

Save FEDCAM From Total Collapse, Movement Urges Present Tinubu, Others

FRANCIS ONOIRIBHOLO
BENIN

The Movement for the Actualisation of FEDCAM, has called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to save the Federal College of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (FEDCAM) from total collapse.

The National Convener of Movement for the Actualization of FEDCAM, Dr. Adedamola Bank Kadejo, gave the urge in a statement issued at the end of a stakeholders' meeting.

Other stakeholders include, Chiropractic and Osteopathic Practitioners of Nigeria, Association of Naturopathic Physicians, Acupuncture Society of Nigeria, Homeopathic Medicine Practitioners of Nigeria, Unani Medicine Practitioners of Nigeria and Nigerian Indigenous Medicine Practitioners.

They frowned at a recent threat of withdrawal of budgetary allocation to the Institution by the chairman, Senate Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary), Sen. Banibo Ipalibo, over alleged non-productivity.

"We are a concerned pressure and advocacy group interested in the welfare and sustenance of the Federal College of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (FEDCAM).

"We acknowledge that FEDCAM, which has been under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Health, has suffered total neglect and abandonment over the years and has not functioned or served the purpose for which it was established.

"We are however alarmed at the threat of possible withdrawal of budgetary allocation to the Institution by the Senate Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary) over alleged non-productivity, following visit of the Chairperson of the Committee, Sen. Banibo Ipalibo and her members, to the College in Abuja.

"In as much as we frown at the redundancy of this critical health Institution, we, however, express grave concern over this threat of withdrawal of budgetary allocation, which, if implemented, will hinder it from serving its useful purposes."



Ikechukwu Nnamoko, Permanent Secretary, Enugu State Ministry of Transport (left); Rosemary Ifeoma Ugonabo, Special Assistant to Governor, Enugu State on Transport (second left); Obi Ozor, Commissioner for Transport, Enugu State (third left); Prof. Chidiebere Onyia, Secretary to the State Government (fourth left); Peter Mbah, Governor, Enugu State (middle); Joseph Oyadoyin, Director, Greenville LNG (fourth right); Gokul Moothedathu, Head of Retailing and Marketing operations, Greenville LNG (third right); Ngozi Efobi, General Counsel, Greenville LNG (second right), and Moses Duku, Head of Communications, Media and Strategic Liaison, Greenville LNG, during the agreement signing event on LNG/LCNG Mother Station establishment held at the Enugu State Government House (Lion Building), in Enugu..

It's Time To Fix Our Economy – Makinde

KAZEEM AWOJODU
IBADAN

Seyi Makinde, Oyo State Governor, has called on the country's citizens to focus on developing the export market to attract foreign investment in an effort to turn around Nigeria's economic fortunes.

He made the call on Monday at the Official opening of Oyo State International Trade Fair, EXPOYO 2024.

Governor Makinde also noted that the strategy would create new jobs, attract foreign exchange and help to

diversify the economy.

The EXPOYO 2024 themed: "Showcasing The Economic Potentials of Oyo State Through Agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises," was held at the popular EXPOYO ground, Samonda, Ibadan.

In his address, Makinde promised that the trade fair will henceforth be an annual event with foreigners present at the next edition, while noting that his administration is committed to changing the Nigerians orientation on export substitution.

The governor outlined the challenges facing the nation's

economy, from rising inflation to a weakening currency, and called for decisive measures to address these issues.

He called on the Federal Government to implement reforms to jumpstart the economy and prevent further deterioration.

Makinde said the poor state of the economy has sent shockwaves throughout Nigeria, with many people fearing that the situation is even worse than imagined.

The governor acknowledged that implementing these reforms would not be easy and would require a sig-

nificant effort from all stakeholders.

He called for a commitment to "Thinking outside the box" and making difficult decisions to move the country forward, while the governor also highlighted the importance of creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

He said: "This is a tough period for us as a country. Economically, things are not going fine, but this is not the time to give up. This is the time for us to look at opportunities, because anytime there are challenges, opportunities also abound."

Ogun Kickstarts 70,000 Free Surgery Intervention Programme

The Ogun State government on Monday began the process of offering free surgical services to 70,000 residents of the state.

The Executive Secretary of Ogun State Health Insurance Agency, Dr. Afolabi Dosunmu, who stated this at the flag-off of registration for the intervention held at the State Hospital, Ijaye, Abeokuta, said the intervention was a directive given by Governor Dapo Abiodun to provide succour to the people at this difficult time.

Dr. Dosunmu said hospitals in the state are ready to

carry out the directive of the governor.

"The modalities are very simple as long as you are a resident of the state, as long as you have one surgical need or the other, you are free to walk into any of our state or general hospitals and enroll on the insurance scheme.

"The doctors there will assess you if it is a case that is ready for surgery and once all other parameters have been concluded, we will get the surgery done."

He said those whose cases are not ready for immediate surgery, would be enrolled

for them to have access to the intervention when they are ready.

He added: "It is possible for someone to have, for example, cataract, and the cataract is not yet matured, we will still enroll the person. We will give the person a date for when the cataract is going to mature.

"For example, if you want to remove a fibroid when you see the doctor and the doctor said your electrolyte is a bit high or your blood pressure is a little bit high, it needs to be controlled before you can be taken in for surgery", Dr.

Dosunmu explained.

The Executive Secretary noted that surgery operations would start on Tuesday as there were a lot of cases that needed urgent attention.

"We have a matching mandate from the governor for us to enroll 70,000 people and it is broken down to 20,000 pregnant women till they deliver even if the delivery is through cesarean section. The child is delivered, in the first six months, we will take care of its medical needs.

"We have also been asked to enroll 20,000 market women and 30,000 poor people in the state. Among the 70,000, any other person in the state that needs surgery, they have to come down and get their surgery done."

End Dollarisation Of Domestic Gas – Aiyela, Welbeck Electricity CEO

Afolabi Aiyela, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Welbeck Electricity, has urged the Federal Government to end the dollarisation of domestic gas.

Aiyela said that gas needed to be available if more people are to have access to both Grid and Independent Power and that it must be priced in the local currency like every other product sold in Nigeria.

He also noted that there were two major impediments preventing improved power supply in the country.

Aiyela made the observation at a recent stakeholders' meeting on the Lagos Electricity Market, hosted by the Lagos State Commissioner for Energy, Biodun Ogunleye at Alausa, Ikeja.

"Investors, both foreign and local, are reluctant to make new investments in the Nigerian power sector due to the constraints that come with a market whose tariffs are still set by the government. Subsidised markets have never attracted high levels of investment, an example being the lack of investment in oil refining over the decades. It is a bitter pill to swallow, but Nigerians must understand that subsidy removal is a prerequisite for private sector investment leading to better service.

Speaker Lauds USAID's Role In Improved Budget Planning In Ebonyi

SAMSON NWAFOR
ABAKILIKI

The Speaker of Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Chief Moses Ije Odunwa has lauded USAID Nigeria State Accountability, Transparency, and Effectiveness (State2State) Activity for its role in the improved budget planning and implementation in Ebonyi State.

Odunwa who is equally the Deputy National Chairman of the APC Speakers' Forum made the commendation at the 3-day workshop organised by USAID Nigeria State Accountability, Transparency, and Effectiveness (State2State) Activity on Legislative Budget Oversight held at Nike Lake Resort Enugu, Enugu State.

The Speaker maintained that the process of budget Planning should entail public participation where the aspirations and needs of the populace would be captured.

He noted that the legislative responsibilities of any elected House of Assembly Member transgressed from making laws into how to make the laws functional.

Senate Commends NASENI On Accelerated Technology Transfer

The Senate Committee on National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI) has commended the Agency for championing local content development of Solar-Powered smart irrigation, tricycles, electric motorbikes and others with accelerated technology transfer.

The Chairman, Senate Committee on NASENI

Senator Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi who led other members of the Committee on oversight function visit to NASENI Headquarters, Abuja on Monday February 26, 2024, expressed satisfaction, while being conducted by the Executive Vice Chairman/CEO of NASENI, Mr. Khalil Suleiman Halilu round some of the NASENI products and facilities.

Other products inspected include animal feed processing machines and NASENI transformers, electric motorcycles and tricycles as well as the NASENI home and irrigation solar systems.

According to Senator Onyewuchi, "The committee is quite pleased with the level of progress and we want to assure NASENI of

the support of the National Assembly to make sure that agency drives effectively the vision of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in this area and I want to also thank them for making Nigeria go green, moving from fuel to non-fossil products, it is quite commendable. We are quite pleased and we want to encourage them to do more."

According to the committee members who spoke separately, with the NASENI home solar and the electric bikes, local businesses will be enhanced, the economy of the country will improve, adding that urban and rural areas power challenges would be overcome if the NASENI solar system is mass produced.