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SAFETY

What is ABS?

ABS stands for Anti-lock Braking System, a key safety feature in most modern cars and trucks. Anti-lock brakes work with a car's regular brake system by automatically pumping them in the event of a sudden stop.

How Does ABS Work?

When making a sudden stop, it is possible that one or more of your vehicle's wheels could lock up, leaving you with little control of your vehicle. During wheel lock, the wheels of your vehicle stop rotating, causing your car to slide. For years, drivers were taught to pump the brakes when they felt their vehicle steering into a skid.

Today, ABS technology automates the brake pumping process so you can concentrate on steering the vehicle to safety during an emergency situation. By preventing your car's wheels from locking, anti-lock brakes ensure that you are able to steer during a hard braking event.

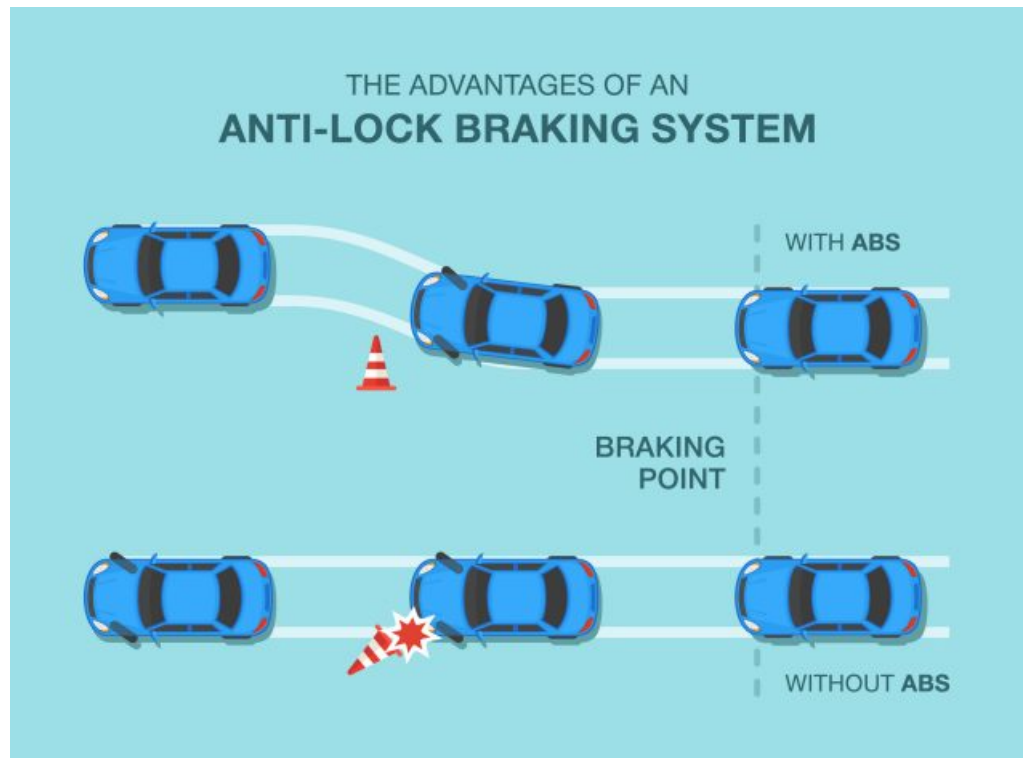
In an anti-lock braking system, your car's wheel speed is monitored and if wheel lock is detected, a sensor sends a message to a controller that releases and applies the brake up to 20 times per second, preventing a lock up and helping you maintain control of your vehicle.

In many of today's newer cars and trucks, anti-lock brakes work in conjunction with other safety systems like traction control and electronic stability control to deliver a safer driving experience.

Are Anti-Lock Brakes Different From Conventional Brakes?

Yes. When you press the brake pedal hard on conventional brakes, one or more of the wheels can lock up. Thanks to the automatic pumping action of anti-lock brakes, you can maintain control and steer to safety during a quick stop.

What Are the Limitations of ABS Brakes?



While ABS brakes are a breakthrough, don't let them give you a false sense of security. To realize the full advantage of anti-lock brakes, it requires you to avoid negative behaviors like speeding, tailgating and driving while tired. Using safe driving practices will increase your reaction time, a key

factor in being able to safely negotiate an emergency situation. Don't expect ABS brakes to compensate for poor driving; a healthy dose of caution and good judgment ensures that safety features like anti-lock brakes work to their full potential.

FRSC Flags Off Ember Months Campaign In Lagos

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Lagos State Sector Command, has flagged off the Ember months campaign in Lagos.

Flagging off the campaign at the Lagos Airport unit command, the State Sector Commander, Babatunde Farinloye, said the command recorded 353 accidents in Lagos with 79 lives lost within the eight months of the year.

According to him, one of the major factors attributed to the losses that were suffered in Lagos State, was speed.

He said the theme for this year's campaign is apt. "Speed thrills but kills, drive responsibly and avoid overloading," he stated.

The commander said the corps no longer refers to accidents as accidents but road traffic crashes because an

accident is an unplanned thing, it is a sudden occurrence but crash is avoidable.

"If you must drive during these ember months, drive safely with caution. There is nothing mythical; it is a fallacy to believe that this period is a time that people must die," he stated.

In her remarks, Airport Unit Commander, Jayeola Fatuase, said the command is a small command with higher responsibilities of ensuring free vehicular movements within the local and international airport community.

Also speaking Managing Director, Skycare Catering Service, Ammouri Mohammed, said motorists should ensure to imbibe and develop the skill of defensive driving, while remaining safe on roads.

PERSONALITY

Adeniyi Commences Tenure As Substantive CG Of Customs



Mr. Adewale Bashir Adeniyi MFR has commenced his tenure as the substantive Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), which took effect from October 19, 2023. This followed his appointment by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.

His appointment, according to Willie Bassey, Director, Information, in the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, is in accordance with the extant provisions of the Public Service Rules (PSR).

According to the Statement, “The President tasks him to bring his wealth of experience to bear on his new assignment.”

Adeniyi is coming into the position with a very rich background of experience, having served in many important and relevant sections of the

service both within and outside the country.

He has over 30 years of experience in Customs Administration covering Strategic and Operational responsibilities.

Adeniyi has built strong relationships with stakeholders and collaborated effectively to ensure efficient and effective movement of goods across borders, over the course of his career.

The diligent Customs officer who is known to maintain the highest standards of integrity and professionalism, is committed to continuously improving his knowledge and skills.

He is a Fellow and has been Vice-President of the Governing Council of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations. He is also a member of the International Public Relations

Association (IPRA).

He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in International Relations from the Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Osun state in 1987, and a Master of Arts Degree in Communication Science, from the Universitaire Svizzera D' Italiana (USI) Lugano Switzerland, in 2013.

Service decorations include -dsm Distinguished Service Medal (Gold Category) ; and psc(+) Passed Staff Course (+) 4.

He has bagged numerous professional and leadership awards some of which include Comptroller General of Customs Award for seizure of \$8,065,612 million cash at Murtala Mohammed International Airport, January 2020; and Large College Crest Award for Excellence in Service as Deputy Commandant, NCCSC Gwagwalada December 2019.

EDITORIAL

How Safe Are the Waterways In Nigeria?

There is no doubting the fact that Nigeria is a blessed country. Aside its natural resources which are avenues of income, it is also endeavoured with natural features that enables it to activate all the modes of transportation- Air, Railway, Road, Water, Pipelines.

According to the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), "Nigeria is blessed with a large resource base of waterways spanning 10,000 kilometres; about 3,800 kilometres is navigable seasonally. Twenty eight of the nation's 36 States can be accessed through water. Nigeria can also link five of its neighbouring countries Benin Republic (Port Novo), Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Chad and Niger Republic by water.

"The Rivers Niger and Benue constitute the major channels for inland navigation which include but not limited to the Cross River, Port Novo- Badagry-Lagos waterways, Lekki and Lagos Lagoons, Ogun-Ondo waterways, Benin river, Escravos channel, Nun River, Imo River, Orashi river, Ethiopie River Ugwuta lake, Lake Chad and the numerous creeks in the Niger delta."

Hence, aside the other modes, the water mode cannot be underplayed at the

expense of others because it helps in linking very remote areas in the country. So, recent incidents occurring on the inland waterways, which has claimed a lot of lives, are developments that are adverse to the growth of the sector.

July last year, **four bodies were recovered, while 12 passengers were still missing after the boat they boarded from Mile 2 en route Ibeshe in Ojo area of Lagos State, capsized. The number of casualties may have increased thereafter.**

On June 12 this year, about **100 were feared dead after a boat carrying them down the River Niger in south-western Nigeria capsized.** The vessel was carrying around 300 passengers travelling from Kwara state to Niger state after a wedding.

Emir of Patigi Ibrahim Umar Bologi II - the traditional ruler of the area where it happened said river waves overtook the boat and forced it to crash into a tree that had washed into the river, causing the boat to capsize.

Also in September, a boat ferrying more than 100 passengers, mostly women and children, capsized along the Niger River on a Sunday morning. They were

travelling to their farmlands in the Gbajibo community, located 251km (156 miles) from Minna, the capital of Niger state, the closest source of emergency response.

And recently, a boat conveying over 80 passengers capsized in the Binneri community of Karim Lamido Local Government Area of Taraba state. The boat is said to have capsized midway through the Benue River on Saturday, October 28 evening. According to reports, the boat was returning from the Mayorenyo fish market in Ardo-Kola Local Government Area when the accident happened, just 50 minutes after takeoff.

These are not incidents that should be swept under the carpet, as so much is being talked about Road Traffic Crashes (RTC) and aviation crashes and little is being said about safety on our waterways.

The time is now for government to undertake a total review and overhaul of the modus operandi of the whole inland waterways operations, as investigations by Transport Day shows among other infractions like obsolete infrastructure and poor regulatory enforcements, safety measures are hardly adhered.

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AMCON Must Not Allow Ark Air To Die, NAAPE Pleads Page 15

Nigerian Pupil Beat 782,952, Win \$5000 In Toyota Dream Car Art Contest PAGE 18

GRAND PRIZE WINNER October 2023

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MD, Toyota Nigeria Limited, Mr. Kiria Abo-Dio, making a presentation to the Star Kid, Okhwardenlale

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Bauchi Gov Inaugurates Value Jet Abuja-Bauchi Flight Page 15

Our Members Are Very Credible And Do Genuine Business - ASPAMDA President - PAGE 16

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TYRE WATCH

Yokohama Rubber Introduces "E+", A Proprietary Mark

Yokohama Rubber has revealed its plans to introduce a new exclusive "E+" symbol on its electric vehicle (EV) tyres, starting in the latter half of 2023. The new "E+" mark is the latest facet of Yokohama Rubber's response to the rising demand in recent years for tires most suitable for use on electrified

vehicles. Tyres utilised on electrified vehicles must fulfil specific requirements to cater to the unique demands of such vehicles. These include the ability to endure increased loads resulting from heavy electric batteries and the high torque output of electric motors. Additionally, these tyres should possess a quiet characteristic that complements the silent operation of the vehicle's engine. Moreover, they should contribute to the efficient utilisation of electricity and other energy sources, thereby enhancing the driving range of the vehicle.

Yokoh

ama Rubber already is supplying its tyres as original equipment (OE) for a number of electrified vehicles, including such premium cars as BMW iX3, Mercedes-AMG EQS 53 4MATIC+, and Lexus RZ, crossover SUVs from Toyota Motor (the bZ4X) and Subaru (the SOLTERRA), and mini-vehicles such as the Nissan Sakura and Mitsubishi Motors' eK X EV.

Yokohama Rubber also is accelerating its development of replacement market tyres for electrified vehicles by applying various technologies cultivated through its development of OE tyres. In addition to displaying this new "E+" mark on the sidewall of YOKOHAMA tires that incorporate these technologies to meet the special needs of electrified vehicles, the "E+" mark will be prominently displayed in tyre catalogs and websites so that customers will be able to understand that a tire is suitable for use on electrified vehicles and facilitate their tyre selection.



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TYRE WATCH

SON Destroys Fake Tyres, Warn Importers

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has destroyed confiscated substandard tyres, electrical cables and fake oil lubricants that run into billions of Naira.

Speaking recently in Lagos during the public destruction of seized substandard items at SON's facility in Lagos, the then Director General of SON, Farouk Salim, said he act of bringing in dangerous substandard products amounts to economic sabotage.

He said the act of bringing in dangerous substandard products amounts to economic sabotage. Salim further said it was one of the reasons the SON went to the last national assembly to review its act and to ensure that peddlers of life-threatening materials are jailed not just fined.



He however lauded the National Assembly for passing the reviewed act, which is awaiting to be assented into law by the President.

The SON DG said the court also approved the destruction of used and substandard tyres as well as fake lubricants that were smuggled into the country through the nation's borderlines.

How We Convert Used Tyres To Products- Free Recycle Limited

The Managing Director of FREE Recycle Limited, Ifedolapo Runsewe, has given an insight into how her company converts used tyres to useful products.

According to her, "FREE Recycle manufactures a diverse range of products, including rubber tiles, rubber mats, flip-flops, and mouse pads, among others. Our product lines can be produced in thicknesses of 15 millimetres, 20mm, and 30mm. The interlocking or paving stones come only in one particular thickness of 40mm. Our products provide many solutions particularly due to their durable, anti-slippery, and sustainable qualities. In addition, we also intend to commence steel recycling which is a component of waste tyres.

"We have a solid network of over 200 direct and indirect agents who are paid to collect the waste tyres from different locations and transport them down to our facility daily. All our agents are known and registered with us. Notably, we also pioneered the Extended Consumer Responsibility Programme

by encouraging commercial and corporate consumers to be more proactive in managing the lifecycle and end-of-life plan upon disposal of tyres.

Continental Driving Sustainability In Tyre Technology

German manufacturer Continental is the third largest automotive supplier and fourth largest tyre manufacturer in the world, supplying to major brands including Volkswagen, Ford, Volvo, BMW, General Motors, Toyota, Honda and many more globally.

The company was founded in 1871 as a rubber manufacturer, specialising into tyres in response to demand, and developing into the six divisions of Continental today: Chassis and Safety, Powertrain, Interior, Tyres, ContiTech and ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance Systems).

Continental is one of the leading developers of sustainable tyres. The innovative UltraContact NXT tyre uses up to 65% renewable, recycled and mass balance certified materials

A certificate of recycling is issued, detailing the volume of waste tyres recycled and the corresponding volume of recycled rubber produced."

whilst retaining Continental's safety and performance standards all 19 sizes carry the highest possible rating ("A") of the EU tyre label in rolling resistance, wet braking, and exterior noise.

Among some of the sustainable elements in the tyres are the recycled steel and recycled rubber material that comes from mechanically processed end-of-life tires that the tyres contain.

The brand also utilises the ContiRe.Tex technology which can already be found in the UltraContact NXT that generates high-performance polyester fibres used to reinforce the tire carcass through recycling PET bottles, which otherwise would have ended up in incinerators or landfills.

MARITIME

Stakeholders Agree On Bulk Cargo Charges Increment By 100 Percent

The Federal Government through the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC), has reduced port terminal charges by 33 per cent. However, the bulk cargo charges was increased by 100 per cent from 125 per cent to 250 per cent.

The changes were highlights of a meeting between the leadership of the Council, Seaport terminal operators, Shipping companies, freight forwarders and relevant stakeholders held recently.

The meeting also increased the number of free days for cargo storage at the terminals to five days from three days with a view to providing more flexibility for shippers and reduce costs.

Confirming the development, the Director, Public Relations Unit of the Nigerian Shippers Council, Rekiya Dhikru-Yagboyaju said that the previously proposed 600 per cent increase in terminal charges has been reduced to 400 per cent adding that the adjustment aims to strike a balance between the needs of the terminal operators and the shippers.

According to Dhikru-Yagboyaju, besides the reduction in terminal charges, an increase of 100 per cent on bulk cargoes was agreed upon by stakeholders that attended the meeting. A statement of resolutions passed at the meeting said: "Break bulk cargo charges have been increased from 125 per cent to 250 per cent. This adjustment reflects the changing dynamics of the industry and ensures fair compensation for services provided.

"All complaints regarding inefficiencies by the terminal operators will be addressed immediately. This commitment aims to improve overall operations and enhance customer satisfaction.



BULK CARGO

"The Shippers Council has established a complaints desk at all ports. This dedicated desk will ensure that issues raised by stakeholders are resolved promptly and efficiently.

"Boxes that arrived prior to October 16th will be rated with the old rates. This provision aims to avoid any confusion or discrepancies in billing.

"Further discussions between the terminal operators and the Shippers Council will continue to refine and

improve the processes. This ongoing dialogue will ensure that the interests of all parties are considered and addressed.

"By reaching these resolutions, the Nigerian Shippers Council, shipping companies, terminal operators, and relevant associations/stakeholders have demonstrated their commitment to fostering a harmonious working environment and addressing the concerns of the industry."

New Heads Of Shippers' Council, NIWA Take Charge

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu recently sacked the Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Shippers' Council, Honourable Emmanuel Jime and replaced him with Mr. Akutah Pius Ukeyima

In the same vein, the president replaced the Managing Director of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Dr. George Moghalu with Alhaji Munirudeen Bola Oyebamiji.

"President Bola Tinubu has approved the appointment of two new Chief Executive Officers in Parastatals and Agencies under the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy in line with the recommendations of the Honourable Minister, H.E.

Adegboyega Oyetola: "Managing Director/CEO, National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Alhaji Munirudeen Bola Oyebamiji. Executive Secretary / CEO, Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), Mr. Akutah Pius Ukeyima

"Alhaji Munirudeen Bola Oyebamiji is a graduate of Banking and Finance and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and Business Administration. He is an Economist with industry experience of more than 28 years before he entered the public service.

"In the public service, he first reversed the downward trajectory of the Osun State Investment Company Limited before serving as the Osun State Commissioner of Finance for eight years.

MARITIME

Oil Theft: Navy Deploys 10 Warships, Helicopters, Ballistic Boats



The Nigerian Navy Service (NNS) says it has deployed 10 warships, two attack helicopters and 500 ballistic boats in a special amphibious exercise to curb crude oil theft and sea robbery in Nigeria's waters.

Flag Officer Commanding (FOC) Central Naval Command (CNC), Headquartered in Bayelsa, Rear Adm. Umar Chugali, disclosed this in Onne during a brief ceremony to flag off the exercise code-named, "Exercise Sea Guardian". Chugali said the joint military exercise

conducted by both the Navy's CNC and Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Calabar, was launched to reduce insecurity to its barest minimum in the nation's territorial waters.

"So, this joint exercise covering both the defence and the policy roles of the navy consists of 10 ships, two helicopters and over 500 boats for four days at sea.

"This exercise will be used to exercise and demonstrate the capacity and capability of our ships at sea, to secure Nigeria's maritime space and the Gulf of Guinea

(GoG).

"Overtime, our maritime space has been inundated by some threats both onshore and offshore, hence this joint exercise that was last conducted in 2021", he said.

Chugali said the objective of the exercise was to ensure that the maritime environment remains safe, secured and conducive for socio-economic activities to thrive.

"The deployment of our capital ships and other assets will complement the gains recorded in

curbing sea piracy, sea robbery, crude oil theft and other illegalities on our waters.

"Every operation presents new sets of challenges considering that security challenges in the maritime environment have become dynamic, emerging, and complex.

"So, with the emerging complexities in the waterways, the Navy is evolving its tactics and strategies to ensure that insecurity is to the barest minimum", he stated.

AMATO Laments High Level Of Corruption In Cargo Delivery System At Ports

The Association of Maritime Truck Owners (AMATO) has lamented a high level of corruption in the cargo value chain in Nigerian Ports.

Chairman of AMATO, Remi Ogungbemile, who made the allegation while playing host to the international anti-Corruption group, Siemens Integrity Initiative at the association's office Thursday, November 3rd, 2023, alleged that the existence of multiple checkpoints, extortion, slow terminals operations, touting and disunity in Customs operations often lead to confiscation of trucks after being duly cleared by Customs officials at the ports.

Siemens Internal Initiative has provided funding since 2010 to anti-corruption agencies with the vision of ensuring a corruption-free environment for businesses and corporations around the world.

Through an external assessor, Nordic Consulting Group (NCG) Copenhagen, Siemens visited to assess the level of compliance with standard business processes and the impact of anti-corruption groups in combating the menace of corruption within the Nigerian port business environment.

Ogungbemi, who received the delegation along with members of AMATO and sister associations,

thanked the group for their unwavering effort in supporting the cause of the Nigerian port industry and truckers in particular to provide a platform for profitability and sustainability of the maritime transport business space.

On their part, Private Sector Development & Partnership Expert Nordic Consulting, Mrs. Marie-Louis Appelquist, and Evaluation and Governance Expert Nordic Consulting, Mrs. Ayla Olesen Yurtaslan, took note of issues raised by the truckers and promised to escalate to relevant authorities through the Maritime Anti-Corruption alliance MACN/CBI for responsive actions.

MARITIME

NIMASA Hosts Regional Training On Biofouling Technology Transfer

As part of efforts to explore the newest technologies in Biofouling and in compliance to International Maritime Organization (IMO) rules, the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) recently hosted a 3-day Biofouling Management Training for coastal states within the African continent.

Speaking at the opening session recently, the Director General of NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh OFR, posited that the training would showcase the newest technologies, their application including cost-effective practices and related benefits for the environment and efficiency of shipping.

His words: "The importance of protecting and conserving our seas, oceans and their inhabitants cannot be overemphasized as we are intrinsically linked to them and their wellbeing reflects our own wellbeing too."

"Shipping is at the crux of global trading and the economy with about 90 percent of world trade and commerce is facilitated through shipping. Studies however, revealed that ships serve as over a time have channel for



The Director General of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) Dr. Bashir Jamoh OFR and Head Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre, Africa (MTCC-Africa) Ms Lydia Ngugi during the MTCC-Africa Biofouling Management Training in Lagos

transportation of harmful non-indigenous Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS). These organisms attach themselves to the outer surface and niche areas of a ship, and are then translocated from one ecoregion to another. The process by which these organisms attach themselves to the ship and other surfaces is referred to as Biofouling."

Noting that Nigeria's economy relies heavily on international trade, the NIMASA boss emphasized that

shipping is a key component of the country's import and export activities, but it inevitably exposed the nation to threats of the IAS transfer into our territorial waters.

The NIMASA Director General shared a quote, "a healthy ocean is a healthy future" to distill the essence of the workshop on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (TEST). While welcoming all participants to the workshop, he encouraged the foreign delegates to explore and enjoy the fascinating sights of the coastal city of Lagos.

Also speaking, the Director, Head, Department of Partnerships and Projects, IMO, Dr. Jose Matheickal

said that the IMO is excited that NIMASA has taken the lead in the strategic MTCC Africa training on TEST Biofouling in Nigeria

"We have been encouraging more women to participate in the sector and we are very excited to find African Women in Maritime (WIMAFRICA) Nigeria and other women groups emerging in the maritime space," he said.

Lagos Partners Access Bank, Afrexim Bank, Secures \$1.3bn For Fourth Mainland Bridge, Others

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has secured a partnership with the African Export-Import Bank and Access Bank for an investment of \$1.352bn in Lagos infrastructure.

The governor signed the partnership deal with the two banks recently at the second Africaribbean Trade and Investment Forum 2023 in Georgetown, Guyana.

"It was a significant moment in Guyana at the Africaribbean Trade and Investment Forum 2023 as we've

secured a partnership with the African Export-Import Bank and Access Bank for a massive investment of \$1.352bn in Lagos.

"This investment will power our long-term infrastructure projects, demonstrating confidence from international and local partners in our growing economy," Sanwo-Olu said via his verified X (formerly Twitter) handle on Tuesday.

He noted that the investment will help the state to execute "key projects, including the Fourth Mainland Bridge,

Omu Creek Project, and the second Phase of the LRMT Blue Line from Mile 2 to Okokomaiko."

The governor added, "We're committed to creating a better future for Lagos and its people.

"Our vision for Lagos is becoming a reality with the Lekki-Epe International Airport and the Lagos Food Systems and Logistics Hub in Epe. These projects will further boost our economy and serve generations to come."

MARITIME

'New MTS Centre To Accommodate 72,000 Seafarers Yearly'

The Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, has said the reconstruction of the Mission To Seafarers (MTS) centre and other ports facilities will undoubtedly scale up Nigeria's rating in the global maritime community, improve her balance of trade to strengthen the value of the Naira and create employment as over 72,000 seafarers visit the country's shore yearly.

The minister, who stated this at the commissioning of the MTS centre in Apapa, Lagos, said with the increasing global competition, it has become imperative for nations to make conscious effort to deepen the competitiveness of their ports.

He said the realisation of this purpose-built facility, designed to provide vital social, psychological, and emotional support to the crewmen and women who drive global trade in and out of Nigeria, signposts the seriousness in enhancing the maritime sector to add greater value to the national economy.

Oyetola said given the pivotal role that the maritime sector plays in actualising this noble objective, the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, is determined to equip seafarers and all



maritime workers with the enabling tools to tackle and overcome work-related challenges.

Oyetola commended the management of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) for their visionary intervention in transforming this facility, which was in

poor condition at the beginning of this year, into a regional best-in-class that it is today.

The Managing Director, NPA, Mohammed Bello-Koko, said the facility is dedicated to provide support for the millions of crewmen and women, who face danger every day to keep the global economy afloat.

He said with over 90 per cent of global trade, which accounts

for half of the world's economic output, constituting an important economic driver that helps to spur development and reduce poverty going by sea, every member of the maritime and the global community is directly or indirectly a beneficiary of the service of seafarers

ENL Consortium, Chinese Firm To Boost Lagos Port Investments

ENL Consortium Nigeria Limited has signed an agreement with Chinese port operator, Lianyungang Port Holding Group Ltd, to deepen investment at the Lagos Port Complex, Apapa and boost trade between both countries.

ENL Consortium is the operator of Terminals C and D at the Lagos Port Complex Apapa while Lianyungang Port Holding Group Ltd offers terminal handling, modern logistics, port construction, and other services in China.

The agreement between both companies was signed last Monday at

the sixth China-Nigeria Logistics Line Supply Chain Platform Advanced Forum organised by Sinoma International Engineering Co., Ltd in Lianyungang, Jiangsu province, China.

The Forum was organised as part of activities to commemorate the 10th anniversary of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Executive Director of ENL Consortium, Mark Walsh, said, it is pivotal to acknowledge the strides made in fostering international cooperation and enhancing the connectivity of global supply chains.

He said the initiative has not only bridged the infrastructural gap across these two great nations but also facilitated economic growth and mutual development.

Walsh said over the past 17 years, port concession in Nigeria's maritime sector has been a journey of both triumphs and challenges, while enumerating the gains of port concession to include enhanced port infrastructure, improved operational efficiency, job creation, and increased revenue generation.

AUTO

Nord Unveils A5, Demir SUVs

Fast growing Nigerian auto company, Nord Automobiles Limited, has kept its words to expand its range for the benefit of its customers and potential clients.

This, the company did recently with the unveiling of two trendy Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs). The event which was largely held virtually, was witnessed by potential customers around the country.

The unveiling instantly set the social media agog as many excited about the elegance of the Nigeria-assembled SUVs who viewed the virtual launch bombarded the Nord team with questions bordering special features, specking and pricing.

Tagged Nord A5 and Nord Demir (tagged Prince of Nord), the two SUVs, the company said, were assembled at the company's Lagos assembly plant.

The Nord A5, a crossover SUV, represents the latest generation of an already established model, while the Nord Demir, a large SUV designed for executives, CEOs, public servants and politicians, promises unparalleled luxury and prestige.

The unveiling was transmitted over Instagram and YouTube, with staff members and board of the Nord Automobiles, celebrities, dignitaries and journalists in attendance.

Mr. Oluwatobi Ajayi Nord Automobiles Founder/Chairman of Nord Automobile company, described the two models as unique in their own ways. Nord A5, he said redefines the Crossover Experience:

“The Nord A5 is the latest iteration of a beloved crossover SUV that has won the hearts of Nigerians. With an updated design, advanced technology, and improved performance, the Nord A5 is a testament to Nord Automobiles' commitment to constant innovation. Continuing he said the A5. Features



sleek lines and modern aesthetics. This crossover is a perfect blend of style and functionality. The interior has been meticulously designed for comfort and connectivity, making it an ideal choice for urban and suburban driving.”

He described Nord Demir which looks like the Toyota Prado, elevates Prestige and Luxury to the next level.

Full Text on - <https://transportday.com.ng/nord-unveils-a5-demir-suvs/>

Coscharis Launch New Ford Territory In Elevated Showroom

Coscharis Motors has once again opened a new challenge in the Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) segment with the unveiling of the brand new Ford Territory for the Nigerian market.

The elegant SUV was unveiled to selected customers and the auto press on Wednesday at the first elevated auto showroom in Lagos on Adeola Odeku Road, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Speaking during the event, the Deputy Group Managing Director, Coscharis Group, Fred Amobi, said “As part of our corporate objectives as Coscharis Group to continually deliver value to our stakeholders in any industry in which we find ourselves as players, Coscharis Motors, our flagship subsidiary and the exclusive representative of the iconic Ford brand in Nigeria is today laying emphasis on the leadership status within the Nigerian automobile ecosystem with the introduction of the All New Ford Territory today.”

He explained that the “Ford Territory is a midsize SUV designed for tech savvy automobile enthusiasts. This vehicle is sure to satisfy the work and leisure needs of our customers and other

stakeholders alike.

“As with all the brands and nameplates that we represent in Nigeria, Coscharis Motors has invested heavily on both human and material resources in order to ensure that all necessary support including workshop equipment, certified OEM trained technicians and OEM approved original parts and accessories required to keep the vehicle in top shape, for optimum performance at all times, are readily available.”

Full Text-

<https://transportday.com.ng/coscharis-launch-new-ford-territory-in-elevated-showroom/>



AUTO

African Association of Automotive Manufacturers Elect Martina Biene As New President

Martina Biene, Volkswagen Group South Africa's (VWSA) Chairperson and Managing Director takes over as President of the African Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM) from Mike Whitfield who has been President since July 2020. Mike will remain on the Executive of AAAM as the Immediate Past President.

The AAAM was established in November 2015 with Jeff Nemeth from Ford as the first President and Mike Whitfield as the Vice President. It is the only African body focusing on the expansion and deepening of the automotive industry across the continent, by working with governments to shape policies that will attract investors to unlock the economic potential of the continent and align a global network of stakeholders, committed to the development of the Automotive industry in Africa.

During Mike's tenure at AAAM, a Continental Automotive Strategy and Implementation Plan was developed in conjunction with the AfCFTA Secretariat, Africa Union (AU), UNECA, Afreximbank and ARSO and this was adopted as a living document by the AfCFTA Council of Ministers at a meeting in Botswana in February 2023.

An AfCFTA Automotive Task Force has been formed to oversee, guide and implement this Strategy under the supervision of the Council of Ministers with the immediate priority to resolve the Rules of Origin.

AAAM's role and importance in developing the automotive industry



has also been recognised by the private sector which has resulted in AAAM's membership growing from some 17 members in 2020 to the current 63 members.

Martina Biene, Chairperson and Managing Director of VWSA, who is also responsible for the Africa Region, has over 20 years of experience in the automotive industry having joined Volkswagen in 2001 where she held multiple roles in the company in Sales, Marketing, Product Planning and Product Marketing for Luxury Vehicles and the Volkswagen Brand in Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, and South Africa.

In 2018 she was appointed as the head of the Volkswagen Brand in South Africa whereafter she returned to Germany in 2020 to take up the position of Head of Small and Compact Vehicle line up, returning to South Africa in November 2022 to take

up her current position.

"I became passionate about Africa after completing an internship in Cape Town before joining Volkswagen in Germany. My career has allowed me to return to Africa to help with the industrialisation of Africa through the automotive industry which will help to create opportunities and sustainable jobs. I am thankful for the work that Mike and the AAAM team have done to date and I am humbled to be able to play a key role through AAAM to grow the automotive manufacturing industry from the 1.1 million vehicles a year today to some 3.5 million or even 5 million by 2035." said Biene after being voted into her new position by the voting

members of AAAM.

The Executive of AAAM is as follows:

President-Martina Biene, Chairperson and Managing Director of VWSA.

Past President-Mike Whitfield, Managing Director Stellantis South Africa.

Vice President-Andrew Kirby, President and CEO of Toyota South Africa Motors.

Vice President-Markus Thill, President Region Africa, Robert Bosch.

Vice President-Jeffrey Oppong Peparah, CEO of Volkswagen Ghana.

Vice President-Dr Ahmed Fikry, Managing Director for East Port Said for Main Development Co. (EP) and Managing Director for Egyptian German Automotive Co. (EGA).

Chief Executive Officer-Dave Coffey.

AUTO

JOO Is New Helmsman At NADDC

Mr. Joseph Oluwemimo Osanipin is the new Director-General of the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC), following his appointment to that position by President Bola Tinubu. Until his appointment, he was the Chief operating Officer of Jet Systems Automobile company.

The 52-year-old Osanipin is a truly home-grown pick, who will now face perhaps his greatest career challenge yet.

Jet Systems locally produces EVs primarily for the Nigerian and African markets. Their product line ranges from passenger to utilitarian vehicles ambulances, military vehicles, and delivery vans.



Mr. Oluwemimo Joseph Osanipin
Director General
NADDC

A graduate of Management & Accounting from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, holder of a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Benin, Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA) with ICAN, and a Certified Information System Auditor (CISA) with ISACA, Osanipin will need to draw from his vast knowledge, network and experience to achieve this. He will have to leverage on his over one decade experience financing critical projects as a staff of Africa's foremost financial institution, Zenith Bank Plc, before he transitioned to the mobility space where he amassed cognate knowledge and experience.

Presidency Approves Bisi Kazeem As Deputy Corps Marshal To Represent South-West

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume fnim CON, has approved the appointment of Assistant Corps Marshal Bisi Kazeem to the rank of Deputy Corps Marshal. The newly appointed Deputy Corps Marshal, Bisi Kazeem, fsi, amnpr, mnim is to represent the southwest geopolitical zone of the country.

According to Charles Edem Corps Commander, Deputy Corps Public Education Officer of FRSC, Deputy Corps Marshal Bisi Kazeem who presently head the Corps Public Education Office is a seasoned road safety administrator who has held several positions of authority and attended so many courses both within and outside the country.

He has a Master of Science in Transport Studies, Department of Geography and Regional Planning, Ogun State University (1996); Master of Arts in Peace and Security Studies, University of Ilorin (2015)

He is a Member Nigerian Institute of Management Chattered (2022), Fellow Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (2022), International Association of Chiefs of Police in the United States (2019); and Associate Member Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (2018).

Speaking on the appointment, the Corps Marshal, Dauda Ali Biu, expressed delight over the height of transparency and objectivity that heralded the whole process and urged the appointed Officer to show more commitment and rededicate himself to achieving the Corporate mission of the Corps, which is to eradicate

road traffic crashes and create a safer motoring environment in the country.

He stated that the exercise is part of the Commission's drive towards rewarding excellence, diligence and hard work which is in line with the administrative philosophy of the present leadership of the Corps.

He charged him to put in his best in the course of duty as the new rank calls for more focus, more dedication, commitment and passion.



TRANSPORT

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Magazine DAY

...the mouthpiece of transportation & logistics



How I Started From Motorcycle To Vehicles-Innoson Chairman

Dr. Innocent Chukwuma, the Chairman and owner of Innoson Motor Vehicle company had a chat recently with some Auto journalists (including Transport Day), after his company marked 13th anniversary, in Nnewi, Anambra State

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

Tell us some of the challenges since you started the auto manufacturing journey 13 years ago?

I would say the journey has been full of ups and downs, but we still managed to survive. Starting from when I was building this factory, a lot of challenges came up. Some people came to the factory and kidnapped the workers, including (Chinese) foreigners and Nigerians. They took them away and started calling me. The second one was when GTBank wanted to shut down this place. Every Nigerian knows about it. I went to court and finally defeated them. GTBank is still owning me up to today. When we started, electricity was very poor even though it has improved now.

What about the challenges of sourcing foreign exchange?

I am a manufacturer. We are in a better position than importers. This is because what we import is not everything we are using in the manufacturing of our vehicles. So we import a few items and use local materials to complete our needs. But, importers of ready made goods from overseas import 100 per cent, which means that their forex requirements are higher. So I can say that foreign exchange depends on a number of things; sometimes, you do some export and get foreign exchange. Government allocation of foreign exchange is no longer working.

How do you get your funding?

Normally, banks are supposed to be sponsoring businesses, but they are not sponsoring the industries. Nigerian banks are trading in foreign exchange. They are no longer sponsoring productive ventures, like manufacturing. They are trading from CBN to foreign exchange and they are not sponsoring industries. Any investor that relies entirely on banks will fail because the banks will even crush him.

Banks are not ready to support manufacturing. They can support people that import oil, but to support manufacturing, banks are not ready to wait, because manufacturing cannot bring that type of quick money they want on daily basis. We are trying to manage manufacturing very well, so that we don't need to borrow so much to manufacture because banks are not ready to sponsor it.



What is the percentage of local content in your auto manufacturing, and how do you source them?

We source the items we use locally and we import some. We get all of them together. For example, we produce plastic components of the vehicles like bumper, dashboard, front grille, etc, at our Innoson Technical and Industrial Company Ltd, in Enene, Enugu. We are in a position to buy any item that anybody can produce locally. We don't need to import any of the items we can get in Nigeria. But we are still importing engine and gearboxes. The country they come from depends on the model we are doing. I don't produce tyres but when we need tyres we reach out to tyres dealers and tell them what we want.

You made an attempt at tyre manufacturing many years ago. How did it go?

National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) said we cannot produce tyres because they did not authorise it. So we shut down, despite having invested a massive part of our resources in the project and imported some heavy equipment.

Are you not disturbed that in these 13 years of existence, Nigeria had witnessed three Presidents and none of them has used IVM which is the practice in other vehicle producing nations?

I cannot say that our Presidents are not using my vehicles, because I have not checked their fleets. It is people that are

close to them that will check and find out. My vehicles are in the market and anybody can buy. I cannot say they are not using it. For instance, I never knew that the Lagos State Government was using my vehicles until someone told me.

How did you get the seed money for this huge investment? Again, where do you get the steel? Also tell us the level of local components you are using.

The local content used in my vehicles are not less than 65 per cent. I will ask you one question to assist me: When I see you write so fast, how do you do it? I ask because I write very slowly. You are used to that. It will help me to answer your question. When you package your business very well, it will grow in a short time. Somebody who has grown a business for 40 years, that business is supposed to grow.

I started small, but grew it from a small business to what we have today. It is because of long practice. Somebody could groom you, but at a time, you grow by yourself. On steel, I don't produce steel, but I buy from steel dealers in Nigeria. When I need steel, I tell them the size I need and sometimes, they source it locally or from outside. We have a caliper to check the millimeter to confirm the gauge. If they are not up to the quality standard, we reject them.

How did you start? Tell us the journey into the auto business.

What I am doing today in auto manufacturing, I had earlier done in the

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

motorcycle industry and succeeded. The time I joined motorcycle business, there were five companies that were dealing in motorcycles: First was Leventis dealing in Honda; Yamako dealing in Yamaha; Bolous Enterprises dealing in Suzuki; and CFAO dealing in Kawasaki and Moblet. I brought Jianshe motorcycles which were under me. I studied what the big companies were doing. They were bringing 36 units fully built motorcycles in one 40-foot container. So with the 36 units in one 40ft container, they did all the expenses on the container and their cost was very high.

As a motorcycle expert, before I joined, I calculated the cost and expenditure. Then, motorcycle was N 150, 000 per unit, I calculated the component parts that make up one motorcycle and found out that the total cost was not up to N150, 000. So I decided to go and import the motorcycles in components (instead of ready-made). I listed the parts and brought them in, and used local technicians to assemble them in Nnewi. My container of motorcycle components, the same 40 feet size, could carry as much 150 units in one, instead of 36 units those companies were bringing in as fully built.

As a result, my own motorcycle price was lower than theirs and I sold the first consignment at N80,000 per motorcycle, while they were selling N150, 000. Clients tested it and found out that it was equally good. I did it for about five years like that without competition before others discovered what I was doing and joined.

As they were joining, I found another way of making it cheaper. I opened a plastic factory in Enugu to produce the plastic components so that the price would be okay. When I started this component parts, some of them that joined started buying the component parts to sell their own. By then we had dropped the price of one motorcycle to N60, 000. From N150,000 to N60,000. Those who bought my plastic components were also selling N60,000, but those who were not

buying from me were selling higher. So, they bought my plastic and business was moving. That was when I said let me go into the automobile. Before I did it, people were only using second-hand motorcycles. What I did stopped the use of second hand (tokunbo) motorcycles, because the new motorcycles became cheaper than second-hand motorcycles. That was what chased tokunbo motorcycles away from the Nigerian market.

If you watch in Nigeria today, people are buying second hand vehicles. That was why I decided to go and develop the auto industry. If not for the foreign exchange issue, that is the weak naira against the US dollar at forex, people would have been buying new vehicles at cheaper prices in Nigeria now. For instance, I planned selling one of my Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) for N1 million for all to buy, but because of foreign exchange issue, the vehicle is going for N10 million now. People that import new vehicles cannot sell at our own price and that means we are still at an advantage.

What are your plans for motorsports?

Nigeria is big with a large market. My focus is to conquer the motor needs of people in Nigeria and beyond. The people that are doing motorsports in other places have conquered this for a long time before they joined motorsports. I will join that when I conquer the people's needs in Nigeria.

Do you have the facility to test vehicles and what is your daily or annual production capacity?

We have the facility to test vehicles. We

have that section. I do 50,000 units and with what we are building in our factory is to produce 60,000 units annually if there is demand. We don't produce and keep because of where to keep them. But we have an installed capacity that can handle the production, if there is need. When there is demand we open up the production line and employ more people. When you are producing like 10 vehicles a day; when there is demand, you can make those 10 vehicles to 100 vehicles per day. What you do is to add workers times 10. Then what will take you one hour to do, you will do it in 10 minutes. We have the capacity to produce 60,000 if there is need.

What capacity do you have in terms of conversion of vehicles to CNG and what advantage does CNG have over other types of fuel powered vehicles?

We can do conversion. Government said they brought in conversion kits, but I don't know how or what they imported. I convert for people

What are your views about the automotive industry in Nigeria?

My view is that if everybody supports the automotive policy, it will go well. The Automotive industry is the way forward and I want Nigeria to be leading the industry in Africa.

You were approached by Abia state government to supply some vehicles. Suddenly, we heard that you could not get those vehicles ready within the period the government wanted it and that was why it went to another company. Can you shed more light on that?

What happened was that they needed 100 vehicles and I supplied 80. I told them that the remaining 20 would be ready in 14 days, but they said they needed it immediately. Then I told them they could buy from shops. I am a manufacturer and not a trader. They said they needed the 20 units immediately; that it was for security. I went to them to tell them like that so that people will understand. The



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governor is one of my best friends, even before he became a governor. He doesn't joke with my products and that is why if you go to Abia state today, you will see my vehicles everywhere. Even the governor himself is using my vehicles.

You also have issues with Imo State Government. Has it been resolved?

No it hasn't been resolved. They just seized the money for almost three years now. The amount is N2.6 billion for 150 vehicles I supplied to them. Today, the money has gone up to N7 billion. I am in the court with them.

The vision of Innoson is to conquer the Nigerian and African market. How much have you been able to export your products to other African countries?

I have got up to 15 contracts from different countries outside Nigeria. The reason we don't export from Nigeria to other African countries as often as we want is because Africa does not have shipping lines that go round the continent. Sometimes, when you export to Ghana, the vessel will first carry the containers to Europe before going to Ghana. But if we have shipping lines that go round Africa, Africa has a lot of things that they can export to each other. But if you watch, getting something from other African countries is difficult. Unless you go to Cotonou to carry it, it is easy to come in. If African countries want inter-Africa trade to grow, they should have shipping lines going round Africa. Without that, trading among African countries will be difficult.

Meanwhile, I tried to service the 15 contracts but I found out what their problems were, which is unavailability of shipping lines to carry the consignments for them. When they run into that difficulty today, they would not come back to you tomorrow. For instance, some of the countries I have exported vehicles to, include: Ghana, Sierra Leone, Senegal and others.

What encouraged you to look home-wards in terms of locating your assembly plant in Nnewi?

It is not that I looked home-wards. The fact is that I don't like crowds. I think I like where traffic will not be holding me on the road so much. That was why I decided to be here in Nnewi and Enugu. Other places like Lagos and Onitsha are filled up. So I came down to Nnewi so that it would be easy for me to coordinate. Right now, I have two factories in Nnewi and accessing them is very easy for me. But if it is in Surulere or Apapa in Lagos, will you go? After all, market is everywhere.

What is the secret of business success of Nnewipeople?

Nnewi people, starting from origin have the keys of business. Remember the late



Louis Odumegwu Ojukwu, who was the leader in Nigeria even before the war. Most of our people are business people and they are used to business. Each town has something unique to them and in the case of Nnewi business is their uniqueness.

Where will Innoson be in the next 10 years, now that you have celebrated 13 years of existence?

I believe that in the next 13 years, Innoson will be everywhere in Africa.

What are your succession plans?

It doesn't mean that I am the one doing all the job. People are doing it. And those that are doing the job are younger than me. We rewarded some of the people that started with us at our 13th anniversary event today, because they are very important in our business. They stayed with us for a

long time and we gave out 15 motorcycles to them. I sent our factory manager to China and trained him for eight years. Besides, they are all my friends and we eat at the same table. They love me and they cannot harm me.

Can you tell us something about the new factory in Umuezena, Nnewi?

That place is 400, 000 square-meter land space. One of the buildings I am putting up there is 40, 000 square meters. There will be three factory buildings, which brings the total to 120,000 square meters.

Which of the IVM models is the fastest selling in your line-up?

Vehicles are like a fashion items. This year, vehicle B can be the fastest selling, next year vehicle D will come up. We produce all to sell. You cannot say this is the fastest. Three things determine the fastness: One is the price, number two is usage, and number three is the utility. Like buses and pickups which are tailored for commercial use. All of them are doing very well. However, what we do is that anyone that is not doing well, we stop it and replace it with another model. That is why I am manufacturing.

What are the advantages of Compressed Natural Gas, CNG-powered vehicles?

President Tinubu has done Nigeria good by removing subsidy and introducing CNG. Any day, people understand what CNG is, they will be happy with the government. I started the production of CNG for the past two years, long before it was formally introduced following the removal of oil subsidy on May 29 by the President. As at the time the government announced the removal of subsidy on petrol and the talk about CNG as an alternative commenced, I already have up to 100 units of vehicles running on CNG on ground; parked here in the factory. It happened that way because I knew that one day, subsidy would be removed. I have vehicles that are powered by CNG in all the IVM models, and I also convert for people who are driving Innoson. I want to give them the advantage first because they are my customers.

AVIATION

Reps To Probe Hike In International Flights Fares



The House of Representatives has mandated its committee on aviation to investigate the hike in international flight fares and poor service delivery by foreign airlines operating in Nigeria.

The House resolution followed the adoption of a motion, titled “Need to Curtail Exorbitant Airfares by International Airlines in Nigeria” moved by Moshood Olarewaju Oshun. Moving the motion, Oshun noted that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, NCAA, reported that as of 2022, 16 international airlines were operating in Nigeria.

He also noted that in 2023, international passengers' traffic had grown massively from the 3,503,692 that was recorded in 2022, and had continued to grow rapidly, especially with outbound international travellers. According to him, the international airlines are taking undue advantage of the surge in international passengers' traffic to charge exorbitantly for flights and cashing out on Nigeria.

The lawmaker further explained that compared to other West African countries, such as Ghana, Benin Republic, and Niger Republic, the rates set by international airlines operating in Nigeria were outrageous, despite poor service delivery and use of old aircraft by the airlines, against what was obtainable in other countries.

He said Turkish Airlines charges as much as \$3,538 (N2.7million), with

the lowest advertised fare being \$1,432 (N1.1 million) for a Lagos-London flight, whereas the same airline charges between \$475 (N368,837) and \$601 (N466,676) for a London-bound flight from Cotonou, which is a huge and unfair contrast to what people were forced to pay in

Nigeria.

He expressed worry that other international airlines operating in Nigeria were guilty of this unfair hike in flight fares for inbound and outbound international flights, which puts Nigeria at a disadvantage economically.

Immigration CG Tasks Officers On Discipline, Professionalism

Acting Comptroller General of Immigration Service, Mrs Caroline Wuraola Adepoju, has tasked officers to apply professionalism when discharging their duties.

She said: “I want my officers to imbibe discipline and ready to serve the people and the nation. My aim is to take the approaches as well as reactions attached to inter-agency relationship to the next level.

“One of the leading agencies in Nigeria is Murtala Muhammed International Airport. The service is determined to implement contemporary migration management in tandem with best global practices.

“This requires very robust inter-agency relationship. To achieve greater and better results while discharging our statutory duties, we must find unifying factors in our diversities. Delivering qualitative services through our institution to ensure a greater Nigeria is a collective responsibility.

“At this gateway, aside from

discharging statutory duties, the collective responsibilities including ensuring safe, secure, seamless and regular migration without compromising national security. This can be achieved while creating that unforgettable one impression on our teeming international travellers.

“One impression at the gateway through attitudinal transformation toward a holistic positive change at the nation's foremost gateway can be achieved by making people feel welcome and by being more hospitable.

“This is high time to extend hospitality beyond the walls of the service by taking inter-agency collaboration, cooperation and synergy to the highest level.

“We need to enjoin all relevant and critical stakeholders of this international entry point, across the public and private sectors within this gateway and beyond to embrace progressive perspective towards inter-agency relationship.”

AVIATION

Air Peace Opens Kano-Jeddah Scheduled Flight Operations



West and Central Africa's largest airline, Air Peace, has expanded its Asian footprints with the commencement of direct scheduled commercial flights into Jeddah, Saudi Arabia recently.

The operation was lauded by the Emir of Kano, Aminu Ado Bayero. The inaugural flight, operated with one of the airline's B777s recently, was airborne from Kano at 23:22hrs with 231 passengers onboard.

Air Peace, before now, has been operating charter flights to Saudi Arabia, airlifting Muslim pilgrims. But this inaugural flight officially kicked off its scheduled operations into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Chairman of Air Peace, Allen Onyema, described the entry into Jeddah as another milestone recorded in the annals of Nigeria's aviation history, stating that Jeddah is the airline's sixth international destination in just nine years of launching commercial flight operations. He noted that with the entry into Jeddah, Air Peace has increased its presence on the Asian continent.

"This is huge, not just for Air Peace but for Nigeria. We are undoubtedly exemplifying our ambition of connecting Nigeria to the world with world-class flight services. Air Peace is on a mission to easing the air travel burden for Nigerians and plugging the connectivity gaps that have hitherto existed. We are happy to be serving as a means of solidifying socio-economic

ties between Nigeria and other countries of the world," he said.

Onyema said Nigeria and Saudi Arabia have co-existed smoothly, with religious tourism being a key driver of the relationship and stressed that with the launch of scheduled nonstop flights to Jeddah, the airline hopes to further deepen the bilateral ties between both

countries, boost both economies and advance mutual development.

In his remarks, the Emir congratulated Air Peace for the Jeddah launch and lauded the airline for always blazing the trail in Nigeria's aviation industry. He further commended Onyema for the impact he is creating in Nigeria through Air Peace.

IATA Insists On Net Zero Carbon Emission By 2050

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has said there is no going back on the zero-emission target by 2050. The clearing house for over 280 world airlines said every drop of fuel avoided counts in the aviation industry's quest to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, especially with the latest result from the IATA Fuel Efficiency Gap Analysis (FEGA).

According to IATA, LOT Polish Airlines (LOT) is one of the airlines to undertake the FEGA, which identified the potential to shave its annual fuel consumption by several per cent. That equates to an annual reduction of tens of thousands of tonnes of carbon from LOT's operations.

IATA's Senior Vice President of Sustainability and Chief Economist,

Marie Owens Thomsen, said every drop counts. Thomsen said: "Since its inception in 2005, FEGA has helped airlines identify cumulative savings of 15.2 million tonnes of carbon by cutting fuel consumption by 4.76 million tonnes.

"LOT is the latest example of an airline exploring all opportunities to achieve every incremental efficiency possible in fuel consumption. That's good for the environment and for the bottom line."

On average, FEGA has identified fuel savings of 4.4 per cent per airline audited. If fully realised across all audited airlines, these savings, which stem primarily from flight operations and dispatch, equate to removing 3.4 million fuel-powered cars from the road.

AVIATION

Travelstart, Uber Partner to Ease Cost Of Flights, Airport Movement



travelstart

Travel made Simple!

TTravelstart, a major online travel agency in Nigeria is partnering with Uber, which connects independent drivers with riders, to bring down the cost of flight ticket and the drive to the airport in order to encourage people to travel.

Country Manager, Travelstart, Bukky Akomolafe, explained that the partnership is aimed at bringing down the cost of flight ticket and movement to the airport to encourage people to travel, especially during the holidays. She acknowledged the difficulty being faced by potential travellers due to high

cost of ticket, the high exchange rate and said that Travelstart has made booking easy and cheaper and when you book your flights through the agency it automatically offers you a ride on Uber to the airport at very affordable rate,

“What motivated this partnership was really a core understanding of what everyone in the country is going through. We have been talking about flight prices, we have been talking about the foreign exchange and how it's going up and how that directly has an impact on flight prices. So, what we at Travelstart wanted to do was to ease

the burden. And we thought one of the ways that we can ease the burden is about trying to make the flights as cheap as possible given the landscape that we are in today,” she said.

Also speaking, the Uber Country Manager, Mr. Tope Akinwumi, said the partnership means so much for the drivers and the riders because this is an opportunity to bring down the cost of travel to the airport by taking advantage of this partnership. Travellers who book their flights with Travelstart will benefit from the partnership.”

Niger Delta: First Batch Of Aircraft Engineers Graduate

The first batch of 20 aircraft engineers who were former agitators in the Niger Delta, have graduated from aviation training school, as part of the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP).

PAP Interim Administrator, Major General Barry Ndiomu (Rtd), told journalists recently in Lagos State that the beneficiaries were part of the 75 aircraft maintenance engineers in the aviation resuscitation programme for former agitators.

Ndiomu stated that the various initiatives deployed by his administration to improve the lives of

young people, was critical to the supply of manpower globally.

Represented by Wilfred Musa, PAP's Head of Reintegration, he recalled that upon resumption of office over one year ago, his administration decided to throw its weight behind the Aviation Resuscitation Programme given the enormous opportunities that are abundant in the aviation industry and its relevance to in building human capacity.

Maintaining that the programme has a global relevance, he said: “By the time some of you get jobs abroad, you will begin to send money back home to

your families and loved ones. That is value. That is the goal of this investment.

“One day, you will come back home to become stalwarts of Nigeria's aviation industry. We (PAP) are a moving train and we will not stop. At the end of the day, the Niger Delta Region will be better for it,” he added.

Also, the Chief Executive Officer of Leadstream Aviation Training Limited, Engr. Roland Ahmed, commended the Amnesty Office for not giving up on the Aviation Resuscitation Programme over the years.

NEWS

NASA Completes Key Step in Aviation Safety Research

By John Gould, Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate

NASA's aeronautical innovators have completed a significant step in their pursuit of safer, more efficient aviation technologies that spot hazards before they occur.

Through its System-Wide Safety project, NASA and its partners in government, industry, and academia are exploring new technologies and techniques to improve current aviation safety and potentially enable widespread use of new types of aircraft such as drones or air taxis.

The project recently completed Technical Challenge 1 (TC-1), Terminal Area Risk Management, the first step towards achieving what is known as an In-Time Aviation Safety Management System. This new type of aviation safety technology can effectively address potential hazards expected with the rise in demand for the number and types of aircraft flying in the National Airspace System.

As aviation operations continue to grow in scale and diversity, and with new modes of flight expected to rise in the near future, keeping the skies safe becomes increasingly complex and drives the need to transform the way order is maintained above our communities.

“What we've accomplished with TC-1 is really just beginning to scratch the surface of what's possible,” said Kyle Ellis, NASA's project manager for System-Wide Safety. “Developing these systems enables a new economy for aviation uses that will benefit us all in the future.”

Planning Ahead

In a busy aviation environment, an In-Time Aviation Safety Management System can efficiently identify and predict safety issues a human would be hard tasked to keep up with.

In today's airspace safety system, let's say an air traffic manager is looking at their screen and guiding 10 airplanes towards their destinations. This person would use a combination of established safety rules and pattern recognition to make sure those aircraft remain a safe distance apart. If this person saw a hazard that posed a safety risk, they would work with the pilots aboard the aircraft and resolve the issue.

Now, let's think about the airspace of tomorrow. Instead of 10 airplanes total, 10 air taxis, 10 ultra-efficient airliners,



and 10 commercial supersonic jets might be sharing the same confined airspace. Preventing and addressing hazards would become a more complex issue nearly impossible for a person to identify in time to prevent an accident.

An In-Time Aviation Safety Management System is designed to identify these events much more rapidly than human operators, then quickly deliver actionable safety procedures to prevent the dangerous situation long before it develops.

Furthermore, preventing these situations from ever arising in the first place increases the efficiency of the airspace overall, since not as much time and effort would be spent by managers keeping things running

smoothly.

Laying the Foundation

TC-1 contributed several important pieces of technology working towards the development of such a system. These contributions improve aviation safety not just for tomorrow but also for today.

For example, part of the research included using new machine learning algorithms to analyze data gathered from major airlines, which use existing aviation safety management systems, to discover potential safety risks that had previously been undefined overall making things safer.

Researchers also gathered information on exact ways human safety managers, pilots, air traffic controllers, and others interact with safety procedures. The team identified useful, efficient practices, as well as those that could potentially lead to safety risks. Their work contributes substantially to improving training and safety operations.

Additionally, researchers studied human performance and fatigue, partnering with pilots to study

how various factors such as flight scheduling, certain short-haul routes, and even the COVID-19 pandemic affect operations.

Other results include prototype safety tools and surveys on human performance.

With this more comprehensive understanding of the safety landscape, NASA and its partners can more effectively continue ushering in new safety technologies.

“We focused on gathering data on current-day operations, but always have an eye for the near future,” said Nikunj Oza, subproject manager for TC-1. “We can use the lessons learned about current aviation safety to best inform new systems.”



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NEWS

G7 Launches \$600bn Trans-African Railway To Counter China's Belt And Road

The US and the EU have joined forces with the African Development Bank (AFDB) and the Africa Finance Corporation to launch the west's latest attempt to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The parties have signed a memorandum of understanding setting out plans to develop the “Lobito Corridor” and the ZambiaLobito railway, which will together form a link across Africa through a number of large mineral deposits.

The deal was done on the margins of the Global Gateway Forum in Brussels, an invitation-only meeting of EU governments with companies, banks, and international organisations intended to promote international infrastructure.

The State Department said in a press statement that the project was “the most significant transport infrastructure that the US has helped develop on the African continent in a generation, and will enhance regional trade and growth as well as advance the shared vision of connected, open-access rail from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean”.

The projects will be carried out under the auspices of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, the G7's response to the BRI, launched in June last year at the Schloss Elmau summit in Germany. The idea is to invest over \$600bn by 2027 to close infrastructure gaps around the world.

The US and its allies have tried before to launch schemes to compete with Chinese infrastructure largesse in the developing world.

In 2013, then president Barack Obama launched his “Power Africa” initiative aimed at investing \$7bn to add more than 10,000 megawatts of clean electricity. It fizzled out.

The G7 tried again in June 2021 with its “Build Back Better World” scheme, intended to funnel billions into



infrastructure in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific.

The latest version is more targeted.

Helaina Matza, the special coordinator of the partnership, said in a digital press briefing that the idea was to finance rail refurbishment from the Angolan port of Lobito to the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

A new railway from northwest Zambia would join that line.

She said the aim was to “demonstrate collectively, together, that you can invest, and you can invest in large-scale infrastructure. And ... this consortium is a great example of that.

“It's 800km of new greenfield rail cutting between Angola and Zambia. It involves a large contribution from AFDB that they're sorting out the parameters. And collectively, all funding partners put together around \$10m to start the feasibility study before the end of this year.”

The project also involves building 260km of roads and about 550km of track in Zambia, spanning from the Jimbe border to Chingola in the country's copper region.

As well as the railway, the corridor will involve 4G and later 5G telecoms systems and a billion-dollar investment in solar farms and

microgrids.

South African broadcaster News24 notes that the US and the EU have adopted a scheme that was already under way.

In July this year, Zambia, the DRC, and Angola signed their own memorandum of understanding on progressing the corridor. A consortium led by multinational commodities trader Trafigura had already been appointed to run a \$570m rehabilitation scheme.

Ms Matza said: “When we found the opportunity to support the work that the DRC Government, the Angolan Government, and the Zambian government had already decided they wanted to do in their tripartite agreement, which they very serendipitously signed on 4 July this year, we wanted to make sure we were doing everything we could to help with those efforts.”

News24 commented: “This is a direct challenge to China's BRI, largely viewed as an unsettling extension of China's rising power.

“However, it will be impossible to avoid working with China on the Lobito project since Mota-Engil, partly owned by China Communications, signed an agreement to run the Lobito Corridor as part of the Trafigura consortium.”

NEWS

AfCFTA: Dismantle Multiple Checkpoints Now, NAFFAC Tells FG



African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

The National Association of Freight Forwarders and Consolidators (NAFFAC) has cautioned the federal government against multiple checkpoints along the Lagos-Badagry corridor and other entry points across the six geopolitical zones to encourage Nigeria participation in the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) Agreement.

NAFFAC lamented that Nigeria businesses may suffer major setbacks if government fails to resolve the bottlenecks on the movement of goods from the entry points and international frontiers saying that Nigeria goods and services have potentials to compete favourably in the region.

Speaking at a roundabout meeting put together by the Association of Maritime Journalists of Nigeria (AMJON) recently in Lagos, President General of the foremost freight forwarding group, Prince Adeyinka

Bakare expressed concerns over the multiple checkpoints manned by security agencies and touts, noting that the illegalities would further affect foreign and local investment.

Bakare stated that the association has engaged government at all levels in furtherance to tackling the illegalities along the Lagos Abidjan corridor.

According to him, there are only five checkpoints between Ghana and Benin noting however that Nigeria has over 30 checkpoints manned by operatives of the government which he described as extortion of the highest order.

Bakare who doubles as the Managing Director, De Potter Nigeria Limited, told the group of journalists that trade barrier must be eliminated for the country to participate fully in AFCFTA, calling on the president Bola Ahmed Tinubu led administration to reduce the number of checkpoints along the routes to encourage international trade.

The NAFFAC boss explained that Nigeria stand a chance to benefit immensely in the exportation of her commodities to other countries of the continent if well harnessed.

While reiterating the association's commitment towards encouraging exportation, Bakare explained freight forwarding business is beyond import, urging government to look inward to put in place policies to drive export.

He lamented that the poor foreign exchange rates against the Naira has also discouraged international trade but expressed optimism that non-oil export would further grow the economy when government prioritize cargo exportation.

"Government needs to listen to this call because all our export supposed to be on CIF which is Cost Insurance and Freight and not the other way round.

"The issue of multiple checkpoints along the entry points is killing the business and it will affect the AFCFTA. The multiple checkpoints is not limited to Lagos Abidjan corridor alone. It is common in the northern region of the country and government is not doing anything about it".

Lagos Affirms Commitment To Investment In Smart Transportation Solutions

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, affirmed his administration's dedication to investing in advanced transportation solutions to align with global technological progress.

Represented by Hon. Sola Giwa, Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation, at the National Transport Technology Conference and Exhibition held at Eko Hotel and Suites, the Governor emphasized the State Government's commitment to

investments in smart transportation solutions, such as traffic management systems, digital payment platforms, and real-time information services, aimed at enhancing travel efficiency and convenience.

"The State's commitment to progress is evident in transformative initiatives, such as the Live Camera Update (LCU) Project, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Camera, Command and Control Centre for the state waterways (Search and Rescue), Lagos Rail Mass Transit Project, and

many more, enhancing safety and transportation infrastructure," he added.

The Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, highlighted the pivotal role of transportation in Lagos' thriving metropolis.

Mr. Osiyemi, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transportation Mr. Olawale Musa, emphasized the State's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and the development of robust public transportation systems.

ENERGY

FEMADEC, Others To Construct CNG Conversion Kits

FEMADEC Energy Group among others, under the Presidential CNG Initiative (P-CNGi) have announced plans to establish over 1,000 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) conversion centers across Nigeria. The move aims to make CNG more affordable and accessible to Nigerians.

The first conversion centre was inaugurated in Lagos, where the Chief Executive Officer of FEMADEC Energy Group, Fola Akinola, explained that the initiative seeks to reduce CNG prices. Akinola stated: "What we are kicking off in Lagos is not the end. We have another one in Lagos State coming up, we have one in Ogun State coming, Port Harcourt scheme will be launched soon, Abuja is coming very soon, Kaduna and many more are also coming up."

Akinola emphasised that the country



spends a substantial amount importing fuel and encouraged a shift to CNG, which is safer, cleaner, and will be made affordable. "We are going to produce our own CNG... I want to promise Nigerians with the help of P-CNGi and MOFI, we will maintain a cost not exceeding N250 for CNG," he added.

P-CNGi CEO, Michael Oluwagbemi, highlighted the safety of autogas and assured that CNG is different from LPG. He said, "CNG is confined in a 10-millimeter steel cylinder. It is bulletproof... so the likelihood of an explosion is next to nil." He added that the initiative would leverage 55,000 conversion kits in the coming months and emphasized the economic and environmental benefits of transitioning to CNG.

CEO of Mofi, Dr. Armstrong Takaang, expressed gratitude to the President for his support and

highlighted Nigeria's potential as a gas nation. "It is much cleaner to use the CNG, and that is why the launch of this program, particularly the conversion workshop, is key for us. It marks a major milestone in this program," he said.

FG launches CNG Conversion Centre In Abuja

The Federal Government of Nigeria has officially commissioned a pilot conversion centre for vehicles that will run on compressed natural gas in the Federal Capital Territory.

It said the centre will boost the CNG initiative of the government and mitigate the effect of subsidy removal on petrol by reducing transportation costs.

This was disclosed in a statement signed by the Transport Ministry, Director, Press and Public Relations, Olujimi Oyetomi on Friday.

The Minister of Transportation, Said Alkali, speaking at the ceremony, revealed that the adoption of a more environmentally friendly energy source like the CNG would help reposition the transportation sector.

The minister, who was represented by the Acting Director, Road Transport and Mass Transit Administration, Akhidenor Cynthia, said greenhouse gas emissions pose a health hazard and dire environmental consequences, and the country must play its role in reducing carbon emissions in the environment.

He said, "The adoption of a more environmentally friendly energy source like the CNG, which the country has in abundance will reposition the transportation sector in urban cities across the country and put Nigeria in tandem with what the world desires at this time."

On her part, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Transportation/Marine and Blue

Economy, Dr. Magdalene Ajani urged Nigerians to consider the conversion of vehicles to CNG as a symbol of a new beginning, adding that the CNG initiative is not only about the conversion of vehicles but also about generating employment opportunities. According to Ajani, the goal is to build a sustainable future, leveraging our own cheap and clean energy source.

Also speaking at the inauguration, the Chief Executive Officer of the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative Steering Committee, Micheal Oluwagbemi, described the adoption of CNG as a significant development in diversifying the transportation sector from fuel dependency to natural gas.

The facility is located at the Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology, Abuja.

ENERGY

\$600b Needed Yearly For Grid Development-IEA

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has announced that an investment of \$600 billion must be injected yearly into the development of energy grids worldwide to prevent gridlock, as highlighted in a recent report. This is coming at a time when Nigeria's electricity grid is experiencing significant challenges, with frequent collapses impeding supply.

According to the IEA's report, titled: "Electricity Grids and Secure Energy Transitions," the world requires substantial changes to the grid to achieve net-zero targets. It emphasised that reaching these targets necessitates the addition or replacement of 80 million kilometers of power lines by 2040, a figure equivalent to the entire existing global grid.

The



International
Energy Agency

report indicates that to achieve countries' national energy and climate goals, the world's electricity needs must grow 20 per cent faster in the next decade than it did in the previous one.

It also highlighted that global grid expansions and upgrades are not keeping pace with the rapid growth of clean energy technologies, such as solar, wind, electric cars, and heat pumps. "Without greater policy attention and investment, shortfalls in the reach and quality of grid infrastructure could make the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C unattainable and undermine energy security," the agency stated.

Qualities of a Good Engine Lubricant

Viscosity

When any lubricant offers resistance to the deforming forces, it is called the viscosity of the lubricant. Good quality lubrication oil must maintain sufficient viscosity at higher temperatures and it should not be too viscous at lower temperatures.

For high speeds, low viscosity lubricants are suggested while for large clearance and high loads; high viscosity lubricants are recommended. The viscosity of oil increases, if the

temperature of mating surfaces decreases.

Flash Point & Fire Point

The Flashpoint of oil is the minimum temperature at which it gives off enough vapor to form a momentary flash when the naked flame is brought near its surface, while the fire point is the lowest temperature of the lubrication oil, where it burns continuously.

To avoid the possibility of fire, the flashpoint of oil must be higher than the temperatures likely to be developed on the rubbing surfaces.

The fire point is generally higher than the flashpoint and the difference between the flash point and fire point must be 18-degree centigrade on the higher side.

Oiliness

It is the property of lubrication oil to spread and attach itself firmly to the lubricating surfaces.

When mating surfaces are subjected to high intensity of pressure, it is recommended to particularly high oiliness; so that the metal is protected by a layer of oil and the wear is reduced.

Volatility

Lubrication oil losses a certain weight due to evaporation when it is subjected to high temperatures for long hours. This loss is known as "loss by evaporation".

The consumption of oil is considerably increased with high volatility at normal working temperatures which is why low volatility is always suggested for lubricants.

Stability & Insoluble Residue

The stability of the oil is to resist oxidation that would yield acids and sludge. Good lubrication oil must have high stability.

Free carbon or hydrocarbons decomposing into carbon at high temperatures is called the insoluble residue. Good quality lubrication oil should not have any insoluble residue.



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RAILWAY

Sanwo-Olu Commissions Yaba, Oyingbo Over-Passes Bridge, Assures On Test Running Of Red Line Next Quarter



Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has given assurance that the long awaited Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Red Line will start test running early next quarter.

According to the Governor, “I have given assurance that our LRMT Red Line will commence testing by early next quarter.”

The Governor also said the contract for the construction of the second phase of Blue Line from Mile-2 to the Okokomaiko area of the state has been signed, affirmed that the project will be completed in 2026.

Sanwo-Olu stated these recently during the commissioning of the Yaba Over pass bridge of the LRMT Red Line, supervised by the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority, LAMATA,

Sanwo-Olu said: “This is another great day in Lagos; a day we are witnessing another leap in the fulfilment of our promise under the Traffic management and Transportation pillar of our T.H.E.M.E.S+ agenda.

”About three years ago, we commenced the construction of four bridges across rail lines between Oyingbo and Ikeja. The bridges, located at Ikeja, Mushin, Yaba and Oyingbo, are designed to ensure the safety of our people.

“Over the years, we have recorded avoidable fatal accidents on railway

crossings, most of the time due to human errors.

“The ceremony is therefore significant because with this Overpass Bridge and others at Ikeja, Mushin and Oyingbo which will be formally commissioned before the end of the year, there will be no more occurrence of train-vehicular accidents at these locations.

“Without any iota of doubt, we have remained focused on our commitment to developing sustainable solutions to the transportation challenges along the major transit spines to give relief to our teeming population by reducing congestion, and improve travel time as well as the cost of commuting.”

On the award of the second phase of the Mile 2-Okokomaiko Blue Line, the governor said: “I have also signed the contract for the second phase of the Blue Line from Mile 2 to Okokomaiko. Construction has started and is expected to be completed in three years. We have given the contractor a deadline for the completion.

Meanwhile, the Governor only recently also commissioned the Oyingbo overpass.

FEC Okays N5.9bn For Abuja Light Rail Access Roads

The Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved N5.9 billion for the construction of access roads for the light rail system in Abuja.

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, made this known recently while briefing newsmen on the outcome of the weekly FEC meeting presided over by President Bola Tinubu at the State House, Abuja.

According to him, the president has set a timeline for the completion of the Abuja light rail project, emphasizing

the importance of addressing the roads that connect to the railway.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, who disclosed this to newsmen after the FEC meeting recently, stated that ministers, special advisers and other top government officials are expected to be in attendance.

President Tinubu had on August 21, 2023 inaugurated 45 ministers, while on October 16, he administered oath of office on three more ministers to make it a 48-man cabinet.

RAILWAY

NRC's E-ticketing Commences For Lagos-Ibadan, Itakpe-Warri Routes

The Federal Government has launched the E-ticket platform for Lagos-Ibadan and Warri-Itakpe rail lines.

The Minister of Transportation, Saidu Alkali, speaking at the official launch of the E-ticketing platform held at the ministry headquarters recently in Abuja, said the government is ready to improve its revenue by utilising all internally generated revenue through technology channels available to it.

He said the platform was launched to improve access to transportation services, end ticket racketeering and eliminate revenue leakage.

The e-ticketing platform took effect from November 1st, 2023 and can be accessed via <https://nrc.tps.ng>.

The minister said, "The essence of E-ticketing is to make it easy for our passengers to buy tickets, for security purposes and to stop ticket racketeering. it will also ensure the security of our passengers onboard the train and avoid racketeering."

"From Wednesday, November 1st, Nigerians will enjoy the benefit of buying tickets at their own convenience and without any issues."

On his part, the Managing Director of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, Fidett Okharia, stated that the initiative had increased its weekly revenue on the Warri-Itakpe route to N28 million.

"I am so happy about this project, apart from the fact that e-ticketing will end issues of ticket racketeering, it will also increase the revenue from the routes. This means by the time e-ticketing commences, there is a likelihood that our revenue will increase.

"I can also announce that for the fear of the e-ticketing coming, we can see our revenue growing. I can boldly say that



throughout last week, we didn't earn anything less than N4m a day on the Itakpe Warri route,"

"I am certain that with this launch, I will stop receiving calls on why my staff are cheating Nigerians," he stated.

The NRC DG restating his commitment to end unethical practices revealed that 14 persons have been heavily sanctioned for ticket racketeering.

Railway Workers Kick Against Ajaero's Assault

The Nigerian Railway Workers under the auspices of Nigeria Union of Railway Workers (NUR) has condemned the alleged kidnap and assault on Comrade Joe Ajaero, the President of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) by Imo State Government.

The workers have however called on the Federal, Imo State governments and the Imo State Police Command to unravel all the sponsored thugs that perpetrated the attack against Ajaero and other workers in the state.

A statement by Comrade Segun Esan, the Secretary General, NUR recently, described the attack on Ajaero and other union leaders by the State Government as travesty of justice, rationality and democratic ethos, which must not be allowed to stand in a sane society.

The union insisted that the gathering by

the workers for the purpose of peacefully protesting against acts of injustice was a legitimate right that does not in any way contravene any known law or the constitution of Nigeria, especially when all due diligence had been followed and wondered the heinous attack on the union leaders.

Esan declared that the attack on Ajaero was a pre-determined one and must not be allowed to go uninvestigated.

He said: "It therefore constitutes and arrant travesty of justice, rationality and democratic ethos for any person or group of persons, no matter how highly placed, to violate the fundamental human rights and collective sensibilities of the Nigerian workers by kidnapping, assaulting and eventually detaining Comrade Joe Ajaero in material particular and other law abiding Nigerian workers in general.

UNIONS, ASSOCIATIONS

Understaffing Affecting Delay In Lilypond Clearance, MWUN Allege

Members of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) have highlighted the understaffing issues faced by shipping companies operating at the Lilypond Export Processing Terminal, which, according to them, are causing delays in the clearance procedure.

They made this known when the Lilypond Export Command of the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) held a Press briefing recently, where they revealed their role in facilitating 12,438 export containers with a total Free On Board (FOB) value of \$518,690,852.93 between January and September 2023.

Comptroller Ajibola Odusanya, the Customs Area Controller of Lilypond Export Command, described the Command as a one-stop shop for export business. He explained the government policy in Nigeria, stating, "The current government policy in Nigeria requires zero duty payment for exports. Exporters generally do not pay export duties, except in special cases



where goods that were initially imported and are being re-exported pay a 2.5 percent levy based on the current value of the goods with government permission."

Comptroller Odusanya further provided a detailed breakdown of the exports facilitated by the Command during the year, including 6,524 20-foot containers and 5,914 40-foot containers, all with an FOB value of \$518,690,852.93.

The goods exported range from agricultural produce such as cocoa, cashew, soya, ginger, hibiscus flower (zobo leaves), cotton, and sesame

seeds to locally manufactured goods like cigarettes, cosmetic items, beverages, and solid minerals such as aluminum, copper, magnesium, lithium, and zinc. The Command also handles various other commodities, including foodstuff and personal effects.

Stakeholders present at the briefing expressed their satisfaction with the efficiency of Customs officers in processing documents but emphasised the need for more manpower from other government agencies stationed at the export terminal to streamline clearance processes.

Fast-track CNG Vehicles To Ease Hardship, NURTW Begg FG

The National Union of Road Transport Workers has urged the Federal Government to fast-track the introduction of Compressed Natural Gas-powered buses. The union stated that an adequate implementation of the scheme would cushion the effect of the removal of subsidy.

President Bola Tinubu in July promised to acquire and distribute 3,000 CNG-fuelled buses across the states and local governments for mass transit at an

affordable rate.

Also, the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, in a statement recently, said with the introduction of the CNG vehicles, Nigerians would pay less for transportation.

Factional NURTW spokesman, Segun Falade, said though the 3,000 vehicles were far less than the population, the government should hasten the process of making them available.

He said, "CNG buses are alternatives that can help ease the effect of the subsidy removal especially as it relates to the current cost of fuel against the CNG.

"What the government should do is that they should try and hasten the processes towards getting the buses. They said they want to acquire 3,000 buses nationwide, which is a far cry from the number of passengers all over Nigeria.

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