

ECOWAS-MIDWA 2016: Dambazau charges ECOWAS member states on migration, regional security

Retired Lieutenant General Abdulrahman Dambazau, the Minister of Interior of Nigeria, has charged ECOWAS member states on the need for stronger regional policy on migration and security. A statement issued on Tuesday in Abuja by Osaigbovo Ehisiemen, the Press Secretary to the minister, said Dambazau gave the advice at the closing ceremony of 2016 West Africa Conference on migration in Cote D'Ivoire. The statement said the four-day event, which took place between August 23 and 26 in Abidjan, was chaired by Dambazau. ([Read more](#))

Ghana: Journalists to build capacity on migration and anti-human trafficking issues

Dakar-based Panos Institute West Africa (PIWA) and the Africa Center for International Law and Accountability (ACILA), USA/Ghana, hold a three-day investigative journalism capacity building workshop on anti-human trafficking and migration issues for selected Ghanaian journalists in Accra. The workshop by the two non-profit, non-partisan and non-governmental organizations which held from 5th to 7th August, 2016, is sponsored by the European Union and is on the theme: "Reporters of Borders: Towards a Network of African Journalists, Professionals, and Citizens Specialized on Migration Issues." ([Read more](#))

Gentiloni in Nigeria and Ivory Coast for deals on migrant flows

Stopping migrant flows through police operations is not possible and the only option available is to manage them by acting, or attempting to act, on the causes and contexts that lead tens of thousands of desperate people to leave, in cooperation with their home countries. This is what Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni has started doing with a mission to Nigeria and Ivory Coast. ([Read more](#))

Nigeria: 80% of 3,600 Nigerian women enter Italy for prostitution

International Organization for Migration (IOM) has said that about 3,600 Nigerian women arrived Italy by boat in the first half of 2016, almost double the figure in the same period last year. More than 80% of these women, it said, were trafficked into prostitution in Italy and across Europe. Traffickers use migrant reception centres as holding pens for women who are then collected and forced into prostitution. ([Read more](#))

The Gambia: Rural electrification out to curb rural-urban migration

Fatou Lamin-Faye, Minister of Basic and Secondary Education, said on 6 August 2016 at the inauguration ceremony of the Farafenni Power Station that the country's rural electrification project is aimed at curbing rural-urban migration. It would also help the youth to stay and work in their communities so as to contribute to national development, and avoid congesting in the urban areas. Minister Faye also said any development project that does not address the wishes and aspirations of the people "is as good as a white elephant". ([Read more](#))

Ghana: Employment agencies in Ghana feed the human trafficking trail

There seems to be a wave of migration from Ghana by young people seeking greener pastures in the Middle East and Gulf regions, and that is fueled by a growing number of employment agencies. In an interview with the US Ambassador to Ghana, Robert P. Jackson he expressed concern that the Ghana government isn't shutting down the employment agencies that are recruiting these people and sending them abroad. ([Read more](#))

The Gambia: New immigration PRO promises to live up to expectations

The new public relations officer of the Gambia Immigration Department (GID) has promised to live up to expectations in the execution of his duties. Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Immigration Pa Ousman Manneh was speaking at the immigration headquarters in Banjul on Thursday during a press briefing to get himself acclimatised to the new working conditions with the media, as part of his duties. Although the PRO post at the immigration is challenging, he noted, he would continue to work hard to live up to expectations with the support of other officers and the collaboration of the media and all other stakeholders. ([Read more](#))

Ghana: Urban youth, vulnerable rural women and the gender agenda

In 2005/2006, Ghana's rural population constituted 62 percent of the total population (22.2 million) while urban population was 38 percent. By 2012/2013 the ratio had grown to almost 50/50, indicating a high rate of population relocation. The increasing rate urbanization pose enormous risk to output growth on farm and non-farm enterprises in rural Ghana not to mention the increased economic burden on aged rural women most of whom are above 40 years. ([Read more](#))

Nigeria clamps down on money transfers to the country

The Central Bank of Nigeria has suddenly changed its policy toward money transfer operators, effectively blocking many services used by Nigerians to send money to and from the country. ([Read more](#))

Ghana: Workshop Aims to Improve Nationwide Migration Data

IOM Ghana, in partnership with the Free Movement of Persons and Migration (FMM) in West Africa project, hosted a training workshop on migration data collection and management on the Cape Coast. The training was in preparation for the implementation of a National Migration Data Strategy launched by the government and developed with the support of IOM's Ghana Integrated Migration Management Approach (GIMMA) project. ([Read more](#))

African Union set to tackle migration crisis

The African Union (AU) is set to implement major initiatives aimed to address some of the structural causes of irregular migration, which has seen more than 20 million Africans leaving the continent since 2013, The Southern Times has learnt. The first initiative is the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) – a 10-year continental programme whose overall objective is to strengthen good governance and promote the regular migration of labour on the continent. ([Read more](#))

Nigeria: Checking the influx of illegal aliens

The growing concern over the unbridled influx of illegal aliens into the country was recently brought to the fore with the warning from immigration authorities to Lagosians not to harbour illegal immigrants in their homes. The Comptroller of Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) in Lagos State, Mrs. Clara Okojie, issued the warning after the recent repatriation of 29 illegal immigrants from the state. She disclosed that the illegal aliens, who were mostly from Niger Republic, were arrested on Lagos Island and its environs. They were, after profiling, found to be without any of the travel documents required by Nigerian law and the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) protocol. ([Read more](#))

Liberia: Prioritizing Human Security, Transforming Monrovia to 'Resilient City'

Liberia is increasingly confronted with development challenges exacerbated by growing urbanization and the recent Ebola epidemic, which exposed major shortcomings in Liberian society, such as weak social contract, weak institutions, inadequate capacity among public institutions to address uncoordinated rural urban migration and growing crime rate. ([Read more](#))

Nigeria: Babandede to pursue welfare, training for Immigration officers

The Minister of Interior, Abdulrahman Dambazau, says the Federal Government is determined to reposition the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) to enable it compete favourably with its global counterparts. Danbazau said this at the opening of 2016 Nigeria Immigration Service Retreat in Kano. He said that modern migration was a major area of focus in reforming operations of the ministry and NIS in view of associated socio-economic and security challenges. He urged the participants at the retreat to come up with a way to resolve the issue of passport, visa and border security in the country. ([Read more](#))

IOM Ghana Trains Law Enforcement Officials on Counter-Trafficking

In partnership with the United States Government and the Government of Ghana, IOM Ghana hosted three consecutive one-week training sessions for 72 law enforcement officials on investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons cases, especially involving children. The training is designed to bolster the knowledge and skills of prosecutors and investigators for successful prosecution of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) cases. ([Read more](#))

Nigeria: Federal Government unveils national policy on labour migration

The federal government yesterday unveiled a national policy on labour migration with the European Union saying that the country lacked adequate data on labour migration needed for strategic planning. Minister of Labour and Employment Senator Chris Ngige, who unveiled the policy, said that the present administration valued its citizens and would not sit back and watch the depletion of its human resources, which is the most critical factor of production and national development. The minister inaugurated two committees (Technical Working Committee and Social Partner Advisory Committee) to take charge of the full implementation of the policy, the first of its kind in Africa. ([Read more](#))

Swedish Migration Board halts gay footballer's deportation to Liberia

An openly gay Swedish footballer facing deportation to Liberia has had his deportation halted hours before boarding the flight. Last week, news broke that Andrew Nagbe was arrested at Stockholm Pride and had been held in a detention center ever since, with the intent of being deported back to Liberia. Openly gay, he said he was in danger should he have to return to his home country, as everyone knew he was gay and police were out to get him. But on Tuesday, hours before the footballer would've boarded the flight, the Swedish Migration Board announced it would re-open the case, stopping Nagbe's deportation. ([Read more](#))

Nigeria: IOM installs e-border equipment in 10 Nigerian border posts

The International Organisation for Migration, IOM, on Sunday in Abuja said that it is installing e-border facilities in 10 Nigerian border posts as a way of ensuring better management of Nigeria's porous borders. The IOM Nigeria, Chief of Mission, Enira Krdzalic, disclosed this at the end of a technical workshop on migration for journalist in Nigeria. ([Read more](#))