



Federal Ministry of Justice

DAILY NEWSPAPERS REVIEW WEDNESDAY MARCH 6, 2019

BUHARI CHARGES TRADITIONAL RULERS ON FIGHT AGAINST CRIMINALITY - NATION PG.4, DAILY TRUST PG.3, SUN PG.42

President Muhammadu Buhari Tuesday welcomed traditional rulers in the country to the “Next Level”, urging them to be prepared to play a crucial role in the prevention and detection of criminal activities in their domains. Speaking while receiving members of the National Council of Traditional Rulers led by the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa’ad Abubakar III, at State House, Abuja, the President noted that involving the royal fathers had become necessary in view of the deep knowledge of their localities.

ATIKU ASKS COURT TO COMPEL INEC TO PRODUCE ELECTION MATERIALS - DAILY TRUST PG.5, NATION PG.1&6, SUN PG.6, PUNCH PG.2, THISDAY PG,1&10

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its presidential candidate Alhaji Atiku Abubakar have filed a motion to compel the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to produce for inspection materials used for the February 23 presidential election. The motion ex-parte was filed at the Presidential Election Petitions Tribunal, which has opened at the Court of Appeal in Abuja on Tuesday. In the motion ex-parte dated March 4, 2019, Atiku and the PDP are seeking leave to inspect the Voters Register, the Smart Card Reader Machines, Ballot Papers and other vital documents that were used in the conduct of the presidential election.

WE’VE ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR SATURDAY’S POLLS - SECURITY CHIEFS - DAILY TRUST PG., NATION PG.7, SUN PG.5

Security chiefs yesterday said that they are prepared for Saturday’s governorship and state house of assembly elections, warning trouble makers to have a rethink. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is set to conduct the governorship election in 29

states on Saturday. The security chiefs met with President Muhammadu Buhari at the Presidential Villa, Abuja yesterday. The meeting held behind closed doors lasted for over two hours.

EFCC SEIZES ATIKU'S SON-IN-LAW'S PASSPORT - NATION PG.7, PUNCH PG.9

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar's son-in-law's Abdullahi Babalele's passport has been seized by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). He is under investigation for alleged laundering of 150million Euro. Babalele was released on bail yesterday after undergoing interrogation for about 72 hours. He is being investigated alongside Mr. Uyi Giwa-Osagie (an associate of Atiku) who had earlier been arrested by detectives. But the anti-graft agency held on to Uyi as at press time because "investigation is still in progress".

UK: NIGERIA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION FIGHTS FRUSTRATED BY EFCC, OTHERS - THISDAY PG.10

Nigeria's attempts at stemming the tides of official corruption for years now have been hampered by the inability of the various government agencies set up for this purpose, to work collectively and in unison, the British Council, which is an agency of the government of the United Kingdom (UK), has said. According to the British Council, anti-corruption agencies of Nigeria such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC); Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB); Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), which recently got independence from the EFCC, have continued to work in silos, thus frustrating the fight against corruption.

OBASANJO: WHY I WON'T STOP ATTACKING BUHARI - NATION PG.4 DAILY, TRUST PG.4, SUN PG.11, PUNCH PG.7, THISDAY PG.11

Former president Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday said he would not stop criticising the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari until it begins to do the right things. Obasanjo said he has held the nation's mantle of leadership longer than any past or present leader, advising those pressuring him to give up criticising Buhari to also tell the President to run the country the right way. The ex - Head of State

spoke at a public lecture to mark his 82nd birthday. The venue was at the sprawling Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library (OOP), Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital.

DICKSON TO BURATAI: PROSECUTE SOLDIERS WHO KILLED MY PHOTOGRAPHER - DAILY TRUST PG.4, NATION PG.44, PG.42

Bayelsa State Governor Seriake Dickson has urged the Chief of Army Staff, Lt.-General Tukur Buratai, to identify and prosecute the soldiers who killed a government house photographer. Reginald Dei and one Taribi Seidougha in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of the state during the February 23 elections. Dickson, in a statement yesterday by his director of Strategic Communications, Nathan Egba-Ologo, said Buratai has a responsibility to redeem the image of the army by ensuring the arrest and trial of the soldiers.

CJ FREES 14 INMATES - NATION PG.

The Chief Judge of Nasarawa State, Justice Suleiman Dikko, has freed 14 inmates at Lafia Prisons during his quarterly visit to prison formations to decongest prisons. He said the inmates freed were those awaiting trial in mostly civil cases and cautioned prosecutors to be careful not to convert civil cases to criminal cases. The Comptroller of Prisons, Nasarawa State Command, Mr. Patrick Dalyop, had expressed delight with the CJ's commitment in visiting prison formations and putting smiles on the faces of the inmates, thus relieving pressure on the facilities.

WE ARE EAGER TO MEET ATIKU IN COURT, SAYS KEYAMO - NATION PG., THISDAY PG.10

Director of Strategic Communication of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, Festus Keyamo (SAN) has said that the APC was prepared and eager to meet the Presidential candidate of the PDP, Atiku Abubakar in court to prove that the 2019 elections was conducted in a free and fair atmosphere devoid of rigging as being claimed by the opposition. Keyamo said in statement made available to newsmen in Abuja that resorting to court was the only democratic way of ventilating his perceived grievances about the election, stressing that the council

was not in any way prevailing on the former Vice President not to challenge the outcome of the exercise in court.

LAWYERS SEEK COURT'S PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW FROM METUH'S TRIAL - NATION PG.4, PUNCH PG.13, THISDAY PG.12

Lawyers to Olisa Metuh, former spokesman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) have applied to a Federal High Court in Abuja for permission to withdraw their participation in Metuh's ongoing trial for alleged fraud and money laundering related offences. The lawyers numbering 12, including two Senior Advocates of Nigeria - Onyechi Ikpeazu and Emeka Etiaba - gave reasons, in a fresh motion, why they want to be excused from the case. The lawyers, who urged the court to allow them to withdraw from the trial in the interest of justice, claimed to be under "immense pressure" over their continued appearance in the case, and that there have been threats to their lives.

JUSUN SUES KOGI GOVERNOR, CJ OVER JUDICIARY FUNDING - DAILY TRUST PG.4, PUNCH PG.12

The Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), Kogi chapter has dragged the state governor, Yahaya Bello, the Chief Judge, Justice Nasir Ajanah and seven others before the National Industrial Court sitting in Lokoja. The union's action is predicated on alleged constitutional breach of non-remittance of funds accruing to the state Judiciary leading to accumulated salary arrears of eight months and strike action.

EFCC ARRESTS CUSTOM'S BOSS IMPERSONATOR - DAILY TRUST PG.7

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arrested one Azeez Yakubu Afolayan for impersonating the Comptroller General, Nigeria Customs Service, Col. Hameed Ali (rtd) and using his name to scam job seekers. A statement on Tuesday by the acting EFCC spokesman, Tony Orilade said Afolayan was arrested by EFCC operatives of its Ilorin Zonal Office Kwara state on February 20th, 2019, following complaints from one of his victims.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE: MELAYE DOCKED, GRANTED N5M BAIL - DAILY TRUST PG.7

Senator Dino Melaye (Kogi, PDP) has been arraigned over allegations of attempted suicide; attempt to escape from custody and damage to police property. The Kogi West senator was arraigned yesterday before Justice Silvanus Oriji of an FCT High Court in Apo on a six-count charge. He denied the charges and was subsequently admitted to bail.

AGAIN, EL-ZAKZAKY SUPPORTERS SHUT DOWN ABUJA IN PROTEST - SUN PG.42

Supporters of the incarcerated leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) otherwise known as Shi'ites, have shut down parts of Abuja city centre in protest, demanding the unconditional release of their spiritual leader, Sheikh Ibrahim El-zakzaky and his wife. El-zakzaky and his wife have been in custody of the Department of State Service (DSS) since 2015, against several court orders that have granted him bail. Since then, his supporters have continued to protest peacefully and violently, to draw global attention to the perceived injustice being done to their spiritual leader.

WE'RE NOT TAKING DARIYE ABROAD FOR TREATMENT –NPS - PUNCH PG.7

The Nigeria Prisons Service has said it will not fly out a former Plateau State Governor, Joshua Dariye, who is reportedly suffering from kidney disease for treatment abroad. The service stated that the senator, who is serving a 10-year jail term in the Kuje Prison, Abuja, was getting the best care at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Gwagwalada, where he had been admitted to. The NPS spokesman, Francis Enobore, told our correspondent on Monday that doctors treating the senator had not referred him to any foreign hospital, noting that he was in good hands.

EFCC ARRAIGNS BUSINESSWOMAN FOR DEFRAUDING LAWYER OF N165M - PUNCH PG.5

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, on Tuesday, arraigned a businesswoman, Linda Mabi-Praise, before a Lagos State Special

Offences Court for allegedly defrauding a lawyer, Unoma Omo, of N165.5m. Mabi-Praise was arraigned on two counts of obtaining money by false pretences and stealing, which she pleaded not guilty to. According to the EFCC, Mabi-Praise and her company, Mutano Energy Limited, committed the offences between April and June 2017 in Lagos

N450M FRAUD CASE: I'VE NEVER MET DIEZANI, SAYS BELGORE - PUNCH PG.13, NATION PG.5, THISDAY PG.43

A Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Mr Dele Belgore, who is being prosecuted for alleged N450m fraud, said on Tuesday he had never met a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs Diezani Alison-Madueke, from whom the prosecution claimed he collected N450m in 2015. Belgore said although he visited Fidelity Bank on March 26, 2015 to sign for the money in his capacity as the Kwara State coordinator of ex-President Goodluck Jonathan's re-election campaign, he was never told that the money came from Diezani.

FALANA: ATIKU WILL FACE INSURMOUNTABLE LEGAL OBSTACLES AT TRIBUNAL - THISDAY PG.11

Human rights lawyer and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Mr. Femi Falana, yesterday said the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the February 23 election, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, has "insurmountable legal obstacles" to face at the Presidential Election Petitions Tribunal. Falana, however, said in a statement that the former vice president should not be blackmailed not to take the legal step, adding that the calls prevailing on him not to approach the tribunal were uncalled for.

EFCC RELEASES TURAKI - THISDAY PG.45

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has released Taminu Turaki, lead counsel of Atiku Abubakar, presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), The Cable reported late last night. Turaki, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), was arrested after the anti-graft agency invited him to sign a bail document for Babalele Abdullahi, son-in-law of Atiku and finance director of some companies owned by the PDP presidential candidate.