



DAILY NEWSPAPERS REVIEW TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2019

2019: SHOULD INEC EXERCISE PROSECUTORIAL POWERS? - DAILY TRUST PG.29

Lawyers are divided whether or not the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should handle the prosecution of electoral offenders arrested while trying to disrupt election process. While Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Mr. Femi Falana throws his weight behind INEC, other lawyers take a different opinion. Chief Raymond Adekunle Olaiya in a chat with Daily Trust over the weekend said if INEC had been doing well, it would not have been difficult to give the commission powers to prosecute electoral offenders who stand on its way to carry out its function.

NGO MARCHES AGAINST POOR PRISON CONDITIONS - DAILY TRUST PG.30

Members of a criminal justice reform organisation, Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) have, in a rally in Abuja, called for reforms on conditions of prisons across Nigeria. The protesters had placards with inscriptions such as: 'Say no to prolonged pre-trial detention', 'Remove children from adult prisons now', 'Reform the prisons', and 'say no to torture'.

PRESIDENTIAL POLL: ATIKU ASKS COURT TO DECLARE HIM WINNER - DAILY TRUST PG.10, NATION PG. 6, PUNCH PG.23, THISDAY PG.1&6, SUN PG.8

Candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar, has asked the Presidential Elections Petitions Tribunal (PEPT) to declare him winner of the February 23 presidential election. Further, Atiku and his party, the PDP asked the tribunal to disqualify the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Muhammadu Buhari for alleged non-submission of academic credentials to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Form CF001.

ONNOGHEN CHARGED BEFORE INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED, CCT TOLD - DAILY TRUST PG.3, NATION PG.3&6, PUNCH PG.10, THISDAY PG.1&6, SUN PG.4

The Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) was yesterday told that the charge of non-declaration of assets filed against the suspended Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) Walter Onnoghen was instituted before an investigation was concluded. Justice Onnoghen had pleaded not guilty to the 6-count charge filed against him by the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) before the CCT.

EFCC GETS COURT'S NOD TO AMEND CHARGE AGAINST BABACHIR LAWAL - DAILY TRUST PG.3, NATION PG.8, PUNCH PG.24, THISDAY PG.10, SUN PG.9

An FCT High Court in Maitama has granted leave to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to amend the fraud charge against former Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Babachir Lawal and three others. Lawal was arraigned on a 10-count charge bothering on conspiracy and fraud to the tune of N544million along with Hamidu David Lawal, Suleiman Abubakar, Apeh John Monday and two companies, Rholavision Engineering Ltd and Josmon Technologies Ltd.

ALLEGED FRAUD: SUSPENDED SEC DG GWARZO TO KNOW FATE APRIL 12 - DAILY TRUST PG.3, NATION PG.8

An FCT High Court in Maitama has fixed April 12 for ruling on a no-case application filed by suspended Director General of the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC), Mounir Gwarzo. Gwarzo was arraigned on a five-count charge by the Independent and Corrupt Practices and Other Related Commission (ICPC) along with Zakawani Garba, a commissioner in SEC for allegedly paying himself severance benefits of N104.8m and N10.4m in excess of car grant while still in service.

FAYOSE'S TRIAL: COURT ADMITS DEAD MAN'S STATEMENT - DAILY TRUST PG.4, NATION PG.8, PUNCH PG.3

A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos yesterday admitted in evidence a statement made by one late Justin Erukaa, who had worked as a

personal assistant to Mr Musiliu Obanikoro, before his death. In a short ruling, Justice Mojisola Olatoregun admitted Erukaa's statement and marked it as exhibit J in the ongoing trial of former governor of Ekiti State, Ayodele Fayose, over an alleged N2.2bn fraud.

JUDGE'S ABSENCE STALLS EX-NIA DG'S TRIAL - DAILY TRUST PG.6, THISDAY PG.11

The absence of Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of a Federal High Court in Lagos on Monday stalled the arraignment of former Director-General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Ambassador Ayo Oke and his wife, Folashade, for laundering over \$205 million (dollars). The couple were alleged to have indirectly concealed the sum of \$43.5 million dollars, property of the Federal Government of Nigeria in Flat 7B, No. 16, Osborne Road, Osborne Towers, Ikoyi, Lagos.

NBA PRESIDENT'S TRIAL: DEFENCE SEEKS SUMMARY OF WITNESSES' EVIDENCE - NATION PG.6, PUNCH PG.12, SUN PG.4

The defence yesterday told a Federal High Court that it applied for an order to direct prosecution to supply it with the summary of evidence it would provide in the trial of Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) President Paul Usoro. Defence counsel Chief Ifedayo Adedipe (SAN) told the court in Lagos that the application dated March 15 sought the court's order to direct the prosecution to frontload the summary of its evidence.

POLICE WANT ME TO IMPLICATE SARAHI, ALLEGES OFFA ROBBERY SUSPECT - NATION PG.41

One of the suspects in the April 5, 2018 bloody bank robbery in Offa, Kwara State, Ayoade Akinnibosun, alleged yesterday that the police asked him to implicate Senate President Bukola Saraki. Akinnibosun alongside two other suspects, Ibikunle Ogunleye (second accused person) and Adeola Abraham (third accused person) gave evidence at a Kwara State High Court in Ilorin, how the police allegedly extracted statements from them under duress.

ALLEGED WITHDRAWALS: IMO DOESN'T HAVE N17BN, OKOROCHA TELLS IHEDIOHA - PUNCH PG.3

Imo State Governor Rochas Okorocha has challenged Chief Emeka Ihedioha to probe him over the state chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party's allegation that he withdrew N17bn from bank accounts belonging to the state government within four days. Ihedioha, who won the March 9 governorship poll in the state on the platform of the PDP, will succeed Okorocha on May 29.

OYO CJ, NIALS DG SEEK SUPPORT FOR ACJA - PUNCH PG.3

The Chief Judge of Oyo State, Justice Muntar Abimbola, and Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Prof Adedeji Adekunle (SAN), on Monday called on stakeholders to help strengthen the Administration of Criminal Justice ACT 2015. They spoke at the opening ceremony of a training workshop on ACJA 2015 in Ibadan. Some attorney generals, judges, directors of public prosecution, lawyers and other stakeholders from the South-West were in attendance at the workshop sponsored by MacArthur Foundation.

EFCC CLAMPS DOWN ON OUTGOING GOVS - SUN PG.6

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) said, yesterday, it would begin prosecution of outgoing governors who prima facie cases of corruption have been established against them following investigations by the Commission. The commission said the prosecution will begin as soon as they hand over on May 29. It revealed that steps have been taken to ensure that any of them who have question to answer regarding corruption does not escape.