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MARKET AND COMMODITIES MONITOR

ENERGY FUTURES					AGRICULTURE FUTURES					EXCHANGE RATE				LIVESTOCK FUTURES				
Symbol	Price	Change	%Change	Volume	Symbol	Price	Change	%Change	Volume	Currency	Buying	Central	Selling	Symbol	Price	Change	%Change	Volume
OIL	18.21	-1.66	-8.35	160,869	WHEAT	533.5	+3	+0.57	30,102	US DOLLAR	360	360.5	361	LV CATTLE	86.25	-0.225	-0.26	10,615
BRENT	28.42	+0.6	+2.16	196,363	SOYBEAN	844.25	-1.5	-0.18	45,869	PISTERLING	449.856	450.4808	451.1056	LEAN HOGS	44	+0.825	+1.91	10,050
NAT GAS	1.792	+0.106	+6.29	112,067	CORN	329.75	+3.5	+1.07	55,734	EURO	392.076	392.6206	393.1651	FD CATTLE	128.1	-0.525	-0.41	2,572
RBOB GAS	0.709	+0.004	+0.58	14,168	SUGAR	10.52	+0.19	+1.84	40,024	SW/FRANCE	372.748	373.2657	373.7834	INDEX FUTURES				
METAL FUTURES					COFFEE	117.85	-1.85	-1.55	15,135	YEN	3.3463	3.351	3.3556	Symbol	Price	Change	%Change	Volume
Symbol	Price	Change	%Change	Volume	COTTON	53.39	+0.37	+0.7	7,666	CFA	0.4895	0.4995	0.5095	DOW FUT	23,798	+391	+1.67	156,382
GOLD	1,709.4	-22.3	-1.288	173,590	ROUGH RICE	14.415	+0.09	+0.63	237	WUAU	417.7056	418.2858	418.8659	S&P FUT	2,833	+45.5	+1.63	1,067,211
SILVER	15.365	-0.257	-1.65	32,955	COCOA	2,363	+105	+4.65	13,429	YUAN-RENMINBI	50.8954	50.9666	51.0377	NAS FUT	8,755.75	+21.5	+0.25	313,299
PLATINUM	790.7	-2.6	-0.33	5,896	CURRENCY FUTURES					RIYAL	95.7829	95.9159	96.049	S&P MID MINI	1,548.6	+45.3	+3.01	6,468
COPPER	2.338	+0.047	+2.05	43,485	Symbol	Price	Change	%Change	Volume	S/AFRICAN R.	19.3692	19.3961	19.423	INTEREST RATE FUTURES				
					US IDX FUT	99.77	-0.33	-0.33	10,438	DANISH K.	----	----	----	Symbol	Price	Change	%Change	Volume
					EUR/USD FUT	1.089	+0.003	+0.28	104,275	US 30YR FUT	181.406	UNCH	UNCH	US 10YR FUT	139.219	-0.016	-0.01	847,976
					USD/JPY FUT	0.009	+0.09	63,896	US 2Y FUT	125.547	+0.016	+0.01	368,936	Euro\$ 3M	110.227	-0.004	UNCH	185,135
					GBP/USD FUT	1.25	+0.004	+0.29	45,618	SDR	----	----	----					



Carolyn Folami is the Head, Business Development and Commercial Services, National Identity Management Commission (NIMC). She is a payment expert and an enthusiast for anything and everything data. Carolyn is a certified data analyst who leads the team on commercial transaction and initiatives for revenue and managing the Fintech and financial inclusion desk.

With over 23 years' experience in banking, Carolyn pioneered the e-branch at UBA. Then she joined Fidelity Bank as head, e-Business where she deployed over 200 ATMs and introduced card schemes Visa, Verve and MasterCard. Carolyn launched the first naira denominated card on the Visa network.

She is an honorary member of the Chartered Institute of Banking of Nigeria (CIBN) and a certified fellow in cards and payment at the International Academy of Retail Banking, UK. Carolyn wants you to have a 'carolystic' week.



Nigerian Women Can Thrive In Freight Forwarding Business
- Bola

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Don't Expect Crude Demand Recovery Before July - OPEC

The demand for crude oil will not recover till the second half the year, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has said.

OPEC, however, forecast that global oil demand would fall by over six million barrels per day as a result of the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on the oil industry in the first half of this year.

The Secretary-General of the organisation, Mohammad Barkindo, disclosed this in his address during a virtual meeting of ministers and governors of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four, popularly known as G-24.

Barkindo's address was made available to our correspondent on Thursday last week.

He said, "World oil demand in 2019 grew by a lower-than-expected 0.83 mb/d. Both the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) and non-OECD regions saw weaker year-on-year growth.

PCC, Freight Agents Propose Port Committee For Post Covid-19 Era

- **Ports and Cargo complies with NPA directive on storage charges**
- **CRFFN writes Police IG on harassment of agents during lockdown**

By Kenneth Jukpor



Executive Director, ENL Consortium, Mr. Mark Walsh, (right), who represented the company's Executive Vice Chairman/CEO, Princess Vicky Haastrup, presenting the personal protective items donated by the company in support of efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 to the Port Manager, Lagos Port Complex, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA)

As part of the efforts to prevent the impending crisis at the nation's port sector, Nigerian Ports Consultative Council(PCC) and several freight forwarding groups have proposed the formation of a port industry committee to manage the economic activities at the ports after the coronavirus pandemic.

Accumulated storage charges and demurrages by terminal operators and shipping companies are major issues that could lead to pandemonium at the ports after the Covid-19 pandemic is addressed.

The Chairman of PCC, Otunba Kunle Folarin made this call during an exclusive chat with MMS Plus on Friday

Read the full story online
www.mmsplusng.com

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PCC, Freight Agents Propose...

last week, even as he observed that such steering committee should be in place beyond the Covid-19 issues to provide direction for the port sector at varying times.

Otunba said; "Apart from the timely intervention that the government has done to manage the ports at this crucial time, a committee should be set-up to chart the way forward after the Covid-19 pandemic. This committee should involve various port stakeholders"

He observed that international trade has been affected by the ongoing lockdown and expressed optimism that such committee would appraise the consequences of the lockdown on the nation's maritime sector.

Although he opined that the full details of the committee in terms of membership and objectives could be developed later, he added that the core issues should be, "how the ports could return to optimal performance again after Covid-19 and creating a structure to cater for

emergencies at the ports and not rely on impromptu decisions when problems arise."

He expressed confidence that this committee could be developed within one week, while he commended Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) for their efforts to get terminal operators and shipping companies suspend their charges at such trying times.

The President of the Association of Nigerian Licensed Customs Agents (ANLCA), Hon. Tony Iju Nwabunike also concurred with the PCC boss, stressing that such committee would be required to prevent the impending fiscal crisis at the nation's ports.

"The initiative to have a committee to plan for the aftermath of Covid-19 at the Nigerian ports is commendable and ANLCA supports this because there are several challenges that have to be addressed," Nwabunike told our correspondent.

The ANLCA boss lamented that

freight forwarding activities at Lagos ports was still at an abysmal state despite the efforts of Shippers' Council and the Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria (CRFFN).

"Freight Forwarding operations haven't improved under this lockdown. The banks are still not operating and there is nothing we can do without the banks. I would say our activities are below 20 percent compared to what we should have achieved if there wasn't a lockdown," he told MMS Plus newspaper.

Similarly, the President of Africa Association of Professional Freight Forwarders and Logistics on Nigeria (APFFLON) Mr. Frank Ogunojemite supported the proposal to have the port committee, noting that it would avail the sector a veteran independent group to address the many ills in the industry.

However, he called on terminal operators and shipping companies to adhere to the federal government directives to suspend storage charges and demurrages for the period under the lockdown.

"There hasn't been compliance with these directives to suspend charges by any of the terminal operators. I have receipts of storage charges at some terminals until Thursday, April 16th, 2020. It is almost three weeks since NPA gave the directive but there has been no compliance," Ogunojemite lamented.

Meanwhile, on Friday last week, the National Secretary of ANLCA, Mr. Babatunde Mukalia revealed that Ports and Cargo Handling Terminal set the record as the first terminal to comply with NPA directive to

stop collection of storage charges.

Mukalia also told our correspondent that freight agents under the aegis of ANLCA had started compiling their receipts to push for reimbursement of storage fees paid since March 23rd 2020 when NPA gave the directive to suspend the charges.

His words: "We always knew that it wouldn't be easy to get terminal operators comply with the directive to waive charges. However, the good news is that I can tell you authoritatively that Ports and Cargo Handling Terminal started complying from Thursday evening (April 16th, 2020). I believe that other terminals would join in complying especially at this time when one operator has complied"

"We have started getting response from ANLCA members in terms of evidence of payment for storage charges since March 23rd 2020. We are keeping the receipts and invoices, so we can push forward to apply for refund."

In a related development, the Registrar of CRFFN, Barr. Samuel Nwakohu has written to the Inspector General of Police, IGP, Mohammed Adamu to instruct his officers in Lagos to refrain from harassing port workers, especially freight agents.

Nwakohu revealed this during an interview with MMS Plus even as he noted that he paid working visits to the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Area B Police Command Apapa on the issue.

"The police could do better to ensure freight forwarders and other port workers go about their activities without intimidation. There have been unpleasant cases with port operators and police in recent times but I don't want to attribute it to the entirety of the Police because it could be just few bad eggs in the system."

"We also want the IG to send signals for the officers in Lagos to allow legitimate freight forwarders go to the port to perform their duties, especially on essential goods," Nwakohu said.

Noting that the activities of freight forwarders have been hampered by non-operation of most banks, the CRFFN Registrar appealed to freight agents to be patient with the banks, pointing out that they also had to prioritize the safety and well-being of their workers.

"The reality is that banks aren't opening but we must understand that they also care about the welfare of the members of their staff. They are also trying to comply but most of them are offering skeletal services and we can't take that away from them. Some of the banks are operate from 9am to 3pm and I wouldn't advocate for extension of the hours. What I would ask for is that they open from Mondays to Fridays and ensure that they render the services for that period," he said.

He also noted that small banking halls at the ports may not be able to allow more than five or six people inside at anytime in the bid to adhere to social distancing; he stressed that this means people may have to queue up outside and be patient.

The ANLCA President, Nwabunike also confirmed to our correspondent that the harassment of freight agents by the Police had dropped and he commended the Executive Secretary, NSC, Mr. Hassan Bello and the CRFFN Registrar, Barr. Nwakohu for their intervention.

Nwabunike also decried poor turnout of shipping companies and banks, noting that the efforts to clear essential goods at the ports may not be realized if both organizations don't open up for optimal port operations.



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The Port Manager, Lagos Port Complex (LPC), Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) Mrs. Olufunmilayo Olotu receiving COVID-19 donations from the President of Corporate Truck Fleet Owners Association, Mrs. Folake Soji-George, when the association presented the items to support the fight against coronavirus at the ports on Friday, last week.

Lockdown Extension: The Unpleasant Realities Of Robbery And Economic Meltdown

By Ayoola Olaitan



Sadiya Farouq
Humanitarian Affairs Minister



Babajide Sanwo Olu
Lagos State Governor



Zainab Ahmed
Minister of Finance

As the increasing cases of deaths from the coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria forced President Mohammad Buhari to extend the lockdown to help curb the spread of the coronavirus, the extension may spell doom for residents in Lagos, Abuja and Ogun States which have entered three weeks of total lockdown.

There have been pockets of crises with theft and armed robbery increasing in Lagos and Abuja; with hunger pangs increasing for the residents who have been forced to stay home even though most depend on daily income at their respective jobs.

This 14days extension of the lockdown is coming at a time when citizens lament the absence of palliatives to cushion the effects of the stay home order.

The poor security situation in the country and nonchalance of security operatives especially in Lagos and Abuja, condemns lives and properties of citizens to uncertainty as such trying times.

In Ikeja last week, our correspondent observed a checkpoint operated by touts just ahead of a police checkpoint as the touts flagged down vehicles pleading for money for 'stomach'

These hungry touts were seen pleading during the day, saying, "Oga/ madam help us with anything abeg. Na coronavirus keep us for house, no money for food! We no wan die!" and the police officers looked at the operation with smiles.

At night, however, these seemingly nice beggars become more autocratic, armed with sticks, knives or guns and extorting from passers-by and commuters.

While hunger isn't a justification for such crimes, it simply highlights the inefficiency of security agencies to nip this anomaly in the bud during the day and it stresses the need for the

federal and Lagos State governments to develop and execute a food intervention that gets to this category of people.

The President observed that the lockdown helped the country to identify cases, giving the nation victory over the spread of the virus, meanwhile the core areas of security and hunger pangs facing a large number of affected citizens weren't addressed during the national broadcast on 13th April, 2020 which announced the 14days extension of the lockdown.

The economic implications are beginning to tell on the nation as the country might be faced with recession after the lockdown extension and economic experts are beginning to express fears that the world could be heading for a global recession.

According to statistics from the International Monetary Fund, IMF, the informal sector in Nigeria is responsible for over 65% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the bulk of those who make up the sector depend on daily earnings to make ends meet.

The country's economy activities has been stalled for the past two weeks and this would extend to 28 days as the country's commercial and political centres remain lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19.

For the aviation sector,

International Air Transport Association, IATA Director General and CEO, Alexandre de Juniac, described the devastating impact of lockdown on the global airline industry as the worst crisis ever in the air travel sector with the airlines' passenger revenues falling by \$252 billion and 25 million jobs at risk.

Despite efforts put in place to curb the pandemic from spreading, protection of lives without the protection of livelihoods is a complete imbalance and might spell doom to the nation's economy in coming days.

However, one issue the government fail to address in the extension of the lockdown is state of unrest in Lagos and Ogun state, where citizens can no longer sleep with their two eyes closed due to recent cases of robbery in the two states making citizens live in fear and resorting to self defense.

Lagosians are beginning to feel that they are left alone to secure their own lives.

Prior to the extension, citizens had cried for help as they were robbed of their valuables and properties and this extension seems to guarantee a continuation in the unpleasant trend.

There is the troubling health implications of burning tyres

which citizens resorts to, in combating the attacks by hoodlums who took advantage of the lockdown to rob them.

These health effects could include irritation of the skin, eyes, and mucous membranes, respiratory effects, central nervous system depression, and cancer.

The health hazard might be another round of health issue after the defeat of the COVID-19 pandemic in the states or the nation at large.

The extension broadcast by President Muhammadu Buhari failed to address the issue of palliative measures that could reduce the hardship from the lockdown.

Meanwhile, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, National Publicity Secretary, Mr. Kola Ologbondiyan, recently faulted the lockdown address by the president on disbursement of the palliative materials and funds.

According to him "Nigerians expected Mr. President to directly address the established failures of his palliatives distribution, particularly the provision of funds to the poorest of the poor, which has been marred by allegations of corruption and diversion of funds. This is in addition to allegations of diversion of rice and other food items meant for

the poor masses.

With over 38.5 million people already enrolled on the Bank Verification Number, BVN, citizens are beginning to ask the government to send their palliatives through the medium as diversion of this palliatives is the trend tend for looting by leaders who cannot account for it.

Youths across the country using various social media to push their voice on Tuesday trend an hashtag to the president with over 50,000 tweets with the hashtag #PayUsViaBVN been posted.

Meanwhile, Corps Marshal Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, Dr Boboye Oyeyemi has ordered Commanding Officers across the country to step up ongoing enforcement on restrictions and physical distancing amongst vehicle occupants as part of efforts to carry out the Presidential directives holistically by impounding at sight any vehicle found violating the orders.

Also, the Inspector-General of Police Mohammed Adamu, IG, had ordered the state commissioners of police across the country to immediately rejig the security architecture in their various commands to tackle all emerging crimes associated with the COVID-19 lockdown.

There is need for all anti-graft agencies to be on the look-out and help prevent an anticipated looting of the donations by both corporate organisations and Nigerians, and avoid misappropriation of the donated funds.

The ambience in Lagos, Ogun and the FCT is already heated with the rising records of Covid-19 infected patients, it would be unreasonable for the federal and state governments to look out for the new anomalies rising as a result of the pandemic and it would also amount to a failure, not to address the security woes and hunger pangs confronting citizens.

OIL & GAS

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Discos, Gencos Deny Knowledge Of FG's N200bn Payment

Power generation and distribution companies on Thursday said they were unaware of any N200bn that was paid to the power sector by the Federal Government in the past three days.

Group Managing Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Mele Kyari, had announced on Wednesday that the Federal Government paid over N200bn for power supply in Nigeria.

When contacted on Thursday last week, the Executive Secretary, Association of Power Generation Companies, the umbrella body for Gencos, Joy Ogaji, told our

correspondent that she was not aware of any N200bn payment. She said, "For the records, Gencos have not received fresh funds from anyone. What Gencos have received is payment for energy produced and consumed for 2019.

"Gencos have not received any funds of any nomenclature – palliative, stimulus or coronavirus funds. We are currently being paid the money owed for 2019. We take exceptions to our name being used to score political points."

Ogaji argued that operators of power generation companies were private businessmen with

patriotic zeal.

According to her, it was imperative to state that while political points were scored, Nigerians were misled and incensed against the operators, adding that Gencos had made adequate power available for all Nigerians.

"Below are figures of our performance from February till date to buttress our assertion of making power available. Nigerians should ask why this power is not getting to them," Ogaji said.

Read the full story online
www.mmsplusng.com



No Buyers For 50m Barrels Of Nigeria's Crude Oil — Platts

Global energy data, financial information and analytics company, S&P Global Platts, disclosed that more than 50 million barrels of Nigerian crude oil for late April and May 2020 loading are still unsold, while the overhang is forcing down the value of Nigeria's crude oil.

In a report on its website, Platts stated that Nigerian crudes, which are largely low in sulfur and yield a generous amount of diesel, jet fuel and gasoline, are finding it very difficult to attract interest from refiners in a market where demand has been battered due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

"A lot of Nigerian crude is already floating on the seas and in storage tanks with no home and destination. Some sellers have no option but to continue to look to

floating storage, even as freight rates remain at elevated levels," S&P Global Platts stated.

According to Platts, the sheer weakness of the physical oil market can be best explained by the state of the Nigerian crude market, as the once-coveted light sweet Nigerian barrel is facing one of its toughest trading cycles, as refiners shun these crudes, even as they are trading at record-lows.

It noted that sellers were resorting to holding some of this oil on inland or floating storage, to hope to sell at a later date, when demand recovers.

It quoted a crude oil trader as stating that, "all those who want to sell or get rid of a cargo are asking for bids ... you find a treasure if you get a bid."

Platts noted that demand destruction for jet fuel and gasoline had been particularly severe as the bulk of the world remains in lockdown, with restrictions on driving and flying.

Another reason for low demand for Nigerian oil, according to the company, had been that its big main customers — Europe and India — have massively cut their refining runs.

It said, "This overhang of Nigerian crude, is possibly the largest ever in recent trading cycles, according to traders. This has pushed Nigerian crude values to record-lows and is weighing down on the already-depressed Atlantic Basin crude market.

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No Employee Contracted COVID-19 – Chevron

Chevron Nigeria Limited has debunked speculations that it quarantined some of its workers suspected of contracting coronavirus in a hotel in Warri, Delta State.

The oil major said none of its employees had contracted the virus, saying it had continued to operate safely, and without any

coronavirus-related incident in its operations.

CNL said in a statement on Thursday last week, that it had introduced a compulsory two-week supervised quarantine for all personnel returning to work at its Escravos operations during this period of the pandemic.

NCDMB Recommends Indigenous Companies To NLNG For Train 7

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, NCDMB, on Thursday, said it has directed the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas, NLNG, to evaluate the capabilities of indigenous companies, who are beneficiaries of the Project 100 programme, and engage them in the execution of the Train 7 project and other related services.

In a statement in Abuja, NCDMB said the directive was contained in a recent letter by its Executive Secretary, Engr. Simbi Wabote, to the Managing Director of NLNG, Mr. Tony Attah, entitled "Introducing Project 100 Beneficiaries for Consideration on NLNG Projects."

Wabote also enclosed in the letter the list of the Project 100 companies, the range of services they offer to the oil and gas industry and their track records.

Wabote, however, noted that in

this particular instance, NLNG is expected to conduct its own due diligence on the capacity of the listed companies and based on its judgement of their proven capacities, engage them for the Train 7 project.

According to Wabote, NLNG should note that the involvement of Project 100 companies in its supply chain would be a major boost in the quest to collectively support local companies to become large enterprises and deepen local content practice in Nigeria's oil and gas industry. He said: "The areas of competencies of the Project 100 beneficiaries include exploration, subsurface and seismic services, fabrication and construction, Front End Energy Design, FEED, detailed and other engineering services, marine services and operations and inspection, testing and certification.

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Oil Firms' N4.58trn Loan Repayment To Nigerian Banks Under Threat

The coronavirus-induced sharp fall in global oil prices poses a threat to the ability of oil and gas companies in the country to repay a total loan of N4.58tn, investigation has shown.

The loans advanced to oil and gas companies by Nigerian banks rose to N4.58tn in the fourth quarter of 2019 from N4.55tn in Q3, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

A breakdown of banking sector credit to the private sector showed that the oil and gas sector received the biggest credit from banks.

The N4.58tn represented 26.63 per cent of the N17.19tn loans given to the private sector as of Q4 2019.

The amount of non-performing

loans in the oil and gas sector stood at N219.47bn as of Q4 2019, down from N878.41bn at the end of 2018, the NBS data showed.

Industry analysts have said with the oil price plunge, many oil firms would have no choice but to restructure their loans.

A former Chairman of the Petroleum Club, Lagos, Mr Godswill Ihetu, said, "There is no way the loans will not be impacted. Under normal conditions, you will worry for the banks.

"But now, with this worldwide economic crisis, I would think that the central bank will support the banks. And the banks won't press the oil companies too much because they can see the problem."

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Assets And Financials

Banks Recorded N11.44trn Online Payments In March

Bank customers carried out a total of N11.44trillion worth of financial transactions on the Point of Sales and Instant payment and electronic bills platforms in March, the latest data from the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System have shown.

This shows a 34 percent growth from the NIP, PoS and e-Bills figures of N8.54trillion recorded in 2019.

Analysis of the data indicated that the customers carried out a total of N10.97tn worth of financial transactions on the instant payment platform in March 2020. The instant payments were carried out by bank customers via bank branches, Internet banking, mobile apps, Automated Teller Machines and Unstructured Supplementary Service Data.

In addition, the PoS payments valued at N368.86bn were conducted within the same

period.

The NIBSS data showed that electronic bill payments worth N107.06bn were conducted in the month under review.

Some of the bills paid by bank customers online were electricity bills, cable TV subscriptions, Internet services subscription and utility bills.

The NIBSS data showed that a total volume of online payment deals via the PoS, and NIP platform were 187.63 million in March this year.

This represents a 59 per cent increase in the volume of transactions on the three platforms, compared with 117.84 million recorded in 2019.

Further analysis showed that the value of the PoS transactions grew by 70 per cent from N217.46bn in March 2019 to N368.86bn in March this year.

The volume of the PoS deals also increased by 75 per cent to 52.25

million in March compared with 29.82 million transactions recorded in the corresponding period in 2019.

The banking industry data indicated that NIP deals had a 28 per cent improvement in terms of the value of transaction when compared to the same period in 2019, when NIP deals amounted to N8.58trillion.

The volume of NIP deals also increased by 54 per cent to 135.3 million in March 2020, compared with 87.94 million transactions recorded in the corresponding month in 2019.

The NIBSS data showed that the value of electronic bills deals also increased by 128 percent to N107.06billion in March, compared with the corresponding period in 2019 when payments were worth N46.93billion.

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Covid-19: NECA Demands FG Support To Curb Job Losses

One of the strong bodies in the organised private sector, the Nigeria Employers Consultative Association, has asked the Federal Government to assist companies that are worst hit by the impact of the coronavirus fight.

Specifically, the group is asking the government to help in augmenting the payment of their workers' salaries.

The Director-General of NECA, Dr Timothy Olawale, made the request on Thursday last week.

While he noted that the spread of the COVID-19 was beginning to have devastating effects on businesses and with dire implications for employers of labour, he said in other climes this sort of support had been

initiated by governments.

Olawale, who said the COVID-19 had tremendously changed world of work and threw up a number of lessons for businesses and employers, added that the main emphasis should be on containing the impact.

He said, "In the short term, in order to minimise the potential job loss aftermath of COVID-19, we suggest, as the practice in other climes, government should augment payment of salaries of workers' of companies that are worst hit by the impact of the pandemic by at least 50 per cent for the next four months."

"We believe that with the growing spread of the COVID-19, having a significant and unsettled impact on businesses and with implications for employers of

labour, the main emphasis is and should be on containing the impact."

Also, in order to ensure seamless payment of allowances to temporary and contract workers, Olawale said that employers in that sector should offer zero-interest loans to offset such payments.

He said, "To cover for workers that are temporary and contract personnel, employers can submit a list of all contract workers with their BVN numbers who will be compensated subject to confirmation of employment status and consistent inflow.

Read the full story online
www.mmsplusng.com

NSE Hosts First Digital Closing Gong

The Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), Mr. Oscar Onyema, has expressed the NSE's commitment to providing corporates and other investors access to the market in meeting their financial and investment needs during this period and beyond.

He made this known during the first-ever digital closing gong hosted by the Exchange via Instagram Live on Thursday last week, in honour of the contributions of Sterling Bank Plc to the fight against COVID-19 in Nigeria.

Speaking on the NSE's efforts to

sustain an open and vibrant capital market, Onyema said, "Following the activation of our Business Continuity Plan and our transition to remote working and trading, the Exchange has been resolute in its commitment to ensure that there are no disruptions to operations for any of our stakeholders."

"We have leveraged our existing digital assets to ensure there is continuous flow of information and activity in the market and are now looking at how we can deploy creative solutions to enhance our stakeholders' experience during these unprecedented times."

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Expect Inflation With Infrastructure Deficits, Forex Pressure — Emeziele

The Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Godwin Emeziele, has said that the infrastructural deficits and emerging pressures from the foreign exchange market may aggravate inflation. He said with the decline in crude oil receipts as well as the dwindling capital outflows, there was likelihood that inflationary pressures would continue. The Federal Government had revised downward its revenue projection for the year by N3.3tn from the initial approved

amount of N8.41tn to N5.08tn.

An analysis of the revenue items showed that oil revenue suffered the highest reduction of N2.38tn from the initial approved amount of N2.63tn to N254.25bn.

The National Bureau of Statistics is expected to release the March inflation soon. However, the agency said that the consumer price index, which measures inflation rose by 12.2 per cent year-on-year in February.

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FCCPC Warns Manufacturers, Others Against Violating Due Process

The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission has said it will not allow manufacturers and service providers which operate in Nigeria to circumvent the due process or indulge in any act that is antithetical to consumers' well-being.

The Chief Executive Officer of the commission, Mr Babatunde Irukera, said this on Wednesday last week, when he led a team of journalists to Lekki Phase 1 in Lagos where a facility allegedly operating cosmetic surgery and aesthetics, Med Contour, was sealed off.

Irukera, who said the commission had received complaints from some unnamed members of the public concerning the services offered by the facility, added that it had commenced an investigation into the matter in line with provisions of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act under Sections 18(4), 32 and 33.

He said, "We are here to seal off

this facility based on the complaints from members of the public concerning the services it offers. We want to be sure the services provided are carried out by professionals, and that the consumers are safe.

"In the scope of our investigation, we shall also be invoking Sections 17(s),(t),(x),(y) and 130, which prohibit obnoxious practices, require services to be safe and for the commission to act to reduce risk or injury to consumers, as well as ensure services comply with applicable standards of care."

Irukera said Sections 123, 124, and 125 of the FCCPC Act prohibited any manufacturer or service provider from making misleading statements, issuing guaranties or statements about efficacy skills or probable outcomes with respect to the services that were untested or scientifically unproven.

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EVI CONSTANCE OMAGBEMI



Chizoba Anyika



Henrietta Yakubu



Folake Soyinka

VENUE:
Golden Gate
Restaurant,
25, Glover Road,
Ikoyi, Lagos.

DATE
THURSDAY
June
00, 2020

TIME:
4 p.m.



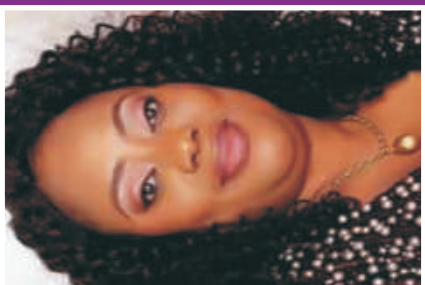
Victoria Tarfa



Ngozi Obiliki



Sarat Braimah



Mercy Ebere



Ebele Okoyo



Olufunmilayo Olotu



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M A R K S



**International
Women's Day**

2020

**UN
INTERNATIONAL
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with



**MMS HALL OF
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in recognition of

UN GENERATION AMAZONS

Global Theme:

"I am Generation Equality:

Realising Women's Rights

Local Theme:

Equality Begins With Me

• **Featuring:** TESTIMONIALS OF EMPOWERMENT

Date: Thursday, 00 June, 2020

Venue: Golden Gate Restaurant, 25, Glover Road, Ikoyi, Lagos.

Time: 4 p.m.

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I-Care Interview



continued from back page

Nigerian Women Can Thrive In Freight...

provision for other crucial aspects that guarantee seamless port operations. The logistics aspect has been very challenging and we need the banks to be operational to be able to carry out the role of cargo evacuation from the ports.

These pertinent aspects have not been working. We need the banks open to make duty payments for consignments. We also need the shipping lines operational to pay for our debt notes and the terminal operators have to be available to accept it.

Customs have been coming to work but without clearance from the shipping company even though Customs release you, you can't take your container so these logistics constraints have been here. Since most banks are not working there is very little we can do. At the few functional banks, there are very long queues and things are very difficult for the freight forwarders at the moment.

Only essential goods are being cleared at the moment. While this is very important, there are fears that a challenge would spring up after the coronavirus pandemic as importers and freight forwarders would have

to pay colossal demurrages and rents for items they were unable to clear during this period. What's your take on this?

The government really has to address this because as you rightly noted there are other goods at the ports that don't fall into the category of essential goods. The government would have to come to our aid and get the terminal operators waive the charges for rent while the

shipping companies also do the same for demurrages so that the situation doesn't lead to crisis at the ports after the problem of Covid-19 is over.

If not addressed, this situation could lead to inflation because the goods at the ports would eventually be cleared at a higher cost and the importer has to recoup his profit. The goods are still coming to the consumers no matter how you look at it. What freight agents want is for the

government to come up with an intervention in this aspect.

As part of efforts to curb this fiscal burden on freight agents and importers, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) directed terminal operators to suspend rents for 21-days. Would this be sufficient to address the problem?

NPA has given that directive but it is not been adhered to by the terminal operators and shipping companies. Until terminals and shipping lines comply we can't ascertain if the intervention is enough. This is an emergency situation and the proper thing is for these terminals to comply as part of efforts to support the industry but that hasn't happened. I want to use this opportunity to call on the terminal operators and shipping lines to comply for the overall benefit of the port sector and Nigerians in general.

You're one of the leading women in freight forwarding practice and at ANLCA you lead the women in ANLCA. How would you rate the participation of Nigerian women in freight forwarding?

The conditions and contribution of women in the business of freight forwarding has been improving over the years. We are not where we plan to be at the moment but we are grateful for the progress even as we long to do more and achieve more.

It's not been easy but we keep praying to God to assist us. More women are coming up and showing interest in the practice and the numbers are increasing. I am happy about this increase in women participation in this business, however, I think there is still so much we can do. Our voices can be heard in the freight forwarding industry, we can make significant contributions in the sector and I'll be very happy when we begin to achieve this. Indeed, Nigerian women can thrive in freight forwarding.

As the first woman to hold a top position at ANLCA, how has that been? Have there been challenges?

You know that any situation or anywhere you find a woman; her goal will always be to make things right. As the Financial Secretary at ANLCA, it has been quite challenging because I am the only woman in their midst. Everybody look up to me for some roles in the association and this include the men and women. As a woman, they need me to put certain things in place and I do my best to live up to these expectations.

This current administration of ANLCA has had its share of challenges and numerous fracas. We know that it is the woman's role even at the home to make peace. How have you attempted to maintain peace at the association?

I'm happy to tell you that today there is peace at ANLCA. The fighting and quarrels have been addressed and I played my role in discussing and pleading with the respective parties. I have always been talking and urging to embrace peace. Nobody likes trouble, however, the reality is that there is bound to be misunderstanding in the course of life. When such misunderstanding arise, there is need to settle it and that what we have been doing at the association.

Recently, the world celebrated the International Women's Day (IWD) and there were lots of talks about the need to have more women involved in the corporate world as well as government organizations. For Nigeria's Maritime industry, what future do you see for women in terms of participation across various aspects of Maritime?

The future of women in this maritime industry is very bright. I'm really excited about the awareness that has become massive in recent times. All the women are coming out from their shells and you can see that this is not only in Nigeria but all over the world.

When you see women converge nowadays in this industry, it is to discuss how to better their lot and make significant contribution to the growth of the sector. When they are talking you know someone who is well-informed is talking. The men in this industry are also beginning to better appreciate women and their values to the industry.

In the next few years, I believe there would be more opportunities available for women and we would also be better positioned to maximize these opportunities.



ECONOMY: IMF Expects Nigeria's Economy to Slide into Recession, CBN Rolls Out Remedial Policies...

In the just concluded week, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest edition of World Economic Outlook, predicted that the global economy would contract by 3.0% in 2020 due to the negative impact of COVID-19 on human lives and global economic activities amid lockdown orders in most countries to curb the spread of the virus. Furthermore, it expects advanced economies to contract by 6.1% while China's economy was projected to contract by just 1.2%. Sub-Saharan Africa was also expected to contract by 1.6% even as it forecasted Nigeria's economy to contract by 3.4% in 2020 and South Africa's economy to contract by 5.8% in the same year. However, the Bretton Woods Institution was optimistic in its outlook for the global economy in 2021, projecting a 5.8% rebound. Specifically, it expected the Nigerian and South African economies to grow by 2.4% and 4.0% respectively even as Sub-Saharan Africa was projected to rebound by 4.1% in 2021.

Also, the Chinese economy was projected to rise significantly by 9.2%. In a similar development, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) predicted that world trade would decline by between 13% and 32% in 2020 as a result of the negative impact of COVID-19; although, it was also optimistic in its forecast for 2021, projecting a recovery in trade next year. According to the WTO Director General, Roberto Azevedo, exports from Asia and North America would be worst hit as trade volumes drop by double-digit in nearly all the regions. He stated that "trade will likely fall steeper in sectors with complex value chains, particularly electronics and automotive products" and that "services trade may be most directly affected by novel coronavirus through transportation and travel restrictions".

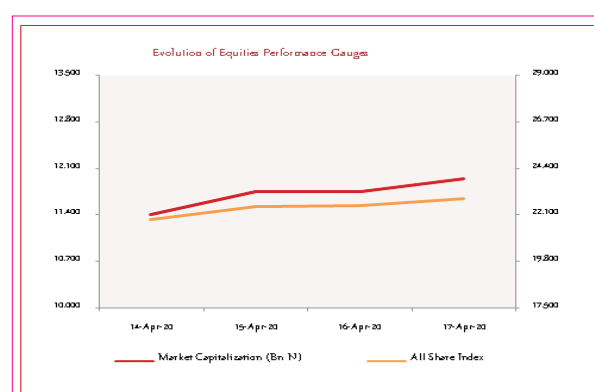
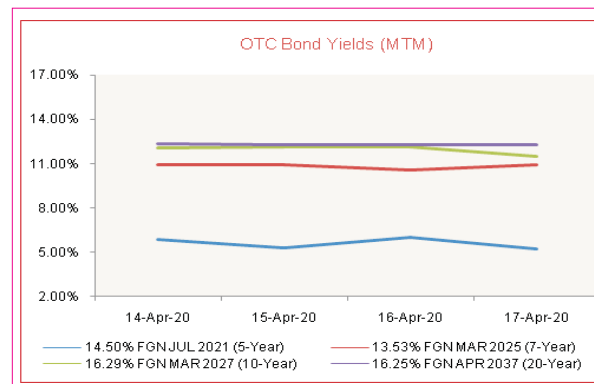
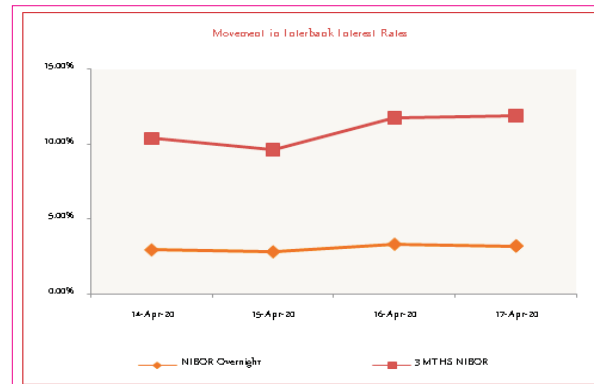
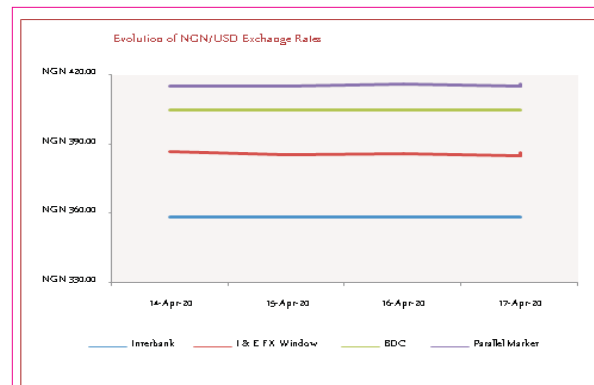
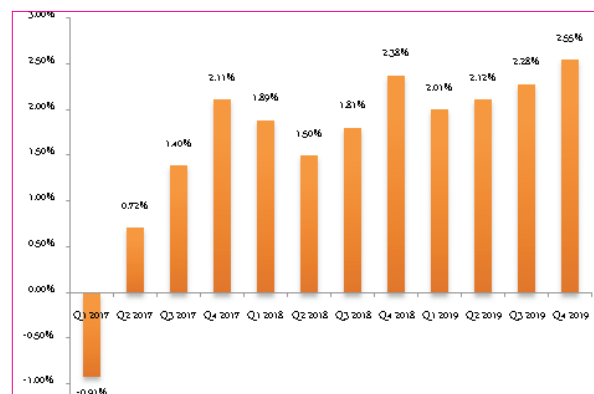
According to the report, the U.S dollar value of world merchandise exports moderated by 3.0% to USD18.89 trillion in 2019. Meanwhile, Nigeria has reportedly been finding it difficult to sell its crude oil at the international market despite the reduction in official selling prices by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). Accordingly, Nigeria's glut of unsold crude oil was around 60 cargoes for April and May despite the reported cut in official selling prices for Bonny Light and Qua Iboe, in March by NNPC, by USD5 per barrel each to dated Brent minus USD3.29 and minus USD3.10 per barrel respectively. Given the numerous headwinds associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) designed policy response timeline, in addition to the stimulus packages it had already put in place, to guide the management of the crisis and reboot the economy.

According to the CBN Governor, Godwin Emefiele, the apex bank's immediate-term policy response would include, inter alia, granting regulatory forbearance to banks to restructure terms of facilities in affected sectors and improve FX supply to the CBN by directing all oil companies (international and domestic) and all related companies (oil service) to sell FX to CBN and no longer to the NNPC. CBN's short-term measures would include the establishment of world class Infrastructure Company (InfraCo Plc) and world class hospitals. Finally, its medium-term policy measures would aim to support mass employment and wealth creation in the country by focusing on electricity, manufacturing, affordable housing, renewable energy, and cutting-edge research.

We commend the CBN for taking proactive initiatives to manage the negative impact of the post COVID-19 pandemic on the economy as this should help Nigeria get out of the imminent recession as soon as possible. Nevertheless, we expect FG to ramp up its testing capacity in order to speedily flatten the COVID-19 transmission curve and ease restrictions as Nigeria's speedy recovery from recession is quite dependent on how soon the stay-at-home order is lifted.

FOREX MARKET: Naira Lost Against USD at the I&E FX Window on Dwindling External Reserves...

In line with our expectations, Naira depreciated further at the Investors and Exporters FX Window (I&E FXW) as well as the parallel ("black") markets by 0.34% and 0.24% to close at



N386.13/USD and N416/USD respectively as external reserves nosedived to USD33.84 billion on Thursday, April 16, 2020 from USD34.40 billion on Thursday, April 9, 2020. However, Naira remained unchanged against USD at the Bureau De Change market to close at N405/USD. Similarly, NGN/USD closed flat at the Interbank Foreign Exchange market,

at N358.51/USD amid weekly injections of USD210 million by CBN into the foreign exchange market: USD100 million was allocated to Wholesale Secondary Market Intervention Sales (SMIS), USD55 million was allocated to Small and Medium Scale Enterprises and USD55 million was sold for invisibles. Elsewhere, the Naira/USD exchange rate rose (i.e Naira depreciated) for most of the foreign exchange forward contracts: 1 month, 2 months, 3 months, 6 months and 12 months rates lost 0.70%, 1.12%, 1.62%, 2.52% and 5.17% respectively to close at N389.43/USD, N392.80/USD, N396.32/USD, N407.43/USD and N436.33/USD respectively. However, spot rate remained flat at N361.00/USD.

In the new week, we expect marginal depreciation of the Naira against the USD, especially at the I&E FX Window amid declining external reserves.

MONEY MARKET: Stop Rates Moderate for All Maturities on Increasing Demand...

In the just concluded week, the CBN refinanced matured T-bills worth N58.49 billion via Primary market at lower rates for all maturities; stop rate for the 91-day bills fell to 1.93% (from 2.20%), the 182-day bills decreased to 2.74% (from 3.20%) and the 364-day bills fell to 4.00% (from 4.30%) respectively. Coupled with the auctioned N173.35 billion OMO bills, total outflows amounted to N231.84 billion. On the flip side, N135.86 billion worth of treasury bills matured via OMO which, combined with the primary market maturities (N58.49 billion), resulted in total inflows worth N194.35 billion. Hence, the net outflows worth N37.49 billion accounted for the financial system liquidity strain. NIBOR rose for most tenor buckets tracked amid renewed financial liquidity strain: NIBOR for 1 month, 3 months and 6 months tenor buckets further increased to 11.14% (from 6.80%), 11.89% (from 6.79%) and 12.39% (from 7.91%) respectively. However, NIBOR for overnight funds plunged to 3.20% (from 14.92%). Meanwhile, NITTY moderated for most maturities tracked amid sustained buy pressure: yields on 1 month, 3 months and 6 months maturities fell to 2.01% (from 2.32%), 1.96% (from 2.19%) and 2.63% (from 3.25%) respectively. However, yield on 12 months maturity rose to 3.81% (from 3.72%).

In the new week, treasury bills worth N267.67 billion will mature via OMO; hence, we expect interbank rates to moderate amid anticipated boost in financial system liquidity.

BOND MARKET: OTC FGN Bond Yields Fall for Most Maturities Tracked amid Sustained Bullish Activity...

In line with our expectations, the values of FGN bonds traded at the over-the-counter (OTC) segment appreciated further for most maturities tracked amid sustained buy pressure: the 5-year, 14.50% FGN JUL 2021 paper, the 10-year, 16.29% FGN MAR 2027 debt and the 20-year, 16.25% FGN APR 2037 bond gained N0.80, N3.48 and N0.03 respectively; their corresponding yields fell further to 5.24% (from 5.99%), 11.51% (from 12.18%) and 12.29% (from 12.30%) respectively. However, the 7-year, 13.53% FGN MAR 2025 note lost N0.04, its corresponding yield rose to 10.96% (from 10.61%). Elsewhere, the value of FGN Eurobonds traded at the international capital market depreciated for most maturities tracked amid renewed bearish activity. The 20-year, 7.69% FEB 23, 2038 paper and 30-year, 7.62% NOV 28, 2047 debt lost USD6.51 and USD6.54; while their corresponding yields rose to 10.99% (from 10.75%) and 10.63% (from 10.29%) respectively. However, the 10-year, 6.75% JAN 28, 2021 bond gained USD0.65, its corresponding yield fell to 13.31% (from 13.66%).

In the new week, Debt Management Office will issue bonds worth N60.00 billion, viz: 12.75% FGN APR 2023 (5-Yr Re-opening) worth N20 billion, 12.50% FGN APR 2035 (15-Yr Re-opening) worth N20 billion and 12.98% FGN APR 2050 (30-Yr Re-opening) worth N20 billion respectively. We expect the bonds stop rates to moderate on high demand.

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5G Electromagnetic Field Radiation And Health In COVID-19 Era



Oladapo Asiru

If you have been following the news since the world first became aware of the coronavirus pandemic in January of 2020, you are most likely also aware of the brouhaha surrounding the planned global deployment of the 5G network; public agitation over not just its link to COVID-19 but possible broader health implications on the human body should 5G network become a part of everyday life.

Globally, health concerns have been raised in many quarters over the past weeks about 5G network and EMF radiations in general; the particular emphasis being placed on the emergence of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic coinciding with the introduction of 5G network in many parts of the world. Many argue that areas where 5G networks are installed, have experienced higher cases of COVID-19 cases, suggesting a clear link between the two.

While a lot of theories abound on the internet over the issue, it must be stated that correlation does not always imply causation. For instance, Iran has one of the worst incidences of COVID-19 in the world, and the 5g network is not in that country yet. It is therefore clear that a lot is still not understood about the issues, and it has become urgent, and imperative to examine EMF radiation (not just 5G) and its many effects on health, especially as a lot of its sources have come to be a part of our everyday lives.

What is EMF?

E.M.F. or Electromagnetic Field radiations are produced whenever and wherever electrical current flows. Though invisible to the naked eye, Electromagnetic Fields are present everywhere in our environment naturally, but there are also several human-made types of E.M.F. The natural source of E.M.F. is the sun, which sends out its radiation in the form

of visible light and heat energy.

The energy from this type of E.M.F. is tremendous and similar to that emitted by human-made sources like x-rays and gamma rays. These cause what is referred to as "ionising radiation" because they are powerful enough to turn atoms to ions. This characteristic makes them dangerous to the health of living things. That is the reason we advised against frequent/prolonged x-ray, gamma-ray, and sun exposure.

The EMF emitted by most human-made modern, wireless technology such as cell phones, WiFi routers, and microwave ovens has much less energy and is therefore non-ionising.

At this juncture, a fascinating phenomenon of history must be revisited. History tells us that the different industrial revolution eras of the past have been heralded or accompanied by specific pandemics.

5G network and COVID-19: Is there a correlation?

A lot of scientifically unproven correlations are drawn between the proposed 5G network and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. It is useful to revisit what we do know about the health implications of EMF radiations, especially from ionising sources such as x-rays and gamma rays. Many studies and research have concluded that EMF does have detrimental effects on the health of an individual, including:

- * Disruption to sleep patterns/insomnia
- * Suppression of the immune system
- * Tumors/cancers, e.g., gliomas and leukemia
- * Infertility
- * Depression and depressive symptoms
- * Memory changes/lack of concentration
- * Precipitation of autoimmune reaction
- * Worsening existing disease conditions, e.g., Lyme disease.

The non-ionising radiation, such as those given off by our cell phones, microwave ovens, television sets, radio waves, and others, are deemed generally safer than the ionising ones. However, scientists have found that prolonged and sustained exposure to even these sources can have a disruptive effect on the body's immune system and therefore distort how the body responds to external attacks from infections, stress, and environmental toxins. It is especially true if the non-ionising radiation has enough power, as is the case with the microwave, which, even though it gives off non-ionising radiation, operates at a higher power than cell phones and WiFi routers. All sources of EMF have the potential to disrupt health if operating at particular doses/power.

As it has been noted globally in the ongoing pandemic, it appears there are two groups of people most susceptible to

infection by the COVID-19 virus and are therefore more likely to experience morbid outcomes such as severe complications and even death:

The elderly (who have generally reduced immunity).

People with pre-existing medical conditions (respiratory illnesses such as asthma and COPD, as well as lifestyle diseases like diabetes, obesity, and hypertension).

That poor immune function and ill-health, combined with environmental stressors such as heightened EMF exposure, might create an enabling environment for viral illnesses to attack the body with potentially catastrophic outcomes. Perhaps this is where a tentative correlation exists between COVID-19 and 5G networks.

The introduction of the 5G network is expected to provide the backbone for the deployment of the Internet of Things (IoT) at unprecedented speed when deployed. It is the 5th generation wireless network that surpasses the 4G network that is currently in use world over. 5G network is expected to make the idea of self-driving cars, robots, and automation, as well as ultra-smart phones and homes, a reality.

With that reality comes the consequence that a new source of EMF radiation is being introduced at speeds that we have never seen before. It is the crux of the debate and where personal

circumspection is necessary.

You have a responsibility to keep your immune system up and healthy. One requires a healthy diet, proper hydration, regular exercise, use of appropriate orthomolecular supplementation like Vitamin C, and other supplements. Besides, it is vital to reduce environmental toxin exposure. Mart-Life Detox Clinic, Maryland, gives tutorials and protocols to manage environmental stressors, build up immunity, and improves body defense process. It is also important to limit daily exposure to sources of EMF radiation, whether ionising or non-ionising; especially as the present coronavirus pandemic rages on:

- * Use earphones to answer phone calls and don't keep phones in your pockets.
- * Avoid unnecessary radiological tests such as X-rays and M.R.I.s. Use only when needed on your doctor's recommendation.
- * Avoid the use of the microwave if you can.
- * Do not charge your phone near you when you go to bed.
- * Switch off WiFi routers when you sleep
- * Reduce your interactions on social media

How every industrial era coincides with pandemics (Spanish Flu with radio waves)

Weak immunity and environmental stressors such as heightened EMF exposure may contribute to susceptible to viral illnesses.

The vast majority of people who died from COVID 19 have been elderly. Younger victims have been tosed with

Finally, a daily dose of at least 500mg Vitamin C would help build immunity against flu-like diseases.

Culled from PUNCH

Lockdown: Shippers' Council Directs Shipping Lines To Refund Demurrage Charges

In a bid to ameliorate the fiscal burden on port users, Nigerian Shippers' Council has directed shipping companies to refund charges collected as demurrages from March 30th, 2020 when the lockdown in Lagos State commenced.

The Council made this known in a press statement issued on Friday, last week, where it also demanded the suspension of demurrage charges during the period of the lockdown.

"Nigerian Shippers' Council has directed shipping companies to suspend demurrage charges during the period of the COVID-19 lockdown with effect from 30th March 2020. This strictly applies to cargo that was discharged at the terminals from the 30th of March 2020," the statement read.

According to the Council, demurrage charges during this period should be

refunded to the consignee or his authorized agent.

"Suspension of demurrage during this period is an incentive for owners of cargo to accelerate the process of taking delivery of their cargo. This suspension of demurrage charges is not an excuse to delay or abandon cargo at the ports. Erring shippers will be sanctioned in addition to having to pay the demurrage due on their cargoes," the report said.

After conducting daily monitoring exercises, the Council observed that some shippers, through no fault of theirs, have been unable to take delivery of their cargoes because of lack of public transportation, inadequate banking services and limited service providers due to reduced workforce, etc.

The Council also lamented that some shipping companies and terminal

operators do not have adequate waiting areas thereby exposing freight agents and other users of their services to conditions which may spread the coronavirus.

To address this, the Council admonished such companies to create an environment that makes it possible to achieve physical distancing and other health and safety guidelines within their premises.

"Services rendered by some terminals and shipping lines are slow and sometimes non-functional which encourages the clustering of agents at entrance of their premises. It was observed that some of these companies do not have functional helplines and customer relations units," the report said.



The Founder, Bomarah Foundation, Hajia Bola Muse (3rd from right), the National Secretary, Association of Nigerian Licensed Customs Agents (ANLCA) Mr. Babatunde Mukalia (1st from left), Mrs. Toyin Oyeleke, ANLCA member (2nd from right) and other recipients of food Intervention package organized by Bomarah Foundation to support 200 families in Apapa, amid the lockdown following the coronavirus pandemic.

Aviation Industry Won't Suffer Repeat Of 9/11 Problems - IATA

By Ayoola Olaitan

With the aviation industry severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak plunging travel agencies into huge debts across the world, the International Air Transport Association, IATA, has urged immediate response from the airline industry.

IATA made this call last week even as it admonished aviation stakeholders globally not to repeat the mistakes made after series of terrorists attacks by Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda on September 11,

2001 popularly remembered as 9/11 when many new processes were imposed in an uncoordinated way in the air travel sector.

As the world is heading to another economic recession after continuous lockdown by nations to curb the spread of the coronavirus, the aviation sector globally would have over 25 million persons lose their jobs.

IATA's Director General and CEO, Alexandre de Juniac, described the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the airline industry as the worst crisis ever in the air travel sector and

seek for comprehensive approach to re-booting the industry when governments and public health authorities allows for airline operations.

According to him "We are not expecting to re-start the same industry that we closed a few weeks ago. Airlines will still connect the world. And we will do that through a variety of business models. But the industry processes will need to adapt. We must get on with this work quickly.

Read the full story online
www.mmsplusng.com

Lagos-Ibadan Rail Project Is 90% Complete - Zakari

The Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge rail project is 90 percent complete, according to the Federal Government.

The outgoing Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Transportation, Sabiu Zakari, said this at the ministry's headquarters in Abuja while handing over to a new Permanent Secretary, Hussaini Adamu on Thursday, last week.

Presenting his stewardship at the ministry, Zakari expressed happiness that it was during his tenure that cardinal projects such as Abuja-Kaduna light rail train service

was completed and put to use.

Zakari, in a statement issued by the ministry, stated that the Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge railway was 90 percent completed, adding that what remained was the point linking the rail line to Apapa ports.

He said the Itakpe-Warri rail line which was abandoned for over 30 years was completed while he worked at the ministry, adding that test runs were currently ongoing on the facility.

Read the full story online
www.mmsplusng.com

COVID-19 : Aviation Industry Needs Intervention Funds - Aligbe

The Chief Executive Officer, CEO of Belujane Konzult, Mr. Chris Aligbe had called for intervention funds for the entire airline industry; the aviation agencies, the airlines, the handling companies and other aviation allied support service providers if they are to survive the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Aligbe canvassed for intervention fund of less than five percent payable in 15-20 years to be made available to airlines, speculating that it would take airlines two years to bounce back and be able to expand.

Aligbe said, "Coronavirus will come and go, the industry will have to not just continue, but the industry will have to grow, it should not be left to stagnate. If the industry stagnates, its contributions to economy will

stop.

"This is why I will come to the point people have talked over time about national carrier and all those things. Yes government doesn't have money but luckily what is being programmed is not a government-funded or government-owned national carrier. Government is just to put in something to kick-start it.

Also, Aligbe noted that in a situation where government says, 'we can't make budgetary allocation for this', for the airlines including the existing domestic airlines and the programmed national carrier, let there be a loanable fund, an intervention fund, soft loan of very low single-digit interest rate and long term between 10 and 15 years maximum to be provided by the Central Bank.

Read the full story online
www.mmsplusng.com

2020 Q1: Customs Collect Over N110 Million At Apapa Command

Despite the numerous fiscal challenges characterized by the coronavirus pandemic which has affected global trade, Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) Apapa Command has collected N110,204,655,904 in the first quarter of 2020 surpassing 2019 figures by N15.4billion.

While the Command collected N81.748 billion in the first quarter of 2018, in 2019 it recorded N94.717 billion; subsequently, in the first quarter of 2020 the Command collected N110.204 billion.

According to the Area Controller at the Command, Comptroller Mohammed Abba-Kura, this huge increase in revenue collection was a product of many factors including strict application of import guidelines, increased

level of compliance by stakeholders and the Command's openness to address all complaints from the part of importers promptly amongst other measures.

The CAC also seized the opportunity to remind stakeholders that in line with the Presidential directives, the Apapa port remain open and officers are on ground discharging their functions of collecting revenue and securing the nation seaports against influx of prohibited goods.

On anti-smuggling, the Customs boss noted that the Command recorded an increase in its anti-smuggling drive leading to the seizure of 80 containers and 4 vehicles.

Read the full story online
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Little did she know that, over the years, the husband have been trying all ways to please her, little did she know that drumsticks was the husband's favorite. Little did he know that she never thought he understand her at all, little did he know that she hates drumsticks even though all he wants is the best for her. That night, both of them couldn't sleep, toss and turn, toss and turn. After hours, the old man couldn't take it anymore, he knows that he still loves her, and he can't carry on life without her, he wants her back, he wants to tell her, he is sorry; he wanted to tell her

"I love you".

He picks up the phone, started dialing her number. Ringing never stops he never stop dialing. On the other side, she was sad, she couldn't understand how come after all these years, he still doesn't understand her at all, she loves him a lot, but she just can't take it anymore Phone's ringing, she refuses to answer knowing that its him. "What's the point of talking now that it's over?"

Continued next week

Nigerian Women Can Thrive In Freight Forwarding Business - Bola

By Kenneth Jukpor

Hajia Bola Muse is the President of African Women in Maritime (WIMAFRICA) Nigerian chapter. She is also the Financial Secretary of the Association of Nigerian Customs Licensed Agents (ANLCA). In this interview with MMS Plus newspaper, she speaks on the challenges confronting freight agents amid the lockdown in Lagos, gives her appraisal of women involvement in freight forwarding and assesses the state of the nation's port industry. Bola spoke with our correspondent when the Maritime women groups converged to make donations as part of efforts to support the nation's fight against the spread of coronavirus pandemic.

Excerpts:



Muse

It's a new development to find the top women groups in the nation's maritime sector coming together for one project as we did recently. What was the essence of that presentation?

The essence of the presentation was to contribute in our own little way to the survival of the players in the maritime sector. The women aspect of the sector represented by WIMAFRICA, Women's International Shipping and Trading Association

(WISTA) Nigeria and Women in Logistics and Transport (WiLAT).

We came together to show support to the industry. We know that it is small, but at least it will go a long way in the lives of the recipients who are dockworkers and seafarers. The objective is clear and it is to reach out with love even at these trying times. You can see we try to reach out to them with food items and not just

health safety items like sanitizers, fask masks and others.

How have freight agents fared under the lockdown regime in Lagos as the President, Mohammadu Buhari demands that the ports remain operational?

It has not been easy because President Muhammodu Buhari stated that the ports should remain open without making

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ON THE Spot MANAGER

Managing Deaths Amid Covid-19 Lockdown

With the increased number of the COVID-19 cases in Nigeria 12 deaths rate have been inflicted by the virus, the law enforcement agents has killed more persons than the virus, the agents killed 18 persons while enforcing the lockdown ordered to curb the spread of the coronavirus in Nigeria.

Looking at the high increase of people killed during the lockdown, could this be seen as an overzealous act by the law enforcement agents or failure on the path of the citizens who fail to obey the lockdown order.

There have been several complaints to the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, where about '105 complaints of rights violations by security forces' in 24 states. The complaints received and documented by the NHRC within the period include cases of extrajudicial killings, violation of right to freedom of movement, unlawful arrest and detention, and seizure/confiscation of properties.

Analysing the 18 persons killed, eight of those killed were by correctional officers in the northwest Kaduna state. The police were accused of killing seven and the army were allegedly responsible for two deaths. A local committee enforcing the lockdown in the southeast was responsible for killing one individual.

The inability of the law enforcement agents to enforce the lockdown without making citizens pay with their lives speaks volumes of the protocols and rules of engagement by the law enforcement, well the efficiency level and capacity of law enforcement agents to deal with civil population.

What could have been the reason for citizens disobeying the lockdown order? The bigger question been faced today is how long will citizens be law abiding in the face of hunger and been deprived of freedom of movement.

Palliatives package that aimed to cushion the effects of the lockdown order is not getting to the vulnerable people across the country, there is need for swift action by the government as citizens will rather die of Covid-19 rather than hunger.

The government needs to step up in it commitment to help ease the burden on citizens at this trying time that the world is faced with health crisis, to avoid increase in number of death rate by law enforcement agents as citizens are beginning to resist attempt to hold them back as there is cry of hunger in the country.

Controlling the excesses of death rate during this period there is need for citizens to be law abiding at these moment to help curb the spread of the COVID-19, the government needs to show level of commitment else the law enforcement agents will have higher tally than the virus in terms of death rate.

'Social' Distancing



President Mohammadu Buhari has declared another 14-days lockdown in Lagos, Abuja and Ogun States but the unpleasant queues for food and other palliatives remain more calamitous. This photo was taken at Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government Area (LGA) on Wednesday last week, as people clustered and mingled jettisoning social distance as they longed to get food items.

It is important that well-meaning organizations who seek to help Nigerians avoid these strategies that further endanger people's lives.

Open Letter To Thieves

With armed robbery escalating in recent weeks following hardship resulting from the lockdown for over three weeks to curb the spread of coronavirus in Lagos, Aguda Surulere Boys, comprising young residents in the community have written an open letter to thieves known as '1 Million Boys'.

These Surulere residents have drawn the battleline warning thieves that their community wouldn't cower if attacked.

Find a copy of the letter attached.

