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# SAFETY

## VIOs National Chairman, Bepeh, Calls for Improved Government Support

Vehicles Inspection Officers (VIOs) will perform better and be more productive if they get better support from both the state governments and the federal government.

This was the position put forward by the National Chairman of Conference of Directors/Chief Road Traffic Officers of the Federation (VIOs), Engr. Paul Bepeh, at the recently held 5th National Conference of Directors/Chief Road Traffic Officers of the Federation (VIOs) held at Lokoja, Kogi state.

In his welcome address, the VIO chief said transportation is the pillar of economic growth in any nation as it connects people to production which results in development.

He stated that, "Our conference theme is 'Leveraging on Technology as a Tool for Motor Vehicle Administration to Enhance Road

Safety, Security and Revenue.' There is no better time to discuss this issue because our cities are growing rapidly with transformative challenges requiring intelligent transportation system solutions for citizens' convenience and sustained economic growth.

"As the world is evolving into a new phase of transport technology dynamics for efficiency, safety, sanity and security, Nigeria must not lag behind. I call on the government at all levels to support the VIOs via



Bepeh

training, funds, equipment and most importantly with sacrosanct legislation and policies to empower our officers to perform their duties without undue structural and systemic interference."

The Lokoja conference was a three day event which spanned from Tuesday 25th to Thursday 27th October. It is an annual congregation of critical stakeholders in Motor Vehicle Administration and road traffic safety in Nigeria, usually attended by over 500 Directors/Chief Road Traffic Officers from across the country and the FCT, to deliberate on the topical issues affecting the Road Transport sector of the economy. The conference also featured keynote speaking sessions, panel sessions and breakout sessions.

## FG commits \$21m to Build Pilots' Capacity

The Federal Government said that it has committed the sum of \$21m to acquire a Boeing 737 simulator to further build the capacity of pilots.

The Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika, disclosed this while giving the scorecard of his ministry in Abuja recently, noting that the government had acquired an automated fire simulator.

Sirika said that the Nigerian aviation sector was the second most recovered industry from COVID-19. He further said that because of the achievements recorded in the sector, Nigeria had been re-elected as a Part II member of the International Civil Aviation Organization Council.

He noted that the upgrade of facilities at the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology had led to its designation by the ICAO as a Regional Training Centre of Excellence, adding the AIB had also been upgraded to a multi-modal accident investigation agency tagged, "National Transport Accident Investigation Board."

"Five international airports (Abuja, Kano, Enugu, Lagos and Port Harcourt) have been designated as Special Economic Zones," he said.

Highlighting some of the achievements by the Buhari-led administration, he said, "An aviation leasing company, which would be private sector-driven, will be established to address the challenges of limited access to capital and high cost of funds.

"The ALC will provide leasing opportunities for Nigerian and African airlines in order to boost

fleet size, alleviate the problem of aircraft leasing and high insurance premium charges.

"The development of Nigeria's major commercial airports and surrounding communities into efficient, profitable and self-sustaining commercial hubs through increased private sector participation and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) will create jobs and grow the local industry.

"Five international airports (Abuja, Kano, Enugu, Lagos and Port Harcourt) have been designated as Special Economic Zones."



## Olabisi O. Dennis Bags Star Achievers Award On Road Safety

The Lagos State Secretary and Assistant Zonal Secretary (Lagos and Ogun States), Special Marshals, SM Olabisi O. Dennis, on Saturday, received a humanitarian award as a "Road Safety Star Achiever", organized by the Road Accident Information and Rescue Organisation, a non-governmental Road Safety Organisation based in Ibadan.

SM Olabisi is a member of the road safety Special Marshal whose rank rose from being a regular member to a unit coordinator, then to an executive member at the state level and now the assistant zonal secretary of the Special Marshals, Ogun and Lagos states. He is also an entrepreneur.

Speaking to news men after the awards ceremony, Special Marshal Olabisi Dennis, said that the award came as a surprise to him having received three awards in less than four



months.

He said that, "the first award was the Fellowship of the Institute of Oil and Gas Research and Hydrocarbon Studies in Abuja, the Hero's Award and a Life Value Ambassador in Lagos and this fresh Award by the Road Accident Information and Rescue Organisation in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State. I reminisced on my past as a Road Safety Advocate".

# NEWS

## Umana Commits FG's Support to Victims of Flood

By Ignatius Ushie

The minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Mr Umana Okon Umana, has visited Ihuike community in Ahoada local government area of Rivers State to console with indigenes of the community who have suffered personal harm and lost their livelihoods to a devastating flood that has also cut the East-West Road in the area into two.

In a statement from the ministry made available to Transport Day in Abuja, Umana, who was in Rivers State on a working visit to the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), directed that the damaged section of the East-West Road be repaired immediately to restore unhindered flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and bring back normal life to the traumatised community.

The minister informed residents of the Ahoada community that the Federal Government felt their pain and that President Muhammadu Buhari has directed that in addition to what has been done already to bring relief to flood victims in the region, all relevant ministries and agencies should put up accelerated and concerted efforts to ameliorate the sufferings and provide immediate succour to flooded communities in the region.



The Minister and other officials at the flood site, Ihuike community in Ahoada local government area of Rivers State

After a tour of the flooded community, the minister visited the head office of the NDDC where he addressed management and staff of the commission on his vision for the region and the place of both the NDDC and the Ministry of the Niger Delta Affairs in achieving that vision, adding that his mission was to change the widely held perception of the NDDC as a failed agency into that of an institution that is pivotal to the development of the Niger Delta region, an institution that invests in the integration of the region through interstate transport infrastructure and

other regional assets.

According to him, "It is in your hand to change that perception of failure," Umana urged the staff of the commission. "The change is in your hand." He charged everyone in the commission to act in a manner that will reinforce the new brand image of an upright organisation that respects due process.

Umana said the era of frivolous projects by which billions of naira were siphoned out of the commission was over, adding that that government has drawn a line against impunity in which one man could singlehandedly

award a contract of N200 billion in the NDDC without following due process requirements.

Umana directed the acting managing director of the NDDC, Engr. Emmanuel Audu-Ohwaborua, to properly brief him on all cases of contracts that did not follow due process, and equally carry out an earlier presidential directive that the commission should conduct a staff audit that would help to ascertain that it has the right caliber of staff properly deployed to ensure the achievement of its mandate.

## New Naira notes: Access Bank Provides Alternative Channels for Cash Deposits

In response to the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) announcement to redesign and issue new naira notes starting from December 15, 2022, Access Bank Plc, has urged its customers to make use of its alternative channels to deposit their existing naira notes in order to beat the rush pending the circulation of new ones.

Access Bank stated in a recent message sent to customers over the weekend via multiple channels on the need to deposit their existing naira notes, reassuring its customers that "there is no need to panic as we are closer to you than you think." The message read: "With over 600 branches, more than 150,000 Access Bank CLOSA agents and deposit ATMs across our branches, and over 500 BETA agents that are present in over 180 major markets in Nigeria to receive cash from customers, we are just a doorstep away.

Our customers can deposit their existing Naira notes using any of these channels closest to them with ease.

"Our branches will be open for longer hours during the week for your convenience, and they will also

be open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. 2 p.m. to receive cash deposits.

"With the current number of our Access CloSA Agents at over 160,000 spread across the 774 Local Government Areas in the country, you can easily deposit your existing naira notes through an agent near you in your location to avoid the risk of

transporting cash to a far distance to locate a branch.

"Whether you choose to deposit your existing Naira notes through a branch, an ATM, or a point-of-sale machine (POS), you can rest assured that your money is safe with us and that you can always rely on our speed, service, and security."

The bank reiterated that all cash deposit transactions would be free during this period.

"We urge all our esteemed customers to prevent the rush and hurry to deposit their naira notes before the deadline of January 31, 2023, when the current naira notes will cease to be legal tender," the bank added.

## The Makinde Sisters: One Family, Three Pilots

Oluwafunmilayo, Oluwaseun & Mopelola who took after their Dad, and became pilots just like him. The three sisters will be making history at the annual Lagos Women Run on November 12th, competing together in the 10km marathon for women.

Oluwafunmilayo Makinde-Marcus a corporate pilot, who specializes in flying private jets, is eagerly anticipating this marathon alongside her sisters: "though I am in aviation, I want to meet and encourage people from other sectors. I want to



also learn from them."

About 18,000 women have registered

for this marathon, which is in its 7th edition. "Lagos Women Run is about networking among women who come from different walks of life to share their experience."

"We have seen women from various professional backgrounds who are passionate about their job, wellbeing and ready to celebrate themselves," said the Coordinator of the Lagos Women Run, Tayo Popoola. The winner of the Lagos Women Run will be rewarded with a cash prize

of N1million.

# EDITORIAL

## Insecurity On The Highways

It is no longer news that Nigeria's highways have become theatres of bloodbath and insecurity, and this, sadly, is affecting roads in all parts of the country.

Before now, aside Road Traffic Crashes, road travelers worry only about highway armed robbers, who operate mainly at night in isolated locations.

Travelers moving from one part of the country to another could travel with both eyes closed, as they would be sure that they would get to their destinations with little or no issues.

Then the era of kidnapping crept in. Suddenly, the roads became highly unsafe and travelling by road is now almost synonymous to

signing a death warrant. Almost daily, innocent Nigerians are being waylaid and taken to custody against their wish in the name of kidnap, and millions of Naira being paid in ransom.

On Friday, May 27, this year, bandits blocked the Abuja-Kaduna highway and kidnapped scores of passengers. Senator Shehu Sani, had stated that "I have just got a call that bandits have blocked the Kaduna-Abuja road, in between Jere and Katari village in this broad daylight. Scores of people were kidnapped while many have made a fast u-turn in the face of gunshots."

Also, on Tuesday, November 8, it was reported that gunmen dressed in military uniforms reportedly

attacked commuters travelling on Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

The gunmen suspected to be kidnappers stormed the road from the bush before the Sagamu Interchange en route Lagos and started shooting at motorists in the 18-passenger interstate bus.

According to one of the victims who craved anonymity, "We (passengers) were only lucky to escape the gunmen but many of us have been injured by the bullets and our bus has been badly damaged too."

These are just two of the many ugly incidents on our highways. Though governments, in response to the trend, have set up various security measures in order to tackle the challenge, it seems not

enough have been done.

It is truly worrisome because most travelers in Nigeria commute by road, because a majority of the people do not have the means to travel by air. The waterways are largely undeveloped and the rail tracks are very limited. The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) operates **3,505 km narrow gauge national railway network** and 669 kilometres of standard gauge.

Government need to re-double its efforts in ensuring adequate security on the country's highways. Intelligence gathering should be prioritised, more security personnel should be deployed, highway patrol, rather than all stationary, should be encouraged.

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# TYRE WATCH








## How To Change a Car Tyre



### Before you start

Make sure you find a safe place to park. It's better to drive further and risk damaging the wheel rim than stop somewhere dangerous such as on a narrow road.

Leave your hazard lights on when you park. Put on your reflective jacket if you have one, and position your warning triangle to alert oncoming drivers.

It's advisable to read your car's manual for advice first.

### What equipment do you need?

Apart from the spare wheel, you will need the following:

- Wrench for removing the wheel nuts
- Jack for lifting the car off the ground
- Wheel chock to stop the car from rolling when jacked up (bricks can be used instead)
- Wheel nut key if locking nuts are fitted
- Car handbook for reference (e.g. on jacking points)

It may also be useful to carry:

- Torch for working at night (check batteries regularly)
- Gloves- wheels will be dirty
- Reflective jacket to make you visible
- Warning triangle to alert

other drivers to a hazard/obstruction

- Short plank of wood as a flat surface to steady the jack
- Tyre pressure gauge for checking the new tyre is fully inflated

### 1. Prepare the car

Apply the handbrake and remove all passengers from the car. Take the spare wheel and necessary tools out of the boot.

### 2. Position the wheel chocks

Chocks prevent the car from rolling while jacked up.

Position a chock on the opposite wheel to the one with a puncture.

For example, if your left-front tyre has a puncture, put a chock behind the right-rear wheel.

If your left-rear tyre is flat, you need a chock in front of the right-front.

Use chocks for both front/rear wheels (as appropriate) if you have them.

Bricks or large rocks can do the same job if you don't have a dedicated chock.

### 3. Loosen the wheel nuts

It's easier and safer to do this while the car is on the ground.

You may need to lever off a plastic wheel trim first.

Turn the wheel wrench anti-clockwise and loosen the nuts to the

point where they can be turned by hand (be warned they may be tough to loosen).

However, don't remove them completely yet.

### 4. Jack the car up

All cars have dedicated jacking points consult your handbook to see where these are.

Aim to position the jack at the side of the car, close to the punctured wheel. Placing a small plank of wood under the jack will help keep it stable.

Raise the car slowly until the flat tyre is 10-15cm off the ground.

### 5. Remove the flat tyre

Fully loosen and remove the wheel nuts, then gently pull the tyre towards you until it comes free. Place it flat on the ground.

### 6. Mount the spare wheel

Slide the spare wheel onto the protruding hub bolts, or in line with the wheel nut slots (warning: it's heavy to lift it off the ground to do this).

Replace the wheel nuts and tighten them by hand.

### 7. Lower the car and tighten the bolts

Use the jack to drop the car down slightly, so that the spare tyre is in contact with the ground.

Now use the wrench to fully tighten the wheel nuts.

### 8. Fully lower the car

Bring the car fully down to earth and remove the jack.

Consider giving the wheel nuts a final check for tightness.

Stow the jack and the other tyre in the boot, along with the rest of your equipment.

Note: if your car has a space saver, the old wheel will take up more space in the boot.

### 9. Check the spare tyre pressure

If you have one, use a tyre pressure gauge to check the spare wheel is fully inflated.

Alternatively, drive carefully to a petrol station and use the gauge there. Pump up the tyre to the recommended pressure as detailed in the handbook if necessary.

### 10. Take your punctured tyre for repair

Visit a garage or tyre fitters at the first opportunity and give them your punctured wheel.

They will advise whether to repair or replace it.

Don't drive on a space-saver spare wheel for longer than is strictly necessary, they are only intended for emergencies.

# TYRE WATCH

## Group Kicks against Sale of NIPPs

The Future Group (TFG) has called for a halt in the proposed sales of five of the Nigerian National Integrated Power Project (NIPP), describing it as a bad move that would further plunge the power sector into a deeper crisis, injurious to the economy and the Nigerian populace.

This is even as the group has also called on the Federal Government to relieve the Director General of the Bureau for Public Enterprise (BPE), Alex Okoh, of his job for allegedly conniving with others to dupe Nigerians of their commonwealth while calling for his immediate prosecution on account of the pending case of contempt of court over the sales of Aluminum Smelting Company of Nigeria (ASCON) Ikot Abasi.

In a widely circulated petition titled; Stop Okoh ... Save Nigeria, to the National Assembly, EFCC, ICPC, the Presidency, the Judiciary, Civil Society Organisations and others, signed by its Chairman, Patrick Philip, the group drew the attention of the Federal Government and the general public to the

dangers of the sales and allowing Okoh to continue to oversee BPE, which is put in charge of the proposed sales, as he is a person of interest in the entire saga.

The group noted that the NIPPs was established in 2004, stating that; "the programme was an intervention that aimed to improve government funding in the critically ailing electricity sector. However, 18 years past the project launch, there are contending conversations surrounding the Federal Government's proposed sale of five NIPPs.

"Insufficient electricity supply has always been an issue in Nigeria, inhibiting the development of the country's industries and overall economic growth. In 2004, President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration launched the NIPP to address the challenge of power generation specifically. The project's objectives also included curtailing the immoderate gas flaring from oil exploration."



## Stakeholders Promote Cleaner Energy, Sustainable Infrastructure In Africa

The African Refiners and Distributors Association (ARDA), Rainoil Limited and Sahara Group have called for adoption of cleaner energy options and expansion of energy infrastructure in Africa.

The call came on the backdrop of expected huge population growth and associated incremental energy demand, projected to cause energy insecurity, as well as public health crisis if needed actions are not taken.

The organisations also called for collaboration amongst key stakeholders for sustainable project financing, as well as deployment of industry best practices within the continent.

The President of ARDA and Chief Executive Officer of SAR Refinery in Dakar, Senegal, Mme. Marième Ndoye Decraene, Nigeria's Anibor Kragha, who is the ARDA Executive Secretary, Founder and Group Managing Director of Rainoil Limited, Dr. Gabriel Ogbechie and the Chief Executive Officer of Egbin Power Plant, Mokhtar Bounour, who made this observation spoke during series of engagements during a courtesy visit by ARDA delegation to Lagos.

## EFCC Demands Full Disclosure On Oil Sector Deals

The Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Abdulrasheed Bawa, has demanded full disclosures of the Joint Venture deals in the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited and the oil sector in general.

The EFCC boss spoke at the Legislative Transparency and Accountability Summit organised by the House of Representatives

Committee on Anti-Corruption in Abuja recently.

Bawa, who was represented by Head of Operations, EFCC, Michael Wetcas, noted that the complexities in the oil and gas industry render the sector "vulnerable and highly susceptible to money laundering."

He commended the House for the discourse on transparency and accountability "in a sector that is

indisputably the lifeline of the nation's economy because it accounts for roughly 80 per cent of national revenue."

According to him, the industry is characterised by several players and dealers in the supply chain, thus creating an avenue for fraud and distortions.

"This is notwithstanding the array of legislations, regulations and directives governing various aspects of the industry," he stated.

## CNPP, CSOs Calls For Kyari's Sack

Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) and Coalition of the National Civil Society Organisations (CNCOSOs) have called on President Muhammadu Buhari to sack the Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of the Nigerian National

Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Limited), Mele Kyari, over ineptitude in handling the affairs of the company and oil theft.

According to them, Kyari has continued to justify positions held on the management team of the old and new NNPC.

Convener of the coalition and CNPP's Secretary General, Chief Willy Ezugwu, and the National Secretary of CNCOSOs, Ali Abacha, in a statement, recently, urged Buhari to leave a better legacy in the petroleum industry by immediately sacking the current management team of NNPC for gross incompetence.

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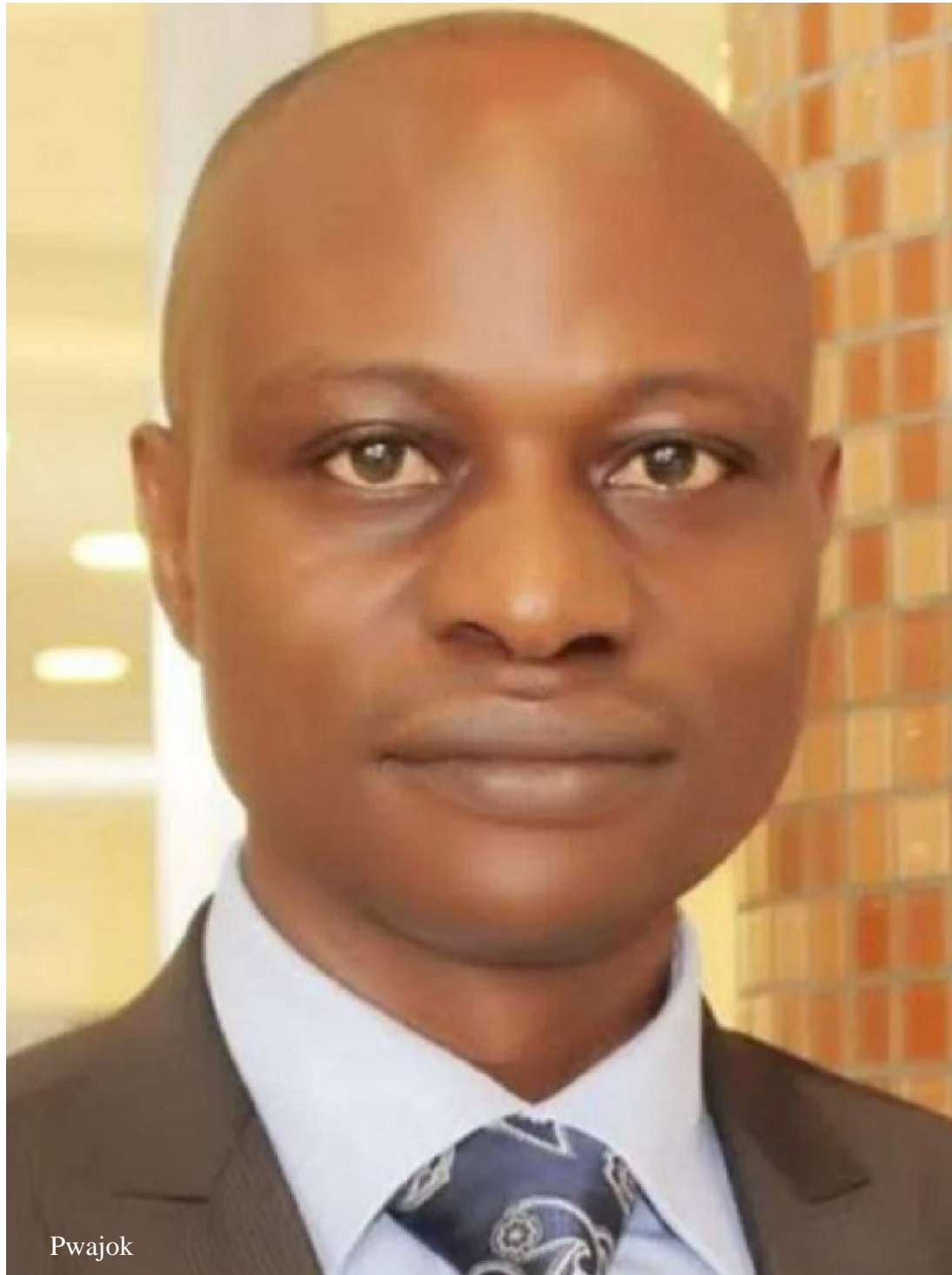
# AVIATION

## NAMA seeks Operators Support For Multilateration Project

**N**igerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) has rallied aviation stakeholders behind the imminent implementation of the Wide Area Multilateration (WAM) Surveillance Air Traffic Management System in the Gulf of Guinea.

The agency, at a two-day sensitisation workshop with airline operators, oil prospecting companies, the Nigerian Air Force, Nigerian Navy, NAMA engineers and air traffic controllers as well as other aviation agencies, in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, highlighted the win-win benefits of the successful implementation of the project. Multilateration is a system that makes use of multiple remote sensors that pick signals from aircraft transponders and use them to determine the position of an aircraft.

Acting Managing Director of NAMA, Matthew Pwajok, said the multilateration project dated back to 2013 when a contract was awarded for the assessment of the traffic volume, complexity and architecture of the airspace in the Niger Delta, in view of the critical role of oil exploration in Nigeria and the crucial role of helicopter



Pwajok

operations in support of oil exploration activities.

Pwajok said the volume of helicopter operations in the Niger Delta had increased significantly within a very limited airspace bloc, given that helicopter operations are within very low altitudes.

According to him, the increased volume of flight operations, as well as airspace complexity, necessitated the quest for the provision of a dedicated communication, navigation and surveillance system for the safe, effective and efficient air traffic management of low-level helicopter operations in the Niger Delta Area.

He said: "The density of their operations, rising number of heliports, helipads, helidecks and landing platforms around the area became very critical. Helicopters were crisscrossing each other and the mode of control within the area had been procedural and by visual flight rules (VFR). The recommendation of the assessment team was that the traffic volume was beyond flight by visual flight rules and also beyond procedural control.

"What we currently have can no longer sustain increased flight operations or guarantee efficiency, safety and security of flight operations within the Niger Delta area. Therefore, the provision of an automated system of surveillance, monitoring and control of flight operations through multilateration became imperative," he said.

## NAHCO, SIFAX, ENL, Others Make List of Airports Preferred Concessionaires

By Ignatius Ushie

**T**he Federal Ministry of Aviation, in line with the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (establishment, etc.) Act, 2005, and global best practice, has announced a list of preferred and reserved bidders for three airports in Nigeria. This disclosure was made by the Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika.

The Minister disclosed that Corporation America Airports Consortium is a double bidder for the concession program, which are: Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, NAIA, Abuja and Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport, MAKIA, Kano.

According to him, for the fourth airport asset, the ministry is in consultation with the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission, ICRC, to decide on the way forward.

"The Request for Proposals (RFP) phase of the Nigeria Airports Concession Programme (NACP), which came to a close on the 19th of

September 2022 has seen the emergence of preferred and reserved bidders for three out of four Airports and Cargo Terminals as approved for concession under the programme.

"The preferred bidder for the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA), Abuja, is Corporation America Airports Consortium. ENL Consortium has also been selected as the reserve bidder for NAIA.

"The preferred bidder for Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos, is TAV/NAHCO/PROJECT PLANET LIMITED (PPL) Consortium.

Sifax/Changi Consortium has also been selected as the reserve bidder for MMIA.

"The preferred bidder for Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA), Kano, is Corporation America Airports Consortium. There are no reserve bidders for MAKIA as at the time of this announcement.

"Port Harcourt International Airport (PHIA), Port Harcourt, did not receive any proposals as of the RFP deadline close and as such, has not had preferred and reserve bidders attached to it", he added.

## Accredited Aviation Training School Takes Off In Lekki, Lagos

**H**arris Air Training School has made history as the first accredited aviation training institute, on the Lagos Island Metropolis.

Following necessary accreditation and approval by relevant Nigerian and international aviation authorities the International Air Transport

Association (IATA) and the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) Harris Air, located at Chevy View Estate in the heart of Lekki, Lagos is set to commence full aviation training.

The aviation school expected to deliver exceptional training courses in cabin training on the B737, EMB

## Air Peace Resumes Flight Operations To Yola

**A**ir Peace, on Wednesday, announced that it has resumed flight operations to Yola from Abuja and Lagos.

The airline disclosed this in a post via its official Instagram handle.

The post partly read, "Yola is back, connect Yola from Abuja and Lagos.

"Delighted to resume flights to Yola from Abuja and Lagos."

145, and ATR 72, basic flights dispatch training, advanced dispatch training, and IATA-authorized courses, is a Nigerian indigenous company.

Located at number 8, Hammed Kasumu Street, Chevy View Estate, Lekki, Lagos, Harris Air Training School is set to make its mark on Nigeria's aviation training landscape.



# AVIATION

## Connecting Flights: Procedures, Tips & Other Things



### Booking Connecting Flights

**Most often, when booking connecting flights, you will be buying them as one ticket.**

In other words, you will search for flights from point A to point B on an airline's website or through a price comparison engine. And, you will be offered itineraries where you have to transfer at point C. **The two (or sometimes three or more) flights might or might not all be operated by the same airline.**

If you book flights this way, then they are treated as one journey, let's say from Frankfurt to New York even if you have to change planes in Amsterdam along the way.

Because of that, if your flight from Frankfurt to Amsterdam is delayed causing you to miss your connection, the airline is required to rebook you on a different flight to get you from there to New York, free of charge.

### Make Sure You Don't Need a Visa for the Country You Are Connecting In

**It is fairly rare that you would need a visa to transit through a country.** So, for example, if you are traveling from the United States to the United Arab Emirates and connecting in France, you will generally not need a French (Schengen) visa.

However, there are some exceptions to.

### Confirm the Airport Your Connecting Flight Departs From

Most cities only have one airport with airline flights and most regular connecting flights involve a transfer at a single airport. It's not always the case, though. Sometimes airlines sell flights where the first flight arrives at one airport and departs from another.

For example, you might be able to

book a British Airways flight from Vienna to New York through London that arrives at London Heathrow but departs from London City airport. Or, your flight might involve only London Heathrow as a transit point, but your flight to New York might arrive at JFK airport and depart back to London from Newark airport in New Jersey.

Keep this in mind when booking self-connecting flights as well.

While it's not necessarily a problem, it can be a bit of a hassle to get from one airport to another, and you will certainly want to allow ample time for the airport-to-airport transfer.

### Check-in & Baggage on Connecting Flights

If you book regular connecting flights, then the check-in process and dealing with your baggage is not much more complicated than when taking a direct flight.

**If you cannot check-in online for some reason or have a bag to drop-off, you will have to go to the check-in counters of the airline that operates your first flight after you get to the airport.** Sometimes if your itinerary includes a codeshare flight that might be an airline different from the one on your ticket.

### Getting Your Boarding Passes Issued

**With regular connecting flights, you will generally be able to get boarding passes for all of your flights at your departure airport.** With self-connecting flights, it doesn't hurt asking, but you might not be able to do so especially so if you are flying on low-cost airlines.

You might also not be able to do so if your connecting flight is not open for check-in at the time you check-in for your first flight. However, that's quite rare unless you have a very long

layover.

### Sending Your Bags to Your Final Destination

**Generally, your bags will be "checked through," meaning when you check them in at your departure airport, you will only need to pick them up at your destination.** You will not have to pick them up and re-check them at your transfer airport.

That said, there are some exceptions to this.

### Transferring from One Flight to Another

**Once you arrive at your connecting airport, simply follow "Transfer" (sometimes "Transit" or "Connections" or similar) signs.** That should lead you back to the departures area of the airport where you can find the gate for your next flight.

At some airports, like in Singapore, you will be let directly into that area when you get off the plane. At others, you will need to pass through a security check. And, at others (like in the United States or at Xiamen airport in China), you will need to pass through immigration as well.

**If you don't have a boarding pass for your next flight yet, stop by your airline's transfer counters to get one.**

In case your airline doesn't have them at that airport (especially if you are self-connecting), you might have to enter the country to check-in in the public area if you haven't checked-in online or don't have your boarding pass for some other reason. During some transfers, you will have to change terminals.

### Your Connecting Flight Will Not Necessarily Wait for You

**Each airport through which connecting flights are sold has its**

**own MCT minimum connecting time.** That is the minimum amount of time between the arrival of your first and departure of your second flight permissible for you to book the ticket.

For some airports it's as little as 40 minutes and for others it might be more than an hour. It will also depend on the type of connection whether you need to change terminals, whether you are transferring from an international flight to a domestic one or vice-versa, and so on.

Whatever the case, though, it does not mean that you are guaranteed to make the transfer or that the aircraft will wait for you if you are late. Sometimes, your arrival flight might be delayed or there might be very long queues at transfer security causing you to miss your flight.

**If you happen to miss your connecting flight, go to your airline's transfer desk to solve the problem.**

### Enjoy Your Layover If You Have the Time

Finally, if you have a long layover, make sure to take advantage of it. Of course, if it's just an hour or two, then sitting inside the terminal or visiting a lounge if you are eligible is the best option.

**But, if you have a daytime layover of six or seven hours, look into the possibilities of actually entering the country you are transferring through and doing some sightseeing or similar.** If you have a long overnight layover, look into the possibilities of actually booking a hotel.

Also, do a quick research about the airport you're transferring at and airline you're flying with, sometimes they offer free city tours, discounted or even free hotels, and other similar programs for passengers with long layovers.

# AUTO

## 2023 Honda Pilot Arrives As Brand's Largest, Most Powerful SUV



The all-new fourth-generation 2023 Honda Pilot SUV has finally arrived as the brand's largest and most powerful SUV ever. The latest Pilot comes with rugged new styling, more passenger and cargo space, and a "class-leading combination of off-road capability and sporty on-road dynamics". The 2023 Honda Pilot goes on sale next month in five trim levels, including the Sport, EX-L, Touring, Elite and the new Pilot TrailSport, which is the most off-road capable Honda SUV ever.

Pilot TrailSport, engineered for off-roading adventurers, features a raised off-road tuned suspension, all-terrain tyres, steel skid plates and expanded all-wheel drive system capabilities.

"The Honda Pilot has been a family favourite for two decades, and now we've made it even better with more space and refinement inside, cool new rugged styling outside, and

substantially increased off-road performance to back it up," said Mamadou Diallo, vice president of Auto Sales, American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

"Topping it off, the new Pilot TrailSport is an authentic, off-road-capable SUV for true weekend adventures, without sacrificing comfort and on-road dynamics for daily driving."

Inside, Pilot's all-new interior includes a First-in-class multi-function removable second-row

middle seat, which provides three discrete seating options.

It has a Standard 7-inch touchscreen with Apple CarPlay & Android Auto compatibility (Sport), 9-inch HD touchscreen is available in EX-L, TrailSport, Touring and Elite. A 10.2-inch digital instrument display is available for Elite.

Features on the Sport trim include gloss black trim and grille bar, a chrome exhaust garnish, and standard black roof rails, while EX-L adds flash with chrome trim and

grille bar, and machined 5-spoke, 18-inch alloy wheels.

Pilot Touring and top-of-the-line Elite feature premium exterior finish, including a gloss black grille mesh and B-pillar, dual chrome exhaust garnishes and distinct 7-spoke, 20-inch alloy wheels with a machined finish.

The new Pilot is powered by Honda's most powerful V6 ever, an all-new dual overhead cam (DOHC) 3.5-litre engine producing 285 horsepower.

## Renault, Google expand Ties in Automotive Software

Renault (RENA.PA) and Google (GOOGL.O) have said that they are expanding their partnership in software services for future Renault vehicles, adding that Google will become the preferred cloud supplier to the French automaker.

The partnership with Google will also help Renault accelerate its "end-to-end digital transformation, from the design of the car to its market launch through its production," Renault Chief Executive Luca de Meo said in a statement.

Automakers and technology

companies including Sony (6758.T), Apple (AAPL.O) and Google, have been working to develop ways to build future cars into platforms more like smartphones, with billable services where key updates are wireless.

# AUTO

## Chinese Ambassador, Minister Endorse GAC Motor Assembly Plant in Lagos



The Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Amb. Cui Jianchun has led a diplomatic delegation consisting of a representative of the Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs - Mr Mohammad Tunde Mukaila, amongst others, to the newly commissioned GAC Motor Automobile Assembly Plant, which is a JVA between the Lagos State Government and CIG Motors Co Limited.

Before this partnership, the Nigerian automobile industry had been riddled with growth stagnation, constantly plagued by fluid policies governing investments in this sector; both in terms of fiscal and importation policies. These and other numerous factors have impaled the growth of this vibrant industry in Nigeria, giving way to the despicable substitute the importation of second-hand vehicles other-wise known as Tokunbo into the Country. This menace has seen the defacing of major cities across the entire nation as two third of the vehicles on the road are old and rickety, having manufactured dates of as far back as 1990.

According to the company, CIG Motors has carefully studied the automobile market and met with key stake holders to partner, with the purpose of reviving the sector, through the establishment of a world class Automobile assembly Plant in Nigeria; that will annually produce a minimum of 5,000 vehicles to meet market demands, and redefine the sector.

It would be recalled that this Partnership was strategically sealed in Guangzhou, between the Chairman of Choice International Group Chief Diana Chen, The Executive Governor of Lagos State Mr Babajide Sanwo Olu, and Mr Zeng Qinghong The Chairman of GAC Motors Group, in December 2019.

In July 2021, the project was locally approved for execution and construction commenced in October

2021. The project industrial area covers a total of 35,000 square meters, and the automobile production line covers an area of 4,800 square meters.

The installation of the plants and machinery for the production line took only seven months to complete, and was supervised by world class engineers, with local employee benefiting from hands on vocational training of the processes involved.

CIG stated that "this reaffirms the credibility and commitment of CIG Motors towards the sustainable economic development of the nation. Aside meeting present needs of

modern automobile solutions for the citizenry, GAC Motors has futuristic plans of placing Nigeria amongst key players in the global campaign of Eco-Friendly production, by veering into production of electric vehicles with dual usage of CNG.

"This will further contribute to the Nations strategy to run a non-oil economy in the near future, as well as boost foreign exchange policy. The current Assembly plant is projected to double production within five years, creating thousands of jobs in the process, while serving as a vocational training institute for mechanically inclined young

Nigerians who seek to pursue a career in mechatronics".

Amb. Cui reaffirmed the position of the China's willingness to provide support to such innovations as fulfillment of her "China-Africa bilateral industrial capacity cooperation" pact with Nigeria.

On its long term vision for the country, the company added that "CIG Motors has proven over again that it is here to stay, here to serve, and here to make Nigeria better by driving the Nation further into industrialization and economic stability".

## GAC Opens New Europe R&D Centre



GAC Group announced the opening of its Research and Development Centre Europe in Milan, Italy.

The automaker said in a statement: "As part of GAC's ongoing mission to go global, the launch of [the European centre] marks another milestone in the company's expansion strategy.

"The hub pools together the world's top industry resources including leading suppliers and R&D institutions, forming an ecosystem of global excellence to strengthen overall innovative and design capability."

GAC has a strategy called "Design First, Other Fields to Follow" and the European facility "will prioritise

prospective research in the design of concept cars and pre production models and explore the field of emerging technologies at a later stage".

Centre VP Zhang Fan said: "Design is one of [our] most important values and, in today's market, a key decision factor for customers. We have chosen Milan as our first European design hub for its strong cultural and creative identity, which combines ideas in motion, innovation, and heritage of style and design."

Stephane Janin, director of GAC Advanced Design Europe, will oversee operations at the new facility.

GAC said Janin was known as "the

master of concept cars" in the design industry and was a former head of Renault's concept car department.

He will head a team of "Made in Europe" talent, joined by members of the GAC Design studios in China and the US.

GAC Motor said it could now "leverage Europe's sophisticated culture and talent, as well as the region's extensive experience in production, R&D network and progressive design outlook to maximize our vehicles' appeal and perceived value".

The carmaker exported 23,544 units between January and September 2022, up 84% year on year.

# UNIONS

## Lagos Drivers Decry Harassment, Extortion



Minister of Transport, Muazu Sambo (On white); Minister of State, Transport, Ademola Adegoye (Right of the Minister) and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Dr. Magdalene Ajani (Left to the Minister) and other officials during a meeting with the Technical Sub-Committee of the Presidential Standing Committee on Private Jetties (PSCPJ), led by its Chairman, Engr. Joseph Ororo

The Lagos State Government says it is looking into the demands of the Joint Drivers Welfare Association of Nigeria (JDWAN), with a view to finding permanent solutions to the issues raised by the association. Meanwhile, the aggrieved drivers have cried out that their members are being harassed by touts (Agberos). The drivers said its members faced physical assaults, abduction and vandalism of property by some motor park touts in Lagos, in the cause of the ongoing seven days strike action.

They said the inhumane treatment meted on them occurred in Badagry, Ojodu Berger, Iyana-Era and Ijanikin areas of Lagos.

Narrating the incidents in a statement, JDWAN National Leader, Akintade Abiodun, vowed that the strike action will continue till November 6, to press home their demands from the state government.

JDWAN said its members, who are over 5,000 in number, are ready to defy all odds.

“Kudos to all commercial drivers in Lagos State for the massive compliance to the seven-day boycott by the Joint Drivers Welfare Association of Nigeria.

“We also want to thank the commuters and residents of Lagos for the support thus far.

“We have all come to the full understanding of the impact of the forceful, illegal, ludicrous, unjust ticketing, levies and charges by the Parks and Garages Management Committee and caretaker committee.

“We can no longer continue to be subservient to people who have made life unbearable for us all and directly

affects the cost of transportation, goods and services in Lagos.

“We have explicitly made our points clear in our demands and we are expecting the Lagos State government to accede to our demands by stopping exploitation of our labour and violent violation of our rights and restraining court order against the motor park management and caretaker committee thugs in Lagos.

“Today, October 31 (Monday) being the first day of our seven days

industrial action, we have experienced physical attacks, vandalism of our vehicles and homes and criminal abduction of our member.

“A JDWAN member, Ashimiyu Idowu was abducted in Iworo area of Badagry as motor park and caretaker thugs led by a popular Agbero (names withheld), on Agbara-Seme route. They came in a vehicle owned by a traditional ruler. “The agberos came in over 100 bikes with three suspected thugs

riding on each wielding machetes and guns, as they shot sporadically to scare people away and Ashimiyu was abducted in the process.

“After the abduction, they drove towards Seme and many vehicles were vandalised in the process.

“In Ojodu Berger area of Lagos State, drivers were beaten by multitude of motor park thugs and caretaker committee thugs over the strike action, while they marched chanting 'where are the other drivers?'

## FG to Harmonize Taxes Paid By Jetty Operators

The Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo, has disclosed that the Federal Government will soon harmonize taxes paid by jetty operators to address double taxation and promote Ease of Doing Business in the country.

Mu'azu who disclosed this recently in Abuja in a meeting with the Technical Sub-Committee of the Presidential Standing Committee on Private Jetties (PSCPJ), led by its

Chairman, Engr. Joseph Ororo, noted that operators are more often made to pay multiple registration fees by different regulatory agencies such as the National Inland Waterways and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency.

Speaking on the Committee's mandate of licensing jetties and closure of illegal platforms, the Minister appreciated their exploits while advising that their inspections

should not be restricted to timelines but should include unscheduled visits to jetties to ensure compliance with extant laws and regulations.

Earlier, the Chairman, Technical Sub-Committee on Private jetties, Joseph Ororo informed that the Committee was created in 2004, to checkmate security breaches, economic sabotage, gun-running and other criminal activities which were traced traced private jetties.

## LASTMA Warns Against Unpainted Buses

In view of the need to comply with the laws and regulations guiding the operation of all commercial vehicle operators, the Lagos State Government has again warned that all intra-state commercial bus operators must ensure that their vehicles are painted in Red or Yellow with Black Stripes or be impounded by the government. The General Manager of LASTMA,

Mr. Bolaji Oreagba gave the warning recently in Oshodi, informing that the agency will commence an enforcement exercise on all unpainted commercial vehicles from Monday, 7th of November, 2022 across the State.

Mr. Oreagba disclosed further that the warning was to ensure that commercial bus operators, especially those on Intra-State

services comply with the existing law of Lagos State Transport Sector Reform Law, 2018 in order to restore sanity on the roads and protect the lives and property of Lagosians.

He emphasized that all minibuses known as 'Danfo' including 'Korope' should be painted in Yellow with Black stripes while mass transit buses with two doors are to be painted with approved Red Colour by operators.

# NAIDP WATCH

## UNILAG-Nord Auto Plant Inaugurated, To Assemble Vehicles, Make Drones

History was made in Lagos recently as the first auto assembly plant to be established in a university in Africa was inaugurated in the University of Lagos.

Beside assembling new automobiles and giving relevant students hands-on or practical skills, the facility built by Nord Automobiles, will also make drones for commercial purpose.

Outgoing Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Oluwatoyin Ogundipe, disclosed this at the unveiling ceremony of the auto complex recently.

He said, "We are going to be manufacturing drones in this same place. They already have an agreement with the Nigerian Air Force.

"And I want us to know that our students will learn something new in this area of drones and other things that will come from this particular arrangement."

He expressed optimism that the venture would soon gain international recognition being "the first time that any university in Africa will be having an automobile assembling company in such a way that it will train students, expose staff to practical skills and also make staff to get new cars at affordable prices."

Ogundipe said the university decided to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Nord Automobiles having found out that it is one of the reputable auto assembling companies in Nigeria and the benefits of having such practical skill-oriented venture within UNILAG.

"I know that the Minister of Education Malam Adamu Adamu, and the TETFund head have been talking about R&D (Research and Development) for the university. We felt this project is an opportunity for us to have our R&D in the university.

"With that, we entered into an MoU with Nord so that our students can get their training through this platform; the academic staff too can get their exposure through this platform. It is not only the staff in the Faculty of Engineering that will benefit from this, even those in the departments of architecture, finance, marketing and every other department that has relevance to this project.

"This is in line with what the President (Muhammadu Buhari) has been talking about that there is a need to expose our engineering students to the industry so that they will be able to do well in their areas of interest."

Speaking on the drone project, Chief Executive Officer of Nord, Mr Oluwatobi Ajayi, said it would offer unique experience and expand the body of knowledge and exposure in a



Left-Right: Hon. Dr. Lola Akande, Commissioner for Commerce, Investment and Cooperative, Lagos State, representing Governor of Lagos State; Dr. Olorunimbe Mamora, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation; Mrs. Dora Ajayi; Mr Oluwatobi Ajayi, Chairman/CEO, Nord Automobiles Limited; Professor Oluwatoyin Ogundipe, Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos and Mrs. Rachael Elujoba, Director, Federal Education Quality Assurance Service, Lagos Office during the unveiling of NordAutomotive Complex at the premises of University of Lagos on Thursday, November 10, 2022

new area in high demand.

"We also have Nord aerospace here. We designed the drones ourselves; nobody can shut us down; no country can shut us down because the software was designed here in Nigeria by young Nigerians," he said.

The automobile complex at UNILAG, according to him, comprises a research and development centre, a magnificent showroom, a vehicle making/assembling point and an after-sale centre, adding that this will offer massive opportunities that other institutions can copy.

He stressed the need for Nigerians to start making what they use and depend less on imported materials especially vehicles, in order to give a boost to industrialisation efforts and the national economy through jobs creation and improved gross domestic product.

He said, "As a country with our size and GDP, we cannot continue to import what we use. That was the beginning of a new era, where Nigeria gets the value of what they buy.

Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Senator Olorunimbe Mamora,

commended Nord and UNILAG for the initiative, noting that the drone making was particularly exciting because it would be needed in the areas of security.

He urged others to take a cue from the partnership, adding that his ministry would partner with the team to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, represented by Lola Akande, Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, said the in-campus automobile complex had provided "a hallmark of hope" in Lagos for students and businesses to thrive.

## NADDC Makes Strong Showing at National Council on Industry

The Director General of the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) Jelani Aliyu, MFR, and other participants at the just concluded 14th National Council on Industry, Trade and Investment (NCITI), holding in Bauchi State.



## AG Leventis/TGL Grace NADDC Stakeholders Review on NAIDP

AGL/TGL were represented at an event by the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) on Stakeholder's Validation Exercise on the reviewed Nigeria Automotive Industry Development Plan (NAIDP), held at Sheraton hotel in Lagos October 24, 2022.

Photo shows Group Managing



Director/CEO Seun Oni (Left); Head, Public Affairs & Corporate Marketing, Tunde Oyelola Jr; Chief Operating Officer, Sunday Asade



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# RAILWAY

## Unbundling Nigerian Railway Corporation Won't Lead To Job Loss - Group

A regional railway advocacy group, the African Railway Roundtable has defended the need for the unbundling of Nigerian Railway Corporation, declaring that breaking the corporation into relevant sub-agencies is not the same as privatisation”

In a statement by its Director, Olawale Rasheed, the group said the recent statement of the Nigerian Transportation Minister was largely misconstrued by the rail labour leadership. “Beyond all threats and others, the government only re-emphasised the need for the unbundling of the corporation to ensure its sustainability.

“In this sense, the minister, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo was only restating existing government policy to break the NRC into at least four groups in line with international best practices. Previous leadership of the ministry had set up an unbundling committee under the leadership of the then Minister of State for Transportation, Senator Gbemisola Saraki. The committee could not go far before the cabinet resolve.

“The minister only repeated what everybody knows that the Nigerian Railway Corporation cannot be the owner, operator and regulator at the same time, noting: The private sector is the engine of growth. Let someone else operate your lines efficiently”. As it is the 1958 NRC Act is an impediment to the growth and development of the sector. The law is not only antiquated but the NRC itself is a colonial structure incapable of meeting the needs and expectation of modern railways industry. While I agree labour union should be part of the unbundling committee, it is important for the labour leadership to get the message right as running away from reform of NRC is itself an anti-labour stance.

“Today workers of Nigerian Railways are the most poorly paid. Career prospect is low and the agency itself is so archaic in almost all spheres. Reforming the NRC will not lead to sack of workers but a better way to open up upward mobility, better pay and improved career prospect. How can NRC be against reform without which it cannot progress? Why will labour be in support of a system that currently pauperise her members and block career progress for many patriots? Why will labour be supportive of killing all bills designed to bring new structure and methods to better the lots of union members.

“The fact is that Nigeria needs a national transport commission law that will repeal the colonial NRC act. The NRC itself needs to split into a regulatory agency, a national operator to compete with other operators and a



national rail infrastructure agency. How can NRC remain the operator, the regulator and infrastructure manager? It is not just unsustainable but against national interest.

“Labour should also be aware that all presidential contenders are in support of unbundling of the

Nigerian railways. Whoever wins 2023 presidential race will surely push for the passage of the National Transport Commission bill. That is the only route to revolutionising the Nigerian transport sector.

“One can only implore the Minister

of Transportation to energise the unbundling committee and include a labour representative. Unbundling the NRC is a national imperative. If telecommunication, aviation, maritime, power and oil and gas can be reformed, why not the rail sector?.”

## FG Considers Chinese, Portuguese For Rail Projects

The Federal Government is considering multi-billion dollar loans from Chinese, Portuguese, and Turkish financial institutions to complete ongoing rail projects across the country, Transport Minister Mu'azu Sambo, told the Senate recently. Sambo made this statement to the Joint National Assembly Committee on Land and Marine Transport, chaired by Senator Danjuma Goje, recently.

He explained that the ministry was committed to the implementation of the Nigeria Railway Modernization project.

He said the railway network was being progressively expanded through yearly budgetary appropriations since the Federal Government was facing challenges in securing counterpart funding through loans.

The Minister said, “Currently, the implementation of the Kaduna-Kano, Port Harcourt to Maiduguri and Kano Maradi Segments of the Railway Modernization is ongoing

with the Federal Government counterpart funding in the 2022 appropriation.

“The Ministry hopes that the Federal Ministry of Finance concludes negotiation of the loans with infrastructure development finance institutions of Chinese, Portuguese and Turkish origin to implement the projects.

“To ensure finalising and signing of the loan agreements, evidence of source of funding of the balance of the advance payment and other aspects of work to be financed directly by the Federal Government has to be made available to these financial institutions through adequate budgetary provisions in the year 2023 budget and subsequent budgets.”

## Nigeria's Railway Revenue Drops By 71%

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) says the total revenue generated from passengers dropped by N1.48 billion in the second quarter (Q2) of 2022. The figure represents a decline of 71 percent when compared with the first quarter (Q1) of 2022.

The latest NRC data is contained in a new report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), titled 'Rail Transportation Data Q2 2022'.

According to the report, 422,393 passengers travelled via the rail system in Q2 2022 as against

953,099 passengers recorded in the first quarter of 2022.

The decrease in the number of passengers also had a strong effect on the revenue generation of the corporation.

The revenue generated from passengers in Q2 2022 was N598,736,300, while for Q1 2022, the revenue generated was N2,077,836,686.

While there was a decrease in revenue from passengers, the report shows that there was an increase in the revenue generated from goods and cargo.

# NEWS

## Ekpa, Amaechi, Others Task Keke/Okada Riders On World Best Practices

By Ignatius Ushie



Ekpa

Participants at the event

As many states of the federation consider the outright ban on tricycle and motorcycles popularly known as Keke/Okada as means of transportation in major cities, a transportation expert and former Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs, Amb. (Dr.) Anthonia Ekpa OON, has emphasized the need for motorcyclists to take double caution when travelling on the road.

Ekpa stated this while delivering a key note address titled 'Sustaining economic development through motorcycle and tricycle operations in Nigeria' at the 2022 strategic stakeholders summit of the Amalgamated Commercial Tricycle and Motorcycle Owners, Repairers and Riders Association of Nigeria (ACOMORAN), which held in Abuja recently.

She noted that commercial motorcycles are gaining popularity as means of transportation because of government's own effort at empowering its less privileged citizens.

According to her, "it is important for motorcyclists to take double caution when travelling on the road. Adding that, "Nigerians appear to forget that the growth of the number of these set of transport is because of government's own effort at empowering its less privileged citizens and not a blame game. "The summit, I believe in my reckoning, is not a session for blame-sharing. Rather, we need as a people to consider the issues dispassionately and find solutions to them as other countries have. These vehicles in Nigeria offer the 'last mile service'.

"They convey people from where other transport modes stop and take them to the exact destination required. Because of

the inconvenience, they undergo accessing bad roads with commuters, their bill is sometimes higher than the average taxi.

"But generally, they go farther than conventional buses or car taxis. They owe their popularity to their ability to get you to remote locations as well as help people beat traffic.

In busy cities like Abuja and Lagos where people are always on the move, commercial motorcycles make movements easy" she said.

Earlier, the former Permanent Secretary observed that there is a consensus, generated mostly from Government Circles at all levels, associating this mode of transport with road accidents, criminality, insecurity, and indiscipline of the operators on our roads, noting that, "there is no doubt that some of these reports are true, stressing

"We are witnesses of how insurgency has festered because these modes of transport are easy to procure and apply on roads. Technologies can be deployed to enhance their efficiency, Ekpa said.

Also, in his remarks, the Chairman of the Summit and former Minister of Transportation, Rt. Hon Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, charged ACOMORAN to regulate itself and conform to safety standards and world best practices to guarantee being accommodated in the transportation system.

Amaechi stated that the stereotype that

tricycles and motorcycles are bad can be corrected if their members are fully regulated and reoriented in terms of value addition to their operations. Speaking during the event, the Minister of State for Transportation, Prince Ademola Adegroye, disclosed plans to deploy a sustainable mass

transit system that will not fail, but serve all Nigerians.

According to him, "the Federal Government under the leadership of our father and leader, President Muhammadu Buhari. GCON is also desirous of putting in place, a mass transit system that

will not fail like those of the past.

Also speaking, the Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Land Transport, Hon. Tajudeen stated that as legislators, they are ready to assist the Association in making enabling laws that will provide adequate peace and security in the transport sub-sector as it is imperative for government to ensure that the lives and property of its citizens are protected, adding that, the motorcycles and tricycles mode of transportation is now used by bandits to aid criminal activities and this menace

has put fear in the minds of commuters and the general public. He therefore urged the association to identify such members and ensure they are prosecuted.

While acknowledging the importance of the operators as available statistics have shown that they have contributed immensely to the nation's GDP, he called upon the association to ensure training and re-training of its members by the academia and security agencies. The lawmaker also called on the association to have a database of all its members as this will make monitoring of their operations easier.

Earlier, the National President of ACOMORAN, Prince Adebayo Apelogun, noted that as an organization consisting of over 12 million members, ACOMORAN operations in Nigeria has become a major source of livelihood. Apelogun disclosed that the leadership of association has initiated plans to curb accidents and criminality among members.

"It is an open discussion that our operations in a few states in Nigeria are being restricted, and motorcycles are confiscated and destroyed which affects many innocent riders who took loans to buy their bikes. These include young graduates who have tried unsuccessfully to find gainful employment. "The governments hinged their decisions fundamentally on two factors: Accidents and Insecurity.

"As an association, we have responded accordingly, presenting to the government the effects of that proposed policy. We shall have the train-the-trainers workshop where we educate our members as this is in fulfilment of one of my electoral promises as contained in my Action Plan" he said.

“

*"The summit, I believe in my reckoning, is not a session for blame-sharing. Rather, we need as a people to consider the issues dispassionately and find solutions to them as other countries have. These vehicles in Nigeria offer the 'last mile service'.*

”



# MARITIME

## Court Bars LASWA, Others from Inland Waterways Control

A Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, has ordered that no state government has authority or powers to legislate on inland waterways in the country. The court also declared that the management and control of Inland waterways in the country is exclusively within the control of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) by virtue of the Constitution

and the Act establishing NIWA by the National Assembly. This has further strengthened the position of NIWA, which has been in legal battle over the years with Lagos State government, through the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA), as well as other states that create their independent waterways apparatus. According to a statement issued in

Lokoja, Kogi State by the General Manager, Corporate Affairs of NIWA, Mr Jibril Darda'u, the Judge, I.S Mark, gave the order in the suit No: FHC/PH/CS/142/2022 between Bright Waters Energy Limited (plaintiff) and the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, River State; Commissioner of Environment, Rivers State and Petroleum Financial Corporate

(PFC) as (defendants).

The statement reads: "A state government has no authority/power to legislate on (and enforce compliance of its legislation that affect) the use, management and control of Inland waterways in Nigeria as it is exclusively within the control of National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) by virtue of the constitution and the Act establishing NIWA by the National Assembly."

## NIWA Area Manager, Inducted As Fellow of Nig. Society of Engineers



NIWA MD, George Moghalu



Sarat being decorated

The Lagos Area Manager, National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Engr. Sarat Lara Braimah, has been promoted to the next level by being inducted Fellow Nigeria Society of Engineers (FNSE). This was contained in a statement issued in Lagos recently, by the Lagos Area Manager, Mrs Sarat Braimah. The Lagos Area Manager noted that the FNSE remained one of the most important group of professionals, worthy of great interest. She said she was surprised and pleased by the approval of the council

of Nigerian Society of Engineers, of her election as Fellow which was the highest level in the Nigerian Society of Engineers. She noted that it was an honour to be listed among great Engineering personalities, "Some who are great institutions on their own and mentors to whom we wish to emulate. "Engineering used to be all men affair but over time, women have made in roads, holding their heads above water. "In all honesty, our seniors, have indeed encouraged us in lots of ways and I want to believe, women will

redefine the future of Engineering ecosystem, breaking ceilings and leaving legacies". She said "it is on this score, that I will like to also encourage young female engineers, mentor them and provide opportunities for them to thrive,". Engr. Sarat Braimah, promised to set up an NGO to hunt for great female minds from tertiary schools. She said this was to enable them develop Engineering projects and encourage them to break new grounds.

## African countries move to Strengthen Capacity to deal with Oil Spills

The capacity of 22 African countries to deal with oil spills has been strengthened during the 9th Regional Conference of the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) in Accra, Ghana (7-10 November). The conference was designed to address the challenges of oil spill preparedness and response in the region, to review the progress achieved since the last regional conference, and to foster discussions to set the strategic priorities for the next biennium (2023-2024). Organized at the end of each biennium, this regional conference is a regular key event in the GI WACAF Project. Launched in 2006, GI WACAF is a successful cooperation project between IMO and IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for advancing environmental and social performance. It was created with a shared desire to improve the level of preparedness and

response to oil spills in the west, central and southern Africa region. The success of the GI WACAF Project relies heavily on the involvement of its partner countries. To meet this objective, participants were invited to share their experiences and good practices, to identify priorities to strengthen spill response preparedness and potential need for support from the GI WACAF for the next biennium. As part of IMO's ongoing efforts to support Member States and industry with the 2030 Agenda and the related SDGs, in particular, SDG 5, to advance gender equality, a dedicated session on mainstreaming gender in the maritime sector of west, central and southern Africa was organized by the IMO-established Women in Maritime of West and Central Africa (WIMOWCA). The 9th GI WACAF Regional Conference was delivered through

IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP). Angola, Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Togo all participated.

## Sambo mourns Chairman of Nigeria Port Consultative Forum, Folarin

The Honourable Minister of transportation has joined the NPCF and all maritime stakeholders in mourning the Chairman, Nigeria Port Consultative Forum (NPCF), Otunba Kunle Folarin, who died few days ago after a brief illness. Reacting to the news of his death, the

Honourable Minister said the "Nation has lost a maritime repository of knowledge, an experienced maritime practitioner, a voice of the ideal, a highly cerebral gentleman and most importantly, a friend. May the Almighty Allah repose his soul and grant the family he left behind the fortitude to bear the loss".

## Kwara Asks FG To Dredge Baro River Port

Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has urged the federal government to dredge Rivers Niger and Benue in line with finding lasting solutions to the perennial flooding affecting communities in the country. The governor made the plea recently when the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) visited to donate relief materials and assorted grains to people of Kwara state. He said dredging of Baro Port also will help mitigate the overflow of the flood adding that construction of dyke around the rivers would serve as preventive measures to avert flooding. In his response, Kwara State Governor AbdulRazaq who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Prof Mamman Saba Jubril, called on the federal government to find lasting solutions to the perennial flooding affecting communities around Rivers, Niger, and Benue. "Compensation by giving money, foods and other items in most of the affected communities is like scratching the problem from the surface. We want the federal government to come up with permanent solutions to the problems. We know it could be very costly but they deserve it. This is beyond the state government.

"Some of the solutions to this problem include dredging of rivers to contain more volume of water and avert overflowing; construction of dyke around the rivers; planting of trees along river banks; discouraging farming around riverbanks and dredging of Baro Port in Niger State," he suggested.

# MARITIME

## FG Assures On Deploying Inland Waterways To Move Cargoes

By Ignatius Ushie



Sambo

The Federal Government has given assurances that it is working assiduously to ensure that soon, Inland waterways will be developed enough to move cargoes by barges to their ports of destination. In a statement made available to Transport Day in Abuja, the Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo gave the assurance at the recent 2022 Ministerial Retreat in Uyo, Awka Ibom State.

According to him, "We want to make sure that Inland waterways transportation is developed in such a

way that movement of containers and other cargoes by barges from Lagos through the intra-coastal routes to hinterlands will become the new normal," Sambo said.

The Minister said to make that possible, it will involve clearing the waterways and fortunately, the Ministry has found a company that is ready to do that sometime in November, this year, adding that "We have a dream in the Ministry to move containers from Marina in Lagos to Onitsha in Anambra State and even to Baru in Niger State. That

will entail channelization and channel management of the routes from Lagos through the intra-coastal routes to land rivers up to Onitsha along the river Niger up to Baro," the Minister informed.

On the issue of the Coastal Railway line that should run from Lagos to Calabar, the Minister said what is stalling it is funds as the China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC), Contractor handling the project is unable to provide the 85% of its counterpart funding while Nigeria is to provide 15%.

## Importance of Maritime Sector Stressed

As part of efforts to review performance and strategize to achieve its mandate, the Management of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), has organized a 3-day Management strategic session. Speaking during the opening of the session, the agency's Director General, Dr. Bashir Jamoh, OFR, noted that continuous internal stakeholders' engagement is a key component of the current administration to achieve a successful implementation of her tripod mandate of ensuring Maritime Safety, Maritime Security and Shipping Development for the Nigerian Maritime industry.

Dr. Jamoh disclosed that in order to achieve the mandate of the Agency, it requires collective efforts from all stakeholders, which will in turn help

drive investors' confidence in engaging in businesses in the Nigerian maritime sector.?

On his part, the Director General of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) 'Laoye Jaiyeolawho

hinged his presentation on providing leadership in uncertain times, noted that the maritime industry is capable of playing a leading role in reshaping the Nigerian economy.

## Truckers Seek Seamless Evacuation Of Cargo From Lekki Port

Truckers under the aegis of Amalgamation of Maritime Truck Owners Association of Nigeria have tasked the management of Lekki deep seaport on the need to have a coordinated approach on the movement of trucks in and out of the port to achieve seamless cargo evacuation when

commercial operation commences next month.

Speaking on behalf of the group during a working visit to the Lekki deep seaport in Lagos recently, Chief Remi Ogungbemi said the truckers are concerned about movement of trucks in and out of the port as they do not want a

## NPA commends World Maritime Varsity's support on WeCAPs project

The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) has commended the World Maritime University (WMU) for the support accorded the Authority under the Western and Central Africa Port Security (WeCAPs) project.

The Managing Director of NPA, Mr Mohammed Bello-Koko, gave the commendation while receiving the President of the WMU, Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, who led the WMU delegation to the NPA Headquarters.

The NPA boss in a statement in Lagos recently noted that the project was a crucial part of the University President's itinerary whilst in the country.

"Our relentless efforts at improving channel security in the Eastern Ports which are achieving results evidenced by growth in cargo throughput at Onne Port and vessel calls in Calabar Port have benefitted from the insights of the WeCAPS team.

"Our doors remain open to more ideas and partnership that will enable us optimise those strategic national assets," he said.

Bello-Koko reiterated the authority's resolve to leverage its relationship with the WMU in Malmo, Sweden in driving talent development.

"We have been tapping the knowledge of our employees who are alumni of the World Maritime University in the implementation of our ongoing efforts at deepening efficiency in our operations.

"This is by getting them to cascade skills and competencies gained to organisational advantage.

"For instance, the Ballast Water Management Desk we established is headed by an alumnus of the WMU," he said

Responding, Doumbia-Henry, who incidentally was the first female to occupy the university's presidency expressed delight at the number of the authority's employees who are alumni of the WMU.

replication of Apapa gridlock at the Lekki port.

He said, "The purpose of our visit is to get ourselves familiar with the facility especially where it has to do with movement of trucks in and out of the port so that what happened in Apapa and Tin Can will not repeat itself".

# PERSPECTIVE

## Why Lagos-Ibadan Should Not Become Abuja-Kaduna

By Semiu Okanlawon



Imagine yourself having two daughters traveling along a route and you suddenly receive information that the very direction they were headed, a kidnap incident had happened some eight hours before and that vehicles from where the hapless victims were snatched away were still left on the road, with no one knowing the fate of the captives.

That was my situation early morning of Saturday October 28th. To worsen the phobia, a call put through to them to confirm how far they had gone with their journey showed they were just some 5 minutes drive to the very scene of the kidnap the night before.

You could find yourself in dilemma of either calling the driver to halt the journey, make a turn and bring your children back home. But what if another danger was actually lurking on the way for return journey? "Okay, please go ahead," you instruct your driver and jumped on the prayer mat to tell God to take control. But don't forget the victims of the previous hours also prayed to God too?

Two hours later, I was to learn that one of the victims of the incident was actually a kinsman known to me. That was how I got to know that Prof Adigun Agbaje, one of Nigeria's most celebrated Political Scientists was actually in the kidnapers' den. He was not there alone. He was captured along with some other younger persons, mostly students whom he is still sad, he could not help while leaving the camp of the devils.

I had written elsewhere that we cannot afford to allow the Lagos-Ibadan highway become another fearful story of the Abuja-Kaduna tragedy. Today, that deadly route simply is a metaphor for the heightened level of insecurity in Nigeria and the expanding killing fields, kidnapers' den, death traps that the roads have become.

And Nigerians can name such death traps in their respective regions of the

country. Who travels from Ilesa to Akure or to Ekiti without trepidations these days? Ado-Ekiti to Akure, Shagamu to Ore, Shagamu to Abeokuta, Ibadan to Ijebu Ode, Ogbomoso-Oyo-Ibadan and many others in the South-West all have one tale of fears.

In a post of similar narrative I made few days ago, those who saw the piece as striking the very core of what tugs at their hearts as a people came back with saddening tales of the state of affairs in their respective localities. Indeed, I got more depressing evidence many Nigerians are suffering in loud silence and have resigned to fate.

In the North, the Zaria-Katsina-Kebbi routes, Sokoto-Kebbi, Abuja-Lokoja, Lafia-Akwanga Road, are known for crimes of all hues. Of course, almost the entire stretch of the South-East and South-South are taken over by kidnapers with Benin-Asaba, PortHarcourt-Owerri, Aba-Onitsha, Port Harcourt-Yenagoa, Warri-Ughelli and others all have their contributions to the national statistics in highway insecurity.

Two weeks ago, a senior Surveyor in the Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation, Alamu Samsideen Abayomi, was snatched with his mother and son by kidnapers on the Lokoja-Abuja road.

Two days, later, his mother and son were let go. That was not until he had been killed in the presence of his family members. They also collected a sum of N2.3m but claimed that Abayomi struggled with them. He too, sadly, was from my hometown as Prof Agbaje.

The above simply tells you we lost the battle in many of the aforementioned routes in the country. And no one is bordered! But we cannot afford to lose the battle for the control of Lagos-

Ibadan Highway! And this is for obvious reasons.

Apart from being the busiest economic road in the South-West, this connects the nation's hub of commerce to other parts of the country with thousands of trucks moving containers of essentials to the hinterland daily.

As at 2019, the road was estimated to have capacity to handle 250,000 passenger car unit (PCU) daily. It is also becoming home to many industrial complexes especially at the Ogun end with many factories coming up at both sides.

When you allow criminals take control of such a route, it amounts to allowing those who want the country on her knees have their way.

And here comes my charge.

We cannot allow Lagos-Ibadan become another Kaduna-Abuja. Last week, Friday's kidnap of Prof Agbaje should serve as an emergency reason for us to call on the governments of Ogun, Oyo and Lagos to put resources together to secure the highway.

How can we have forests that become totally ungoverned that terrorists and kidnapers now freely set up camps and snatching citizens and demanding ransoms?

In my opinion, constant aerial surveillance by combined efforts of these three states would make Lagos-Ibadan route safer. Indeed, a more regional approach would be required bringing states of the South-West together to make the entire region impregnable.

I have had cause to make some notes on that route, of movements I, in my personal opinion, considered suspicious and which should have attracted the attention of our security agencies.

Who else has noticed an increased population of bike men on the

highway with bags stacked to their backs and moving in groups and some of them stopping in groups on the road for God-knows-what.

I'm not saying people cannot have free movements but the increasing presence of these men, many of them appearing more non-Nigerian, should raise fears. A good study of the modus operandi of terrorist in some parts of the Northern half of this country would also warn you that moving en-masse via motorbikes is a noticeable feature.

A sudden surge in the population of such should have increased interest in their destinations and locations. I do not think it is beyond the capacity of the governments of South-West states to organize joint aerial patrol and surveillance as a way to stop the growing madness.

I recall that one of the major motives behind the acquisition of a helicopter on a wet lease agreement by the Government of Osun about 2013 was security. I also recall that once, an 80 year old businesswoman and Managing Director of Yinka Oba Foam, Mrs. Yinka Obaleye, was kidnapped in Ilesa about 2017.

The helicopter, I vividly remember, was used in trailing the kidnapers to as far as Asaba and even as the criminal changed locations, until they were frustrated to release the businesswoman.

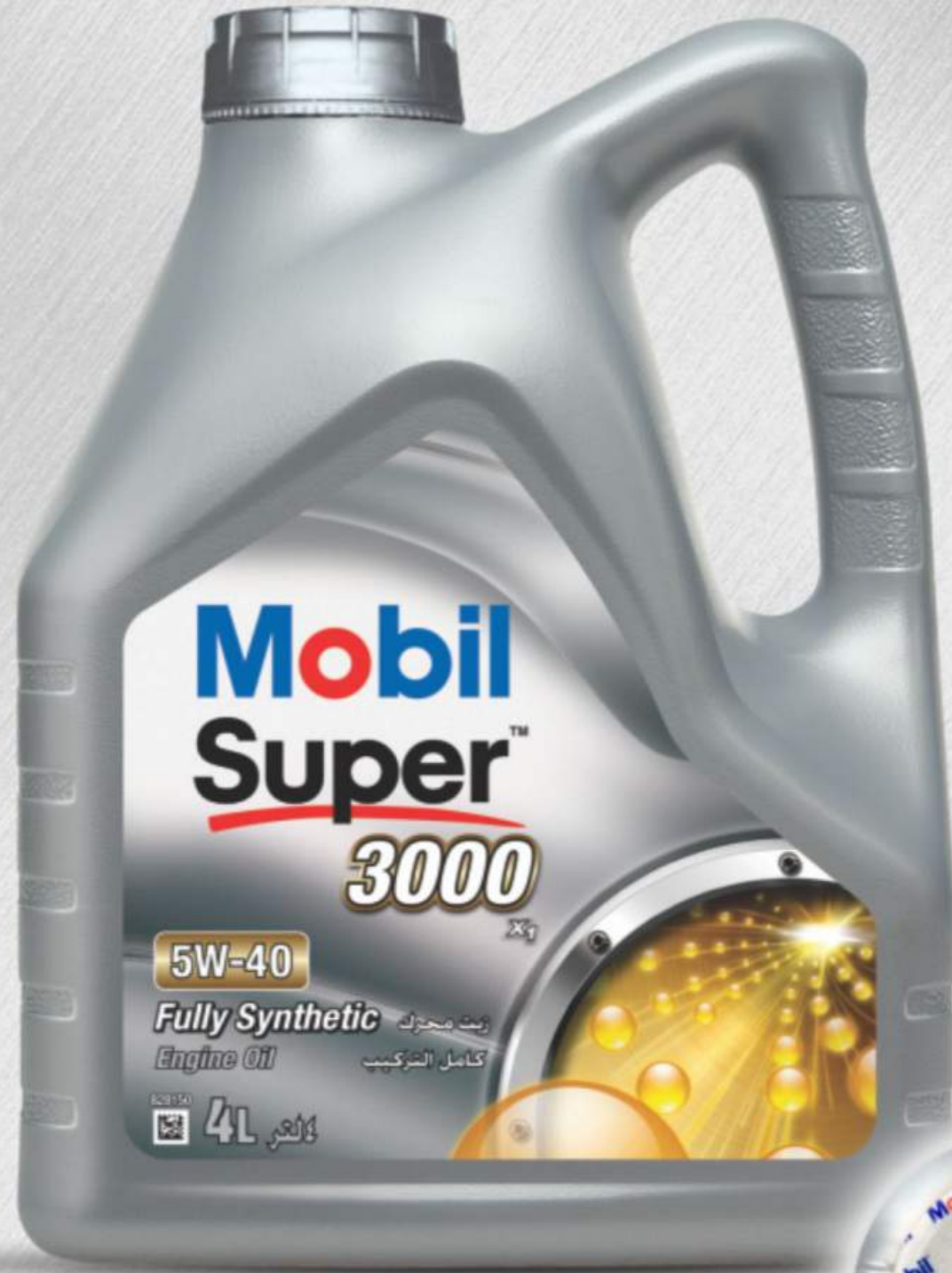
The wife of a former Speaker of the Osun State House of Assembly was also snatched but was later rescued through the combined efforts of security operatives doing a hot chase from the air and on ground.

Today, no one is certain, activities that go on 50 metres off both sides of the highway; giving criminals ample room to plot their evil and get their targets.

Agbaje is one of our best from this part of the country and his contribution to knowledge is immense. Apart from that, why should anyone be made to go through such harrowing experience? I plead with our governors to act fast and restore the confidence of our people on that all-important route. Already, routes such as Ijebu- Ode-Ibadan, Shagamu-Abeokuta, Shagamu-Ore towards Ondo and Akure give you headaches whenever you have compelling reasons to travel through.

This is fast killing the economy of our people and this goes to the weakening of the region's wellbeing. We cannot allow criminals to turn Lagos-Ibadan Highway into another Abuja-Kaduna route and other routes in the country that have become totally unsafe. The time to act is now!  
*Okanlawon, journalist, communication strategist, is also the editor-in-chief of NPO Reports.*

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