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We the management and the entire team of *fmfinsights* wish you, Our Esteemed Reader, Merry Christmas and prosperous New year. Thank you for being there for us!

FIRS Directive On Electronic Money Transfer Levy Should Remain Strategic For Economic Growth

EDITORIAL

Not long ago, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) issued a directive instructing banks to deduct the Electronic Money Transfer Levy (EMTL) on foreign currency transactions.

The service directed deposit money banks to deduct and remit Electronic Money Transfer Levy (EMTL) on foreign currency (FCY) transactions going forward.

The levy is in line with the Finance Act 2020 and Stamp Act 2004, which impose an EMTL on transfer for money deposited in any financial institution on any type of account.

Obviously, in compliance with service's directive, financial institutions have already informed their customers of the latest

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Nigeria Emphasises Inclusive Growth As W/Bank Tackles NNPC's Transparency Amid Reforms

In a recent acknowledgment by the Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of Economy, ***Mr. Wale Edun****, key achievements of the current administration were highlighted, while also emphasising on increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio. Reflecting the World Bank's Nigeria Development Update (NDU) for December 2023, titled 'Turning the Corner: Time to Move From Reforms to Results,' the report anticipates an average annual economic growth rate of 3.5 percent between 2023 and 2026, considering continued macroeconomic stabilisation reforms. Despite ongoing challenges, the World Bank sees 2024 as an opportunity for Nigeria to transition towards a more stable macroeconomic environment, increased fiscal space, and improved access to foreign exchange—a crucial move towards job creation and poverty alleviation. Writes* ***Enam Obiosio.***

The federal government's ambitious targets have been reflecting a comprehensive approach to economic revitalisation, emphasising fiscal responsibility, revenue diversification, and strategic asset utilisation. As these initiatives keep unfolding, of course, their success will play a crucial role in shaping Nigeria's economic landscape, fostering stability, and attracting investments.

Not long ago, Honourable Minister Finance and Coordinating Minister of Economy, Mr. Wale Edun, acknowledged key achievements of the

Mr. Wale Edun, Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of Economy

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FG Unveils Ambitious N23bn Plan For Airport Rehabilitation In 2024 Budget

By Ahmed Ahmed

In a major push to enhance Nigeria's aviation infrastructure, the federal government has outlined an ambitious allocation of N23,085,000,000 in the 2024 fiscal year for the comprehensive rehabilitation and repair of airports, aerodromes, and air navigational equipment.

The provision, part of the executive proposal in the 2024 Appropriation Bill, underscores the government's commitment to elevating the nation's aviation sector. It signifies a strategic effort to bolster and modernise the nation's aviation infrastructure.

Breaking down the figures, a staggering N20,985,000,000 has been allocated for the specific purpose of rehabilitating and repairing airport/aerodromes, while an additional N2,100,000,000 is designated for the rehabilitation of air navigational equipment.

Beyond this, the parent Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development is slated to receive over N63.31 billion, with N39.80 billion allocated to the ministry itself.

Further allocations include N13,199,789,935 for the Nigerian Meteorological Agency, N5,500,235,528 for the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology in Zaria, and N4,808,779,916 for the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB).

Delving into the details of the budget, over N1.39 billion is allocated for refreshments, meals, welfare packages, and sporting activities, among other items. Ongoing projects also feature prominently, with plans to invest N2 billion in the development of an Aerospace University in Abuja and N1 billion for the expansion of wing D and E fingers of Murtala Mohammed Airport in Lagos.

Additionally, N500 million has been set aside for ongoing safety and security critical projects and airport certification nationwide, while N10 million is allocated for the purchase of fire trucks for airports. A budget of N60 million is earmarked for the ongoing Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA) and Multilateral Air Service Agreement (MASA) with various countries, including Namibia, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Russia, Senegal, Israel, Pakistan, Iran, South Africa, Eritrea, Namibia, Venezuela, among others.

This substantial investment underscores the government's commitment to advancing the nation's aviation capabilities and safety standards.

Dangote Refinery To Ensure $27bn Annual Revenue, Environmental Innovation

By Jennete Ugo Anya

In a groundbreaking development poised to reshape Nigeria's economic landscape, the Dangote Refinery is projected to generate an annual revenue of $27 billion at full capacity, according to exclusive sources.

The refinery, with a capacity of 650,000 barrels per day, is set to become a key player in the global energy market, producing a diverse range of products while pioneering environmental sustainability.

The initial phase will prioritise the production of diesel, aviation fuel, and gas, paving the way for future expansion into petrol production. The refinery's comprehensive product lineup includes fuels such as petrol, aviation fuel, kerosene, and diesel, along with specialty products like urea and polypropylene for both domestic and international markets.

Notably, the refinery's foray into special products like naphtha and polypropylene is expected to catalyse growth in ancillary industries such as cosmetics, plastics, and textiles, contributing to a diversified economic ecosystem.

Designed to process Nigerian crude oil, the refinery demonstrates its versatility by also handling crude from various sources, including African countries, the Middle East, and the United States.

The company's projections indicate a significant increase in the production of motor gasoline (petrol), aligning with the refinery's goal to reach approximately 249,000 barrels per day by 2026 and surpass 300,000 barrels per day by 2033.

In a strategic move towards environmental responsibility, the refinery incorporates advanced carbon capture technologies and storage processes, aiming to capture over 90 percent of carbon emissions. This initiative aligns with Nigeria's ambitious target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2060.

Renowned industrialist, Mr. Femi Otedola highlighted the refinery's expected contribution of $20 billion to Nigeria's economic transformation, emphasising its role in reducing well-to-tank carbon emissions from crude oil maritime transportation.

The Dangote Refinery's commitment to environmental sustainability extends to water recycling and harnessing heat generated in the process to produce 50MW of power, showcasing an innovative approach to energy efficiency.

The refinery's advanced infrastructure includes offshore Single Point Moorings (SPMs) for receiving crude oil, robust logistical capabilities for high-volume distribution, and compliance with Euro V specifications for cleaner and higher-quality fuels. This comprehensive approach positions the Dangote Refinery as a pioneer in both economic growth and environmental stewardship.

Nigeria Emphasises Inclusive Growth As W/Bank Tackles NNPC's Transparency Amid Reforms

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current administration, including the removal of the subsidy on petroleum motor spirit (PMS), the foreign exchange market reform, and the establishment of fiscal policy and tax reform committees.

The diligent implementation of laws and regulations has so far resulted in reduced smuggling and notable progress in restoring government's revenue.

The government also has been emphasising its commitment to intervention programs aimed at supporting the poor and the vulnerable through very meaningful reforms.

Recall, Mr. Edun, at the unveiling of the Nigerian Banking Sector report by Afrinvest West Africa in Lagos, emphasised the federal government plans to increase the tax-to gross domestic product - (GDP) ratio from 10 percent in 2023 to 18 percent by 2026.

R-L: **Mrs. Nancy Iloh Nnaji,** TV Anchor/Executive Producer of Moneyline with Nancy on Africa Independent Television(AIT), **Mr. Wale Edun,** Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of Economy, **Dr. Yemi Cardoso,** Governor Central Bank of Nigeria, **Mrs. Doris Uzoka-Anite** Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria, **Mr. Shubham Chaudhuri,** Country Director of World Bank, **Mr. Rotus Oddiri,** TV Host, Arise Media Group during the launch of the World Bank's Nigeria Development Update December 2023.

As Nigeria navigates economic reforms and fiscal discipline, transparency becomes imperative for building trust in the government's management of national resources

W/Bank NDU Report for December 2023

It appears that Mr. Edun's emphasis has elicited the World Bank's Nigeria Development Update (NDU) for December 2023 titled 'Turning the Corner: Time to Move From Reforms to Results'. The NDU report outlines expectations of an average annual economic growth rate of 3.5 percent in 2023-2026 with continued macroeconomic stabilisation reforms. While recognising the nation's progress toward recovery.

Despite the current hardships, the World Bank sees an opportunity for Nigeria to turn the corner in 2024 towards a more stable macroeconomic environment, increased fiscal space, and improved access to foreign exchange—a crucial step toward job creation and poverty alleviation.

Although the World Bank report also reveals a concerning escalation in poverty levels, with 104 million Nigerians now living below the poverty line, the ambitious reforms, notably the removal of petrol subsidies and the restructuring of the foreign exchange market, are acknowledged by the World Bank as bold steps necessary for the nation's fiscal stability. However, the report underscores that these changes have triggered heightened living costs, exacerbating financial struggles for a significant portion of the population.

The World Bank's NDU not only acknowledges the commendable efforts of the federal government but also emphasises the temporary challenges and hardships experienced by Nigerians due to these reforms.

According to the report, the number of people living in poverty in Nigeria has risen from 95 million in 2021 to 104 million, indicating a worrisome trend despite the ongoing reforms.

The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) had previously reported figures of 82.9 million in 2019 and 85.2 million in 2020.

In the face of inflation reaching record highs at 27.33 percent Year-on-Year in October 2023, the removal of the gasoline subsidy has contributed to this inflationary pressure, particularly impacting vulnerable citizens. The foreign exchange market remains volatile, undergoing adjustments to the new policy approach, with notable fluctuations in exchange rates.

World Bank Country Director for Nigeria, Mr. Shubham Chaudhuri, acknowledges the critical importance of the petrol subsidy and foreign exchange management reforms while urging coordinated fiscal and monetary policy actions for sustained positive outcomes.

The report recommends specific actions to address challenges, including controlling inflation, improving FX market stability, achieving fiscal consolidation, and removing structural barriers to growth.

Examination of impacts of fuel subsidy removal

The recent revelation by the World Bank regarding the lack of transparency in the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) has sparked concerns and calls for a deeper examination of the fiscal impacts of fuel subsidy removal.

The World Bank's NDU reportalso sheds light on a perceived opacity surrounding the financial gains from subsidy removal, subsidy arrears deduction, and their implications for federation revenues.

Since the announcement of the removal of fuel subsidy on May 29 by President Bola Tinubu, expectations were high for a positive transformation in Nigeria's fiscal landscape. The move aimed to free up foreign exchange earnings and redirect funds previously allocated to subsidy towards more productive areas of the economy. However, the recent World Bank report suggests that the gains might not be as straightforward as anticipated.

The World Bank report points out that while nominal oil revenue gains have been evident, these gains are predominantly categorised as 'exchange rate gains' linked to the depreciation of the naira. The lack of transparency in oil revenues, especially regarding NNPCL's financial gains from subsidy removal and the ongoing deduction of subsidy arrears, raises questions about the actual impact on federation revenues.

One of the notable concerns highlighted by the World Bank is the apparent discrepancy between the gains in net oil revenues of the federation and the expected contributions from fuel subsidy removal. Despite the removal of a monthly N380 billion fuel subsidy cost to the federation, the bank notes that gains in net oil revenues have been lower than expected.

The World Bank suggests that the lack of alignment between petrol pump prices and market fundamentals, such as exchange rate movements and global oil prices, raises the possibility of the reemergence of implicit fuel subsidies. This scenario, if accurate, could compromise the intended fiscal benefits of subsidy removal.

The World Bank's call for transparency is a crucial aspect of the analysis. The report emphasises the need for the NNPCL to provide more clarity on the financial gains from subsidy removal, subsidy arrears deduction, and their impact on federation revenues. As Nigeria navigates economic reforms and fiscal discipline, transparency becomes imperative for building trust in the government's management of national resources.

In response to the report, Mr. Edun has acknowledged the need for scrutiny on oil revenue and production. He outlined plans for a robust rollout of measures to raise tax revenue, emphasising efficiency, digitalisation, and improved collection. The scrutiny on waivers and tax incentives also indicates a broader effort to address leakages in government finances.

All this underscores the delicate balance between economic reforms, fiscal discipline, and the imperative of transparent resource management. As Nigeria aims to navigate its post-subsidy era, the government's responsiveness to calls for transparency will play important role in shaping public perception and ensuring the effective utilisation of freed-up funds for national development. The spotlight on NNPCL's financial practices serves as a call for heightened accountability in managing the nation's economic resources. All this (including the level of private and international partners collaboration) is a pointer to the nation's journey towards everything good, more so creating access to clean energy.

DARES Project

In a groundbreaking move, the World Bank approved the Nigeria Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up (DARES) project, signalling a significant stride in the nation's journey towards expanding access to clean energy.

The $750 million project, backed by an International Development Association (IDA) credit, is set to leverage over $1 billion of private capital and additional funding from global partners, reflecting a robust collaborative effort to address Nigeria's energy access challenges.

Key Components of the DARES Project

The primary aim of the DARES project is to provide over 17.5 million Nigerians with new or improved access to electricity through distributed renewable energy solutions. This ambitious goal aligns with Nigeria's commitment to achieving its energy transition targets and represents the largest-ever single distributed energy project by the World Bank globally.

With $750 million in IDA credit and leveraging over $1 billion from private capital and partners like the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the DARES project adopts innovative financing solutions. This multi-faceted approach emphasises the importance of blending public and private resources for sustainable development.

The involvement of key development partners, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the German Development Agency (GIZ), SEforAll, and the African Development Bank (AfDB), underscores the collaborative nature of the initiative. Such partnerships enhance the project's holistic impact by bringing together diverse expertise and resources.

Acknowledging the severe energy access gap in Nigeria, where over 85 million people lacked access to electricity as of 2021, the DARES project makes to build on the successes of the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP). NEP has played a crucial role in establishing mini grids and facilitating access to electricity through solar home systems, positively impacting millions of Nigerians.

DARES places a significant emphasis on gender and inclusion. By prioritising actions to facilitate electricity access for disadvantaged female-headed households and women-led micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the project aims to create a more equitable energy landscape. Additionally, measures to increase women's employment in the energy sector align with broader gender-inclusive development goals.

Government and Stakeholder Matters

Mr. Chaudhuri, emphasises the transformative potential of the DARES project in replacing polluting and expensive generator sets, a critical step in Nigeria's energy transition.

The Honourable Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adebalu, has lauded the DARES program as a revolutionary movement, highlighting its role in unlocking the full potential of the off-grid sector and fuelling investments in clean energy solutions.

The DARES project signifies a landmark initiative that not only addresses the urgent need for expanded access to clean energy in Nigeria but also showcases the effectiveness of international collaboration and innovative financing models. As the project unfolds, its success will be closely monitored as it holds the potential to reshape the energy landscape, empower communities, and serve as a blueprint for similar endeavours globally. The focus on gender inclusivity and leveraging private capital reflects a holistic approach to sustainable national nay international development, aligning with broader global goals.

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EDITORIAL

FIRS Directive On Electronic Money Transfer Levy Should Remain Strategic For Economic Growth

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development.

The "Notice of Remittance of EMTL on FCY Transactions" which was sent to customers by one of the major banks, intimated them of the deduction of the sum of N50 only on every foreign currency transaction with equivalent amount of N10,000 and above going forward.

It added that the sums deducted would be remitted to the relevant tax authority.

The bank further clarified that it would deduct EMTL on qualifying transactions executed from the first week of January 2021 to the last week of December 2023.

The EMTL levy provided additional sources of revenue for the federal government and had been deducted in other economic activities including energy.

Obviously in the immediate, the benefit of the FIRS directive is the potential boost to government's revenue.

Earlier in September, the Chairman, Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), Mohammed Bello Shehu, while providing an update on remittances to the federation account, revealed that the sum of N83.02 billion accounted for revenues from the EMTL out of which N3.32 billion was paid to FIRS as cost of collection between January and June 2023.

The imposition of the EMTL on foreign currency transactions is strategic and a proactive measure to harness additional funds for economic growth and development. Certainly, as the government grapples with the need for increased revenue streams, this move aligns with a broader strategy to ensure fiscal sustainability.

We posit that the levy, when effectively implemented, has the potential to contribute significantly to the national treasury. The funds generated can be channelled into critical sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education, addressing longstanding deficiencies and fostering overall economic development.

We believe that beyond its revenue-generation aspect, the directive holds the promise of promoting financial inclusion and accountability. By tracking foreign currency transactions more closely, the government can gain better insights into the flow of funds within the economy. This transparency is essential for curbing illicit financial activities, enhancing the integrity of the financial system, and creating a more conducive environment for both local and foreign investors.

Moreover, the imposition of the EMTL serves as a tool for encouraging formal financial channels. As transactions come under regulatory scrutiny, individuals and businesses may be incentivised to use formal banking channels, contributing to the growth and stability of the financial sector.

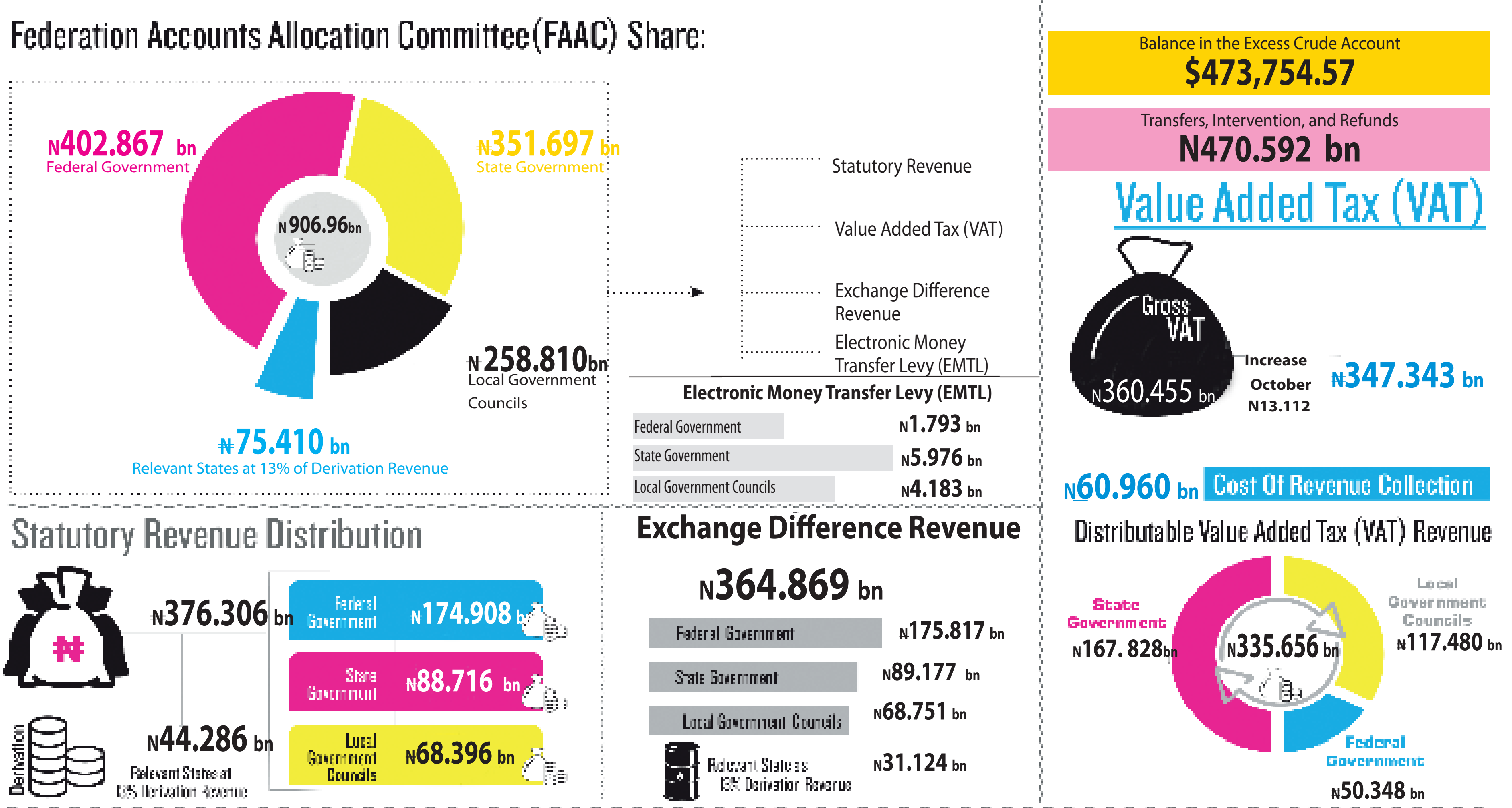
It is understandable that Nigeria's economy, like many others, is susceptible to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. Therefore, the FIRS directive plays a role in stabilising the local currency, the naira by discouraging speculative and potentially destabilising foreign currency transactions. This stability is crucial for businesses and investors, providing a conducive environment for economic planning and growth.

Furthermore, the levy can serve as a strategic tool for managing the balance of payments. By monitoring and regulating foreign currency transactions, the government can better control the outflow of foreign exchange, mitigating potential imbalances and safeguarding the stability of the national currency.

While acknowledging the potential gains, it is also crucial for the government to address concerns and challenges associated with the implementation of the EMTL. In this sense, striking a balance between revenue generation and maintaining a competitive and investor-friendly environment is paramount. Clear communication and collaboration with stakeholders will be essential in navigating potential hurdles and ensuring the smooth execution of this fiscal policy.

For us the FIRS directive on the EMTL represents a forward-thinking approach to revenue generation and economic management. As Nigeria strives for sustained economic growth, this strategic move signals a commitment to financial prudence, transparency, and accountability. The success of this initiative will not only be measured in fiscal gains but in the overall resilience and stability it brings to the Nigerian economy.

FAAC Shares N1.088 trillion November 2023 Revenue To FG, States And LGCs



In November 2023, Companies Income Tax (CIT), Excise Duty, Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT), Oil and Gas Royalties and Value Added VAT increased considerably, while transfer levies, import duty and money transfer recorded decreases.

CBN Unveils Strategies To Tackle Inflation, Exchange Rate Challenges In 2024

Addresses Naira Scarcity, Attributes Issue to Hoarding

Cash Crunch Caused By Naira Redesign Implementation

Shifts Responsibility For Loan Recovery To Banks, Suspends New Loan Applications

Financial Inclusion Surges To 74%

By Jennete Ugo Anya

During a comprehensive presentation to the National Assembly joint committee on Banking, Insurance, and Financial Institutions, Dr. Olayemi Cardoso, the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), outlined strategic measures to tackle the imminent challenges of rising inflation and exchange rate volatility expected to impact Nigeria in the upcoming year. Dr. Cardoso expressed optimism about the domestic economy in 2024, highlighting the CBN's commitment to stabilising both inflation and exchange rates, despite potential fluctuations. He assured that concerted efforts would be made to mitigate short-term inflation pressures throughout 2024.

Dr. Cardoso also underscored the anticipation of a significant alleviation of exchange rate pressures, attributing it to the implementation of a more streamlined foreign exchange market through the unification of exchange rate windows in June 2023. This policy shift aims to combat arbitrage, rent-seeking behaviour, and speculation by allowing market forces to determine exchange rates. Dr. Cardoso emphasised that this approach has already shown positive signs, particularly in narrowing the exchange rate premium.

Providing insights into the country's trade figures, Dr. Cardoso revealed that total trade in the third quarter of 2023 reached N18.804 billion, with exports valued at N10.346 billion and imports at N8.457 billion. He emphasised the positive trade balance as a key factor contributing to the augmentation of external reserves.

Addressing the issue of revenue from oil exports, Dr. Cardoso acknowledged an anticipated reduction in 2024 due to various domestic factors affecting production levels. He highlighted challenges such as crude oil theft, pipeline vandalism, production shutdowns, and divestments by major oil companies.

The interaction served as a crucial opportunity for the CBN to articulate its strategies and provide valuable insights into the economic outlook for Nigeria in the forthcoming fiscal year. The measures outlined by Dr. Cardoso reflect a proactive approach by the CBN to navigate potential economic challenges and foster stability in critical areas.

Addressing Naira Scarcity, Attributes Issue to Hoarding

The CBN responded to reported cases of cash scarcity, with Madam Sidi Ali, the apex bank's acting director of corporate communications, highlighting hoarding as a significant factor contributing to the current situation. Madam Ali assured that the CBN had released ample cash to its branches nationwide for distribution to deposit money banks (DMBs).

Mr. Yemi Cardoso, CBN Governor

Despite the availability of cash, she expressed concerns about a significant portion being held by individuals, leading to sensitisation efforts by the CBN to encourage confidence and discourage hoarding. She emphasised the need for the public to return cash to banks, assuring that the December 31st deadline, which had contributed to heightened panic withdrawals, was no longer applicable.

Madam Ali urged Nigerians to exercise patience as the CBN takes necessary steps to ensure cash availability, especially during the holiday season and beyond. She noted that the currency in circulation had risen to N3.4 trillion by December 11 due to ongoing circumstances, attributing this increase to hoarding and panic withdrawals by individuals.

> The interaction served as a crucial opportunity for the CBN to articulate its strategies and provide valuable insights...

Cash Crunch Caused By Naira Redesign Implementation

Dr. Cardoso offered insights into the prevailing cash scarcity, attributing it to the flawed implementation of the naira redesign policy.

Speaking at the launch of the World Bank Nigeria Development Update in Abuja, Dr. Cardoso identified the poorly executed naira redesign as the primary cause of the cash crunch affecting Nigerians. He expressed relief that the Supreme Court decided that the currency would remain valid post the end of the year, alleviating concerns. He emphasised the need for a thorough review of policies to prevent such challenges in the future.

In response to the evolving financial landscape and the needs of depositors, the CBN has suspended processing fees on large cash deposits until the end of April 2024, signalling a significant policy shift to encourage more substantial cash deposits, enhance liquidity, and positively impact various sectors, including businesses of all sizes.

Shifts Responsibility for Loan Recovery to Banks, Suspends New Loan Applications

In a recent circular addressed to the Chief Executives of banks, the CBN announced a significant policy change, shifting the responsibility of loan recovery to banks and simultaneously suspending applications for new loans under its development finance intervention funds. The circular outlined the CBN's decision to withdraw from direct development financing interventions and focus more on limited policy advisory roles that support economic growth.

Banks are instructed to communicate this change to their customers, emphasising that interest rates and other terms and conditions on existing facilities will remain unchanged. This shift in policy signifies a move towards a more advisory role for the CBN, allowing banks to take a more active role in the recovery of outstanding loans while maintaining the terms and conditions of existing facilities.

Financial Inclusion Surges to 74%

In a recent development, the percentage of Nigerians included in the financial services ecosystem has reached an impressive 74 percent in 2023, according to the newly launched 2023 Access to Finance Report by the non-governmental organisation Enhancing Financial Inclusion and Access in Lagos.

Dr. Cardoso, during the report's launch, urged stakeholders in the economy to embrace innovation as a crucial strategy in further narrowing the financial inclusion gap within the country.

Represented by Mr. Chibuike Nwaegerue, the CBN Director of Other Financial Institution Supervision, he acknowledged the substantial efforts made by stakeholders in expanding financial service access, particularly through the rapid deployment of agents and the development of tailored products for the financially excluded demographics.

While celebrating the progress made, Dr. Cardoso stressed the importance of continuous innovation to bring more people into the financial inclusion bracket. He highlighted recent CBN guidelines linking Tier 1 accounts to the Bank Verification Number (BVN) and National Identification Number (NIN) as part of efforts to ensure the safety of the banking space for the financially excluded and the overall economy.

Dr. Cardoso stated, "We, therefore, call on all stakeholders to continue to come up with innovative means through which Financial Inclusion can be leveraged to achieve the economic growth we desire."

Stating his perspective to the discussion, Mr. Lamido Yuguda, the Director-General of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), represented by Mr. Dayo Obisan, emphasised that financial inclusion should extend beyond merely bringing more people into the formal banking net. He urged a shift towards helping individuals maximise the long-term benefits of financial inclusion. This perspective underscores the evolving role of financial inclusion in fostering sustainable economic growth and prosperity.

FIRS: 115.9% Surge Propels CIT Collection To N1.75trn In Q3 2023

Nigeria's Q3 2023 VAT Hits Record N948.07bn, Marking 51.60% YoY Surge

By Jennete Ugo Anya

In a resounding victory for fiscal resilience, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) has witnessed an extraordinary surge of 115.9 percent in Company Income Tax (CIT) collection, catapulting the figure from N810.19 billion in quarter three Q3 2022 to a staggering N1.75 trillion in Q3 2023.

The remarkable feat not only underscores a robust economic recovery but also unveils the diverse sectors driving this surge and the nuanced shifts within major industries.

A closer look at the numbers unveils a consistent growth trajectory, with a quarter-on-quarter increase of 14.27 percent from Q2 2023 to Q3 2023. This signals not just a one-time surge but a sustained momentum, reinforcing the positive economic outlook.

Leading the growth charge is the education sector, boasting a remarkable 59.60 percent increase, followed closely by public administration and defence, compulsory social security, with a robust 57.04 percent growth. However, this upward trajectory is not uniform across all sectors.

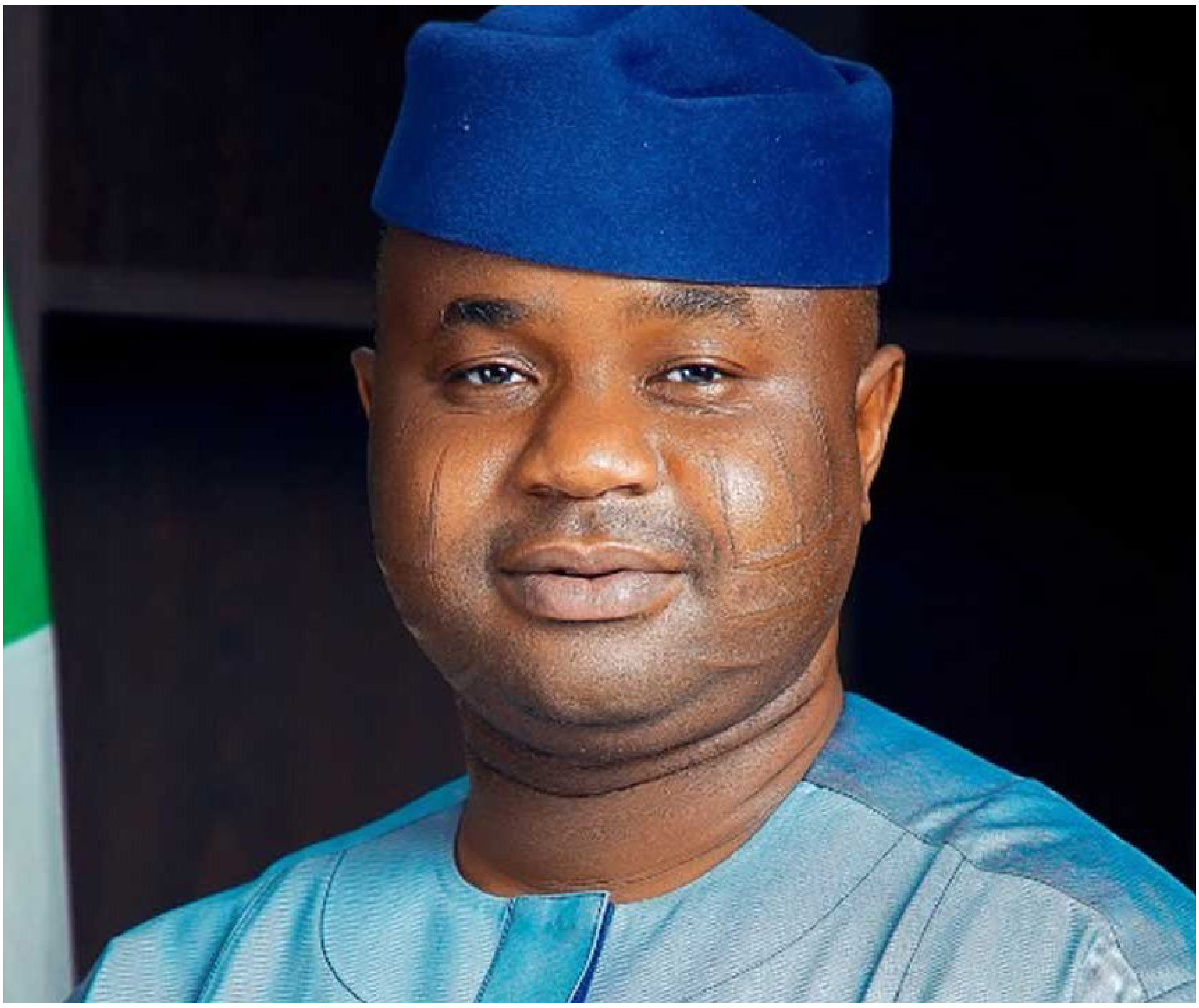
While certain sectors experience significant growth, others witness declines. Activities of households and undifferentiated goods and services for households recorded the most considerable decline with a -74.34 percent growth rate, emphasising the complex dynamics at play.

In the realm of contributors, the Information and Communication sector takes the lead, contributing a substantial 26.18 percent, closely trailed by the Manufacturing sector at 23.90 percent, and Mining and Quarrying at 11.86 percent. Specific insights into these contributions reveal intriguing shifts within major sectors.

The journey to this impressive milestone has not been without challenges. The report highlights decline in sectors such as financial and insurance, transportation and storage, and notable decreases in CIT collections from specific industries. However, the overall surge paints a resilient picture of Nigeria's economic landscape.

As the FIRS basks in the success of this surge, attention now turns to sustaining and building upon this momentum. The report recommends continued reforms, focusing on controlling inflation, improving foreign exchange (FX) market stability, achieving fiscal consolidation, and removing structural barriers to growth.

In a nutshell, the FIRS's triumph in the CIT arena not only signifies a robust economic rebound but also sets the stage for sustained growth, job creation, and ultimately, an enhanced fiscal landscape for Nigeria.



Mr. Zacch Adedeji, FIRS Chairman

> As the FIRS basks in the success of this surge, attention now turns to sustaining and building upon this momentum

Nigeria's Q3 2023 VAT Hits Record N948.07bn

Nigeria's economic landscape also witnessed a remarkable surge in the third quarter of 2023 as the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported a staggering N948.07 billion in Value Added Tax (VAT) collections.

The recently released VAT Q3 2023 Report in Abuja unveils a robust growth rate of 21.34 percent on a quarter-on-quarter basis, propelling the nation's revenue from N781.35 billion in the preceding quarter.

Breaking down the numbers, the report reveals that local payments accounted for N522.08 billion, while foreign VAT payments contributed N204.58 billion, and import VAT added N221.41 billion to the impressive total in Q3 2023.

Noteworthy is the sectoral breakdown, with agriculture, forestry, and fishing leading the charge with an astonishing growth rate of 91.87 percent, closely followed by extraterritorial organisations and bodies at 80.25 percent.

On the flip side, real estate faced a downturn with a growth rate of -37.68 percent, trailed by construction at -9.54 percent. Sectoral contributions highlighted manufacturing as the frontrunner with 26.51 percent, followed by information and communication at 19.04 percent, and financial and insurance activities at 12.31 percent.

Conversely, activities of households and undifferentiated goods-and-services-producing activities of households for own use held the smallest share at 0.02 percent.

The report underscores a remarkable year-on-year surge, indicating a substantial 51.60 percent increase in VAT collections in Q3 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. This notable uptick signals positive momentum in Nigeria's economic landscape, reflecting resilience and growth in revenue streams.

Nigerian Fintech Tingo Mobile Introduces Cutting-Edge ePOS System

By Majeed Salaam

In response to the growing need for swift and hassle-free payment processing in the Nigerian economy, Tingo Mobile has launched its electronic Point-of-Sale (ePOS) system, aiming to revolutionise financial transactions across the nation.

During abriefing in Lagos recently, Mr. Auwal Muade, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tingo Mobile Plc, emphasised that the TingoePOS system not only simplifies transactions but also plays a crucial role in fostering the growth and success of businesses nationwide.

Mr. Muade highlighted key features of the TingoePOS, stating that users can withdraw money with a single tap, while merchants can receive instant payments with zero maintenance cost, zero operational cost, and zero network issues.

He remarked, "This innovative TingoePOS solution aligns with our commitment to providing businesses with the tools they need to thrive in the digital era. It would help to redefine how people connect, beyond payments."

Mr. Muade emphasised that Tingo Mobile's commitment extends beyond transactions, with a mission to reshape the way people connect, interact, and transact in the digital age.

The ePOS system is positioned as more than a payment solution; it serves as a catalyst for seamless experiences, bringing individuals and businesses closer through innovative technology.

Addressing concerns about security, Mr. Muade assured that Tingo places security at the forefront of its product offerings. The TingoePOS system incorporates robust security measures to ensure safe and seamless transactions. Each account is securely linked to a specific device, fortifying merchant login details and preventing unauthorised access on alternative devices.

He concluded, "This robust security framework underscores our dedication to fostering trust and reliability in every transaction made through TingoePOS, emphasising the importance of security in our commitment to our users."

NNPCL Targets 2mbpd By 2024 With Security Overhaul Under New Leadership

By Chiamaka G. Okpala

The newly constituted Board and Management team of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd (NNPCL) have set an ambitious target to produce two million barrels of crude oil daily (2mbpd) starting in 2024.

Chief Pius Akinyelure, the Non-Executive Board Chairman of NNPCL, made this commitment during a briefing at the State House immediately after the board's inauguration by President Bola Tinubu.

Chief Akinyelure did not only pledge to significantly increase crude oil output but also outlined plans to overhaul the security architecture of NNPCL. The primary focus is on curbing incidents of oil theft and pipeline vandalism that have plagued the industry. The goal is to transform NNPCL into a reliable and prosperous entity that contributes substantially to Nigeria's economic growth.

"We have just concluded our inauguration ceremony by Mr. President, and we have assured him of our collective efforts to turn around the fortune of the Oil and Gas," Chief Akinyelure stated.

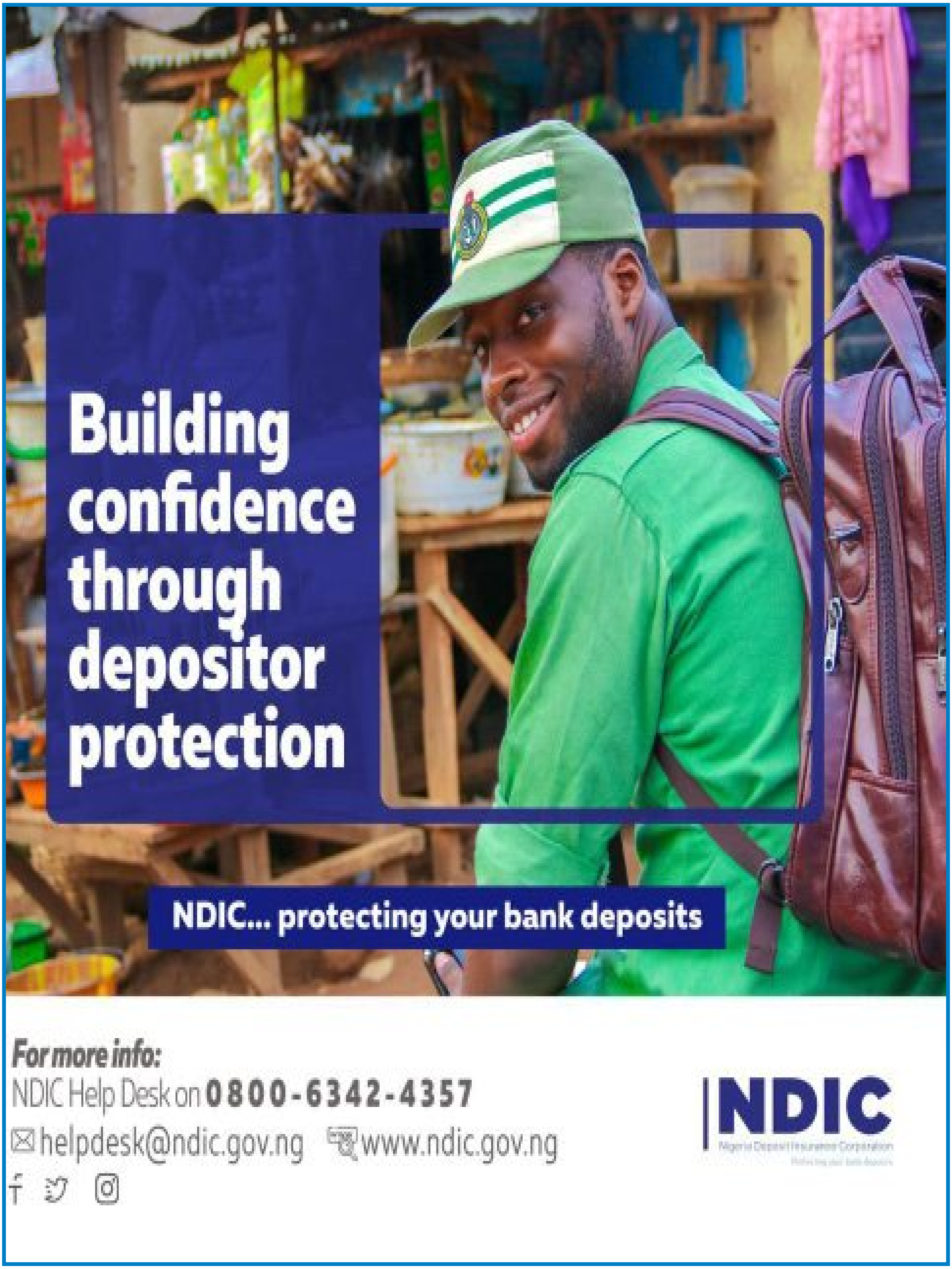
"Our commitment is to produce at the rate of two million barrels per day from next year. However, to achieve this, we must overhaul our security architecture to reduce incidents of stealing and vandalisation of pipelines."

Acknowledging the challenges posed by oil theft and vandalism, Chief Akinyelure emphasised the commitment to making NNPCL a key player in the global oil and gas industry. He noted the need to compete with leading industry players globally and expressed optimism about Nigeria's potential to become a frontrunner in Africa.

President Tinubu, who approved the appointment of the new Board and Management team, has assured them of his support in executing their mandate diligently. Chief AjuriNgelale, the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, highlighted that the appointments were in line with the provisions of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021.

The newly appointed executives include Malam Mele Kolo Kyari as the Group Chief Executive Officer and Alhaji Umar Isa Ajiya as the Chief Financial Officer. The Board also comprises seasoned professionals and experts such as Mr. Ledum Mitee, Mr. Musa Tumsa, Mr. Ghali Muhammad, Prof. Mustapha Aliyu, Mr. David Ogbodo, and Ms. Eunice Thomas.

As Nigeria looks towards a future of enhanced oil production and strengthened industry resilience, the NNPCL's commitment to increasing daily crude oil output signifies a pivotal step towards economic prosperity and global competitiveness. The success of this endeavour will undoubtedly depend on the effective execution of security reforms and the collaborative efforts of the newly appointed leadership team.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Complexities Of Inflation In November 2023

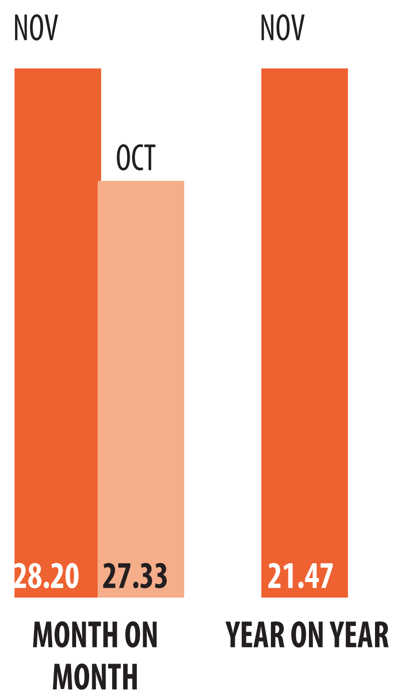
By Jennete Ugo Anya

In November 2023, the headline inflation rate surged to 28.20 percent, marking an 0.87 percent increase from October's 27.33 percent. On a year-on-year basis, the inflation rate soared by 6.73 percent, standing at 21.47 percent in November 2022. This significant uptick indicates a substantial year-over-year inflationary shift.

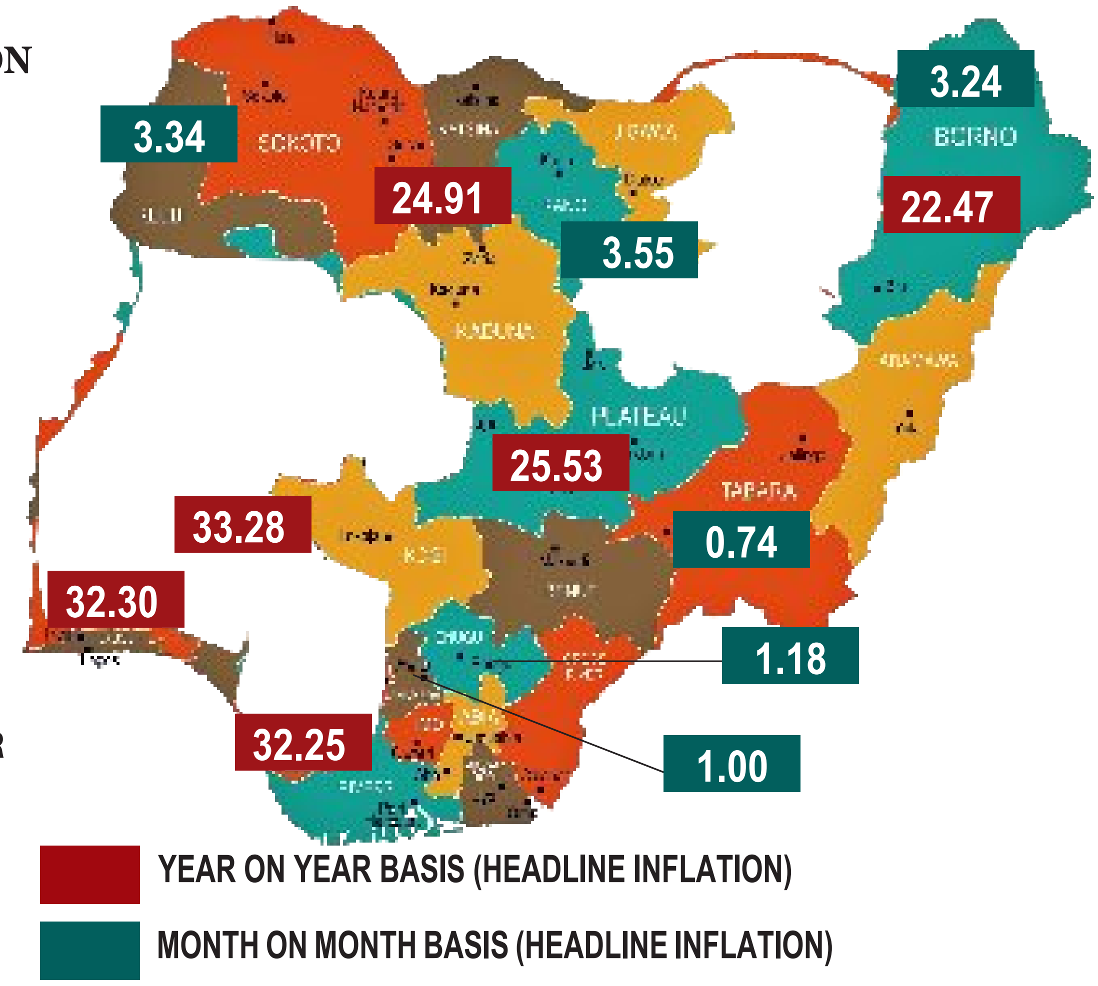
Analysing the month-on-month changes reveals a 2.09 percent inflation rate in November 2023, a 0.35 percent increment from October's 1.73 percent. This suggests a faster rate of increase in the average price level, underscoring the dynamic nature of price movements within the economy.

Delving into the annual perspective, the percentage change in the average CPI for the twelve-month period ending November 2023 exhibits a 24.01percent increase. This marks a noteworthy 5.64 percent surge compared to the 18.37 percent recorded in November 2022. This data underscores the evolving economic landscape, reflecting both the challenges and resilience in the face of inflationary pressures.

HEAD LINE INFLATION



REGIONAL VARIATIONS (ALL ITIMES INFLATION)



All figures in percentage (%)

URBAN INFLATION

30.21 YEAR ON YEAR

25.45 TWELVE MONTH AVERAGE

RURAL INFLATION

27.33 YEAR ON YEAR

22.71 MONTH-ON-MONTH

Urban Inflation

In November 2023, the urban inflation rate painted a picture of economic intricacies, reaching 30.21percent on a year-on-year basis. This marked an 8.13 percent point surge from November 2022, indicating intensified price pressures in urban centres. On a month-on-month scale, urban inflation rose to 2.23 percent, reflecting a 0.41percent point increase compared to October 2023. The twelve-month average for urban inflation soared to 25.45 percent, showing a 6.56 percent point rise from November 2022.

Rural Inflation

Contrastingly, rural areas experienced a year-on-year inflation rate of 26.43 percent in November 2023, registering a 5.55 percent point increase from the same period in 2022. Month-on-month, rural inflation saw a 1.99 percent uptick, signalling a 0.31 percent point rise from October 2023. The corresponding twelve-month average for rural inflation reached 22.71 percent, marking a 4.83 percent point increase from November 2022.

November 2023 witnessed a sharp rise in food inflation, reaching 32.84 percent on a year-on-year basis. This marked an 8.72 percent point increase from November 2022, driven by surges in the prices of essential items such as bread and cereals, oil and fat, potatoes, yam and other tubers, fish, fruit, meat, vegetables, and coffee, tea, and cocoa. On a month-on-month basis, food inflation rose to 2.42 percent, indicating a 0.51 percent point increase from October 2023. The twelve-month average for food inflation hit 27.09 percent, marking a 6.68 percent point increase from November 2022.

The recalibration of the core inflation, excluding volatile agricultural produces and energy, recorded a 22.38 percent year-on-year increase in November 2023. This reflected a 4.39 percent point surge from November 2022, driven by notable spikes in prices of passenger transport by road, medical services, passenger transport by air, actual and imputed rentals for housing, pharmaceutical products, and accommodation services. On a month-on-month basis, core inflation rose to 1.53 percent, marking a 0.14 percent point increase from October 2023. The average twelve-month annual inflation rate for core inflation stood at 20.35 percent, marking a 4.66 percent point increase from November 2022.

Highlighting regional variations, Kogi, Lagos, and Rivers recorded the highest year-on-year

All Items Inflation

All Items inflation rate on a Year-on-Year basis was highest in Kogi (33.28 percent), Lagos (32.30 percent), Rivers (32.25 percent), while Borno (22.47 percent), Katsina (24.91 percent) and Plat-eau (25.53 percent) recorded the slowest rise in Headline inflation on Year-on-Year basis. On a Month-on-Month basis, however, November 2023 recorded the highest increases in Kano (3.55 percent), Kebbi (3.34 percent), Borno (3.24 percent), while Taraba (0.74 percent), Anambra (1.00 percent) and Enugu (1.18 percent) recorded the slowest rise on Month-on-Month inflation.

Food Inflation

In November 2023, Food inflation on a Year-on-Year basis was highest in Kogi (41.29 percent), Kwara (40.72 percent) and Rivers (40.22 percent), while Bauchi (26.14 percent), Borno (27.34 percent) and Jigawa (27.63 percent) recorded the slowest rise in Food inflation on Year-on-Year basis. On a Month-on-Month basis, however, November 2023 Food inflation was highest in Cross River (4.37 percent), Edo (3.95 percent) and Rivers (3.91 percent), while Anambra (0.63 percent), Oyo (0.91 percent) and Bauchi (1.00 percent) recorded the slowest rise in inflation on Month-on-Month basis.

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S/N	BANK	STAKEHOLDERS	DECLARATION STATUS
1	Liberty Bank	Depositor	1st Liquidation Dividend
2	Amicable Bank	Depositors	Final call for depositors.
3	City Express Bank	Depositors	3rd Liquidation Dividend
4	Assurance Bank	Depositors	2nd Liquidation Dividend
5	Century Bank	Depositors	2nd Liquidation Dividend
6	Fortune Bank	Depositors and Ex-Staff	2nd Liquidation Dividend
7	Allstates Trust Bank	Depositors and Ex-Staff	5th Liquidation Dividend
8	Prime Merchant Bank	Depositors and Ex-Staff	2nd Liquidation Dividend for depositors.
9	Allied Bank	Depositors/ MDAs	6th Liquidation Dividend
10	North South Bank	Depositors/ MDAs	Final Call for Depositors
11	Financial Merchant Bank	Creditors	1st Liquidation Dividend for Creditors
12	Icon Merchant Bank	Creditors	1st Liquidation Dividend for Creditors
13	Progress Bank Creditors	1st Liquidation	Dividend for Creditors
14	Commercial Trust Bank	Depositors	Final Call for Depositors
15	Merchant Bank of Africa (MBA)	Creditors	Final Call/Final Liquidation Dividends for Creditors
16	Premier Commercial Bank	Creditors & Shareholders	Final Call/Final Liquidation Dividends for Creditors
17	Co-Operative & Commerce Bank	Shareholders	2nd Liquidation Dividend for shareholders
18	Rims Merchant Bank	Shareholders 2nd Liquidation	Dividend for shareholders.
19	Nigeria Merchant Bank	Shareholders	2nd Liquidation Dividend for shareholders
20	Pan African Bank	Shareholders	Dividend for Shareholders.

Eligible stakeholders are, by this notice, advised to either contact NDIC officials in any of the underlisted NDIC Offices or visit NDIC website on www.ndic.gov.ng to download the verification forms that apply to each category of claimants.
Kindly note that duly completed verification forms may be returned to any of the underlisted offices or via our email address: claimscomplaints@ndic.gov.ng.

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1	Lagos Office	23 A, MARINA, LAGOS. P.M.B. 12881, LAGOS	07080517483, 09063903615 08038112996, 08067298386
2	Enugu	No. 10, Our Lord's Street, Independence Layout, Enugu	08065996819
3	Benin	28A/28B, Benoni Hospital Road, Off Airport Road, GRA, Benin City, Edo State	08023124220
4	Kano	Plot 458, Muhammad Muhammad Avenue, Off Maiduguri Road, Hotoro, GRA, Kano	08133151192
5	Ilorin	No. 23B, Ahmadu Bello Way, GRA, Ilorin.	08023073975
6	Bauchi	Plot No. 3, Bank Road, P.M.B. 0207, Bauchi	09127343434
7	Sokoto	No. 2, Gusau Road, Opp. NNPC Mega Station, Sokoto.	08033142546. 09077367736 08033468446
8	Yola	No. 6, Numan Road, P.M.B. 2227, Jimeta, Yola, Adamawa State.	08067910599 08067923383, 09-4601515, 09-4601516
9	Port Harcourt	No. 104, Woji Road, Off Olu Obasanjo Road, GRA, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.	08054663230
10	Head Office Abuja	Head, Bank Examination Unit (BEU), NDIC, Abuja, Plot 447/448, Constitution Avenue, Central Business District, Garki, Abuja	09-4601260, 09-4601261
11	Owerri	No. 56, Area A, World bank Area, New Owerri Landmark, Behind Immaculate Hotel, opp. Fidelity Bank. Owerri, Imo State.	09135137677
12	Abeokuta	No. 1, Oshele Road, Ibara GRA, Abeokuta, Ogun State.	08033137255

Director, Claims Resolution Department
Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation
Mamman Kotangora House (8th Floor) 23a, Marina, Lagos

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Onne Port Achieves Remarkable Milestone With N301bn Revenue In 2023

• As Ogun Customs Clarify Viral Video, Cite Smugglers' Attack As Cause

By Edmond Martins

The Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) proudly announced that the Onne Port (Area 11 Command) has achieved a significant milestone by generating N301 billion in revenue from January 2023 to date.

Comptroller Baba Imam shared this remarkable accomplishment during an end-of-year recognition and award presentation ceremony honouring officers, consignees, and stakeholders.

Comptroller Imam revealed that the N301 billion generated by the Onne Port Command represents an impressive 90 percent of its revenue target for the 2023 fiscal year.

Highlighting the commitment to combat smuggling activities through the port, Comptroller Imam outlined measures implemented by the Area 11 Command. These proactive steps, he emphasised, will serve as a deterrent to import law offenders and ensure strict adherence to import guidelines.

The Comptroller disclosed that the Onne Port Command has seized 39 containers containing contraband items since the beginning of the year. Among the confiscated items were used clothing, tires, concealed hard drugs, pistols, and similar items, all of which were promptly handed over to relevant authorities.

He also noted the achievements of the Command in 2023, including the training and re-training of officers and consignees to enhance their skills and efficiency in carrying out their duties.

Mr. Mike Ebeatu, the Onne chapter Chairman of the Association of Nigerian Licensed Customs Agents (ANLCA), commended Comptroller Imam for creating an enabling business environment through consistent synergy and sensitisation of consignees. Mr. Ebeatu praised the comptroller for fostering a serene atmosphere within the Command, contributing to the positive ambience experienced at the Onne Port.

Mr. Adewale Adeniyi, Comptroller General of Customs

Ogun Customs Clarify Viral Video

Meanwhile, the Ogun 1 Area Command of the NCS addressed a viral video recently, explaining that the footage capturing officers firing shots was recorded during a recent incident around the Lafenwa/Enu Gada axis of Abeokuta.

According to Mr. Hammed Oloyede, the Public Relations Officer of Ogun 1 Area Command, the officers were repelling attacks from smugglers while evacuating smuggled goods from two faulty vehicles used as means of conveyance.

In a statement, Mr. Oloyede clarified that the officers faced an attack by hoodlums mobilised by smugglers, emphasising the seriousness of the situation. The incident occurred around 7:15 am, prompting the officers to call for reinforcement. Despite the challenge, they successfully evacuated the seized goods to the command's warehouse in Abeokuta.

The statement reads, "On Saturday, December 16, 2023, along the Lafenwa/Enu Gada axis of Ogun State, the operatives of Ogun 1 Area Command of the Nigeria Customs Service, while evacuating some smuggled goods from two faulty vehicles used as means of conveyance, came under attack by hoodlums who were suspected to have been mobilised by the smugglers of the unwholesome goods."

Mr. Oloyede stated that the command, led by the Acting Customs Area Comptroller Mr. Ahmadu Shuaibu, values the lives of its host communities and disapproves of the arbitraryuse of firearms. However, he noted that in situations with a severe threat to life, the officers may be forced to apply the rules of engagement for self-protection.

He stated, "While carrying out our lawful duty, we shall not renege in our effort to ensure the safety of the good people of Ogun State. Our operatives shall continue to operate within the ambit of the law and in conformity with the rules of engagement."

Mr. Oloyede highlighted that the NCS Act 2023 prohibits obstruction, molestation, or assaults on officers on lawful duty, with penalties such as a fine of N5million, imprisonment for five years, or both. Additionally, Section 226 of the NCSAct empowers customs operatives to carry out patrols freely, including anti-smuggling operations in Ogun State.

Reps Advocate VAT, Import Duty Waivers For Power Equipment Contractors

By Chiamaka G. Okpala

The House of Representatives has urgently called on the federal government to grant Value Added Tax (VAT) and Import Duty Exemption Certificate (IDEC) waivers to contractors handling critical power projects in the country.

This resolution was made during an investigative hearing by the House Committee on Public Accounts Committee (PAC) into the 'Accelerated Transmission-Distribution Interface Transmission Lines/Sub-stations' contracts valued at $231,004,002.8 and N18,264,411,235.66, awarded since 2015.

Representatives of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and the contractors explained to the committee that the contracts involve significant offshore components, as the giant transformers are sourced from outside Nigeria.

Expressing concern over the challenges affecting the power projects, Rep. AdelegbeOluwatimehin moved a motion, emphasising the urgent need to address the issues plaguing the power sector.

Hon. Mohammed Kabir Abdullahi sought the House's intervention to ensure the timely completion of the projects, which have faced substantial delays. He expressed frustration over the lack of response from relevant authorities despite previous communications, noting the impact on various TCN projects, including those funded by the World Bank.

Rep. Bamidele Salam questioned why TCN did not approach other regulatory agencies and stakeholders to obtain waivers for the equipment trapped in transit, particularly at seaports. He

highlighted administrative lapses and emphasised the importance of leveraging the powers of the National Assembly to address such issues.

Rep. Salam stated, "Because we are talking about major transformers and other hardwares that will be installed in various places to ensure that we have a better transmission and distribution of power." The committee aims to resolve the administrative challenges to support the government's priority programs in the power sector, recognising its central role in the country's development agenda.

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Economy & Investment

ADVERT RATE

COLOUR

PRODUCT		
Size	Rate	Vat (7.5%)
F/P	[illegible]	[illegible]
B/P	[illegible]	[illegible]
C/P	152,770.00	11,457.75
14.5x6	452,211.27	[illegible]
14.5x4	[illegible]	20,142.00
12x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
12x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
12x4	210,500.00	15,712.50
9x6	336,870.00	[illegible]
9x5	290,602.00	[illegible]
9x4	224,590.00	[illegible]
9x3	158,412.50	12,030.94
8x6	259,700.00	[illegible]
8x5	249,590.00	[illegible]
8x4	198,600.00	[illegible]
7x6	251,916.00	[illegible]
7x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
7x4	171,550.00	13,004.75
7x3	172,500.00	[illegible]
6x4	149,700.00	11,227.50
6x3	112,275.00	[illegible]
6x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x6	167,125.00	11,031.62
5x5	155,912.50	[illegible]
5x4	124,777.00	9,151.26
5x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
4x4	[illegible]	7,485.00
4x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
4x2	49,900.00	3,742.50
3x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
2x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
2x1	24,750.00	[illegible]
1x1	6,212.50	[illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICE POLITICAL		
Size	Rate	Vat (7.5%)
F/P	578,088.55	[illegible]
H/P	384,384.00	[illegible]
C/P	[illegible]	[illegible]
14.5x6	284,588.00	[illegible]
14.5x3	284,856.44	21,364.32
10x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
10x3	329,380.50	24,203.08
10x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
9x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
9x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
9x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
9x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
8x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
8x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
8x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
7x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
7x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
7x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
7x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
6x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
6x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
6x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
4x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
4x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
4x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
3x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
2x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
2x1	[illegible]	[illegible]
1x1	[illegible]	[illegible]

BLACK AND WHITE

PRODUCT		
Size	Rate	Vat (7.5%)
F/P	[illegible]	[illegible]
H/P	194,424.16	[illegible]
C/P	93,792.00	7,105.56
14.5x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
14.5x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
9x6	234,990.76	[illegible]
9x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
9x4	140,995.16	[illegible]
9x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
8x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
8x5	156,562.40	11,742.18
8x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
7x5	166,495.57	[illegible]
7x5	137,079.50	10,280.98
7x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
7x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
6x4	93,997.44	7,049.80
6x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
6x2	70,498.08	5,287.36
5x6	117,490.50	8,812.20
5x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x4	78,331.20	5,874.84
5x3	58,748.40	[illegible]
5x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
4x4	62,664.76	4,699.88
4x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
4x2	31,427.48	[illegible]
3x2	23,499.38	1,762.46
2x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
2x1	[illegible]	[illegible]
1x1	3,916.56	293.74

PUBLIC NOTICE POLITICAL		
Size	Rate	Vat (7.5%)
F/P	[illegible]	[illegible]
H/P	[illegible]	[illegible]
C/P	[illegible]	[illegible]
14.5x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
14.5x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
10x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
10x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
10x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
9x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
9x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
9x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
9x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
8x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
8x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
8x4	170,400.40	[illegible]
7x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
7x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
7x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
7x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
6x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
6x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
6x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x5	[illegible]	[illegible]
5x4	100,504.00	7,537.80
5x3	75,375.00	[illegible]
5x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
4x4	[illegible]	[illegible]
4x3	[illegible]	[illegible]
4x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
3x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
2x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
2x1	[illegible]	[illegible]
1x1	[illegible]	[illegible]

SPECIAL POSITION	Rate	Vat (7.5%)
FPS 6x2	1,291,193.41	96,839.50
BPS 6x2	935,875.00	[illegible]
STRIP (FRONT) 2x6	[illegible]	[illegible]
STRIP (BACK) 2x6	1,037,500.00	77,812.50
STRIP (INSIDE) 2X6	[illegible]	[illegible]
EAR PIECE (FRONT) 2x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
EAR PIECE (BACK) 2x2	[illegible]	[illegible]
EAR PIECE (INSIDE) 2x2	240,000.00	18,000.00
CENTRESPREAD (FULL)	[illegible]	249,000.00
CENTERSPREAD (HALF)	1,992,000.00	[illegible]
CENTRESPREAD [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DOUBLESPREAD	[illegible]	[illegible]

WRAP	Rate	Vat (7.5%)
FULL WRAP	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HALF PAGE (FRONT)	20,000,000.00	1,500,000.00
50% (FRONT)	[illegible]	[illegible]
40% (FRONT)	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LOOSE INSERT	
RATE PER 1,000 SHEETS	60,000.00
HANDLING CHARGE [illegible]	[illegible]
HANDLING CHARGE (SINGLE)	1,000,000.00

GENERAL INFORMATION

DEADLINE
WITHIN ABUJA
5 Days of Publication

SUR CHARGE
SPECIAL POSITION
100% - Pages 2, 3 and 4
50% - Pages 5, 6 and 7

TECHNICAL DATA
Print Process – Web Offset Litho
Copy Required – Camera Ready Artwork with a good resolution (minimum 300dpi)

Printed by
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With VREG FG Looks To Transform The Landscape Of Vehicle Administration

POLICY BRIEF
with
ENAM **OBIOSIO**

In a bold move to quash the persistent issue of vehicle smuggling plaguing Nigeria, the federal government has activated the game-changing National Vehicle Registry Policy (VREG).

This groundbreaking initiative of the federal government is poised to transform the landscape of vehicle administration in Nigeria. The transformative measure integrates comprehensive vehicle data from key agencies, including the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Vehicles Inspection Offices (VIOs), the Police National Central vehicles database, and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC).

Addressing a gathering at the VREG zonal sensitisation campaign in Abuja recently, Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister for the Economy, Mr. Wale Edun, emphasised the crucial role of VREG in curbing customs duty evasion by vehicle importers.

He highlighted the pressing need for an effective response to revenue leakages caused by customs duty payment evasion, especially amid the challenges posed by falling oil prices and a mono-economy.

Mr. Edun then noted that Nigeria, being the largest vehicle importer in Africa with an additional 15 million vehicles operating in the country, lacked a centralised platform for national vehicular information. This absence, he argued, had perpetuated issues such as customs duty evasion, paucity of data for policy formulation, revenue leakages in vehicle administration, and various vehicle-related crimes.

The emergence of VREG in 2021 has already yielded substantial benefits, including its role as a tool to mitigate customs duty administration evasion, according to Mr. Edun.

He underscored the registry's success in seamlessly integrating with critical stakeholders, facilitating real-time, dynamic information exchange. This significant step forward promises to address challenges in road traffic regulation enforcement, enhance access to credit facilities, and improve vehicle insurance coverage and monitoring and evaluation.

As the nation stands at the brink of a revolutionary transformation in vehicle control, the implementation of VREG is set to reshape the narrative of customs duty administration and bring an end to the longstanding issues associated with vehicle smuggling in Nigeria.

The unveiling of the National Vehicle Registry by the federal government marks a significant stride in the ongoing battle against smuggling in Nigeria. This ambitious initiative, aimed at revolutionising vehicle control, has brought up diverse opinions regarding its potential impact on revenue generation and broader economic achievements.

Some analysts have gone on to explore various perspectives on the subject, considering both the positive aspects and potential challenges associated with the implementation of the National Vehicle Registry. Compellingly, not a few people have pondered the potential boost to government revenue through increased control and monitoring of vehicles, believing that by curbing smuggling activities, the National Vehicle Registry has the potential to plug revenue leaks, contributing to a more robust fiscal landscape. This increased revenue stream could be channelled towards critical sectors such as infrastructure development, healthcare, and education, fostering overall economic growth.

Accordingly, the National Vehicle Registry aligns with global best practices in modernising transportation management systems. Countries with successful vehicle registration systems have experienced enhanced security, reduced crime rates, and improved traffic management. Nigeria's move towards a more structured and technologically advanced vehicle control system is a step towards aligning with international standards, potentially bolstering the nation's reputation on the global stage.

Despite the promising aspects, there are concerns and criticisms surrounding the implementation of the National Vehicle Registry. One prominent critique revolves around the potential challenges in executing such a comprehensive system in a country with diverse socio-economic realities. Critics argue that the effectiveness of the registry may be compromised by issues such as corruption, inadequate infrastructure, and the digital divide, especially in rural areas.

Additionally, there are worries about the economic implications for low-income individuals who may struggle with the financial burden of compliance. The cost of registration, potential fines, and the overall administrative process could disproportionately affect marginalised communities, exacerbating existing economic disparities.

From a socioeconomic standpoint, the National Vehicle Registry's implementation may have far-reaching consequences. Proponents argue that by curbing smuggling, the government can redirect resources towards poverty alleviation programs. The potential increase in revenue could be instrumental in funding social welfare initiatives, contributing to a more equitable distribution of resources.

Critics express concerns about unintended consequences, such as the potential negative impact on small-scale businesses involved in cross-border trade. It is imperative to consider the delicate balance between enforcing regulatory measures and ensuring the sustenance of livelihoods, particularly in regions heavily reliant on informal trade.

The National Vehicle Registry is a commendable effort by the federal government to address the issue of smuggling and enhance revenue generation. However, the success of this initiative hinges on effective implementation, consideration of socioeconomic implications, and the ability to navigate potential challenges. Striking a balance between regulatory measures and the preservation of economic opportunities is crucial for achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth. As Nigeria embarks on this transformative journey in vehicle control, a collaborative and adaptive approach will be vital in realising the full potential of the National Vehicle Registry.

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