

NEWS

THE European Union (EU) has provided an additional N3.8 billion to support the Nigerian government's immunization programme in 23 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

EU gives N3.8 billion to support immunisation in 23 states, FCT

From Vincent Ikumola,

This is as EU challenge us to make adequate allocation in the 2018 budget to cover immunization programme. Speaking yesterday at the commissioning and handing over ceremony of EU-Sign works and supplies, at Primary Health Care Centre, GUI, Abuja, EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Mr. Ketil Karlsen said the fund was also to strengthen primary healthcare under its 7-year project Support to Immunization Governance in Nigeria (EU-SIGN) (2011-

2018) initiative. The project is in collaboration with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA). Dr. Ibrahim Yisa is the Team leader of the EU-SIGN project in Nigeria. Before the establishment of the GUI NPHCDA, the residents of the community went as far as 20 kilometers to get healthcare. Ambassador Karlsen said N3.8 billion support

was used to fund the procurement of vehicles and solar refrigerators as well as the construction and renovation of health facilities and cold stores in 23 states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory. Beyond the financial assistance he said EU "is also concerned about the governance and management of health service delivery and the utilization of available budgets in a transparent and accountable manner." Even if EU is to provide assistance in this area, he said, "but the main responsibility lies with the Federal State and Local Government authorities. On the need for states to make adequate budget for immunisation, the Envoy said, "it is therefore particularly important for the states and Local Government make adequate and predictable allocation in their annual budgets for recurrent immunization costs for vaccine distribution, outreaches, regular power supply to the health facilities as well as staffing these facilities with qualified personnel."

Ogun 2019: Youths condemn attack on Osoba

A GROUP, Yewa-Awori Young Professionals Forum (YAYPF), has warned elders of Ogun West against making inflammatory statements capable of denying the zone of the opportunity to govern the state come 2019.



• Osoba

In a statement issued by YAYPF's National Chairman, Demola Edun, an engineer and the National Secretary, Mrs. Dupe Olabode, the youths distanced themselves from the position of the Ogun West Elders Council under the chairmanship of Chief Mohammed Ajibola Olagbaye over the political misfortunes of the zone over the years. The statement reads: "They have started again as they are now attacking Chief Osoba whom they knew is the brain behind Yayl's political movement and electrifying agenda in the state. "These same set of people who are now attacking Chief Osoba were the one who greatly benefitted from him before. Yet, they are now castigating him because of his support for Yayl."

ous that they are acting out an already prepared script of their pay-master since they said wherever Amosun goes, they would also go. "But it saddened our hearts that our elders could reduce themselves to such an errand boys with myopic thinking. It is also sad that they are all bad students and followers of history, else, how could they forget so soon, what Chief Osoba did for Ogun West Senatorial district?"

"We wish to put the record straight that Chief Osoba was the first governor of the state to put the Yewa-Awori zone in an enviable position when he appointed Deacon Popu Adeyemi as the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) between year 1999 and 2003. "Aside from Olamilekan Adesola, a.k.a. "YAYT", who else among these politicians can match him in intellectual know-how, money and exposure?"

"We have meticulously studied what they said during that ill-motivated press conference and going by their statements, it is obvious that they are acting out an already prepared script of their pay-master since they said wherever Amosun goes, they would also go. "But it saddened our hearts that our elders could reduce themselves to such an errand boys with myopic thinking. It is also sad that they are all bad students and followers of history, else, how could they forget so soon, what Chief Osoba did for Ogun West Senatorial district?"

"We wish to put the record straight that Chief Osoba was the first governor of the state to put the Yewa-Awori zone in an enviable position when he appointed Deacon Popu Adeyemi as the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) between year 1999 and 2003. "Aside from Olamilekan Adesola, a.k.a. "YAYT", who else among these politicians can match him in intellectual know-how, money and exposure?"

"We have meticulously studied what they said during that ill-motivated press conference and going by their statements, it is obvious that they are acting out an already prepared script of their pay-master since they said wherever Amosun goes, they would also go. "But it saddened our hearts that our elders could reduce themselves to such an errand boys with myopic thinking. It is also sad that they are all bad students and followers of history, else, how could they forget so soon, what Chief Osoba did for Ogun West Senatorial district?"

"We wish to put the record straight that Chief Osoba was the first governor of the state to put the Yewa-Awori zone in an enviable position when he appointed Deacon Popu Adeyemi as the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) between year 1999 and 2003. "Aside from Olamilekan Adesola, a.k.a. "YAYT", who else among these politicians can match him in intellectual know-how, money and exposure?"

"We wish to put the record straight that Chief Osoba was the first governor of the state to put the Yewa-Awori zone in an enviable position when he appointed Deacon Popu Adeyemi as the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) between year 1999 and 2003. "Aside from Olamilekan Adesola, a.k.a. "YAYT", who else among these politicians can match him in intellectual know-how, money and exposure?"

Lack of accommodation in universities worries VCs

From: Obinna Uchendu, Abuja

THE Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU) has expressed worries on the availability of bed spaces in Nigerian universities. AVCNU chairman, Prof. Debo Adeyewa, expressed the worries at a high-level policy dialogue on affordable housing in Nigerian universities in Abuja.

Represented by Prof. Decent Sheri, Adeyewa said VCs are uncomfortable with reports that no Nigerian university is capable of providing accommodation for 40 percent of its students.

He said the development has left the students with the option of sourcing accommodation outside the school.

This, Adeyewa said, has exposed the students to social vices such as kidnapping, drug abuse, prostitution and gang rape.

He said: "Even though we have not been able to generate enough fund to address the accommodation issue in our universities, the gathering of experts is expected to provide solution to shortage of accommodation in Nigerian universities."

"We are seriously concerned with the negative effect of insufficient accommodation in our institutions. It has forced students to resort to squatting, overstretch the existing facilities and high maintenance cost."

In his remarks, AVCNU Secretary General, Prof. Michael Faborode, agreed that housing problems had affected the academic performance of students particularly in government owned universities.

Minister seeks collaboration on water, sanitation

From Obinna Uchendu,

MINISTER OF Water Resources, Suleiman Adamu,

has called for collaboration with other ministries to achieve goal 6 of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The Minister made the appeal at an Inter-ministerial dialogue on sanitation with key ministers in Abuja on Tuesday.

The SDGs goal six is to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2025.

The minister said collaborative efforts with other ministries was needed to overcome the hurdles goal six presents.

He said when the ministry met with other ministers in February they agreed to scale

up funding of the water and sanitation sector. Adamu said, "The other resolutions included the need to inject more funding in the sanitation and hygiene sub-sector."

"The SDGs has presented many hurdles that will require collaborative efforts in overcoming them. It is in this regards that we seek a robust collaborative efforts towards achieving this goal. "I can assure you that the Buhari's administration is committed to the improvement of the WASH sector and this is evident in the budgetary allocation and releases to the ministry. He said the government was collaborating with development partners to achieve the goal 6 on SDGs.

"I can assure you that the Buhari's administration is committed to the improvement of the WASH sector and this is evident in the budgetary allocation and releases to the ministry. He said the government was collaborating with development partners to achieve the goal 6 on SDGs.

He said when the ministry met with other ministers in February they agreed to scale

Questions my countrymen must ask

By Zahra Ibrahim

GOOD morning Nigeria, my fatherland, a land of intrigue and the powerful. The country of the few powerful, controlled by the rich where poverty is a sin.

Every Nigerian deserves to be rich based on the natural resources accruing to the land by nature, yet we have 5% of the rich and 95% of the poor, this is traceable to the act of corruption perpetuated by our leaders, whose interest is to enrich themselves and amass more for their children. A wonderful land of political promises where a policy of government could be interpreted anticlockwise, policies proclaimed are not to be implemented but to convince Nigerians that the government is on its toes. I mean the previous administrations where stealing is not corruption.

Indeed, commentators around the world have come to realise the position of the Nigerian government, especially the Buhari's administration whose pedigree is centered on anti corruption. We have lost almost everything as a nation simply because we do not ask questions, who, how, when and where. Tracing the multi-billion Naira pension funds mainly contributed through the contributing pension of public servants, saved during their active service, some powerful Nigerians have devised means of taking out of these

funds without any regard to the supposed beneficiaries. While these few get richer daily, the pensioners get poorer, and most have died as a result of various verification exercise without reclaiming their pension benefits. Oh my God, this is a wicked act by our leaders whose conscience is dead.

In the word of a religious fellow, God answered the prayers of the poor pensioners when the former President, Goodluck Jonathan constituted the defunct Pension Reform Taskforce Team, PRTT. The presidential committee has the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Department of State Security, DSS, National Intelligent Agency NIA, The Accountant General of the Federation, the Auditor General of the Federation, the Nigeria Police Force, and the ministry of finance among others while the office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation has Abdulrasheed Maina who is the chairman. The mandate of this committee is to recover stolen pension funds and block loopholes where the money is being siphoned, restructure the entire pension arrangement.

According to its midterm report submitted to the former President in 2012, the committee had recovered 282 billion Naira for the federal gov-

ernment. Wow! 5% of it is a large sum approved for the committee which boosted her morale towards recovery of more funds. The PRTT is said to have recovered 1.6 trillion Naira both in cash and in asset for the government according to pensioner magazine. Where is these monies and the assets? Who is in custody of the cash and asset? In the wisdom of the few rich, the poor must not know before some question maybe asked. The Nigeria Senate is a very powerful institution constitutionally. It soon exercised its powers and initiated a probe Panel into the pension recovery funds. The Senate probe committee was alleged to have demanded bribe from the PRTT through its chairman, Abdulrasheed Maina.

The claims by Mr Maina that there is no money available to the committee but in the federation account angered the Senate which indicted him and recommended his sack. The Nigeria Senate activities during the pension probe is a full topic of discussion on its own. N1.6 trillion is a large sum that must not be swept under the carpet, where is the cash and asset? The most ridiculous issue at the moment is the committee which recovered N1.6 trillion is being accused of misappropriating N2.1 billion and its chairman is singled out instead of the entire members of the committee.

Nigerians are not asking of the whereabouts of the N1.6 trillion not because they could not ask, but the few powerful rich have diverted their attention. It is also disturbing that the PRTT which spent N2.1 billion for biometric exercise was disbanded and the government introduced Pension Transition Administration Department, PTAD which is currently headed by the director of finance of the disbanded PRTT led by Mr Maina. The PTAD has spent N8 billion for the same biometric which was done for N2.1 billion earlier. Is it possible for the chairman of the committee to have stolen N2.1 billion without the director of finance? What about the EFCC led by Ibrahim Lamorde which was also a member? Lamorde is currently the head of Police Special Fraud unit, in Lagos. Why is Mr Maina's case different? The same man who recovered money in hundreds of billions is now being persecuted. A close friend said, when the government of Jonathan said go and recover looted pension stolen funds, what he meant was, do not stop the loopholes. This is a policy summersault or anti clockwise of government policy implementation. Where is the 1.6 trillion Naira Mr Maina recovered? Maina, a saint now termed a thief.

Ibrahim, a social activist, contributed this piece from Minna, Niger State.

THE NATION BUSINESS GUIDE
Chief Araba Hagbemi, Awe Ire of Ijebu Land
Specialized in all kinds of physical and spiritual works such as:- Weak erection, stroke, low sperm count and financial breakthrough such as business growth etc.
Address: We are located at Ijebu in Omu Town beside the General Hospital.
Tel: 08060449557

LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL
Idi-Araba, P.M.B. 12003, LAGOS, NIGERIA
PUBLIC NOTICE
(Unclaimed Bodies from May 2016 to August 2017)
This is to inform the general public that those who are yet to collect the bodies of their deceased relatives deposited in the Hospital mortuary, from May 2016 to August 2017 should come to the Hospital with relevant proofs to collect the bodies within two weeks of this publication. Otherwise, the Hospital will liaise with appropriate authorities to conduct mass burial for such unclaimed bodies, without recourse to the families or relatives.
K. O. Otuneme
FOR: CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR