

CBN Appoints 16 New Directors to Key Departments

By James Ajibade.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has appointed 16 new directors to lead various departments within the apex bank. According to TechCabal, the appointments, which took effect on March 3, are aimed at strengthening the bank's regulatory, supervisory, and policy-driven functions. Among the appointees, Jide-Samuel Avbasowamen will head the Information Technology Department, while Abdullahi Hamisu takes charge of the Banking Services Department. Ojumu Adenike has been appointed as the Director of the Medical Services Department, and Makinde Olanrewaju will oversee the Procurement and Support Services Department. In the financial sector, Sike Ijeoma has been named Director of Financial Policy and Regulation, Is-Olatinwo Aisha will lead the Consumer Protection Department, and Oboh-Victor-Ugbem will take charge of the Monetary Policy Department. Nakorji Musa has been appointed Director of Trade and Exchange, while Yusuf Rakiya will oversee the Payments System Supervision Department. Vincent Modesola will lead the Strategy Management and Innovation Department, with Farouk Muhammad heading the Reserve Management Department.

Akinwunmi Olubukola Akinniyi will assume leadership of the Banking Supervision Department. Solaja Mohammed-Jamiu has been named Director of the Other Financial Institutions Supervision Department (OFISD), and Hassan Umar will oversee the Development and Finance Institutions Supervision Department. Adedeji Adetona has been appointed Director of Currency Operations and Branch Management, while Okpanachi Moses will head the Statistics Department. The CBN stated that these appointments are part of its broader efforts to enhance operational efficiency and strengthen its mandate in Nigeria's financial sector.

Nigeria is not a dumping ground – HOMEF slams Nigerian government, EU

Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) has insisted that Nigeria is not a dumping ground, stating that the news of the Nigerian government's ill-conceived, vexatious and painful attempt to import “non-hazardous” wastes from the EU into the country is a rude shock at a time of widespread ecological challenges. Health of Mother Earth Foundation also noted that even wastes certified as non-hazardous were often hazardous – containing traces of heavy metals and other dangerous elements. They said: “We denounce the ploy, under any guise, to import any form of waste to Nigeria.” HOMEF, in the statement signed by its HOMEF Media/Communication Lead,

Kome Odhomor said: “It is clear that rich countries commodify waste and make it appeal to the appetites of poorer countries that are seeking foreign exchange by all means. Thus, the EU could report that €18.5 billion worth of EU waste was exported in 2023. What the impacts of those wastes have been and will continue to be in the countries where they were exported is a question that the trade merchants will never answer. “The EU seems to align with the assertion of Lawrence Summers, World Bank Chief Economist in 1991, who wrote that Africa is hugely under polluted and that it makes economic sense to dump wastes here. In his memo, he said, “Just between you and me, shouldn't the World Bank encourage more migration of the dirty industries to the LDCs [Least Developed Countries]? A given amount of health-impairing pollution should be done in the country with the lowest cost and the country with the lowest wages. I think the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable, and we should face up to that.” In a world that is in the grip of extreme geopolitical distortions, the shameful truth is that the high consumption nations are happy to offload their wastes on zones regarded as suitable for nothing except to be sacrificed as refuse dumps.”

The statement added: “We do not forget the willful dumping of toxic waste in Koko, Delta State, Nigeria, in 1988. These wastes were labelled “non-hazardous” and branded as “fertilizers”. While the labelling was to portray no harm, the actual content was indeed harmful, with significant impacts and contamination on air, water, and land. “We also remember the Trafigura case of waste dumping in Côte d'Ivoire (after several unsuccessful efforts to dump wastes in several other countries) for an induced fee of about \$17,000 with the help of local collaborators in the name of waste management companies. The hazardous nature of the wastes was concealed and became known only after other countries refused. “We see the “Request for Inclusion in the List of Countries to Which the Export from the European Union of Non-Hazardous Wastes and Mixtures of Non-Hazardous Wastes Destined for Recovery is Authorized” as a ploy to woo countries like Nigeria into obnoxious systemic legal waste colonialism.” It, however, warned that: “Nigeria and other African countries have become dumpsites for thousands of obsolete and unusable computers and other e-waste. Major sources of these e-waste include China, the United States, Spain, the United Kingdom, the UAE, and Morocco. “Nigeria is already plagued with environmental pollution arising from oil and gas exploitation, pollution arising from the exploitation of solid minerals, plastic pollution, and genetic pollution in foods. For a country already almost overwhelmed by these issues, seeking approval to import waste of any kind is not only ill-advised but also ecocidal and dangerous.” Executive Director of HOMEF, Nnimmo Bassey, was quoted to have said: “This move exposes the government's willingness to discount the wellbeing of citizens for a mess of porridge.” “It is inconceivable that a

nation with life expectancy of about 56 years and a broken healthcare delivery system would succumb to the level of begging to import someone else's waste, when we can hardly handle our domestic wastes," he lamented. HOMEF, as well as other well-meaning Nigerians, rejects the Nigerian government's plot to allow other countries and regions to use Nigeria or any other African nation as dumpsites for waste products from their conspicuous consumption.

Organized Foreign Fraud Syndicates Establishing Cells in Nigerian Cities- Olukoyede

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has alerted Nigerians that organized foreign fraud syndicates are establishing cells in Nigerian cities and recruiting young Nigerians into serious organized cybercrimes, including cryptocurrency fraud. He made the disclosure in Abuja while receiving participants of the Executive Intelligence Management Course, EIMC 18 of the National Institute for Security Studies, NISS, led by the Director of Studies, Hyginus Ngele to the Commission. Olukoyede expressed surprise on how bandits and insurgents are able to sustain their activities over the years, stressing that the flow of small arms and light weapons across our borders and the involvement of non-state actors in the illegal exploitation of minerals in parts of the country all compound the threats in the security landscape. "Another dimension that is not given attention is the discovery, recently, that organized foreign fraud syndicates are establishing cells in Nigerian cities and recruiting young Nigerians into serious organized cybercrimes, including cryptocurrency fraud," he said. Speaking further, he stated that by virtue of EFCC's recent discovery "we are beginning to see the likelihood, the propensity that a lot of these people are into illegal importation of arms into the country using cryptocurrency as means of payment. And this is an area that must interest all of us" "In the special operations we carried out in Lagos recently, we arrested 194 foreigners in the heart of Victoria Island. One hundred and ninety-four of them, Chinese, Filipinos, Eastern Europeans, Tunisians and the like in one building at a time. You can imagine what these guys are doing, 194 of them. Some of them don't even have valid visas and most of the financial activities they carried out they did through cryptocurrency" "Another thing that we discovered is that some of the foreigners we arrested were already ex-convicts in their countries. Some of them have been convicted and escaped from their countries and found safe haven in Africa, not only Nigeria. We discovered that they are also developing cells in some other African countries by virtue of the investigation we are carrying out," he said.

The EFCC's boss called for spirited efforts at both national and continental levels to combat the menace of internet fraudsters, stressing that the money laundering and

national security dimension of the presence of foreign organized crime groups demand close scrutiny. "All security, intelligence and law enforcement organizations in Nigeria and indeed Africa, must close ranks in dealing with this challenge," he said. Olukoyede decried the fact that Nigeria, for nearly two decades, has been besieged by all manners of security challenges ranging from insurgency, banditry, kidnapping for ransom and farmer/herder clashes, which he partly blamed on activities of non-state actors. Specifically, he noted that the role of non-state actors in stoking the embers of security and corruption challenges has not been fully interrogated. "At the level of the EFCC, we have always been suspicious of the activities of non-state actors in the areas where we are challenged security-wise. In the Northeast for instance, the activities of local and international NGOs have been under focus. This was a major impetus for the decision to mandate their registration with SCUML, Special Control Unit against Money Laundering, a department in EFCC, and a clear directive to notify the Commission on cash movements within the region," he said. Earlier in his speech, NISS Commandant, Joseph Obule Odama who spoke through

Ngele praised Olukoyede's leadership of the EFCC for the Commission's "remarkable achievements in combating corruption, money laundering, and other financial crimes," noting that the achievements "have not only strengthened Nigeria's integrity but have also served as a model for other nations in Africa and beyond." He further noted that the EFCC, under Olukoyede, has been at the forefront of investigating and prosecuting financial crimes, including those involving non-state actors. "Your Commission's exploratory activities have uncovered the intricate networks through which some NGOs and other entities channel funds to support hostile non-state actors, thereby fueling instability in various parts of the country and the African Continent. "We recognize the critical role the EFCC plays in disrupting these networks and ensuring accountability. In light of this, we are particularly interested in hearing your insights on how your Commission navigates the complexities of investigating and prosecuting cases involving non-state actors" "We also seek your contributions on how Nigeria and other African nations can strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to address the challenges posed by these actors while promoting transparency and accountability in their operations". Members of the NISS EIMC 18, comprised 74 senior officers, drawn from Nigeria's intelligence community, the military, law enforcement agencies, including the EFCC, strategic government ministries, and representatives from the federal and state governments and international participants from Ghana, Somalia, Rwanda, and The Gambia. The theme for EIMC18 is "Non-state Actors in Security Management: Issues, Challenges, and Prospects for Peace and Development in Africa," which according to Ngele "was carefully selected in recognition of the growing influence

of non-state actors in shaping the security landscape across the continent.” Part of the highlights of the visit featured an enlightenment and question and answers session, moderated by the Director of EFCC's Public Affairs Department, Commander of the EFCC, CE Wilson Uwujaren. Director of SCUML, Commander of the EFCC, CE Daniel Isei, Director Special Duties, Office of the Executive Chairman, CE Friday Ebelo and Director Legal and Prosecution, CE Sylvanus Tahir, SAN, offered insights on what the EFCC has done in strengthening the anti-corruption engagements through its diverse activities.

CJN KEKERE-EKUN warns IGP: Police must always obey Court orders, your men are not above the law

The Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, has urged security agencies to fully comply with court orders and uphold human rights, warning that disobedience undermines the integrity of the judiciary and public trust in law enforcement. Justice Kekere-Ekun made the call when the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, led a delegation to pay her a courtesy visit in Abuja. According to a statement by her Senior Special Assistant on Media, Tobi Soniyi. She expressed concerns over the increasing disregard for judicial decisions by some law enforcement officers, stressing that the rule of law demands strict adherence to court rulings. She called on the IGP to issue clear directives ensuring that judgments are respected and promptly executed. The CJN also raised concerns about threats faced by judges, court officials, and litigants, especially in high-profile or politically sensitive cases. She urged the police to provide better security at court premises, particularly in areas prone to violence. Justice Kekere-Ekun emphasized that protecting judicial officers from intimidation and harassment is essential to maintaining judicial independence and ensuring fair administration of justice. The CJN noted the need for strict compliance with constitutional safeguards, including the right to legal representation, the right to be informed of charges, and the right to be promptly brought before a court. She also underscored the importance of protecting vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and persons with disabilities. Highlighting key provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015, she reiterated the prohibition of arresting individuals in lieu of a suspect, subjecting suspects to inhumane treatment, and failing to electronically record confessional statements. She reminded law enforcement that under Section 7 of the ACJA, arresting a suspect's family members or associates is illegal. Justice Kekere-Ekun called for internal disciplinary measures within the Nigeria Police Force to prevent unlawful practices and urged the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) to implement mechanisms to

monitor and curb police brutality.

She stressed that officers who violate the law must be held accountable. The Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) reaffirmed the constitutional obligation to treat suspects with dignity and emphasized compliance with Section 8(1) of the ACJA, which prohibits torture, inhumane, or degrading treatment. She further identified poor investigative processes, inadequate case preparation, and delays in prosecution as major contributors to prolonged trials and prison congestion. To address this, she urged law enforcement and related agencies to complete investigations before filing charges, ensuring that cases are not dismissed due to lack of evidence. Justice Kekere-Ekun also advocated for improved coordination between the police, the Ministry of Justice, and the judiciary to enhance case prosecution and strengthen the justice system.

22-Yr Old Nigerian Girl Nominated For Nobel Peace Prize

Zuriel Oduwole, an advocate for peace, education, and gender equality, has been nominated for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. At just 22, she has actively engaged in global diplomatic efforts, influencing discussions on education and peace, working to create opportunities for marginalized communities and promote meaningful change. Her nomination recognizes her efforts and reflects Nigeria's growing influence on the global stage. Born in Los Angeles to Nigerian grandparents, Miss Oduwole has engaged with over 35 world leaders, including presidents and prime ministers, to discuss policy and development issues. Her efforts focus on improving education access for marginalized communities and promoting systemic change. At 13, Miss Oduwole mediated a territorial dispute between Guyana and Venezuela, meeting with then-President David Granger at the United Nations to emphasize the importance of peaceful dialogue. In 2020, she consulted with Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on global peace strategies during the Arab blockade of Qatar, which concluded peacefully in 2021. Miss Oduwole's advocacy for education, which she views as fundamental to both development and stability, has been central to her mission from an early age. In 2017, at just 14, she met with then US Secretary of State, John Kerry at the State Department to push for 'reward-based' education programmes in developing nations, particularly to improve school retention for girls. This engagement with US leadership reinforced her global efforts to promote education as a driver of peace and opportunity. In 2022, Miss Oduwole received the 8th UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Leadership Award in New York, recognizing her decade-

long mediation efforts and advocacy for gender parity. Her involvement was instrumental in ending child marriage in Mozambique in 2019, following discussions with President Filipe Nyus. Miss Oduwole's commitment to education began at nine when she observed young girls in Accra selling goods instead of attending school. This experience inspired her to use documentary filmmaking to raise awareness about educational barriers. In 2013, she founded "Dream Up, Speak Up, Stand Up" (DUSUSU) to empower youth, especially girls, to advocate for education

and leadership opportunities. The initiative has reached young people across Africa and the Caribbean, providing tools to promote gender equality. Upon learning of her Nobel Peace Prize nomination, Miss Oduwole expressed humility and surprise. "I have never sought recognition, only to speak up where it's needed," she said. "This honour reflects the urgent need to invest in young voices as agents of change." The Nobel Peace Prize, one of the world's most esteemed honours, acknowledges individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to peace and human rights. Past recipients include Nelson Mandela, former US Presidents Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama, Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, and former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The Norwegian Nobel Committee will announce the 2025 laureate later this year. Regardless of the outcome, Miss Oduwole's nomination underscores the growing impact of youth advocacy in global policy and sustainable peace efforts.

FG Sets Up 2,400-Strong Anti-Terror Squad Named Special Operations Forces Unit

The Federal Government has commenced the training of 800 soldiers selected for the Special Operations Forces, tasked with combating terrorism, insurgency, transnational crimes, and other asymmetric threats. The 800 personnel, drawn from the Nigerian Army, Navy, and Air Force, represent the first batch of a 2,400-strong Special Operations Forces unit.

At the launch of the Special Operations Forces training at Camp Kabala within the Jaji Military Cantonment, Kaduna, the Minister of Defence, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar, explained that the programme was designed to create a highly skilled, agile, and mission-ready force capable of executing specialised operations in diverse and complex environments. He stated that the evolving nature of security challenges necessitates an elite force that is not only well-equipped but also proficient in advanced tactics, unconventional warfare, intelligence-driven operations, and rapid response missions. "This Special Operations Force Training is a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing our operational effectiveness in combating terrorism, insurgency, transnational crimes, and other asymmetric threats," the minister said. "The force will serve as a critical pillar in securing our national sovereignty, protecting citizens, and maintaining peace and stability both within and beyond our borders." The minister further noted that the

training would develop personnel in special combat tactics, counterterrorism operations, intelligence gathering, and hostage rescue missions.

"This programme will prepare trainees for high-risk missions in both urban and hostile environments, ensuring they can adapt to dynamic threats," he added.

He also emphasised the inter-agency nature of modern security challenges, stating that the training would foster seamless collaboration among personnel from the Nigerian Army, Navy, Air Force, and other security agencies. "This inauguration marks the beginning of training for the first batch of 800 out of the 2,400 personnel to be trained, as part of a long-term strategy to develop a world-class special operations capability within the Armed Forces of Nigeria. The programme will be expanded to accommodate more personnel from all branches of the Armed Forces," Abubakar said. The Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Christopher Musa, stressed the importance of the training, describing it as crucial to achieving "convergence"—the ability to synchronize and integrate kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities to generate swift, effective, and simultaneous effects across all domains. He highlighted that, given the evolving nature of modern warfare and the unique challenges posed by asymmetric threats, it is imperative for Nigeria's armed forces to be well-trained, equipped, and capable of responding swiftly and decisively.

"This Special Operations Force represents the cutting edge of our military's ability to confront threats, both within and beyond our borders," he stated. Musa expressed optimism that the force would play a pivotal role in the military's efforts to defeat terrorism, insurgency, and other activities detrimental to national security. "I am also impressed with the state-of-the-art training facility, which will significantly enhance the efficiency of personnel training within our armed forces. I commend the Ministry of Defence for taking this bold step in making today's event a reality. "This initiative will contribute immensely to the realisation of my leadership concept of nurturing a professional, people-centric Armed Forces capable of meeting its constitutional responsibilities in a joint and collaborative environment," he added. To the 800 soldiers undergoing the training, Musa said, "You are the vanguard of a new chapter in our defence narrative.

I commend your dedication and patriotism. The training ahead will be rigorous and demanding, but with determination and the right mindset, you will emerge stronger and prepared for any operational scenario you encounter." Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani, who was represented by his deputy, Dr. Hadiza Balarabe, delivered a message of support for the initiative, calling it a testament to the government's commitment to strengthening Nigeria's security framework. "The threats we face today are constantly evolving, from terrorism, insurgency, and banditry to cyber threats and transnational crimes. In response, we must equip our Armed Forces with the best training, cutting-edge tactics, and the resilience necessary to overcome these challenges," she said.

She further underscored that the Special Operations Force Training would prepare a new generation of elite soldiers capable of defending the nation with precision, intelligence, and courage. "This training is a bold step toward equipping our forces with the skills to meet emerging threats with strategic thinking, decisive action, and honor," she stated.