

Fuel subsidy removal not suitable for Nigeria now — Lawmaker

MR Lanre Odubote, representing Epe Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, has urged the Federal Government to suspend the removal of fuel subsidy and focus on challenges facing the country.

Odubote, who spoke

on Saturday in Lagos, said the current environment was not ripe for the removal of fuel subsidy, given the infrastructure and security challenges confronting the country.

The lawmaker called on the government to expose

the cartel behind the illegal buying and distribution of fuel so that the sector could be sanitised.

He said government should also concentrate on removing the obstacles behind the rebuilding of refineries in the country.

Odubote appealed to the Federal Government to listen to Nigerians, saying that subsidy removal would inflict pain on the people.

"It is not suitable at this time when the rate of unemployment is high. It will be resisted by some Nigerians," he said.

Odubote said there were many issues that needed urgent attention in the country such as education, ethnicity and Boko Haram in the Northern part of the country.



OVERSIGHT VISIT... (L-r) Hon. Ibrahim Bello; Hon. Shehu Usman Bawa, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Communication, and the Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs, Etisalat Nigeria, Mr. Ibrahim Dikko during an oversight visit by the committee to Etisalat Nigeria Call Centre at Ilupeju, Lagos, recently.

Oil worker killed at police check point in Esit Eket

MR Divine Asubob, an oil services worker at the Qua Iboe Oil Fields, operated by Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited, was on Sunday crushed to death at a police check point at Uquo Community in the Esit Eket Local Government Area of

Akwai Ibom.

The deceased met his untimely death when he was flagged down by policemen at the check point and his motorcycle was hit by a truck coming on top speed from the back.

The policemen at the check point were said to

have hurriedly left the scene and returned to the Esit Eket Police Station to forestall possible reprisal attack from the community.

The body of the victim was reportedly abandoned at the scene of the incident for three hours before it was taken to the morgue in

Emmanuel General Hospital in Eket.

Emmanuel Ikott, a member of the family of the deceased, said that Asubob, 32, was a technician with Petrostuff Nig. Ltd and that he was on his annual vacation when the incident happened.

"Asubob took his leave to complete his house project only to die carelessly, due to the N20 syndrome of policemen and now they have run away and left him in a pool of blood.

"The community will not accept this and we shall ensure that justice is done," Ikott said.

Police sources in Esit Eket confirmed the incident but declined to give further details.

HIV/AIDS: Orphans call on people to be generous

Some Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) on Saturday called on Nigerians to cultivate the habit of giving to the less-privileged in the society.

They made the call in Abuja during an end of year party organised by a group of friends, who came together to provide a platform for caring for children orphaned or affected by HIV and AIDS.

Master Ikenné Peters, said the group was God-send, because they made it possible for him to continue his education after the death of his father.

Peters said that life would be easier for orphans if more Nigerians could do what the group was doing for OVC in their communities.

He called on other informal groups in the states, towns and communities, to emulate the group and touch some lives.

Another boy, Master Audu Idache, said he was able to wear nice cloths and eat good food courtesy of the group, adding that he looked forward to the party every end of year.

Idache said his education would have stopped if not for the group, who helped to pay his school fees and also took care of his medical bills.

In her speech, Mrs Augusta Akparanta-Emenogu, on behalf of the volunteers, said the idea was muted nine years ago, when the group of friends noticed that some children who accompanied their parents and care-givers to support group meetings, were not well catered for.

Akparanta-Emenogu added that as time went on, the idea became a reality, adding that they became more involved by hosting the children to annual children's funfair.

She said the group provided school fees, medicare and food supplement for the children, widows and some HIV positive women.

Akparanta-Emenogu said in 2012, the group would celebrate its 10th year anniversary, adding that to commemorate the occasion, they would offer scholarship of N10,000

to as many of the children as possible.

"We wish to appeal to our dear friends to start putting away N1,000 every month from January 2012, so that by September, you can simply add N1,000 to make it up to N10,000 for us to give each of our awardees to start the new session."

THE Yoruba socio-cultural organisation, Afenifere, on Saturday commiserated with the family of late Sen. Sulaiman Salau.

The Kwara born senator died on Friday in his home in Ilorin.

In a statement signed by its leader, Chief Reuben Fasoranti, in Lagos, Afenifere described Salau's death as a great loss to the South West and Nigeria in general.

The group described Salau as a foremost progressive political leader in Kwara.

Salau was the leader and chairman of Action Alliance. He was at the forefront of efforts to achieve unity in the South West.

He participated as an active leader of the Yoruba Elders Council, Yoruba Unity Forum, Pan-Yoruba Congress, among other organisations," it stated.

The group said that Salau was a nationalist having represented his senatorial constituency in a diligent and selfless manner at the National Assembly.

Consider ordinary Nigerians before removing oil subsidy, cleric tells Jonathan

BISHOP John Ibeno of the Chapel of Freedom, Lokoja, has urged President Goodluck Jonathan to consider the plight of Nigerians before taking final decision on the removal of oil subsidy.

Ibeno who spoke on Saturday in Lokoja at the launch of a book entitled: "The purpose and Power of Identity," said the removal of subsidy would further put the citizenry in a tighter corner.

He said what the people deserved from the government was liberation from poverty and diseases.

Ibeno urged the government to look into the activities of informal and corporate organisations that enjoyed the subsidies in the past, a view to making adjustments.

He urged the Federal Government to embark on massive enlightenment programme on the proposed oil subsidy removal to erase doubts in the minds of the people.

The bishop called on the government to overhaul the national security system to handle the problem of insecurity in the country.

He said that the political dimension to the Boko Haram problem could be resolved through dialogue, and urged the government to seek advice from well meaning Nigerians on how to move the forward.

The bishop said the book, written by Pastor Solomon Omasaka, was timely as it came at a time when Nigeria was going through a crisis of identity.

He said the country was passing through a harrowing experience not only because of leadership, but largely due to the failure of Nigerians to realise the purpose of their creation by God.

In his speech, Omasaka-King said he was inspired by the need on the realisation of the urgent need for a re-education of Nigerians.

He said Nigeria would achieve greatness if it discovered its identity and the citizens understood the purpose of life and to explore their individual uniqueness.

Okoh urges those in position to be servant leaders

THE Primate of the Anglican Communion, Most Rev. Nicholas Okoh, has urged those in positions of authority to practice servant leadership in their service to humanity.

Okoh gave the advice in Ughelli on Saturday, at the funeral of the late publisher of the Guardian Newspaper, Chief Alex Ibru.

He said that servant leadership was the principle of Jesus Christ, a practice of self-denial, adding that the late Alex Ibru was a servant leader, and that, that endeared him to his people and all Nigerians.

Okoh explained that the job of a leader was to serve the people, adding that servant leadership was the ingredient needed by leadership to sanitise the society.

Describing the late Guardian publisher as a man of impeccable character, Okoh urged all to emulate and sustain the virtues he was known for.

He said that death would come to all, adding that no matter how long one lived, it was a passing phase.

Okoh added that when death struck, it was for the living to sober and reflect on their relationship with God, noting that death was not a final full stop for all who had Christ, but a fuller life of eternal God.

Also speaking at the funeral service, Gov. Emmanuel Uduaghan, Delta, said that the death of the late Alex Ibru at the age 66 was a monumental loss to the society.

Uduaghan, however, advised all those present at the funeral to always go for regular check-ups, no matter their busy schedule.

Meanwhile, Sen. James Manager, representing Delta South Senatorial District at the Senate, has advised that a post-humous honour be given to the late publisher, if he had not been given a national award during his life time.

He said that this was in view of his sacrifice and contribution to society, adding that as a minister, the late Ibru served the country.

The Media Assistant to Gov. Adams Oshiomhole of Edo, Mr. Oluwaseun Oluwalan, also described the late publisher as a fine bred publisher who stood for ethics and professionalism.

Iyare said that the Ibru lived a fulfilled life, noting that it was how long a man lived that mattered, but his fulfillment.

He said that the late Guardian publisher revolutionised the media and this was exemplified in his non-interference with politics published in his newspaper.

Jonathan, Obasanjo, others condole with Daniel

CONDOLENCE messages from leaders and dignitaries from across the country have continued to pour in following the death of Abraham Daniel, the father of a former Governor of Ogun, Mr. Daniel.

A statement issued by Daniel's Media Aide, Mr Adegbenro Adebajo, stated that President Goodluck Jonathan, former President Olusegun Obasanjo and Gen. Ibrahim Babagida, a former military head of state, have all sent their condolences to the family.

It said former military heads of state, Gen. Abdulsalamu Abacha and Gen. Yakubu Gowon, also condole with Daniel through calls and text messages.

"The president asked the former governor to take heart and that God would give the family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss."

"Obasanjo, Gowon, Abubakar and Babangida spoke in the vein and thanked God for the worthy life of the departed Pa Abraham Daniel," the statement said.

It further said that former governors Bukola Saraki of Kwara and Akala of Oyo State and Olagunsoye Oyinlola of Osun, among others, condole with the family.

The statement said that top government functionaries, police, clergymen and members of the public had been visiting the residence of the former governor to express their condolences.

The statement hinted that the burial arrangement would be announced in due course.

Afenifere mourns Sen. Salau