

# Forbes

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DECEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

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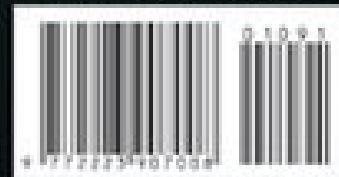
**ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO**  
ON FINANCING  
WOMEN

**SPECIAL ISSUE**

## AFRICAN OF THE YEAR

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The Army of the Federal Republic of Nigeria plays a crucial role in ensuring peace and stability across Nigeria, investing in local content and local workforce and contributing to provide citizens, investors and entrepreneurs with a dynamic, safe and enabling business environment.

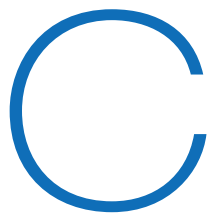


## INTERVIEW

LIEUTENANT GENERAL TY BURATAI,  
CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

# The Future of Nigeria Is In Safe Hands

**The Nigerian army is working tirelessly to increase the local production of the quality equipment needed to guarantee the security of the country.**



Chief of Army Staff of the Nigerian Army since 16 July 2015, Lieutenant General Tukur Yusufu Buratai is a world-class infantry officer who has devoted his life to the protection of Nigeria, its people and all the businesses operating in the country. He was born on 24 November 1960, in Buratai, Borno State in North-eastern Nigeria. After graduating with flying colours from the Government Teachers College in Potiskum, Yobe State, Buratai decided to follow his call and serve his nation by dedicating his life to a career in the Nigerian Army. He therefore applied and gained admission to the prestigious Nigerian Defence Academy in Kaduna as a member of the 29th Regular Combatant Course, on 3 January 1981. Upon his appointment as Chief of Army Staff, Buratai unveiled his vision for the army, which is guided by the aspiration "To Have a Professionally Responsive Nigerian Army in the Discharge of its Constitutional Role." This bold vision aims at engendering a professional rebirth of the Nigerian Army, driven by Buratai's unyielding spirit and unparalleled determination. This zeal led him to perform his role as COAS in the field, frequently visiting commanders and troopers to obtain first-hand information and impressions, with the ultimate aim of devising better solutions to support the continued improvement of the Nigerian Army. Penresa sat with him to hear his thoughts about his first four years in office, and ask about his goals for the future.



three years of rigorous training, I was commissioned into the Nigerian Army as a Second Lieutenant on 17th December 1983. Since then I have had the opportunity to serve in various battalions, brigades and formations in various capacities, and to command at various levels culminating in my appointment as the Commander of the Multinational Joint Task Force based in Ndjamen, Chad, from where I was appointed the Chief of Army Staff. I am pleased to be in this position, and I thank God Almighty and our President and

Commander in Chief, President Muhammadu Buhari for having granted me the opportunity to command the largest and strongest army in sub-Saharan Africa.

## **Nigeria is one of the powerhouses of the continent. What, in your opinion, makes this country so unique?**

The Nigerian people, in terms of population and diversity are our strongest assets; then of course the army, first of all, in terms of strength and manpower disposition. Our army has eight divisions. Our equipment holding is good, though we continuously need more, due to the landmass and the population of the country. In terms of training, our technical, cyber and ICT capabilities are among the best, and we have the best training institutions, right from the tactical to strategic levels. We are proud of our participation in various peacekeeping operations for the stabilisation of some countries in West Africa and other parts of the world. We have performed very well, restoring democracy in several neighbouring countries. We were able to prevent the collapse of some countries through the interventions of the government. The role of the Nigerian army in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Gambia stabilised the whole West African region. We take our role very seriously, respecting our constitutional responsibilities.

## **Before concentrating more specifically on Nigeria and its army, would you like to sum up the path that led you to the position of Chief of the Army Staff of the Federal Republic of Nigeria?**

I started my career training, like any other officer cadet and later officer. I graduated from the Nigerian Defence Academy as a regular combatant officer in 1981. After







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“The role of the Nigerian army in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Gambia stabilised the whole West African region.”

Lieutenant General  
TY Buratai,  
Chief of the Army Staff  
of the Federal Republic  
of Nigeria

►► **Nigerian defence company PROFORCE has proved to be a reliable indigenous partner, proud to serve the nation's armed forces. How are you going to leverage this fruitful partnership?**

We have the capacity to produce our equipment locally, which translates into combat capability and a distinct capacity to deploy our forces elsewhere. It is a very strong force multiplier, and helps conserve foreign exchange for the country. About 70-80% of the components we use are locally produced. It also means lower costs for us, since we do not have to import from elsewhere. Our equipment maintenance capacity is also very important: to import you need at least six months. So, once we are able to expand this relationship with Proforce, we will be equally able to have protective equipment and an effective and reliable supply line in terms of defence needs. Thereafter we can expand to communication and logistics vehicles. We can modify them to suit our requirements in terms of terrain and weather. It is a good partnership that is helping the country's economy. We would also eventually aim to export some of the equipment to neighbouring countries; it would be a good source for forex as well. MRAPs are particularly important: protection is one of the functions in combat. Protection of forces is crucial in war, and so is safety and security. With this Proforce MRAP, we will be able to protect our troops when they fight. This will improve

our capabilities in all terrains. The advantages we derive from this modified equipment are indeed force multipliers. We are happy about them. The ability to fire on the move and the clearance in terms of movement on difficult terrains are both good and advantageous attributes which enhance the overall combat efficiency of the vehicles.

**FDI remains a crucial requirement to achieve the goals set in Next Level agenda launched by President Buhari on the dawn of his second term in office. The government is working to increase the ease of doing business, and the perception of safety plays a capital role in this respect. Can you give us a last message of confidence about Nigeria and its army?**

I know several countries, individuals and corporate organisations would be happy to come and invest in Nigeria. For that, you need a peaceful, secure environment where your investments are well protected. Stability is key. Rest assured that Nigeria has all the requirements for high FDI inflow. The Nigerian army is working along with other security agencies to ensure security across the country. We have worked hard in the last four years. We take special interest in protecting investors: it is a specific government policy, necessary for individuals, countries and corporations to come and invest. We have a duty to defend the country and provide an enabling environment. Let me add one thing: In order to locally develop capacity, the Nigerian army is open to investors. We have the Nigerian army Command Engineering Depot (CED) in Kaduna, which has a vehicle-manufacturing unit. The CED is already producing our own wholly indigenous and tropicalised MRAP – the EZUGWU MRAP. We are also partnering with other R&D agencies such as the Nigerian Defence Industries Corporation (DICON) to produce other equipment and weapons we require such as ballistic helmets, mine-clearing equipment and much more. We have already produced our own set of light armoured vehicles which are already out there in field. These are the first to ever be produced in Nigeria. No doubt, we would like investors to come and fund our projects wholly or in partnership. So we welcome development, investors are very welcome.







# EXCALIBUR INTERNATIONAL

**Excalibur International. a.s** as part of CSG holdings focuses on aircraft and special purpose hard Wares (**ARMS AMMUNITIONS AND ARMOUR VEHICLES**) including after sales, service and training. It also represents **CZECHOSLOVAK GROUP** on international market.

Being the major supplier of military equipment across West African sub region. **Excalibur INTERNATIONAL a.s**, entered into memoranda of understanding (**MOU**) with local representative in Nigeria in 2016, through which the company supply Nigerian army with massive military hardwares which helps in degrading insurgency in Nigeria to its lowest capacity.

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# Keeping The Country Safe In An Improving Economic Outlook

**DICON produces a wide range of high-quality defence supplies, partnering up with major companies to create employment and limit imports.**

Universally acknowledged as the shield that protects the institutions and the economy of Nigeria, the Nigerian Army has been an invaluable source of stability across the years. The Armed Forces have promoted peace and harmony within the country and have taken part in several international missions aimed at stabilising other countries in the region.

Established in 1964, the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) is the state-owned enterprise tasked with the production and supply of defence equipment items such as ammunition, firearms, artillery, armoured vehicles and much else. The corporation is currently led by Director General Maj. Gen. Victor Ezugwu, who was appointed to the post in June 2019. Ezugwu set out to change the general attitude of the corporation, taking a more decisive focus on enhancing national productivity and local content as much as possible.

Recently, DICON signed a US\$13 million partnership with Turkish company SUR Corporate Water. The PP joint-venture deal with SUR will lead to the development of a Nigerian brand of textile materials and accessories, with Nigeria providing land and logistics and funds coming from Turkey and Qatar. "By our timeline, the company will be ready by the end of 2020," says Ezugwu. "We will have a board meeting in Turkey to finalise all arrangements." The deal is poised to give a decisive boost to employment in the sector,

with a projected workforce of 1000 Nigerian citizens, with an extremely limited expat quota. "I will make sure this project enhances our revenue drive as a nation. We have the market, here," stresses Ezugwu.

"My vision for DICON is to use more and more local content products," says Ezugwu. "I hope that in the next five years DICON will be self-sufficient in the production of small ammunition for the army. "We have the capacity to produce our equipment locally," adds Lieutenant General Tukur Yusufu Buratai, Chief of the Army Staff of the Nigerian Army. "That translates into combat capability and a distinct capacity to deploy our forces elsewhere. It is a very strong force multiplier and helps conserve foreign exchange for the country. About 70-80% of the components we used are locally produced."

DICON recently struck a deal with several South African companies entailing machinery restoration and maintenance for 14 factories across Nigeria. The deal aims at creating new skills for Nigerian workers, in a bid to boost employment and lead DICON to become completely autonomous within a few years.

With Nigeria's economy more dynamic than ever, scoring an outstanding improvement of 15 places in the World Bank's Doing Business index, the necessity to provide the Armed Forces with the supplies they need to carry out their sacred duty is more important than ever. And DICON is ready to answer the call. ■



"My vision for DICON is to use more and more local content products complying with high international standards."

Major General Victor  
Ezugwu, DG of DICON





# Two Decades of Healthcare Security for our Nigerian Troops

Rebdan & Associates is an indigenous healthcare and service delivery firm with international office in Dallas - Texas. We have been building on twenty (20) years of excellent and productive success in the supply and distribution of vaccines and medical services making us one of the foremost vaccine supply company.

Our growth has been based on strong and dynamic partnerships and alliances built over the years of doing business. This has given us a strong portfolio, the capacity to carry out robust projects, contracts and procurement services.

We have an enviable track record on timely delivery for our services and maintain a high moral and ethical standard in our business affairs and dealings. It's on record we have never been in bankruptcy or any legal suit.

We were able to undertake these vaccine supply and distribution because our clients and partners are equally concerned about the health and wellbeing of the people. The supply is not limited to:

1. Supply of Vaccines (Typhoid, CSM and HPB) to the Nigerian Army - 2001 til date
2. Supply of Vaccines to the Nigerian Police - 2002
3. Supply of Vaccines to the Rivers State Government - 2004
4. Supply of Vaccines to the Akwa Ibom State Government - 2004
5. Supply of Vaccines to Niger Delta Development Commission - 2007
6. Supply of Vaccines to Ekiti State Government - 2007 & 2009
7. Supply of Vaccines to Bayelsa State Government - 2009 & 2014

However, our partnership with the Nigerian Army stands out for the consistent manner in which it has approached the health of its men, women and families by ensuring regular vaccination not with standing the funds constraint by its budgetary allocation.

We have supplied vaccines to the Nigerian Army medical headquarters this past four years; after long presentations, consultations and approval by the Nigerian Army medical team. This is a pointer to the intent of the able and visionary leadership of Lt General Burutai, a true officer and gentleman.

This partnership with the Nigerian Army under Lt General Burutai is truly rewarding because of the genuine concern about the medical welfare of the personnel and families. We are able to provide effective medical needs including and not limited to provision of regular vaccinations against most deadly diseases like Typhoid, Cerebral Spinal Meningitis, Hepatitis B vaccines just to name a few.

We are bold to say under Lt General Burutai, the Nigerian army has taken an offensive posture when it comes to the medical welfare of its men and women in uniform and we salute this.



All further inquiries should be directed to the Chairman of the Board, Teddy Nwanne.  
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# Raising The Bar To Protect Nigeria's Bright Tomorrow

## Nigeria's Armed Force Vowed To Protect And Support The Prosperous Everyday Life Of The Country


Untiringly and unyieldingly devoted to the high and noble duty of protecting and preserving the Republican institutions of Nigeria, the Armed Forces play a pivotal role in guaranteeing peace and stability for the daily lives of the millions that live and work in every corner of the nation.

The Army is also committed to investing in local content, partnering up with Nigerian companies such as DICON and ProForce rather than depend on imports for its materials, thus contributing to create employment for Nigerian citizens and revenues for the State. According to ProForce CEO Ade Ogundeyin, the opportunities are countless: "Nigeria is full of untapped opportunities," he says. "It should be the first

destination for any foreign investor. Wherever you have security and stable foreign exchange, you can move your money out whenever you want. That is why a lot of people are moving their money into Nigeria."

In recent years, Nigeria has been progressively strengthening its role as a regional and continental powerhouse: an incredible number of investors set up shop in the country, attracted by an ever-improving business climate. The Next Level agenda, unveiled by H.E. Muhammadu Buhari at the onset of his second term in office as President of Nigeria, established a series of key policies to secure continued economic growth and provide investors and entrepreneurs with an enabling business environment. In this respect, the perception of security plays a crucial role: "Stability is key. Rest assured that Nigeria has all the requirements for high FDI inflow," says Lieutenant General Tukur Yusufu Buratai, Chief of Army Staff of the Nigerian Army. "The Army is working along other security agencies to ensure security across the country."

Indeed, the Nigeria Armed Forces' contribution to protect Nigeria's safety and stability cannot be overstated, with the Army successfully managing to push back terrorist organisation, Boko Haram. The Army swore to protect the nation's territorial integrity, and is hell bent on honouring that vow. "We will not give up to anyone, and we will defend everything that we have. Nigeria will remain a progressive country," says Major General Ezugwu, Director General of Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON). "Thanks to our leadership, we are going to make sure that Nigeria's territorial integrity and national security is sacrosanct."



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