



Contact us at
customer@infinitytyres.com
0805 509 2020



**MOTORS
DIVISION**

www.mikanomotors.com



First 1
System Refinishes Ltd.
Ijesha Bustop, Oshodi - Mile 2
Express-way, Lagos.
Tel: 08033237591, 08021031645
E-mail: fsr12005@yahoo.com
info@sikkensnigeria.com

www.sikkensnigeria.com



Lubricants

Contact us at:
customer@infinitytyres.com
0805 509 2020

**Why You
Should Use
Hand Brake
Bottom When
Raising Lever**

Page 2

**MOWCA:
Adalikwu Gets
Tinubu's
Backing**

Page 9

**NAHCO Signs
Handling Contracts
With Egypt Air,
DHL Aviation,
Air Peace, Dana,
Others**

Page 22

**NRC To
Increase Train
Trips This
Year-MD**

Page 28

Maiden Edition Of SIFAX Group Annual Thanksgiving Ceremony

Pages 15 - 18



L-R: Mrs. Afolashade Afolabi, wife of SIFAX Group Chairman; Guest Artist, Titilayo Gbadebo (EyinjuJesu Ministry) and Dr. Taiwo Afolabi, Chairman, SIFAX Group



BOW TO THE BOSS



With more than 50 years of experience in making tyres, CEAT, today is one of leaders in providing state-of-the-art technology in tyres. Be it BIAS or RADIAL tyres, CEAT has the optimum tyre for all trucking applications, so that fleet owners can profit the most. No wonder even the best bows to CEAT.

Website: www.infinitytyres.com • Contact: 08055092020 • E-mail: customer@infinitytyres.com

SAFETY

Why You Should Use Hand Brake Bottom When Raising Lever

A hand brake is precisely what the name describes – a brake you apply by hand. It's also known as a parking brake, and is usually located on the centre console but can sometimes be found between the driver's seat and the door.

The handbrake applies the rear disc pads or brake shoes via a cable and is used when the car is parked to stop it rolling forwards or backwards.

To apply it, you hold the hand grip, press the button (usually at the end of the grip) and raise the lever.

As you raise it you'll feel resistance as the brakes are applied. When you feel the brakes are exerting sufficient force to hold the car you release the button and a pawl engages on a ratchet plate, holding the lever (and the brakes) in place.

According to haynes.com, to release the brakes you raise the lever slightly to disengage the pawl tooth from the ratchet, press the button and lower the lever.

Some drivers don't press the button when raising the hand brake. It still operates as normal, but over time the ratchet teeth can wear and cause the handbrake – and the rear brakes – to fail, so it's good practice to use the hand brake button when you're raising the lever.

Sometimes, the hand brake takes the form of a small pedal down in the footwell, to the left of clutch on a car with a manual gearbox or the brake



pedal on an automatic car.

You press the pedal with your foot to

apply the brake and release it via a handle on the dashboard.

Yuletide: Julius Berger Partners FRSC, Donates Reflective Jackets

Leading engineering construction company, Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, stepped up its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives recently, when the company donated no fewer than 100 reflective jackets to the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) to boost the Corps' safety drive on Nigerian roads.

The leader of the Julius Berger CSR

team at the event, Mr. Trust Ekaji emphasised that the effort is part of the company's CSR contributions, adding that Julius Berger believes that motorists should be educated and enlightened on the dangers of over-speeding and also the use of expired tyres on the highways.

Earlier, the Sector Commander, FCT, Chorrie Isah Muta'a, said the jackets

will serve their personnel in traffic control.

Chorrie Isah further added: "On behalf of my men, I receive these gifts, and we pledge to do more in ensuring safer highways", he stated. The Julius Berger delegation to the event comprised of Mr. Kola Balogun, Michael Ashofor and Uzoma Olivia.



10th

NIGERIA TRANSPORT LECTURE



Friday
May 10, 2024



Sheraton Hotel
Ikeja, Lagos.



9:00am

Enquiries - 0809 976 9833

CONTACT US @

[Www.translecture.com.ng](http://www.translecture.com.ng)
transportdaynewspaper@yahoo.com

@Transportday @Transportdaynewspaper.1

EDITORIAL

Nigeria Roads As Killing Fields

Over one million people are killed each year worldwide as a result of Road Traffic Crashes (RTC), this is according to statistics provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its latest report on the subject.

The WHO claims that Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death for children and young adults aged 5-29 years, and that 92% of the world's fatalities on the roads occur in low- and middle-income countries, even though these countries have only around 60% of the world's vehicles. Obviously, Nigeria falls into this category of low and middle income countries.

According to the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), the lead agency for road safety in Nigeria, a total of 5,700 crashes occurred within the first half of the year 2023, claiming 2,850 lives. The agency also claims that in 2022, within same period, 3,375 lives were lost as a result of RTC. Though these figures as claimed by the FRSC are contestable because a significant number of RTCs are not recorded in the country.

According to records available to transport Day, just within six weeks, between the first and second quarter of last year, over 100 persons lost their lives as a result of RTCs.

Six persons were killed on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, along the Ogoja Ikom segment of the Calabar Ikom Katsina-Ala federal highway.

Earlier reports indicate that 12 persons were also killed same day in Ebonyi State in another RTC. This is aside the over 80 persons who perished three weeks earlier in other parts of the country. In a similar development, four persons were also killed in Akure, Ondo State within the period.

The trend continued during the year, as 2024 has already recorded unacceptable number of deaths from RTC, 17 killed so far, and others not reported.

WHO identified the risk factors to include speeding, Driving under the influence of alcohol and other psychoactive substances, distracted driving, Non-use of motorcycle helmets, seat-belts and child restraints, unsafe road infrastructure, unsafe vehicles, inadequate post-crash care and inadequate law enforcement.

The ugly trend needs to be arrested quickly. Government needs to strengthen the manpower capacity of the FRSC. FRSC needs to concentrate more on highways and leave city traffic for state government agencies, the roads infrastructure needs urgent improvements, FRSC needs to redesign their patrol vehicles to serve as emergency ambulances etc.

The Road Transport Safety Standardisation Scheme (RTSSS) of the FRSC seems to have failed, and many of the officials on the highway are now compromised.

Though the process of obtaining driver's licence seems to have improved, there is still much to be done. Motor parks all over the country are hosts to alcohol sellers and hardly will you see any government law enforcer with alcohol testing devices.

We call on all stakeholders to wake up and put all the necessary mechanisms in place to reverse the trend and put a halt to Nigeria roads being killing fields for road users.

Task Before New Heads Of Aviation Agencies

Last month, President Bola Tinubu sacked all heads of agencies under the federal ministry of Aviation, replacing them immediately. Only the head of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Agency (NCAA) was suspended.

In the same vein, he equally approved thereafter, the sacking of all the Directors in all the agencies and named new Directors to fill the vacant posts.

The new heads of the agencies are -Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Mrs. Olunmi Oluwaseun Kuku; Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Engr. Umar Ahmed Farouk; and Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB), Mr. Alex Badeh Jr.

Others are Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), Prof. Charles Anosike; Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Mr. Joseph Shaka Imalighwe in acting capacity; and Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Capt. Chris Najomo in acting capacity.

According to the Special Adviser to the President, Media and Publicity, Ajuri Ngelale, who broke the news, "The President anticipates that the new leadership across this critical sector will uphold the safety, convenience, and comfort of the Nigerian people as primary and sacrosanct in all of their administrative activities."

Though the development was received amongst the aviation circles with mixed feelings, stakeholders have nonetheless come to terms with the appointments and expect that the new leaders of the various agencies will break new grounds and improve from where their predecessors stopped.

Though the country has in recent times experienced safe flying, there is no doubt that Nigeria's aviation sector still has a lot of grounds to cover.

The tasks and challenges before these aviation leaders are enormous. Safer skies, fares, state of infrastructure, modernization, concessioning, re-capitalisation, multiple taxation, aviation hub,

customer service, runways, sunset airports, airports insecurity, poor training faculty and facilities, wet leasing formalities, among others.

The heads of these agencies must hit the ground running by addressing the aforementioned issues among others. As a matter of urgency, government should address the perennial complain of Airline operators who have consistently complained of multiple taxation, just as the issue of poor customer service and applicable compensation should not be relegated.

It is also important to state that the minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Barrister Festus Keyamo SAN, should give these aviation agencies heads the necessary support needed as so much has been left unattended in the sector because of the lack of political will or political push.



EDITORIAL BOARD

Ayo Adedoyin - Chairman, **Frank Kintum** - Editor, **Ignatius Ushie** - Assistant Editor **Barr. Dickson Yakubu**, **Abimbola Kintum Ph.D.**, **Crd. David Ofem**

TransportDay Media Services
104, Western Avenue, Surulere, Lagos.
ISSN - 2276-7967, Tel: 08099769833,
www.transportday.com.ng
e-mail: transportdaynewspaper@yahoo.com

NEWS

LAGFERRY Promotes Bariga Waterfront Jetty With Boat Cruise

The Lagos State Ferry Services (LAGFERRY), recently organised a boat cruise tagged 'Love Lagos Water Experience' for fun seekers, holiday makers and tourists to Takwa Bay



Island Beach, as part of efforts to activate and ensure constant usage of the Bariga Waterfront Jetty.

The experience offered them a unique opportunity to enjoy Lagos stunning coastline and have a memorable beach experience.

Speaking before the departure, the Managing Director of LAGFERRY, Abdoulbaq Ladi Balogun, explained that the idea was aimed at ensuring the regular patronage of the magnificent terminal by commercial passengers for daily commuting, tourists, revelers, adventurers, among others, to their destinations, tourist sites and beaches.

According to him, "our 'Love Lagos Water Experience', is to serve as a

catalyst to boost the interests of Lagosians in water transportation, not only as a reliable alternative mode of transportation, but significantly, as a way of life. This deliberate effort is meant to showcase and popularise another wonderful piece of waterfront infrastructure in Somolu-Bariga axis to ameliorate the adverse effects of road traffic congestion on the people."

Balogun stated that the Bariga Waterfront Terminal comes with adequate security, restaurants, conveniences, ample car park facilities and can be connected through well constructed roads via first and last mile buses, adding, "passengers can board LAGFERRY boats from Bariga

Terminal to CMS/Marina, Falomo-Ikoyi, Lekki, Victoria Island, Ebute Ero, Ikorodu, Badagry, Apapa, Mile 2, Badore-Ajah and also charter boats to the beaches and resorts of Takwa Bay, Ilashe, Ibeshe etc."

He added that the water experience is designed to change the lifestyle of Lagosians to achieve work-life balance by creating time for relaxation, adventures, well being and beautiful exploration of coastal assets of Lagos State through effective collaborations with beaches / resorts such as Jara at Epe, La Campagne Tropicana at Ibeju Lekki, Ilashe and Ibeshe Islands at Oriade, Sanctuary at Badagry, Takwa Bay at Iru Victoria Island, Ajala.ng, Reminiscence, Mode Partners, Goge Africa, among other private tours and tourism promoters.

"The water experience is planned to take place every other weekends."

The inaugural edition of the LAGFERRY's Love Lagos water experience, witnessed scores of fun seekers and tourists onboard MF Ipakodo and MF Ehingbeti enjoying music, games, horse riding, serene relaxation and served food and drinks while they engaged in beach sports like tug of war, beach volleyball at Takwa Bay Island Beach.

Carnival Calabar Will Be Bigger Next Year-Gov Otu

The just concluded 2023 annual Carnival Calabar International Festival lived up to its billing and has prompted the Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Otu, to renew his promise to make it a bigger platform.

Governor Otu gave the assurance, recently, while flagging-off the main event of the carnival, where seven competing bands gave scintillating performances in competition for

prizes.

"This is one of our campaign promises that we are definitely going to bring carnival back and on a bigger platform. What you have seen is the tip of the iceberg because we are going to move it to the next level," the governor said.

Commending sponsors for their immense support, he lauded tourists, visitors, and other fun seekers for gracing Carnival Calabar with their presence and savouring the spectacle.

TYRE WATCH

Michelin Nigeria Fetes Stakeholders, Commits To Safety

Michelin Tyre Services, Nigeria has reaffirmed its commitment to the Nigerian market and partners, while reiterating its focus on ensuring smooth delivery of quality tyres and services to the people.

The Managing Director, Michelin Nigeria, Mrs. Chioma Alonge stated this at the company's Stakeholders Dinner Night, held in Lagos recently.

Alonge reiterated that the company is still present in Nigeria. It would be recalled that the company had some years ago shut its Port Harcourt factory, and resorted to importation of tyres for the Nigerian market.

She stated that while the manufacturing plant in Port Harcourt closed in 2007 due to unfavorable conditions, Michelin's commitment to the Nigerian market remains unwavering.

She said: "Michelin does not just sell tyres. We are concerned about saving lives on Nigerian roads, and that's why we ensure that only premium quality tyres are distributed. This commitment



is evident in the diverse range of tyres the company offers, including car, truck, earthmover, and SUV tyres, along with brands like Komoran, and BF Goodrich.

"Michelin's commitment to the Nigerian market underscores its long-

term vision for the market. By prioritising quality, service, and safety, the company aims to continue its legacy of providing exceptional value to its customers and stakeholders."

According to Alonge, Michelin's dedication extends beyond product provision, encompassing comprehensive after-sales services, with Tyre Service Centres and mobile technical service vans providing tyre fitment, and other free technical services nationwide.

The Beyond Road Sales Director for Africa-Middle East-India (AIM), Ferreol Tournebize, highlighted the importance of the dealer network, stating, "Our focus is customer-centered".

He further stressed that Michelin's expertise and coverage goes beyond tyres, encompassing a broader range of products and a deep concern for road safety in Africa.

Assistant Director at Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Dr Ganiyat Adebayo and Deputy Corps Marshal (retd) Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Dr. Akpabio Charles attended.

Yokohama Rubber Introduces Superbly Quiet, Premium Comfort Tyre

The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd. has introduced the newest tyre to its lineup. The ADVAN dB V553 is a premium comfort tyre that will provide a superbly quiet ride throughout its useful lifespan. The ADVAN dB V553 initially will be launched in Japan and Asian markets from February 2024. Yokohama Rubber plans to provide the new tyre in 46 sizes, ranging from 225/45R21 95W to 155/65R14 75H.

The ADVAN dB V553 is a successor to the ADVAN dB V552 unveiled in 2017. The new tyre was developed under the concept of a "premium comfort tyre with sustainably superb quietness." The new ADVAN dB V553 was developed to provide drivers and

passengers with a superbly quiet, comfortable, and safe ride over its entire useful lifespan. In addition to enhancing the quietness of its predecessor the ADVAN dB V552, which has been highly regarded as a quiet tyre, the ADVAN dB V553 features a construction that slows the deterioration of the tyre's quietness and wet performance typically caused by the usual wear during a tyre's normal lifespan.

The development of ADVAN dB V553 included creating a new tread pattern design and optimal structures for each tyre size. As a result, noise energy is reduced both when the tyre is new and after a certain amount of wear compared to its predecessor.

TYRE WATCH

How to Read & Find Tyre Size

What do the numbers on tyres mean?

Each of these digits/letters represents something different and provides important information. When it comes to how to read tyre size, the first five digits of the code are the ones to concentrate on.

The first three digits belong together and indicate the width of the tyre (in millimetres). In the example above, the tyre is 195mm wide.

The two digits following the first slash are what is known as the aspect ratio. Essentially this is the height of the tyre as a percentage of the width. So, in the example, the tyre has an aspect ratio of 55, meaning the profile height is 55% of its total width (107.25mm).

What do tyre sizes mean?

According to David Sholicar of Protyre, the code that is found on the tyres gives more than just the basic size. The size elements are essentially the tyre's height



and width. Tyre sizes will also vary depending on the type of vehicle i.e. van and lorry tyres tend to be larger/chunkier than car tyres.

What do the remaining letters/numbers mean?

After the number that indicates the

aspect ratio, there is a letter. In the example used, this is R. This stands for Radial and is a specific type of construction. It means that the steel belt inner construction is angled at 90 degrees to the direction of travel, resulting in extra strength. Almost all new car tyres are radials.

The next two digit number after the slash indicates the diameter of the wheel (in inches) - essentially how wide the wheel is across the centre. It is measured as the distance between the two bead seat areas. In the example, the number is 16 so will fit a 16-inch wheel rim.

The next two digits belong together and represent the Load Index. This is the maximum load that the tyre is able to carry when inflated to the correct level. Each double digit number represents a different weight (in KGs). 91 is the number in the example and this corresponds to a weight of 615KG. Overloading any vehicle is dangerous and can increase fuel consumption, impact on handling, and can even occasionally cause catastrophic tyre failure.

The final letter represents the Speed Rating of the tyre. This is the maximum speed that the tyre can cope with under its maximum load. Each letter represents a corresponding speed. The example we are using has an H rating which equates to 130mph (210kmh).

The Infinity Tyres Advantage

Passenger Tyres

Characterized by rigid tread blocks for better control.

Higher tyre life with ultimate dry and wet grip makes it nearly unbeatable.

Comprehensive range and brand of tyres for Passenger Car:

SUV

Enhances on-road and off-road stability and protects from cuts and stone drilling.

Light Truck Tyres

Specifically designed for light commercial vehicles:

Mini-buses

4x4

Vans

Capable of carrying heavier loads.

Enhance efficiency with features like improved fuel economy and reduced rate of tyre wear.

Enhanced durability and excellent on-

road handling for a smooth and comfortable ride.

Truck & Bus Tyres

High mileage.

Improves fuel efficiency.

Regular tread wear and low rolling resistance.

Designed to better cope with rough surfaces and mitigate rolling

Noises.

OTR Tyres

Ideal for severe heavy duty applications.

Perfect for port operations.

Used for mining and heavy construction equipment.

Agricultural Tyres

Ultimate in strength and performance.

A comprehensive range.

Industrial Tyres

A comprehensive range.

Consistent and reliable operation.

...More details on

www.infinitytyres.com

MARITIME

NIMASA Commends APMT's Female Dockworkers

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has commended the roles played by female dockworkers at the APM Terminals, Apapa, Lagos.

NIMASA gave the commendation at the maiden Dockworkers Day celebration held at the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) Recreation Centre in Lagos, recently.

Five female crane operators and two male terminal workers from APM Terminals Apapa were honoured with 'Outstanding Female Dockworkers Award' and 'Outstanding Male Dockworkers Award'.

Director General of NIMASA, Dr Bashir Jamoh, said the Dockworkers' Day was created to recognise the contributions of dockworkers to the nation's economy.

He said the recognition would instill a sense of inclusion, value and dignity



among dockworkers and further boost their contribution to the economy. On his part, the President-General of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN), Adewale Adeyanju, thanked the management of NIMASA for organising the event to celebrate Nigerian dockworkers in recognition of the important roles they play at the port.

According to the Terminal Manager,

APM Terminals Apapa, Steen Knudsen, the organisation gives equal opportunities and provides a conducive environment for all employees to thrive, irrespective of gender.

He expressed delight that the organisation's female crane operators are faring very well and are being recognised by the authorities.

NASS Assures Shippers' Council Of Legislative Backing

The Chairman of the House of Representative Committee on Shipping Services, Abdussamad Dasuki, has promised that the National Assembly (NASS) would fast-track the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) amendment bill this year to give the council the legal framework as the maritime industry economic regulator.

Dasuki, who stated this at a two-day workshop/performance scorecard retreat organised by NSC in Lagos, said the NASS is currently working on the law, while the act is undergoing

repeal and re-enactment.

The event was organised to set out a roadmap for the council's operations in 2024.

The National Assembly member said it was high time the Nigerian Shippers' Council became a Commission and not just a council, especially as the maritime sector expected to contribute 20 per cent to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but is currently generating one per cent or less.

He said becoming a commission and

independent will strengthen the agency and increase the sector's contribution to the economy.

"At the last Assembly, the law was passed by the two chambers but then, it didn't have the assent of the president. We have brought it back to the floor and we expect the president to assent to it very soon."

The Executive Secretary/CEO, NSC, Pius Akutah stated that the event was organized to foster sustainable development within the marine and blue economy sector.

MARITIME

MOWCA: Adalikwu Gets Tinubu's Backing

President Bola Tinubu has thrown his weight behind Dr. Paul Adalikwu, Secretary General, Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) with a fresh directive that the planned investigation and recall of Adalikwu initiated by the Federal Ministry of Transportation be stopped immediately.

In a letter signed by the President's Chief of Staff, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, Tinubu said the plan by the Federal Ministry of Transportation in August to recall the MOWCA SG is inappropriate as the organisation's scribe has ceased to be an employee

of Nigeria and only subjected to rules of the organisation he is serving until the expiration of his tenure.

President Tinubu described Dr. Adalikwu as an international public servant who has ceased to be an employee of the Federal Government of Nigeria and therefore should not be subjected to the country's Public Service Rules.

The letter which was sighted by reliable sources in Abuja, dated December 15, 2023 was copied to the Director General, National Intelligence Agency (NIA); Honorable Minister of Transportation, Nigeria; Honorable Minister, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Minister of Transport, Republic of Congo and Chairman of MOWCA at the organization's Headquarters, Abidjan; and Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy.

Tinubu said "Dr. Adalikwu cannot be subjected to or come under the



disciplinary control of the Federal Government of Nigeria. Disciplinary control and administrative processes against him can only be exercised in line with the rules of MOWCA. Neither can our public service rules apply to him while in the service of the organisation.

He can therefore not be recalled and replaced by Nigeria unless he has committed crimes of such gravity or serious misconduct that threatens the national security of the country that sponsored him for election to the position of Secretary General of MOWCA. Thus the request for his recall and withdrawal in the circumstances described in the report is inappropriate and should be discountenanced.

"In light of the foregoing and after due consideration, the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy is hereby directed to stop forthwith any process or move to recall and withdraw Dr. Adalikwu until he concludes his tenure" part of the letter read.

It may be recalled that in August 2023, Dr Magadalene Ajani, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Transportation had appointed Mrs. Nneka Ogochukwu Obianyor, the Deputy Director of Reforms Coordination at the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), as the new Secretary-General of MOWCA to replace Adalikwu.

The nomination and planned replacement had failed as it was at variance with the MOWCA rules of procedure which provides for election of the Secretary General and clearly expresses the conferment of nomination powers, in case of a vacuum in the office on the Chairman of the Bureau of Ministers of the organisation.

President Tinubu's intervention and written communication seems to have put the six months speculation and perceived uncertainty, as to who Nigeria's nominee is for the position to rest.

MARITIME

New IMO General Secretary Sets Direction For 2024

The new Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Arsenio Dominguez, has issued a new year message reflecting on the previous year.

Arsenio Dominguez, the recently elected Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation released a New Year's statement to begin his term, outlining the successes from the previous year and setting a direction for 2024.

Dominguez began by highlighting the trajectory of success at IMO over the past few years and how this will impact the future course. Dominguez said: "It's this time of the year when we look back in reflection and excitement of the things that we have done, the things that we could have done, and the things that we're yet to do".

"IMO has done much to support its member states, seafarers, the industry and everyone who lives on the planet. For example, during the COVID



Arsenio Dominguez

pandemic, we supported hundreds of individual cases of seafarers, and we have greatly reduced accidents on ships in comparison to the 1990s. With a global sulphur cap introduction in 2020, we greatly increased air quality, and now we have a trajectory for the decarbonization of the industry".

According to the IMO, it was Arsenio's "affinity for building consensus" which saw him elected by peers for multiple roles prior to the top job. This included his role as Chair of several flagship IMO intergovernmental meetings, the Technical Committee of the 29th Assembly, and the Maritime Security, Piracy, and Armed Robbery Group.

"The mission of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as a United Nations specialized agency is to promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping through cooperation. This will be accomplished by adopting the highest practicable standards of maritime safety and security, efficiency of

navigation and prevention and control of pollution from ships, as well as through consideration of the related legal matters and effective implementation of IMO's instruments with a view to their universal and uniform application."

TTP Advocates E-tag, EITN Deployment For Lagos Ports

Trucks Transit Parks Limited (TTP), a leading technology company specialising in mobility solutions, has emphasised the urgent need for the implementation of Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID)/E-tags and the E-callup Interchange Transaction Number (EITN) to streamline truck movements

within Lagos ports.

This call was reiterated during a recent Stakeholders Engagement Forum held at the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) Headquarters, aimed at assessing the efficiency of the Electronic Callup System amid the resurgence of traffic gridlock along the Apapa Port corridor.

Key challenges discussed during the

forum included the drop in terminal efficiency, which has contributed significantly to the persistent gridlock at port corridors; the status of information technology infrastructural installations across park facilities, with some parks allegedly operating without fulfilling standard requirements.

AUTO

FG Plans One Million Autogas Conversions Nationwide in 2027

The Federal Government says it has made arrangements to put one million gas-powered vehicles on the road by 2027, at an average yearly rate of 250,000 vehicle conversions. The government also indicated its resolve to establish 40,000 auto gas conversion workshops and create 750,000 jobs by 2027, across the emerging Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) value chain.

This was disclosed at CNG Stakeholders and Investors' Forum held in Abuja recently, tagged: 'Nigeria's CNG Revolution: Harnessing Opportunities for a Sustainable Future,' organised by the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative, (PCNGi).

In his presentation, tagged: 'A Comprehensive Overview of Nigeria's CNG Ecosystem,' Project Director and CEO of Presidential CNG Initiative, Michael Oluwagbemi, said that given the characteristics of CNG and its benefits as a cheaper fuel, the strategic vision guiding the initiative is to alleviate the cost of living for Nigerians by significantly reducing the cost of transportation, and ultimately improving the standard of living with a



cleaner and safer fuel.

He said: "In all of these, our strategic objectives are very clear: How do we reduce the cost of transportation for the common man? How do we make Nigeria's gas work for him or her? How do we ensure that this gas working for Nigeria gives Nigeria an economic advantage?"

On the viability of the framework that has been adopted by PCNGi for the implementation of the CNG initiative, Oluwagbemi highlighted the comprehensive approach covering the industry's demand and supply sides, saying: "We're not just focusing on conversion centres but also incentivising investment on the supply

side, taking an end-to-end approach."

He added that specific collaborations with the Gas Aggregation Company of Nigeria (GACN) and its partners to ensure sufficiency on the upstream side, while the initiative engages the organised commercial transport operators' network to integrate six million commercial vehicles into the CNG ecosystem.

A member of PCNGi, Toyin Subair, corroborated the economic advantage of Nigeria adopting CNG as alternative fuel and reaffirmed that the transition is for the betterment of every Nigerian and the nation as an economy.

Broken Railways Are Derailing S/Africa's Automotive Sector

The prevailing problems with local logistics are having a devastating effect on the vital automotive sector in South Africa which has experienced its fourth month of vehicle sales decline, according to the latest National Association of Automobile Manufacturers South Africa (NAAMSA) figures.

It says the current logistical challenges at the country's ports and across the entire freight rail network in the country are impacting negatively on the vehicle production landscape and

on new vehicle sales in South Africa.

The automotive sector contributes 4.9% to GDP (2.9% manufacturing and 2.0% retail) and in 2022, the export of vehicles and automotive components reached a record amount of R227.3 billion, equating to 12.4% of South Africa's total exports to 152 international markets.

"The current challenges will soon have a devastating domino impact on the entire auto value chain. While supply chains are gradually stabilising globally and semiconductor shortages

are anticipated to ease, our erratic logistical challenges will become the single biggest risk for the sector should we not urgently address many of the leadership and systemic structural challenges experienced by Transnet," its statement read.

The sector's productivity relies heavily on infrastructure investment, sustainable energy supply, and the revitalisation of South Africa's ports, rail, and road. A conducive framework is crucial to support these critical elements.

AUTO

Tesla Delivers Record Q4 Cars, BYD Steals Top EV Spot

Tesla delivered a record number of electric vehicles in the fourth quarter, beating market estimates and meeting its 2023 target, but lost its spot as the top EV maker by sales to China's BYD.

Tesla delivered 484,507 EVs in the October-to-December period, falling short of the 526,409 vehicles that Warren Buffett-backed BYD handed over - mostly in China - suggesting that car buyers were looking for cheaper models in a high-interest-rate economy.

While the U.S. automaker's year-end sales push mostly paid off, helping it deliver 1.8 million vehicles this year, it fell short of CEO Elon Musk's ambitious 2 million annual internal target.

However, it is still ahead of BYD for the whole year. The Chinese firm delivered a total of 3.02 million vehicles, including about 1.4 million plug-in hybrid EVs. BYD's deliveries show price cuts are working for the Chinese company, said Susannah Streeter, head of money and



markets at Hargreaves Lansdown.

"The fight will hurt margins for both companies, but BYD clearly believes it's a price worth paying to increase market share and recognition," she added.

Tesla increased discounts and offered

incentives like six months of free fast charging if customers took deliveries by December-end, in a bid to boost sales before some variants of its compact Model 3 sedan lose U.S. federal tax credits in 2024.

U.S. Consumers Spent More Than Half A Trillion Dollars Buying New Vehicles In 2023

U.S. new vehicle sales likely rose by a low double-digit percentage in 2023 on sustained demand for crossover SUVs and pickup trucks, but analysts fear a challenging year ahead, with high interest rates eating into demand.

Automakers ramped up their output to keep up with a surge in consumers' interest in new vehicles for personal mobility after the pandemic, but

demand is set to ease due to a number of factors.

Industry consultant Cox Automotive called 2023 "a surprisingly strong sales year" but added "high vehicle prices and high interest rates remain the industry's Grinch right now, and that trend will continue into next year." Car dealers had to offer generous incentives and discounts in December to clear older inventory.

Full-year sales in 2023 are expected to be up 12% at about 15.5 million units, according to Cox. Consultants J.D. Power and GlobalData have forecast a 13.2% increase for the period.

"This is the third consecutive year in which U.S. consumers spent more than half a trillion dollars buying new vehicles," J.D. Power said in a report last month.

AUTO

What Does Toyota's RAV4 Abbreviation Mean (And Are They All 4WD)?



In any area of life, abbreviations can be extremely important. Car owners, of course, need to know their ICEs from their EVs, their AMTs from their CVTs and their MDVs from their SUVs, because these things all mean something important in the auto world.

While the likes of "electric vehicle" and "sports utility vehicle" are industry-wide terms, certain manufacturers have ways of devising their own abbreviations, and this is where particular confusion can arise. Toyota itself can't seem to decide what some of its own abbreviations mean.

Jonathan Weiss of Slashgear.com says that in a 2019 press release, the company stated that the RAV4 idea was centered around "creating a 'Robust Accurate Vehicle with 4 Wheel Drive.'" However, Toyota would also release a handy glossary for those unsure what RAV4, among many other

Toyota model names and abbreviations, means. This defined the term instead as a "Recreational Active Vehicle with 4WD."

Both terms, however, are perfectly in keeping with the nature of an SUV typically designed for those with active lifestyles, large families, and so on. The final aspect of the RAV4 abbreviation, though, makes things a little more complicated. Are they all four-wheel drive, as the title suggests? Let's take a closer look at the popular RAV4 range to find out.

Four-wheel drive, generally speaking, is a system that handles difficult terrain rather well. This, too, is quite the boon for SUVs, which often don't shy away from venturing off road. Four-wheel drive systems are common among these vehicles, but pure 4WD can be impractical. All-wheel drive, which powers all four wheels only when needed to traverse challenging terrain,

can be a more practical option. Some vehicles offer systems that can switch between the two modes automatically.

As a result, 4WD is not a prerequisite for an SUV, especially not pure 4WD. After all, many drivers will want the size and power of an SUV but have little need for the off-road utility that four-wheel drive excels in. Toyota's versatile RAV4 range, accordingly, offers a variety of configuration options.

The RAV4 Adventure and RAV4 Hybrid are indeed AWD as standard, but the majority of other RAV4s are front-wheel drive by default. The Adventure trim offers Dynamic Torque Vectoring All-Wheel Drive, and Electronic On-Demand All-Wheel Drive is available to the Hybrid model of the RAV4. These systems differ slightly in application, but the principle is the same: the vehicle is able to focus its output where it's needed most.

NEWS

NRC Loses 150,000 Rail Clips In Two Years

The Nigerian Railways Corporation (NRC), has decried the spate of vandalism on its rail lines, disclosing it has lost about 150,000 rail clips to thieves in the last two years.

The Managing Director, NRC, Fidets Okhiria, who disclosed this during a recent media chat in Lagos, called for public support to secure the rail lines.

Okhiria stated that between 2022 and 2023 over 50,000 clips each had been vandalised between Lagos Ibadan, Warri

Itakpe and Abuja-Kaduna standard gauge tracks.

He added that the corporation had been actively engaging in constant sensitisation exercises with communities where vandalism had occurred to make them understand the serious implications of such acts on the growth of rail networking in the country.

“The major issue we have now is



vandalism of the tracks, which is a big problem. When we replace the tracks, they will come back to vandalise the track again.

“Just before the Christmas, the hoodlums vandalised over 200 clips between Mushin -Oshodi area and we had to replace them three days after the vandalism,” Okhiria said.

“We are looking for a way to protect the clips. We will also continue to

discuss it at the management meeting where we will have to engage a special person to guide our position,” Okhiria added.

The managing director pointed out that despite constant efforts to prevent vandalism, the corporation still experienced incidents of clips being vandalised from time to time.

He, therefore, suggested that the only solution to stop this recurring issue

NAF Approves Accident Insurance For Personnel

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar, has approved the implementation of a Group Personal Accident Insurance Policy for all Nigerian Air Force personnel.

While the Ministry of Defence has a Group Life Assurance Policy for military personnel, the Director of Public Relations and Information for the Nigerian Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Edward Gabkwet, explained that the policy covers only the families of personnel killed in action and doesn't address medical expenses resulting from accidents.

Gabkwet noted that the new policy aligns with the Air Chief's command philosophy, aiming to sustain a highly motivated force through improved welfare and infrastructure renewal

The statement partly read, “While several insurance policies administered by the Ministry of Defence and the NAF Investment Limited cover all NAF personnel, they do not, however, adequately address some hazards and challenges encountered in the course of the careers of personnel.

“The need to review and implement a specialised insurance scheme designed to address these hazards and unique challenges thus became imperative.”

He said Abubakar stated that under the GPAIP, personnel of the NAF would be incentivized to give their utmost best with the assurance of adequate care in the event of disability or death during military operations or any form of accident.

The statement added, “The execution

of military operations exposes personnel to diverse levels of hazards with life-altering consequences of fatalities, hence, the need to continuously review existing policies to cater for personnel wellbeing.

“The contract with KBC Insurance Brokers Limited aims to provide compensation for bodily injuries, death, disablement, and payment of medical expenses solely and directly caused by accidentals, external, violent, and visible means to any of the insured personnel.

“Furthermore, the scheme will provide compensation to the families of personnel who accidentally lost their lives during operations as well as salary reimbursement of the injured personnel to the NAF in the event of hospitalisation.”



SPECIAL SECTION

Maiden edition of SIFAX Group Annual Thanksgiving Ceremony

SIFAX Group recently organised a special thanksgiving to thank God for His faithfulness all through 2023. The maiden edition of the thanksgiving service was held at the Lagos Marriott Hotel and attended by popular gospel musicians such as Laolu Gbenjo, Yinka Alaseyori, Chogozie Wisdom, Bidemi Olaoba and Kay Wonder. Several dignitaries such as Evangelist J.T. Kalejaiye, Intercontinental Evangelist, RCCG, Hon. Gbenga Ashafa, CEO, Federal Housing Authority and many more were in attendance

Dr. Taiwo Afolabi, Chairman, SIFAX Group and his wife Mrs. Afolashade Afolabi at the maiden edition of the SIFAX Group Annual Thanksgiving held at the Lagos Marriott Hotel recently.



L-R: Mrs. Afolashade Afolabi, wife of SIFAX Group Chairman; Guest Artist, Titilayo Gbadebo (EyinjuJesu Ministry) and Dr. Taiwo Afolabi, Chairman, SIFAX Group



SPECIAL SECTION



Front row: SIFAX Group Management Team and other staff and invited guests



SPECIAL SECTION



L-R: Idris Wiwoloku, Managing Director, Trust Risk Managers Insurance Ltd, a subsidiary of SIFAX Group; Oluwakayode Alonge, Group Head, Human Resources, SIFAX Group; Abiodun Elemide, Group Head, Compliance, SIFAX Group; Oliver Omajuwa, Deputy Director, Strategy, SIFAX Group; Catherine Abuah, Group Head, Marketing, SIFAX Group; Dr. Taiwo Afolabi, Chairman, SIFAX Group and his wife Mrs. Afolashade Afolabi; Wunmi Eniola-Jegede, Executive Director, Business Development and Strategic Planning; Capt. Ibraheem Olugbade, Executive Director, SIFAX Off Dock; Olumuyiwa Akande, Group Head, Corporate Communications, SIFAX Group; Bolarinwa Abioye, Chief Financial Officer, SIFAX Group and Sogo Faola, General Manager, Transfer, Ports & Cargo Handling Services Limited



SPECIAL SECTION



Another guest artiste, Titilayo Gbadebo (EyinjuJesu Ministry), during her ministration



One of the guest artistes, Mrs. Abosede Akande, during her ministration



Dr. Taiwo Afolabi, Chairman, SIFAX Group welcoming Gbenga Ashafa, CEO, Federal Housing Authority (FHA)

AVIATION

Afreximbank To Finance Enugu's Aviation, Hospitality Projects



Governor Peter Mbah

The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has committed to supporting the vision and agenda of the Governor Peter Mbah administration in Enugu through the financing of several key projects such as aviation and hospitality initiatives. The Bank said its interest in Enugu state stemmed from the vision Mbah had espoused and the work he was doing in the state, which it said, were in line with the bank's goals and

objectives for the rapid development of the African continent, noting that anything good that happens to Nigeria, inextricably happens to Africa.

These were made known by the President of Afreximbank, Prof. Benedict Oramah, during a working visit to the Government House, Enugu, recently, describing Mbah's investment and development drive as impressive, adding, "whenever we see a leader take such solid and

courageous steps, we fall in line because it makes our work much easier."

Governor Mbah, who appreciated the Afreximbank President and his team for prioritising Enugu state in bank's plans and development support, reiterated the determination of his administration to grow the state's economy from \$4.4 billion to \$30 billion, assuring that the state government would play its own part to ensure the actualisation of those pinpointed infrastructure to drive investment and grow the state and nation's economy.

Mbah also listed the steps taken by his administration to de-risk investment and promote ease of doing business in the state.

"Our aim is to make Enugu State the premier destination for investment. We are determined to make it easy for the investors to come in. So, we are highly impressed and very happy about the collaboration with Afreximbank and its affiliates," Mbah stated.

TAAG Angola to Operate Daily Flight To Lagos

TAAG Angola Airlines has announced that it will start daily flight service to Lagos, as the company is providing daily connections between Luanda (Angola) and Lagos (Nigeria) from January 8th. Currently, the Luanda Lagos route has five weekly frequencies, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday operated by Boeing 737-700 aircraft, with 120 passengers' total capacity (102 in economy class and 12

in business class).

Recently, TAAG Angola Airlines has been upgrading the network, leveraging the connectivity to regional routes: São Tomé Island, Windhoek (Namibia), Pointe-Noire (Republic of Congo), and Maputo (Mozambique).

The airline restated its commitment to provide quality and convenient services to customers, positioning Angola as a preferred hub for regional and intercontinental connections.

AVIATION

SAHCO Takes Over Ethiopian Airlines Ground Handling Services

Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) Plc has won the contract to take over the ground handling services to one of the world's foremost airlines, Ethiopian Airlines at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria. According to a Press Statement from the company, SAHCO would be providing Ramp handling services, Cargo handling services & Warehousing services

and other aviation related services to the airline starting from January 1st 2024.

Although SAHCO has been responsible for providing Cargo Handling and Warehousing services to Ethiopian Airlines from 2016 in Lagos, and full handling in Kano, the procurement of State-of-the-art equipment fitted with the latest technology; well trained and customer friendly staff; seamless, safe and speedy service delivery has made them pick SAHCO as their new preferred handler at the Cargo Ramp in Lagos.

Ethiopian Airlines is the flag carrier of Ethiopia and is wholly owned by the Ethiopian government with its hub in Addis Ababa. Ethiopian Airlines is Africa's largest Airline in terms of passengers carried, destinations served, fleet size and revenue and they have been flying into Nigeria for over 30 years.

According to the Managing Director/CEO, SAHCO, Basil Agboarumi, "SAHCO's choice as the preferred ground handling company for full Ethiopian Airlines' operations at the Cargo Ramp in Lagos is due to its pedigree and brilliant track record over the years. SAHCO has been providing Cargo Services & Warehousing for Ethiopian Airlines for quite a while now and we have displayed a high



level of professionalism according to global best practices. This has instilled

movements as they do business with the airline.

the trust and confidence which has influenced their decision to move their ground handling contract to us". He hinted further that with this business partnership between SAHCO and Ethiopian Airlines, customers are assured of speedy, safe and seamless ramp and cargo

Pilot Mistakenly Lands On Frozen River

Passengers were gripped with fear after a pilot mistakenly landed their plane on cracking ice on a notorious Kolyma River in Russia recently.

The 52-year-old Antonov-24 aircraft had flown from the world's coldest city Yakutsk and had landed by error on the ice instead of a landing strip on the riverbank in a temperature of minus 41C.

According to Daily Mail, thirty passengers and four crew on board were safely evacuated on foot from the Polar Airlines.

The report disclosed that the undisclosed pilot mistook the frozen Kolyma River for a small landing strip at remote Zyryanka, some 70 miles below the Arctic Circle with a population of less than 4,000 people.

Kolyma River is a river in northeastern Siberia, far eastern Russia, rising in the Kolyma Mountains. It is 1,323 miles (2,129 km) long and drains an area of 250,000 square miles (647,000 square km)

The plane was left abandoned on the ice of the Kolyma River, used to transport prisoners to forced labour camps during the former premier of the Soviet Union, Joseph Stalin's era.

The ice is believed to be 2ft 7 inches thick but pictures show an evident long crack near the plane.

Meanwhile, a media outlet Evening Yakutsk said, "There were no casualties," adding that the aircraft was not moved despite suffering no significant damage.

It further disclosed that the plane did not fly onto Srednekolymsk as scheduled.

Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency described the river landing as a "serious incident."

"During the landing, [the plane] deviated from the runway," said the East Siberian Transport Prosecutor's Office.

"According to preliminary information, the cause of the aviation event was a crew error in piloting the aircraft," said the prosecutor's office.

The report revealed that authorities have launched an investigation into the incident.



INLAND CONTAINERS NIGERIA LIMITED

OUR SERVICES

- Dryport Services
- Bounded Terminal Operations
- Rail & Road Transportation
- Warehousing & Cargo Consolidation
- Clearing & Forwarding Services
- Full Export Services
- Door to Door Delivery Services
- Shipping Agency



HEAD OFFICE:
65, Payne Crescent,
P.M.B 1209, Apapa, Lagos.
Tel: 08058858999, 08058855999

KANO DEPOT:
Abdullahi Bayero Road,
Nassarawa, Kano.
Tel: 07016836811

KADUNA DRYPORT:
Kachia Road, Off Railway Avenue,
Kaduna.
Tel: 07016836812

E-mail: info@inlandcontainers.net, inlandcontainersnigerialimited@yahoo.com
Website: www.inlandcontainers.net

AVIATION

NAHCO Signs Handling Contracts With Egypt Air, RwandAir, ASKY, Royal Air Maroc, DHL Aviation, Air Peace, Dana, Astra Aviation, Others

NAHCO Aviance Plc has once again reaffirmed its dominance of the ground handling sub-sector of the Nigerian aviation industry, as West Africa's leading ground handling service provider, as it recently signed a series of contracts to provide excellent service to eight international and domestic operators.

According to a statement issued this year, the company disclosed that NAHCO will handle long term client and partner, Egypt Air, from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2028. Egypt Air has joined the list of NAHCO's clients with five -year contracts, in addition to Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines and Ethiopian Airlines who recently increased NAHCO's share of its warehousing wallet.

The contract with Egypt Air rounded off the list of contracts entered into with a number of airlines including Nigeria's largest carrier, Air Peace for domestic, regional and international operations; Rwand Air (including at Kano); ASKY; Air Maroc, DHL Aviation, Dana Air and Astra Aviation. The contracts, excluding Egypt Air's, are for three years each.

GMD/CEO of the company, Mr. Indranil Gupta, expressed his delight about the development saying the company will always be the goto ground handler in the country.

He said, "These partnerships underscore the confidence our clients place in the excellence and efficiency which NAHCO is synonymous with. Our dedicated and robust workforce is



committed to upholding the highest operational standards. We remain unwavering in our pursuit of continuous growth and improvement, always exceeding expectations to ensure client satisfaction."

The Group Executive Director, Commercial & Business Development, Prince Saheed Lasisi, affirmed that NAHCO has a strong and dedicated workforce that is second to none in the industry.

"It is very clear that NAHCO is a strong and efficient brand that has endured more than 44 years of aviation handling efficiency and high-quality standards. Our professional and

Keyamo Insists On Concession Of International Airports

Minister of Aviation and Aerospace, Festus Keyamo said he would not relent on a plan to concession the five international airports, including Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Port Harcourt and Enugu.

The minister stated this during a budget presentation to the Joint Committee on Aviation Technology. He said he has taken into consideration the concerns of the 9th Assembly regarding the non-transparent manner in which the previous concession was done and

operating ethics set us far above other operators, and this is further proven by our growing list of satisfied local and international airlines partners. We will deliver on our promises, and we will deliver service beyond expectations," Prince Lasisi stated.

Lasisi disclosed that the first set of modern GSE which the company had paid for will arrive the shores of Nigeria Q1, 2024.

He explained that the investment in modern GSE is strategic as NAHCO seeks to expand its operations and further delight its clients.

The Nigerian Aviation Handling Company Plc (nahco aviance) is the first and biggest ground handling company in Nigeria providing excellent service to majority of international airlines and their local counterparts.

affirmed that concession is the way to go for the five international airports.

Keyamo, while presenting the budget to the committee, revealed that he had written a memo to the President on the concession of the five international airports.

He further stated that the performance of the 2023 budget is at 40 per cent based on the releases so far.

Speaking on the 2024 budget, he said about N63 billion has been appropriated for the entire ministry and its agencies.

NEWS

Egoras Hybrid Tricycle Introduced

Egoras Technology, a sustainable transportation solutions firm, has launched a hybrid powered tricycle that uses auto gas and petrol.

The Chief Executive Officer of Egoras Technology, Ugoji Harry, said in a statement that the tricycle was designed to address the challenges posed by the recent subsidy removal.

He noted that the tricycle offered a cost-effective solution for both urban and rural areas, while also contributing to a greener environment.

According to Harry, the dual-fuel tricycle

runs seamlessly on both petrol and liquid purified gas, presenting a versatile and eco-friendly alternative for commuters.

In addition to its dual-fuel capabilities, the Egoras Dual-Fuel Tricycle boasts a user-friendly design, facilitating easy maintenance for operators.

According to the CEO of Egoras Technology, the tricycle, which is currently used in some states in the North, South, and South stands out as a reliable and powerful vehicle, boasting impressive technical specifications.

“Constructed with high-quality materials such as aluminium, steel, and carbon fibre, the tricycle ensures durability and reliability in various terrains.

“With a robust 10 horsepower engine, it delivers a combination of strength and efficiency. The tricycle's top speed



of 60kmph further underscores its capability, offering users a swift and dependable mode of transportation,” he stated.

He noted that tricycles had undergone rigorous testing to ensure safety and compliance with industry standards,

Sanwo-Olu, AbdulRasaq Unveil Ikeja Overpass Bridge

Lagos Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has commissioned the Ikeja overpass bridge in the Ikeja area of Lagos state.

The Governor of Kwara State and Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, AbdulRahman AbdulRasaq, joined Sanwo-Olu in unveiling the project recently.

The Ikeja Overpass Bridge, which is the fourth to be commissioned by the Lagos State Government within the last two months, is one of the five

assuring riders and pedestrians of a secure and efficient mode of transportation.

Harry reiterated that the firm remained dedicated to driving positive change in Nigeria's transportation landscape, and the launch of the dual-fuel tricycle marked a significant step towards achieving this goal.

“We encourage communities to embrace this sustainable and cost-effective solution, contributing to a brighter, more eco-friendly future.”

He added that the company offered fleet management to help owners manage their tricycles.

“To avail themselves of this service, customers simply need to sign an agreement with the company, ensuring a hassle-free and comprehensive support system for their tricycle ownership.

“We have drivers in our fleet, who can use the tricycle to operate, the agreed funds will be remitted to owners until a certain period before ownership is transferred,” he concluded.

overpass bridges ceded to the Lagos State Government for construction on the Red Line corridor where the Nigeria Railway Corporation and the Red Line will share tracks.

Sanwo-Olu warned commuters, and motorists against turning the bridge to a bus station.

Governor AbdulRasaq in his remarks, commended the efforts of the Lagos State government, noting that the road project is focused on national development.

NEWS

Car Marts Raid: Court Awards N500m Against Customs

A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos has declared the 2019 raid and sealing of over 434 car marts in Lagos by the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) as illegal and unlawful.

The car marts were raided and sealed for alleged smuggling and under-assessment during clearance at the ports. Some of the affected car dealers whose marts were sealed in the September 29, 2019, under the umbrella of Registered Trustees of Auto-Mobile Dealers had through their lawyer, Dr. Monday Ubani sued the Customs and sought an order of court to declare the invasion and sealing of their marts as unlawful.

They also prayed for a restraining injunction against the Customs and damages of over N5billion insisting that all vehicles in their marts were duly cleared and duties paid at the ports after due assessment by officials of the Nigeria Customs.



Delivering judgment in the matter on December 27, 2023, after five years of litigation, Justice A. O. Awogboro held that the sealing up of the car marts of

the plaintiff's members was unlawful and arbitrary, as there was no justification for the unlawful act.

The judge further held that the argument by NCS that some members of the plaintiff had complied by undertaking to make the additional payment as a result of which their car marts were unsealed, is not tenable and does not in any way justify the arbitrary action of raiding and sealing their marts.

Other reliefs granted by the judge, include; an order of mandatory injunction directing the Defendants to, with immediate effect, unseal the business premises of all members of the Plaintiff.

An order of perpetual injunction restraining the Defendants from

further invading and sealing the business premises of the members of the Plaintiff on the ground that the vehicles in their car shops which had earlier been inspected, assessed and cleared at the Port by officers of the Defendant were not properly inspected, assessed and cleared.

An order directing the Defendants to pay to the Plaintiff the sum of N500,000,000, as general and aggravated damages for the arbitrary and unlawful invasion and sealing off of the Plaintiff's members business premises since September 30, 2019, and for the huge economic loss and depreciation in business fortunes of members of the plaintiff on account of the unlawful sealing off of their business premises.

Tinubu Signs N28.78tn 2024 Budget Into Law

President Bola Tinubu has signed into law the 2024 Appropriation Bill of N28.78 trillion.

Among those present at the budget signing were the President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon Tajudeen Abbas. The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Wale Edun; Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar; the National Security

Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, were on hand as well.

Also on ground were the Chief of Staff to the President, Hon Femi Gbajabiamila; National Chairman of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Dr Abdullahi Ganduje; Chairman of the Senate Appropriation Committee, Senator Olamilekan Adeola, among others. Implementation of the budget is expected immediately.



ENERGY

NIPCO Reiterates Commitment To Boost CNG As Vehicular Fuel

NIPCO Gas Limited has reiterated its commitment to align with President Bola Tinubu-led administration's strategic plan to make Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) readily available across Nigeria as an alternative fuel. Speaking at the inauguration of another auto CNG station in Kubwa area of Abuja, the Managing Director of NIPCO Gas Limited, Mr. Nagendra Verma, pledged that his company will continue to support and implement measures to ensure the availability of economical, sustainable and environmentally friendly fuel for transportation in Nigeria.

He said the station which commenced operations recently was an affirmation of the company's determination to ensure widespread availability of auto



CNG across the country.

Verma noted that as Nigeria grapples with the challenges of huge expenditure on fuel and seeks cleaner

energy alternatives, his company would remain at the forefront of driving positive change in the country's energy landscape.

According to him, the new station is a testament of the company's mission to drive positive change in the country's transportation sector.

He said "It is the company's belief that the path to a sustainable future starts with transformative initiatives, and the launch of the Kubwa Auto CNG Station exemplifies our commitment in action."

He further declared that CNG, known for its cost-effectiveness and significantly lower carbon emissions compared to traditional fuels, is positioned as a beacon of environmentally responsible transportation.

Verma expressed the company's steadfast dedication to enhancing CNG accessibility throughout Nigeria. He highlighted the company's investments in cutting-edge technologies and infrastructure to ensure the widespread availability of CNG across the country.

Verma expressed optimism about the positive impact that increased CNG adoption would have on both the environment and the Nigerian economy.

Port Harcourt Refinery To Supply 12 States

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited has commenced the supply of crude oil for the test-running of the Port Harcourt Refining Company Limited.

Oil marketers confirmed the development and stated that the plant would supply refined Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol, Automotive Gas Oil, otherwise known as diesel, as well as other products to 12 states including Abia, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, and Delta etc.

The NNPC stated that the ongoing test-running of the plant would be completed shortly, adding that commercial production of refined products would thereafter commence.

This came as experts and downstream operators stated that though the cost of refined products would reduce once the Port Harcourt and Dangote refineries start pumping out products, it would not lead to a massive price crash.

On December 21, 2023, the Federal Government announced the mechanical completion of rehabilitation work on the Area-5 Plant of the Port Harcourt

Refining Company in Rivers State.

It said the first phase of the plant had been completed, as the facility would start refining 60,000 barrels of crude oil daily after the Christmas break.

The Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, had stated that the first phase of the PHRC was completed on December 20, 2023, adding that refined products' production would commence after the Yuletide.

"This is to announce to Nigerians that in fulfilment of our pledge to complete phase one of the Port Harcourt refinery by the end of 2023, and the subsequent streaming of phase two in 2024, we happily announce the mechanical completion of flare start-up on December 20, 2023.

"This heralds the commencement of the production of petroleum products after the Christmas break. We want to thank Nigerians for their patience and trust in the NNPC to deliver on our promise and mandate in the rehabilitation of our refineries," the minister stated.

ENERGY

11 Plc Boost Auto Gas Penetration In Nigeria

11 Plc, a leading energy solutions company in Nigeria, has reiterated its commitment to autogas usage in the country with the construction of additional facilities in Ibadan and Lagos.

This was disclosed recently by the Chief Executive Officer of the company, Adetunji Oyebanji, in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

According to the MD, the initiative was part of the company's commitment to intensifying the usage of the product and support for the new administration to further boost the economy.

He said "We have continued to see improvement in all the investments that have been made in the last few years by upgrading the company to a higher pedestal."

The MD reiterated that the future of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), could not be emphasised in the growth and development of the global economy, Nigeria inclusive.

The industry, according to him, is ready to collaborate with the Bola Tinubu



Mr. Adetunji Oyebanji

administration to uplift the country's economy to an enviable height.

Explaining the essence of the oil and gas industry to the national economy, Oyebanji said his company, as a model, had invested massively on installations of LPG in 40 retail outlets nationwide.

Oyebanji said: "In terms of investment, we have done a lot as far as LPG installations are concerned.

"In several stations now, we are moving close to 40 stations nationwide in our LPG installations, and we will continue to do this because we believe that LPG is the way forward.

"We have also invested in a new gas station at the toll gate, Ibadan, the Oyo State capital and the station is now operational.

"With its massive investments in LPG storage and distribution infrastructure, 11 Plc. Gas is well-positioned to maintain a dominant presence in the country's LPG industry for a long time."

Oyebanji said that the company had expanded its filling plants across the country, noting that it had

already expanded storage capacity to 8,000 metric tonnes.

He added that the company had already started exploring the CNG market with the construction of facilities in Ibadan and Lagos.

PIA: NMDPRA To Release New Regulations

The Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), has asked oil companies to comply with regulations in the industry. This comes as the organisation expressed readiness to release seven new regulations for the smooth implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), adding that the move would unravel the activities of syndicates in the

petroleum supply chain.

The regulations address market principles, prevention of competitive behavior, customer protection measures, and the procedure for the determination of complaints from customers of the Nigerian midstream and downstream petroleum industry.

Speaking at a stakeholders' forum for the new regulations in Abuja, the Executive Director, Distribution Systems, Storage and Retailing

Infrastructure (DSSRI), Ogbugo Ukoha said about 16 regulations have been drafted and gazetted, followed by another set of four regulations that are awaiting gazette.

"The PIA has also required us to always sit down and consult with stakeholders. Each time we want to draft gazette regulations because as a feedback loop, the responses we get from them enrich that and so we carry everybody along, and the outcome is regulations.

RAILWAY

NRC To Increase Train Trips This Year-MD

The Managing Director, Nigerian Railway Corporation, Mr. Fidet Okhiria, has said that the corporation will begin six train trips daily on the Standard Gauge Train across the board in 2024. Okhiria disclosed this during an interactive session with journalists in Lagos recently. He said that the train was meant to operate 24 hours, but the present situation in the country had reduced the turnaround time.

“We are going to increase the number of train trips to six on Lagos-Ibadan, Warri-Itakpe and Abuja-Kaduna, which means the trips will be three times to and three times fro, making six trips in a day.

“The trips will commence before the second quarter of 2024. Right now,



Mr. Fidet Okhiria

they are running four trips—two up and two down across the board.

“What is limiting us is the night operations, and that is not the way train should operate. The train is meant to operate at all times. People may like to travel in the

evening, but because of the security situation in the country, we limit ourselves to the daytime,” he said.

Okhiria added, “We intend to bring back passengers and freight trains from Port-Harcourt to Aba, Lagos to Kano and Kaduna because of the dry ports.”

Eastern Rail Gains Traction As CCECC Completes Port Harcourt To Aba Track

The China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Ltd. (CCECC) says it has completed the laying of track from Port Harcourt to Aba on the Nigeria Eastern Narrow-Gauge Railway project. John Zhao, chief representative and executive director of CCECC, disclosed this recently on his X handle, @JohnCCECC. “New Year, new progress! The track laying from Port Harcourt to Aba on the Nigeria Eastern Narrow-Gauge Railway project has been completed by #CCECC,” Zhao said in the X post. According to him, the track work completed by CCECC is for renovating the original Eastern Railway. In April 2022, the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation commenced construction of the 2044.1km Port Harcourt-Maiduguri narrow gauge railway project.

Over 63,000 Passengers Moved By Nigeria Railway Corporation-MD

The Managing Director of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), Engr. Fidet Okhiria, has revealed that over 63,000 passengers have been transported free of charge so far following the directives of the federal government.

It would be recalled that President Bola Tinubu had last week approved a 50 percent discount for inter-state road travels, and 100 percent for train trips, for Nigerians travelling to celebrate Christmas

with their families. The discount will run from December 21 to January 4, 2024.

The MD who made this revelation at a media parley in Lagos, added that the Federal Government has under-written all the costs involved in offering the free services.

He commended the Federal Government for providing all the necessary support to achieve this feat.

The MD also advised passengers to obtain their tickets via the website

as tickets are not given at the various stations.

He also stated that railway staff have been mobilised nationwide to ensure that the directive of the President is enforced to the fullest. The train passenger service, according to the NRC, is offered on all the Corporation's route such as Lagos-Ibadan, Abuja-Kaduna and Warri-Itakpe.

The NRC MD also added that the corporation is faced with challenges of insecurity and vandalism.

RAILWAY

Biggest Railway Deals Of 2023

Over the past year, the rail sector has demonstrated strong progress in recovery after setbacks with Covid-19, and received billions of Dollars worth of deals.

Siemens Mobility secures €3bn locomotive contract in India

Commencing the year strong Siemens Mobility secured its “largest ever” contract with Indian Railways at the start of the year in a deal that was set to increase freight transport across the region. The large Indian Railways deal covered the delivery of 1,200 electric freight locomotives, featuring 35 years of full-service maintenance.

National Express secures €1bn rail contract in Germany

Continuing the strong start, National Express Rail GmbH received a rail contract valued at €1bn in Germany, establishing the company “as the second largest rail transport company in the region”.

Škoda Group secures €732m contract with Trenitalia

This deal saw the Czech manufacturer expanding its offerings into the Italian market, a market it first participated in early October 2022. The contract features the production of 370 new railway coaches, which are set to serve the Milano-Palermo-Syracuse line.

Škoda secures €1bn contract with Egyptian National Railways

Last mid-year deal marked Skoda's first expansion into Africa with the aims of improving the “quality” of the rail sector. Skoda signed contracts of over €1bn which aim to maintain and modernise over 280 locomotives.



signing with a contract value of 71.7bn Pesos (\$18m).

MSC set to acquire 50% of Italo

This deal represented the shipping giants efforts to maintain its ties with Italy. The agreement shows a commitment to

create sustainable transportation that will support Italo's efforts.

MSC announced a binding agreement to acquire a 50% stake in train company Italo Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (Italo). The deal is reported to give Italo an enterprise value of €4.2bn (\$4.4bn).

DB sells Arriva Group to US asset management company

In a recent deal by Deutsche Bahn (DB), the company has expressed its aims to increase growth across Germany. Valuing around €1.68bn, DB agreed to sell its subsidiary Arriva Group to the US-based infrastructure asset management company I Squared Capital.

Seatfrog secures £6m investment

The rail ticketing startup received a £6m financial boost to reach the next stage in its business plan. The funding round will support Seatfrog's expansion into Europe.

Siemens Mobility signs €5bn contract for Mireo trains with ÖBB

Siemens and ÖBB signed a large €5bn framework contract for the provision of up to 540 single-deck electric multiple-unit trains.

Colombia: Central freight route contract awarded

The contract featured maintenance and upgrade provisions across the 522km La Dorada Chiriquaná line. It is a one-year

World Cup: Morocco To Acquire 168 Trains

Morocco's National Office of Railways (ONCF) has announced a tender for the acquisition of 168 trains, marking a major step in the country's preparation for the 2030 World Cup.

The deal, worth approximately AED16bn (\$1.59bn), includes 150 trains between Intercity, Rapid Shuttle and Mass Transit Services, and 18 trains to extend the use of existing high-speed lines.

This includes an expansion of the Al-Boraq line that Morocco launched in 2018. Hailed as Africa's first-ever

high-speed railway, Al Boraq connects Casablanca to the northern port hub of Tangier, Morocco's so-called 'gateway to Europe' situated a one-hour ferry ride from Tarifa in southern Spain.

FIFA's decision to name Morocco, Spain and Portugal as joint hosts of the 2030 World Cup but award Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay the opening three matches has led to criticism from climate groups over the long-distance, high-emissions journeys teams will undertake between matches.

There has also been scrutiny over the readiness of Morocco's transport system.

UNIONS, ASSOCIATIONS

Stop Extorting Money From Minibus Drivers, Commissioner Warns RTEAN

The Cross River State government has warned the leadership of the state branch of Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), to desist forthwith from extorting money from minibus drivers on the guise of 'welfare dues' or be ready to contend with the wrath of the law.

The Commissioner for Transportation, Pastor Ekpeyong Cobham, issued the warning in Calabar, the State capital, recently, during a stakeholders meeting of the transportation sector.

Reading a position paper of the state government during the meeting with the stakeholders, Cobham said: "Sequel to our meeting held on November 3, 2023 at my instance to address pertinent issues in the transportation sub-sector, the following topics made the agenda of the day which include, ticketing, road signage, proliferation of associations and others.

"The most combusive issue which seems to constipate the system most is the issue of drivers' welfare, ticketing and other related matters."

While warning RTEAN on the consequences that are likely to be associated with extorting money from



minibus drivers, the Commissioner said that Sections (F) and (G) of Road Transport Employers Association of

Nigeria constitution is succinct, clear and at variance with ongoing activities of the union's leadership.

MWUN Congratulates Ascanio Ruso, Grimaldi Shipping boss over Great MV Lagos acquisition

The Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) under the leadership of its President-General, Comrade Adewale Adeyanju has congratulated the Managing Director of Grimaldi Shipping Company, Mr. Ascanio Ruso and his management team, for acquiring "MV GREAT LAGOS" which is the first of its kind in Nigeria.

The union described the ship as a marvel of modern engineering with functions of environmental consciousness built to meet the challenges of modern-day technology in the maritime industry.

A statement signed NY the Head of Media, MWUN, Comrade John Kennedy Ikemefuna said: "Ascanio

Ruso is one of the best maritime administrators in Nigeria, who treats workers in his employ with humane and dignity for labour.

"I wish to categorically state here again, on behalf of MWUN, that Mr. Ascanio is a wonderful Managing Director with a human face and one of foremost employers of labour in the industry. His blood flows with genuine

NEWS

NIDCOM Disowns Nigeria Diaspora Groups

The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) has officially disowned some groups with sinister and political ulterior motives, parading as authentic associations.

NIDCOM also warned all government ministries, agencies, embassies and high commissions as well as diaspora associations to beware of such groups.

A statement by the Director of Media, Public Relations and Protocols Unit of NIDCOM, Abdur-Rahman Balogun earlier in the month, specifically mentioned a group, Nigeria Diaspora Forum (NDF) which he said claimed it had established an office in Abuja for the welfare of Nigerians in the diaspora.

He alleged that the so-called forum, “an arm of Labour Party (LP), masquerading as a diaspora group, is not even registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).”

Balogun said: “We are aware that all



Abike Dabiri

registered political parties including the ruling party, have diaspora chapters and support groups outside the country and do work to promote and champion their party ideals.

“It is equally sinister that an unregistered body with the CAC will fraudulently and boldly announce the setting up of an office to oversee the welfare of Nigerians in diaspora in Abuja.

“This is no doubt an attempt to fraudulently hoodwink unsuspecting

members of the public, ministries, departments and agencies, embassies, high commissions as well as state and local governments.

“We hereby advise all government agencies at both the federal and state levels as well as the diplomatic community to always double-check with NIDCOM the status of such groups as NIDCOM has a data base of all registered diaspora groups.”

NIDCOM also reminded that all the states have diaspora

focal persons who are readily available to handle issues relating to their diaspora.

“NIDCOM is the only commission mandated by an act of the parliament to oversee the welfare of Nigerians in the diaspora, in the last four years.

“It has been, and will continue to fulfil its mandate, while also working with genuine Nigerian diaspora groups, associations and individuals,” the statement added.

Highway Sweepers Get Bonus From Lagos State Govt

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has approved an End-of-the-Year bonus for the Lagos Waste Management Authority, LAWMA's city highway sweepers and waste handlers.

Managing Director of LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin, announced the kind gesture of the governor in the spirit

of the Yuletide celebrations.

Gbadegesin, said the gesture was received with much appreciation by the hard-working heroes and heroines of the city's waste management system.

According to him, “Governor Sanwo-Olu acknowledges the tireless efforts of our street sweepers and waste

handlers in maintaining a clean and healthy environment for Lagosians.

“This bonus is a gesture of gratitude for their dedication and commitment, especially during this festive season.”

Gbadegesin stated that the bonus would also impact the lives of the recipients and their families, bringing joy and relief during the season.

Protection in Every Drop



- ☑ Fully synthetic petrol engine oil
- ☑ API SN - high performance petrol engine oil

- ☑ Tamper-proof seal protection



Mobil Super™

From the makers of Mobil 1™

Mobil Super is the lifeblood of your engine, protecting the heart of your car. Every Drop of Mobil Super is designed to keep your car running for years to come.



For more information, visit www.11plc.com



Mobil Super™