

news

Briefly

SURE roads

MINISTER of Works, Mr. Mike Oduro, has called on contractors handling road projects under the SURE programme in parts of the country to improve on their level of mobilisation of plant and workforce on the projects.

The minister stated this at a meeting with managing directors of construction companies on the objectives of the SURE programme. He urged them to intensify work on the projects, saying the government is desirous of their early completion.

Oduro said the Ministry will no longer condone request for review of rates on on-going contracts by contractors at any slightest opportunity.

Ekiti Kongo

EKITI State government has inaugurated a customised indigenous standard measure, known as Kongo for use by food stuff sellers across markets in the state.

The move is aimed at standardising food measures being used in the 16 local government areas of the state, to check the activities of criminally-minded traders in the markets.

Performing the inauguration, wife of the state governor, Mrs. Bisi Fayemi, stressed that the step was also in conformity to the policy and guidelines of the National Council of Commerce and Industry.

She said the Ekiti Development Foundation, which she founded, would purchase 5,000 pieces and distribute them free to the traders.

Medical director summoned

BARELY a week after exonerating himself from the alleged N88m fraud meant for the welfare of the Federal Medical Centre, Idi-Aba, Abeokuta staff, the Medical Director of the institution, Dr Dapo Sotiloye, has again been invited by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission over same allegation.

Sotiloye and key officials of the institution were arrested a week ago by the commission and released after interrogation.

The medical director however exonerated himself of the allegation of fraud after regaining his freedom.

Investigations, however, revealed that Sotiloye had again been summoned to appear before ICPC operatives in Abuja.



•L-R Special Adviser on Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs Funmilayo Esho-Williams; Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs Adetoun Adegboye; and Wife of Ogun State Governor, Mrs Sherifat Areghesola, at this year's International Women's Day in Osogbo... on Thursday.

Insecurity in North drawing back Nigeria - Maku

Segun Olatunji, Kaduna

MINISTER of Information and Communications, Labaran Maku, on Thursday in Kaduna said the insecurity in the North had been drawing back the rest of the country.

Maku said the efforts being made by the government to develop all parts of the country would come to nothing unless peace returns to the North.

The minister stated this while speaking on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, Kaduna Network station.

He said, "As the minister of information, I have continued to cry out as my duty as the spokesperson for the government that as long as the North is not at peace, Nigeria cannot develop because the North is a large part of this country. And I do know that the unity of the North is crucial to the unity of Nigeria."

"We therefore have that duty today as never before to appreciate the responsibility that God has entrusted on our shoulders as children of this region."

"I have continued to cry out that we in the North are in need of peace more than any part of the country because everywhere we are behind. We should devote adequate space in our newspapers, in all our radio stations to send out messages for communal peace, for mutual relationship."

Maku lamented that the worsening insecurity in the North had continued to drive away foreign investors from the area.

He said, "I wish to also emphasise that in recent time, and I discussed with the Minister of Trade and Investment, two weeks ago, a lot of investors that are coming to this country are finding it very difficult to come to this part of the country."

INEC, NBA brainstorm on future elections

James Azaria, Benin

NIGERIA Bar Association and the Independent National Electoral Commission have reiterated their commitment to ensuring that persons caught engaging in electoral offences are prosecuted.

They expressed their resolve in Benin, Edo State, during the Nigerian Bar Association Conference on the Review of the Performance of the Electoral Petition Tribunals.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Atahiru Jega, who was represented by Mrs. Thelma

Irenuren said the commission was determined to "improve on the successes recorded in previous elections".

Jega, who noted that the judicial process played significant role in the electoral process, said the body had a balancing role in determining individual interests of politicians and the interest of members of political parties.

NBAPresident, Mr. Joseph Daudu, said the conference would engage in self-examination and overview of existing legislation and rules that were meant to facilitate electoral success.

"I am particularly worried because the only way we are going to move the development of this vision forward is to create an enabling environment for investors to work in our communities with our leaders to develop the North."

"There is nothing we can do to achieve success unless we strive for peace in this region."

"Let me charge FRCN particularly because we discuss this everytime in our

Four die, 13 soldiers injured in Ogun accidents

A truck driver and a woman were killed while 13 soldiers were injured on Thursday in a multiple accident at Kobape, along the Abeokuta-Sagamu Expressway, Ogun State.

Also, two persons died while several others were severely wounded on Thursday in another multiple accidents in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State.

Four die, 13 soldiers injured in Ogun accidents

He said, "It will be a great human tragedy and an affront to our God-given qualities as a people for us to wittingly or unwittingly preside over the disintegration of Nigeria."

The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr. Mohammed Adoke, whose paper was presented by his Senior Special Assistant, Deji Adelanle, drew attention to the issues of conflicting orders of appellate courts, statutory time frame (180 days) within which to conclude proceedings, judicial integrity and public perception of tribunals.

management meeting that all our stations throughout the country, we must devote sufficient airspace to make sure that we are working on peace, we are working on programme that will enlighten our people."

"Nigeria is a great country, it is a country that all the world is looking for in Africa. By 2025, all the indices show that we are going to be the largest economy in this continent. Let us work hard for this day, let us work hard to establish our professional work in the media for the development of our country."

It was learnt that five vehicles were involved in the accident, which occurred at Astok Petroleum, Ijebu Ode along Sagamu-Ore-Benin Expressway.

Five persons also narrowly escaped death in the Kobape accident, which occurred at about 1pm involving three vehicles.

The crash, sources told THE PUNCH, happened when a white Toyota Hiace conveying the soldiers skidded off its lane after a burst tyre.

Eyewitnesses said the bus marked Lagos CG 415 FKJ rammed into an oncoming truck with number plate Ogun XB 170 ABG.

The truck driver, simply identified as Nasco, was said to be on his way from Abeokuta to Ibiade in Ogun Waterside Local Government Area of the state when he met his untimely death.

The truck subsequently hit a Toyota Prado jeep, marked Lagos EJ 57 LND, which was also travelling on the same lane.

It was learnt that the soldiers were returning to

Emergency: NEMA trains 100 corps members

Segun Olatunji, Kaduna

NATIONAL Emergency Management Agency will recruit and train about 100 members of the National Youth Service Corps in states across the North-West in disaster management.

NEMA stated that the corps members would be part of the Emergency Management Vanguard in each of the seven states in preparation for the disasters anticipated during the year.

Acting Zonal Coordinator, NEMA North-West Zone, Alhaji Musa Ilalah, said this in a statement obtained by THE PUNCH in Kaduna on Thursday.

Ilalah said, "In accordance with the agency's paradigm shift from disaster management to Disaster Risk Reduction action plan, the NEMA/NYSC Emergency Management Vanguard are expected to be utilised in curbing the anticipated menace due to this year's seasonal rainfall. "The Vanguards who are NYSC Corps members are to play a pivotal role in their respective communities assigned to carry out their primary assignment."

"Routinely, NEMA North-West Zone will recruit 100 NYSC Corps members in each of the seven states across the zone to serve as Emergency Management Vanguard in their places of primary assignment to ensure adequate preparedness for the anticipated associated risks."

Abeokuta after attending an undisclosed assignment in Ibadan.

They were said to have been rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, Idi-Aba, Abeokuta for medical attention.

One of the survivors, Mrs. Josephine Ojo, said she was inside the jeep with two other occupants when the accident occurred.

She said, "We were heading to Lagos from Abeokuta when the bus conveying the soldiers suddenly went off balance and swerved to our own side of the road."

"The bus collided with the truck which in turn swerved to our side and rammed into our vehicle. It was a miraculous escape for us."

The FMC Public Relations Officer, Mr. Segun Orisojo, confirmed the accident, saying "some soldiers were brought in this afternoon and they are being attended to."

The Sector Commander Federal Road Safety Corps, Ogun State, Mr. Ayobami Oniyale, confirmed that two persons died in the Kobape accident.