



## Federal Ministry of Justice

### **DAILY NEWSPAPERS REVIEW THURSDAY MARCH 14, 2019**

#### **PRESIDENT REVOKES OML 11 LICENCE, TRANSFERS OPERATORSHIP TO NNPC - THISDAY PG.1&8, PUNCH PG.27**

Exactly 26 years after the people of Ogoniland in Rivers State sacked Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) following the killing of Dr. Ken Saro-Wiwa, President Muhammadu Buhari has revoked the operating licence granted the oil giant for Oil Mining Lease (OML) 11, located in the area, Thisday's investigation has revealed. OML 11, one of the most important oil blocks in Nigeria, in terms of oil and gas production, lies in the south eastern Niger Delta and contains 33 oil and gas fields, including Bodo, Bodo West and Yorla fields.

#### **OBSERVERS SEEK REVIEW OF ELECTORAL LAWS, PROSECUTION OF OFFENDERS - DAILY TRUST PG.4, SUN PG.40**

An international election observer group, Pan African Women Projects, is seeking the review of the nation's electoral laws and the prosecution of electoral offenders. The group, which monitored the 2019 general elections in Akwa Ibom State, yesterday commended the Independent National Electoral Commission for conducting free and fair elections in the state.

#### **POLITICIANS RESORT TO VOTE BUYING AHEAD OF KANO RERUN - DAILY TRUST PG.13, NATION PG.42**

Political actors in Kano State have resorted to buying of Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) from potential voters ahead of the re-run governorship election slated for March 23. Elections will hold in 172 polling units across the 44 local government areas of the state. Already, police authorities have confirmed the arrest of five suspects over alleged buying of voters' cards ahead of the supplementary election

### **N400M FRAUD CASE: METUH FIRES SANS, HIRES NEW LAWYER - PUNCH PG.42, SUN PG.5**

A former spokesman for the Peoples Democratic Party, Olisa Metuh, has dropped the two Senior Advocates of Nigeria leading his defence in his N400m money laundering case before the Federal High Court in Abuja, hiring another lawyer, Mr Abel Ozioko, to take over from them. Ozioko appeared in the case for the first time on Wednesday. Metuh's decision to stop Dr Onyechi Ikpeazu and Mr Emeka Etiaba came barely 24 hours after they filed an application for withdrawal as the defendant's counsel

### **REPS LAMENT INCONCLUSIVE POLLS, SENATE VOWS TO PROBE INEC - PUNCH PG.4**

The House of Representatives has criticised the Independent National Electoral Commission over the declaration of governorship elections in six states inconclusive. Consequently, the lower chamber of the National Assembly is considering amending the relevant sections of the constitution to whittle down the powers of INEC concerning declaration of election results.

### **WITNESS ABSENCE DELAYS ALAO-AKALA'S N11.5BN FRAUD TRIAL AGAIN - PUNCH PG.42, NATION PG.5**

The trial of a former governor of Oyo State, Chief Adebayo Alao-Akala, and two others for alleged N11.5bn fraud was on Wednesday adjourned till May 2, 2019 due to the absence of the prosecution witness. The witness was billed to give evidence in support of the 11 counts preferred against the accused by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

### **EFCC RE-ARRAIGNS ERASTUS AKINGBOLA FOR ALLEGED N179BN FRAUD - PUNCH PG.3, NATION PG.4, THISDAY PG.52, SUN PG.4**

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on Wednesday re-arraigned a former Managing Director of the defunct Intercontinental Bank Plc, Dr Erastus Akingbola, on N179bn fraud charges. Akingbola's re-arraignment before the Federal High Court in Lagos followed a

further amendment to the charges, which the EFCC filed against him since 2009.

### **INEC LACKS POWER TO WITHHOLD MY CERTIFICATE OF RETURN – OKOROCHA - PUNCH PG.26, NATION PG.3**

Imo State Governor, Rochas Okorocha, on Wednesday said the Independent National Electoral Commission lacked power to withhold his certificate of return as the senator-elect for the Imo West. He described the electoral body's decision to withhold his certificate as part of efforts aimed at making him irrelevant ahead of the 2023 presidential election.

### **COURT REMANDS ALLEGED INTERNET FRAUDSTER IN CUSTODY - PUNCH PG.5, NATION PG43**

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has arraigned one Ajayi Temitope Charles before the Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin on five counts bordering on Internet fraud. The accused, who pleaded not guilty to the charges before Justice M. Abdulgafar, on Wednesday, was allegedly caught with documents indicating that he wanted to defraud unsuspecting members of the public.

### **HOW ONNOGHEN UNDERWENT SURGICAL EVACUATION, BY HOSPITAL REPORT - NATION PG.40**

Details of the health challenges of the suspended Chief Justice of Nigeria Walter Onnoghen emerged yesterday from a report presented to the Code of Conduct Tribunal. A private hospital in Abuja, Ideal Dental Services, claimed that Justice Onnoghen underwent surgical evacuation of abscess (Incision and drainage) in tooth No. 34. Justice Onnoghen has been discharged from the hospital but he is expected to "observe strict bed rest for 72 hours".

### **COURT ORDERS ECOBANK TO FORFEIT N22.5BN OVER AIRTEL SHARES - THISDAY PG.1&8**

A Federal High Court in Lagos has ordered O & O Networks Limited, a special purpose vehicle owned by Ecobank Transnational Incorporated, to pay the sum of N22.5billion, being proceeds of the wrongful sale of shares in Airtel Networks Limited by Ecobank to Bharti Airtel, into the

court's account. The decision is fallout from the long-standing legal dispute between Mr. Oba Otudeko, a founding shareholder and former Chairman of Airtel Nigeria; his company, Broad Communications Limited; another founding shareholder of the company and O & O Networks now owned by Ecobank Transnational Incorporated.

**COURT STOPS EFCC, POLICE, DSS FROM ARRESTING FANI-KAYODE AND ODUMAKIN FOR PEDDLING FAKE NEWS - SUN PG. 4&5**

The DSS, EFCC, and Police have been barred by a federal high court from arresting FFK and Odumakin over comments they made concerning Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Walter Onnoghen. An Abuja Federal High Court has restrained the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC), the Department of State Services (DSS) and the Nigeria Police from arresting or detaining Femi Fani-Kayode and Yinka Odumakin.