containing the situation. Before now, sea piracy was high, but it has reduced to a situation where I can say we are in control. The implementation of this project will further help in this direction."



**Minister of Defense,
Maj-Gen. Bashir Salihi Magashi (rtd)**

Amaechi said the President Muhammadu Buhari government was fulfilling a critical national aspiration and ambition of a safe and secure maritime environment where investors, tourists, and operators could confidently come to do business. He said it was a dream come true and a special feat, after all the failures of the past administrations.

The Director-General of NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh, described the planned assets deployment as the beginning of a new dawn for the Nigerian maritime industry. Jamoh stated, "We have come a long way in the achievement of this dream,

the dream of staying ahead of the machinations of criminals bent on thwarting our yearning for maximum benefits from the rich maritime resources Nature has endowed us with.

"We are deploying technology and advanced domain awareness techniques to ensure security of our waters, up to the Gulf of Guinea."

The key components of the Deep Blue Projects are: air, maritime, and land assets; Command, Control, Communication, Computers and Intelligence (C4i) Operation Centre; and the training programme. The C4i

Centre has been up and running since last year, while over 80 per cent of the assets have been delivered and are ready for deployment.

The assets include helicopters, interceptor boats, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Special Mission Aircraft, Special Mission Vessels, and armoured vehicles, which would be operated by a standby intervention team, and linked to the C4i Centre. The centre would also be integrated with the Maritime Intelligence System and the Nigerian Navy's Falcon Eye for real time monitoring and reporting of activities within the country's maritime space.

FRSC identifies Causes of Otedola, Kara Bridge Accidents

The Lagos state Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Corp Commander Olusegun Ogungbemide has stated that the FRSC has discovered a major cause of the recurring accidents on the Kara bridge. He made this remark recently when officials of the Nigeria Auto Journalists Association (NAJA) paid him a courtesy visit in his Ojodu office.

It would be recalled that in recent times, that portion of the Lagos-Sagamu expressway has witnessed a lot of road traffic crashes, the latest being the November 7 crash that killed two persons and claimed over 30 vehicles.

According to the Commander, the rough road shortly after the smooth

portion on the road before the Kara bridge, is a major cause of the crashes on that axis.

He nonetheless added that the construction company on that corridor has quickly moved in to effect some emergency palliatives on the road after consultations with the FRSC.

In a similar vein, the Commander added that trucks carrying more than their capacity have also been the ones vulnerable and liable to crash on the Otedola bridge, noting that hardly has any truck entering Lagos via the bridge been involved in crash.

The FRSC Commander also advocated for the restriction of the movement of heavy duty trucks into Lagos during peak periods, as it would reduce the possibility of large scale casualties in case of crash.

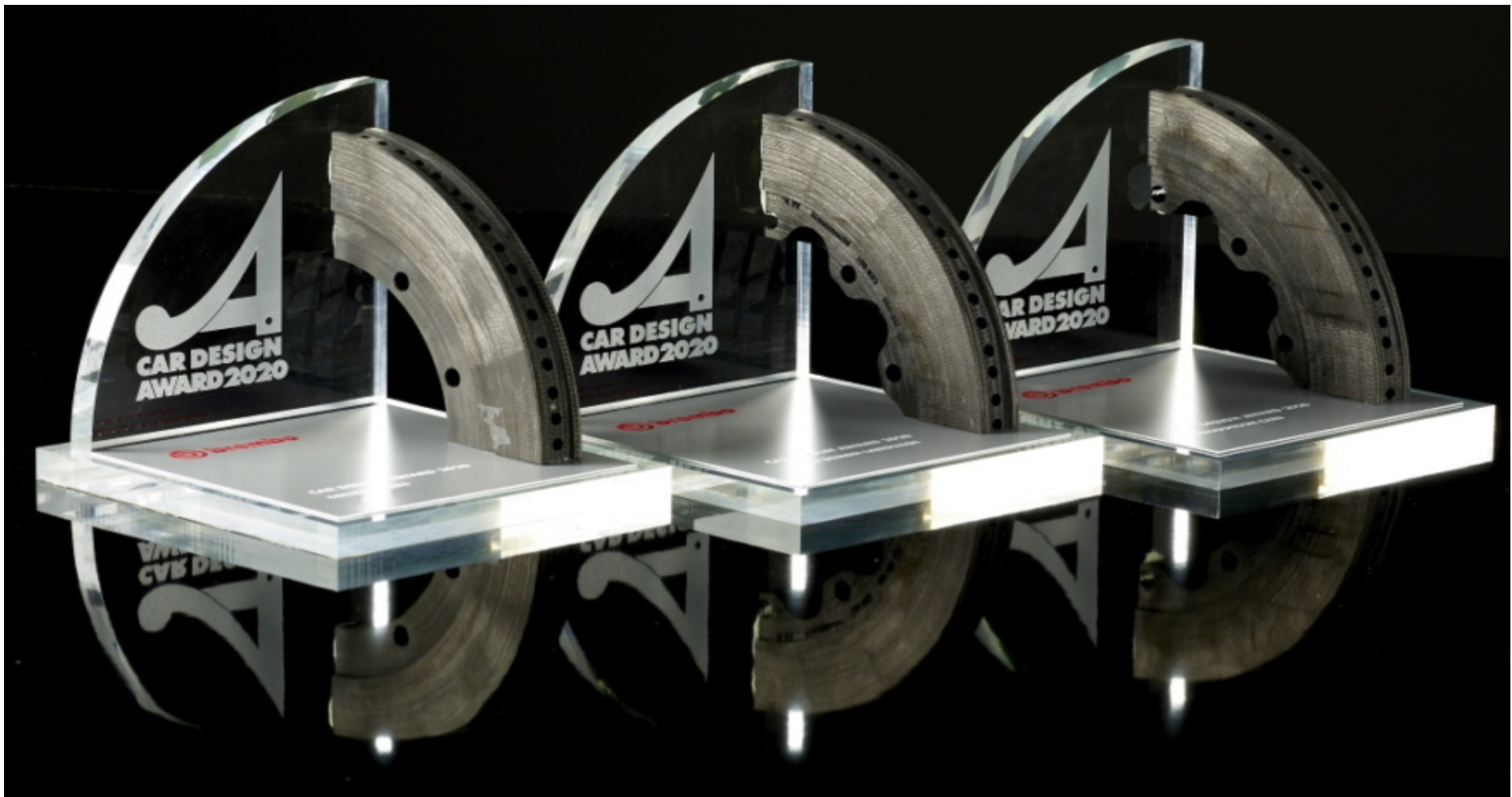
He explained that the attitude of drivers remain the biggest challenge faced by road traffic law enforcement officers in the state, adding that his men are back on the road with focus on rescue and traffic control.

He also mentioned that the rate of incessant crashes and fatalities along Lagos- Ibadan expressway has reduced as the FRSC is now concentrating on the Corridors due to the great synergy with other agencies including LASTMA, LASEMA, VIO and others.

Lamenting the loss incurred by the FRSC during the ENDSARS protests, he said "we lost 17 vehicles in different formations in the state, our offices were vandalized and laptops, gadgets carted away."

AUTO

Hyundai Motor wins 2020 Car Design Award



extracting
, propeller-
style wheels.
Rather than
mimic a conventio-
nally powered
car, 'Prophecy'
has no grille
between its pixel
headlamps, and the
pixel design repeats
with tail lamps that
give the rear a
sports car-like
flourish."

Hyundai Motor Company has been awarded the 2020 Car Design Award in the "Concept Cars" category for its "Prophecy" concept EV, which debuted earlier this year. Hyundai's appropriately named concept EV came in first in the "Concept" category of the 2020 Car Design Awards. "Prophecy" is notable for the way it combines Hyundai's Sensuous Sportiness

design identity with Optimistic Futurism, which aims to forge a new form of emotional connection between humans and automobiles. Organised by Auto & Design magazine, the Car Design Awards were first established in 1984 and are presented annually in Turin, Italy. Due to the current situation, the awards were held digitally for the first time this year. The awards are assigned by an international jury

made up of representatives of some of the most prestigious automotive publications in the world.

In awarding Hyundai with the prize, the jury praised "Prophecy" for its aerodynamic, natural shape inspired by streamlined sedans of the 1920s and 1930s, which is combined with a series of technical innovations: "Nautical" inspiration came in the form of such details as the heat-

Cars45 restates commitment to Auto Industry

Tech-enabled auto trading platform, **Cars45**, has reiterated its commitment to enabling trade within Nigeria's automotive industry.

At an interactive session in Lagos, Chief Executive Officer, Cars45, Soumoproto "Sunny" Ganguly stated that meeting the needs and expectations of its customers and stakeholders will remain a major imperative even as the company

intensifies efforts at solving the challenges across the automotive value chain from new, to used, logistics, aftermarket and repair services and scrap vehicles while the business continues to grow on the back of innovation and technology.

"Cars45 has moved into over twelve cities across Nigeria and two others in Africa, we have a growing franchise dealer network coupled with our

Autopreneur support system that has empowered so many young people financially, and our marketplace has exceeded expectations in facilitating consumer-to-consumer vehicle trades and making the car ownership dreams of lots of people come true. We are confident in our ability to deliver and the strength of our mission to enable automotive trade across the continent."

JLR using Aerospace Tech for future Lightweight Vehicle

Jaguar Land Rover is taking part in pioneering research trials to test the capability of advanced lightweight metals and composites to be used in future vehicles.

As part of a two-year project, the company will use technology developed for the aerospace industry to understand how materials respond to corrosive environments, in global markets and over rigorous terrains.

Samples of new metals and composites planned for use in future Jaguar and Land Rover vehicles will be built into aerospace-grade sensors and put through their paces in some of the world's most extreme physical conditions, tested for over 400,000km across North America. The sensors will continuously measure the performance of the materials and share data with the

Jaguar Land Rover's product development team in the UK. With this information, the engineers can accurately forecast the material's behaviour in the development of future vehicle programmes to ensure that next-generation lightweight metals meet the company's stringent standards, delivering a longer-lasting, high quality finish.

Porsche M-East/Africa reports best third quarter in Five Years

With a healthy five per cent growth year-on-year, Porsche Middle East and Africa FZE (PME) announces its best third quarter results in the past five years. In total, 1,710 new cars were delivered between July and September to Porsche customers in the GCC, Levant, Africa and India. Along with other measures, the newly developed "JumpStart" strategy, which provides an overarching growth plan to deliver maximum assistance to all business partners across the region, supported the strong quarterly business performance.

"Our third quarter result is a testimony to the commitment and hard work the entire organization put in to prepare for the time when business would resume to somewhat normal conditions. The implementation of new initiatives, creative ideas and expanded support measures meant that our importers were ready to hit the ground running as soon as business restarted. For this, we joined forces with our business partners to ensure that we could turn challenges into opportunities," comments Dr Manfred Braeunl, Chief Executive Officer at Porsche Middle East and Africa FZE.

EDITORIAL

Ember Months: Safety Must Come First

It is yet another end of year and Christmas season, which comes with increased road transport activities as many will be travelling from one part of the country to another.

It is not news that the road transportation mode is mainly utilized by over 80 percent of persons moving from one part of the country to another.

So, there is a need for safety measures to be fully activated by all road stakeholders-the drivers, road safety and security personnel as well as the passengers.

Traditionally, the lead road safety

organization in the country, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), usually deploys its men on major roads across the country to ensure compliance with safety rules.

We advise the FRSC to ensure that its men do motorized patrols rather than the usual way of being stationary with little or no knowledge about traffic situations few kilometers away.

The passengers also have key roles to play. They should resist the temptation of always urging drivers to over speed and compromise safety rules.

Passengers should also

know that it is improper to throw away wastes or other items from moving vehicles, as this can distract other drivers.

Commuters (passengers and drivers alike) should also endeavour to make use of emergency numbers in calling relevant agencies whenever they observe any issues on the road.

Security agencies also have responsibility of improving their presence on the road in order to check the excesses of men of the underworld.

Drivers are very key in ensuring safe road trips as human factor has

been identified as contributing over 80 per cent to Road Traffic Crashes.

They are to ensure that they maintain approved speed limits, maintain their vehicles, avoid overloading of passengers and goods, avoid night journeys, apply extreme caution when it is raining and be ready to yield to other passengers and roadusers.

With modern technology, drivers should make use of travel advisories in order to avoid congested and dangerous routes before and while on the journey.

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TransportDay Media Services
Correspondence to the Editor:
TransportDay, 104, Western Avenue,
Surulere, Lagos.

P. O. Box 736 Ebute Metta Lagos.
ISSN - 2276-7967, Tel: 08099769833,
www.transportday.com.ng
e-mail: transportdaynewspaper@yahoo.com

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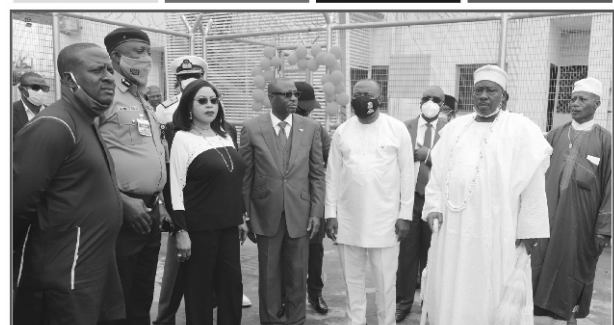
SIFAX Group opens new Terminal to combat Port Challenge

NCAA Safety Oversight Functions

Tough Baha Bajaj takes Centre Stage Traffic over 500k kms in 27 cities, 18 states across Nigeria

Stakeholders commend PMB for re-appointing Railway MD

Egba: Ministry of Foreign Affairs gains as Olumide Agunle departs Transport Ministry



Julius Berger is Topclass in Projects Delivery-Wike

LASTMA: 20 Years Alter-the Good, Bad, Ugly

Why Tyre Safety is Important

NRC generates N1.4bn IGR, remits N245m to TSA in 2020

LUPAN protests arbitrary increase of Administrative Charges by PPPRA



TYRE WATCH



Effects of Over-Inflating and Under-Inflating Tyres

Over Inflation

Over inflated tyres gives you a bumpier ride. When a tyre is over inflated, the outer tread pattern rounds out, which causes the centre of the tyre to wear out much faster than the outer edges.

Over inflated tyres:

Have a smaller contact area with the road.

May effect breaking

Create uneven tread wear - the centre of the tyre wears out faster

Compromise handling

Creates an unpleasant ride - the tyre is unable to 'soak up' the bumps

Under Inflation

Under inflated tyres are one of the

leading causes of tyre failure. Low pressure means that too much of the tyre touches the road, increasing friction and greatly reducing the life

of your tyres. A tyre doesn't need to look a little flat to be under inflated, so always refer to your owner's manual for the required tyre pressure level for your car and get testing!

Underinflated tyres:

Can increase rolling resistance

Increase fuel consumption - due to the rolling resistance, which makes the

engine work harder

Creates uneven tread wear - the edges of the tyre wear out faster

Affect braking performance



Bikers' Top Useful Tyre Tips

A neglected tyre can be a deadly one. The simplest and most important thing you can do for your tyres' health and your safety is keep them, inflated to the designated pressure.

Air It Out: Check tyre pressure every chance you get. The air, not the carcass, supports the bike, and under-inflation is a tyre's number one enemy. (Make sure the tyres are cool when you take the reading.) For a better traction in wet conditions, increase pressures by about 10 percent.

Steady, Now: Although it primarily affects handling, improper balance can also shorten a tyre's life. Check it after 500 or 1000 miles of use.

Top It Off: The valve stem cap should be securely fastened on the stem, because it's an important part of your tyre's sealing system. It'll give you

extra security at high speeds, when centrifugal force can conspire to open the valve inside the stem.

Soap It Up: Most tyre manufacturers recommend that the only substance used to keep rubber shiny should be good old soap and water. Many alleged protectants actually promote premature cracking and finish deterioration. Make sure you wipe off any lube, brake fluid or gas promptly, too.

Look Before You Crank: Before you saddle up, take a moment to visually inspect your tyres. We can't tell you how many times we've pulled out screws or nails before a ride, thus preventing almost certain tyre failure. Once you're on the road, it'll be too late.

Stay Smooth: This is common sense avoid potholes and sharp objects on the road that can

compromise your tyre's integrity. The same goes for curbs.

Don't Mix and Match: Never run two tyres of differing construction. We can't stress this enough, and this rule applies to bias-ply vs. radials as well as tubeless and tube-type tyreseven bias-ply vs. bias-belted tyres. The results can be disastrous.

Scuff 'Em Up: Optimal grip is obtained only after the tread surface has been ridden on, so go into those first few twisties with a bit of caution. The suggested break-in distance is usually 200 or so miles. After that, check the tyre's pressure again!

Don't Scrimp: If you replace your tyres, make sure you replace the tubes, too. Some manufacturers even recommend that you change both tyres at the same time, even if they wear differently.

Pirelli develops unique Tyre size for Rivian EV

EV startup Rivian will use a bespoke range of tyres from Pirelli for its R1T pickup, scheduled for production in June 2021, with the notable edition of what Pirelli says is a unique tyre size, 275 55R21.

Pirelli has developed special versions of its Scorpion Verde All Season, Scorpion Zero All Season and Scorpion All Terrain tyres (Pirelli's dedicated range for SUVs and pickups) to meet Rivian's specifications, following what it calls the "Pirelli Perfect Fit" strategy. To this end, all Pirelli tyres developed for Rivian have a special marking on the shoulder: RIV and Elect.

RAILWAY

You will pay N3000, N5000 or N6000 for Lagos-Ibadan Rail

The Federal Government has approved passengers' charges on the new Lagos Ibadan rail standard gauge which would begin operations by January 2021.

The Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, made the disclosure during the inauguration of the Governing Council of the Chartered Institute of Transport Administration of Nigeria (CIOTA) in Abuja.

The theme for the 2nd Annual Summit is "Building Sustainable Transport Infrastructure in Nigeria: Opportunities, Innovations and Technologies".

According to the Minister, "I have received the mandate of President Muhammadu Buhari to inaugurate the Lagos /Ibadan rail project by Jan. 2021 which will make Nigerians see the way the standard gauge railway looked like, adding "Today I approved the charges on passengers from Lagos to Ibadan, we just transfer how we charged from Abuja to Kaduna.

"We charge N3,000 per Economy seat, N5,000 for Business class and N6,000 for First Class, the same is applicable to Lagos to Ibadan. It should have started running by now before Mr President inaugurate it by January."

The minister said there had been tremendous changes in most of the air terminals saying that the Minister of Aviation would inform the public of the completion of Lagos/Kano terminal.

Amaechi promised that the ministry would collaborate with CIOTA to enable them to achieve their objectives.

He noted that transportation was more than administration but without administration there would be no transportation.

The minister said CIOTA role was critical to the growth of transportation in Nigeria adding that the country had advanced a lot in the area of transportation.

The primary aim and objectives of the Institute is to advance the study, training and practice of transport management and administration in Nigeria regardless of specialization within the industry; and to set standards of practice and determines the knowledge and skills to be attained by persons seeking to become registered members of the Institute and practice as Chartered Transportants, Amaechi stated.

Meanwhile the Minister of Transportation, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, has apologized to Nigerians over the recent failure of locomotives on the Abuja Kaduna rail corridor.

The Minister who made this known during the monthly inspection of the



Lagos-Ibadan rail project in company of members of the Joint House Committees on Land and Marine Transport (Ports and Harbour, Inland Waterways and Marine Safety and Education), observed that it is worrisome that brand new locomotives should start developing problems within a short span of usage adding that he will dialogue with the Chinese company towards having them recall the locomotives as he believes what they ordered for does not tally with recent incidences. He added that the locomotives are under warranty and "we have called

the Chinese to come back for the locomotives that are bad or have failed."

While expressing displeasure over the poor performances of the locomotives, Amaechi assured Nigerians that engineers were on top of the situation to forestall future occurrences.

On the on-going construction of the Lagos-Ibadan railway standard gauge, the Minister charged Messrs China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC) to speed up action as, according to him, the stations must start operations in

December and must be commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari in January 2021.

On the Kano Maradi, Niger Republic rail line, the Minister disclosed that the positives far outweigh the negatives as apart from the rail corridor creating employment, the project on completion, would make Nigeria a destination choice of export for Niger Republic's goods being that the country is a landlocked nation.

According to him, a direct linkage from Maradi through Kano to Lagos will facilitate trade as well as attract more businesses to Nigeria.

Abuja Metro rail to begin operations once PTF lifts suspension

The Abuja Metro light rail would commence operations once the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 issues directives lifting the suspension on the train services, according to its management.

It explained that the Abuja metro railway service was suspended by the PTF due to the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus disease.

Speaking during the presentation of a book on 'Abuja Integrated Transport Plan: CCECC projects that recreated Capital City's Economy,' the Executive Director, Afri-China Media Centre, Mr Ikenna Emewu, reassured users that the shutdown order on the metro service would soon be lifted.

Emewu was assisted at the book presentation by the Managing

Director, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Nigeria Ltd., Mr Michael Jiang; General Manager, media, CCECC, Mr Vincent Liu; Deputy Project Manager of Abuja Airport Station, Mr Jack Fly, amongst others.

He explained that the reopening of the metro service would make access to the airport from the city easier and quicker.

According to him, the metro stations as an addition to the city transport system linking the city centre with the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport would also create access to the Idu Industrial Layout and Kubwa, a satellite town in Bwari Area Council.

Emewu stated, "The Idu railway node makes for accessibility to the Abuja

industrial district for ease of business and industrialization of Abuja.

"The milestone of a new Abuja city transport system was made possible by the Federal Government, working in tandem with the government of the People's Republic of China.

"The dream of an integrated Abuja city transport system conceived in 2007 became a reality through the commitment of the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation."

Emewu observed that the 186-kilometre Abuja-Kaduna railway links has facilitated travel between the two cities and helped the local communities and other Nigerians in having "an enabler to better economy through employment and other gains."

LUBES/ENERGY

General Motors Oil Specifications Automatic Transmission Fluids (ATF)

Performance classification:

Dexron Type A, Suffix A

Specification introduced in 1957. It requires the oil to meet certain limits regarding its kinematic viscosity.

Dexron IID

General Motors Dexron®-IID Specification. ATF issued in 1975. Contained ATF cooler corrosion requirements not listed in Dexron®-II.

Dexron IIE

General Motors Specification Dexron®-IIE. ATF issued in 1991 requiring improved low temperature performance compared to Dexron®-IID, 20 000 cP at minus 40 °C.

Dexron III F

GM specification for Automatic transmission oil introduced in 1994. Successor of Dexron IID and IIE.

Dexron III G

Successor of Dexron III(F) automatic transmission fluid. This has the same low temperature characteristics as Dexron IIE, but with modifications to anti-oxidancy and friction material. Introduced in 1997.

Dexron III H

Dexron III license H was introduced in June



2003 to replace the Dexron III G fluid. It has an oxidative stable base oil (group 2 or group 3). Oils according to this specification have longer maintenance of friction properties and anti-shredder properties, better foam control and a longer fluid life.

Dexron VI

Specification introduced in 2005 to replace Dexron IIIH. This specification requires better stay-in-grade properties, oxidative stability and anti-foam characteristics. Oils meeting this specification can be used with extended drain intervals and are energy conserving.

Mobil ATF 220 (in 1L and 208L pack) meets Dexron IID specification.

Mobil ATF 320 (in 1L, 4L and 208L pack) meets Dexron III G performance specification

Some Best Practices for a Periodic Car Service



One of the major concerns for any new or potential car owner is the service cost affiliated with the brand they plan on purchasing. This means, potential car buyers generally opt to buy economically priced cars or cars offered by a well established automaker. But that needn't always be the case. New automakers are designing their latest offerings to provide competitive maintenance costs and with minimalistic attention you can bring down the service costs for your adored ride.

We've also compiled 10 simple steps that you can take to harness prolonged and efficient service from your car.

Regularly Check the Condition of Engine Oil

A driver should ensure that the engine oil is regularly inspected and changed on prescribed time intervals. This is one of the most economical precaution that one can take to ensure longevity of their engine's service. Over the course of time the engine oil deteriorates, especially organic engine oils in comparison to the relatively expensive synthetic oils. Old oil can put engine components through unwarranted friction and stress that will eventually cause wear and tear of components.

Top-up Engine Oil

Engines, even modern engines are designed to function effectively in optimum conditions. One of these conditions is the availability of necessitated quantities of engine oil. When an engine runs on depleted or

insufficient quantity of oil, it is subjected to strain that might cause it to overheat, which may lead to metal components breaking of and entering the oil. These metal bits can harm the engine beyond repair by causing excess friction.

Change Coolant Periodically

The cooling system should be flushed and coolant should be refreshed according to recommended time intervals. Even modern engine components are designed to function at specific optimum temperatures and old coolant may cause overheating of the vehicle, which may result in a complete breakdown.

Check Coolant

A 50/50 mix of distilled water and coolant (usually, as in some car this

may vary according to their performance attributes) will make sure that your cooling system function in its optimum shape. This will also ensure prevention from corrosion and prevent deposit build-ups inside cooling system, as the coolant act as a lubricant for the moving parts in the system.

Refreshing Differential and Transmission Oils

Transmission and differentials are components that act as a bridge between the power developed by the engine and momentum gained by the wheels. These parts do not require frequent service but in order to maintain transmission efficiency their fluids must be changed according to the service intervals prescribed in the user manual.

AVIATION

Aviation bodies seek bailout to save 4.8 million jobs

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) have again appealed for urgent government intervention to prevent an employment catastrophe in the global aviation industry.

Estimates from the Air Transport Action Group suggest some 4.8 million aviation workers' jobs are at risk as a result of air travel demand falling more than 75 per cent August 2020 compared to August 2019.

The impact of COVID-19-related border restrictions and quarantine measures has effectively closed down the aviation industry, grounding planes and leaving infrastructure and aircraft manufacturing capacity idle. The Nigerian Government has disclosed plans to support operating carriers with N4 billion, which stakeholders have described as too small. Aviation accounts for over 124,000 direct and indirect jobs in the country.

Air Peace to commence inaugural flight to Jamaica, resumes Dubai flights

Air Peace has announced that it will commence its inaugural flight to Jamaica in December. It also revealed that regional flights would commence into Accra, Banjul, Freetown, Dakar, Monrovia, Dubai, Johannesburg the same month.

This disclosure was made by the Chief Operating Officer of the airline, Mrs Toyin Olajide, who lamented the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its operations.

She said, "COVID-19 affected airlines everywhere in different ways.

In our case, we had several aircraft out on C-check maintenance abroad before the pandemic.

"These aircraft were supposed to have since come back one after another but because of lockdown in those countries since February, the maintenance facilities shut down, too."

"The Nigerian C-check regime is driven by the calendar, which implies that every aircraft has a timeframe they must go for mandatory checks, usually between 18-24 months," Olajide explained.

AIB hinges safer skies on implementation of safety recommendations

In efforts to deepen safer skies, the Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB) Nigeria, has harped on the need to improve utilisation of safety recommendations from air accidents and serious incidences to enhance air safety in the country.

AIB Commissioner, Akin Olateru, during the Nigerian Aviation Workshop Symposium (NAWS) 2020, organised by International Gazelle Limited in partnership with the AIB, said implementation of safety recommendations is key to the growth of the sector.

Olateru noted that the AIB's partnership with the aviation regulator, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), among other local and international partners, led to better safety compliance in Nigeria and in line with International Civil Aviation Organisations' (ICAO) safety recommendations.

Speaking on the theme of the workshop: "A Safety Management System Approach to Responses to Aviation Accidents and Incidents within Nigerian Airspace," Olateru disclosed that AIB and partners are implementing Safety Management System (SMS) to further enhance aviation safety.

He explained SMS to mean a set of processes and tools that are adopted to formally manage a structured safety programme, adding that having such a system in place to mitigate risks and promote safety is very crucial.

The AIB commissioner added that safety management in the aviation industry is a combination of two perspectives traditional and modern, saying traditional (or reactive) approach involves analysis of past outcomes or events. Hazards are identified through investigation of safety occurrences, which help to mitigate reoccurrence. This is useful when dealing with technological failures, or unusual events.

He said modern (proactive) approach,



AIB Commissioner/CEO,
Akin Olateru

follows a risk management strategy that includes identifying hazards

before they materialise into incidents or accidents and taking the necessary

actions to reduce and or prevent the safety risks.

Emirates provides Travellers with \$500,000 multi-risk travel cover

Emirates airlines has announced that it will provide travellers with a multi-risk travel cover worth \$500,000 on top of its current COVID-19 cover.

In a recently released statement by the airline, the new multi-risk travel insurance and COVID-19 cover will

automatically apply to all Emirates tickets purchased from December 1, and extend to Emirates codeshare flights operated by partner airlines, as long as the ticket number starts with 176.

Emirates Chairman and Chief

Executive, Ahmed bin Al Maktoum was quoted as saying, "Emirates was the first airline to offer complimentary global COVID-19 cover for travellers back in July, and the response from our customers has been tremendously encouraging."

NEWS

Over 2.9b Litres of Petrol Available for Yuletide-NNPC

By Ignatius Ushie

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has dismissed mounting insinuation of possible scarcity of petroleum products following ongoing disagreement between the Federal Government and members of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association (PENGASSAN) on the implementation of the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS).

In a statement made available to Transport Day, Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs Division of the Corporation, Dr. Kennie Obateru, quoted Mallam Mele Kyari as saying, that the industrial action embarked upon by PENGASSAN would not lead to scarcity of petroleum products as all fuel stations and petrol depots in the country have enough stock of products



to service consumers and are open for business, adding that the industrial dispute would be settled amicably, Kyari assured that the Corporation has thus far emplaced a stock of over 2.9 billion litres of petrol to guarantee seamless movement of people, goods and services across the country in the forthcoming Christmas season and beyond.

According to the statement the NNPC GMD reiterated that the Corporation is determined to make the 2020 end-of-year festivities a zero fuel queue period just like the preceding year, noting that critical stockholders in the petroleum products supply and distribution chain such as tanker drivers, depot owners and road transport owners have been mobilized to ensure hitch-free season.

Nigerian Nuclear Agency Ramps up Regulation of Radioactive Ores

The Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA), has ramped up its efforts to regulate the exploration, mining and milling of radioactive ores and other ores associated with the presence of harmful substances.

Director General of the NNRA, Dr. Yau Idris, who disclosed this during a courtesy visit to the Permanent Secretary of the Ecological Funds Office, Dr Habiba Lawal in Abuja, said the call to other government agencies was to ensure better service delivery to the nation.

He solicited for collaboration from the agency to enable NNRA to carry out its mandate of regulating harmful ores, thereby protecting life, health, property and the environment from the dangerous effects of ionising radiation, amongst others.

Idris cited an instance in 2006, where the NNRA through the ecological fund conducted a study on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) which happened as a result of the mining activities by companies in Jos Plateau.

He stated that the exercise had exposed about 5,000 houses which were affected by tin tailings found in materials used in building houses and thereafter removal of the NORMS by environmental officials, thereby averting more deaths.

“Canada works with the United Nations Refugee Agency, other designated referral organizations and private sponsors to identify individuals in need of resettlement, and who are outside their home country. You cannot apply directly for resettlement. You must be referred to Canada by a designated referral organization or a private sponsor.”

'More Nigerians seeking migration to Canada'

The Canadian government has informed Nigerians and other nationals that its immigration office does not accept refugee applications directly from people. It also said no one could guarantee approval of immigration applications except Canadian migration officers. This was contained in a statement by the Office of the High Commission of Canada to Nigeria.

The High Commission, which tweeted @CanHCNigeria, said the notice was important in light of “great interest in Canadian immigration programs” received lately.

The statement titled, 'A message from the Government of Canada', read, “Canadian Embassies, High Commissions, Consulates, Consulates-General or Honorary Consulates do not accept refugee applications directly from people.

“Canada works with the United Nations Refugee Agency, other

designated referral organizations and private sponsors to identify individuals in need of resettlement, and who are outside their home country.

“You cannot apply directly for resettlement. You must be referred to Canada by a designated referral organization or a private sponsor.

“No one can guarantee that your

immigration application will be fast-tracked or approved. Only a Canadian migration officer can decide if you can come to Canada. All the information you need to apply to visit or immigrate to Canada is available free on the official Government of Canada website.”

Customs FOU rakes in N17.5bn

The Federal Operations Unit (FOU) Zone 'A' of Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), has impounded 117 units of vehicles and general goods for various offences with a Duty Paid Value, DPV of N 17.5 billion between January and September 2020. This is even as the Unit collected over N1.61 billion for under-declaration of goods shipped into the country through the various ports in Lagos.

A statement signed by the Public Relations Officer of the Zone,

Theophilus Duniya, stated: “From January-September 2020, the Unit increased the federal government's revenue with the sum of N 1.61 billion as revenue from Demand Notices (DN) raised on cargoes for either being under declared, wrongly classified or falsely declared. 117 units of vehicles and general goods were seized for various offences worth over a Duty Paid Value of N17.5 billion.”

2021 CALENDAR

JANUARY

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 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
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01

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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AUGUST

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08

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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12



8th NIGERIA ANNUAL
 TRANSPORT LECTURE,
 EXHIBITION & AWARDS

UNIONS/ASSOCIATIONS/INSTITUTES

Maritime Transport Union launch insurance scheme for Truck Drivers

The Council of Maritime Transport Unions and Associations has launched an insurance scheme for truck drivers as part of efforts to boost their welfare packages. It also disclosed plans to engage the services of a reputable hospital in Apapa to provide health services for sick drivers and their assistants.

The Board of Trustees Chairman of COMTUA, Aloga Ogbogo, said the board would ensure the maritime sector was protected from any form of collapse.

Ogbogo maintained that the welfare of truckers especially the drivers and dockworkers was paramount to the new COMTUA responsibilities, noting that lives of the drivers were equally important more than the trucks.

He said, "The component of what we aimed to achieve is to source for a hospital in

Apapa, whereby if the drivers are sick as a result of mosquito bites due to longer period spent along the port corridors and other illnesses that may arise, we can refer them to that hospital and when we get the bill we take responsibility."

He added, "Another component of the insurance packages is that most drivers travel far and wide as a result, an accident might occur which may lead to disability or permanent



disability.

"Though we don't pray for such to happen to our drivers but these are unforeseen circumstances.

However, the insurance packages we are looking at will take care of both disability and permanent disability situation."

The BOT Co-Chairman called on truck drivers to embrace discipline in the line of duty, while lamenting that disorderliness on the part of the

truckers contributed to the current traffic situation along the port corridors.

The President, COMTUA, Olaley Thompson, also disclosed that plans were also ongoing to engage the services of mobile toilet operators to assist in the area of sanitary for the truckers along the corridors.

Thompson affirmed that COMTUA had engaged the services of Lagos State Waste Management to assist in the clearance of refuse and human

waste along the port corridors.

He reiterated the need to prioritise the living and health conditions of the drivers and motor boys along the port corridors pointing out human waste along the port corridors.

Maritime Workers kick against casual Labour

Again, Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) has reiterated its stand against employing workers by some employers. This stand was reinforced at the annual National Executive Council (NEC) Meeting held recently in Lagos.

President General of MWUN, Comrade Prince Adeyanju Adewale in his address, said that the union's duty is to give a voice to the voiceless, bridge inequalities and enlarge grounds for member's participation in improving their conditions of service, work environment among others, while also focusing on building solidarity and ideals to match its essential goals and aspirations.

Adeyanju said the union has initiated talks on payment of pensions to aged seafarers with the concerned authorities, embarked on a vigorous membership drive, training and retraining of officials, promote

gender equality, initiated the process of collaborating with government of riverine states, establishment of a trust fund scheme and many more programmes for workers benefits

"We are in collaboration with other unions and association within the maritime sector to form Council of Maritime Transport Unions and Association (COMTUA). The aim of this council is to work in synergy with other stakeholders in the maritime sector to address the gridlock on the Lagos port access roads.

"Part of our goal is to better the lots of our members and employees. We have registered a cooperative society known as maritime workers union multipurpose society which is already in operation.

"Also, as part of desire to diversify our union's revenue base, we have gotten license to move into import/export business. We have

equally obtained license to commence haulage business for which the union has bought two trucks", he added.

"Casualisation in whatever guise is evil and diminishes the right of working people. We call on the government to outlaw and forbid the use of workers as casuals, while prescribing jail terms for anyone found practicing casualisation", he said.

The immediate past president general of MWUN, Comrade Anthony Inted Emmanuel commended the incumbent PG for his efforts.

Dr. Bashir Jamoh, DG, NIMASA, who was represented by Victor Ochie, Executive Director of Maritime Labour and Cabotage Services, assured the union of NIMASA's continued support and the issuance of biometric identification cards in due course.

Ekiti Transport Unions Reduce Transport Fares

After a pain staking dialogue between Ekiti State government and drivers' unions and traders in Ekiti State over the hike in prices of transportation, goods and services it has yielded positive results

To this end, the leadership of the various drivers' unions in the state have announced a reduction in the prices of transportation from Ado to every other place within and outside Ekiti.

Below is the new price list which is a clear cut from the past.

Ado-Lagos now 2,500

Ado-Ibadan 1,500

Ado-Abuja 4,600

Ado-Oye 250

Ado-Ido 250

Ado-ikere 150

Ado-Omuo 600

Ado-Ikare 800

Ado-Ilawe 200

Ado-Onitsha car 4700, bus 3500

Ado-campus 100

Poly 100

Ado-Ise 500

Ado-oshogbo 1,500

Ado-Emure 550

Ado-Ikole 400

Ado-Akure 900

AUTO

Hyundai Kona Electric will promote Greener Nigeria-Stallion Motors



Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu appreciating the Hyundai Kona Electric in Lagos

The Stallion Group, via its owned Stallion VON assembly plant in Ojo Lagos, has stated that the unveiling of Nigeria first assembled electric car-Hyundai Kona Electric by it, will eventually promote government's efforts in making the environment greener.

This remark was made by the Managing Director of Stallion VON, Mr. Manish Rohtagi during the unveiling of Nigeria first locally assembled Electric car-Hyundai Kona last week by Lagos state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and senior officials of the Lagos State Government at Stallion Group's assembly plant in Lagos.

The MD appreciated the government for always being forward-thinking for the greater good of Lagos and encouraging sustainable means of operations making the state future-ready.

Lagos state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, while being appreciative of Stallion Group's significant contribution to the growth of the Nigeria economy, stated that Lagos state government will support the electric cars acceptability in the state.

He added that the government will activate its Oil and Gas company Ibile Oil and Gas company, to build electric car charging points in different parts of the city. After a test drive by the governor, he expressed satisfaction with the attributes of the car.

Brand head of Hyundai Motors Nigeria, Mr. Gaurav Vasisht further added that Hyundai Kona is a stepping stone towards a greener Lagos.

"The question often asked is are we ready for Electric Vehicle in Nigeria? I am asking "Who says we are not

ready?" "Making it affordable and accessible will see most Nigerians adopt in the new normal in today's time. It will be great to simply charge my car at home like a mobile phone and drive around at no fuel cost. Kona offers just that ease to the consumers."

The first electric SUV from Hyundai, the Kona can go up to a range of 482 km with an acceleration of (0-100kms) in 9.7 seconds on a single battery cycle of a capacity of 64 KWH. The ease of charging is unmatched and can be plugged in at home or work for 9.35 hours for a full battery. It is 100% electric with zero carbon emission.

Climate Change

Global interest in climate change and its effects on the environment and society more broadly, is at an all-time high. Specifically, with the unpredicted pandemic of COVID-19, more countries are increasingly acknowledging the shift that's needed from a fossil fuel-driven economy to one that is sustainable, green and attempts to mitigate climate change.

Hyundai Motors Nigeria, recognised this paradigm shift in the transportation sector by bringing in electric mobility that is a step towards the same goal.

Running Costs

Another factor that will grease Kona's wheel of success in the country is the car's running cost, which is quite minimal. That will be more so in Nigeria, where electricity consumers resident in accommodation categorised under R1 is charged only N45 per kilowatt.

That implies Hyundai Kona owners would incur only N3,300 for a full charge that will do a running of 482 kms, if he or she plugs the car into public power supply. The charging is also as simple as getting your mobile plugged in at your home or office electrical socket.

Besides the Hyundai Kona's electric power-packed performance for

providing a thrilling driving experience it also manages to excel with its charging kit capacity of 2.3KW, with a voltage of 230V and frequency of 50Hz. The styling of the vehicle is conventional, the interior is luxurious, and the ride is nearly silent. Kona electric has been extensively applauded for its class driving range, safety convenience features and fast-charging capability. Its success can be measured by the following- In April 2020, it was named the Best Small Family Car by the inaugural TopGear Electric Awards based on its 24-hour (1,600-km) performance. This year, U.S. News & World Report named it the Best Electric Vehicle. WardsAuto included KONA Electric on its 10 best engines list. In 2018, Auto Express named it the Affordable Electric Car of the Year. The EV also played a role in the KONA nameplate winning Spanish newspaper ABC's Best Car of the Year award. It also won the 2019 North American Utility Vehicle of the Year.

While EVs may have had a controversial past, there is still consensus amongst auto industry leaders and analysts that a tipping point is approaching where mass adoption will become inevitable. These factors have come together to force the traditional industry to take electrification seriously faster than we had previously expected.

Mercedes Benz GLE SUV shows Strength

Since its introduction to the Nigerian market last year, the GLE SUV has become one of the most sought-after vehicles in its class. Boosting SUV sales globally in 2019, and making the Mercedes-Benz SUV segment the strongest in sales for 2019. In response to the continuously increasing demand for this mid-sized SUV, Weststar Associates Limited, Authorized General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in the Federal Republic of Nigeria is pleased to announce the arrival of more units of the 2020 GLE SUV.

Some major highlights of the GLE SUV include topnotch innovations that completely reconceive the SUV trendsetter in comparison to its predecessors. Features like the E-ACTIVE BODY CONTROL, the latest generation of Mercedes-Benz assistance systems, the fully variable 4MATIC all-wheel drive which is now available for all GLE models, seating comfort with corresponding interior spaciousness and MBUX, have played a part in the success of the GLE SUV.

The exterior design of the GLE SUV exudes an incredibly powerful

presence. The front view emphasizes this with its upright radiator grille in an octagonal SUV interpretation; the prominent chrome-plated under guard and the bonnet with two powerdomes. The distinctive headlamp design is another key feature as it comes with MULTIBEAM LED lights which cover a distance of more than 650 metres. The side view highlights the wide C-pillar typical of the GLE, large wheels in sizes from 18 to 22 inches and the pillared roof rails. The rear view on the other hand stands out with the rear lights, reflectors and chrome plated under guard.

The interior design of the GLE SUV is luxuriously elegant and powerfully progressive. It comes with a sporty and stylist cockpit design in the dashboard. The dashboard support flows into the door panels while the trim extends around the driver and front passenger areas to meet the doors. The sport steering wheel comes with a striking, sculptured spoke design emphasizing the impressive appearance of the SUV's interior. Other features include good ergonomics, flowing leather surfaces, a broad area of trim and flush-fitting sun blinds.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Mitsubishi launches virtual showroom in Nigeria

Visiting a car showroom is just a click away with the newly launched Massilia Motors virtual showroom displaying Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) and the legendary pick-up.

The showroom comes with benefits as it guarantees safety in the face of the covid-19 pandemic, ensuring potential customers can avoid contact until the last phase of their intended purchase.

It also enhances convenience because customers are not restricted to the usual office hours and can take their time to explore the models on display and specifications without feeling pressured by a sales representative.

Customers are also assured of Ease of Use as the virtual showroom is not only for the tech-savvy but can be explored by all by just logging on to www.mitsubishi-motors.com.ng and clicking on the virtual showroom tab. Exploring a model is as easy as



selecting the car of your choice, opening the door with just one click, and navigating the car in a 360-degree experience.

Discover the Eclipse Cross, Outlander, Pajero, Pajero Sport, ASX, and the L200 pick-up.

A virtual showroom is a tool for

easier decision making, as a prospective customer can share the link with family and friends, unlike the physical visits where only people present can advise.

To enhance interaction with customers, Massilia Motors has also offered a Whatsapp Business plugin to enable seamless communication with sales executives.

General Manager of Massilia Motors Limited, Mr. Olatunji Itiola, stated that well-trained sales representatives are available for customers who want to make further inquiries, take a test drive or close deals virtually. "With the launch of our virtual

showroom, we expect more customers to explore our models since the challenge associated with physical presence has been resolved," he stated.

SMEDAN DG proffers solutions to Challenges facing SMEs in Nigeria

By Frank Kintum

The Director General/Chief Executive Officer, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) Dr. Dikko Umaru Radda, has identified major challenges facing small and medium enterprises in Nigeria.

The DG who spoke recently on the theme- 'Role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Nigeria's Economic Development' at the National Defence College, Abuja, stated that these challenges include Poor access to affordable finance leading to inadequate working capital; lack of work space; and poor access to both local, regional & international markets leading to poor business turnover.

Other challenges identified by the government official include obsolete technology leading to inability to compete globally; weak infrastructure leading to high cost of doing business; and absence of patent right and unprotected intellectual property rights.

The DG also stated that low capacity utilization, non insurance of business risk, non effective implementation of the National Policy on MSMEs and poor management of business operation due to lack of business management skills are other challenges.

According to him, "administrative barriers in doing business, multiple permits and fees are required at the state and municipal levels, often



Mr. Maxwell Ideh

spontaneously, absence of a general rating scheme and non availability of qualified artisans (skill gap) are other factors.

In giving some solutions, the DG

said value re-orientation instilling the right attitude; promotion of entrepreneurship education and government intervention creation of MSME bank, power sector reform, formulation and implementation of consistent policies etc are key.

He also observed that improved social-economic infrastructure; improved access to critical resources such as information, workspace, finance; economic reforms with emphasis on job creation, enhanced economic opportunities and improved business information dissemination are also very essential.

He also outlined Opportunities/Prospects of MSMEs in Nigeria to include the

following growth-inducing parameters:

v Government's deliberate action in creating enabling business environment through the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC);

Utilization of local raw materials.. i.e One Local Govt One Product (OLOP)

Intervention funds and Conditional Grant Schemes to micro enterprises

Large population (vast internal market).

Enhanced Competitiveness. Stable democratic environment.

Resilience of MSME operators.

Youth population

Entrepreneurship education

Sky Capital Appoints new Managing Director

Sky Capital & Financial Allied International Limited, a subsidiary of SIFAX Group, has appointed Mr. Maxwell Ideh as its new Managing Director.

Ideh, a seasoned banking professional with over twenty years' experience, is a 1994 graduate of Biological Science from the University of Lagos and also holds a Masters in Business Administration degree from the China Europe International Business School in 2012.

He started his professional career with Allied Bank in 1995 and has worked with Eko International

Bank, Access Bank, Oceanic Bank, Bank PHB, Keystone Bank, Mainstreet Bank and Polaris Bank. Speaking on the appointment, Dr. Taiwo Afolabi, Group Executive Vice Chairman, SIFAX Group, said the quality of the new helmsman was informed by the vision of the company to become a leader in all its business sector and drive it for more profitability and impact.

He said: "As part of the Group's restructuring effort, which is targeted at strategic positioning, improved service delivery, corporate reengineering and next level strategic growth, we are delighted to

appoint Mr. Maxwell Ideh to provide strategic leadership at our new financial subsidiary, Sky Capital & Financial Allied International Limited.

"Though the company is relatively young in the market, we believe its quality of leadership will determine the level of success it will achieve. We are glad he is a thorough-bred professional with records of success. Sky Capital & Financial Allied International Limited is an investment firm which offers wealth creation opportunities through a unique blend of traditional investment management and alternative investment services.

ODDS NEWS

World's deepest swimming pool opens in Poland

A newly opened business in Poland is offering training services for scuba divers in its 148-foot-deep pool -- the deepest swimming pool in the world.

Deepspot, which opened its doors during the weekend in Mszczonow, boasts a 148-foot-deep pool that holds more than 280,000 cubic feet of water -- the same amount as 27 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

The pool features underwater caves, recreations of Mayan ruins and a shipwreck reproduction. The pool is designed for scuba training and will be used to train divers for the Polish army



and firefighters, officials said. The business also features

a hotel with underwater views, a tunnel for spectators to watch the

divers, a restaurant and several meeting rooms.

Man wins lottery on late father's birthday using dad's numbers

An Australian man who won a lottery jackpot of nearly \$400,000 on his late father's birthday said he used a set of numbers that he inherited from the older man nine years earlier.

The Modbury, South Australia, man told The Lott officials the numbers he chose when he bought his ticket for the Nov. 21 X Lotto drawing were a combination of the numbers his father used to play and some numbers he chose himself.

"I've been playing those numbers for nine years now. They were my late father's numbers and some of my numbers combined," the man said.

The numbers earned the man a \$393,449.40 jackpot -- on his father's birthday.

"He passed away a few years ago now and it's his birthday today," the winner said. "It's a blessing from him!"

The man said the winnings will come as a big help, as he recently lost his job due to COVID-19.

"I was recently made

redundant because of the pandemic so I'm out of work at the moment and

it's been pretty hard," he said. "This will be able to help me along until I find

another job. Once I've found work I'll use the rest towards a house."

Monkeys in Finland zoo prefer traffic noises over nature sounds

Monkeys in a zoo in Finland have shown a "significant" preference for traffic sounds over jungle noises, researchers have found.

A tunnel fitted with sensors was installed in a monkey enclosure at Korkeasaari Zoo in Helsinki.

This allowed the white-faced saki monkeys to choose whether they listened to a playlist of traffic noises, nature and falling rain - or a choice of either zen music and dance music.

Dr Ilyena Hirskyj-Douglas, a researcher at Aalto University in Finland, said: "We thought they would enjoy more calming sounds, such as zen music, but actually they triggered the traffic sounds more."

Sri Lankan lawmaker eats raw fish to promote sales hit by coronavirus

A former Sri Lankan fisheries minister bit into a raw fish at a news conference in Colombo recently to encourage sales following a slump during the coronavirus pandemic.

Fish sales in the country have cratered after a major coronavirus cluster emerged in the Central Fish Market in the outskirts of the capital last month.

"Our people who are in the fisheries industry cannot

sell their fish. People of this country are not eating fish," said Dilip Wedaarachchi, gesticulating with a medium-sized fish.

Wedaarachchi, an opposition lawmaker, served as fisheries minister until last year.

"I brought this fish to show you. I am making an appeal to the people of this country to eat this fish. Don't be afraid. You will not get infected by the coronavirus," he said, before taking a bite out of the whole fish.

Woman attempting to sell baby nabbed in Anambra

The police in Anambra State have arrested a woman, Emila Sunday, for attempting to sell her three-month-old baby boy for N150,000.

Emila, who hails from Akwa Ibom State, was nabbed in Ojoto, in the Idemili South Local Government Area of the

state.

The 21-year-old woman who complained of hardship allegedly wanted to sell the baby to use the proceeds for Christmas celebrations.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Haruna Mohammed, confirmed the incident.

NEWS

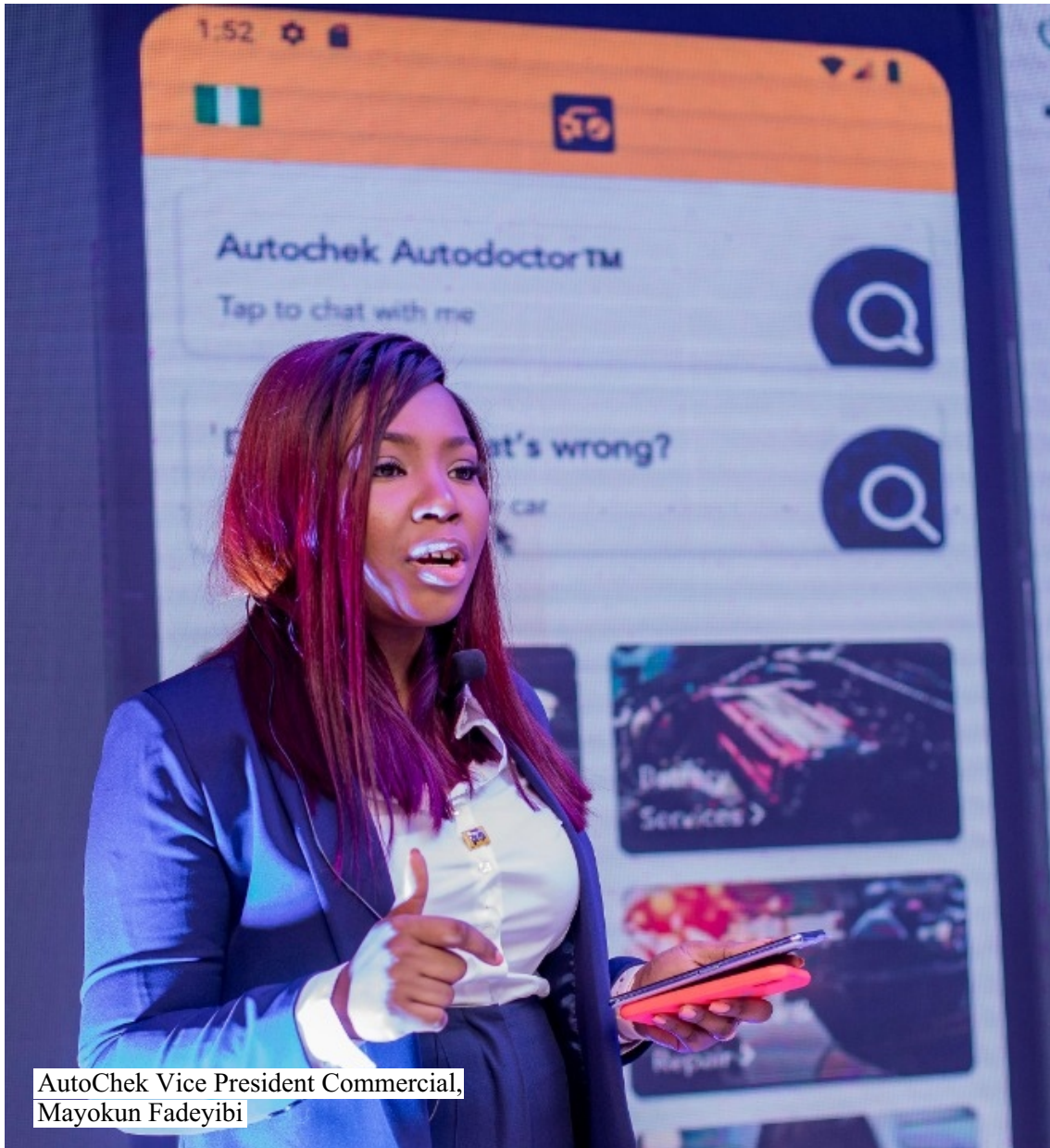
Autochek introduces Automotive Services, launches Website and Mobile Application

AutoChek, an Automotive technology company set out to transform the African automobile industry by using technology to re-create the buying, maintenance and selling experience of motorists and car owners in Africa, has announced the launch of its website and mobile application where customers can buy, sell and fix cars, using their smartphones from the comfort of any location.

Commenting on the launch, the Vice President Commercial, Mayokun Fadeyibi said "AutoChek is the future of the African automobile industry, and it isn't for nothing that we recently closed a \$3.4million pre-seed to boost our service delivery in the auto market.

"The launching of the website and mobile application reflects Autochek's commitment to providing viable solutions to the challenges of the automotive industry in

Nigeria and Africa. We are proud of the resources and services put together for the convenience of our customers by our team of distinguished technology experts, and are very excited about the future of Autochek in leading and expanding the frontiers the frontiers of the African automotive industry at large" The newly launched website and mobile application are an end-to-end auto solution offering that gives the customer a wide array of options from sales to maintenance and financing helping the customer make informed



AutoChek Vice President Commercial, Mayokun Fadeyibi

automobile decisions with convenience. The website and mobile application features auto brands, auto product details and descriptions, Autocheck doctors for an automatic diagnosis of your car problems, and a service booking platform for the inspection of cars customers want to sell. Anyone interested in effectively meeting an automobile need can head over to the website or download the mobile application to get started.

In addition to the said features, the Chief Executive Officer, Etop Ikpe further remarked that they are pleased

to have provided a key solution to tackling some of the challenges posed by a lack of auto funding in the African automotive industry.

Autochek's website and mobile application come with a "get pre-qualified" feature where customers can receive funding to own the car of their dreams. Having gone through the pre-qualification process, customers can browse a personalized inventory curated just for them, and enjoy instalmental payments on received car loans.

Rural Electrification gets 19,000 Solar Systems

Rural electrification in some parts of the country has been boosted with the provision of 19,000 solar home systems through the Rural Electrification Agency (REA).

Speaking during the commissioning of a 100KWP solar-powered off-grid electricity system in the community, Managing Director, REA, Ahmad Salihijo, said the government would pursue the provision of clean, safe, and reliable energy, using the first set of grants through the Federal Government's REF.

Salihijo said: "REF is Federal

Government's initiative, implemented by the REA to promote off-grid electrification and ensure that electricity is equitably distributed across Nigeria. Therefore, interventions, such as these, are being delivered across all zones.

"President Muhammadu Buhari's administration understands the nexus between reliable energy and development. To deliver on our mandate, interventions such as this are designed to deliver the energy needs of Nigerians and enhance the socio-economic status of beneficiary communities."

He said the initiative would

ultimately boost productivity and provide jobs in the community, especially spurring entrepreneurial skills and resourcefulness of the people, adding that quality of lives would improve and children would have better learning experiences with access to reliable electricity.

Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun, who was represented by the Commissioner for Rural Development, Oladotun Taiwo, emphasised the need to leverage novel technologies to aid the availability of reliable and sustainable electricity in Nigeria.

SON begins Quality Products Campaign

The Director General, Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Malam Farouk Salim, has disclosed that the agency has since commenced a nationwide sensitization campaign on the need to have only standards and quality products in circulation across the country. He said the campaign is being executed with the Organisation's relevant and critical stakeholders in the various sectors of the nation's economy, maintaining that the benefits of stocking, selling and patronising quality and standard products could not be over emphasized.

Meanwhile, the agency has declared that the renewed partnership with the Nigerian Police would help to increase its level of enforcement activities in the country.

The DG made this known when he paid a courtesy visit to the Commissioner of Police in Enugu State, Mr Ahmad Abdurrahman, recently in Enugu, the state capital.

Salim said the existing cooperation between the Agency and the police had lasted for over 50 years, adding that the "time has come to re-enforce the partnership for the greater benefit of the country in checking sub-standard goods".

"With the help of the police, collaboration of other government regulatory agencies and other stakeholders; SON will definitely deliver on its mandate to secure all goods sold and consumed in the country. The police can further help us with enough officers and men to make our enforcement operations seamless," he said.

He, however, sympathised with the police especially Enugu State Police Command for personnel and working material lost during the hijack of the peaceful EndSARS protest by hoodlums in the state.

"As partners in progress, SON is standing with the Nigerian Police especially this command in this trying period and we will not mind to contribute our little quota to bring succour to families of deceased policemen if called upon to do so," he said.

Responding, Abdurrahman assured SON of cooperation to carry out its mandate of enforcement in the state and rid the state and by extension the nation of sub-standard products.

NEWS

Stakeholders move to curtail further encroachment on East West Road Corridor

By Ignatius Ushie



The Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, (MNDA), and its stakeholders in the complementary programme has taken proactive steps to manage the East West Road Corridor to ensure its safety, efficiency and economy to aid development and growth in the region.

The Director Urban Development, Tpl. Olufemi Oloruntola made this known at the wrap-up meeting of the first tour of counterparts on the Complementary Programme held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, recently. He said the programme is aimed at

rallying counterparts to manage the road corridor from unimpeded movement of goods and passengers. He added that the counterpart team has come together to plan and control what happens on the corridor.

Tpl. Oloruntola explained that the initiative is in line with the resolve of the leadership of the MNDA to have closer engagement with states along the corridor to ensure that from Effurun in Warri, Delta State to Oron in Akwa Ibom State and on to Calabar in Cross River State, transit is safe, timely and efficient.

Speaking further, he said the Federal Government has spent billions of Naira in the construction of East West road and therefore cannot be left to be compromised by haphazard development along the corridor, which have bedeviled other federal highways.

In her presentation, the Director Road Transport, Federal Ministry of Transportation, Mrs. Ehigie Agalasi commended the MNDA for such laudable initiative and said the transport sector is indispensable in the overall development of the nation.

Avoid Night Driving, FRSC Airport Commander tells Drivers

Drivers have been enjoined to avoid embarking on night trips as much as possible because of the associated risks on the road. This advice was given by the Unit Commander of the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Judge Daniels.

The Commander made the remark at the command's 2020 Ember Months campaign held at the Association of Nigeria Licensed Customs Agents grounds, adjacent the airport.

According to the Commander, "the theme of this year campaign is "DRIVE SAFE, STAY SAFE". The theme reflects what the world is currently going through, that is the COVID 19 Pandemic that is ravaging both developed and developing countries. As at today more than 1.4million people have died and the world is still struggling to find a cure as it expects another wave.

Nigerians have equally died from the global pandemic; to this end the Federal Road Safety Corps is reminding the motoring public and all Nigerians to be mindful of COVID 19 and to STAY SAFE."

He stated that "according World

Health Organization (WHO) more than 1.35million people die yearly through avoidable Road Traffic Crashes. Today RTC is the leading cause of human fatality. As the year gradually comes to an end, vehicular as well as human activities would increase tremendously due to last minute Socio-economic activities occasioned by the ember months.

"As expected crashes are always at their peak during this period. Increase in Road Traffic Crashes at the end of the year are often attributed to ember months' myths, but facts have shown that there are no myth associated with ember months rather the human factor has been blamed for avoidable crashes. The human factor contributes 85% of crashes on our roads. To reduce Crashes on our roads the human ATTITUDE would have to change for the better.

"The following are crashes traceable to the human factor: Driving without valid license, Over speeding, Overloading, Distractive driving -- Use of phone while driving-- Changing musical disc-- Quarrelling while driving -- Fatigue --Eating and drinking while

in motion, Driving against traffic, Driving under the influence of alcohol /drug abuse, Running traffic lights, Lane indiscipline and Poor vehicle maintenance."

Lagos State Government to demolish Street Gates

In line with the Lagos State Government's policy and regulations on Traffic Management to improve free flow of traffic in the metropolis as well as corridors prone to heavy traffic build up, the Lagos State Government has issued a 7-day removal notice to communities with unapproved street gates in the State with a directive to either leave such gates opened between 5am and 12:00 midnight or have them dismantled.

The Commissioner for Transportation, Dr. Frederic Oladeinde who issued the notice, explained that gates and structures installed without prior approval from the Ministry of Transportation contravenes the provisions of the State Traffic Laws and Regulations, therefore must be removed within 7days of the given notice.

Ember Months Campaign: FRSC partners LAWMA

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Ikeja unit command has commenced its End of Year campaign, with a partnership with the Lagos Waste Management Agency (LAWMA). Speaking in an event organized by Spotlight Africa tagged "Women Making a Difference Community Service Leadership Awards" the Unit Commander, FRSC Ikeja Unit command, Acc. Emma Fekoya; warned road sweepers to "be mindful of positioning while sweeping the roads and avoid the use of earpiece or if it must be used let it be on one ear which will reduce the sound sharpness and help you hear when vehicles are approaching while discharging your duty."

The Unit Commander stated that steady checking of health status is as important as anything including vision screening.

She advised that LAWMA should provide sweepers with good tools to work with and urged the women to keep using nose guard while sweeping "as it is very important to protect you from intake of dust which is dangerous to health.

"Don't back traffic while sweeping, always face traffic while sweeping" Emma Fekoya, warned.

She said, "while facing traffic, use your cone to push traffic few meters away from your area of sweeping because most drivers are not focused while driving. Do same at the parks also."

Speaking during an interview session, the President Spotlight Africa Network, Barr. Nonye Mike Nnaji; said what motivated her into rewarding the women especially the sweepers was that "on the roads, they are there to give us a cleaner road site, sun and rain, they are there to make sure that dirt do not block the drainages and no one cares to know about their welfare which was part of the motivation."

Barr. Nnaji said, "imagine if they were not on the streets of Lagos for one or two days, you can describe what Lagos may look like."

LAWMA MD/CEO, Mr. Ibrahim Odumboni, thanked the organizers "for recognizing what we are doing on the roads.

MARITIME

By Ignatius Ushie

Amaechi meets West/Central Africa Ministers over Maritime Bank



Minister of Transport, Rt. Hon. Rotimi Amaechi (r) and Director General of NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh (l) at a recent event

The Minister of Transportation, Rt. Hon Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi on Friday met the Ministers of Transportation of West/Central Africa countries over the development of the Maritime bank. In a statement from the Media Assistant to the Honorable Minister, it was stated that Amaechi met with other Ministers at the One-Day conference of Ministers of Transportation by the Maritime Organisation for the West and Central Africa (MOWCA) in Lagos. He said that the establishment of maritime bank was necessary for maritime development in the region. According to him, Nigeria will make their financial contributions when other countries make their contributions, adding that Nigeria already has a budgetary allocation for it this year stating that he can't guarantee if there would be budgetary provision for it next year. "The last meeting we had, a lot of countries signed, that they are coming but they are not here today. "The position of Nigeria will change a bit, the position of Nigeria now will be, we are ready to contribute our money when others are ready, we will just seat back and watch, when others bring their money, we will bring ours. "We couldn't have been pushing and nobody is responding the way we thought everybody should respond, we will make our contribution when others have made theirs.

"I wish we could make our contribution this year because we have budgetary allocation for it but if it is next year, I can't guarantee that

we will have the budgetary provision, we will try in case you are ready next year.

"We believe that this bank is a

necessary tool that we need for maritime development in our region both West and Central Africa."

SIFAX Group Subsidiaries Get ISO Quality Certification

Three subsidiaries of SIFAX Group have received the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO 9001:2015) certificates for quality management system. The three subsidiaries are Ports & Cargo Handling Services Limited, SIFAX Shipping Company Limited and SIFAX Nigeria Limited. ISO 9001 is an international standard that specifies requirements for a quality management system (QMS). Organizations use the standard to demonstrate the ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements. At the formal presentation of the certificates to SIFAX Group, Ope Bashorun, CEO, West Sealand International Security Services Limited, the project consultants, said the high operational standards the companies subscribe to made the ISO audit exercise an interesting one for his team and the road to certification less stressful. He said: "In the 21st century workplace, standards are becoming a differentiation factor. The competitiveness of the business environment and the need to deliver quality makes them more imperative

for any business that has a long-term vision. We are delighted to have worked with you all through the stages and we are convinced the certification will positively impact service delivery." In his response, Mr. Adekunle Oyinloye, GMD, SIFAX Group said the drive of becoming a globally-compliant company and the need to constantly evolve motivated the

certification project. "SIFAX Group is a company that wants to measure up to international quality standards. By this, we are demonstrating to all our customers, regulatory agencies and other stakeholders our resolve to deliver quality service", he noted. Oyinloye further assured that the company would maintain the high standards that qualified the subsidiaries for the certification.

Maritime to lead Nigeria out of Oil Dependency-Jamoh

By Ignatius Ushie

With many countries proposing ban on use of fossil fuels, and the world transitioning from oil, the Director General of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr. Bashir Jamoh has said maritime offers Nigeria a substitute in the country's economic diversification drive.

In a statement signed by Head of Corporate Communication of NIMASA, the Agency, Philip Kyanat, it was stated that the DG made the remarks recently in Abuja when he delivered a paper at the National Defence College (NDC). The lecture titled, "Maritime

Security and National Development in Nigeria: The Role of NIMASA," was for NDC Course 29 participants.

Earlier, the Commandant, National Defence College, Rear Admiral Mackson Kadir, called for a positive reorientation towards maritime. Kadir commended the NIMASA Director-General for his efforts towards the growth of the maritime industry and intensification of the collaborative spirit among relevant organisations in the sector.

Over 14 countries and more than 20 cities around the world have proposed banning the sale of passenger vehicles powered by fossil fuels petrol, liquefied petroleum gas, and diesel at some point in the future.

NEWS

Senate Lauds NNPC on Gas Projects, others

By Ignatius Ushie

The Senate Committee on Gas has commended the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) on the various gas development projects it has undertaken, especially the Ajaokuta-Kaduna- Kano (AKK) gas pipeline project.

Speaking during the 2021 Budget Defense and Performance Appraisal meeting with officials of the Corporation which held at the National Assembly Complex, Chairman of the Committee, Senator James Manager, expressed satisfaction with the various gas development projects embarked upon by the NNPC despite the impact of Covid-19 on the oil and gas industry. According to Manager, “we are proud of the AKK and some of your other projects” adding that the interface between the committee and the NNPC would have been more frequent but for the lockdown due to the Covid-19



pandemic. He seized the opportunity to reassure the Corporation that his committee would undertake an oversight visit to the projects for proper assessment soon. On his part, a member of the Committee, who is also the immediate past Chairman of the

Committee, Senator Albert Akpan Bassey, said NNPC under the leadership of Mallam Mele Kyari has taken the Corporation to a new height by publishing the 2018 and 2019 Audited Financial Statements and for reducing losses by over 95 per cent.

“I want to commend the team led by

the present GMD, a team of dedicated and passionate Nigerians. If they can reduce losses drastically within such a short time, I am sure the next report will reveal huge profit to the country. We must give them our support and cooperation,” Akpan stated. Speaking earlier during a presentation, the Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Mallam Mele Kyari, who was represented by the Chief Operating Officer, Gas and Power, Engr. Yusuf Usman, attributed the success of the Corporation in the gas sector to the support and cooperation of the Committee and the entire legislature, noting that gas supply to power has improved significantly, which was evident in the improved power supply currently being witnessed in the country.

NDDC activities now Transparent- Akpabio

By Ignatius Ushie

The Honourable Minister of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA), Sen. Godswill Akpabio, CON, has agreed with the observations of the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), that transparency which was hitherto missing in the activities of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) has now been instilled, courtesy of President Muhammadu Buhari's support to the ongoing efforts to reposition the commission to fulfill its mandate to the people.

The Minister stated this when a delegation of the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) led by the National President, Elder Bolaji Anani paid him a courtesy visit in his office on Monday in Abuja.

In a statement made available to Transport Day in Abuja, Sen. Akpabio said that the organisation has done a lot since its establishment in Nigeria in 1960, adding that the presence and remarkable activities of the Red Cross have not only been felt in the Niger Delta region, but in Nigeria and across the globe. The Minister Commended the laudable initiatives of the founders of the Red Cross Society and pray that the souls of those who have been killed in the cause of rendering humanitarian services towards ensuring the upliftment of life and bringing succor to many families would rest in peace. Speaking on the entreaties made to the Ministry, the Minister said, “I have always adopted the Red Cross

policies and action in governance, today more than ever, we need your partnership and collaboration because of flood and other challenges in the region.”

According to him “I will take up the few request you have made to the Ministry with the Permanent Secretary, look at ways the Ministry can assist the society to do a better job for us in the Niger Delta region and also consider assigning a liaison officer who would be the focal person in the Ministry to interface with your organization, so that we can have a workable partnership

with the resources available”, he said.

Earlier, the National President, Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), Elder Bolaji Anani, commended the Minister for entrenching transparency and accountability in the NDDC, stating that the Mission of NRCS is to support those in need as a result of Disaster, Diseases, Displacement, Dehumanizing experiences in peace and armed conflict times.

Anani stated that having realized that NRCS have similar mission with the Ministry and NDDC, the

group seek to collaborate with them in order to increase the impact and scope of NRCS within the Niger Delta and the Nation at large.

The President stated that, NRCS believes that the support from MNDA and NDDC through establishing sustainable partnership would enable them to provide First Aid and Disaster Risk Reduction training, provide regular reports of their activities within the region. He therefore requests that MNDA and NDDC provide NRCS with Grants and Ambulances to expand their services.

Princemaltic Global signs MOU with G-BoS Builder Ltd

Following a slide in the oil and gas industry as it affects the use of substandard gas infrastructures, Princemaltic Global has come to the rescue by introduction of standards and experts who will help to project what is being done in Nigeria to par with the best international practices.

Princemaltic Global, an oil and gas company that specialises in gas vending, sales & installation of LNPG plants/Tanks and also into plant maintenance amongst others, recently signed a partnership with G-BoS Builder Limited, who will oversee the civil engineering works of the company.

Speaking during the partnership meeting in Port Harcourt yesterday, the Managing Director,

Princemaltic Global, Prince Onyebuchi Enyinnaya said he started as a gas vendor in 2016/2017 after which he took a bold step to learn plant installation.

He said “Plant installation requires all standards because the solidness of the plant is what the Department for Petroleum Resources (DPR) is looking for, so as an installer, I decided to add more strength to give customers best of services.”

Prince O. Enyinnaya confirmed to Cliffsimeon Akalonu that his partnership with G-BoS will go a long way to cover the gaps ranging from LNPG brickworks that are not of standards and will give room to train and raise indigenous builders in the sector.

The MD also revealed that G-BoS Builder Limited, has referred his

company to some jobs and “we will continue doing so even internationally because partnership is one of the catalysts that grows a company.

“Before now, I used to work with other big installers who are getting jobs regularly and they pay me on a daily basis but now that we are fully registered, our hand work has started speaking for us with an example of a standard gas plant we erected in Port Harcourt, Racon Gas, De-Maker Gas in Asaba among others.

Gerrit Bos who in an appreciation, urged Prince Onyebuchi Enyinnaya, the Managing Director, Princemaltic Global, to maintain stability and put his focus on his establishment stated that it is not easy now because of the fragile economy.

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