

FG Shuts 270 Filling Stations over Smuggling, Deploys DSS

This Federal Government revealed that it had shut down over 270 filling stations for being involved in diverse infractions such as hoarding of Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol., selling above approved price, among others.

In order to halt the diversion and smuggling of the product, government is now deploying operatives of the Department of State Services on tankers transporting PMS to filling stations.

Already, over 120 DSS officers had been deployed to follow fuel tankers to their various retail outlets in Abuja, as more security agencies were being drafted into the exercise for nationwide coverage.

The Chief Executive, Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, Farouk Ahmed, and the

Group Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, Mele Kyari, disclosed this in Abuja during a live television programme monitored by our correspondent.

Speaking on efforts being put in place to halt the diversion and cross-border smuggling of PMS, Kyari said, "So much is going on, there are government security interventions. I know the kind of work that we do with the security agencies, for instance, in Abuja alone, we have over 120 DSS officers following every truck to fuel stations and we are activating this across the country.

"We are ensuring that we get other government security agencies to follow these trucks to their locations, in order to be very sure that these trucks actually get to the fuel stations and there are not sold on the way and they don't

cross the borders."

Kyari had earlier explained at a stakeholders meeting in Abuja that Nigeria's fuel was smuggled to other countries, as he insisted that the current PMS

scarcity was not due to the forth-coming general elections.

"There's no dispute about this that our fuel gets to other countries, including in marine containers.

We have evidence now that some of our customers are actually taking investors to other countries and we will get to the root of this.

"The appropriate government security agencies

will deal with this. But this is the reality that we are dealing with. You do have cross-border smuggling, either in form of round-tripping or whatever name we call it.

Boko Haram: Buhari Has Fulfilled His Promise – Buratai

The former Chief of Army Staff, COAS, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai (ret'd) said President Muhammadu Buhari has fulfilled his promise to subdue Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province, ISWAP, terrorists.

Buratai, who made the assertion in an interview with newsmen in Abuja, recalled that President Buhari in his inaugural address on May 29, 2015, promised to subdue the terror groups.

The former COAS, however, warned that it is wrong to think that victory over Boko Haram terrorists meant a total cessation

of hostilities. That, he said, would happen only when the terrorist groups agree to forsake their ideology, embrace democracy, respect the national constitution and sue for peace.

Buratai said the President had, right from his inauguration, clear-cut strategies to subdue the terrorists and restore peace to the North East and Nigeria in general.

He recalled the president in his inaugural address saying that the military command centre will be relocated to Maiduguri and remain until Boko Haram has been completely

subdued.

"I say this with every sense of responsibility that the Buhari administration has subdued the Boko Haram insurgency and terrorism," said Buratai.

According to him, the president came fully prepared with all the right information about the root causes of the insurgency and terrorism.

Buratai said that the Boko Haram insurgency was allowed to manifest before 2015 by official bungling, negligence, complacency and collusion.

This, he added, made Boko Haram become a ter-

rifying force, taking tens of thousands of lives and capturing several towns and villages, covering swathes of Nigerian sovereign territory.

"This is the true summary of the Boko Haram armed insurrection. The murder of Muhammad Yusuf by the police was clearly extrajudicial.

Negligence, complacency and collusion with the proponents and strategic leaders of the Boko Haram insurgency for selfish reasons caused the insurgency to degenerate into a full-blown nightmare," he added.

Death toll from Katsina bandits attack rises to 84

The death toll from an attack by bandits on some communities in Bakori and Kankara local government areas of Katsina State has reportedly risen to 84.

Recall that bandits attacked and killed scores of vigilante group members and some residents in an ambush in Kankara Local Government Area of the state Thursday evening.

Though the initial report put the number of those killed at 41, residents of the affected communities had on Friday put the number at 58 and expressed fear that more corpses could be recovered from the area as others were still missing.

The victims, according to National Newspaper, were said to have mobilised to the forest in an

effort to recover cattle rustled by terrorists who had earlier launched an attack on the community.

Sources said that unknown to the vigilante members and those who accompanied them, the terrorists who came through Bakori, were aware of their presence and they had already laid ambush for them, killing scores of them.



L-R: Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Malam Garba Shehu; Senior Special Assistant to the President on Strategic Communication, (Office of the Chief of Staff) Oge Mordi; Director of Media, State House Mr Biodun Oladunjoye and Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Hajjia Zainab Ahmed during the weekly State House Briefing at the Presidential Villa in Abuja

Naira Redesign: Emeziele begs Nigerians, rules out extension of 10-day

The Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN Governor, Godwin Emeziele has ruled out the possibility of extending the 10-day grace for the old Naira notes to remain in circulation.

He appealed to Nigerians to endure the pains emanating from difficulties in getting the newly redesigned Naira notes from financial institutions.

The governor who made the appeal on Friday during a press conference in Lagos said the pain is temporary,

stressing that cash will be available in no distant time.

He said the leadership of the Apex bank had appealed to commercial banks to manage the situation properly while the cash circulates.

He said, "On the clamour by people to move the deadline by one more year or if we are open to further extension of the deadline. I would say no.

"I'm sure that people are going to say that only last week Tuesday, I said no, but I want to say unfortunately

again, this time, we will not be looking at an extension of deadlines.

"We do see that there will be some transient or temporary pains. But I will appeal, we are begging, we are on our knees begging people to please show understanding they should be calm."

It would be noted that angry Nigerians on Friday staged protests in some parts of the country, lamenting the scarcity of the new Naira notes.

They Want to Disrupt Elections, Introduce Interim Govt, Tinubu alleges

Presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Tinubu, has alleged that there is a plot to cause a crisis that will lead to the postponement and disruption of the February 25 polls in Nigeria.

The former Lagos governor stated this at the presidential campaign rally at the Ekiti Parapo Pavilion in Ado-Ekiti, the Ekiti State capital, on Friday.

"They want to provoke you to violence, so that elec-

tion will be disrupted and postponed, and they can cunningly introduce an interim government, that's their plot. But this will backfire because we are wiser," he said.

According to Tinubu, people should stand firm and resist any negative plot by destroyers.

The APC flag bearer advised the electorate to ensure they have their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) and not give in to any plot by destructive elements to install an

interim government after causing an undue crisis.

Describing Ekiti people as respected intellectuals, Tinubu promised that his administration will not relegate them if elected President.

He added, "Have you collected your PVCs? They want to hoard them and not give them out to you. Continue to be on their neck please. Don't worry, those who locked up your money will also release them?"

PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INNOVATION (CERHI), UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

PUBLIC DISPLAY EXERCISE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (ESMP) OF THE CERHI EXTENSION BUILDING PROJECT

In accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act CAP E12 LFN 2004, which makes it mandatory for proponents of all major development activities to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments of their proposed projects, the Centre for Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI) hereby announces twenty-one (21) working days public notice for information and comments on the draft ESMP report of the CERHI Extension Building Project.

Project Description

The proposed project shall involve the construction of a building adjacent to the existing CERHI building on 900km² within the University of Benin, Ugbowo Campus. The building shall consist of two (2) modern theatre halls, four (4) offices, one (1) molecular laboratory, one (1) simulation laboratory, one (1) innovation hub, one (1) business centre and a kitchen.

The Display centres are:

- Centre for Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI), University of Benin, Ugbowo Campus, Benin City, Edo State.
- Vice Chancellor's Office, University of Benin, Ugbowo Campus, Benin City, Edo State.
- Edo State Ministry of Environment and Sustainability, Secretariat Building, Sapele Road, Benin City, Edo State.

Duration of display

Date: February 13 th – March 13 th, 2023

Time: 8.00am-4.00pm daily

ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE CENTRE DIRECTOR, CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INNOVATION (CERHI), UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, UGBOWO CAMPUS, BENIN CITY ON OR BEFORE MARCH 10, 2023

SIGNED

CENTRE DIRECTOR

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INNOVATION (CERHI), UNIVERSITY OF BENIN