



# OSGF

## SERVICE BULLETIN

...the people's right to know



A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION

FOURTH QUARTER, DECEMBER 2019

# NIGERIA @



# as PMB Turns 77



*From the  
Editor-in-Chief*

**P**oliticians who intend to vie for positions in 2023 and who expect President Muhammadu Buhari to favour or compromise the electoral process for their sake should have a rethink and start working hard to earn the trust of the people.

President Muhammadu Buhari made this known when he received the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha who led some aides of the President to present a card to mark his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday. “No one would be allowed to use the influence of his own office or resources of his state to foist himself on the people of his constituency”, said the President. Quite instructive!

As the nation intensifies efforts to create more entrepreneurs, the federal government has offered N10 million to young creative minds. The entrepreneurship empowerment scheme is the fallout of the National Youth Entrepreneurship Summit held in Abuja. The big idea is to expose young talents in arts and craft and link such to available funding opportunities

The Federal Government is pursuing a deliberate policy to enhance productivity in public service. The 18<sup>th</sup> National Productivity Day and Conferment of National Productivity Order of Merit Award held in Abuja, provide an opportunity for President Muhammadu Buhari to emphasise that productivity is crucial in creating the conditions that nurture and engender development. Productivity triggers and sustains growth momentum; and that productivity is absolutely critical as it makes things work better in every society.

The Federal Government has adjusted local and international travel plans for top government functionaries as part of cost saving and financial discipline initiatives of the government. Under the arrangement, all ministries, departments and agencies will now submit their travel plans for statutory meetings and engagements to the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and, or the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation for express clearance within the first quarter of the fiscal year.

These and many more stories are at your disposal in this new edition of our very informative news bulletin, happy reading.

**Sir Olusegun A. Adekunle Esq., KJW**  
Editor-in-Chief

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## Editor's Note

**A**ll over the world, individuals and nations cherish their birthdays or the day the nation gained her independence. For Nigeria, 1st of October every year, is usually celebrated with pomp and pageantry. October 1, 2019 was no exception. Apart from the Federal Government declaring it a national holiday, various activities were lined up at the federal, state and local government levels to commemorate the day. It was the 59th Independence Day Celebration.

At the Federal level, events which included Presidential Broadcast by President Muhammadu Buhari, Presidential Change of Guards at the Forecourt of the Presidential Villa, the Lecture and the climax which was the Presidential Dinner.

We invite you to enjoy reading through the above highlighted events in this edition of the bulletin which is accompanied with exciting photographs.

Talking about birthdays, this quarter also witnessed the Seventy-seven birthday celebration of President Muhammadu Buhari in which he admitted to learning to follow the democratic ethos which is at variance with the military system he was used to. The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, empowered Nigerian Youths by engaging their creative minds in various areas of human endeavour. He splashed the youths with 10 Million Naira to help them actualize their dreams, particularly, in the area of digital technology.

The Federal Government in the realization of the important role of our traditional rulers in promoting unity, harmony and peaceful co-existence has accorded them a pride of place in the scheme of things. This edition gives attention to the activities of the monarchs in the South-South geo-political zone.

Capacity building for officers of the Cabinet Affairs Office as well as Relationship Officers in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) was given due attention by the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF).

In this quarter, the Cabinet Affairs Office of the OSGF was able to organise two of such capacity building programmes- Specialized Training Programme on Policy Management Processes and Cabinet Documentation which was held for the directorate and senior level officers in Lagos.

Also, in this edition, you will be thrilled to read about the Federal Government's efforts at managing effluents discharged from tanning industries in Kano.

Over the years, residents of Challawa, Sharada and Bompai industrious areas have suffered from reckless discharge from those industries into their rivers, ponds and streams making life unbearable for the people, coupled with attendant's health hazards.

But help came their way through the Ecological Fund Office- an interventionist agency under the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation in which Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) is being constructed to alleviate the suffering of the people.

Also in this edition, the 2020-Armed Forces Remembrance emblem was launched by President Muhammadu Buhari and assurances were given that "the labour of our heroes past shall not be in vain".

The curtain fell as the 14th Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Obong Ufot Ekaette, died and a high-level delegation led by the SGF, ministers, permanent secretaries, past SGF, and others attended his funeral in Ikot Edo, Onna Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The OSGF Service Bulletin joins the Federal Government in commiserating with the family of Obong Ufot Ekaette and pray that God grants the family the fortitude to bear the loss.

Savour the Christmas menu as we wish everyone a safe trip during the yuletide!

**Willie Bassey**  
Editor



# INDEPENDENCE DAY BROADCAST

By President Muhammadu Buhari

Dear Compatriots,

1st October each year is an opportunity for us to reflect and thank God for his endless blessings on our country.

It is also a time for us, collectively, to:

Remember the sacrifices made by our Founders and great leaders past; by soldiers, by distinguished public servants; by traditional leaders, by our workers — sacrifices on which Nigeria has been built over the 59 years since Independence in 1960; and

Rededicate ourselves to attaining the goals which we have set for ourselves: a united, prosperous and purposeful nation in the face of 21st century opportunities and challenges.

In the past four years, the majority of Nigerians have committed to Change for the Better. Indeed, this Administration was re-elected by Nigerians on a mandate to deliver positive and enduring Change - through maintaining our National Security; restoring sustainable and inclusive Economic Growth and Development; and fighting Corruption against all internal and external threats.

This Change can only be delivered if we are united in purpose, as individuals and as a nation. We must all remain committed to achieving this positive and enduring Change. As I stated four years ago, “Change does not just happen... We must change our lawless habits, our attitude to public office and public trust... simply put, to bring about change, we must change ourselves by being law-abiding citizens.”

## SECURITY:

Good Governance and Economic Development cannot be sustained without an enabling environment of peace and security. In the last four years, we have combatted the terrorist scourge of Boko Haram. We owe a debt of gratitude to our gallant men and women in arms, through whose efforts we have been able to achieve the present results. We are also grateful to our neighbours and allies - within the region and across the world - who have supported us on this front.

The capacity of our armed forces to defend our territorial integrity continues to be enhanced by the acquisition of military hardware as well as continued improvements in the working conditions of our service men and women.

The Ministry of Police Affairs has been resuscitated to oversee the development and implementation of strategies to enhance internal security. My recent assent to the Nigerian Police Trust Fund (Establishment) Act has created a legal framework to support our Police with increased fiscal resources to enhance their law enforcement capabilities.

These initiatives are being complemented by the ongoing recruitment of 10,000 constables into the Nigeria Police Force. This clearly demonstrates our commitment to arrest the incidence of armed robbery, kidnapping and other violent crimes across our nation.



We remain equally resolute in our efforts to combat militant attacks on our oil and gas facilities in the Niger Delta and accelerate the Ogoni Clean-up to address long-standing environmental challenges in that region.

The recent redeployment of the Niger Delta Development Commission from the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, to the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs underscores our commitment to enhance the living standards of our communities in the Niger Delta, through coordinated and appropriate programmes.

Our attention is increasingly being focused on cyber-crimes and the abuse of technology through hate speech and other divisive material being propagated on social media. Whilst we uphold the Constitutional rights of our people to freedom of expression and association, where the purported exercise of these rights infringes on the rights of other citizens or threatens to undermine our National Security, we will take firm and decisive action.

In this regard, I reiterate my call for all to exercise restraint, tolerance and mutual respect in airing their grievances and frustrations. Whilst the ongoing national discourse on various political and religious issues is healthy and welcome, we must not forget the lessons of our past - lessons that are most relevant on a day such as this.

The path of hatred and distrust only leads to hostility and destruction. I believe that the vast majority of Nigerians would rather tread the path of peace and prosperity, as we



# Independence Day Broadcast

continue to uphold and cherish our unity.

## ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY GROWTH

This Administration inherited a skewed economy, where the Oil Sector comprised only 8% of Gross Domestic Product but contributed 70% of government revenue and 90% foreign exchange earnings over the years. Past periods of relatively high economic growth were driven by our reliance on Oil Sector revenues to finance our demand for imported goods and services. Regrettably, previous governments abandoned the residual Investment-driven Non-Oil Sector, which constituted 40% of Gross Domestic Product and comprised agriculture, livestock, agro-processing, arts, entertainment, mining and manufacturing activities that provide millions of jobs for able-bodied Nigerians and utilize locally available raw materials and labour for production.

To address this imbalance, our commitment to achieving economic diversification has been at the heart of our economic strategies under the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, which I launched on the 5th of April, 2017.

This medium-term development plan charted the trajectory for our economy to exit from recession and return to the path of sustainable, diversified and inclusive growth for Nigerians. Pursuant to these reforms, the economy has recovered and we have had 9 successive quarters of growth since our exit from recession. The exchange rate in the last 3 years has remained stable, with robust reserves of US\$42.5 billion, up from US\$23 billion in October 2016.

Learning from the mistakes of the past, this Administration is committed to responsibly managing our oil wealth endowments. We will continue to prudently save our oil income and invest more in the non-oil job-creating sectors.

In this regard, we are significantly increasing investments in critical infrastructure. Last year, capital releases only commenced with the approval of the Budget in June 2018. However, as at 20th June this year, up to N1.74 trillion had been released for capital projects in the 2018 fiscal year.

Implementation of the 2019 Capital Budget, which was only approved in June 2019, will be accelerated to ensure that critical priority projects are completed or substantially addressed. The Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning has been directed to release N600 billion for Capital Expenditure in the next 3 months.

To maximise impact, we shall continue to increasingly welcome and encourage private capital for infrastructural development through Public Private Partnerships. Through the Road Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme, which I initiated in January this year, we are giving incentives to private sector inflow of over N205 billion in 19 Nigerian roads and bridges of 794.4km across in 11 States of the Federation.

As we push to diversify the economy, we still remain focused on optimizing the revenues generated from the oil and gas sector. We will, working with the Legislature, soon pass the Petroleum Industry Bill and amendments to the Deep Offshore Act and Inland Basin Production Sharing Contracts

Act into law, to ensure Government obtains a fair share of oil revenues, whilst encouraging private sector investment.

We will also continue our fight against illegal bunkering of crude oil and the smuggling of refined petroleum products across our borders, including the diligent prosecution and conviction of offenders found guilty of these acts. Whilst Nigeria remains committed to free and fair continental and international trade, we will not hesitate to take all necessary steps to tackle illegal smuggling, transshipment and other predatory trade practices that destroy jobs in our country.

We are resolute in reforming the power sector. In August this year, we launched the Presidential Power Initiative to modernize the National Grid in 3 phases: starting from 5 Gigawatts to 7 Gigawatts, then to 11 Gigawatts by 2023, and finally 25 Gigawatts afterwards. This programme, in partnership with the German Government and Siemens, will provide end-to-end electrification solutions that will resolve our transmission and distribution challenges.

The programme will also look to localize the development and assembly of smart meters as well as the operations and maintenance capabilities of transmission and distribution infrastructure.

I am pleased with the improved inter-agency collaboration between the Ministry of Power and the regulators in the banking and power sectors to ensure that electricity sales, billings and collections are automated and become cashless.

These initiatives are important to ensure that the technical and collection losses in the sector are substantially reduced. I remain confident that Nigerians will have affordable and uninterrupted electricity supply in the not too distant future.

Our efforts to improve the power sector will complement other infrastructure investments projects under the Presidential Infrastructure Development Fund, which is investing in the Mambilla Power Plant project, as well as key economic road infrastructure such as the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Second Niger Bridge and Abuja-Kano Expressway. The first set of these projects remain on track to be completed by 2022.

Our journey to food security and self-sufficiency is well underway. We have made remarkable progress in almost all segments of the agriculture value chain, from fertilizers to rice, to animal feed production. We shall sustain these policies to ensure additional investments are channeled, thereby creating more jobs in the sector. We must not go back to the days of importing food and thereby exporting jobs.

Our commitment to achieving macroeconomic stability and economic diversification, has been underscored by the merger of the Ministry of Finance with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning.

This combined Ministry has the important mandate to enhance the management of domestic and global fiscal risks; coordinate policies with the trade and monetary authorities;

# Independence Day Broadcast

raise and deploy revenues to fund budgeted expenditure; and integrate annual budgets and medium-term fiscal strategies.

With this, our revenue-generating and reporting agencies will come under much greater scrutiny, going forward, as the new performance management framework will reward exceptional revenue performance, while severe consequences will attend failures to achieve agreed revenue targets.

I recently constituted an Economic Advisory Council to advise me on inclusive and sustainable macroeconomic, fiscal and monetary policies. This independent body will work with relevant Cabinet members and the heads of key monetary, fiscal and trade agencies to ensure we remain on track as we strive for collective prosperity. However, we are also committed to ensure that the inconvenience associated with any painful policy adjustments, is moderated, such that the poor and the vulnerable, who are most at risk, do not bear the brunt.

Our ongoing N500 billion Special Intervention Programme continues to target these vulnerable groups, through the Home-grown School Feeding Programme, Government Economic Empowerment Programme, N-Power Job Creation Programme, loans for traders and artisans, Conditional Cash Transfers to the poorest families and social housing scheme.

To institutionalize these impactful programmes, we created the Ministry for Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development which shall consolidate and build on our achievements to date. To the beneficiaries of these programmes, I want to reassure you that our commitment to social inclusion will only increase.

Our population growth rate remains amongst the highest in the world, presenting both challenges as well as opportunities. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that we provide adequate resources to meet the basic needs of our teeming youth.

Accordingly, we shall continue to invest in education, health, water and sanitation, as well as food security, to ensure that their basic needs are met, while providing them with every opportunity to live peaceful, prosperous and productive lives.

## **FIGHTING CORRUPTION AND RESTORING GOOD GOVERNANCE:**

On fighting corruption, our institutional reforms to enforce the Treasury Single Account policy, introduce the Whistle-blowers' Initiative, expand the coverage of the Integrated Payroll Personnel and Information System as well as the Government Integrated Management Information System have saved billions of Naira over the last four years, and deterred the rampant theft and mismanagement of public funds that have plagued our public service.

The Ministry of Justice, the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission will continue to address this menace. We are determined to ensure that transparency and good

governance are institutionalized in public service.

We must commit to installing a culture of Good Governance in all we do. This Administration has fought against corruption, by investigating and prosecuting those accused of embezzlement and the misuse of public resources. We have empowered teams of prosecutors, assembled detailed databases of evidence, traced the proceeds of crimes and accelerated the recovery of stolen funds.

Furthermore, we partnered with our friends abroad to combat tax evasion, smuggling, terrorism and illicit financial flows. In June 2018, I assented to the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, to provide a domestic legal framework for obtaining international assistance in criminal matters.

This measure has already strengthened our law enforcement agencies in obtaining evidence, investigating suspects and facilitating the recovery, forfeiture and confiscation of property implicated as proceeds of crime.

An example is the US\$300 million recently identified as part of the Abacha money-laundering case, working closely with the Government of the United States of America. The Federal Ministry of Justice is working with the US Department of Justice to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding to expedite the repatriation of these funds.

The P & ID Arbitral Award has underscored the manner in which significant economic damage has been caused by the past activities of a few corrupt and unpatriotic Nigerians.

The policies that we are putting in place today are to ensure such criminal and unpatriotic acts do not go without consequences. Our renewed partnership with the 9th National Assembly will facilitate the swift passage of enabling laws that will institutionalize these anti-corruption efforts in our criminal justice system.

In this connection, I call upon our States to intensify their own efforts to instill greater fiscal transparency and accountability. And to ensure greater fiscal efficiency and optimum use of our very scarce resources.

The blight of Corruption is fighting back. Nevertheless, this is a battle that we shall see through and this is a war, which we shall win by the Grace of God.

I will also call upon all Nigerians, from every walk of life, to combat Corruption at every turn. By choosing to question and confront corrupt practices, by reporting unethical practices or through whistleblowing. Together, we can overcome corruption and will no longer be a country defined by corruption.

Fellow Nigerians, let me reiterate my call for unity across our dear nation.

Nigeria will emerge from our present challenges stronger and more resilient than ever - but only if all of us join hands to entrench Good Governance, foster Inclusive Economic Development, and defend and protect our Nation from all those who would wish us ill.

I thank you most sincerely and wish you a Happy Independence Anniversary. May God bless you all, and may He continue to bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



# BUHARI OSINBAJO, GOWON inspire Nigerians @



● Buhari



● Osinbajo



● Gowon

**N**igerian youths have been charged to imbibe the spirit of hardwork, honesty and be law-abiding as necessary contribution to national development, President Muhammadu Buhari charged on the occasion of the nation's 59<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary on Friday.

The President who was represented by the FCT Minister, Mallam Muhammad Bello, at the special Juma'at prayers and public lecture as

celebration said his administration was making serious efforts towards tackling serious challenges with which the nation is being confronted.

In order to reduce unemployment and illiteracy, President Buhari said the government was committed to revitalizing the manufacturing industry and assist the private sector to pull majority of the youths out of idleness.

"The objective is for the manufacturing industry and the private sector so that the teeming youths can also be employed. The same goes to

the effort of the government to ensure that every child in the country is not denied basic education," the President stated.

#### **Sultan to Nigerians:**

#### **Speak truth to powers**

Speaking earlier, Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, who noted that governance is not a one-man show urged every Nigerian join hands to make Nigeria work.

He said that Nigeria is definitely not where it is supposed to be with the intractable challenges

facing it, therefore urged traditional and religious leaders not to shy away from telling the truth to the leaders at all time so that they can be just and act right at all times.

Delivering the public lecture, titled “Harnessing Potential of Nigerian youths in peace building and national development,” Chief Imam MCC Juma’ah Mosque Dr. Tajudeen Adigun, encouraged Nigerians to learn to live with each other as there are no alternatives to it.

### **We will get to the 'promised land' - Osinbajo**

Meanwhile, in a special thanksgiving service to mark the anniversary on Sunday, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo expressed optimism that the nation was heading to promised land.

“God has promised through the mouth of his trusted prophet that he is giving us a new Nigeria, May I announce to you today that God is ready to take us to the promised land. We must remember that the Almighty God is the builder of the nation. God controls the destiny of nations and its people. Psalms 24:1,” the Vice President announced.

He narrated how God had promised to take the children of Israel out of their bondage into the land, flowing with milk and honey, he reminded that God fulfilled the word through Joshua.

“God has also promised us a new Nigeria, a peaceful Nigeria, a prosperous Nigeria, a Nigeria where justice, equity and fairness shall prevail, a united Nigeria where the different tribes and tongues are not the reason for separation, but a joyful texture of our togetherness. God is ready to fulfill his promise,” Osinbajo said.

### **Nigeria shall rise again -Gowon**

Also at the event, a former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon (Rtd.) while felicitating with President Buhari and the Nigerian people on the occasion, prayed for preservation of the country towards achieving its 'prophetic destiny.'

Gowon who is the conveyer of 'Nigeria Prays' was confident that the nation can overcome its various



● Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III

inflicted challenges if the people can come together in the unity of faith to salvage the nation.

“I believe Nigeria is specially favoured by God and I am confident that God who preserved it in the past will do it again if only we can continue to fervently pray and do what is right and good before Him and fellowmen and women.

He restated his belief in the efficacy of prayer to salvage the family and national challenges but challenged those saddled to maintain law and order to do more in the bid to ensure a peaceful and stable Nigeria.

“For the police, army and other security agencies, this is the charge; you have to make sure that by the next independence celebration, there is no disorder in this country.

“I strongly believe there is hope for our great nation through our collective prayers, hard work, selfless and transparent leadership, and patriotic citizenry. By the grace of God, Nigeria shall fulfill her destiny. We should not be discouraged; we are at the threshold of a breakthrough and the dawn of history. Under our collective watch and prayer, Nigeria shall recover and rise again,” Gowon charged.





# Nigeria is terrific, says Buhari @ 77

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari has promised not to favour any politician or compromise the electoral process in 2023.

President Buhari stated this when the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF, Mr. Boss Mustapha, and some of the president's aides and assistants presented a card to him to mark his 77th birthday at the State House.

He admonished politicians who intend to vie for positions in 2023 to start working hard to earn the trust of the people, warning that he would not bend the rules against the will of Nigerians.

He nevertheless said he would use security agencies to ensure that elections are guided by rules, adding that no one would be allowed to use the influence of his own office or the resources of his state to foist himself on the people of his constituency.

“What I want to promise Nigerians

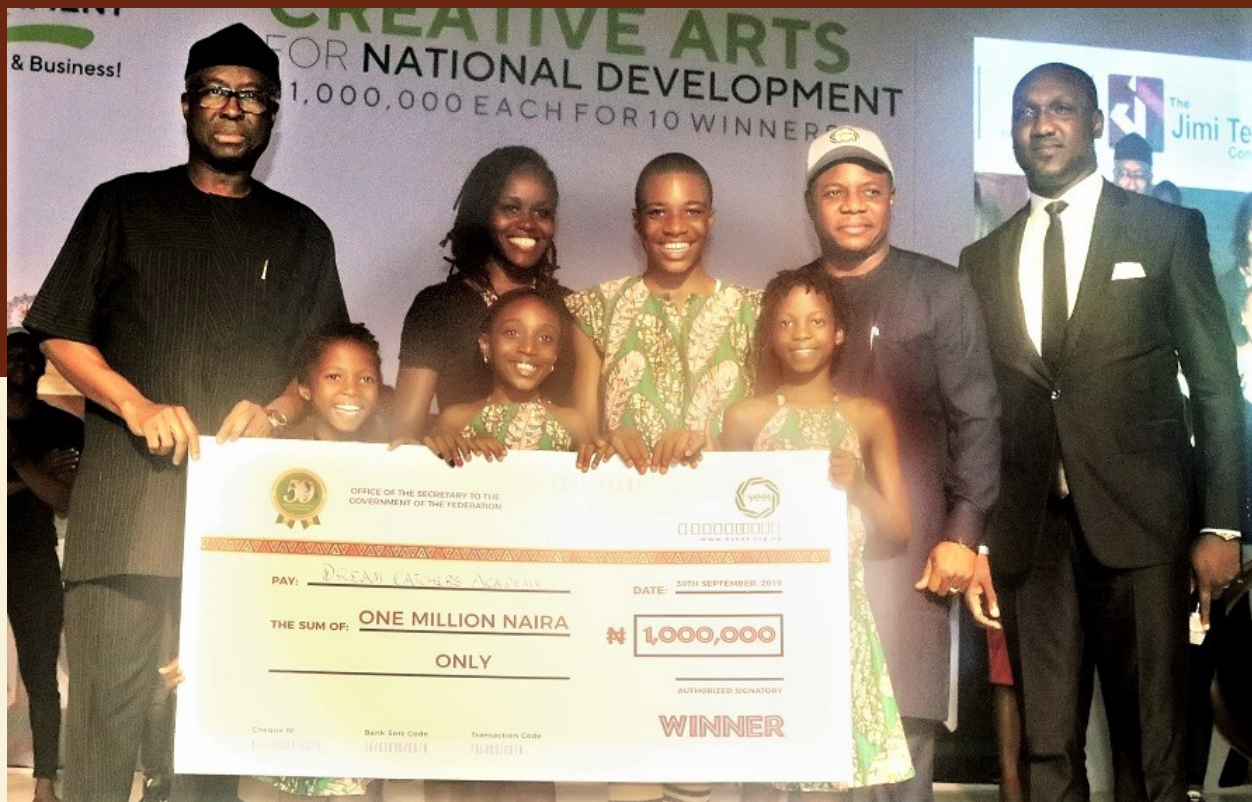
is that I will work very hard on free and fair elections. All those that are going to succeed in the National Assembly and the presidency have to work very hard because I will make sure, using the law enforcement agencies, that elections are free and fair. Nobody will use his office or resources to force himself on his constituencies,” he assured. On corrupt elements and economic saboteurs, President Buhari said he has learnt to follow the democratic system, noting that it is far different from the military system. “I have learned in a hard way. When I came in uniform, I collected those who were leading, took them to Kirikiri and told them that they were guilty until they could prove themselves innocent. I put committees, based on geopolitical zones, to investigate them. Those that were found to have lived beyond their means, the balance was taken and given to the state.

“I think I have come to accept the realities of leadership in Nigeria; you can only try. It is a terrific country, no matter what you do, there are people who are on a daily basis looking for your fault and go to the press with it. You have to learn to live by that,” he said.

He admonished Nigerians to learn to be patient with the state, saying “patience and patriotism, that is what we see as rule, nobody can have his own way. We have to accept that as Nigerians we will keep on building. God has blessed us with land, people and other resources, we must learn the patience to exploit them and leave something for the future generations.”

When asked how he felt as he clocked 77, he said “at 77, I feel well. If you have played Tombola before, it is about crutches. Many of those who are 77 years old are on crutches, but I am on my two feet.”

# FG offers N10m to *Creative Minds*



(L-R) Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Adeniyi Adebayo; some National Youth Entrepreneurship Empowerment Summit awardees; former Permanent Secretary, Political & Economic Affairs, Gabriel Aduda; and motivational speaker, and the CEO of Inspiro Consulting, Jimi Tewe at the Independence edition of the National Youth Entrepreneurship Empowerment Summit.

**E**fforts to make the Nigerian youth embrace creative enterprises got a notch higher with the creative arts competition and grant of N1 million each to ten young people. The entrepreneurship empowerment scheme is the fall out of the National Youth Entrepreneurship Summit which second edition was staged in Abuja last September.

The big idea, according to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, is to expose young people with creative talents in arts and craft and link such to available funding opportunities.

Winners were chosen after a competitive session which evaluated individual creativity and their understanding of the nine priority areas of government's development agenda.

The second edition which adopted the theme ***Engaging Creative Arts for National Development*** was designed to focus on the creative industry. Indeed, Mustapha described the Nigerian creative industry as "one of the fastest growing industries in the world, driven by emerging digital technology."

Besides commemorating the nation's 59th Independence

Anniversary, the SGF said the summit is an investment into the lives of young Nigerians that "will go a long way in actualising the dreams of not only our heroes past, but also that of President Muhammadu Buhari."

The event was attended by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment, Otunba Adeniyi Adebayo; the Central Bank Governor, Mr. Godwin Emefiele and the Managing Director, Bank of Industry, Mr. Olukayode Pitan who took participants through strategies for tapping into various intervention schemes of government and available opportunities for raising funds for businesses.





(L-R) The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha; Chairman of Northern Governor's Forum, Rt Hon. Barr Simon Bako Lalong; National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole; Chairman of the Governor's forum and Governor of Ekiti, Dr. Kayode Fayemi at 3rd FG & Progressive Governors' Parley on Policy Synergy in Jos, Plateau State.

## Buhari Reassures Nigerians on Economic Stability

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari has said that his administration will do everything possible to sustain the current economic recovery efforts and continue to reinforce its macro-economic policies to achieve sustainable economic stability and growth.

The President gave the assurance at the third Progressive Governors Forum meeting on Policy Synergy to Strengthen Public Service Delivery at Government House, Jos, Plateau State.

Buhari noted that his administration will ensure that the sustained economic stability and growth in the country comes along with more jobs and a fair and just distribution of national wealth.

He charged state governments to double their support in the anti-corruption fight, adding that the gain of the collaboration would continue to face the threat of annihilation if corruption persists at the sub-national level.

“Going forward, we must all work towards building a socially cohesive society in which the resources of the council work for all. We will continue to apply public funds in such a way that no section of the council or segment of the population will suffer social exclusion”, the President said.

The President who was represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF, Boss Mustapha, stressed that government remained

determined to subdue insecurity and secure the country more than ever before, adding that protection of lives and property was government's primary responsibility.

Meanwhile, the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology has assured that the Federal Government would continue to explore science policies in its effort to sustain self-reliance and make Nigeria an export nation.

Permanent Secretary at the Ministry, Mr. Bitrus Bako Nabasu, disclosed this at the opening ceremony of the 17th National Council on Science and Technology in Awka, Anambra State, saying that the aim was to make the economy stronger and more competitive.

Nabasus explained that the Federal Government would tap into the country's human and natural resources to improve quality of lives of all Nigerians.

“For Nigeria to be rated highly among the comity of nations, it solely depends on utilization of Science, Technology and Innovation”, Nabasu added.

Responding, Permanent Secretary of the Anambra State Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Pauline Nwandu, expressed confidence that the decisions reached at the conference would be central in the implementation of a roadmap policy.



L-R: Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr. Chris Ngige; Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha; Chairman, Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote; business icon, Hajia Muheeba Dankaka with other award recipients at the 18th National Productivity Day Celebration in Abuja.

## Buhari Tasks Nigerians on Productivity

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari has urged Nigerians to embrace and promote the ideals of productivity in order to achieve sustainable national growth and development.

The President said productivity is very crucial in creating the conditions that nurture and engender development, adding to trigger and sustain growth momentum, productivity is absolutely critical as it makes things work better in every society.

Buhari who made the observation in his keynote address at the 18<sup>th</sup> National Productivity Day and Conferment of National Productivity Order of Merit Award which was held in Abuja, urged every Nigerian to imbibe the culture of productivity as life style.

“Let us all make productivity a household word and part of our everyday life. It is only such sustained efforts that can transform our national economy to become more productive, secure, stable and competitive”, the President said.

The President who was represented by the Secretary of the Government of the Federation, SGF, Mr. Boss Mustapha, noted that his administration is committed to promoting the ideals of productivity, adding that the award event is designed to recognize excellence in all sectors of the Nigerian economy.

“Our gathering here today practically demonstrates our commitment to the promotion of the ideals of a productive nation given the significant role of productivity in wealth creation, employment generation, social progress and improved standard of living in our people”, he added.

He further stated that it is also an indication of the firm commitment of government to entrench the culture of productivity and excellence in the psyche of all Nigerians.

Buhari said the theme for this year’s event, “Productivity for National Re-Engineering, Security and Growth” is timely and apt, adding that it is a strong affirmation of the central place of productivity in achieving sustainable

national economic growth and development.

In his presentation, former Director-General of the National Centre for Economic Management and Administration and Chairman Goldman Education Academy, Prof Mike Obadan, however decried the low level of productivity in Nigeria.

Obadan who was the Guest Speaker at the event, said productivity in Nigeria is apparently low, especially in agriculture, industries and services, adding that productivity is low in the private sector and much lower in the public sector.

He noted that Nigeria’s ability to raise output impacts welfare and reduces poverty is dependent on the level of productivity, adding that the problem of low productivity is not peculiar to Nigeria, adding that from available data most African countries have low productivity value as well.

He further explained that in Nigeria, productivity is impeded by several factors which include, weak and non-functional educational system, inadequate training, poor access to health facilities coupled with the phenomenon of drug infested environment and low labour compensation in the public sector.

“Other challenges include that of poor state of infrastructure, especially power and transport, relatively low investment in the economy, in both public and private sector, insecurity challenge which pose danger to lives and property as well as bad governance, particularly high level of corruption”, Obadan said.

For Nigeria to get out of the quagmire of low productivity, he harped on the need for investment in human capital development, focus on technological growth-oriented economy, improved funding for health and education, institutionalization of adequate reward and penal system.

The former D-G also recommended increased investment in research and development activities, modernization of small holder agricultural services and integrate into the agribusiness chains, encourage small scale businesses.





The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, at the Security Summit organised by the South South Monarchs Forum in conjunction with the National Council of Traditional Rulers of Nigeria held at Ibom Hotel and Golf Resort, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

## FG Applauds Traditional Rulers for Sustaining Peace in South-South

The Federal Government has commended the efforts of the traditional rulers in maintaining the unprecedented peace in the South-South region of the country in recent times.

Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF, who made the commendation while declaring open the National Council of Traditional Rulers of Nigeria, NCTR, Zonal meeting at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, said the peace of the Niger Delta Region is the peace of the entire nation.

The SGF noted that the same effort paid off in the just concluded Gubernatorial Election in Bayelsa State.

"I consider it appropriate to give credit to all of you for the overall peaceful outcome of elections in the region. Your Royal Majesties, let me thank you for the unprecedented peace that now reigns in the South-South Region of this Country in recent times", the SGF said.

Mustapha said the security of the nation is not just the responsibility of government but of the traditional institutions. "We all have a role to play to secure our society", he added.

He added that his Office will

continue to work closely with the traditional rulers through the NCTR on how best to address the challenges facing the country and rebuilding the faith of Nigerians in our ability to promote peaceful co-existence, security of lives, property and tolerance across all spheres of life.

He described the theme of the summit "*Creating Synergy with the Governments of South-South States towards ensuring a Peaceful and Crime-Free South-South Geo-Political Zone*" as vital to the sustainability of the peace that is currently being enjoyed in the region.

"Like I have said in the previous editions of this meeting, traditional rulers and religious leaders, are believed to hold the key to the success or failure of security administration in the country due to the fact that you all operate at the grassroots of the society and maintain first line contact with the ordinary citizens", he further noted.

This, he stressed, has therefore placed our traditional rulers in a very unique position in the business of peace building in every community, feeling the pulse of Nigerians and also bringing feedback to government on critical issues.

The SGF said President Muhammadu Buhari, has continued to recognise the importance of traditional rulers in the successful management of the affairs of the nation, adding that the President has also affirmed that this administration shall continue to accommodate all Nigerians irrespective of their leanings.

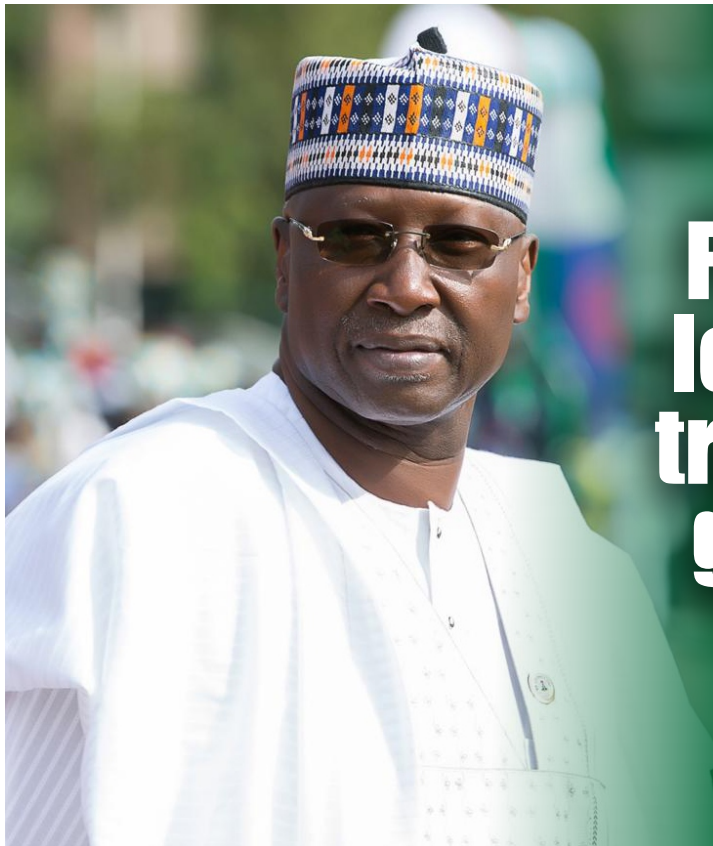
He added that present administration is taking decisive steps in tackling all forms of security challenges and social vices in the country, including the use of illicit drugs which has become prevalent amongst the youths and adults alike.

"We therefore require support from our traditional rulers in this very important crusade by the government", he further observed.

He also promised that the government shall continue to support the efforts of the traditional institutions to deescalate conflicts and all forms of activities that continue to endanger the stability and inflict severe losses of lives and destruction of property on the people.

"It is therefore critical that we continue to cultivate peaceful co-existence across the country for us to achieve our objectives of nation building", he further declared.





# FG regulates local, foreign travels for top government officials

**P**resident Muhammadu Buhari has approved readjustment of local and international travel plans for top government functionaries as part of cost-saving and financial discipline initiatives of the government.

Director Information, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Willie Bassey, in a statement said all ministries, departments and agencies have been directed to submit their yearly travel plans for statutory meetings and engagements to the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and, or the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation for express clearance within the first quarter of the fiscal year.

He explained that the measure would curb leakages, ensure efficiency in the management of government resources and also instilling financial discipline in the area of official travels.

Ministers, permanent secretaries, chairmen of extra-ministerial departments, chief executive officers and directors are therefore directed to make presentation for their travel requests using the existing template and also secure approvals on specific travels as contained in the plan from appropriate quarters.

The statement clarified that all public funded local and foreign travels must be strictly for official purposes backed with documentary evidence; stating that all foreign travels must be for highly

essential statutory engagements that are beneficial to the interest of the country.

In addition, the affected government functionaries are restricted to lean delegation on frequency not exceeding two foreign travels in a quarter, except with the express approval of the President.

“Also, when a minister is at the head of an official delegation, the size of such delegation shall not exceed four, including the relevant director, schedule officer and one aide of the minister while every other delegation below ministerial level shall be restricted to a maximum of three persons.

Similarly, the President approved that ministers, permanent secretaries, special advisers, senior special assistants to the President, chairmen of extra-ministerial departments and chief executive officers of parastatals should continue flying the Business Class while other categories of public officers are to travel on Economy Class.

Bassey also stated that travel days for affected officials will no longer attract payment of Estacode allowances as duration of official trips shall be limited to only the number of days of the event as contained in the supporting documents to qualify for public funding.

The Auditor-General of the Federation is therefore directed to treat all expenditures that contravene these guidelines as ineligible.



Specialized capacity building programme on Policy Implementation and Cabinet Documentation Processes for enhanced service delivery at the Centre for Management Development, Shangisha, Lagos State.

# CAO Trains Senior Officials on Cabinet Documentation

**D**irectors and relationship officers have been charged to ensure active involvement in the preparation of memoranda emanating from the ministries, departments and agencies of government to ensure that such document contain relevant information and verifiable data for easy understanding and timely submission to the Cabinet Affairs Office for processing and presentation to the Federal Executive Council.

Permanent Secretary in the Cabinet Affairs Office, Mr. Babatunde Lawal gave the charge in his welcome address to participants in the Specialized Training Programme on Policy Management Processes and Cabinet Documentation held for the directorate and senior level officials of MDAs in Lagos.

The program was designed to strengthen participants' skills on policies management, to equip relationship officers with necessary skills required for proper review of council document and improved understanding on their role as liaison officers in the development and processing of federal and state executive council memorandum.

The training also aims at introducing the framework for monitoring and tracking approved policies and programmes and to establish a standard for further policy management capability strengthening effort within the civil service.

Lawal reminded participants of the expectations from them to initiate proposals on policy memoranda for council consideration to the leadership of their ministries without awaiting directives.

"The ministers are quite busy, the Permanent Secretaries are quite busy but the directors and relationship officers can on their own; maybe when they are going home for instance in Lagos state, where you have traffic situations, so what kind of policy can we introduce to make this better?

"And when you get back to the office the following day, you put it down in writing and send it to your superior who then escalates this to the Permanent Secretary or indeed the SSG or the Commissioners if you people are in the state and at the Federal level, the ministers and this might receive the attention of the leadership of government," he stressed.

On the essence of the training programme, Lawal explained that the exercise was planned to strengthen participants' skills on policy management process and documentation for improved delivery of services to the citizenry.

"It is clear that public service is not an easy task as we are expected to support the efforts of Government in achieving these targets by ensuring that the memoranda prepared for our principals are of very high standard," he explained.



# CAO promotes capacity building

He therefore urged partakers to see it as opportunity to improve needed skills towards giving their best to enable the ministers deliver on their mandates for enhanced growth and overall development of the country.

Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Femi Hamzat in his goodwill message, believed the training was coming at a crucial time when improvement in policies, project and programme implementation must be seen and felt by every citizen and visitors in Nigeria; charging participants to embrace the opportunity to optimize and maximize their skills.

“As a retired civil servants like myself, with over three decades on the job experience training like this, did not only mold me, but reformed me and transformed me to be what I am today. I therefore want to charge all the beneficiaries of this training exercise to optimize this opportunity and maximize the three days period of training,” Hamzat encouraged.

Permanent Secretary, General Services Office, Mr. Olusegun Adekunle lauded the Cabinet Affairs Office for the training which he described as another milestone in changing the phase and dynamism of the office as one of the most strategically placed to turn the wheel of governance in a seamless manner, being at the heart of the government and



Left, Secretary to the Lagos state Government, Mrs. Folashade Jaji and the Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Affairs Office, Mr. Babatunde Lawal during the training of MDAS officials and CAO relationship officers at the Centre for Management Development, Shangisha, Lagos State.

decision making.

“Issues managed by the cabinet office are as diverse as they are significant because they cut across all sphere of human development. This singular fact requires that the skills and competences of the officers manning the station must be elevated and sharpened. These I observed with pride and recommendation has been the

drive of the Cabinet Affairs Office since he assumed the leadership of the office,” the GSO stated.

He said the retreat was good and helpful as it would expose beneficiaries to learn something new, build new networks, observe new processes and bring up new resolutions on how to make difference at work.



Participants at the 3-day training of MDAs officials and CAO Relationship Officers.





# Ecological Fund Office Tackles Industrial Pollution in Kano

*It is a blend of old and new; traditional and modern. In Northern Nigeria, Kano city is indeed a phenomenon in trade and commerce. But it is also blighted by the seeming neglect of many opportunities.*

*To be sure, this sprawling city, home to large number of migrants from within and outside Nigeria, has suffered from avoidable environmental degradation, most especially from uncontrolled discharge of effluents from tanneries. For many years, thick, coloured and smelly water is continuously piped into open drains, seeping into bodies of water and contaminating underground water and air. These are indeed concerns for the health of the environment and citizens.*

**K**ano has the highest number of tanneries and considerable number of textile industries in the country and these are the major polluters of the environment. The effluents discharged from these industries do not meet the standard set by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, the national watch dog for the environment.

The people have suffered silently the effects of increasing pollution from industrial activities with discharges into the Challawa river from Challawa Industrial Area; the Salanta river from Sharada Industrial Area as well as Jakara dam from Bompai Industrial Area. But the problem has its roots in

inadequate planning dating back to four decades. Tanneries and textile industries in most Nigerian cities do not have the capacity and technology to manage their wastes in an environmentally responsible manner. The indiscriminate discharge of untreated industrial effluents into rivers have caused great damage to river beds, adjoining farm lands and contamination of both underground water and water reservoirs. The continuous discharge of contaminated effluents does not only affect the quality of water but also air and soil; hence the major environmental and ecological pollution now witnessed in Kano city. Indeed, concerns for environmental pollution

# Industrial Pollution in Kano

around Bompai Industrial Area were raised as early as 1978 by the public. Records indicate that the Kano State Government actually commissioned a study on the problem same year. The outcome recommended treatment of the industrial wastes through natural drainage channels with a discharge into the Jakara dam. Then, this system of effluents management was seemingly adequate as an effective method of waste treatment and disposal. As new industries sprang up in Challawa and Sharada Industrial Areas, effluents generated were discharged into Challawa River and Salanta River respectively.

In the three industrial areas in Kano, the environment is under increasing pressure from solid and liquid wastes emanating from the tannery industries. The metals present in tannery effluents such as chromium, aluminium and zirconium are all classified as having a high and chronic toxic effect on organic life. These are inevitable by-products of the leather manufacturing process and cause significant pollution unless properly treated prior to discharge. Moreover, the tannery industry can cause high influx of chromium into the biosphere which contributes 40 percent of the total industrial use. Untreated wastewater discharged from tanning industries contains high level of biochemical oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand, electrical conductivity, and heavy metals especially chromium above permissible levels, making it potentially toxic.

Cognizant of the dangers to the environment and the people, the Kano State Government, the Federal Ministry of Environment and other interested parties have carried out several preliminary studies and made sundry recommendations on the treatment of the industrial waste in Kano. The options are varied with rising cost over time, but Kano State Government could not respond to the pollution problems due to paucity of funds. Last year, the Ecological Fund Office, EFO, an arm of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, stepped in to address the problem in a sustainable manner.



Dr. Kabiru Ibrahim Getso, Kano State Commissioner for Environment.

A technical committee which reviewed all options was mandated to produce a cost-effective and sustainable management plan for the industrial waste in the Challawa, Sharada and Bompai Industrial Areas of Kano.

Information gleaned from the EFO indicated that the technical committee embarked on data collection, including reconnaissance survey of the



Mohammed Usman Tayyib





*Effluent discharge*



*Pipe laying in progress.*

## EFO to the rescue

project site, inventory of existing physical features, drainage evaluations, soil materials assessments, the volume of effluent discharged by the companies during peak and ordinary periods, quantity of skin processed during peak and ordinary periods per day and evaluation of research works previously undertaken on the matter.

The committee, in considering international best practice, studied effluent treatment in similar industrial clusters in other climes like Austria, Kenya and Ethiopia.

The committee, according to the Permanent Secretary, EFO, Dr. Habiba Lawal, recommended that a Central Effluent Treatment Plant, CETP, for both

primary and secondary treatment of  $4,000\text{m}^3/\text{day}$  capacity be built in Sharada; a similar CETP capable of handling  $15,000\text{m}^3/\text{day}$  volume for Challawa; and a primary treatment plant of  $1,000\text{m}^3/\text{day}$  capacity for Bompai. It also recommended the construction of closed effluent conveyance pipes and covered culverts in all the industrial sites as well as road improvement especially at Challawa and Sharada Industrial Areas.

Messrs Alps Global Link, which last year won a competitive bidding, moved to site last April. Construction work is proceeding steadily. A team of journalists which toured the project sites at Sharada, Challawa and Bompai last week found workmen at all

the locations laying pipes through deep tunnels. Nurain Akewusola, a civil engineer, spoke on the scope of the project which entails digging tunnels and laying pipes across over 10 kilometres. Every 30 metres apart is a reinforced concrete chamber, between 2.5 and 4.5 metres deep. The disparity is to facilitate easy flow across varying gradients, said Akewusola, who disclosed that the chambers are linked by 300 mm high density polyethylene pipes.

Hundreds of pipes are linked to three separate effluent treatment plants. Every industrial hub will get a treatment plant. While civil work has reached about 90 per cent level and the construction of the treatment plants would





# On Kano effluent pollution



soon commence for the three locations. “We have the full co-operation of the Nigerian Railway Corporation on the site earmarked at Bompai, where construction of the effluent plant has commenced,” said Dr. Lawal.

At Sharada and Challawa, the state government is reaching out to host communities in the bid to ensure that workmen have unfettered access to the sites to build the treatment plants. Kano State Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Kabiru Ibrahim Getso, at a press briefing, reiterated the resolve of the state government to ensure the prompt

completion of the project. He said the Bureau of Land Management has submitted its assessment report which is awaiting the consideration of Governor Abdullahi Ganduje. Dr. Getso also expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for taking a bold step in containing the persistent environmental challenge faced by the people of Kano even as he expressed optimism that the gesture by the EFO will restore the industrial glory of Kano State, help old and existing industries to operate more profitably in line with global best practice. More stakeholders have hailed the timely intervention of the Federal Government in reversing the age-long environmental devastation of Kano industrial

areas.

Mohammed Usman Tayyib built a tannery factory at Sharada in 2003 to process hides and skin. The company produces finished leather goods and employs hundreds as factory hands. “We handle primary processing and collect the sludge, but wastewater is discharged to the open gutter,” said Ambassador Tayyib who hailed the Federal Government for responding to address an age long problem.

“Now waste water can be recycled and reused. In the long term, this makes our business competitive in the international market, preserving the environment because we all know that untreated industrial water with various chemicals is harmful,” said Tayyib.



# SGF Alerts Public on Fraudsters, Clarifies Constituency Projects

**M**embers of the public have been advised to be vigilant about activities of faceless persons using the social media and other platforms to lure unsuspecting persons to submit resume at a fee to a non-existing desk at the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation for federal government appointments.

Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha, in a statement by the Director Information in the OSGF, Willie Bassey, warned those concerned from using his office to perpetuate fraudulent activities.

In the same vein, the office refutes rumours in the public domain that the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation is executing some constituency projects.

“The Office is similarly aware of inaccurate information being peddled around regarding constituency projects being executed under its supervision. For the avoidance of doubt, the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation neither executes nor supervises constituency projects.

“Also, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation has become aware of numerous forged introductory letters purportedly issued from his office seeking diverse favours from individuals and corporate entities for personal gains.

“The general public is by this notice advised to beware of the clandestine activities of these dubious and fraudulent persons and their cohorts going about to fleece unsuspecting



members of the public,” Mustapha warned.

He assured that measures are being evolved to track the unpatriotic and faceless persons to bring anyone found engaging in such unwholesome activities to justice while directing everyone interested in enquiry or clarification to use the official communication channels of the office; which are [www.osgf.gov.ng](http://www.osgf.gov.ng) and [info@osgf.gov.ng](mailto:info@osgf.gov.ng)

## ...Assures War Veterans of Gov't Support



Cross section of legionnaires at the event.

**I**n honour of the Nigerian war veterans who have dutifully served the country, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha, has assured retired soldiers of the Federal Government's support of their welfare.

While receiving the Nigerian Legion team led by its National Chairman, Jones Akpa, the SGF emphasized that Nigeria must

continue to honour heroes who endangered their lives in the course of ensuring peace and stability in the country.

Mustapha recalled Nigeria's global commendation in peace keeping missions, and acknowledged the sacrifices of those who passed on in the struggle.

Chairman of the Nigerian Legion while officially presenting the 2020 Armed Forces Remembrance Day Emblem to the SGF, pleaded

that families of men who lost their lives in the 1st and 2nd wars, as well as the Nigerian Civil War, be provided succor to ease their suffering.

He commended the President Muhammadu Buhari administration for initiating and ensuring a regular 30-day cycle of payment of pension to veterans, thereby removing the major impediment to their welfare.

Akpa urged the SGF to inform other Ministries, Agencies and Departments, MDAs that the Legion will be visiting them in continuation of the Emblem Appeal Launch.

President Buhari earlier this month launched an annual emblem appeal fund to serve the dual purpose of remembrance of fallen heroes and a platform to raise funds for the Legion to finance its activities.

The Nigerian Legion is a body empowered by the Legion Act of 1988 to oversee the management of all welfare issues of veterans who have disengaged honorably from the Nigerian Armed Forces.





# FG reaffirms commitment to HIV treatment

Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF, Mr. Boss Mustapha, has reaffirmed the commitment of the Federal Government to ensuring that Nigerians living with HIV are given adequate treatment and care.

In 2018, the Nigerian AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAISS), established the prevalence of HIV in the country as 1.4 percent of the population indicating that an estimated 1.9 million Nigerians are living with HIV.

Currently, Nigeria has an HIV treatment coverage of approximately 1.1 million among Nigerians living with HIV, a feat the country achieved over a twelve-year period.

The SGF said HIV treatment will continue to remain on the political agenda of the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari in order to reach the estimated 800,000 Nigerians living with HIV who are yet to be linked to treatment.

Mustapha who gave the assurance in his keynote address to mark the commemoration of the 2019 World AIDS Day in Abuja, noted that government is poised to further remove barriers and create the enabling environment to promote equal access, so as to safeguard the right of Nigerians living with HIV and hold decision makers and implementers accountable.

“Nigeria, has over the years, made progress in generating quality data that robustly inform policy, planning and implementation of evidence-based measures in our unwavering pursuit to control and end the HIV epidemic in our country”.

He noted that the determination towards ending the HIV epidemic gave rise to the establishment of National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), in 2007, to coordinate the nation's multi-sectoral response to this public health challenge that has been

stifling developmental efforts in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa.

“Coincidentally, my office provides supervision and oversight to NACA, and I am proud of its efforts and achievements in galvanizing all relevant stakeholders towards effective control of this monstrous epidemic in our country”, he added.

The SGF said theme for this year's event, “*Communities Makes the Difference*”, refer to the network of people who have played a significant role in the global, national and local HIV response in the past present and as well strive to reach UNAIDS 90-90-90 goal by the end of 2020.

“These communities including those living with HIV, vulnerable populations at risk of contracting HIV, Civil Society Organization, counsellors, educator and health workers, policy makers and our elected officials, the efforts of whom have become critical to the campaign”, he further explained.

Mustapha also disclosed that the Federal Government of Nigeria through NACA will host a Red Ribbon award for selected distinguished individual and organizations, adding that the theme of the proposed Maiden Red Ribbon Award is “Honouring our Heroes Past and Present”

This theme, he said was chosen to underscore the important roles played by the Organisations and the individuals in moving the HIV response agenda forward from when it commenced as an emergency response to a matured development and public health programme with 15 years of learning and adaptation to the fight against the virus in Nigeria.

“All of us seated here are members of communities that can make the difference in our national response. I therefore encourage us to remain steadfast and committed to being our brother's keeper, as we celebrate the 2019 World Aids Day”, he stressed.

T R I B U T E

## Obong Ufot Joseph Ekaette (1939 - 2019)

*From the President*

I have learnt with heavy heart the news of demise of your dear husband Chief Ufot Ekaette on Wednesday 25 September, 2019 at the age of 80.

Chief Ufot Ekaette was a committed and accomplished public servant; he served Nigeria diligently in different capacities. As a career civil servant, he ascended the position of Permanent Secretary who headed many Federal Ministries.

As a politician, he served as a Secretary to the Government of the Federation the 14<sup>th</sup> one, while Alhaji Yayale Ahmed was the 16<sup>th</sup> and pioneer Minister of Niger Delta Affairs.

The good works and his legacies are source of pride to you, the family members, the people of Akwa Ibom and indeed the entire nation. His passing away has deprived us an elder statesman and a committed patriot.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Federal Republic of Nigeria, I extend my heartfelt condolences to you, the family and the people of Akwa Ibom state. As you prepare for his rites of passage, I urge you to find inspiration and solace in the richly fulfilled life he lived.

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

*— President Muhammadu Buhari*



**LATE OBONG UFOT JOSEPH EKAETTE; CFR, mni**

*Retired Federal Permanent Secretary, former Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom State and former Secretary to the Government of the Federation.*

“Today, some of the skills that I have applied to the job I do were admonitions that I received from him. I remember at a time in 2002 when you decided to change the line of reporting of those of us that were charged with the management of the PTF. We used to report to Vice President and then decided we report strictly to him which was a difficult moment and we had to navigate those political landmines to be able to satisfy you as the president and also do our jobs. Part of the admonitions I got from late Chief Ufot Ekaette was not to abandon my principles, but to remain focused on my job, apply wisdom

and self preservation.

Self preservation was the key word that I needed to hold on to at the end of the day. Whatever I did I must make sure I preserve myself first in spite of the political landmines that I have to navigate to get people ahead.

So for me it's a personal loss, because he sowed into my future and severally he will tell me in the course of discussion that I have all the talents and the skills that can take me far in my public service life provided I remain consistent in my beliefs and also remain focused on the job.



**BOSS MUSTAPHA**



T R I B U T E

# Obong Ufot Joseph Ekaette

(1939 - 2019)

“

Former President  
**OLUSEGUN OBASANJO**

**W**e are here to honour a man who deserves all the honour and the entire accolade we can give him. When people talk about achievement, the director of ceremony here was talking about my achievements both in Government and Military.

What they always leave behind and not mentioned is that all those achievements could not have been made without people, some are still alive; many who have clearly worked with me to make those achievements possible and Ufot Ekaette is definitely one of them, most significant of them.

In fact, if you ask me how I will describe Ufot Ekaette, I have seven words: Service, Integrity, Diligence, Humility, Simplicity, Commitment and Contentment. And for us, we can only pray for him and do what we are doing now, paying the last respect.

We must apply our heart, our mind unto wisdom and reflect that if all these can be said about Ufot Ekaette, what would be said about me when my time comes? And the time will come for each and every one of us.



Now for me I say yes, Ufot has kept the faith, he has fought the fight and he has won, and the crown of glory is waiting for him. I hope the same can be said of each and every one of us when our time comes.

Ufot, sleep in the bosom of your Lord!

Akwa Ibom Governor  
**UDOM EMMANUEL**

“



**I**n terms of leadership, it is not to put greatness into humility but to elicit it for greatness. He elicited greatness in all who has crossed his path, front roll seat in some of the profoundly important decisions that affected the course and direction of this country, but he never displayed arrogance or saw himself as the repository of knowledge, power or influence. He covered himself in the enchanting aroma of humility and simplicity until he died.

It was Benjamin Harrison, the 23<sup>rd</sup> President of the United State of America that once said that, “*Great lives never go out they go on*”. I have no doubt that even though the great life of our illustrious son, a Pan-Nigeria patriot, a lover and passionate believer in the unity and inherent goodness that is imbedded in our dear country - Nigeria and our Ibibio may be physically gone, but his good deeds will live on.

At this moment, I, on behalf of the good people of this great state, especially people that he has served in one way or the other, and the people in his own career, those he touched in one way or the other pray that his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.





IN MEMORIAM

# Obong Ufot Joseph Ekaette

(1939 - 2019)







IN MEMORIAM

# Obong Ufot Joseph Ekaette

(1939 - 2019)







## Aduda hands over to Adejo

Outgoing Permanent Secretary, Political & Economic Affairs Office in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, **Mr. Gabriel Aduda** handing over to the in-coming Permanent Secretary, **Mr. Andrew Adejo** on Friday, 27th December, 2019.





# Nigerian Christmas Menu



Christmas is usually celebrated in style, with lots of delicious and tasty home cooked meals; family and friends laughing out loud and catching up on old jokes and new gist; kids chewing on yummy goodies and either watching Christmas movies or running around while mummies chase after them.

Nigerians Christmas recipes are simply the everyday meals with some additional specials, comprising numbers of meals, snacks and sweets you can prepare for your family at Christmas. It is indeed a season to be jolly.

Away from the festivities that mark the Christmas season, some people believe the best part of the holiday is the sumptuous delicacies that should be going around.

Is there really a Christmas meal if there is no chicken in the mix? This is one of the main reasons people look forward to eating, the tasty treasure that awaits you at the end. It can be prepared in different ways and dosed, dipped and layered with your preferred sauce.

Have a splendid celebration!



# SAFETY TIPS DURING *Yuletide*

## **PERSONAL SECURITY**

First and foremost, there must be personal Security. Maintain a low profile, blend in and be alert to developments in your environment. Stay away from known areas prone to crimes. Withdraw from undue exposure, inclusive of your family members.

Save emergency numbers on your phone with speed dial for easy call in an emergency. Regularly review your personal security, around your home, and your business.

Avoid routine pattern of movements and late night outings. The more predictable your movements and schedules are, to and from places of leisure, entertainment, worship, shopping, schooling, the easier it is for a kidnapper to plan and execute your abduction.

## **CHILDREN SAFETY**

Whether traveling by air or road, remember that everyone especially children should be buckled up at all times.

## **FRAUD ALERT**

Beware of fraud, swindles and scams that target unwitting revelers. Scams abound when the money and cheer are flowing. Everyone wants to share goodwill and good tidings this Yuletide Season, so it is easy to be taken advantage of at this time. Also, with more online transactions taking place, there is a corresponding rise in criminal behavior over the internet involving fraud and scams.

## **SAFE SHOPPING**

When shopping for presents at the mall and riding on escalators, children should stand facing forward, always holding the handrail, and never touching the sides or sit on the stairs. Make sure all coats, buttons, shoes and hoods are properly locked before boarding the escalator. Before boarding an elevator, and make sure doors are properly opened. Never try to stop a closing elevator with any object.

## **DRIVE SAFE**

Please do not drive after drinking alcohol! Let someone else do the driving or better still, call a cab.

## **BE VIGILANT WITH STRANGERS**

Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Con-artists may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

## **FINANCIAL CAUTION**

Lastly, avoid taking large sums of money to or from the bank or directing employees to do so. Employ a reputable security service to handle deposits to financial institutions or seek the assistance of the Police. Persons using Automated Teller Machines are also urged to be vigilant and protect their debit or credit card information.





## **International Day for Persons with Disabilities**







# Season's Greetings

Wishing the Permanent Secretaries,  
Directors, Deputy Directors and all the staff of the  
Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation  
a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

**Boss Mustapha**

Secretary to the Government of the Federation



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**TOLL FREE NUMBER**  
**122**

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