

TRANSPORT **DAY** Magazine

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Global Maritime Academy Graduates 135 Students

Page 9

Inflation, Weak Foreign Exchange, Safety Forcing Review Of Handling Rate -Ground Handling Companies

Page 20

Trendy, Compact Jetour Dashing SUV Comes With Power, Efficiency

Page 12



Massilia Motors Receives Best Auto TV Commercial Award for Mitsubishi Outlander Advert

Page 14

Ms Funmi ABIOLA, Head of Marketing and Communications, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Boye AJAYI, Managing Director, Toyota by CFAO; Mr. Patrice PORTE, Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Gbenga OYEBODE, Chairman, CFAO Nigeria and Mr. Kunle JAIYESIMI, Deputy Managing Director, CFAO Mobility.

NAHCO Commissions Export Processing Centre

Page 19

CEAT

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SAFETY

Using the Re-circulation Button In The Car

Most vehicles have a recirculation button with the AC controls in their cars. But many of are unsure when to use it. In Europe and the West, the easy answer would be to use it in the summer and turn it off in the winter. However, in Nigeria, it will be very useful whenever you turn on your AC.

The recirculation button simply takes the air from inside the car and recirculates it in the cabin instead of pulling fresh air from outside. On days like today when it is miserably hot outside, if you do not recirculate the cooler air in the cabin, than your AC system is pulling hot air from outside and trying to cool it. Using the



recirculation feature will get your car cooler and will decrease the wear and tear on your AC system.

- Side note, if your car has been baking in the sun, it's better to roll the windows down and turn recirculate off for the first minute or so to get rid of the superhot air inside the car before turning the recirculate on.

Also, any time you are stuck in traffic (summer or winter) be sure to use the recirculate. If you are pulling air from outside, then you are pulling in all the pollutants and carbon monoxide from all the traffic. Studies show that recirculating your AC can cut down on the pollutants entering your vehicle by 20% when stuck in traffic!

Lagos Trains Over 309 LASTMA Officers

In line with the on-going strategic re-positioning of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) for professionalism and a more effective service delivery to the general public, the Lagos State Government is training over 309 Junior Officers across Zones.

The General Manager of LASTMA Mr. Bakare-Oki Olelakan last week disclosed during the Opening Ceremony of the 'Re-Training Programme' that the exercise was in line with 'Traffic Management and Transportation' as one of the cardinal programmes of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu as captured in the administration's 'Themes+' pillars for development of the State.

Mr. Bakare-Oki disclosed further that the re-training exercise was primarily

meant to create a new image for the Agency that would guarantee a refined and robust Traffic Management System (T.M.S) in the State as well as reduce traffic congestions across the State.

He confirmed that the exercise which would run for four days with the re-training of first batch of 81 Junior Officers (Males & Females).

"We map out new re-training modules to aid effective execution of duties as well as enlighten our Officers on new innovative ways to optimize their operations to meet up with International standard and best practices in traffic management"

Mr. Bakare-Oki reiterated that motoring public particularly motorists with Comments, Complaints or Commendations could reach out to

LASTMA via 08100565860, 08129928515, 08129928503 & (08129928597 WhatsApp Only) & Social media handles (Twitter 'X' - @followlastma), (Instagram - @ekolastma_), (Facebook - @ekolastma), (YouTube - LastmaTV) and (email - followlawtma@gmail.com).

Earlier in his welcome address, LASTMA Director of Human Capacity, Development and Specialized Training, Mr. Akinpelu Ayuba thanked the Government for approving the re-training programme for the Agency. He maintained that the exercise would promote professionalism and quality road management service delivery across the State.



10th

NIGERIA TRANSPORT LECTURE



Thursday,
May 23, 2024



Radisson Blu Hotel,
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9:00am

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EDITORIAL

Moving Cargo With Rail From The Ports

Precisely on June 10, 2021, then President Muhammadu Buhari, commissioned the \$1.5b Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge railway line. The line, which is meant to eventually get to Kano from Ibadan, is to move both passengers and freight.

Shortly after the commissioning, the line commenced passenger movement, and many who have used the line, do not hesitate to praise the federal government for the laudable project.

However, three years down the line, the freight service which the same line is supposed to offer, remains uncertain. Initially, this was not unconnected with the fact that government needed to tidy up the line linking the ports to the Ebute-Metta terminal.

After all the initial hiccups were cleared, on September 12, 2023, the newly appointed Minister of Transport, Saidu Alkali, inaugurated the first cargo movement from the Lagos-Ibadan rail corridor during his first official tour of the rail corridor. Three coaches of 30 wagons were loaded as the inaugural freight movement was kicked off.

Managing Director of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, Engr. Fidert Okhiria, thereafter, said it would start with three coaches per day, noting that the corporation had the capacity to scale up the numbers.

It is expected to decongest the Apapa port.

But this is yet to be. The Managing Director of Inland Containers Nigeria Limited (ICNL), Ismail Yusuf, recently told journalists that "In 2023, when we moved about 15,000 containers, we were supposed to move them by rail but unfortunately, the rail didn't work at all. We moved those containers by road and we eventually paid both Kaduna and Kano cost of transportation to our transporters, which was about N72 billion.

"Our breakdown shows that about N48 billion was spent to move containers to Kano and N24 billion to Kaduna," he said.

On why potential users are still opting for trucks, the NRC MD explained that "The terminals are charging N60,000 per container for moving the container through wagon freight, which is still higher than the movement on trucks, and the Shippers' Council is working on that. The terminal charges are high because of the double handling; presently, moving cargo by rail is more expensive than road but is faster."

It is very important that the issues are quickly looked into by the different government agencies concerned in order to maximize the usage of the rail lines, considering the huge investments put into it.

Safeguarding Flyover Bridges In Lagos

It costs billions of Naira to construct bridges. They are essential parts of the much needed transport infrastructure. They keep road traffic flowing and ultimately save time and man hour on the roads.

Hence, we cannot undermine the invaluable contributions these bridges make in ensuring that the free flow of traffic is maintained and sustained.

However, these bridges have over the years become endangered because of the abuse they have been subjected to by heavy duty vehicles, vandals and illegal squatters under the bridges.

It would be recalled that last year, the federal government directed the immediate closure of the Ijora-Olopa Bridge in Lagos following the discovery that some miscreants have tampered with the major reinforcement elements of the deck from underneath, which led to the failure of a section of the Bridge.

In 2022, there was fire outbreak under the Apangbon bridge also in Lagos which affected the bridge, leading to its closure for about one year. It was suspected that the fire must have emanated from shops built under the bridge.

Director of Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, Adeseye Margaret, who described the nature of the fire as "disastrous", added that "the intensity of the fire has badly affected the Eko bridge truncating movement along that corridor."

It is also common to see heavy duty trucks, especially those on queue to lift cargo from the Apapa ports, or the tank farms, permanently stationed on bridges in Lagos.

The state government has been battling over the years to ensure that the bridges remain safe. Only recently, it destroyed illegal shanties occupied by squatters under the Ijora Causeway Bridge.

The government had earlier given a five-day notice to squatters under the bridge and the Lagos Blue rail Line overhead bridge in Ijora to remove all their shanties for constituting a danger to the Lagos Blue Line corridor or risk demolition and removal.

But the government needs to up its game. Our observation is that many persons, artisans and traders use the bridges illegally, constituting potential dangers to them. Permanent seal up of under of these bridges may be considered, as well as prosecution of persons found to be violating the law. Government should also use materials that cannot be easily vandalized when building bridges.

The state government should be firm in ensuring that these bridges remain safe as it takes so much money to repair.

Though Lagos is the focus, we have also observed that many other cities are facing some similar challenges, though not at same magnitude in Lagos.





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TYRE WATCH

When to Change Your Tyres:

1. Tread Depth: The tread depth of a tyre is a key indicator of its condition, the legal minimum tread depth varies from country to country, but it is commonly 1.6 mm, but it is advisable to replace tyres before they reach this limit. A common recommendation is to replace tyres when the tread depth is around 2 mm to maintain optimal grip, especially during wet seasons.

2. Age of Tyres: Tyres also age, even if they have sufficient tread. The harsh climatic conditions, such as high temperatures, can accelerate the aging process. As a general rule of thumb, consider replacing tyres that are six years old, regardless of their tread depth.

3. Visible Signs of Wear: Inspect your tyres regularly for visible signs of wear, such as bulges, cuts or uneven wear patterns. If you notice any of these issues, it's an indication that the tyre may be compromised and should be replaced promptly.

4. Performance Issues: If you experience a decline in your vehicle's



handling, braking efficiency or notice vibrations, it could be a sign that your tyres need replacement. Don't ignore

these warning signs, as they can jeopardise your safety on the road.

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TYRE WATCH

Freee: Turning Tyres Into Tiles And Bricks

Nigerian company, Freee Recycle is reducing landfill by turning old tyres into new products, sold across the country.

According to a report by the Tyre Industry Project, one billion end-of-life tyres are generated globally every year. And an estimated four billion are currently in landfills and stockpiles worldwide.

But in Nigeria, one company is helping to reduce waste through recycling.

Freee Recycle is transforming old tyres into paving bricks, floor tiles, flip flops and other

goods and since its launch in 2018, the company have recycled over 400,000 tyres into new products.

Managing Director, Ifedolapo Runsewe says it's not hard to spot the problem of waste on Nigeria's streets.

"I think if you take a five minutes' walk or ten minutes' walk, and I guarantee you that you will spot at least ten tyres, right? Then you find them in drainages, you find them in street corner at where they ideally shouldn't be," she says.

Recycling process

The tyres are processed and cut into small pieces.

They're then mixed with an adhesive that lets workers shape the waste into all manner of products.

"(Tyres are) quite versatile in terms of the materials they are made from, talk of the rubber, which is mostly what we work with here, and even the steel, which is quite valuable," says



Runsewe. "And then you also have the fibre as well, which has its own uses and application."

The company's most popular product is its rubber paving stone, which costs about \$60 for a set of 40.

The slightly higher cost of Freee products is due to their extended shelf life compared to their traditional counterparts, the company says.

The products are available in major Nigerian cities, including Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt.

Bolanle Emmanuel, Oyo state coordinator of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council, says one of the challenges will be "getting the raw materials down to these sites".

"This is the only recycling, tyre recycling industry that I've seen in Nigeria. I feel to get these challenges mitigated, they can replicate this center in different communities where they can crush the tyres so that it will

compress the volume into bags. When they are crushed into different sizes, it could easily be carried to where they will make use of it in final products."

Environmental solution

Freee Recycle believes it has prevented more than 8,100 tonnes of CO2 emissions since it began.

"Environmentally, they're making good use of material, which is usually sent to waste or burnt, which causes major air pollution," says Eid Zouki, a construction engineer, who recently commissioned Freee Recycle to supply a flooring solution for a school.

"Maybe on a larger scale, now we have a more environmentally conscious society worldwide, the trend to using sustainable materials, reusing, recycling and making good use of materials usually sent to waste will catch on and eventually it will catch on in Africa."

MARITIME

NIMASA Launches Service Charter, As FG Reiterates Commitment To Strong Economy

By Ignatius Ushie

The Federal Government of Nigeria, has reaffirmed its commitment to building a stronger economy by harnessing the potential of a Blue Economy.

The Minister of Maritime and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, while speaking in Abuja, during the launching of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) service chapter, stated that the occasion marks a significant milestone in Nigeria's efforts to enhance its efficiency, transparency, and customer focus of the maritime sector.

The Minister who was represented during the occasion by Babatunde Bombata, Director of Maritime Safety and Security, said, "As the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, I am delighted to be part of this historic moment, which reaffirms our dedication to excellence, innovation, and sustainable development."

He said the maritime sector plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the nation.

According to him, "It serves as a lifeline for trade, commerce, and connectivity, not only within our borders but also on the global stage. It is not only a crucial driver of economic development, but also a source of livelihood for millions of people across the globe".

He added that the maritime industry holds a special place in the nation's economy and plays a vital role in global trade.

"As we gather here today, we are witnessing the dawn of a new era in the Nigerian maritime sector, a time of enhanced efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

"Our focus on the blue economy is not just about economic gains, it is



also about environmental stewardship and social responsibility."

Also speaking, Chairman Senate Committee on NIMASA, Senator Wasiu Sani, said the maritime agency,

should as a matter of urgency, adhere to all service provisions, to become the best in Africa and the World.

Earlier, the Director General NIMASA, Dr. Ibrahim Jamoh, while welcoming guests emphasized that the launch of the NIMASA Service Charter under the theme-Service Redefined, encapsulates commitment to transforming the way Nigerians serve their stakeholders, the maritime community, and the Nigerian people as a whole.

According to him, "It reflects our dedication to elevating the standards of service delivery, embracing innovation, and fostering a culture of excellence within our organization.

"As the Director General of the

Senate Move To Increase Customs 2024 Revenue Target

The Senate has stated it will likely review upwards the N5.079 trillion 2024 revenue target of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) from the second half of the year to save the country from further borrowings.

Disclosing this in Abuja recently, at a crucial meeting with the Comptroller General of the NCS, Adewale Adeniyi and top management of the revenue agency, Chairman, Senate Committee on Customs, Isah Jibrin, APC, Kogi East said, "first of all, Nigeria is saddled with lot of debt obligations and we need to wriggle ourselves out of that trap and one of the ways to do that is internally generated revenue.

Customs is one of the major providers of internally generated revenue and as it is today, we expect them to play one of the major roles in this drive to reduce our debt burden.

"We need to pay off what we are owing now and minimize additional loans we are going to take. Customs is in a very good position, if they are able to block all perceived leakages, they should be able to generate significant amount of

income that will enable Nigeria get out of debt, at least partially."

On concessions given to some sectors of the economy for example, agriculture, Jibrin noted that it was for those who are into agricultural services, those who are into solid minerals and those whose services have direct impact on the economy.

According to him, "If somebody is bringing agricultural equipment into the economy and you try to take something out of that person in a way of import duty, that will discourage the person and that is what we are saying. It is not that any body took that money or custom compromised in the course of their services.

"Concessions were in the interest of Nigeria to encourage importers who are going into specific areas in the economy. There is a trade off here between importers and the country, particularly the things you think you are generating."

MARITIME

Global Maritime Academy Graduates 135 Students

The Global Maritime Academy (GMA) has graduated a total of 135 students for the 2022 and 2023 Convocation and passing-out parade.

The award of Diplomas, certificates, prizes and GMA Fellowship Awards with promise to produce the best personnel for the maritime Industry in Africa.

Rector of GMA, Dr. Mike Egbago said that GMA, located in Delta state, has always strive for excellence and the fruits of the collective efforts of GMA have been visible in the last 15years of its existence.

Dr. Egbago affirmed that achievements of GMA stand as testimonies to the quality of education imparted at GMA and unwavering commitment to staff members.

He disclosed that over the years, GMA has nurtured and shaped young minds, instilling in them the values of knowledge, integrity and



perseverance, adding that the grandaunts from GMA have become leaders, innovators and agents of change in various fields which the school is proud of.

The GMA Rector solicited for the continued support for the growth and improvement and humbly requested for support in enhancing infrastructure particularly in the area of library materials.

According to him “with your support, we can continue to build on the legacy of GMA, ensuring that the future generations of the students receive the best possible education. Together, let us create an environment that fosters curiosity, creativity and a thirst for knowledge”, he added.

In his address, the chairman of the Governing Council of the GMA, Professor Christopher Orubu said that from a humble beginning, Global Maritime Academy has emerged as a beacon of excellence in Maritime education, leadership and global collaboration.

Professor Orubu noted that the dedicated staff, industry partnership and the commitment of the students have been the driving forces behind the success recorded by the school so far.

According to him “We have embraced cutting-edge technologies, adapted to involving industry trends and consistently strived for academic excellence. The result is the graduating class that stands ready to embark on successful careers in the maritime sector. Throughout the years, we have invested in state-of-art facilities and research initiatives to provide our students with comprehensive and practical learning experience. We have secured approval for additional nine courses from the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) in 2023”.

Wharf Landing Fees Collecting Authority NAMTOP To Fight Against Double Taxation

The National Association of Maritime Transport Operators (NAMTOP) and the Wharf Landing Fees Collecting Authority have agreed to collaborate to ensure maritime truckers are not subjected to double taxation along the port corridor.

The collaboration between the two groups was consummated on Monday, February 5th, 2024 when the leadership of NAMTOP led by its Chairman, Adisa Moshood Olaitan, paid a courtesy visit to the office of the Authority in Lagos.

Chairman of the Wharf Landing Fees Collecting Authority, Prince Gboyega Salvador-Adebayo, who led his team to the parley, assured the truckers' association of the readiness of the Authority to partner with them and ensure that their members are not subjected to any form of double taxation.

“There shall be no room for double taxation in the state” he declared while reiterating the organisation's commitment

to partnering with NAMTOP to ensure ease of doing business as entrenched in the act that established the organisation.

NAMTOP Chairman, Moshood Olaita, expressed the appreciation of the truckers' union to their host and assured him of the association's readiness to partner with Wharf Landing Fee Collecting Authority. He also reiterated the commitment of his members to creating and supporting a peaceful working environment at the ports through compliance with the laws of the land.

In attendance at the parley include Prince 'Gboyega Salvador-Adebayo, the Chairman of the Wharf Landing Fees Collecting Authority, Mr. Abel Ogunjemilusi, the head of operations of the Authority, Adisa Moshood Olaitan, Chairman of NAMTOP, Mrs. Lara Usman, the PRO of NAMTOP, Prince Adeyinka Aroyewun, Mr. Hakeem Yusuf, Mr. Muyideen Olapade and Mr. Salami Ismaila.

MARITIME

Lekki Port Berths Biggest Vessel On Nigerian Waters

Lekki Port, Nigeria's most modern and deepest seaport, has successfully berthed the MAERSK EDIRNE, a 13,092 TEUs vessel. This is the largest container vessel, to ever berth in Nigeria till date. The container vessel docked at Lekki Port at 14.42 hours on Sunday January 21, 2024.

The MAERSK EDIRNE is one of 13 large container vessels which form the new CMA CGM WAX service that will operate along key locations including Xiamen, Qingdao, Shanghai, Singapore, Lekki Port, and Abidjan.

According to the Lekki port company, "This marks a pivotal moment in our



position as a key player in global trade.

"The MAERSK EDIRNE is a container ship with a length overall (LOA) of 366 meters and a width of 48 meters.

"This is a great win for Nigeria and the beginning of a new era of maritime excellence.

"Stay tuned for weekly calls of 13,000/14,000 TEUs vessels! We are

extremely grateful to the NPA team of pilots and other professionals who steered the vessel safely to berth.

maritime history as Lekki Port proudly joins the esteemed CMA CGM West Africa express service, as the only port in Nigeria that is in this impressive port rotation.

"This is a testament to Lekki Port's capability to accommodate large container vessels, solidifying its

extremely grateful to the NPA team of pilots and other professionals who steered the vessel safely to berth.

"The next vessel that will be calling at Lekki Port is the magnificent CMA CGM SCANDOLA, an LNG powered vessel with a carrying capacity of 14,000 TEUs, on January 29."

Lekki Free Port Terminal Activates Vehicle Booking System

In order to ensure free flow of traffic within the port and to cut cost and facilitate trade for its customers, the management of the Lekki Free Port Terminal has said that it has taken some measures towards this.

Speaking during the question and answer session at the 2024 Roadshow organized by the Lekki Port and Lekki FreePort Terminal in conjunction with the Customs Area Controller of the Lekki free Trade Zone Command, Comptroller Mohammed Babandede in Lagos recently, the Chief Commercial Officer, Lekki FreePort Terminal, Mr. Kehinde Olubi-Neye said that their customers have nothing to be afraid of as the shareholding structure of the port including the Lagos State Government was such that it could not afford to fail.

Declaring that Vehicle Booking System, VBS had come to stay at the

port, Olubi-Neye informed that when they started putting in place the VBS, they did it with an understanding what the market requires and the control over access to the port.

He said, "We have been in engagement with the Lagos State Government, the Commissioner for Transport, Daniel Fubara has been quite active on that and we are discussing the roll out of the call up system. When we are in these meetings, they know how much we voice the need to ensure that this system supports vehicular movement.

"So, the plan for call up system is that it will be engraved in our own vehicle booking appointment for our own vehicle booking system. So, we are not going outside our own truck appointment system to execute call up. It's a different case in Apapa or Lagos today. For us, it's still the system you are using that you will use

for your call up.

"You have touched the fact that there are people at the junction making things difficult. Thank you for that observation, we will immediately raise it. This is the first time I am hearing it, I have never seen that happen and we engage with customers daily but now you have raised it up to us, we will take it. But this is why we also need to have a robust traffic management system within the port community. If we do not get the law enforcement to eradicate and support the movement of traffic into the port area, then, we will have challenges. And some of these challenges is what you have mentioned.

"But if the traffic management authority can see from our own vehicle booking system, these are the people who are supposed to come to the port, then, they will be able to effectively manage it".





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AUTO

Trendy, Compact Jetour Dashing SUV Comes With Power, Efficiency



As the year 2024 kick starts and people begin to plan for the year; making vital decisions about their priorities for the new year, a luxury automobile will expectedly feature on your To-Do list.

Many will have to check out the Jetour brand, being one of the latest automobiles in the Nigeria's market.

Dashing, a current model lineup of Jetour is currently attracting a great deal of interest among new vehicle fans in the country. It is a compact crossover SUV produced by Jetour.

Jetour, a sub-brand under Chery's umbrella targeting younger car buyers, unveiled its latest Dashing SUV in April 2022.

Now, the Jetour Dashing making waves globally is available in the Nigerian market, says Jetour Nigeria Mobility Service.

Jetour currently has nine different SUVs, with petrol and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) powertrains. But the Dashing is the first vehicle to feature the brand's new Kunlun Architecture. Jetour says it will use this architecture for an entire series of new cars, ranging from pickup to trucks,

SUVs and 4×4 off-roaders.

Design

The design of Dashing focuses on the latest fashion trend. It aims at the overseas market of A-class SUV and combines fashion with intelligence.

The borderless-style air intake grille, overall large fastback shape, and bilateral four-outlet exhaust ports highlight the aesthetics and dynamic figure.

Exterior

The Jetour Dashing measures 4,590/1,900/1,685mm with a 2,720mm wheelbase.

To attract young buyers, the Jetour Dashing features a progressive design with sharply cut lines and sporty touches.

It also has pop-out door handles and large 20-inch alloy wheels.

The front boasts a split-headlight setup and a grille that protrudes into the car's body.

The rear features a boomerang styled taillight design, roof spoiler and the diffuser-style bumper.

Interior

The simple yet impressive interior features multi-colour ambient lighting,

a double-D-cut multi-function steering, an 8-inch instrument panel, a HUD projection screen and large 15.6-inch touchscreen multimedia unit which is equipped with the third-generation Snapdragon high-performance chip, and supports AutoNavi, Tencent, and Baidu navigation maps.

Other prominent features are voice recognition, a wireless charging pad on the centre console, panoramic roof as standard across the range, and Level2+ driving assistance functions that include cruise control and lane change assist.

Engine

Jetour Dashing conventional petrol engine is available in Nigeria and it comes with two engine options with a 1.5-litre turbo engine mated to a 6-speed dual clutch transmission or a 1.6-litre turbo engine mated to a 7-speed dual clutch transmission.

The 1.5-litre turbo engine has a maximum power output of 156 hp and a peak torque of 230 Nm.

The 1.6-litre turbo engine develops a maximum power of 197 hp and a peak torque of 290 Nm.

AUTO

Carloha Nigeria Celebrates Chery's 1,881,316 Sales In 2023

Carloha, the exclusive national partner of Chery Automobile in Nigeria, has celebrated Chery's exceptional achievements in 2023, following a 1,881,316 Sales record in 2023. The sales figure represents a geometrical growth of 52.6%, while 937,148 vehicles were exported, recording a 101.1% increase.

These outstanding performances, according to the company, surpassed the industry's growth rate, thus establishing Chery as a critical player in the global automotive market, even as the company has maintained its reputation for innovation and quality.

In 2023, Chery solidified its position as a pioneer in automotive technology with the introduction of cutting-edge features such as advanced safety systems, smart connectivity, sustainable energy solutions, and artificial intelligence integration to showcase their dedication to providing state-of-the-art driving experiences.

The company also steadfastly pursued technological innovation, achieving an accelerated "Tech Chery" evolution with groundbreaking achievements. At the Qatar GIMS (Geneva International Motor Show), Chery officially unveiled the QPower architecture under the theme "Evolution for Future", representing 26 years of accumulated and leapfrogged power technology.

It is a comprehensive professional power solution covering mainstream power forms such as ICE, PHEV, BEV, and hydrogen power. QPower boasts energy advantages like "strong and swift", "efficient and green", and "high-energy and intelligent".

The introduction of QPower not only brings more innovation to the global automotive industry but also provides power and performance, fast charging, comprehensive safety, and a better driving experience.



Additionally, Chery's Tiggo 8 Pro Plug-in Hybrid and the Tiggo 7 Pro Plug-in Hybrid made their debut at the Qatar GIMS, attracting international attention with the Tiggo 8 Pro Max, Tiggo 7 Pro Max, Arrizo 8, and other flagship models.

Chery takes independent innovation as its core strategy, with a focus on technology, R&D, and dedication to delivering a high-quality user experience to global consumers.

Chery successfully established eight major R&D centers worldwide, including North America, South America, and Europe. At the end of 2023, Chery filed more than 29,000 patents, with over 18,000 authorized patents granted, thus positioning itself as a pacesetter in the global automotive market.

Chery expanded its global footprints in 2023, strategically entering various international markets, by establishing its presence in regions like Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Currently, Chery's business presence extends to more than 80 countries and regions worldwide, with more than 13 million global automotive user base, including 3.35 million users located

overseas, which exemplifies Chery's commitment to the delivery of quality vehicles that satisfy the needs and preferences of consumers worldwide.

The company's commitment to globalization is evident through joint ventures, partnerships, and the establishment of production facilities in different countries. These efforts have allowed Chery to tap into diverse consumer markets, adapt to regional preferences.

In 2023, Chery maintained the position of China's number one passenger car exporter for 21 consecutive years, which reaffirms Chery's position as an industry leader that is deeply committed to providing quality automotive products that satisfy the needs of customers.

Also, in 2023, Chery ranks first in the automotive index category of "Top 50 Chinese Global Brand Builders' Report", jointly released by Google and Kantar. ... *Read Full Text on - <https://transportday.com.ng/carloha-nigeria-celebrates-cherys-1881316-sales-in-2023/>*

AUTO

Massilia Motors Receives Best Auto TV Commercial Award for Mitsubishi Outlander Advert

In a remarkable feat, Massilia Motors secured the prestigious Best Auto TV Commercial award in Nigeria for 2023, recognizing the outstanding commercial produced for the Mitsubishi Outlander. The award ceremony took place in December 2023 in Lagos during the Nigeria Auto Journalists Association (NAJA) Awards, with esteemed guests, including Mr. Joseph Osanipin, the Director General of the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDCC), and other prominent figures from the auto industry in attendance.

The winning TV Commercial, a meticulously scripted digital advert, was specifically tailored for the African market and filmed in Lagos. Notably, all



the models featured in the commercial are employees of Massilia/CFAO, adding a distinctive touch to the production.

Currently broadcast in several African countries such as Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, Gabon, and available online, the advertisement is translated into both English and French to cater to the diverse linguistic preferences of the Francophone and Anglophone audience.

In addition to the Best Auto TV Commercial award, Massilia Motors also secured the Best Customer Service award at the same event, acknowledging the company's exceptional commitment to delivering outstanding customer service to its vast clientele across the country.

Expressing gratitude for the accolades, Mr. Olatunji Itiola, the General Manager of Massilia Motors, remarked, "We are delighted with the awards as we remain committed to providing sterling auto solutions to our esteemed customers."

Massilia Motors, a joint venture between CFAO and Chanrai Groups, is dedicated to offering a wide range of Mitsubishi vehicles, including popular models such as ASX, Eclipse Cross, Outlander, L200, and Pajero Sport. The company also provides genuine spare parts and after-sales services in Nigeria.

Earlier last year, Massilia Motors introduced the all-new Mitsubishi Outlander, a significant upgrade from its predecessor. The Outlander, available in two variants - H-Line and P-Line, boasts class-leading features and is positioned as an all-terrain vehicle suitable for on and off-road adventures, whether in the city or the countryside.

Excitement As Julius Berger Begins Construction Works In Warri, Effurun

Residents and motorists plying the busy Effurun and Warri roads in Delta state have expressed joy with the mobilisation to site of Julius Berger to commence the construction of flyover bridges and road expansion works in the twin metropolis of Delta State.

The construction engineering company last Monday mobilised to the popular DSC roundabout to commence the construction of the three flyovers, cloverleaf, pedestrian bridges as well as ancillary road expansion projects as part of the plans of the state Governor for infrastructure development and urban renewal of Warri, Uvwie and environs.

A supervising engineer from the State Ministry of Works, Emmanuel Oghorodje who was on ground to ensure the smoothness of the operation informed Julius Berger has completed the planning and demarcation of the roads before mobilising to site and expressed confidence that with the commitment of the state government to ensuring the speedy completion of the projects, the company will deliver as scheduled.

He assured that measures have been put in place to reduce traffic jam on the road while the construction works are on and urged road users to follow instructions and obey the traffic officers.

It would be recalled that on October 18, 2023, the Delta Government and Julius Berger Nigeria Plc signed a N78 billion contract for the construction of three flyovers, a cloverleaf, pedestrian bridges and ancillary road expansion projects in the oil-rich Effurun and Warri metropolis, regarded as the economic nerve centre of Delta State.

Permanent Secretary, Delta State Ministry of Works, Engr Fred Edafiogho, who made the disclosure at Government House, Asaba then, said the contract was for the design and construction of flyover bridge at Enerhen junction to Marine Gate as well as study, design and construction of road expansion and improvement works on the section of the DSC/NPA Expressway from Effurun roundabout to DSC roundabout including construction of a 3/4 Cloverleaf interchange at the existing Effurun Flyover Bridge as well as two pedestrian bridges.

SPECIAL SECTION

CFAO OPEN DAY

CFAO Mobility, a pioneering name in the mobility solutions industry, hosted the "CFAO Mobility Open Day" at Harbour Point, Victoria Island, Lagos on Thursday, January 25, 2024.



Mr. Regis TROMEUR, Country Delegate, CFAO Nigeria, making a presentation



Mr. Patrice Porte, Managing Director, CFAO Mobility, making a presentation



L-R: Mr. Julius FASETIRE, General Manager, Port Harcourt; Mrs Aissatou DIOUF, General Manager, Suzuki by CFAO; Ms Funmi ABIOLA, Head of Marketing and Communications, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Kunle JAIYESIMI, Deputy Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; Mr Mohamed TALEB, General Manager, Winpart/Autofast by CFAO; Mr. Mehdi SLIMANI, Managing Director, Loxea Nigeria; Mr Francois VAN BLADEL, General Manager, CFAO Equipment; Mr. Patrice PORTE, Managing Director, CFAO Mobility during the event

SPECIAL SECTION



L-R: Mr. Yinka OGUNNUBI, Group Treasury Manager, CFAO Nigeria; Mrs Helene PARADISI, Financial Director, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Patrice PORTE, Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Gbenga OYEBODE, Chairman CFAO Nigeria; Mrs Aissatou DIOUF, General Manager, Suzuki by CFAO; and Mr. Idris SIYAKA, Head of Sales, CFAO Equipment



L-R: Mr. Kunle JAIYESIMI, Deputy Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Boye AJAYI, Managing Director, Toyota by CFAO; Mr. Gbenga OYEBODE, Chairman CFAO Nigeria; Mr. Patrice PORTE, Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; and Mr. Regis TROMEUR, Country Delegate, CFAO Nigeria

SPECIAL SECTION



L-R: Mr. Kunle Jaiyesimi, Deputy Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Patrice Porte, Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; and Mr. Luqman Mamudu, former Director of National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) during the event



Ms Funmi ABIOLA, Head of Marketing and Communications, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Boye AJAYI, Managing Director, Toyota by CFAO; Mr. Patrice PORTE, Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Gbenga OYEBODE, Chairman, CFAO Nigeria; Mr. Kunle JAIYESIMI, Deputy Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; and Mr. Julius FASETIRE, General Manager Port Harcourt

SPECIAL SECTION



L-R: Mr. Eric FANTODJI, General Manager, Suzuki Aftersales; Mr. Patrice PORTE, Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Gbenga OYEBODE, Chairman CFAO Nigeria; Mr Mohamed TALEB, General Manager Winpart/Autofast by CFAO; and Mr. Francois VAN BLADEL, General Manager, CFAO Equipment



Admiring one of the products on display

AVIATION

NAHCO Commissions Export Processing Centre

The Nigerian Aviation Handling Company Plc has launched its Export Packaging and Processing Centre in Lagos. Speaking at the event, the Chairman of NAHCO's Board of Directors, Dr Seinde Fadeni, sought the support of the Federal Government in achieving its objectives.

While appreciating the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, Fadeni said NAHCO, as a private sector operator, "values the support of the government to make the business environment less challenging". He noted that the occasion was not to state the "numerous challenges that we face while operating at the Airport," but to thank God and those who made it possible.

"We have achieved this and the new task is to set a new goal. Our only request to the government on this occasion would be that; should we need your support in our quest to move aviation forward in Nigeria in our own little way, please be there for us.



"At NAHCO, we firmly believe that there is a lot of foreign exchange that Nigeria can earn through food exports. We have come to lead the charge. We would need the government to give us all the support we need," he stated.

"And to all our stakeholders, the airlines, the agents, exporters, farmers, I tell you this today: NAHCO is ready for export business. You cannot get this facility anywhere else in Nigeria. It is built with you in mind. I urge you to use

it," Fadeni added.

Meanwhile, the Group Managing Director of NAHCO, Indranil Gupta, maintained, "Non-oil exports will have to play a pivotal role in strengthening the economic might of our great nation"

According to Gupta, exports bring about economic development by way of earning foreign exchange and helping the domestic economy by generating jobs, thereby putting money into the pockets of Nigerians.

SIFAX Group Consortium To Collaborate with FG, LASG On Aviation Development

SIFAX Group and its aviation partner, Changi Airports International from Singapore have opened discussions on strategic collaboration with the Federal Government and Lagos State government to develop the country's aviation sector.

SIFAX Group, through one of its subsidiaries, SAHCO Plc, is already a major player in the aviation ground handling space. However, the consortium is looking to explore more business prospects in the sector such as aviation terminal management, airline management and development and other



Photo Caption SIFAX Group Consortium Meets LASG: L-R: Front row: L-R: Mrs. Yi Ling Tan, Senior Manager, International projects, Changi Airports International Singapore; Dr. Taiwo Afolabi, Chairman, SIFAX Group Consortium; His Excellency, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Governor, Lagos State; Roy Toh, Director, International Projects, Changi Airports International, Singapore and Mr. Minn Sett Soe, Deputy Technical Director, Changi Airports, International Singapore. Behind is Abayomi Oluoyomi, Commissioner for Finance, Lagos State and Ope George, Commissioner for Economic Planning & Budget, Lagos State during a meeting between SIFAX Group and its aviation partner, Changi Airport International and the Lagos State Government on collaborations to develop the country's aviation sector

ancillary services.

In various meetings recently with the Vice President, Kasim Shettima, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Minister of Aviation, Festus Keyamo, the Group reiterated its commitment to the development of Nigeria's aviation sector, explaining that the company has the capacity to contribute substantially to the growth of the sector, which will positively impact the nation in terms of job creation, tourism development and economic growth.

AVIATION

Inflation, Weak Foreign Exchange, Safety Forcing Review Of Handling Rate -Ground Handling Companies

Ground Handling Companies in Nigeria have cried out over the current unfavourable conditions in which they operate because of the current economic realities on ground.

In a letter written by the Aviation Ground Handling Association of Nigeria (AGHAN), dated January 26, 2024, and signed by Mr. Olaniyi Adigun, the AGHAN Chairman and Ahmed Bashir Gulmah, AGHAN Vice Chairman, to the Director General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), the association listed the weak foreign exchange regime against the Naira, increase in diesel cost among others as reasons why the current handling rates needs urgent review.

It would be recalled that the last time domestic handling rates were reviewed in Nigeria was in September 2021 and the reviewed rates came into effect in January 2022 exactly 2 years ago. This was at a time when the United States dollar was N400 to a dolla, but today, a dollar is over N1300.

The association stated that “As ground handlers, all our equipment and spares are imported 100% and we have had to grapple with the consistent decline of the naira in the foreign exchange market for the past 24 months.

“On the local side, inflationary pressure has seen cost as diesel and other local consumables cost rise by over 200% since 2021. In addition, ground rent charged by FAAN was increased 100% while other charges such as apron passes have gone up by over 200%.

“We note that despite all these, ground handling rates have been remained static for the past 24 months. The ground handling subsector of the aviation industry has over the years absorbed the economic shocks for the sector.”

The base rate for domestic ramp operations as approved by NCAA in 2021 and the proposed new rates are detailed below:

INSERT IMAGE HERE

AGHAN reasons that “it is important that this is redressed to enable the ground handling companies continue to provide



services in a safe and secure manner.

“With the paltry sum that we charge and have been charging over the years, there is no way the ground handling industry aviation sector will be able to be efficient and sustainable.

“The current rates are not sustainable because of the impact of drop in naira against major currencies and impact on purchase of the Ground Support Equipment (GSE) and provision of facilities used in servicing the aircraft that are all procured abroad.”

According to the association, “the five registered ground handling companies provide over 200,000 direct and indirect employments to Nigerians with material macroeconomic contributions to the Nigerian economy.

“We operate integrated Customs Bonded Warehouses in the five major airports (Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Abuja, Enugu, and Kano) in the country, thereby contributing to Federal Government Revenue Generation.”

AGHAN also noted that “international and domestic airlines have consistently reviewed upward air tickets over the years, while the handling rates for ground handling companies have remain the same within the period.

“On the domestic side, Lagos and Abuja flight for instance ranges between N90,000 to N150,000 for an economy

class ticket depending on the airline, class of the ticket and the period of the booking activated by an air traveller.

“For the international operators, with today's rate, the cheapest flight on any airline; Lagos-London is **\$1,500 to \$2,500** (economy seat). Yet, the handling rates have reduced despite the skyrocketing prices of equipment and machines and the constant change in air fares in the past 2 years!

“It is observed that globally 70 to 80 per cent of accidents start from the ground. So, to prevent these, the current rates needed urgent reviews.

“AGHAN hereby requests the cooperation of NCAA to support and favourably consider the new domestic handling rates as proposed in the table above, which will take effect from 31 March 2024”, the association stated.

The Aviation Ground Handling Association of Nigeria (AGHAN) is an association of ground handling companies in Nigeria, formed in 2019 primarily to promote safer handling, engage in profitable collaboration and form progressive partnership, to enhance service efficiency and standards.

Since its formation, the association has interacted with the Federal Government, Airlines, and other Stakeholders to put necessary regulations and policies in place.

AVIATION

Ibom Air Ends Wet Lease Aircraft Operations



Ibom Air has announced that it is ending its wet leased aircraft operations. This is according to a Press Release signed by Ibom Air General Manager, Marketing and Communication, Aniekan Essienette. Justifying the action as part of the company's long-term fleet programme, the GM stated that "This comes in the wake of the delivery of the company's brand-new Airbus A220-300 aircraft, the first of 10 ordered from Airbus in October 2021.

"With the imminent entry into service of the A220, the 'place holding' work of the 2 wet-leased Airbus A320s now comes to an end."

According to the Airline's Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Mr George Uriesi, "we resorted to wet leasing aircraft to meet the growing demand for our product, while we worked on our fleet growth programme. Now with these aircraft being delivered, it is time for us to

benefit from the significant operating efficiencies and enhanced service the A220-300 brings to the business".

Ibom Air explained that "The A220 could not have come to Ibom Air at a better time, when the airline business in Nigeria badly needs operationally efficient aircraft that consume 25% less fuel than other aircraft in its category, while offering class leading comfort, safety and environmental friendliness.

"The transition from the wet leased aircraft will result in a reduced flight schedule for a few weeks as the first two A220s are phased into service.

The COO added that "We apologize in advance for any inconvenience our reduced schedule may cause as we transition into a period of better and stable all round service, with these new equipment."

Aboderin Takes Over As MD Of SAHCO Plc

The Board of the Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) PLC, has confirmed the appointment of Adenike Aboderin as Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer with effect from the 1st of February 2024. Mrs. Adenike Aboderin who is taking over from Basil Agboarumi due to the completion of his tenure, is a seasoned finance professional with many years of Executive Leadership, Financial and Management experience in both Private and Public Sectors.

Her skills include policy/strategy formulation, financial advisory, oil & gas, infrastructural, marine and transport development, business/risk management and public policy. She has held many Senior Executive Management positions in both the Public and Private sectors and until December 2023, she was the Director Finance and Accounts, Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) where she managed the finance, accounts, credit control and budget directorate of the

organization.

In the Public sector, she worked as the Special Adviser to the Executive Governor of Ogun State on Trade and Investments, and also oversaw the state's Economic Planning Department between 2011 and 2014.

Mrs. Aboderin has huge interests in Manufacturing, Transportation, Investments and Social Development. In 2015, she had the responsibility of being the Chairman Sub - Committee on Social issues of the Presidential Transition Committee. Prior to her public service engagements, she held different senior management position at Skye Bank Plc (now Polaris Bank Limited), Citibank Nigeria, Premium Securities Limited and Commerce



Adenike Aboderin

Bank, in a banking career that spanned over 20 years.

In Banking and Financial Advisory, she led various teams and groups in the following sectors of the economy - Trading, Investment, Manufacturing, Commodities, Marine, Oil & Gas, Transport and Steel.

She was also a Consulting Partner at Novateur Consulting Limited, a financial advisory firm and has held positions on

various boards. Mrs. Aboderin holds a Bachelor's degree in Finance and a Master's Degree in Banking and Finance from the University of Lagos. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (FCIB); Fellow, Association of National Accountant of Nigeria (FCNA) and an AMPAP Certified International Airport Professional (IAP).

Full Text on

<https://transportday.com.ng/aboderin-takes-over-as-md-of-sahco-plc/>

AVIATION

Nigeria Moves To Streamline Travel Time With Trinidad And Tobago

In a move to streamline travel time between Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago, the Hon. Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, recently, convened a crucial meeting with the High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Nigeria, Ambassador H.E Wendell V.C De Landro and his delegation in Abuja.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to ratify the longstanding Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA), between Nigeria and the Caribbean Island nation, paving the way for a direct flight connection between the two countries.

The initiative stems from the recognition that the current travel routes between Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago are arduous and time-consuming, often taking up to 24 hours or more on connecting flights. However, with a direct flight, the journey can be completed in just 7 and a half hours. This significant reduction in travel time is poised to revolutionise bilateral relations and enhance economic and cultural exchanges between the two nations.

The BASA agreement, originally initiated in 2009, had not been ratified until now. High Commissioner De Landro expressed his fervent commitment to expediting the process, highlighting the immense potential for increased tourism, entertainment, and commerce that a direct flight connection would bring.

In response, Honourable Minister Keyamo commended the High Commissioner's initiative, noting the profound cultural similarities between Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago. He remarked, "This agreement is commendable and timely. It will not



only foster closer ties between our nations, but also unlock numerous economic opportunities."

To ensure swift progress, the Minister

has directed the establishment of a dedicated working committee, tasked with expediting the ratification process and facilitating the involvement of a dedicated airline to service the direct route.

This historic meeting marks a significant step towards enhancing connectivity and cooperation between Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago, ushering in a new era of collaboration and prosperity.

NCAA Reads Riot Act To Domestic Airlines On Flight Delays

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority NCAA has expressed displeasure at the reports of incessant delays, flight disruptions, and schedule changes without adequate notice to passengers. The Acting Director General, Captain Chris Najomo, reiterated the need for airlines to improve their services as the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mr. Festus Keyamo is determined to enforce his five point agenda as mandated by President Bola Tinubu.

According to him, the current record of flight disruptions, poor customer experience and poor handling of passengers is unacceptable and must be improved upon to satisfy the needs of the passengers.

He said airlines "must consider scheduling flights into sunset airports early in the day so as to minimize cancellations as a result of airport closure at sunset and NCAA will ensure that airlines fulfil their obligations to passengers or face sanctions."

"Airlines must handle persons with

reduced mobility properly, with dignity and without discrimination as airlines are mandated to provide facilities for the movement of Persons with reduced mobility and by virtue of the provisions of Nigeria Civil aviation regulations part 19,"

"Similarly airlines are required to provide on their ticket portal a mandatory field for special needs assistance and require their agents to actively ask customers during ticket purchase if they will require assistance" he reiterated.

"Also it is no longer business as usual as errant airlines will be sanctioned appropriately without fear or favor and NCAA has stepped up its surveillance to monitor compliance with a view to fish out violators."

The Director, Consumer Protection & Public Affairs, Mr. Michael Achimugu, emphasised that the Authority will not relent in its commitment to ensure pleasurable travel experience and comfort for air transport passengers. The Airlines present committed to work on all issues raised and make adjustments where necessary.



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MOBILITY

CFAO Mobility Open Day Unveils Cutting-Edge Solutions, Celebrates 120 Years of Innovation

CFAO Mobility, a pioneering name in the mobility solutions industry, recently hosted the "CFAO Mobility Open Day" at Harbour Point, Victoria Island, Lagos on Thursday, January 25, 2024.

The event lived up to its promise, offering attendees an immersive experience in the realm of cutting-edge mobility solutions.

The Open Day featured an impressive line-up of top-tier brands, including Toyota, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Fuso, JCB, Howo, Kinglong, Techking Tyres, Yamaha, Winpart, Auto Fast, Otis, and Loxea.

From brand-new cars to elevator and escalator installation and maintenance, motorcycles, outboard engines, corporate leasing, fleet management solutions, spare parts, and aftermarket expertise, the event served as a comprehensive hub for all mobility needs.

Attendees were treated to insightful talks from industry and technical experts, providing valuable insights into the latest advancements in mobility solutions.

Beyond a product showcase, the Open Day served as a dynamic platform for networking, learning, and exploring the future of mobility.

The venue buzzed with excitement as participants explored the diverse offerings and interacted with representatives from CFAO Mobility and its partner brands.

Throughout the day, exclusive discounts, surprises, and opportunities to connect with industry experts enhanced the overall experience.

Managing Director of CFAO Mobility, Mr. Patrice Porte, said "Today's event is a momentous occasion for us as we bring our showrooms together in one location, providing an extraordinary opportunity to showcase the wide array of offerings that define CFAO Mobility."

Reflecting on the company's 120-year legacy in Nigeria, he added, "CFAO Mobility celebrated a significant milestone last year 120 years of dedicated service and contribution to Nigeria. Today, as we stand here at the forefront of the



L-R: Mr. Kunle Jaiyesimi, Deputy Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; Mr. Patrice Porte, Managing Director, CFAO Mobility; and Mr. Luqman Mamudu, former Director of National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) during the event

automotive industry, we reflect on our rich history and look forward to an exciting future filled with innovation, customer satisfaction, and a continued commitment to nurturing local talents."

The Open Day included insightful panel discussions on industry-related topics. Former Director of the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC), Luqman Mamudu, presented a paper on "The Future of

Mobility in Nigeria: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities."

Panel themes included 'CFAO: Celebrating Our Legacy, Embracing Our Future,' and discussions on "Solution for Car Accessibility," "Importance of Quality Service and Genuine Spare Parts in the Automotive Industry in Nigeria," and "Celebrating Women in the Automotive Industry."

The company said "For those who missed the event, CFAO Mobility encourages everyone to connect on social media - follow CFAO Nigeria for more details. Stay tuned for updates

on future events and innovative solutions from CFAO Mobility.

CFAO, a trusted player in the mobility, health, consumer goods, and infrastructure sectors, continues to be a beacon of innovation and service excellence in Nigeria for over 120 years. The successful Open Day stands as a testament to their commitment to providing diverse and innovative mobility solutions.

New Mercedes-Benz GLC Sets Standards For Mid-sized Luxury SUVs In Nigeria

Weststar Associates Limited, authorized general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Nigeria, has announced the entry of the all-new Mercedes-Benz GLC, marking the dawn of the next era in mid-sized luxury SUVs. This fully redesigned model represents the second generation of the GLC, harnessing Mercedes-Benz's legacy of comfort, refinement, and cutting-edge technology to redefine luxury in Nigeria's automotive landscape.

The new Mercedes-Benz GLC debuts with the GLC 300 trim, featuring a dynamic turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine that delivers 258 horsepower and 295 lb-ft of torque. What sets this model apart is its integration of an advanced mild hybrid system, enhancing fuel economy by enabling the engine to shut off and coast under lighter loads. Anticipated future models include sport-

focused AMG variants, promising even more diverse choices.

The new GLC exemplifies luxury expectations with its exceptionally smooth ride over various road surfaces. The cabin is meticulously crafted to provide a serene and quiet environment. The mild hybrid system allows the vehicle to seamlessly glide to a stop and shut off the engine when coasting, delivering an unmatched level of tranquility.

While the front seats offer firm and supportive cushions, they provide comfort without extravagant flair. The GLC has made notable improvements to its on- and off-road capabilities, particularly in challenging weather conditions and on rough, unpaved roads. ...*Read full text on- <https://transportday.com.ng/new-mercedes-benz-glc-sets-standards-for-mid-sized-luxury-suvs-in-nigeria/>*

NEWS

China Beats Japan, Becomes World's Biggest Car Exporter

China's global dominance in electric cars helped it overtake Japan as the world's biggest vehicle exporter last year, official data confirmed recently.

Japanese giants such as Toyota and Nissan have been much more cautious than their Chinese counterparts like BYD on electric vehicles (EVs), banking instead on hybrid models.

Figures released by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association showed shipments of cars, trucks and buses rising 16 percent to 4.42 million last year.

But China exported almost 500,000 more-4.91 million vehicles in total, as reported by the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers this month. China's customs bureau put the number even higher at 5.22 million, a huge year-on-year rise of 57 percent, with one in three fully electric vehicles.

The country had already been shipping more vehicles than Japan on a monthly basis, but data confirmed that it was



also number one for a whole year.

Unlike Chinese firms, Japanese automakers including Toyota re-confirmed recently as the world's largest company by unit sales also make huge volumes of vehicles in other countries.

In 2022, vehicle production in Japan excluding motorcycles totalled 7.84

million units, but overseas production was almost 17 million.

Japanese manufacturers have long bet on hybrids that combine battery power and internal combustion engines, an area they pioneered with the likes of the Toyota Prius.

But they have vowed to up their game, with Toyota aiming to sell 1.5 million EVs annually by 2026 and 3.5 million by 2030.

The company is also hoping to mass-produce solid-state batteries that charge faster than conventional ones and give EVs more range.

Helped by strong government support, Chinese EV firms have stolen a march on more established rivals such as General Motors, Volkswagen and Toyota.

BYD in the fourth quarter of 2023 even snatched Tesla's crown for most sales of all-electric vehicles, data this month showed.

UniAbuja Launches Bicycle As Alternative Intra-campus Transport

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Abuja, Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, has introduced 'Na'Allah Campus Ride' as alternative transportation model on its campus, aiming to facilitate ease of movement for the institution's students. The university shared this information in a Facebook post, announcing the commencement of Na'Allah Campus Ride.

The post highlighted the excitement among students as they rode the bikes around the campus.

"Opara Anthony Chibuka, a 200-level Philosophy student and one of the riders, said, "The bike is smooth and easy to ride. Many of us on campus will greatly enjoy using the bikes.

"I know that many of my friends have been waiting for this opportunity. Kudos to the vice-chancellor."

In the comment section, the university mentioned that it has only received a delivery of 100 bicycles.

During the launch, many students were seen riding alongside the Vice



Chancellor and some principal officers of the institution.

Credit: Facebook | University of Abuja

ENERGY

Fixit 45, Mijo Autogas India Sign MoU On Nigeria's Autogas Future

By Favour Igaga

In a landmark collaboration, Fixit 45, Nigeria's frontline repairs and aftermarket service company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mijo Autogas Pvt. Ltd of India to spearhead Nigeria's transition to autogas, aligning with the vision set by the President of Nigeria.

With this agreement, Fixit45 assumes the crucial role of a technical partner, emphasizing training, employment generation, and seamless execution through technology at its installation centres network.

At a media briefing in Lagos on

Monday, February 5, 2024, Fixit45 and Mijo stated that, the collaboration aims to establish six training centres in Abuja, Lagos, and Port Harcourt in Phase 1, focusing on creating opportunities for over 5,000 Nigerian youths in CNG kits installation, programming, and troubleshooting. This collaboration is expected to create significant employment opportunities for Nigerians.

Nitin Rane, executive director, Mijo Auto Gas PVT Ltd; India stated that, Mijo Autogas, a global leader in CNG kits manufacturing, brings to the partnership a legacy of product quality and safety standards.

"With over 400 approvals and certifications from regulatory authorities worldwide, Mijo Autogas stands out for its commitment to excellence. Notably, it is among the first five companies globally to acquire approval on BS-VI emission standards for CNG Kits, showcasing a dedication to environmental

sustainability". Nitin Rane said

On his part, Pankaj Bohra, co-founder of Fixit45, expressed excitement, noting that, the programme is a win-win for stakeholders.

He highlighted Mijo Autogas's distinguished reputation and Fixit45's commitment to creating employment opportunities through capacity development.

According to Pankaj Bohra, "To ensure efficiency, Fixit45 leverages technology for streamlined training and certification processes, addressing challenges such as unauthorized garages and parts quality compromise. The goal is to establish authorized installation centres within Fixit45's vast network, enabling customers to access quality Mijo CNG kits at competitive prices, promising significant fuel cost savings."

The partnership also emphasizes field deployment of a network operations team for optimal output. Recognizing potential challenges, the partners are committed to

a comprehensive strategy ensuring a seamless customer journey, operational efficiency, and productivity.

The technology roadmap prioritizes fitment centre registration, geo-mapping, and performance management, while training programs integrate digital elements for registration, administration, testing, and certification.

The focus is on maintaining quality control through digital job orders, mapping of garages and technicians, and automatic fraud detection.

As the franchise network expands to key cities like Abuja, Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, Ilorin, Owerri, Jos, Port Harcourt, the initiative holds immense benefits for Nigerians.

Fixit45's Co-founder highlighted the potential savings of 40-60% on fuel costs, competitive prices for CNG kits, and the creation of thousands of job opportunities, contributing to the nation's economic growth and sustainable future.



L-R: Sumantra Mazumdar, Head, Business/Power and Renewable Energy Solution, Fixit45 Technologies Ltd Nigeria; Nitin Rane, Executive Director, Mijo Auto Gas PVT Ltd, India; Chioma Ahueze-Okechukwu, Vice President, Commercial, Fixit45 Technologies Ltd Nigeria and Goodluck Ikporo, CFO, Fixit45 during MoU signing and partnership announcement between Fixit45 Technologies Ltd Nigeria and Mijo Auto Gas PVT Ltd on CNG Training and Installation Centres held in Lagos on Monday, February 05, 2024

ENERGY

OPEC Releases \$1.7bn For Energy Projects In Africa, Others

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, (OPEC) Fund for International Development in 2023, has financed 55 projects worth \$1.7b, in which a Nigerian solar plant and an Azerbaijan wind farm were among the beneficiaries.

Aligned with the multilateral development finance institution's Climate Action Plan, support for renewable energy projects constituted nearly 60 per cent of all lending in the energy sector, according to a press release.

The fund supported a \$25 million solar plant in Niger, a \$50 million 240-megawatt wind farm in Azerbaijan, and contributed \$40 million to two wind power plants, totaling 1 gigawatt of renewable energy capacity in



Uzbekistan.

The OPEC Fund's investments in the energy sector included projects dedicated to enhancing energy security in Tanzania and Bangladesh, aligning with the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 7 ensuring clean and affordable energy access.

Additionally, the allocated capital aimed to tackle pressing issues such as climate change, social and economic resilience, and sustainable growth.

The organisation's director general, Abdulhamid Al-Khalifa, highlighted the significant impact achieved amid a challenging global environment.

NAPE Seek NASS Support Over Industry Challenges

The Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) is seeking the support of the National Assembly to address inherent challenges bedeviling the oil and gas sector in the country. NAPE, during a courtesy visit to the National Assembly, said the move is needed to drive value from the oil industry. The delegation, led by the President of NAPE, Abiodun Ogunjobi, re-echoed the need for improved exploration in Nigeria.

The industry players, during a meeting with Senate and House of Representatives Committees for Petroleum Resources, stressed the need for regulatory frameworks in the industry, while calling for urgent action against environmental concerns.

They also discussed current realities and the role of the national assembly in enacting legislation that would engender a robust and efficient energy industry.

NAPE, in a Press Release also highlighted the opportunities, current realities, and challenges and stated that the association as the knowledge base of the industry is committed to working with the National Assembly's Committees on Upstream Petroleum to create optimum value for the country's oil and gas resources, especially the deployment of natural gas as transition fuel.

At the meeting with the Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources, the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Eteng Jonah Williams, stressed the need to align policies that would foster growth and development

within the petroleum sector. Williams commended NAPE for promoting professionalism, ideas and best practices within the petroleum industry while assuring that the Senate would be dedicated to ensuring that legislative frameworks are in place to support the growth of the industry. Williams said there's a need to maintain environmental and ethical standards. He also welcomed the idea of a collaborative forum where discussions will be focused on ways of moving the industry forward in Nigeria.

At the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on Petroleum Resources, Alhassan Ado Doguwa and his deputy, Prince Sesi Whingah, commended NAPE for their proactive approach in reaching out to the legislative arm of government.

RAILWAY

Navy Arrests Five Suspects With Vandalised Railway Tracks In Kaduna



concealed with animal feeds," he said.

The commandant said the vandalised railway tracks ran through Katul-Crossing in Kachia LGA to Kafanchan.

He said that the railway tracks had not been in use for some time hence, criminal elements devise means to make it a source of income by vandalising and selling off the metal irons.

"Reportedly, the suspects were arrested by the internal security checkpoint team during

The Nigerian Navy School of Armament Technology (NNSAT), Kachia Local Government Area, Kaduna State said it had intercepted three trailers loaded with vandalised railway tracks.

The NNSAT Commandant, Commodore Henry Aruomaren, made this known at a news briefing in Kachia recently.

The suspects and the seized railway tracks have been handed over to the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) for profiling and

further investigation.

Aruomaren said the feat was in continuation of the fight against criminal activities within Kaduna State and its environs.

"The NNSAT Kachia internal security checkpoints at Makwali, Kachia LGA, acting on actionable intelligence at about 0500 on Feb. 2, intercepted the three trailers.

"The trailers with registration numbers ABJ 897 XB, MGU 232 ZF and XG 276 JJN, respectively, were laden with vandalised railway track materials

a stop and search operation.

"Consequently, the base was informed of the arrest and a Strike Force was dispatched to the scene of the arrest to move the suspects and the exhibits to the Base for further investigation.

"It suffices to state that, only one of the three trailer drivers was arrested while others absconded when they got the information that NNSAT internal security checkpoint had arrested the first trailer," he said.

Lagos Destroys Shanties, Dislodge Squatters Under Ijora Bridge

The Lagos State Government has destroyed illegal shanties occupied by squatters under the Ijora Causeway Bridge. The government had earlier given a five-day quit notice to squatters under the bridge and the Lagos Blue rail Line overhead bridge in Ijora to remove all their shanties for constituting a danger to the Lagos Blue Line corridor or risk demolition and removal.

The state Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, while giving the quit

notice lamented the security risk the occupation of underneath the bridge by mini buses, block moulders, fuel sellers and miscreants posed to the safe operation of the blue rail line service, and said the government would not allow it to continue.

Sharing videos on his X handle recently, Wahab stated that the enforcement team was led by ACP Bayo Sulaiman under the directive of the state governor to dislodge the squatters and clear the area.

He wrote, "Following the expiration of

a 5-day quit notice issued to squatters under the Ijora Causeway Bridge by #followlag last Sunday, the Enforcement Team of the Lagos State Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources #LagMOE and Special Intervention Squad on the Restoration of the Lagos Badagry Rail Corridor Clean-Up led ACP Bayo Sulaiman begin enforcement by dislodging the illegal squatters and clearing up the area as directed by Lagos State Governor, #jjidesanwoolu."

RAILWAY

Lobito Atlantic Railway To Transport Minerals

Trafigura and Kamoakakula have agreed to long-term commitments to transport minerals via the Lobito Atlantic Railway for a minimum term of six years. The terms of the Reserved Capacity Agreements were signed during the Mining Indaba in Cape Town, South Africa and mark the first long-term commercial commitments to the Lobito Atlantic Railway, a new import-export trade route between the African Copperbelt and Angola's Atlantic coast.

The Lobito Atlantic Railway is expected to ramp up to an annual export capacity of one million tonnes per annum before the end of the decade. Trafigura's allocation of export capacity on the Lobito Atlantic Railway will be up to 450,000 tonnes per annum from 2025.

In addition, the Kamoakakula copper complex, a joint venture between Ivanhoe Mines and Zijin Mining, has been allocated a minimum capacity of



120,000 tonnes and up to 240,000 tonnes per annum of copper products blister-anode or concentrate from 2025, with an initial commitment of 10,000 tonnes to be transported in 2024 as the railway ramps up.

In 2022, the Lobito Atlantic Railway consortium, comprising Trafigura, Mota-Engil and Vecturis, was awarded a 30-year concession for the operation,

management and maintenance of the Lobito Atlantic Railway (LAR) and for the Lobito Minerals port. The upgraded line will provide a more efficient and lower-carbon route to market for copper, cobalt and other metals crucial to the energy transition and will operate on the basis of open commercial access.

Jeremy Weir, Executive Chairman and CEO of Trafigura commented: "We are pleased to be one of the first commercial customers to agree terms for a long-term commitment to use the Lobito Atlantic Railway and we look forward to welcoming other customers to join Ivanhoe Mines and Trafigura in the coming months."

"These commitments announced today support the consortium's aim to grow the volumes on the corridor so that it becomes the leading rail transport link in sub-Saharan Africa."

Ivanhoe Mines' Founder and Executive Co-Chairman, Robert Friedland commented: "We admire the hard work of the Lobito Corridor consortium and Trafigura, working with their partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola, to build a new supply chain that is fast becoming one of the most important trade routes for vital copper metal in the world."

Germany Sells Shares In Postal Company To Help Finance Railway Improvements

Germany's state-owned development bank has sold shares in the company that owns the national postal service for about 2.17 billion euros (\$2.3 billion), reducing the government's stake and raising money to help finance improvements to the country's rail network.

The KfW bank, which holds the government's remaining stakes in previously state-held companies, said recently that it had sold 50 million shares of Deutsche Post the name under which it still trades on the stock exchange, although the company is now known as DHL Group at 43.45 euros each. That amounts to 4% of the company's shares.

The sale cuts the state's stake in DHL to 16.5%, though it is still the largest

single shareholder. The proceeds are to be used to strengthen the capital of Germany's main railway operator, the state-owned Deutsche Bahn, to help it upgrade railway infrastructure, the Finance Ministry said.

The government is turning to privatization proceeds to help finance improvements to the rail network after a court ruling forced it to plug a big hole in this year's budget and reconsider its wider financial plans.

In November, Germany's highest court annulled a decision made by the government in 2022 to repurpose 60 billion euros originally meant to cushion the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic for measures to help combat climate change and modernize the country.

AUTO

Kewalram Introduce Smart Pickup, Fiat Strada, Into Nigeria Market

Kewalram Chanrai, one of the frontline auto solution providers in Nigeria, has formally introduced the Fiat Strada, a 1.4 litre pickup into the local market.

The Fiat Strada is introduced with the expected price and fuel efficient advantages in the pickup market.

Managing Director, Kewalram Chanrai Auto/Transport Vertical, Anil Sahgal, was assisted in unveiling the product by the General Manager Automobile of the company, Mr. Sudeep Mittal, at the company's Victoria Island office in Lagos earlier this month.

According to the company, before the introduction of the vehicle in Nigeria, it was subjected to extensive testing on different terrains under extreme conditions covering over 29,000 kilometres in some of the states of the country.

Fiat Strada, according to Sudeep Mittal, is produced at the Stellantis plant in Brazil, where it emerged as the highest selling pickup last year.

He said the introduction of the vehicle in Nigeria is against the need for a high performance pickup offering great comfort with low operational cost in view of the current high cost of fuel.

He said the Strada is bringing higher standards in technology, design and safety to the compact pickup market.

"The Fiat Strada serves as a genuine driving force in the evolution of the automotive industry.

"Apart from performance and comfort, fuel economy has become very key in Nigeria now. That's why we went to look for a pickup that fills this gap. Fiat Strada will give value for money," Mittal said.

He noted that with over 85,000 units sold in Brazil by the end of September 2023 and a remarkable achievement of 400,000 units since its second-generation launch in 2020, the Fiat Strada is set to conquer the Sub-Saharan African market, including Nigeria.

The compact pickup is the culmination of 25 years of expertise, he said, adding that its design was influenced by the award-



winning Fiat Toro and stands out with its remarkable audacity and modernity.

The company says the Fiat Strada's cargo capacity is unparalleled, capable of accommodating between 650kg and 720kg, depending on the version, and offering up to 1,354 litres in the single-cabin model, making it exceptionally suited to a variety of professional and personal needs.

It gives 11.8km/L fuel efficiency in city driving and 12.4km/L on the highway, making it one of the most fuel-efficient pickups on the road today.

Its iconic LED headlights emits 20 per cent brighter light than its competitors, the company says.

The Strada is described as a technological marvel, equipped with advanced technologies such as stability control, hill start assist, and TC+.

The company says Fiat Strada ensures optimal traction, even on the most challenging terrains.

The Strada's interior provides a cocoon of comfort, with abundant storage compartments, paired with cutting-edge air conditioning; it ensure that every trip is as enjoyable as the previous one.

On safety, the Strada is equipped

comprehensively, boasting two airbags, pretensioner seatbelts, and the Isofix system for young passengers.

"Even in the unfortunate event of an accident, it has been designed to minimize risks to pedestrians.

"What truly sets the Strada apart is its versatility. It seamlessly functions as both a reliable workhorse and an elegant travel companion, representing a perfect fusion of modernity, comfort, technology, and safety."

Chief Operating Officer, Stellantis Middle East & Africa, Mr Samir Cherfan, in a statement said, "The introduction of the Fiat Strada in Sub-Saharan Africa marks a significant milestone for Stellantis.

"The Fiat Strada is a flexible partner for individuals who welcome change and push their limits because it combines the practicality of a family vehicle with the dependability required in a business environment.

"With this new vehicle, we expand our range of mobility solutions into the emerging entry-level pick-up segment, catering to the needs of our Sub-Saharan African customers."

EVENT

Fixit45, Mijo Autogas India Sign MoU On Nigeria's Autogas Future

Fixit45, Nigeria's frontline repairs and aftermarket service company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mijo Autogas Pvt. Ltd of India to spearhead Nigeria's transition to autogas, aligning with the vision set by the President of Nigeria



Nitin Rane, Executive Director, Techno Global Services (Mijo Drive and Save), during MOU signing and partnership announcement between Fixit45 and Mijo Drive and Save on CNG Training and Installation Centres held in Lagos earlier in the month



Chioma Ahueze-Okechukwu, VP, Commercial, Fixit45, during MOU signing and partnership announcement between Fixit45 and Mijo Drive and Save on CNG Training and Installation Centres held in Lagos earlier in the month

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