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**10<sup>th</sup>**

**NIGERIA TRANSPORT LECTURE**

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- Thursday May 23, 2024
- Radisson Blu Hotel, Ikeja GRA, Lagos.
- 9:00am

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**FAAN MD, Others Attend ACI Africa Conference, Explore Potential Partnerships**

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# SAFETY

## Defensive Driving: Avoid Distractions

To practice defensive driving, it is vital to avoid distractions and remain focused on the task of driving. Distractions can come in many forms, such as conversations with passengers, adjusting the radio, using a mobile phone, or attending to personal grooming. Being distracted while driving significantly increases the risk of accidents, as it impairs the driver's ability to react promptly and make appropriate decisions. Here are some ways to avoid distractions while driving:



**Put your phone away:** Texting, browsing, or talking on the phone while driving is not only dangerous but also illegal in many places. Store your phone out of reach or use a hands-free device if you absolutely need to make or receive a call.

**Manage your music and navigation before you hit the road:** Set your playlist, radio station, or GPS destination before starting your journey to minimize the need to fiddle

with these devices while driving.

**Limit conversations:** Engaging in intense or emotional conversations with passengers can be just as distracting as using a phone. If a conversation is too distracting, politely ask your passengers to pause the discussion until you have reached your destination.

**Attend to personal grooming at home:** Applying makeup, shaving, or eating while driving can significantly impair your ability to focus on the road. Complete these activities before you start driving or after you have parked your vehicle.

**Manage your environment:** Avoid clutter in your vehicle that could cause distractions, and adjust your mirrors, seat, and climate controls before you start driving.

Avoiding distractions is a crucial element of defensive driving. By staying focused on the road and minimizing potential distractions, drivers can significantly reduce their risk of accidents and contribute to safer roads for everyone. Remember, when you're behind the wheel, your primary responsibility is to drive safely and attentively.

## LASTMA Cautions Mass Transit Drivers On Traffic Violation

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has warned mass transit bus drivers/Owners against contravening traffic laws.

The General Manager of LASTMA Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki disclosed this recently during a courtesy visit by Operators (Drivers/Owners) of Federal Mass Transit Buses to his Office at

Oshodi, Lagos.

Mr. Bakare-Oki stated that the agency would not compromise any form of illegality by bus or private cars drivers parking indiscriminately on roadside, Kerbs, Walkways, setbacks thereby obstructing the free movement of vehicles including other road users.

"I want to state categorically that you should ensure that your members are

trained and re-trained so as not to run foul of traffic regulations."

Earlier in his address, the Chairman of Operators (Drivers/Owners) of Federal Mass Transit buses Mr. Abed Achewa and his team acknowledged the importance of LASTMA Officers in improving travel time and ensuring free flow of traffic on Lagos roads.



10<sup>th</sup>

# NIGERIA TRANSPORT LECTURE



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9:00am

Enquiries - 0913 351 7720

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# EDITORIAL

## Hunger: Halt Attacks On Logistics Supply Chain

In recent times, there have been quite a number of protests by the citizens over hardship and hunger in the land, as the cost of essential items have suddenly hit the roof. Worst hit is cost of food, which has increased by 50-80%, and in some cases in even more.

As a result, protests have been witnessed in some parts of the country. In Lagos, scores of youths protested against the soaring prices of foodstuff and the high cost of living in the country.

Residents of Minna, Niger State, also protested the hardship in Nigeria caused by the rising cost of living occasioned by the downturn of the economy.

However, the situation took another dimension with the attack on trucks carrying food items. A truck conveying food items was attacked by some residents at Dei-Dei in the Bwari Local Area of Federal Capital Territory. This came after earlier reports of attacks on some other trucks.

In reaction, truck drivers in the country are now threatening to embark on strike considering the spate of attacks they face while transporting food items across the nation.

National President of the Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO), Yusuf Othman, said "We are affected negatively by these attacks and right now we are strategizing. It might interest you to know that the insurance we get does not cover riots or such fracas," he said.

President of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Gabriel Idahosa, also expressed concerns about the ugly development.

It is important that government take immediate steps to check the trend by deploying measures to reduce the hardship in the land as well as provide security for the truckers.

This is necessary because the truckers facilitate the supply chain of goods around the country, hence, their services are very vital in keeping the economy running.

## The frequent Power Outages At Murtala Muhammed Airport

On Friday, March 7, 2024, there was chaos and confusion amongst workers and travelers at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos state owing to a sudden power outage.

Those who were at the airport or around the facility witnessed thick smoke billowing in a section of the facility, as workers and passengers were evacuated to the larger departure hall.

One of those who witnessed the development however said "the situation has since been resolved, with the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) device tripping for a few minutes before being restored."

This happened only a couple of days after the airport witnessed a similar ugly situation. In what was linked to 'Automatic switchover challenges' by authorities of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), it was stated that "we experienced a 2-3 minute outage at Murtala Muhammed International Airport yesterday, February 2nd 2024

while switching over to our backup power supply after losing power from the Grid."

It is important that FAAN try as much as possible to prevent the embarrassing situation of power outages in the nation's airports. The necessary electrical installations should be put in place in order to ensure a seamless switch from one source of power to another.

The right personnel as well as the standard equipment should be used, just as continuous training of technical staff should not be compromised.



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# LOGISTICS TERMS

## Green Logistics: Terminology Explained-Maersk

**S**ustainability is a priority for nearly everyone; from end-customers to policy makers. Since the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015, accurate language around climate change mitigation efforts and emissions goals has become more and more important. As the Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change, making sure that companies and cultures understand the (at times very confusing) terminology of sustainability can be the difference between sanctions or success.

Here we break down some of the terms of green logistics with a sustainability glossary:

**Alternative energy:** Alternative energy is an energy source that does not come from fossil fuels, and thus produces less carbon dioxide than traditional fuel sources (such as coal, oil, and natural gas).

**Biodiesel:** A form of diesel fuel produced from fats and oils occurring in plants or animals. Biodiesel can be utilised as a drop-in fuel, meaning that it is compatible with existing diesel engines.

**Biogas:** Primarily comprised of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), biogas is a mixture of gases produced from raw material wastes (such as sewage, municipal waste, food waste, and agricultural waste). Biogas can be compressed or liquified after removing carbon dioxide and trace gases and used to power motor vehicles. Additionally, methane, hydrogen, and carbon monoxide can be combusted with oxygen; creating an energy release that can be harnessed as fuel for heating or electricity. As biogas produces no net carbon dioxide, it is a renewable resource.

**Bio-LNG:** Liquified biomethane (also known as liquified bio-natural gas or liquified biogas) is the liquified form of biomethane. Liquified, the gas is more easily transportable in tanks.

**Biomethane:** Biomethane is a methane produced from biogas that has had its



trace gases and carbon dioxide removed. Biomethane can be injected into the existing gas grid and used as fuel for heat, electricity, or automobiles.

**Biomethanol:** Alcohol produced from biomass such as wood waste, biomethanol is a biofuel that can be used in specifically-adapted internal combustion engines in combination with gasoline or independently.

**Carbon capture:** The process of capturing and storing carbon dioxide before it is released into the atmosphere. Usually captured from chemical or biomass power plants, carbon capture is practiced with the goal of preventing the release of carbon dioxide in order to mitigate environmental impact and acceleration of climate change.

**Carbon intensity indicator:** The carbon intensity indicator (also referred to as merely CII) is a measure of the operational efficiency of a ship transporting passengers or goods in terms of carbon dioxide emissions. The CII is calculated by dividing the grams of carbon dioxide emitted per deadweight nautical mile.

**Carbon neutral:** Being carbon neutral means that any carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere is balanced by an equivalent amount being removed from

the atmosphere. Carbon neutrality only takes into account carbon dioxide and does not include any other greenhouse gases.

**Carbon offset:** Often deployed to achieve carbon neutrality, carbon offsets are a reduction or removal of carbon dioxide in order to compensate for emissions elsewhere. Measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalents, carbon offsets act as a way of cancelling out other emissions, thus achieving 'neutral' carbon emissions.

**Carbon tax:** Carbon taxes are taxes levied on carbon dioxide emissions, in order to provide financial incentives to reduce emissions. Most commonly, carbon taxes target carbon dioxide emissions, though they can also include other greenhouse gases such as nitrous oxide or methane.

**Circular economy:** As opposed to a traditionally linear economic model of production, use, and disposal -- the circular economy aims to turn the 'disposal' phase back into the 'production' phase. Whereas recycling a plastic bottle to be remade into another plastic good after use would be circular. This may also be referred to as a 'cradle to cradle' economy.

# TYRE WATCH

## Geometric Power: Maxxis Tyres Eye Aba



**T**aiwanese company Maxxis Tyres has reportedly shown interest in setting up a tyre production facility in the region in Aba, Abia state, following the commissioning of the Geometric power plant in conjunction with the state government.

Within 24 hours of the power supply stabilization, directors from Maxxis Tyres, a leading global tyre manufacturer, were hosted by traditional rulers in the Ukanku Community, Ukwa East LGA, to discuss the possibility of establishing a comprehensive tyre production

plant.

According to analysts, the quick response from Maxxis Tyres to explore investment opportunities in Aba underscores the critical role reliable power supply plays in attracting foreign investment. The visit by the Taiwanese directors to the Ukanku Community signifies a potential economic transformation for Abia State, promising to bring employment and development. This move is particularly significant given the company's global standing as the 11th largest tyre manufacturer, with a history dating back to 1967

when it first started as a bicycle tyre maker.

The proposed tyre production facility aims to cater to a wide range of vehicular needs, including motorcycle and tricycle tyres, car tyres, light trucks, ATVs, and trailer tyres.

The prospective establishment of Maxxis Tyres' plant in Aba could be a game-changer for the local economy, as it is expected to create numerous direct and indirect job opportunities, stimulate local businesses, and potentially lead to the development of related industries.

## Earth Circle Manager Advocates For Investments In Tyre Industry

**T**he Marketing Manager, Earth Circle Investment Nigeria Limited, Firdous Mavrani, has advocated for immediate investments in the local tyre industry even as he estimated the industry to be worth "\$350 billion while the tyre market in Nigeria is about \$5.0 billion, requiring investors who can take advantage of the

ever growing huge market.

"The total Nigerian tyre market size is currently estimated to be 12.7 million units, including; cars, vans, trucks, earth moving equipment and others with a projected growth rate of 4-6% annually."

In an interview with Daily Independent, Mavrani said: "There are about 150 brands of tyres in the

Nigerian market with five initial dominant players namely: Dunlop, Michelin, Bridgestone, Pirelli and Firestone. By 2008, all the imported brands accounted for about 90% share of the market as against today; all the tyres in the Nigerian market are imported following the cessation of local tyre manufacturing."

## TYRE WATCH

# When Tyre Pressure Warning Light Comes On

**B**oth a temperature change and a slow leak can lower tyre pressures enough to trigger a warning via the car's tyre pressure monitoring system, which displays via a warning light on the instrument panel. The light is programmed to go on when tyre pressure is about 25% below the recommended pressure.

### Checking Tyre Pressure

Rick Cotta of cars.com explains that there are various types of gauges you can buy to check tyre pressure. Perhaps most common is the stick type, which looks like a pen. When you check the pressure, the "stick" shoots out of the bottom of the pen. These are usually quite inexpensive, but their angled tip that goes over the tyre's valve stem and the small markings on the stick can make them tough to get a leak-free connection and see the resulting reading. If you hear a hiss when you press the gauge's tip onto the valve stem or see a very low reading on the stick, you probably aren't getting a good seal.

Somewhat easier to use is a gauge with a tip that presses straight onto the stem and gives its reading on a round dial. These gauges sometimes have flexible hoses between the tip and the dial

that make them more adaptable to different applications, but they may require two hands to use. A variation on this design uses a screw-on tip rather than a press-on tip. That ideally makes for a more secure connection and a more accurate reading, though sometimes tightening the screw-on tip can be tricky, allowing some air to leak out. Another variation uses a built-in



clamp on the tip. You press down on a little lever with your thumb, press the tip onto the stem and release the lever to clamp the tip onto the stem.

There are also digital gauges that can be very accurate and easy to use. However, these run on small batteries that can go dead, rendering them useless until you replace the batteries, which can be a hassle.

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# MARITIME

## Female Seafarers Knock Ship Owners Over Discrimination

Female seafarers in Nigeria under the aegis of Female Seafarers Association of Nigeria (FESAN) have criticized ship owners for alleged bias against female seafarers by Nigerian ship owners.

President of FESAN, Koni Duniya, made this known while speaking at a special edition of Live Conversations on Maritime TV Africa in commemoration of IWD 2024 recently, stressing that only 5 percent growth in female seafaring has been recorded in Nigeria since 2019.

At the virtual live broadcast themed, "Female Inclusion in Seafaring: The Nigerian Case Study", Duniya, observed that at the lower-end of cadetship FESAN's record lists 100 junior cadets while only 3 are currently in the senior cadre of the seafaring career.

She said "We have several female seafarers whose licenses have expired and they can't renew it because they can't get jobs. The situation is bad because manning agencies are directly telling females that ship owners don't want them.

"Many females remain at the bottom because of the gender bias in the maritime industry. Some others can't progress to the senior level because



Duniya

they can't afford the necessary trainings. For those whose parents were able to send them to school for the basic training, they can't proceed further because of the high costs.

Nevertheless, if they had been able to go onboard ships, they would could utilize their stipends to augment their fees to upgrade their certificates."

## Northern Group Commend Tantita Security Over Oil Theft

A group, known as Northern Youths Progressive Network has commended Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited (TSSNL) for what it described as its enormous contribution in securing the nation's oil and gas assets as well as the resources in the Niger Delta Region.

In a statement by the Convener, Northern Youths Progressives Network, Bala Mohammed, in Lafia, the group expressed satisfaction with the gains made in the areas of arrest and bursting of criminal hideouts of crude

oil thieves in the creeks,

According to the group, it is impressed with the joint operations carried out by the Ondo State chapter of TSSNL in collaboration with the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) recently.

The statement said the operation at the criminal camp along Alowe sea shore in Ilaje Local Government Area led to the destruction of 700 kegs containing 21,000 litres of crude oil stored in a large reservoir.

"This remarkable success has no doubt

consolidated on similar feats so far this year such as the recent arrest of MT Kali and Herbert spirit vessels between January and February, 2024.

"Tantita has no doubt demonstrated capacity in the discharge of its mandate of securing our national assets in the oil and gas sector thus boosting the nation's economy through enhanced oil revenue.

"To complement this patriotic efforts, the Northern youths Progressive Network."



## MARITIME

### NIMASA Delivers Building To Institute of Marine and Transport Technology, UNIPORT

The Management of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), has handed over the ultra-modern complex housing the Institute of Marine and Transport Technology to the Management of the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. According to the Director General of NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh, the building which is a donation from NIMASA to the University, was the initiative of previous leadership of the Agency, but on assumption as the Director General he saw the need to review and commence the project.

He said, "The initiative dates back to 2012/2013 when the then DG of the Agency decided to build a maritime training institute. The initiative is not peculiar to Uniport but is present in all the six geopolitical zones of the country. Any investment in education is definitely worthwhile. Research has shown that lack of



The DG NIMASA, Dr. Bashir Jamoh, OFR (3rd right) presenting the keys of the Ultra-Modern Complex housing the Institute of Marine and Transport Technology donated by NIMASA, to the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Clifford Ofurum, while others look on in Port Harcourt, Rivers State

education is relatively responsible for maritime crimes in the Niger Delta Region. We hope beneficiaries of this Maritime institute will be instrumental in making Nigeria a major maritime nation". He said.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Abraham Georgewill, who

was represented by the VC Administration, Prof. Clifford Ofurum thanked NIMASA for selecting Uniport as the location for the Maritime institute, assuring that the University will provide adequate faculty to ensure courses are accredited and recognized globally.

### NIMASA, Sternula Sign MOU On VHF Data Exchange

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency NIMASA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU with Sternula Denmark on full-scale Very High Frequency (VHF) Data Exchange System (VDES) space capabilities between the Agency and Sternula.

The Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA Dr. Bashir Jamoh, OFR, who signed on behalf of the agency noted that the international partnership to enhance vessel to vessel/land communication in Nigeria will not only enhance safety and security of navigation in Nigerian waters, but also improve productivity of seafarers.

Jamoh, who described the move as a booster to the Agency's digitalisation efforts, said that it would further provide alternate communication channels for vessels in line with provisions of the International Maritime Organization IMO, and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities, IALA.

Accordingly, he said, "access to timely information is key to a viable seaborne transport, particularly in this dispensation of Blue Economy. In this new reality, there is the need for ship managers to gain access to quality data, which is essential for ship managers to make decisions, while also acting on market opportunities. A

well digitalized system leads to faster access to information, improved customer experience, increased productivity, lower operational costs, improved decision making, improved information security, higher mobility, and automation of business processes amongst others", Jamoh said.

The MoU signed by Jacob Weibrent of Sternula and witnessed by the Danish Consul General to Nigeria Jette Bjerrum will see to a VHF Data Exchange System connectivity via Sternula fleet micro satellites. This is to make NIMASA Africa's leading Maritime Administration with seamless communication between shores and Ships thus improving safety of Lives at Sea.

## MARITIME

### N178bn Allegation: Reps Say No Case Against NPA MD

The Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Mohammed Bello-Koko, has been exonerated of any wrong doing in the N178 billion bad debt allegations as contained in the 2019 audited financial statement of the authority.

The Chairman of the House Committee on Public Petitions, Mike Etaba, dismissed the allegations at a public hearing held at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja recently. The Forum of Non-governmental Organisations in Nigeria had accused NPA and Bello-Koko of complicity in the matter.

At the resumption of the public hearing, the forum failed to appear before the committee to defend its allegations. This made Etaba to dismiss the petition for lack of merit. According to the committee Chairman, "This is the sixth time the House Committee on Public Petition is sitting with respect to N178 bn bad debt allegations brought against the authority. The petitioner has not been in this place. The case is hereby dismissed."



### Shippers' Council To Ondo Gov: Don't Allow Ondo Deep Seaport To Die

The Nigerian Shippers' Council has appealed to the Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, not to abandon work on the Ondo deep seaport project. The seaport is sited at Olokola in Ilaje Local Government Area of the state.

The Head of the Ondo State Office of the Nigerian Shippers' Council, Engr. Emmanuel Adewumi, who spoke at a one-day awareness seminar organised by the council in Akure, the state capital, recently, said "I want to use this medium to appreciate the role of the immediate past Executive Governor of this State, the late Arakunrin

Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, but who has just gone to join the saints triumphant. It was he who spearheaded the agitations for the establishment of a Deep Sea Port at Igbokoda in Ondo State.

"As far as this project is concerned, Ondo State should be at the forefront and take advantage of this project to the benefit of the economic well-being of the state by liaising with the newly-established Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy for the early take-off of the deep seaport.

"We can no longer afford to sit on the fence. Even our neighboring states like

Ogun and Lagos State are even more prepared for the effective use of the Ondo deep seaport. One important fact we must all realise is that all over the world, the richest city/location, as well as massive employment centre in any country, is the seaport. The economic viability of seaport can not be overemphasised. Ondo State wake up."

However, in his remarks, Governor Aiyedatiwa who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mrs Funmilayo Akinola, said the project was not abandoned.



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# AUTO

## Innoson Bags Another Award For Pioneering CNG Vehicle Production In Nigeria



About two weeks after The Sun Awards highest honour of Man of the Year was bestowed on him for his feat of being the first automaker in Nigeria to commence the manufacture of a range of vehicles that run on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Chief Innocent Chukwuma, CON, has again earned another top award.

This time, the founder and Chairman of Innoson Group of Companies, owners of Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Company Ltd (IVM), Nnewi, received the Manufacturer of the Year prize at Silverbird Man of the Year Awards 2023 held at Eko Hotel & Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos on Sunday.

The organisers of both awards The Sun Publishing Ltd and the Silverbird Group said they took into consideration the fact that Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Company Ltd, commenced the manufacture of sundry CNG-powered buses and other vehicles two years ahead of the removal of fuel subsidy by government on May 29, 2023.

The Sun and Silverbird noted that the foresight as well as the ability to assess and take risks exhibited by the IVM management in venturing into the

production of CNG vehicles, was commendable.

The Silverbird Manufacturer of the Year award was presented to the General Manager, Sales & Marketing, Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Co. Ltd, Nnewi, Mr. Obum Osigwe, who represented Dr. Chukwuma at the colourful ceremony held in Lagos on Sunday, March 3, 2024.

Speaking after receiving the award, Osigwe assured that the award would encourage Innoson to intensify its efforts towards manufacturing sundry top quality vehicles as needed by the auto market in Nigeria.

The Innoson GM said, "On behalf of my boss and Chairman, Chief Dr Innocent Ifediaso Chukwuma CON, I wholeheartedly accept this prestigious award of the Manufacturer of the Year. We are grateful for this honour and we would keep doing our best for our dear nation, Nigeria.

"I would like to thank the Chairman of Silverbird Group, Senator Ben Murray-Bruce, the management and staff of the Silverbird Group for this honour. This award will spur us at Innoson Vehicles to do more and increase our effort in make vehicles Nigeria and the world will be proud of.

"Thank you for shedding light on the activities of manufacturers in Nigeria. We are immensely grateful because without you, Nigerians won't know our toils and travails in the manufacturing sector. Thank you so much and God bless our nation, Nigeria."

The Innoson team to the Silverbird Award included Charles Chukwuma, Ben Okoye, Francis Nwose, Joseph Okeke, and a Sales Representative, Onyinye Okeke.

It has been reported that Dr. Chukwuma started the production of CNG vehicles about two years before subsidy on fuel was removed and CNG became the preferred and popular alternative to petrol and diesel.

As at May 29, 2023 when the Federal Government declared that subsidy had gone, Innoson had about 100 units of sundry CNG vehicles at its premises in Nnewi, Anambra State in addition to those already delivered to customers in some parts of the country.

The automaker has embarked on the construction of a much bigger multi-billion naira IVM plant annex covering about 300 plots of land is being constructed in Nnewi, and is likely to be commissioned in the first quarter of 2024 to concentrate on manufacturing autogas vehicles.

# AUTO

## WAAS Opens May 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> At Landmark Centre, Lagos

Africa's largest automotive aftermarket exhibition will open its doors again on May 14<sup>th</sup> with more than 250 exhibitors from around the world taking part.



Now in its fourth edition, the West Africa Automotive Show (WAAS) <https://westafricaautomotive.com/> will see upwards of 4,500 professional visitors attending the three-day trade event. The exhibition and conference, which take place at the Landmark Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, is expanding into three exhibition halls, such as been the growth in interest.

Among the highlights will be a pavilion from China as well as an increased presence of companies from India and Egypt. Exhibitors will also be coming from Pakistan, Malaysia, Bangladesh, UK, Italy, the Middle East, the Americas and many other countries.

The West Africa Automotive Show is the premier event for breaking into the thriving West African Automotive Market, says the show's organiser, BtoB Events.

Georgina Lloyd, Group Exhibition Manager, comments: "West Africa Automotive Show 2024 will be back in Lagos this May, with record breaking exhibitor and visitor numbers. WAAS 2024 will be the biggest edition to date. We have expanded the show into an extra hall to accommodate the increased demand for exhibitors and visitors.

"WAAS connects suppliers, dealers, and manufacturers, creating an unparalleled networking environment exclusively tailored for West Africa's automotive industry, including auto parts and solutions. This is the ideal place to discover brand new products new to the West African markets."

Conference Chairman Luqman Mamudu, former Director at the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDCC) and Principal Partner/CEO at Transtech, is

finalising the Conference programme taking place on the first two days of the exhibition. "The WAAS 24 conference will highlight strategies for the West Africa automotive industry to grow its components and parts manufacturing," he says.

On the third day of the show, Automedics Africa will run training sessions on vehicle repair and maintenance.

Spare parts businesses from Asia and Europe accounted for more than half of exhibitors at last year's event with lubricants & oils, batteries,

accessories, wheels & tyres and paints being other sizeable exhibitor categories.

The data from WAAS 2023 also shows that more than 1,500 attendees were importers, dealers or distributors. Auto retailers accounted for more than 700 visitors while representatives from assembly plants and fleet management were other key sectors.

Admission to the West Africa Automotive Show is free, but visitors are encouraged to pre-register at <https://www.westafricaautomotive.com/pre-register/> to speed up entry on arrival.

While exhibition space is selling out, companies interested in booking a stand or looking for sponsorship opportunities should contact Miss Lloyd on Georgina.lloyd@btob-events.com or +44 (0) 2476 158101 to discuss availability and options.

### Kia EV9 Recognised In World Car Awards Categories

The 2024 Kia EV9 has been named as a *Top Three in the World* finalist in two categories for the upcoming 2024 World Car Awards. The selection places the all-electric EV9 as a contender in the final round of judging for the World Car of the Year and World Electric Vehicle titles.

Inaugurated in 2003, the World Car Awards are renowned globally as a benchmark for excellence, celebrating outstanding achievements in the automotive industry. Recognition for the Kia EV9 in this year's competition comes from a jury of more than 100 accomplished global automotive



journalists.

The 2024 Kia EV9, named as a *Top Three in the World* finalist in the World Car of the Year and World Electric Vehicle categories, is Kia's first dedicated three-row EV SUV. Embodying bold and modern design, the flagship SUV offers the latest in EV technology as well as exceptional versatility and generous space for all occupants.

# AUTO

## Jetour Models Flaunt Impressive Attributes At Lagos Motor Show



Starting from its superb performance at the Abuja Motor Fair which held late last year at the International Conference Centre, Jetour Mobility Services has once again stolen the show with its models at the Lagos Motor Show, which held at the Tafawa Balewa Square (TBS), February 16 to 17, 2024.

The show offered the company the opportunity to showcase its superlative models cutting across the Dashing, X70 Plus Elegance, X90 Plus Cruise and the X70 Liberty.

Its pavilion constructed like a mini showroom, cosy and welcoming, stood out and obviously attracted almost all quality visitors to the fair.

It showcased the X90 Plus Cruise as the lead of the pack, offering fantastic and mouth-watering features that are hard to find in its class.

With the Jetour X90 Plus, what you find are affluent experience.

Compared to its peers, the Jetour X90 Plus offers enviable manoeuvrability and stability courtesy of its 1780mm height and exciting interior space based on its 4858mm length and 1925mm width.

Its sophisticated nature is emboldened by the hexagonal chrome-plated front grill, complemented by Tri-LED headlights.

Connecting its double waistline is a new angular designed bumper, stealthy housing, front cameras and radar sensor. The 5-Star safety-rated vehicle comes

with 75% high-strength steel body cage, 360-degree panoramic camera with front and rear radar, as well as advanced safety features.

Its 1.6 litre four-cylinder Turbo engine is made to deliver 197 bhp of max power, just as its 7-speed DCT transmission powers the front wheels seamlessly. It also comes with a 2.0 litre Turbo engine that delivers 254 bhp of max power in addition to the 1.6 L engine.

Also displayed was the X70 Plus compact Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) that is pragmatic, stylish, comfortable and delivers power on demand.

It offers an intelligent air purification system, intuitive infotainment system, advanced wireless technology, 360-degree parking system and an electrical 6-directional control driver seat.

Other features include cruise control, lane departure warning system, blind spot monitoring, keyless entry start, multi-functional steering wheel, anti-lock brake system, front and back airbags and tyre pressure monitoring system among others.

Paired with a 7-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission, the vehicle's 1.6-litre turbo engine produces a maximum of 197 horsepower, facilitating better fuel consumption efficiency.

Still on the Jetour line up is the X70. The seven-seater SUV produced for people who desire modern technology, comfort, adventure, and affordable luxury. The 1.5-litre turbocharged engine delivers a maximum power output of 147

horsepower and a torque output of 210 Nm.

The X70 range comes with a sleek and modern design. Its front features aggressive and sporty styling coupled with sleek headlights that give the X70 a bold appearance.

There is also the Jetour Dashing, coming with a conventional petrol engine. 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.

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

Measuring 4,590/1,900/1,685mm with a 2,720mm wheelbase, the vehicle features a progressive design with sharply cut lines and sporty touches, to attract young buyers.

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.

Marketing and technical personnel of Jetour Mobility Service were on hand at the Jetour stand to attend to the numerous visitors to the show ground.

The show was graced by prominent personalities, among them the Emir of Borgu kingdom, Niger State, Mohammed Haliru Dantoro.



# SPECIAL SECTION

## Julius Berger: Excitement As Bayi, Meletschus Retire, Kaita, Stolle Take Over

**R**etiring and new directors of the country's leading engineering construction company, Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, shone like a thousand stars recently when the Board, management and staff honoured them with a befitting Farewell cum Welcome party that had all the trappings of an industry-wide event. In attendance were former Executive Director,

Administration, Alhaji Zubairu Ibrahim Bayi, fniob and the former Executive Director, Corporate Development, Mr. Tobias Meletschus.

While the newly appointed Director, Administration, Alhaji Dr. Abdulaziz Kaita and his Corporate Development colleague, Mr Jochen Stolle were formally received into their new offices.

Chairman of the Board, Mutiu

Sunmonu CON who described the event as a celebration of square pegs, said Bayi is a great listener and was a cerebral Executive Director and Board member that he has ever worked with.

The Managing Director, Engr. Dr. Lars Richter spoke in similar vein saying that the two retiring Directors were epitomes of hard work and success.



Members of Julius Berger's Board of Directors including the retired and incoming appointees. L-R: Financial Director, Christian Hausemann, Outgoing Executive Director, Corporate Development, Tobias Meletschus, Vice Chairman, George Marks, Outgoing Executive Director, Administration, Alh. Zubairu Ibrahim Bayi, fniob, Chairman of the Board, Mr. Mutiu Sunmonu, CON, Managing Director, Engr. Dr. Lars Richter, Non-Executive Director, Mrs Gladys O. Talabi, Non-Executive Director Mr. Chidi Anya, incoming Director, Administration, Alh. Dr. Abdulaziz Kaita and incoming Director, Corporate Development, Mr. Jochen Stolle at the Farewell-Welcome event in Abuja recently.

Managing Director, Engr. Dr. Lars Richter giving his remarks at the landmark event recently



# SPECIAL SECTION



Outgoing Executive Director, Administration, Alh. Zubairu Ibrahim Bayi, fniob, (L) and the new Director, Administration, Alh. Dr. Abdulaziz Kaita giving their speeches at the event.



Retiring Executive Director, Corporate Development, Mr. Tobias Meletchus, (l) and the new Director, Mr. Jochen Stolle delivering their respective addresses at the Julius Berger occasion recently.



L-R: Managing Director, Engr. Dr. Lars Richter, retiring Executive Director, Administration, Alh. Zubairu Ibrahim Bayi and his wife, Hajiya Amina Zubairu Bayi displaying their gifts at the event with Board Chairman, Mutiu Sunmonu, CON standing by her left side.





# SPECIAL SECTION



L-R: Board Chairman, Mutiu Sunmonu, CON, retiring Executive Director, Corporate Development, Mr. Tobias Meletchus and the Managing Director, Engr. Dr Lars Richter share some light moments together with the gifts given to the outgoing Executive Director at the event.



L-R: Retiring Executive Director, Administration, Alh. Zubairu Ibrahim Bayi, Managing Director, Julius Berger International, Dr. Peer Lubash and outgoing Executive Director, Corporate Development, Tobias Meletchus at the display of gifts from Julius Berger International.



# SPECIAL SECTION



Far end, middle, Board Secretary, Cecilia Maduekwe. 1st right is Julius Berger's Chief Risk Officer, Mrs Shakira Mustapha among others at the event.

# AVIATION

## Nigeria, France Sign Bilateral Aviation Agreement

**N**igeria and France have signed a bilateral aviation exploration agreement to further boost relationship between the two countries. An aide to the Hon. Minister on Media and Communications, Tunde Moshood, said in a statement that the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, recently led a high-powered Nigerian delegation on a 4-day bilateral working visit to France.

“Festus Keyamo, who was accompanied by esteemed CEOs and directors from various Nigerian aviation agencies, including Mrs. Olubunmi Kuku, MD of FAAN; Captain Chris Najomo, acting Director General of NCAA, and Engr. Faruk Umar of NAMA, the delegation embarked on a thorough aviation business exploration across key cities including Paris, Marseille, Toulouse, and Orly.

“The bilateral business meeting commenced today, Tuesday, March 5th, with Minister Keyamo meeting with the Director General of French Civil Aviation, Damien Caze, and his team. Minister Keyamo presented a compelling roadmap for the Nigerian aviation industry, emphasising the urgent need for infrastructure upgrades and inviting private investors to participate in this endeavour.

“During the session, stakeholders from the Nigerian delegation, including MDs of FAAN and NAMA, as well as the acting DG of NCAA, delivered insightful presentations on topics ranging from aircraft financing and



insurance to the modernisation of navigational equipment and capacity-building initiatives.

“The French aviation stakeholders, including PROAVIA, ASTech Paris Region, and BPI France, expressed keen interest in partnering with Nigeria, acknowledging the country's vast potential in the aviation industry. Vice President of AerCap, Gad Wavomba, also pledged to explore business opportunities with Nigeria, citing the country's attractiveness for investment.

“Other stakeholders who added their voices are the MD of SAHCO, Adenike Aboderin who spoke on the economic potentials of partnering with the Nigerian Cargo business while the Managing Director of Aero Contractors, Capt. Ado Sanusi also threw more light on aircraft leasing and the benefits of investing in the giant of

Africa, a country of 240m people reputed to be Africa's commercial nerves.

“The Nigerian delegation includes prominent figures from the aviation sector such as Emmanuel Fubara SAN, Chairman of Bristow Helicopters, George Urensi, MD of Ibom Air,

and Capt. Ado Sanusi, Chairman of Aero Contractors, among others.

“Other prominent participants at the ongoing Nigeria France business forum are the COO of Airpeace, Oluwatoyin Olajide, Chairman, Aero Contractors, Capt. Ado Sanusi, MD, SAHCOL, Aboderin Adenike, MD, Kasi Healthcare Helicopters, Osholowu Gbolahan, Chairman, and CEO of SkyJet Aviation and Barbados Group, Shettima Kashim Bukar, Managing Director, XJet Aviation, Iza Emmanuel Abuya, Chairman, Azman Air, Abdulmunaf Yunusa Sarina, Managing Director, NG Eagle, Gaya Kabiru, Founder/CEO, Green Africa, Afolabi Babawande, Chairman NAHCO, Seinde Fadani Folorunsho, among others.

“Following the meetings in Paris, the delegation will proceed to Marseille, visit the Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, and conclude the business discussions in Orly with an audience with the management of Thales. Minister Keyamo expressed optimism about the outcomes of the visit, stating, “We are confident that this bilateral engagement will pave the way for fruitful collaborations and investment opportunities in Nigeria's aviation industry.”

## Dangote Names Refinery Road After Herbert Wigwe

**A**frica's richest man, Aliko Dangote has named the road to the Dangote Refinery, Herbert Wigwe road.

Announcing this at the Night of Tribute for the late banker and Chief Executive Officer of Access Corporation Plc, Dangote described Herbert as a loyal friend and a pillar of support for him and

his family.

Dangote described the late Herbert as a visionary role model with courage second to none.

He said “I am proud to name him my devoted friend, mentee and supporter. I will forever cherish the warm of his friendship.”

## AVIATION

# FAAN MD, Others Attend ACI Africa Conference, Explore Potential Partnerships

The Managing Director/Chief Executive of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Mrs. Olunmi Kuku, has made an impressive appearance at the 71st Airports Council International (ACI) Africa Board Meeting, Regional Committee Meetings Regional Conference and Exhibition, which held in Cairo, Egypt, from February 24th to March 1st, 2024.

According to a Press Statement by the Director, Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, FAAN, Mrs Obiageli Orah, "This marked a significant milestone for her leadership and the strategic advancement of FAAN."

This year's conference theme is 'Airports: Levers of Socioeconomic and Sustainable Growth.'

The event provided a platform for African airports, global technical partners, investors, and consultants to interact with each other, even as the discussions focused on the transformative agenda of airports post-COVID and shaping the trajectory of aviation excellence.

The CEO of the Egyptian Holding Company for Airports and Air Navigation, Engineer Mohamed Saeed Mahrous, was the primary host of the conference and he emphasised the commitment of ACI to transforming airports into catalysts for development and efficiency.

During the conference, Mrs. Kuku actively engaged in exclusive sessions tailored for airport chief executives and board members.

These discussions revolved around governance, regulatory frameworks, and setting strategic directions for airports across the continent, emphasising collaborative governance models for enhanced operational efficiency and sustainability.

FAAN added that "A key focus of Mrs.



Kuku's attendance was fostering relationships with fellow CEOs and exploring potential partnerships to leverage innovative technologies for revolutionizing airport operations, passenger experiences, and safety standards.

"Under her guidance, collaborative discussions centered on integrating cutting-edge technology within airport ecosystems. Topics ranged from biometric screening to advanced baggage handling systems and digital passenger services, all aimed at establishing new benchmarks for passenger service excellence.

"Mrs. Kuku underscored the importance of enhancing passenger services and air connectivity through technological integration and personalized passenger experiences. She explored strategies with airline executives and service providers to enhance air connectivity, aiming to increase passenger traffic and accessibility for FAAN-operated

airports.

"Understanding the dynamic nature of the aviation sector's financial landscape, Mrs. Kuku participated in strategic discussions on diversifying revenue streams. This included exploring non-aeronautical revenue avenues such as retail, real estate, and digital services to ensure financial sustainability and growth for FAAN.

"In conclusion, the successful participation of Mrs. Olunmi Kuku at the ACI Africa Conference has laid a robust foundation for FAAN's strategic trajectory in the years to come. Her engagements have opened

doors for collaborative projects, technological advancements, and enhanced service delivery models. Leveraging the insights and connections garnered from the conference, FAAN is set to achieve objectives of operational excellence, heightened passenger satisfaction, and robust revenue generation.

"Mrs. Kuku remains dedicated to leveraging the outcomes of the conference to reinforce FAAN's position as a leader in Africa's aviation industry, aligning with global best practices and innovative service delivery."

Some of the participants from Nigeria at this year's conference were Capt. Abdullahi Zubeir Mahmood, FAAN's Director of Airport Operations, and Femi Bajomo, Special Adviser to the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development on Foreign Direct Investments and Capital Improvement Programs.

# AVIATION

## How To Avoid Theft At Airports

### Carry On Your Valuables

The best option is clear: never let your property out of sight. At an airport, that means keeping all valuables in your carry-on luggage, and keeping that luggage with you at all times. In this case, if you check a bag, it should only contain items that would be unlikely to attract thieves (inexpensive toiletries, replaceable clothing, paperwork that doesn't contain sensitive personal information, and so on).



However, this is not always possible. Your valuables may be too large or heavy, or they may be considered TSA restricted items (alcohol, knives, medical equipment, etc.).

### Check Your Valuables With Firearm

For obvious reasons, airport security is motivated to carefully monitor and track all luggage that contains declared firearms. Therefore, this category of luggage should be much less likely to be lost or tampered with. Also, special rules are applied to this luggage: it must be locked in a hard-sided container, and "only the passenger retains the key or combination".

### Skip The TSA Approved Locks

Many frequent-flyers use TSA-approved locks on their luggage, based on the logic that a locked bag will look more difficult to access, thus deterring opportunistic criminals. While it's true that locks may be an effective deterrent in some cases, these TSA locks are

### notoriously easy to defeat.

In fact, schematics for a complete set of working **TSA master keys** is available *for free* on the internet. Anyone with access to a 3D printer can easily produce a set of keys that will open any TSA lock immediately.

### Avoid Luggage With Zippers

Remember the proverb, *a chain is only as strong as its weakest link*. We often put too much faith in locks, when the hardware that surrounds those locks may well be the proverbial weakest link.

It's easy for a dishonest baggage handler to pop open the zipper, rifle through your belongings, and return the zipper to its original position. It's not even necessary to touch the lock.

Consider Your Luggage's Appearance Those who adhere to the gray man philosophy may like the idea of generic-looking luggage, but this is one area where a distinctive appearance can work to your advantage. Whether it's an unusual

paint scheme, brightly-colored accents, or markings on the exterior, unique-looking luggage provides several benefits.

On the other hand, security through obscurity can be useful at times. If your bag is tattered, faded, and frayed at the seams, criminals may think it's worthless and might overlook it. However, weight and other factors may sufficiently hint at its true contents. These are all factors you should consider.

### Conclusion

All security measures are in a constant arms race with their opposing countermeasures. If you're traveling around with the Hope Diamond, you'd better have it handcuffed to your wrist in a bombproof case with GPS tracking and an armed escort. For the rest of us, it's logical to take security precautions according to the value of our gear and the risks of the airports we'll be traveling through. By Patrick Mccarthy, Offgrid web.

# AVIATION

## Qatar Airways, Access Bank Offer Discounted Air Tickets



**Q**atar Airways and Access Bank are offering the bank's customers across Africa exclusive discounts on flights.

As announced by Access bank, it is aimed at easing the financial barriers to air travel. It is expected that Qatar airways will offer a 12 per cent discount on both business and economy class tickets to Access Bank customers who book their flights online using their USD debit card on Qatar Airways' website.

Access bank, in a statement, noted that from February 14 to March 31, 2024, Access Bank customers, using the promo code "ACCESS", can book

flights to any destination in the world and travel up till June 30, 2024 to access the 12 per cent discount.

Qatar Airways, Vice President, Africa, Hendrik du Preez stated: "As we are in the season of love and passengers tend to want to travel to spend time with loved ones, our priority at Qatar Airways remains broadening opportunities to travel for our passengers in the African market.

"Although Africa stands as the most underserved market, we strongly believe in the power of partnerships like these in transforming travel within the continent. We are proud to partner with respected pan-African financial institutions like Access Bank to

provide innovative incentives for passengers and customers."

Access Bank Executive Director for Corporate and Investment Banking, Iyabo Soji-Okusanya, expressed enthusiasm about the partnership.

"Our team is delighted to collaborate with Qatar Airways to bring exceptional travel benefits to our valued customers. This offering aligns with our commitment to enhancing the overall experience for those who choose Access Bank and continue to do so every year. By providing exclusive discounts on Qatar Airways flights, we aim to make travel more accessible and enjoyable for our customers," she said.

## Dana Air Introduces Exclusive Rewards for Club Members

**D**ana Air has introduced an array of additional rewards for its frequent flier club members.

According to the airline, the initiative aims to express gratitude to loyal customers and ensure that they continue to enjoy seamless travel experiences despite the current challenges in the industry.

Speaking on the new initiative for Dana Miles Club members, the Chief Operating Officer of Dana Air,

Ememobong Ettete, said: "Dana Air recognizes the dedication and loyalty of its frequent flier club members and understands the impact of increasing fares on their travel plans. In light of this, we are pleased to announce exclusive benefits tailored to reward and retain our cherished customers.

"At the moment, Dana Miles members enjoy discount on their booking using miles, priority check-in and boarding, members-only rewards, discount at partner outlets and lots more and

having considered the current state of the industry and the economy, it is only fair to excite customers who remain loyal to us in good and in challenging times.

"We wish to reaffirm our commitment to delivering exceptional service and acknowledge the importance of customer loyalty. We encourage more travelers to join Dana Miles to enjoy exclusive and unparalleled benefits with a commitment to making every journey memorable," Ettete added.



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# NEWS

## AfCFTA : Trading Among Africans Still Below 5%



# AfCFTA

The African share of global trade remained at less than three per cent, driven largely by merchandise trade in 2023, a report on the assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa has said.

The report by the Economic Commission for Africa showed that African nations still engage in more trade with countries outside the continent than with each other.

The report showed that despite progress in monetary and financial integration, member states had not met the macroeconomic convergence criteria despite progress in regional integration.

According to the report, "The African share of global trade remained at less than three per cent, driven largely by merchandise trade, an indicator that

African countries continue to trade with the rest of the world more than among themselves."

It was also noted that although the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area officially started on January 1, 2021, the anticipated improvements in trade between African countries had not materialised.

## NADDC, FUPRE In Talks Over EV

The National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) and the Federal University of Petroleum Resources (FUPRE), Effurum, Delta State, are on the verge of fostering closer synergy on Electric Vehicle Technology.

This was disclosed during a courtesy visit by the Vice Chancellor of FUPRE, Engr. Prof. Akpofure Rim Rukeh to the NADDC Headquarters on Thursday 15th February, 2024.

Speaking at the meeting, Engr. Prof. Rim Rukeh applauded the NADDC Boss for his high level of dedication to duty and the energy to drive the Nigeria Automotive Industry forward.

The Vice Chancellor said the visit was to strengthen the already existing

relationship between the two organisations.

He seized the opportunity to express the readiness of the University to key into the Vehicle Electrification programme of the Council for greener future, adding that the EV Charging Station would add value to the College of Engineering & Technology in the University.

In his response, the Director General, NADDC, Joseph Osanipin stated that the Council by its mandate would continue to engage relevant stakeholders with a view to harnessing the potentials in the sector and propelling the local automotive industry to an enviable height.

He said "We can leverage on some of the expertise you have for more

productive engagement with your University, especially in the area of Mechatronics training".

Osanipin expressed his heartfelt gratitude and commended the University for their achievements, not only in the petroleum sector but also in the Auto Industry which has played a pivotal role in fostering Engineering development in the country within a stretch of time.

The University had won the Shell Eco Marathon Award in two different competitions, in view of their academic excellence.

It would be recalled that the NADDC in line with its Vehicle Electrification Programme had established EV/Solar - Powered charging stations in three Universities in Nigeria.



## NEWS

## Nissan To Introduce Self-driving Taxi Service

**N**issan is planning to launch a self-driving taxi service in Japan in the financial year starting April 2027, the auto giant said recently.

The company said it would begin trials of the commercial service in the upcoming financial year from April, using minivans in an area of Yokohama, south of Tokyo.

“Local communities have been facing several mobility challenges, such as driver shortages, which are a result of an ageing population,” Nissan said in a statement.

It plans to work with local authorities and transport operators on the venture to “provide a broad range of new services that enable free movement”.

Japan is far from the only place with autonomous vehicles on the roads, but its government has set acceleration of the technology as a key priority as it



faces labour shortages and an ageing population in need of transport.

Since last year, road traffic laws have allowed “Level 4” self-driving vehicles to operate on public roads in certain circumstances. Vehicle autonomy is

classified along a scale from 0-5, with 5 indicating essentially total autonomy.

Nissan says it has been “testing business models for self-driving mobility services in Japan and abroad since 2017”.

Last year, its rival Honda, US auto giant General Motors and GM's autonomous driving unit Cruise announced they would establish a joint venture which will begin a driverless ride service in Japan in early 2026.

Toyota is also planning a pilot project using automated vehicles in the Odaiba area of Tokyo from July, a spokesman told AFP.

From 2025 Toyota plans to launch a paid service and expand it to other districts of central Tokyo, in what will be likely be Japan's first automated driving service on public roads with other vehicles, the Yomiuri daily reported this month.

“We are working with related stakeholders to discuss various aspects of future automated driving (including the level of automated driving), but details have not yet been finalised,” the spokesman said.-AFP

## Tricyclists Support Soludo's Tax Regime

**T**ricycle operators in Awka North and South Local Government Areas of Anambra State under the aegis of Anambra Keke Drivers Forum (AKDF), have inspected some road projects of the state Governor, Chukwuma Soludo, in the area.

The operators, who were recently mobilised by their Coordinator, Mr. Osita Obi, said they were satisfied with the ongoing road construction across the state by the governor, describing it as proof of accountability for their taxes.

This is come against the initial protests staged by the operators over the taxes imposed by the state government.

Coordinator of the tricyclists forum, Obi, said: “The essence of this inspection today is for keke drivers to see what the governor is doing, and where the tax they're paying are

deployed to.

“We praise the governor where he's doing well and ask him to continue. We also want more Keke drivers to come into the government tax net, so that the government would have more money to embark on more roads.

“This exercise is not politically motivated. I'm not swayed by any political party, but totally dependent. I praise what is good and criticise what is bad.

“This is my brain-child. I'm the sponsor, originator, financier and facilitator of this forum. I'm not a Keke driver, but I came in as a rights activist when I saw the heavy tax being imposed on this people. We led a protest to the governor, and he listened and disbanded some groups that were collecting illegal tax from this people.”

# ENERGY

## Greenville Expand LNG, CNG Gas Expansion, Signs MOU For Mother Station In Enugu

**N**igeria's pioneer and leading domestic liquefied natural gas (LNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) company, Greenville LNG, has taken another major investment step to expand its operational presence in Southeast geo-political zone of the country.

According to a press statement released by the company's Head of Communications, Media, PR and Strategic Liaison, Prince Moses Duku, fnipr, "Greenville LNG from its strategic and first-of-its-kind in West Africa Gas Liquefaction Plant at Rumuji in Rivers State, as well as the company's investment in its actively operational virtual pipeline system run by its more than 500 LNG-powered specialised trucks, has boldly initiated a visionary and strong determination to meaningfully implement a positive interventionist partnership with the Nigerian government, business community and people to engender a more sustainable industrial development agenda and an empowering home-grown energy security pivoting on Nigeria's abundant gas resource.

"Greenville LNG is on an intentional technical and corporate mission not only to support, but also to proactively and sustainably spike up real time productive enterprise with a generative multiplier effect on GDP-enhancing commerce across the length and breadth of Nigeria."

Speaking to the media in Enugu at the signing of an agreement between the Enugu State Government and Greenville LNG for the establishment of an LNG/LCNG Mother Station at Ugwu Onyeama, Amuku Abor in Enugu south east Nigeria, Moses Duku



said, "...through the production and distribution of cleaner, more affordable and more reliably available liquefied natural gas and compressed natural gas to manufacturing industries, power plants to support the national grid, and the automotive sector, Greenville LNG has signalled its patriotic operational commitment to a progressive partnership with Nigeria for the country's desirable and unstoppable march to a sustainably developed, successful and economically thriving Nigeria and its people."

He added that, "...with Greenville's top quality and more affordable LNG and CNG production, reliable availability through the assured virtual pipeline gas delivery system of the company, Nigeria's industrial developmental revolution and spinoff is right here in our country; Nigeria's dependable energy future is practically here, and our country's productive capacities are set to be unleashed like never before.

"That is Greenville LNG's promise and that is Greenville LNG's work and progressive commitment to the Federal and State governments as well as to the nation's productive industrial complex. It is in continuation of this corporate

mission, that Greenville LNG has come to Enugu to birth its business operations with our Mother LNG/LCNG Station upon which many daughter stations will also anchor across the State to serve Ndi Enugu."

On the critical issue of affordability by users, Moses Duku said that Greenville LNG's provision of LNG and CNG as alternative fuels in Enugu State through the Mother

and ensuing daughter stations will substantially reduce the cost of transportation of goods and services as well as the cost of manufacturing immediately by about 30 to 40 %.

Dr Peter Mbah, Esq. administration in Enugu State enunciates a governing philosophy which states that it has a mission "to make Enugu one of the top 3 States in Nigeria in terms of Gross Domestic Product and achieve a 0% rate in the poverty headcount index."

Emphatic and upbeat on the governing protocols of transparency, traceability, accountability, disruptive innovation, optimal performance, participatory monitoring and process and project evaluation, His Excellency, Dr Peter Mbah, Esq, the Governor of Enugu State, in his vision that aligns and synergises perfectly with Greenville's more reliable, more affordable, cleaner, more socially responsible and more environmentally friendly LNG/CNG utilisation agenda, says hopefully to Ndi Enugu, "Tomorrow is here."

*Read Full Text on - <https://transportday.com.ng/greenville-expand-lng-cng-gas-expansion-signs-mou-for-mother-station-in-enugu/>*

# ENERGY

## Five Places You Can Convert Your Petrol Car To CNG



**D**ue to the hardship and rising cost of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), otherwise known as petrol, many drivers in Nigeria are turning to compressed natural gas (CNG) as a more affordable and environmentally friendly option.

The cost of fuel has become a significant concern for motorists, coupled with the economic issues of inflation, which has tripled the prices of goods and commodities.

Against this background of hardship, CNG is a viable alternative to traditional gasoline or diesel.

### Why convert to CNG?

Converting your car to run on CNG offers several compelling benefits. Firstly, CNG is typically cheaper than gasoline or diesel, resulting in immediate savings on fuel expenses.

Additionally, CNG produces lower emissions compared to conventional fuels, making it a more environmentally friendly option.

CNG-powered vehicles often experience improved engine performance and longevity due to cleaner combustion.

In this light, converting your car to run on CNG can lead to substantial savings on fuel expenses and cushion the effect of hardship over time.

In case you're considering making the switch, here are five reputable places in Nigeria where you can convert your car

to CNG:

### NIPCO Plc

NIPCO Plc is a major player in the Nigerian oil and gas industry, and they have recently ventured into the CNG market.

With their extensive network of fuel stations across the country, NIPCO Plc offers convenient access to CNG conversion services for motorists nationwide.

Their skilled technicians ensure seamless installation and optimal performance of CNG conversion kits.

### Green Gas Nigeria

Green Gas Nigeria is a leading provider of CNG conversion services in Nigeria.

With a focus on sustainability and affordability, they offer high-quality CNG conversion kits and professional installation services for a wide range of vehicles. Green Gas Nigeria is located in Lagos.

### Premier LPG Limited

Premier LPG Limited is a trusted name in the Nigerian energy sector, offering a range of solutions for cleaner and more sustainable transportation.

In addition to providing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for vehicles, Premier LPG also specializes in CNG conversions.

The company ensures seamless integration of CNG systems into

vehicles, enabling motorists to enjoy significant savings on fuel costs. Premier LPG is located in Lagos and Abuja.

Rholuck Services Nigeria Limited specializes in providing alternative fuel solutions, including CNG conversions, to customers in Nigeria.

Their team of experienced technicians utilizes state-of-the-art equipment and technology to ensure safe and efficient conversions. Rholuck is located in Abuja, Nigeria's capital.

### Nigerian Gas Company (NGC)

As a subsidiary of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the Nigerian Gas Company (NGC) is at the forefront of promoting the use of natural gas as a cleaner and more affordable fuel source.

NGC collaborates with certified conversion workshops and service providers across Nigeria to facilitate the conversion of vehicles to CNG.

With the rising cost of fuel in Nigeria, converting your car to run on CNG is a practical and cost-effective solution.

By making this bold energy transition, you can enjoy the benefits of CNG while contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable future. Make the switch today and start saving on fuel costs!

# RAILWAY

## Tinubu Commissions Lagos Redline Train

President Bola Tinubu, on Thursday, February 29, formally inaugurated the 37 kilometres Red Line rail in Lagos. The train is the first phase of the project, which will run from Oyungbo in Lagos state to Agbado in Ogun State.

According to the state government, when fully operational, the line will run 37 trips and convey about 500,000 passengers daily.

With the commissioning, it brings to two the rail lines owned and operated by the Lagos State Government. The first, The Blue Line, runs from Marina to Mile 2. It is expected to be extended to Okokomaiko.

The first phase of the Lagos Redline Rail has eight stations, namely: Agbado, Iju, Agege, Ikeja, Oshodi, Mushin, Yaba and Oyingbo.

The train is expected to reduce travel time on the corridor. It will also reduce traffic gridlock, road accidents and ensure the safety of commuters.

As part of the state's inter-modal



connectivity public transportation infrastructure, the Redline is integrated with Bus Terminals at Ikeja, Oshodi, Oyingbo, Ikeja, Yaba and Iju. The Red Line will run on the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) standard

gauge corridor.

To guarantee the safety of commuters and residents, the rail corridor has 10 vehicular overpasses and pedestrian bridges to separate the train from vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

## Port Harcourt-Aba Train Services To Resume Operations This Month

The Nigerian Railway Corporation has affirmed that the train services on Port Harcourt to Aba route will start operation by the end of March.

The Port Harcourt-Aba rail project is part of the larger Port Harcourt-Maiduguri railroad project initiated by President Muhammadu Buhari's administration.

The Managing Director of NRC, Mr. Fidet Okhiria, made the resumption disclosure in Port Harcourt last week, after leading a delegation to test-run the reconstructed Eastern Narrow Gauge Rail line.

He said workers were currently putting finishing touches on the tracks to ensure that full train operation could begin within the month. "I am impressed with what I saw today,

especially being able to ride the locomotive and wagon on the tracks.

"Last time we visited, we could not use the train because the contractor said it was not proper to run on the train due to imbalance of the tracks.

"The Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Sambo, has directed that the Port Harcourt route be connected to rail as well as initiate the linkage of Onne Port," he said.

Okhiria expressed confidence that the contractor would complete the 'tampering' of the railroad within two weeks, preceding the targeted three weeks for the train services to resume.

"We are pushing the contractor to make the track safe by deploying semi-automatic signalling of the machine points rather than manual operation.

"Despite resource challenges, the

contractors are doing their best, and our goal is to achieve this within the next two weeks.

"With this, we aim to commence passenger train services hopefully within March and fully resume transporting people from Port Harcourt to Aba by the end of March," he assured.

The managing director said the project design team had started designing a rail track to connect the Port Harcourt-Aba railroad line to the Onne sea port. He stated that NRC had begun collaborating with the port's terminal manager and leading engineers to ensure a smooth project delivery.

"The initial design has been done and handed over to us. We look at it, make corrections and seek approval. Once approved, work will commence," he added.

## RAILWAY

# Minister Calls On Other Governors To Emulate Lagos In Railway Development

Following the successful inauguration of the Lagos Red line rail, the Minister of Transport, Senator Sa'id Alkali, has urged other states to emulate Lagos State in railway development.

Alkali said that collaborative efforts between the Federal and State Governments enhances the wellbeing of the nation and its economy. The Red Line will run on the existing Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) track.

He said this at the official commissioning of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Red Line recently by President Bola Tinubu.

The transport minister noted that the historic moment being celebrated reflected the collaborative efforts of the Lagos State and the federal, which had led to the commissioning of the Red Line project.

He added that the ministry would work together with some state governors to achieve railway connection.

"I assure you that the Federal Ministry of Transportation is committed to providing support and expertise to consolidate this laudable achievement.

"Today's commissioning is a singular promise in achieving this milestone in our administration. This will lead to high connectivity, improve livelihood, boost trade and improve visibility.

"The Federal Ministry of Transportation will support the realisation of the Renewed Hope Agenda of Mr President," he said.

The Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Cui Jianchun, commended Nigeria for giving them the opportunity to complete the Blue Line project.

Jianchun said the project would contribute immensely to Nigeria's development.

"Mr President, today in China we celebrate an auspicious day which is a symbol of good things, and this shows



that the commencement of the Red line project being today will be more successful.

"I also congratulate Mr President for making the 20-year project completed and we also want to use this opportunity to improve more on infrastructure and technology.

"There is need to improve more on security which will improve the country's economic Gross Domestic Product generation," he said.

The Deputy Governor, Lagos State, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, said that the commissioning of the project would not have been possible without President Tinubu's vision during his tenure as governor of Lagos with the establishment of the Lagos State Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA).

Hamzat pointed out that on Jan. 24, 2023, the Lagos State Government commissioned the Blue line which had five stations from Marina to Mile 2, now moving over 250,000 passengers on daily basis.

"The two Lagos rails completion is the first of its kind in West and Central Africa and the commissioning of the Red Line shows our administration's

commitment to uphold the electoral policies.

"We pledge our total commitment to transport infrastructure of Lagos State," Hamzat said.

The Red Line project is a 37km rail route from Agbado to Oyingbo with stations at Agbado, Iju, Agege, Ikeja, Oshodi, Mushing, Yaba, Oyingbo, Iddo. It will later be linked to Ebute Ero and Marina.

As agreed by the Federal Government and LASG, the Red Line project is sharing the NRC rail track from Agbado to Ebute Metta Junction (EBJ) and then carry-on across the Lagoon to Marina via Iddo, with the Marina station sharing the hub with the Blue Line station integrated with other transport modes.

The Red Line is using the International Standard Gauge (1435mm) and is expected to carry 750,000 passengers daily at inception and 1,100,000 when fully operational.

The Red Line LRMT project is entirely funded by the LASG through a development loan syndication from domestic commercial banks.

# UNIONS, ASSOCIATIONS

## None Of Our Members Arrested For Importation Of Hard Drugs-MWUN

The Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN), has refuted reports linking its member to two seized containers at the Tin Can Port laden with 56.39kg of Cocaine and 795kg of Colorado.

This is coming on the backdrop of reports that the Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, arrested one Falowo Samuel Kayode a Dockworker alongside other culprits in connection with two seized containers with Nos. MSCU 4581770 and TRHU 7968071 were laden with 56.39kg of Cocaine and 795kg of Colorado respectively.

However, in a statement by the Union's President-General, Prince Adewale Adeyanju, through John Ikemefuna, Head of Media, MWUN insisted that none of its members was arrested for drugs.

Among others, the statement said "The Maritime Workers Union wishes to

draw the attention of the NDLEA to the fact that the said arrested Falowo Samuel Kayode is a staff of Five Star Logistics Terminal and not a member

of the Dockworkers Branch of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria. Hence, the Union wants to clear the air



### EFCC Boss Cautions Transporters On Illegal Mining

Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Ola Olukoyede, has called on members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) to resist being used as accomplices by illegal miners across the country.

He gave the charge in Ilorin during a meeting with the executive members of the two transport unions at the Ilorin Zonal Command of the EFCC.

Olukoyede, who spoke through the Ilorin zonal commander, Michael Nzekwe, noted that the meeting became necessary in order to sensitise members of the unions against fouling the law as some truck owners and drivers had been found to be providing transport services for illegal miners.

"The purpose of this meeting is to educate and enlighten you that it is an offence to mine minerals without license, just as it is an offence to possess or convey minerals without permit. You are therefore enjoined to warn your members not to allow themselves or release their trucks to be used for carrying out illegal activities," he said.

The EFCC boss who reminded leaders of the transport unions that illegal mining is an economic sabotage punishable with life imprisonment under Section 1(8) (b) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act Cap M17, 1983 enjoined members of the transport unions to always demand for the mining license of any miner seeking their services to avoid being complicit in illegitimate mining.

that Falowo Samuel Kayode is not in any way a Dockworker under the MWUN as against the various reports by some sections of the press.

"The Union also wants the media to correct this erroneous report associating the said arrested Falowo Samuel Kayode with the name of this great Union.

"MWUN has been on a vigorous campaign against the peddling of hard drugs within the Ports and its environs, knowing full well that indulging in such acts would be detrimental to the image of the country among the comity of maritime nations.

"MWUN has taken campaigns across all the ports formations nationwide sensitizing its members not to be involved in narcotics in any form. The Union has also warned that members must not engage themselves with importers, barons, and clearing agents over the handling and discharge of narcotics at the ports; and that any member found wanting ceases to be a member of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria.

# NEWS

## NBA Drags IG To Court Over CMR, Demand Refund of N6000 To All Motorists Nationwide

The Nigerian Bar Association Section on Public Interest and Development Law has sued the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, over the issuance of the Central Motor Information System for vehicle owners across the country.

The police had in December 2023 unveiled CMRIS as one of the means to help the police have essential details of vehicle owners in its database.

However, according to the NBA-SPIDEL, obtaining the certificate from the Nigeria Police Force costs N6,000.

However, in a letter dated January 29, the NBA-SPIDEL Chairman, John Aikpokpo-Martins, and Secretary, Funmi Adeogun, described the issuance of the certificate illegal and issued a seven-day ultimatum on the IG to discontinue its issuance.

Following the failure of the IG to oblige to their request, the NBA-SPIDEL chair and secretary filed an application seeking to stop the IG and the Nigeria



Police Force from issuing the certificate.

The plaintiffs contended that no provisions under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Police Act, or any other law give the Nigeria Police Force under the command and authority of the IG the right, power, or authority to maintain a motor registry or issue certificates of identification or

proof/evidence of ownership called the Central Motor Registry Information System Certificate (or in any other name called) to Nigerians.

They also held that the Nigeria Police Force is not a revenue-generating agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria and as such lacks the right to fix and collect fees for the issuance of the Central Motor Registry Information System Certificate from Nigerians.

The plaintiffs, however, sought an order from the court directing the defendants to dismantle the Central Motor Registry Information System and stop the issuance of the Central Motor Registry Information System Certificate forthwith.

They also urged the court to order the defendants to give a comprehensive account of all the monies collected for the issuance of the certificate from inception to the date of judgment to the plaintiffs and the Appropriation Committees National Assembly and the Accountant-General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The plaintiffs urged the court to order the defendants to refund all monies collected from those who obtained the certificate.

## Obi Cubana Unveils CIG Backed Electric Cars For 'Enviably Transport' In Abuja

Frontline celebrity and entertainment and hospitality czar, Obi Cubana, has unveiled an e-hailing outfit, tagged 'Enviably Transport' in Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja.

This is coming days after Enviably Transport took delivery of over 100 units of hybrid electric vehicles (EV) as part of the company's devotion to providing accessible, affordable, and safe cab and logistic services to Abuja residents.

Speaking at the unveiling event recently, Obi Cubana said that Enviably

Transport Company was committed to advancing the vision of a safe transportation solution in line with the dynamic vision of the FCT Administration under the leadership of the honourable minister, Nyesom Wike.

He said Enviably Transport was committed to providing convenient, organised, and safe transportation solutions in Abuja to curb any crime associated with urban transportation.

“In line with the dynamic vision of the FCT administration under the honorable minister, Chief Nyesom

Wike, Enviably Transport is here to ensure that we totally reduce to the barest minimum incidences or risks of urban transportation, to curb 'one chance' and or kidnapping

“With our service, you will know who is driving you at all times, even if you misplaced your phone, it can be recovered and returned to you with Enviably Transport,” he stated.

The company also announced its partnership with CIG Motors, owners of GAC Motors Wuling EV, globally renowned for quality electric vehicles assets for their hybrid vehicles.

# WAAS

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