

Property & Environment

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FERMA fights indiscriminate parking trucks on highways

ories by
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Lagos

E Federal Road
a n a g e m e n t
g e n c y (F E R M A)
a t e d i t s d e t e r m i -
n i n g t h e i n d i s c r i -
m i n a t e p a r k i n g o f
t r u c k s a l o n g N i g e r i a n h i g h -
w a y s . T h i s i t e m
w i l l d o t h r o u g h t h e
i s s u e o f l a n d f o r t h e
p a r k i n g o f t r u c k s
a l l t h e s i x g e o -
g r a p h i c z o n e s i n t h e

l a n a g i n g D i r e c -
t o r o f t h e a g e n c y , M r
A b d u l l a h i , s t a t e d
t h a t h e r e c e i v e d t h e
c o m m a n d o f t h e
G e n e r a l o f t h e
E m e r g e n c y
M e d i c a l S e r v i c e s
A g e n c y i n h i s o f f i c e i n

A b d u l l a h i s t a t e d t h a t
t h e a g e n c y h a d a w a r d e d
t h e f e n c i n g p i l o t t r u c k p a r k s
o n t h e A b u j a -
L a g o s e x p r e s s w a y
i n O y o S t a t e ,
a n d i n A b i a S t a t e
n e a r A r a b a n J o s n e a r

A b d u l l a h i s t a t e d t h a t
t h e a g e n c y h a d s e t u p s t a n -
d a r d p a r k s e a c h o f
w h i c h w o u l d b e
e q u i p p e d w i t h s t a n d a r d
i n c l u d i n g c o n v e r -
s e a r e a s , v e h i c l e
a n d s e r v i c i n g s t a -
t i o n s , a m o n g
o t h e r f a c i l i t i e s

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Malam Mohammed
Sani-Sidi, commended
FERMA for establishing
Truck Parks and Observ-
ing Camps on major
Federal roads in the
country.

Malam Sani-Sidi, who
led a team of his agency's
management staff on a
working visit to FERMA
headquarters, Abuja said
that "day in day out, ac-
cidents happen on our
roads, bringing death,
agony and despair." He
lamented that many of
these accidents were due
to human factors part of
which is indiscriminate
parking of vehicles on our
highways which he said
was a major malaise.



•Trucks parked along Tin-can Apapa road in Lagos, obstructing traffic.

Climate change 'll affect sea levels -NGOs

TWO non-
governmental
organisations
(NGOs), the Bread of Life
Development Foundation
and the Water and Sanita-
tion Media Network, have
warned that the changing
climate is likely to exacer-
bate water management
problems in Nigeria.

The impending
danger, they said, might
manifest through its
impact on rising sea
levels in Nigeria's coastal
regions, variable rainfall
and extreme events like
floods and drought parti-
cularly in Northern
Nigeria.

"Climate change will
affect Urban and Rural
water through unpre-
dictable rainfall leading
to inadequate recharge of
aquifers and surface wa-
ter, quality and quantity
of water sources to be
impaired, over exploita-
tion of aquifers which
has no regulation, agri-
culture taking
precedence over domes-
tic use of water and fresh
inland water likely to be
affected by salt intrusion
from the sea," they said.

They, therefore, urged
the federal and state
ministries of water
resources in Nigeria to
ensure that water
resources issues were
adequately addressed in
climate change analyses

and climate policy for-
mulations adding that
climate change problems
should be adequately
dealt with in water re-
sources analyses, man-
agement and policy for-
mulation in the state.

The organisations
also called on
government to embark
on innovative and
strategic investment, re-
search and development
together with interna-
tional cooperation to
promote and improve
agricultural water man-

agement by means of
participatory irrigation
management, water har-
vesting, water-saving/
drought-resistant crop
varieties, water storage,
and dissemination of ag-
ricultural best practices.

In a communique is-
sued at the end of the one
day dialogue on "Water
and Climate Change"
held at Archbishop
Vinning Memorial
Church, GRA, Ikeja,
Lagos, the organisations
stated that drought aris-
ing from climate change

was likely to have ad-
verse consequences on
the hydrological cycle
and water resources in
Nigeria.

The communique
listed other
consequences of drought
especially in Northern
Nigeria to include a
decrease of water table
flows in the alluvial
aquifers which would
lead to a decrease of base
flows; a decrease of the
non-dissolved solid
transportation capacity
due to the severe low

flows; and a reduction of
the capacity of rivers in
sediment transport
while air, mechanical
and hydraulic erosion
would be accentuated.

The NGOs also
warned that there was
an increased river
siltation in Nigeria,
adding that the monthly
rainfall data showed
that the dry season was
being characterised by a
decrease in the number
of rainy events, while
the mean storm rainfall
varied a little.

Lagos climate change summit begins tomorrow

THE third Lagos
State Government
organised climate
change summit will com-
mence tomorrow at the
high brow Eko Hotel and
Suites, Victoria Island.

The summit, the
organisers said, was part
of its resolve to join the
world in addressing the
problem of climate
change. The summit is
aimed at further creating
awareness on the causes
and consequences of cli-
mate change, as well as
sharing world best prac-
tices in mitigation and ad-
aptation measures.

Scheduled to hold from
8th - 10th February, the
summit is expected to
attract internationally
acclaimed experts to
examine the roadmap for

combating the scourge of
climate change in Nigeria.
The theme of this year's
summit is "Charting a new
course for combating climate
change in Nigeria".

Participants are ex-
pected to cut across all
strata of human endeav-
our including: scholars,
researchers, students,
representatives of
companies and
industries, and corporate
organisations. Environ-
ment ambassadors, friends
of the environment,
government at all levels,
and agencies are to attend
the summit either as
registered or general
participants. Students of
science, engineering and
related disciplines as well
as NGOs and civil society

organisations have been
encouraged to register on
line to participate free of
charge.

According to the Lagos
State Commissioner for the
Environment, Dr. Muiz
Adeyemi Banire, the sum-
mit was aimed at further
creating awareness on the
causes and consequences
of climate change, as well
as sharing world best
practices in mitigation
and adaptation measures.

Banire stated that the
summit was inaugurated
in 2009 at the same Eko
Hotel & Suites by the state
government to enable it to
join the rest of the world to
explore best options and
practices to tackle the
scourge of global warming
and climate change.

He pointed out that

global warming and the
consequential climate
change have continued to
cause major disasters
around the world ranging
from flooding, erosion,
mudslide, desertification,
intense heat, ocean surge
among others.

Dr. Banire expressed
fear that Nigeria, and the
whole of Africa, did not
have reliable blueprint for
addressing the climatic
disasters ravaging the world,
hence the need to continu-
ally reinvent strategies for
better results. He lamented
that Africa lacked sufficient
capacities to respond to cli-
mate change, yet they
contributed less to the
emission of Green House
Gases (GHGs) which is a
major cause of climate
change.