

NEWSXTRA

# EU Supports Nigeria's Immunisation Programme with N3.8b

Senator Imojuwa (Alayo)

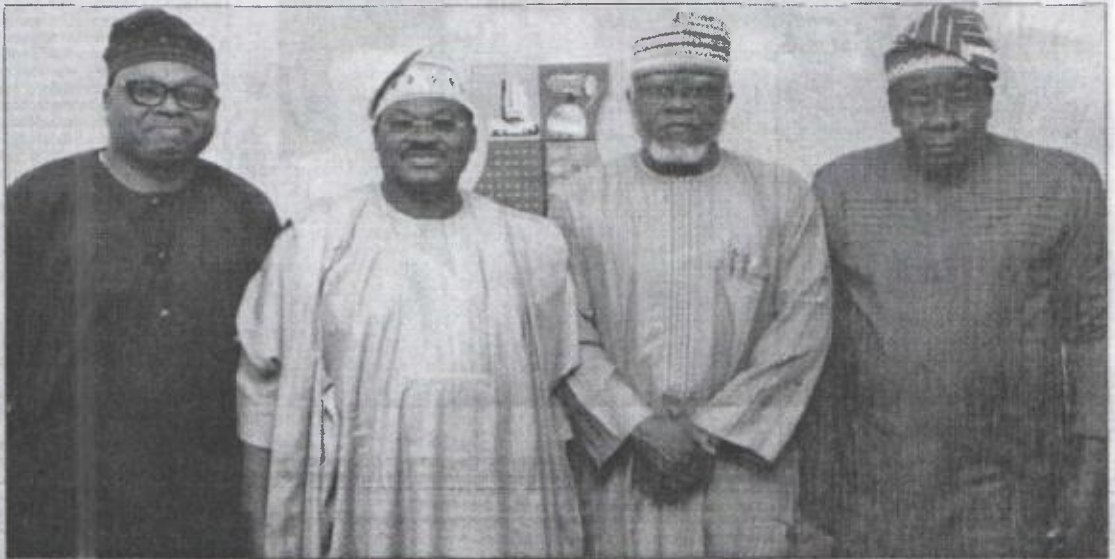
The European Union has provided an additional N3.8 billion to support the Nigerian government's immunisation programme and strengthen primary health care under its Support to Immunisation Governance in Nigeria (EU-SIGN) initiative.

The amount was used to fund the procurement of 29 Hour-Wheel Drive vehicles and solar refrigerators as well as construction and renovation of 49 health facilities and cold stores in 23 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The supplies and building projects was commissioned on Friday at the Gai Primary Health Care Centre, along the Abuja Airport road in the FCT by the European Union Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Mr. Ketil Kadren, the Minister of State for Health, Dr. Chagge Eneh, representatives of the Minister of Budget and National Planning and the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, the Executive Director of the NPHSCDA, Dr. Faisal Shuaib, the WHO Country Representative, Dr. Wondw Alemu and the Executive Chairman of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Hon. Abdullahi Adamu Candido, among other dignitaries.

The EU Ambassador said the intervention was one of the most expensive of EU's infrastructural interventions in the health sector that could save millions of lives every year by complementing the collective efforts of government and partner working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the various states.

The overall objectives of the project, he said, was to contribute to reducing sickness and death in



## FOR DRUG-FREE SOCIETY...

L-R Secretary to Oyo State Government, Mr. Olalekan Ali; State Governor, Senator Abiola Ajimobi; Chairman, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Col. Muhammed Mustapha Abdullahi (red); and Deputy Governor, Chief Moses Adeniyemi, during the NDLEA boss visit to the Governor's Office, Ibadan, on Thursday. PHOTO: Governor's Office

children due to vaccine preventable diseases by ensuring quality routine immunisation and interrupting the spread of polio in Nigeria. In realising the set objectives, he said "this EU Support has used both 'hard and soft water' solutions to tackle identified challenges. Vaccine security for example, is one of the

key strategies of controlling communicable diseases and for saving children's lives", he said, adding that efforts to increase capacities in the health centres would amount to little if there were no sustained supply of potent vaccines to give children and mothers and avoiding problems of stock outs at all levels.

Mr. Kadren said beyond the financial assistance for hard ware solutions, the EU was also concerned about the governance and management of health service delivery and the utilisation of available budgets in a transparent and accountable manner but warned that "the main responsibility lies

with the federal, state and local government authorities", stressing that EU investment in health sector had also substantially decreased the incidence of polio in Nigeria such that we can now feel polio eradication is within grasp. He said EU and Nigeria shared a long standing relationship in the

health sector dating back to 2001 when they first committed 20 million Euros (about 7.2 billion) towards polio eradication using immunisation as a window of opportunity to strengthen the primary health care system to provide high quality preventable health services to all Nigerians.

## Dickson: I Introduced Boarding System in Bayelsa to Make Education Accessible

Bayelsa State Governor, Senator Dickson has explained that his administration introduced boarding school system in the state to give equal opportunity to all children of school age.

The Governor said boarding school system was non-existent in the Bayelsa State before the inception of his administration in 2012.

Governor Dickson stated his reason for investing in education during a colloquium entitled, "Raising A Wise Generation: Revamping Nigeria's Secondary Education," organised by Government College, Ughelli Old Boys Association, September 73 Club, at the Civic Centre in Lagos, recently.

Speaking on "Grassroots Education," the Bayelsa Governor, who was one of the guest speakers at the event, said he decided to invest heavily in secondary education to empower the youth with requisite knowledge capable of discouraging them from taking to militancy.

He stressed that there was a correlation between illiteracy and militancy in the region, adding that the establishment of boarding schools across the state and the free and compulsory education at primary and secondary levels had democratized education in the state and the grassroots in particular.

The Governor, in a press statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Francis Otiak Agbo said under his watch, education was no longer the exclusive preserve of the

bourgeoisie and the privileged ones in the urban centres, adding that the huge investment in education was paying off as militancy had reduced drastically in the state.

"When I took over, there was no single boarding school in Bayelsa State. If you are wondering why some places have issues of militancy, insurgency, instability, criminality, unemployment and other similar crises, you just need to look at the state of investment in education.

"When I became governor in 2012, standing on the podium at my inauguration, I declared a state of emergency on education. At the dinner, some of my friends said free education would destroy my government and they asked where I would have the money to fund free education."

## Kogi Uncovers 1,046 Civil Servants with Fake Certificates

Unlawful recruitment stopped.

No fewer than 1,046 workers in the Kogi State civil service have been discovered to be passing fake certificates, as well as controversial academic qualifications.

This was part of several heart-rending discoveries made during the just concluded staff screening and verification which commenced February last year in the state.

The latest discovery was contained in the post screening report of the reconvened committee set up by the government to clean up the report of the disbanded screening committee.

In the report which was presented during the State Executive Council meeting yesterday, a total of 5,283 civil servants were found

culpable for various offences.

The Kogi State Auditor General, Alhaji Yakubu Okala, who gave a breakdown of the figures of various categories of offences, explained that this was coming after the governor had earlier granted amnesty to other civil servants held liable for offences ranging from age falsification and disparity, and sundry offences.

According to him, about 1,046 workers were discovered to be passing fake certificates as gleaned from the verification conducted in schools within the state, adding that report from schools outside the state were still being awaited.

Also about 1,846 workers were discovered to have had their appointments backdated from 2015 and 2016 to 2007, 2008 and 2012 respectively.

He also disclosed that a total of 40 persons were reported to have indulged in outright cases of fraud and embezzlement, while 66 workers were discovered to be on double employment.

Okala also revealed that 980 workers were discovered to be guilty of being "diaspora employees", as well as 419 found to be illegally placed in the payroll of government by their parents.

Meanwhile, the hope of those employed between 2015 and 2016 seems to have been dashed, as government has declared their appointments, null and void.

However, those employed into vacancies in the health institutions across the state within this period were spared, in view of the critical need of their services.

## Glo Supports SMEs at Jos Trade Fair

Glo has thrown its weight behind the ongoing Jos Trade Fair in its bid to provide encouragement for small and medium scale industries in the state and Nigeria at large.

The fair equally provides opportunity for the company to engage in SIM Sales, registration and re-registration, product offerings, customer query resolutions at a dedicated Globoom pavilion where the company's staff are available to attend to customers within Jos and its environs.

The trade fair with the theme, Sustaining the Foundation of Entrepreneurship

through MEMEs for Economic Development, was conceptualized by the Plateau State Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (PLAM CIMA) as a platform for various participants from within the state and across the country to exhibit their products, meet potential buyers and increase the state's economic growth.

Globoom said in a press statement issued in Lagos that it was showcasing its innovative and affordable telecommunications products, services and offerings, including the loyalty reward scheme, namely, Everyday Bonus.

Glo Jumbo SIM and Free Data Day launched recently by the network. While disclosing that the fair provides a very good platform to engage with its numerous customers, the company added that it was willing to lend its support to the realisation of their social and business aspirations through its rich bouquet of products and services.

The company, which further expressed readiness to continue to partner with PLAM CIMA to enhance the growth of SMEs in the state, said they was the fashion of economic advancement of nations.

## Osinbajo: Most Allegations Against Government are Unverified

State Oyo

Nigeria's Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo has advised the citizenry to always subject allegations against the federal government and the presidency to checks and not take them line hook and sinker.

Osinbajo, who was a guest speaker yesterday at the Greater Nigeria Pastors Conference with the theme: "Towards a Better Nigeria" organised by the founder, Foundation

of Truth Assembly (FOETA), Pastor Wike Kusiak, said issues being raised against the government were untruthful.

Responding to questions of lapseness in federal appointments, non-merit and prosecution of hoodlums allegedly responsible for gruesome murder of innocent citizens, alleged intimidation of Nigeria and other issues raised by the Presiding Bishop of The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM), Dr. Mike Okonkwo,

Osinbajo said though Nigeria stood at the threshold of significant challenges, the country was making positive progress.

On allegation that the government was not doing enough to address the rampaging hoodlums allegedly because they were known to President Muhammadu Buhari, Osinbajo said Nigeria has had hands-on farmer clashes long before the emergence of the current government.