

NADDDC Trains 300 Technicians, Youths In Vehicle Mechatronics, CNG Retrofitting

The National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDDC), in collaboration with TOFEKO Limited, has commenced a two-week specialised training programme for 2026, is being conducted simultaneously in Ekiti, Imo, Kano, and Gombe states.

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FG Reawards 102km Darazo-Dukku-Bojude Road, Sets One-Year Completion Deadline

The Federal Government has reawarded the contract for the rehabilitation of the 102-kilometre Darazo-Dukku-Bojude road linking Bauchi and Gombe states, with the contractor given one year to complete the project.

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FG Launches 100 Electric Buses For Federal Civil Servants

The Federal Government has launched 100 electric mass transit buses to ease transportation challenges faced by federal civil servants and improve workers' welfare and productivity. The buses were commissioned on Wednesday at Eagle Square, Abuja, by the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (HoCSF), Mrs Didi Esther Walson-Jack, as part of the Renewed Hope Mass

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Afe Babalola Urges Tinubu To Inspect Deplorable Ekiti Federal Road
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Mrs Didi Walson-Jack - Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (HoCSF)

81 Firms Get Licence To Retail CNG In Nigeria - NADDDC

The National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDDC) has disclosed that 81 firms have so far been licensed to retail Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in Nigeria. The Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of the council, Otunba Oluwemimo Joseph Osanipin, made this known while speaking with State House correspondents after a meeting with President Bola Tinubu at the Presidential Villa, Abuja. Osanipin said the increase in the number of licensed CNG

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19 Nigerian Oil Licences Face Expiry In 2026 - NUPRC

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FRSC Urges Marshals To Prioritise Professionalism, Safety

Culled

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has urged its personnel to uphold professionalism, remain security-conscious and prioritise the safety of all road users while carrying out their duties.

The Corps Marshal, Mallam Shehu Mohammed, gave the charge in Abuja while declaring open a two-day training programme for 500 Marshals from Zone 7 Command, comprising the Federal Capital Territory and Niger State.

Mohammed said the training was designed to strengthen the professionalism, competence and operational effectiveness of frontline personnel of the Corps.

He stressed that Marshals must possess the knowledge, skills, discipline and appropriate attitude required to deliver effective road safety services to the public.

According to him, the responsibilities of traffic officers go beyond apprehending

traffic offenders, noting that they are also expected to identify road risks, manage congestion, prevent crashes and make decisions capable of protecting lives and property.

“Our mandate is fundamentally life-saving, and every action taken by a Marshal on the road can have consequences for human life,” he said.

The Corps Marshal therefore urged the participants to exercise sound judgment, communicate effectively with

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Mohammed

NAGAFF Seeks Customs Intervention Over Eight Auctioned Buses Held At Port

Culled

The National Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF) has appealed to the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Adewale Adeniyi, to intervene in the release of eight auctioned buses allocated to the association.

The buses, according to NAGAFF, have remained at the port despite the association completing payment and other necessary processing required for their release.

Founder of NAGAFF, Dr Boniface Aniebonam, made the appeal while expressing concern over the association's inability to take possession of the vehicles, which were acquired to support transportation and training activities at the NAGAFF Academy.

Aniebonam explained that NAGAFF initially applied for 41 vehicles of different brands for use across its various chapters and operations, but was eventually allocated only eight buses.

He said the association accepted the

allocation and made the required payments, only to encounter difficulties when it attempted to take possession of the vehicles at the port.

According to him, the situation had left the association in a difficult position, having committed funds to the purchase without being able to access the vehicles.

He said, “The buses have remained at the port despite the completion of payment and processing. We applied for 41 vehicles, cutting across Chapters, Kebbi, Sokoto and all others. We were given eight, which we paid for and processed. On getting to the port, we could not get one.”

Aniebonam described the situation as “double jeopardy”, noting that the association's funds had already been committed to the vehicles.

He stressed that the buses were not purchased for the personal use of NAGAFF members but were intended primarily to facilitate the activities of students and staff of the NAGAFF Academy.

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FG Reawards 102km Darazo-Dukku-Bojude Road, Sets One-Year Completion Deadline

Culled

The Federal Government has reawarded the contract for the rehabilitation of the 102-kilometre Darazo–Dukku–Bojude road linking Bauchi and Gombe states, with the contractor given one year to complete the project.

The contract was reawarded through the North East Development Commission (NEDC), while the project documents were formally handed over to Tamusa Construction Company in Darazo, Bauchi State.

The rehabilitation is aimed at restoring the deteriorating highway and improving movement of people, goods and services between communities in Bauchi and Gombe states.

The road, which runs from Darazo through Dukku in Gombe State to Bojude, has suffered prolonged deterioration, leaving motorists and residents to contend with potholes, damaged road shoulders and eroded sections.



FG reawards Darazo-Dukku-Bojude road project to contractors

The poor condition of the route has also affected access to healthcare, trade and other essential services, while increasing transportation costs and placing an economic burden on communities and commercial operators who depend on the corridor.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, NEDC Gombe State

Project Coordinator, Architect Usman Muhammad, said the commission was implementing various infrastructure and development projects across the North-East to improve living conditions in the region.

Muhammad urged the contractor to ensure that the road was executed according to specification and

completed within the stipulated timeframe, stressing its importance to the people and economy of the North-East.

He described the highway as an important link between communities in Bauchi and Gombe states, noting that its rehabilitation would facilitate commerce, transportation and other economic activities.

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FG Launches 100 Electric Buses For Federal Civil Servants

Culled

The Federal Government has launched 100 electric mass transit buses to ease transportation challenges faced by federal civil servants and improve workers' welfare and productivity.

The buses were commissioned on Wednesday at Eagle Square, Abuja, by the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (HoCSF), Mrs Didi Esther Walson-Jack, as part of the Renewed Hope Mass Transit Programme.

The first phase of the initiative comprises 37 of the 100 electric buses approved under the programme. Walson-Jack described the project as a major milestone in the government's efforts to provide affordable, safe and reliable transportation for civil servants.

The commissioning also marked one of her final official engagements before the end of her tenure as Head of the Civil Service, which she described as a "parting gift" to federal workers.

According to her, transportation costs and challenges have significant effects

on workers' finances, safety, punctuality and productivity.

"For many civil servants, the daily commute shapes their finances, their safety, their punctuality, and ultimately their productivity," she said.

Walson-Jack explained that the initiative was designed to reduce the financial burden of commuting, minimise transportation risks and enable workers to arrive at their workplaces with greater energy and efficiency.



Mrs Walson-Jack

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PENGASSAN Backs NUPRC's 3m Bpd Oil Production Target By 2030

Culled

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) has pledged to collaborate with the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) to help Nigeria achieve its target of producing three million barrels of crude oil per day by 2030.

The newly elected President of PENGASSAN, Comrade Bosun Olabiyi-Agoro, made the commitment on Wednesday in Abuja during a visit to the corporate headquarters of the NUPRC.

Olabiyi-Agoro said achieving the Federal Government's production target would require the collective efforts of stakeholders across the oil and gas industry.

He assured the commission that the union would work closely with it and remain open to constructive engagement in pursuit of the country's production objectives.

According to him, while PENGASSAN is willing to negotiate on industrial matters,

workers' rights to freedom of association and union membership remain non-negotiable.

He also identified contract staffing as one of the key issues his administration would prioritise.

Responding, the NUPRC Chief Executive, Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan, said the commission was committed to supporting the new PENGASSAN leadership and called for closer cooperation to sustain growth in the oil and gas sector.

Eyesan noted that Nigeria's crude oil production had increased from about 1.1 million barrels per day a few years ago to an estimated 1.755 million barrels per day in 2026.

She attributed the improvement partly to government efforts to attract investments, including the latest executive order aimed at boosting investment in deep offshore oil operations.

The NUPRC boss, however, stressed that industrial stability remained essential to achieving higher production levels.

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Afe Babalola Urges Tinubu To Inspect Deplorable Ekiti Federal Road

Culled

Founder and Chancellor of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), Aare Afe Babalola, has appealed to President Bola Tinubu to personally inspect the deplorable condition of the Ado-Ijan-Ilumoba-Ikole federal road in Ekiti State.

Babalola made the appeal in an open letter titled, "An Appeal to the Federal Government to Revisit the Road Leading to Afe Babalola University and an Open Letter of Appreciation to Senator Babafemi Ojudu."

The elder statesman said a personal assessment of the road by the President would enable him to appreciate its deteriorating condition, describing portions of the route as largely impassable.

According to him, the road has suffered years of neglect despite serving several important institutions and facilities in Ekiti State.

Babalola disclosed that ABUAD had, between 2010 and 2019, spent billions of naira as part of its corporate social responsibility efforts to repair and maintain sections of the road, including



Afe Babalola

the old Ureje Bridge.

He explained that the university intervened because of the strategic importance of the road to ABUAD, neighbouring communities and other institutions along the route.

The federal road provides access to ABUAD, the university's Multi-System Hospital, the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti, the Ado-Ekiti campus of the National Open University of Nigeria, a Federal

Government-owned silo and the Ekiti Agro-Allied International Cargo Airport.

Babalola also recalled that residents had welcomed the award of a rehabilitation contract to a local contractor in 2019. He, however, said the project was later abandoned after the contractor left the road in an even worse condition.

The legal luminary expressed concern that repeated representations to successive Federal Government

administrations and relevant agencies had not yielded the desired result.

He therefore urged President Tinubu to visit the road personally, saying such a visit would provide the President with a clearer picture of the hardship caused by its poor condition.

Babalola also called on Ekiti indigenes, particularly professors, opinion leaders and other influential stakeholders, to join the campaign for the rehabilitation of federal roads across the state.

He commended Senator Babafemi Ojudu for consistently drawing attention to the poor state of federal roads in Ekiti, especially the road leading to ABUAD.

According to Babalola, Ojudu's advocacy has strengthened the longstanding call for urgent intervention despite repeated appeals to different administrations.

He further argued that Ekiti State's economic development was being constrained by inadequate road and transportation infrastructure, noting that the state remained disadvantaged because of limited connectivity with other parts of the country.

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81 Firms Get Licence To Retail CNG In Nigeria - NADDC

Culled
The National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) has disclosed that 81 firms have so far been licensed to retail Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in Nigeria.

The Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of the council, Otonba Oluwemimo Joseph Osanipin, made this known while speaking with State House correspondents after a meeting with President Bola Tinubu at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Osanipin said the increase in the number of licensed CNG retailers was an indication of progress in the Federal Government's efforts to expand the infrastructure required to support the country's CNG policy.

He explained that the success of the policy depended largely on increased investment in filling stations, mobile refuelling units and gas production facilities across the country. According to him, the government could not expect the policy to produce immediate results without first putting the necessary infrastructure in place.

"You can't put a policy in place today, and you start having the immediate impact," he said.

The NADDC boss noted that the number of licensed CNG retailers had risen significantly from about four previously to 81, making the gas more accessible to motorists in some parts of the country.

He said the development showed that investment was gradually expanding the availability of CNG, adding that more infrastructure would be required to ensure nationwide accessibility.

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Oluwawemimo Osanipin and President Tinubu

Culled

No fewer than 19 oil licences in Nigeria's upstream petroleum sector have stated expiry dates falling within 2026, according to the latest Nigerian Upstream Concession Situation Report released by the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC).

The report covers petroleum exploration and production concessions across the country's upstream oil and gas industry, including Petroleum Prospecting Licences (PPLs) and Oil Prospecting Licences (OPLs).

The affected concessions comprise 12 PPLs and seven OPLs. The report also records three licences with expiry dates in 2025, while several other concessions are scheduled to expire in 2027 and beyond.

The development comes amid the Federal Government's renewed efforts to attract investment into the upstream sector, increase crude oil production and encourage the exploration and development of previously underutilised oil and gas assets.

Among the PPLs with stated expiry dates

19 Nigerian Oil Licences Face Expiry In 2026 - NUPRC

in 2026 are PPL 220, held by Navante Exploration and Production Limited, which is due to expire on October 16; PPL 232, held by Kizi Oil and Gas Services Limited, with an expiry date of November 16; and PPL 235, held by Oceangate Engineering Oil & Gas Limited, which expires on November 1.

Other affected PPLs include PPL 223, with a November 30 expiry date; PPL 251, which expires on November 16; and PPL 266, held by AOS Orchard Petroleum Development Limited, with a November 21 expiry date.

The report also lists PPL 277, PPL 275 and PPL 254 with February 14, 2026 expiry dates, meaning their stated tenures had elapsed by the time the latest report was published in August.

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MOWCA Seeks Investment In Niger Delta's Maritime Assets



Maritime trade

The Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) has called for increased investment in the maritime assets and blue economy opportunities of Nigeria's Niger Delta region.

MOWCA Secretary-General, Dr Paul Adalikwu, made the call when he received a delegation from the Niger Delta Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Trade, Mines and Agriculture (NDCCITMA) at the organisation's secretariat in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Adalikwu said the Niger Delta, while widely recognised for its oil and gas resources, also possessed enormous opportunities in maritime transport, fishing, tourism,

underwater mining and other ocean-based economic activities.

He described the region's natural marine resources as a major economic advantage that could be transformed into sustainable development through strategic policies, effective planning and long-term investment.

According to him, stronger public-private partnerships could help attract foreign direct investment into the region, create jobs and accelerate economic development.

He noted that the Niger Delta's waterways, coastal location and access to the Gulf of Guinea placed it in a strategic position to become a major hub for maritime trade, logistics and other blue economy activities.

Adalikwu said MOWCA was particularly interested in initiatives capable of strengthening regional maritime cooperation, developing the blue economy, improving infrastructure, promoting renewable energy and supporting sustainable

economic growth across West and Central Africa.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, NDCCITMA Board Secretary, Dr Solomon Edebiri, said the Niger Delta possessed extensive coastlines, waterways, ports and fishing resources that could drive employment, trade and industrial growth if properly developed.

Edebiri also identified opportunities in agriculture and agro-processing, compressed natural gas (CNG), logistics, warehousing, packaging, export production, renewable energy and other maritime-related activities.

He said the chamber was seeking international technical cooperation, investment and strategic partnerships to help diversify the region's economy away from its heavy dependence on hydrocarbons.

According to him, greater attention should be given to fisheries, aquaculture, marine transportation and coastal infrastructure as part of efforts to build a more sustainable and diversified regional economy.

The delegation and MOWCA also identified potential areas of collaboration, including blue economy projects, maritime infrastructure, renewable energy, investment mobilisation, Gulf of Guinea regional cooperation, technical capacity building, maritime trade and logistics.

The parties further discussed opportunities to establish links with international development partners to support investment and infrastructure development across the Niger Delta.

The NDCCITMA delegation also invited MOWCA to participate in the inaugural Niger Delta Economic and Investment Summit and Exhibition (NDEIS), scheduled to hold from September 15 to 17 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The three-day summit, being organised in partnership with the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), is expected to provide an investment platform for turning the region's natural resources and economic potential into viable and bankable projects.

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NADDC Trains 300 Technicians, Youths In Vehicle Mechatronics, CNG Retrofitting

Culled

The National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC), in collaboration with TOFEKO Limited, has commenced a two-week specialised training programme for 300 automotive technicians and youths across six states.

The training, which began on August 17, 2026, is being conducted simultaneously in Ekiti, Imo, Kano, Nasarawa, Bauchi and Cross River states, with 50 participants selected from each state.

The programme is designed to strengthen technical capacity in Nigeria's automotive sector, particularly in the areas of advanced vehicle mechatronics and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) retrofitting.

Participants are receiving both classroom-based technical instruction and practical training focused on vehicle diagnosis, servicing, repairs and maintenance.



NADDC trains 300 technicians

The technical training is being delivered by Bcephas Consults Limited, engaged by NADDC as the technical consultant for the programme. The training is drawn from across the state are undergoing hands-on sessions aimed at improving their understanding of automotive modern vehicle systems and equipping them with the skills required to identify and resolve faults more effectively.

The practical sessions expose participants to contemporary technologies, diagnostic techniques, while improving their ability to

maintain and repair modern vehicles.

According to the organisers, the initiative is expected to improve the quality of services provided by existing automotive technicians while giving young participants practical skills that can enhance their employability and create opportunities for entrepreneurship.

The programme is part of NADDC's broader human capital development efforts aimed at developing a technically skilled workforce capable of keeping pace with emerging technologies in the automotive industry.

With 50 beneficiaries participating in each of the six states, the programme has a total of 300 participants.

At the end of the training on August 28, participants are expected to receive certificates and empowerment tools to enable them to apply the skills acquired during the programme.

The intervention is also expected to help beneficiaries improve productivity, enhance the competitiveness of their businesses and establish or expand enterprises within the automotive value chain.

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Dangote Moves To Acquire Vessels For Regional Product Distribution



Dangote Refinery

Dangote Industries has concluded plans to acquire its own vessels to facilitate the transportation of its products from Nigeria to markets across West and Central Africa.

The move is aimed at addressing the shortage of shipping capacity and the rising cost of road transportation, which have continued to hamper the conglomerate's efforts to expand its regional trade operations.

Head of International Trade and Export at Dangote Cement, Sada Ladan-Baki, disclosed this on Tuesday at a seminar on non-oil exports, where she highlighted the logistical challenges facing Nigerian exporters.

According to her, Dangote had experienced significant difficulties securing vessels for the movement of its products to neighbouring African markets.

She said the company was once unable to secure a vessel to transport a 1,000-metric-tonne consignment to Ghana, despite the relatively short distance between Nigeria and the West African country.

"We are moving forward towards getting our own ships in order to do this business," Ladan-Baki said.

She explained that transporting products by road also presented major challenges because goods destined for Ghana have to pass through countries such as Benin and Togo, where additional taxes and charges are imposed.

Ladan-Baki said the extra costs increased the overall price of Nigerian exports and made them less competitive in regional markets, making maritime transportation a more attractive option for the

company.

The planned acquisition comes as Dangote's operations become increasingly linked to maritime transportation, particularly following the expansion of activities at its \$20 billion refinery in Lagos.

Nigeria's petroleum-product exports by sea have increased significantly since 2023, largely driven by production from the Dangote Refinery, according to the United States Energy Information Administration.

The refinery is also expected to handle about 600 vessels annually, comprising ships transporting crude oil to the facility and vessels carrying refined petroleum products to local and international markets.

Commenting on the development, President of the Indigenous Shipowners Association of Nigeria, Otunba Shola Adewumi, said Dangote had traditionally depended on foreign-flagged vessels because Nigeria lacked enough ships with the

capacity required to transport crude oil and refined petroleum products.

Adewumi, however, cautioned that acquiring vessels was only the beginning, noting that their maintenance and effective management could prove more challenging.

He urged Dangote to consider registering the vessels under the Nigerian flag, saying this would increase the country's national fleet and strengthen Nigeria's presence in the global shipping industry.

He added that the acquisition could also create more employment opportunities for Nigerian seafarers and other professionals in the maritime and international trade sectors.

The development is expected to strengthen Dangote's control over its supply chain while reducing its dependence on external shipping operators and road transportation for the distribution of its products across the region.

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