

Why We Have Not Commenced Privatization Of Refineries, By BPE DG

From **Nkechi Onyedika**, Abuja

THE Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Mr. Benjamin Dikki yesterday said that the BPE has not commenced the process of privatizing the nation's refineries as it has not reached an understanding with the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) and the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) on the structure

Ramadan: Archbishop Urges Muslims To Rededicate Themselves

By **Chris Irekamba**

THE Catholic Archbishop of Lagos, His Grace, Most Rev. (Dr.) Alfred Adewale Martins, has urged all Muslims to rededicate themselves to works of charity during this Ramadan season by showing more love and care for their neighbours.

In his Ramadan message to Muslims throughout the country, Archbishop Martins, who spoke through the Director of Social Communications, Msgr. Gabriel Osu, said there was need for all Nigerians to be more sensitive to the well-being of their fellow men, especially during this crucial period in the nation's history that is characterized by insecurity and unprecedented loss of innocent lives.

According to him, the month of Ramadan, which is a period of deep spiritual retreat for Muslims, should

the process would take. He appealed to the National Assembly to expeditiously pass the correct version of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) which separates policy formulation from regulation and operation, adding that no single institution or individual should have the power of policy making as well as power of regulation.

Speaking at the Annual Lecture of Just Friends Club of Nigeria (JFCN) yesterday in Abuja, Dikki said that government believes it is imperative

afford adherents of the religion a good opportunity to reflect on the love of God for humanity, and the need for all to live in peace irrespective of creed or religious differences.

"At this period of Ramadan, which is a period of fasting and abstinence, we must all see ourselves as brothers and sisters, be you Muslim or Christian. The message of this season should be love and good neighbourliness. There has been so much shedding of innocent lives in this country in recent times. I, therefore, call on my brothers and sisters to use this period to seek the face of God so that, through the cooperation of everyone, there will be lasting peace and harmony in our country Nigeria."

The Catholic Archbishop also used the opportunity to appeal to members of the Boko Haram sect and their collaborators to respect the solemnity associated with the Ramadan season by sheathing their swords and putting a halt to all forms of violence and terrorism, as doing otherwise would be tantamount to desecrating the season.

Blast Averted At Abuja Plaza

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Omeri also urged Nigerians, especially parents and school pupils, to ignore messages on the social media that some schools were being targeted for attack and assured that security agencies were working assiduously to ensure that schools are safe and academic activities remain unhindered.

While responding to worries that terrorism suspects were being held without trial, Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Frank Mba, who was promoted to the rank of an Assistant Commissioner of Police on Thursday, appealed to the public for patience.

Mba noted that investigations on terrorism cases are tenuous and strenuous but pledged that once investigations were concluded, every suspect would arraigned in court for trial.



I ALWAYS WONDERED WHY SOMEBODY DOES NOT DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT THEN I REALISED THAT I AM SOMEBODY!

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Senatorial aspirant in Central senatorial district in the 2015 election on the platform of the All Progressives Congress

so that they will know that they have hope, because many of our youths are losing hope.

that the refineries be privatized because of the impact it could have in growing the economy. He said: "Elementary petrochemicals requires the by-product of refining to produce its own product but it doesn't have enough supply because the refineries are not operating at optimal capacity. Between 10-15 industries can spring up from the by-product of refining. If all these companies that can produce by-product from the waste of refining are on stream, they will create employment."

On the need to pass the PIB Bill, Dikki said: "Currently, the regulatory powers are dispersed, the Federal Ministry of Petroleum has some regulatory powers, the NNPC has some regulatory powers, the Department of Petroleum Resources and the Petroleum Pricing Regulatory Agency

(PPRA) all have regulatory powers and that becomes a jungle for any businessman to navigate. That is why we have more than 30 people who have collected licenses for refineries but have not started building. These regulatory impediments must be removed to create a conducive atmosphere for private sector investment. We want a successful reform of the industry."

He explained that government halted the privatization of the refineries because when government announced plans to privatize the refineries, PENGASSAN and NUPENG threatened to shut down the economy by blocking the supply of fuel, adding that no responsible government would want to visit that kind of pain on its people.



Chairman, Krestia Laurel Limited, Oluumba Gbenga Daniel (left); Professor Bayo Osipitan (SAN), a guest, and Chief Tunde Odanye during the dinner in honour of Directors of Kone Elevators, Finland in Lagos yesterday.

Charly Boy Stops Okorocho From 'Politicizing' Father's Burial

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Charles literally snatched the microphone from Okorocho, preventing him from talking publicly in the church. Okorocho left the church venue laughing despite the scuffle. Charly Boy had two tributes held at the Imo International Conference Centre, Owerri, walked out on the governor, accusing him of politicizing the burial process of his father having brought an array of top members of the All Progressives Congress (APC), led by their National Chairman, Chief John Oyeun to make speeches at the event.

But the Imo State government, through the Senior Special Assistant to Okorocho on Media, Mr. Sam Onwumemodo, reacted to the incident in a statement issued promptly yesterday blaming it on the activities of politicians. It reads: "The Imo State government wishes to take exception to the ugly scenario that played out at the funeral church service for the late justice Chikwudifu Oputa, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ogbura.

"It is highly regrettable that the son of the late justice, Mr Charles Emeka Oputa, aka,

"At a function like that, protocol demands that the host government must talk before any other speaker. But Senator Plus Anyim representing President was first called to talk. Ideally, as a representative of the president, there was no way Senator Anyim would not have talked at the event. But protocol would have seen the governor talking first to welcome the invitees to the service as the host governor."

"Perhaps afraid of the popularity of governor Okorocho among the Imo populace that has always made them to hail him wherever and whenever he talks, the few politicians from the state in Abuja who are desperate to capture power in the state in 2015, saw a willing tool in Charly Boy for them to ensure that the governor would not talk at the event."

"We condemn that ugly incident and also wish to advise politicians from the state to stop heating the polity over power since God is the giver of power. In 2015, God will decide who will govern Imo State and when God decides that, there is nothing anybody can do about it. And for Charly Boy, we ask God to bless him."

The mass was attended by

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Emeka Ihedioha, former governor of Imo State, Chief Ikedi Ohakim, governor of Anambra State, Willie Obiano, his predecessor, Mr. Peter Obi, Abia State governor, Theodore Oji, a former Military Governor of old Imo State, Commodore Ndubisi Kanu, Minister of Labour and Productivity, Emeka Wogu; Senators Chris Ngige, Uche Chukwumerije, Chris ND Anyanwu and Justice Galadima of the Supreme Court. Others included former Minister of Interior, Capt. Emma Ihennach, Senator Arthur Nzeribe, Chief Judge of Imo State, Benjamin Njemanze, among other government officials in the states of the federation.

In his sermon, Kikab said the deceased was accomplished in both his legal profession and family setting. He said he learnt a lot from his legal dexterity as the chairman of the Oputa Panel instituted in 2001 by the then President Olusegun Obasanjo, on human rights abuses. He prayed God to receive his soul, asking people to emulate Oputa's exemplary life. In his condolence speech,

President Jonathan said the deceased jurist distinguished himself in both the bar and bench, urging the family members to uphold the legacy of their respected father. He likened him to an icon in the legal profession. In his message, Obasanjo praised Oputa's dexterity in his assignments, especially that the Oputa Panel. He said: "Personally, I deeply value the way he handled the affairs of the Oputa Panel. Under his watch, the panel succeeded in opening the eyes of Nigeria to witness the horrors at injustices perpetrated by son members of the military in the past. The panel gave its best to the service of the nation without fear or expectation reward. Justice Oputa was a doubt an outstanding individual and was evident in his posts he was assigned. Messages also came from the Senate President, David Mark, the Chief Judge Ihedioha, the Aloma, Maria Murkita, Obiano, Peter Obi, the governor of Lagos State, Babatunde Fashola, the Maduakwe, former Inspector General of Police, Mike Oki, President of NBA, Okey W, justice Kalu Anya among others.

You look at Niger Delia, they have so many companies there or foreign assistance. But if you look at the North now,

aspirant said it about who can do it irrespective of party affiliation, noting that he is at home with his people.

pass the second reading, saying with that communities would secure themselves rather than ensure effectiveness.