

Friday, December 9, 2022

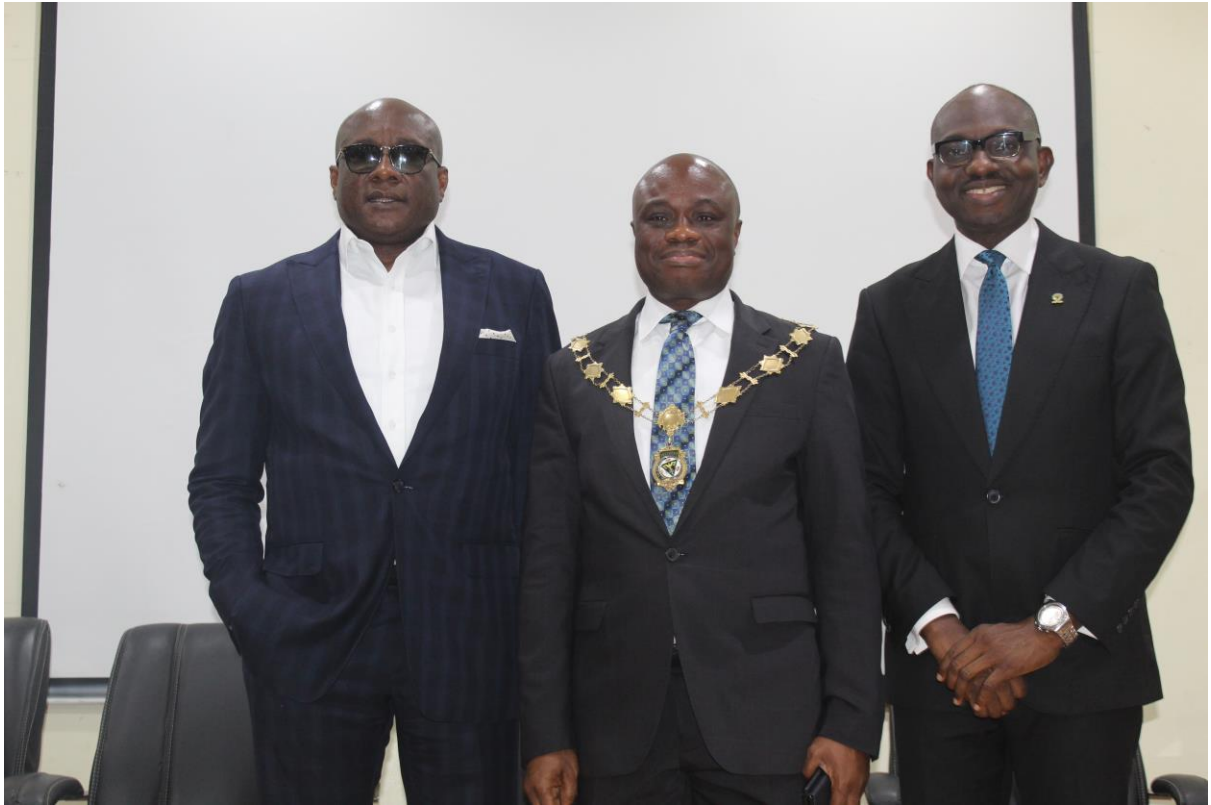


**DAILY HIGHLIGHT**

**PHOTOS FROM THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME / PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF PRACTICE LICENSE (EDP) WITH THEME: "SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES FOR SME GROWTH AND RELEVANCE", WHICH HELD YESTERDAY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 AT IJEWERE HALL, BANKERS' HOUSE, ADEOLA HOPEWELL, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS**













































**PHOTOS FROM THE “RESILIENCE LEADERSHIP: STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING CORPORATE PERFORMANCE” TRAINING WHICH HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022 AT THE GEORGE HOTEL, LUGARD AVE, IKOYI , LAGOS**







**GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS**































## FINANCE NEWS

### Cashless transactions record N318.66tn in 11 months

Cashless transactions in Nigeria rose by 41.75 per cent to N318.66tn in the first 11 months of 2022 according to new industry statistics from the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System. The N318.66tn amounted to the total amount processed on the Nigeria Instant Payment System and Point of Sales terminals, which is how cashless transactions are monitored on the NIBSS. In the corresponding period of 2021, the figure was N224.79tn. Total NIP transactions for the period was N311.81tn and PoS transactions amounted to N6.85tn, indicating a strong uptake in digital payments in the nation. There has been sustained growth in electronic payment since the COVID-19 pandemic. In its 'Instant Payments – 2020 Annual Statistics' report, the NIBSS revealed that the pandemic changed the e-Payments landscape and accelerated the adoption of instant payments as more people adopted electronic channels for funds exchange.

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### Cash withdrawal: Emeziele insists on limits, Reps demand suspension

The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Godwin Emeziele, on Thursday, said the Nigerian economy was overdue to go cashless as the Federal Government had sufficiently invested in the required payment system infrastructure to make the transition seamless. Emeziele said this shortly after meeting the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), at his native hometown of Daura, Katsina State. Controversies have trailed the CBN's latest policy which limits daily cash withdrawals to N20, 000 and weekly withdrawals of N100,000 for individuals. But defending the CBN's directive, Emeziele said, "I think it's important for me to say that the cashless policy started in 2012. But on almost three to four occasions, we had to step down the policy because we felt that there is a need for us to prepare ourselves and deepen our payment system infrastructure in Nigeria.

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### The CBN must fix eNaira's image problem

The Central Bank of Nigeria's digital currency, the eNaira, which was introduced a year ago as the first digital currency in Africa, has not received the positive response anticipated from its Crypto-savvy populace. The development of blockchain has contributed to the evolution of the idea of money and the monetary system. Additionally, it is undeniable that more people seem to be accepting digital currencies as a form of payment. However, it is estimated that less than 0.5% of Nigerians use eNaira, despite more than 10% of the Nigerian population being exposed to crypto assets. Based on Chainalysis data, Africa's most populous country has regained the top spot as the leading crypto adopter, surpassing Kenya. To protect themselves against the country's unending currency decline, 33.4 million Nigerians, or 35% of the adult population aged between 18 and 60, owned or traded cryptocurrencies, according to a report by digital asset exchange Kucoin.

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## **FG to review criteria for disbursing N500bn loan**

The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, has said the Federal Government will review the criteria being used by development banks in the country to disburse loans to micro, small and medium enterprises in the country to ensure geographical spread. The minister stated this on Thursday when she appeared before the Senate ad-hoc committee set up to investigate the alleged uneven disbursement of the N500bn Federal Government loans already given out to the MSMEs by development banks. The Senate President, Ahmed Lawan, following a motion by Senator Ali Ndume, had set up to adhoc panel chaired by Senator Sani Musa to investigate the matter. Ndume had claimed that the South-West geopolitical zone in the country, especially Lagos State, had the largest number of beneficiaries of the loan. The chief executive officers of the affected banks such as the Development Bank of Nigeria and the Bank of Industry had told the panel that they adhered strictly to the criteria set up by their regulators and not to geopolitical considerations in giving out loans.

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## **US agency, Tony Elumelu Foundation partner on trade**

The US Department of State, US Agency for International Development and the Tony Elumelu Foundation have partnered to host an official kickoff event to increase trade and investment between African nations and the United States. This event will open President Joe Biden's US- Africa Leaders Summit on December 12, bringing together investors, entrepreneurs, members of the Diaspora, influencers, and media leaders to celebrate and strengthen cultural and economic ties between the US and African nations, support young entrepreneurs, encourage relationship building and deal making, and highlight the opportunity and dynamism across the US-Africa investment ecosystem. This welcome reception themed 'The Innovators Gathering: Investing in U.S-Africa Cultural and Economic Ties' will be hosted by the Secretary of State and the Prosper Africa Initiative, in partnership with the US Agency for International Development and the Tony Elumelu Foundation.

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## **Reps query NNPC, CBN, others over unaudited accounts**

The House of Representatives Committee on Public Accounts has submitted its report on ministries, departments and agencies of the Federal Government who failed to render their audited accounts within eight years. Prominent among those indicted in the report laid at the plenary on Thursday by the committee's Chairman, Oluwole Oke, were the Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (now Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited), Niger Delta Development Commission, and Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission. It was titled, 'Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the Deliberate and Reckless Refusal by Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government to Render Audited Accounts for the periods 2014–2018 and 2019–2021 to the Auditor-General for the Federation and Approve the Recommendations Therein.' In the report, the committee recommended the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission prosecution, warrant of arrest issuance against chief accounting officers, and sanctioning of various MDAs.

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## BUSINESS NEWS

### Monetary policies can't tame rising inflation — Omotunde

Chief Investment Officer of Afrinvest Management Company, Robert Omotunde, in this interview with Uthman Salami, sheds light on some policies that are hurting the Nigerian economy. All the deposit money banks fared better in their recent financial statements. Why do you think the sector is doing well? Well, I think that Nigerian banks are resilient. We know how they have come in the last 17 years. There has been recapitalisation from as low as N2bn to N25bn. We have seen the worst of times, and we have seen how these banks have been able to circumnavigate the difficulty to deliver on their numbers. We saw when banks were having low adequacy in terms of capital, and we have seen more prudent approaches that the central bank has to put in place. Today, we are talking about the capital adequacy ratio for banks. Whether you're a regional bank, national bank, or international bank, the threshold that has been set by the Central Bank of Nigeria is higher than the global benchmark.

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### UPDATED: Suspend limits on cash withdrawal, Reps tell CBN

The House of Representatives on Thursday, asked the Central Bank of Nigeria to suspend its latest policy which, among others, sets limits to cash withdrawals at deposit money banks and other financial institutions. Consequently, the House summoned the Governor of the CBN, Godwin Emefiele, to come and explain the policy to the parliament. He is to appear before the lawmakers on Thursday. This is based on a motion of urgent public importance moved by a member of the House, Aliyu Magaji, at the plenary on Thursday. Several lawmakers warned that the policy would have serious consequences and adverse effects on businesses and Nigerians who have no access to the banking system. The Minority Leader, Ndudi Elumelu, however, said the policy would check crimes as funds would now be tracked through the banking system. He said though the timing might be wrong, the country would benefit more from it.

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### Leapfrogging Digital Payments through Cash Withdrawal Limits

With exactly one month to the implementation of the new cash withdrawal limits introduced by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) earlier this week, Nigerians have continued to express divergent views about the policy. While some believe the policy would help transform the country's digital payment system, some believe the policy would inconvenience operators in some sector. The CBN had on Tuesday, introduced new cash withdrawal limits for banks and other financial institutions. The new policy followed its recent currency redesign project in which it had expressed concerns over the high volume of cash outside the banking system. Under the new dispensation, the central bank restricted the maximum cash withdrawal over the counter (OTC) by individuals and corporate organisations per week to N100,000 and N500,000 respectively. This was just as President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday asked the Senate to confirm the appointments of two serving deputy governors, Mr. Edward Adamu and Mrs. Aisha Ndanusa Ahmad for second and final terms in office.

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## **Entrepreneurship Network empowers over 2,000 MSMEs**

The General Manager of the Global Entrepreneurship Network for Nigeria, Olawale Anifowose, said the initiative has since supported not less than 2,000 Nigerian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. Anifowose made this disclosure at the 2022 Global Entrepreneurship Week Award ceremony in Lagos. Speaking after the event, Anifowose said the annual event was organised to energise the youth of Nigeria to launch their business ideas and be more visible in the business ecosystem. He said, "In over four years the centre has impacted over 2,000 MSMEs and is willing to continue to support young entrepreneurs in the country." He added that the centre would help provide access to quality support services and requisite information to grow their businesses. He assured that the initiative would provide access to obtain loans through their partnership with the Development Bank of Nigeria.

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## **LCCI knocks FG over worsening credit ratings**

The Lagos Chamber of commerce and industry has expressed concerns over Nigeria's deteriorating risk profile, following the recent downgrades of the country's sovereign risk profile by three leading global default risk rating agencies. The Director-General of LCCI, Dr Chinyere Almona in a statement issued on Monday and made available to The PUNCH, noted that the country may be heading towards deeper debt crises, going by the government's revenue and expenditure framework for 2023. She called on the government to explicitly address the issues flagged by multiple global risk rating agencies and announce measures to de-escalate the risks arising from them. Fitch downgraded Nigeria's long-term foreign currency debt Issuer Default Rating from 'B' to 'B-', a few notches above junk status, following Moody's lead in downgrading Nigeria's risk outlook, and Standard and Poor's placement of Nigeria's Eurobonds on its watchlist.

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## **Nigeria's daily crude oil production crawls to 1.41 million bpd in November 2022**

Nigeria's daily crude oil production output increased slightly to a daily average of 1.41 million barrels in November 2022. This is according to data from the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, which was released yesterday and seen by Nairametrics. The data, which is available on the commission's website, shows that crude oil volumes for November 2022 were 1,185,604, with blended condensates at 40,691 and unblended condensates at 187,799, amounting to 1,414,093. Meanwhile, crude oil volumes for October 2022 were 1,014,485, blended condensates were 28,232 and unblended condensates were 187,655, amounting to 1,230,372 barrels per day. The fight against crude oil theft: Although minimal, the NUPRC data shows that Nigeria is increasing its crude oil production capacity. And this could be due to efforts by the government to combat oil theft. Earlier this week, Bala Wunti, the Chief Upstream Investment Officer at the NNPC Upstream Investment Management Services (NUIMS), told news anchors on Arise TV that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited and security operatives are launching an offensive against crude oil theft perpetrators.

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The Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria

# NAIRA RE-DESIGN

ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022, THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA  
ANNOUNCED PLANS TO RE-DESIGN THE 200, 500, AND 1000 NAIRA NOTES



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND DO

### WHY THE NEW BANKNOTES

- To control currency in circulation and tighten money supply to address the issue of rising inflation which hit a 17-year high in September 2022.
- Address hoarding of banknotes by members of the public with over 80% of currency in circulation outside the vaults of commercial banks.
- Take care of worsening shortage of clean and fit banknotes.
- Address the issue of counterfeiting of Naira Notes evidenced by several reports.
- Minimize the incidence of terrorism and kidnapping as access to large sums of cash used for ransome will be reduced.
- Deepen CBN's drive to entrench cashless economy and financial inclusion (Banking the unbanked).
- Strengthen the Naira.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- CBN will change the current N200, N500 and N1000 currency denominations to new currency notes.
- The new currency notes will go into circulation on **December 15, 2022**.
- The old notes shall cease to be legal tender by **January 31, 2023**.
- Banks have been advised to keep all their deposit centres open from Monday to Saturday going forward for collections.
- There are no limits to how much an individual or corporate body can deposit, and no bank customer shall bear any charges for cash returned/paid into their accounts during the implementation period.
- New cashless policy to be announced in **January, 2023**.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Visit your nearest bank branch to deposit all old banknotes (N200, N500 and N1000).
- If you do not have a bank account, visit the nearest bank branch to open one and deposit all old banknotes (N200, N500 and N1000).
- Perform normal bank transactions with your bank app or USSD.





## **CIBN INSURES ITS MEMBERS**

Kindly take advantage of the CIBN Group Life Insurance Scheme, a novel scheme which comes with a sum assured of N1,000,000 (one million naira). With this scheme, you can enjoy absolute peace of mind in the knowledge that the immediate needs of your loved ones will be taken care of in case of any eventuality. To enjoy this value added service, simply pay up your annual subscription and you will be automatically enrolled at no extra cost. For more details see the flyer below and/ or contact [damilolaodule@cibng.org](mailto:damilolaodule@cibng.org)/08150479363

Please note that this value added service is strictly for professional members who are 69 years and below.

## HEALTH NEWS



### **Nigeria has Africa's highest TB, paediatric HIV – WHO**

Nigeria bears the highest burdens of tuberculosis and paediatric HIV, while accounting for 50 per cent of neglected tropical diseases in Africa, the World Health Organisation has said. The WHO said although the prevalence of malaria has declined from 42 per cent to 23 per cent, Nigeria contributes 27 per cent of global cases and 24 per cent of global deaths. The WHO Country Representative, Dr. Walter Mulombo disclosed this on Thursday at the 6th Annual Conference of the Association of Nigerian Health Journalists with the theme, 'Health security, Universal Health Coverage, and National Health Insurance Act: How can Nigeria get it right – The role of the media in perspective.' Dr. Mulombo, who was represented by the Field Presence Cluster Lead, WHO, Ahmed Khedr, said non-communicable diseases account for 29 per cent of all deaths in Nigeria with premature mortality from the four main NCDs.

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### **Celine Dion battles rare incurable disease, cancels shows**

Veteran Canadian singer, Celine Dion, has opened up on her battle with Stiff Person Syndrome, a neurological disorder that causes one's muscles to tense uncontrollably. The 54-year-old made the announcement in a video on her Instagram page on Thursday, where she disclosed that her 2023 shows had been moved to 2024. She noted that the rare disease, which occurs in one in a million people, had caused her to have spasms. The Power of Love singer said, "Hello everyone, I'm sorry it's taken me so long to reach out to you. I miss you all so much and can't wait to be on stage talking to you in person. "As you know I've always been an open book and I wasn't ready to say anything before but I'm ready now.

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### **GAVI to integrate COVID-19 jabs into vaccine programmes for poor nations**

Covax, the global programme for distributing Covid jabs to poorer countries, will soon be integrated into more routine vaccination programmes, Gavi said Thursday. Gavi said its board agreed during a two-day meeting in Geneva this week to phase out Covax after 2023, stressing though that the Covid jabs would still be made available to less well-off countries, alongside other vaccines. "While Covax continues to have in place plans for worst-case scenarios, the board agreed, in principle, to explore integrating future Covid-19 vaccinations into Gavi's core programming," it said in a statement. The aim, it said, is "to improve synergies, be more responsive to countries' needs", and to reduce the current burden on countries of having a specialised emergency response in place. The Gavi vaccine alliance is a non-profit organisation created in 2000 to provide an array of vaccines to developing countries.

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## SPORT NEWS



### **Enrique Vacates Spain Role after Last-16 Exit**

Luis Enrique has left his role as Spain boss after they were knocked out of the World Cup by Morocco in the last 16. The 52-year-old took charge in 2018 and guided Spain to the Euro 2020 semi-finals, where they lost to Italy. “We would like to thank Luis Enrique and his entire coaching staff,” said the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF). Spain Under-21s coach Luis de la Fuente has been recommended for the role, but his appointment must be approved by the board, which meets on Monday. Spain thrashed Costa Rica 7-0 in their opening group match in Qatar, but their possession-based game led to them being accused of playing “boring” football as they drew 1-1 with Germany and lost 2-1 to Japan. They were then knocked out of the tournament on penalties by Morocco, after a goalless 120 minutes.

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### **Portugal Deny News of Planned Ronaldo Exit from Squad**

The Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) has denied that Cristiano Ronaldo threatened to leave the World Cup. Portuguese publication Record claims the forward, 37, made the threat after being told he would not start their last-16 game against Switzerland. In the previous game against South Korea, the Portugal captain reacted angrily when he was substituted. The FPF said: “At no time did Cristiano Ronaldo threaten to leave the national team during the stay in Qatar.” Ronaldo left Manchester United by mutual agreement before Portugal’s World Cup opener after a controversial interview in which the five-time Ballon d’Or winner criticised the club. Ronaldo was substituted off the field in both of Portugal’s opening games and coach Fernando Santos said he “didn’t like” Ronaldo’s reaction.

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### **Eden Hazard quits international football after Belgium W’Cup exit**

Belgium forward, Eden Hazard, has announced his retirement from international football. Hazard made the announcement on Tuesday on Instagram following Belgium’s shocking group-stage exit at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. He said in the post, “I have decided to put an end to my international career. The succession is ready.” He continued, “A page turns today... Thank you for your love. Thank you for your unparalleled support. Thank you for all this happiness shared since 2008... I will miss you.” Although fellow Belgium star, Kevin De Bruyne, had said the team had no chance of winning the World Cup this year saying the squad is “too old,” the expectation from the number two national football team in the world surpassed exiting at the group-stage.

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## CIBN

We are pleased to inform you that the October 2022 Banking Professional and Certification Examination Results have been released following the approval of the President/Chairman of Council, Ken Opara, Ph.D, FCIB.

In view of this, candidates can now access their results by following the guidelines below:

- i. Log on to [http://portal.cibng.org/cb\\_login.asp](http://portal.cibng.org/cb_login.asp)
- ii. Enter the Membership Number and Password
- iii. Click on Check Results
- iv. Select the Year (2022) and Diet of Examination (October)
- v. Click on View Result

**Please note that only students who are up to date in the payment of their annual subscription can view their results.**

In view of the fact that the institute has transited to its new Banking Professional & Certification Examination Syllabus, candidates are advised to check the status of completion and take cognisance of the number of subjects outstanding using the steps below:

- i. Step 1 - Log on to [http://portal.cibng.org/cb\\_login.asp](http://portal.cibng.org/cb_login.asp) with your Membership Number and Password
- ii. Step 2 - Click on Downloads/ Statement of Result
- iii. Step 3 - Make a payment of N5,000.00 (Five Thousand Naira Only) and proceed to download the Statement of Result automatically.
- iv. Step 4 - Download your Online Statement of Result

They would be able to decipher the subjects left to write by going through the Mapping of old to new subjects in the New Banking Professional Examination Syllabus.



## **QUOTE**

"Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment."

- **Buddha**

## **Did you know?**

Lagos was occupied by British forces in 1851 and formally annexed by Britain in the year 1865. Nigeria became a British protectorate in 1901. The period of British rule lasted until 1960, when an independence movement led to the country being granted independence.



# WE ARE HIRING

## HUMAN RESOURCES

We're a leading professional services firm specialising in the provision of HR Consulting services to clients across different industries of the Nigerian economy.

### JOB SUMMARY

The job will entail working on a variety of Human Resources and management related projects that provide HR support services to businesses.

### KEY REQUIREMENTS

1. Minimum grade level of Second Class Honours (Upper Division) in the following disciplines: Social Sciences, Humanities and Education.
2. Post-NYSC work experience: Intern/Analyst (None); Experienced Analyst - Two years; Associates - Three years; Senior Associates - Five years; and Manager - Eight years.
3. For the Senior Associate and Manager roles:
  - Professional certifications such as CIPM, CIPD, SHRM, SPHR/GPHR and SHRM-SC/SCP.
  - Relevant master's degree will be an advantage, in addition to in-depth HR consulting or hands-on industry work experience in at least one Human Resources functional area.

Interested and qualified applicants should forward their CVs to [Contactus@hcp-ng.com](mailto:Contactus@hcp-ng.com)



## GENERAL NEWS



### **Lagos govt, stakeholders meet over Fourth Mainland Bridge**

The Lagos State Government on Thursday met with stakeholders to assess the possible environmental and social impact of constructing the Fourth Mainland Bridge. The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the meeting focused on how the project may impact the lives of the surrounding communities. The Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Works and Infrastructure, Mrs Aramide Adeyoye, while speaking at the meeting, said the governor would announce the preferred handlers “before the end of 2022.” Adeyoye, who was represented by the Project Director for the 4th mainland bridge, Tokunbo Ajanaku, said the essence of the stakeholders meeting was to get a feedback from the communities. “At this point in time in the life of the fourth mainland bridge, we are closing out on the environmental social impact assessment stage. “This is the 14th meeting we are having with the stakeholders..

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### **Signature Bank To Redefine The Banking Landscape In Nigeria**

Signature Bank has launched its operations into the Nigerian banking sector with unique services that are expected to deepen Nigeria’s financial inclusion, targeting over 40 million unbanked and underbanked citizens. Speaking at the launch of the Bank at its headquarters in Abuja, founder of the bank, Alex Otti said that the Bank will do things differently in a bid to redefine the industry and impact the lives of customers through seamless access to financial services while leveraging flexible digital solutions and tailor-made services. Otti, quoting statistics from the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System Plc (NIBSS), expressed concerns that there were just about 55 million accounts in the country as of May 2022, and another 42 million people in Nigeria that have no access to financial services and need to be brought into the sector.

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### **Dss Gives Nnpc, Ipman, Nupeng, Others 48 Hours To End Fuel Scarcity**

The Department of State Services (DSS) has issued a 48 hours ultimatum to all stakeholders in the oil industry to resolve the ongoing fuel scarcity across the country. The secret agency warned that it would launch a nationwide operation on saboteurs if there are still queues at various filling stations in the country after the ultimatum. DSS spokesperson, Peter Afunanya, stated this shortly after the Director-General of DSS, Yusuf Magaji Bichi, met with major stakeholders in the oil industry at the agency headquarters in Abuja yesterday. Afunanya said stakeholders at the meeting included: Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited, Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria (MOMAN). [Read More+](#)

### **INEC educates political parties on compliance with rules**

To increase political parties' knowledge of electoral legal framework and other related matters, such as Independent National Electoral Commission's guidelines and regulations, a two-day sensitisation workshop has been organised for party leaders in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The workshop, organised and sponsored by European Union, DAI, The Kukah Centre, in partnership with INEC, enlightened party officials on the need to prioritise party finance and campaign finance reporting, and to understand that INEC's policies are geared towards levelling the playing field for all players. In his remarks, Rudolf Elbling, Team Lead, DAI EU-SDGN emphasised the need for cooperation and transparency of the parties and INEC to have a credible election, adding that political parties form the engine room of democracy and play major role in shaping public policy and forming the government.

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### **Igbo elders ask southeast residents to reject five-day sit-at-home order**

Eminent Nigerians from the Southeast under the authority of the Igbo Elders Consultative Forum have urged Southeast residents to reject the five-day sit-at-home declared by Finland-based Simon Ekpa, a protege of detained leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. The South-East elders described Ekpa's draconian order as the height of insensitivity to the plight of the people; insisting that it must never be observed nor allowed to stand. Addressing Journalists in Abuja on Thursday night, IECF chairman and former Anambra governor, Chief Chukwuemeka Ezeife said the Forum met, discussed and made a critical analysis of some national issues and questions that have far-reaching consequences on the peace, unity, stability and corporate existence of Nigeria in general, and Igbo land in particular including EKpa's sit-at-home order in the South East.

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### **WHO urges Nigeria to develop strong primary healthcare system to withstand disease outbreaks**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has stressed the need for the government to show political commitment to building a strong health system, based on primary care, with emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion as well as the best defence against outbreaks and other health emergencies. The global health body urged the media as a critical partner to support efforts to accelerate the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the country. It noted that more than half the world's population lacks access to essential health services, and almost 100 million people are pushed into extreme poverty every year because of the costs of paying for care out of their own pockets. WHO Country Representative in Nigeria, Dr Walter Mulombo made the call at a 3-day Conference on "Universal Health Coverage (UHC): How Can Nigeria Get it Right.

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### **Nigerian don bags UNESCO senior fellow award**

A Nigerian development expert, educationist, poet, and former lecturer at the University of Ilorin, Noel Ihebuzor, has been appointed Senior Fellow of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation International Bureau of Education. This was contained in a letter signed by the Director, UNESCO-IBE, Ydo Yao, and dated November 21, 2022. According to the letter, the Senior Fellowship honorary award is conferred on a leading international authority in one of the sub-sectors of education, who has made an outstanding contribution to education and/or research, and with regular and significant involvement in UNESCO-IBE's work. The letter read, "It is my great pleasure to invite you to collaborate with the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (UNESCO-IBE), as a Senior Fellow.

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### **NNPC to fund road projects with N1tn – Kyari**

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited is to provide additional N1tn for road projects in Nigeria, NNPC Group Chief Executive, Mele Kyari, announced in Lagos on Thursday. Kyari, in a video clip seen in Abuja, disclosed this during a tour of the construction exercise ongoing at the Agbara-Badagry road project. He said the N1tn would be invested on road projects through the Federal Government road infrastructure tax credit scheme. The NNPC boss said, "We are very happy about the state of this road development. We are very happy with this intervention across the country not just in this place. We are doing 1,800km across the country. We are taking another set of over N1tn of investments in road infrastructure in the country. "We believe that this tax credit system which Mr. President has put in place is the game changer for our country. "We believe that in the next 24 months, there will be massive change to the entire road network in this country and this is why the NNPC is your company and working for all of us.

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### **Varsity suspends 185 Amnesty Programme scholars over debt**

The authorities of Baze University, Abuja, on Thursday ordered the suspension of some students of the institution due to outstanding fees. The PUNCH gathered that about 185 of the affected students are under the Federal Government-sponsored Presidential Amnesty Programme's scholarship. The undergraduates were said to have been asked to leave when they were about to sit for their Digital Entrepreneurship examination. One of the affected students said, "On Thursday, December 8, 2022, all students offering the course titled Digital Entrepreneurship (GEN 201), amounting to over 500 students in number, convened at the Baze University multi-purpose hall to sit the final exams for this semester. "We were seated and ready to start at any moment when a lecturer informed us that he would be calling out a list of names, and if your name or matriculation number is mentioned, you are to walk to the end of the hall.

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## **Bishop Olumakaiye buried in Ondo, Sanwo-Olu pays tribute**

The remains of the late Archbishop of Lagos Province, Anglican Communion and Bishop of Lagos Diocese, Most Rev. Humphrey Olumakaiye, were on Thursday buried in his hometown, Idanre, Ondo State. Olumakaiye, who was the first bishop of Osun North East before his transfer to the Diocese of Lagos, died on Monday, October 31, after a brief illness. He was aged 53. The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who was present at the funeral service at St Paul's Anglican Church, Idanre, described the deceased as a servant of God who led an exemplary and impactful life in a short time. The service, which was presided over by the Primate of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), the Most Rev. Dr Henry Ndukuba, and the Archbishop of Ondo Province and Diocesan Bishop of Akure, the Most Rev. Dr Simeon Borokini, was also attended by Ondo State Deputy Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa; many Anglican bishops and priests; clerics from other Christian denominations; traditional rulers; as well as family and friends of the deceased.

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## **Japan, UK, Italy to develop next-generation fighter jet**

Japan, Britain and Italy said Friday they would jointly develop a next-generation fighter jet in a project that held scope for future cooperation with allies including the United States. The new jet, to be ready by 2035, is expected to merge the nations' current research into cutting-edge air combat technology, from stealth capacity to high-tech sensors. In a joint statement, the three countries said the "ambitious endeavour" would "accelerate our advanced military capability and technological advantage" at a time when "threats and aggression are increasing" worldwide. Their announcement was accompanied by a set of images showing an artist's impression of the sleek new jets flying past Mount Fuji and over London and Rome. They did not give a cost estimate, but the three countries were already pouring billions of dollars into fighter jet development, efforts that would come together under the joint project, called the Global Combat Air Programme.

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## **Boko Haram not founded by Borno people — El-Kanemi**

The Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar El-Kanemi, said on Thursday that the Boko Haram uprising in Nigeria was the creation of foreigners who entered the North East pretending to be seeking Quranic education. The monarch spoke during a town hall meeting organised by Yateem Faqeer Global Foundation in Abuja. El-Kanemi said the authorities have reclaimed the 17 local government areas in Borno that were hitherto under the control of Boko Haram insurgents before the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), took over power in 2015. He said, "Borno has witnessed so many things, both good and bad. Boko Haram is meaningless, mindless, and without a sense of direction because neither the Quran nor the Bible commands you to disrespect others, burn, or destroy their property. And I want people to understand that Boko Haram was never founded or initiated by people from the Northeast Zone. It is something they just brought to us out of nowhere. "Boko Haram insurgents came to Borno and the North-East under the guise of acquiring Quranic education, but few realised they had an ideology that had been polluted as well as promoted into the minds of the youths and caused havoc in our area.

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