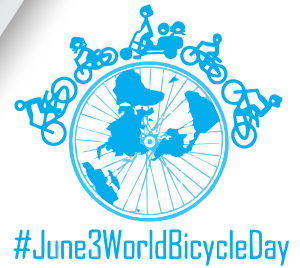


# THE SECOND CAPITAL CITY CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP & CRITICAL MASS

## ABUJA 2023



*"We will commence the recovery and construction of bicycle lanes in Abuja"*

*-Olusade, PS, FCTA*

**Activities marking the UN World Bicycle Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2023**

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# THE SECOND CAPITAL CITY CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIP & CRITICAL MASS

## ABUJA 2023



#June3WorldBicycleDay



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## OUR VISION FOR ABUJA

A city where everyone rides  
bicycle comfortably and  
safely for transport, sports  
& recreation



## Introduction

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Capital City Cycling Championship held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2023 in Abuja to mark the UN World Bicycle Day. The edition featured a critical mass that brought in hundreds of Cyclists to celebrate the day and to make loud message about cycling revolution in Nigeria. A total of about 400 cyclists and cycling enthusiasts from 11 states of Nigeria participated in the.

The Capital City Cycling Championship was inaugurated by Ochenuel Mobility and its partners in 2021 as part of activities marking the World Bicycle Day events in Nigeria. The Championship is the only competitive road cycling sports in the capital city and spotlights the opportunities available for youths and the cycling industry in sports, while drawing public attention to the need for cycling development as a means of urban transport in the face of growing concerns from motorization

## The Flag-off

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Capital Territory Administration, Abuja, Mr. Olusade Adesola, who doubles as the Acting Minister of the Territory in this transition period was Chief Host and the Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria Mr. Shri G. Balasubramanian served as the special Guest of Honor, amongst other high profile dignitaries.

In the brief ceremony to flag off the event, Mr. Olusade announced that in line with the request of Abuja cyclists, his administration will commence the recovery and construction of Bicycle lanes in Abuja. He noted that, “Abuja have very wide and beautiful roads, creating bicycle lanes out of





existing roads may not be a challenge, because cycling is an enjoyable sports, recreation and a mode of transport that people should do safely in the city”.

The Permanent Secretary thanked Ochenuel Mobility and co-organizers of the events for having done so much to entrench cycling in the city and that the Ministry will take it up from here and that



residents and the cycling community should be assured of the city’s commitment to developing multi modal transport system where cycling will have its pride of place beginning with the recovery of cycle lanes. He went further to welcome all athletes and cycling enthusiast from across Nigeria to the capital city and enjoyed them to compete fairly, embrace the spirit of sportsmanship while congratulating winners ahead of the championship

On his part, Mr. Shri noted that the Indian High Commission in Nigeria In line with Prime Minister Mordi’s vision for an eco-friendly environment worldwide has been part of the collaboration for the hosting of the World Bicycle Day events in Nigeria since 2018 when the event commenced and that they are pleased to be collaborating with organizers of the noble event with the entire India community in Abuja participating. Earlier, Engr. Emmanuel John, Executive Director of Ochenuel Mobility, Organizer of the event had conveyed the request of all Abuja cyclists to the city authority under the leadership of the Permanent Secretary, that cycle infrastructure is the most desired





need for enabling safe cycling especially now that fuel subsidy is removed and cost of a liter of fuel have risen from N185 to N540 this week following the removal of subsidy by the president on his Inauguration day on May 29th 2023, meaning that transport will become increasingly difficult, hence cycling will be a credible alternative.

Engr. Emmanuel who is the President of the Africa Urban Cycling Organization and Vice President of the World Cycling Alliance had enumerated how a coalition of stakeholders was built to start the hosting of activities to mark the world Bicycle Day in 2018 which brought on Board the Federal Road Safety Corps, The Federal Ministry of Transportation, the Indian High Commission in Nigeria, Transportation Growth Initiative and the Cycling Federation of Nigeria. He further noted that 4 consecutive mass rallies and other activities like workshops and stakeholders forums and strategic advocacy visits to critical stakeholders have taken place to mark the event each year except in 202 due to the COVID pandemic.

On his part, the Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), represented by Mr. Aliyu Bawa Datsama, the ACM Policy, Research and Statistics, noted that FRSC haven been at the forefront of NMT promotion over the years and a part of the coalition hosting the World Bicycle Day events, and will continue to not only support the initiatives but will further facilitate actions that will make cycling safe and comfortable for all those who chose to ride in Abuja and Across Nigeria.

The National Technical Director of the Cycling Federation of Nigeria, Mr Bashir Mohammed who represented the Board particular thanked the Lead event organizer, Ochenuel Mobility for hosting





the event but importantly for adding a competitive cycling component into the event as an annual event.

Mr Bashir further noted that the 2nd Capital City Cycling Tour have brought athletes from 11 states of the federation, and have also introduced armature cycling contest for school children as part of the event for this year. He urged other individuals and corporate organizations to emulate the efforts of Ochenuell Mobility to make cycling a household name in Nigeria and particularly in Abuja. He further informed that some of the talents discovered from the maiden edition of the Championship in 2021 have since been recruited into the National Cycling team. He also appreciated Ochenuel Mobility for providing accommodation and meal for all non-Abuja based cyclists and their officials.

### **The Championship**

The 2nd Capital City Cycling Championship which commenced after the mass rally had 3 categories of elites, veterans and armature (School Students), with both male and female athletes in that order. Prizes include, medals awards and cash prizes of N100,000, N70,000 and N50,000 for elite male and female categories respectively, N50,000, N30,000 and N20,000, respectively for veteran male and female categories, and N30,000, N20,000 and N15,000 for armature (students). The 10 next best cyclists in the race also received consolation prizes of N10,000 (elites) and N5,000 (veteran and armature) each. Similarly, the armature cyclist had only one female cyclists whose prize was increased from N30,000 to N50,000 by the Executive Director of Ochenuel Mobility for her courage and standing alone in a male dominated sport.





In the elite male category which raced 120km, John Gabriel of the Rivers State Cycling Association clinched the Gold medal, while Etim Precius Offiong of Rivers and Abaka Kurotimi of Bayesa clinched Silver and Broze medals respectively. In the Elite Female category, Ese Ukpesereya of Delta State Cycling Association clinched the gold medal, it should be noted that Ese has just qualified as the

first Nigerian athlete to the 2023 Olympic in France. Other winners in the Elite female category are Tombrapa Grikpa of Rivers and Mary Samuel of Delta who clinched Silver and Bronze medals respectively. Other winners in all categories are presented in the table below

The event had 186 professional cyclists from 11 states of Nigeria and FCT, 67 student cyclists from 15 schools in Abuja and a host of cycling enthusiasts, dignitaries and spectators including the Permanent Secretary, Federal Capital Territory Administration, His Excellency the Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria and representative of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment,

Others include the Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps, the Executive Secretary, Federal Capital Development Authority, Chairman, FCT Secondary School Education Board, Chairman FCT Universal Basic Education Board, Principals, the Director, Directorate of Road Traffic Services, FCT and Heads of Schools, cycling club leaders, cyclists and potential cyclists.

### **Our Anchor**

It should be recalled that on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a unanimous resolution declaring 3<sup>rd</sup> June each year as World Bicycle Day and calling on all member states to pay attention to and invest in the development of cycling as an enjoyable means of transport, for sports and recreation for the numerous benefits to health, economy and environment.





The UNGA followed up with a breathe taking resolution in 2022 calling for the integration of cycling in all public transport development across cities the world, Similarly, the Global action plan for road safety which followed a 2021 UN resolution also called for the implementation of 30km/h as default speed in Urban areas of world cities and demand that city authorities rethink transport giving way to

safe walking, cycling and public transport rather than the prevailing car-centric development in cities.

## Appreciation

Ochenuel Mobility thanks the permanent secretary and the Federal Capital territory administration for participation and awakened interest in the development of cycling, and specifically for heeding to the demands of all Abuja cyclists to recover/create cycle lanes in the city. We also thank the Indian High Commissioner and the Indian community in Abuja for the sustained collaboration and participation.

Our appreciation also to GA Foundation for its funding support, and to other distinguish Chairmen and heads of government MDAs, and Boards, Heads of private sector and Non-governmental agencies and gentlemen of the Press Who all participated in the mass rally preceding the championship. Thank you are even as we look forward to future editions of the Championship as well as the WBD.



# WINNERS

| CATEGORY/<br>PRIZE | ELITES                             |                             | VETERANS                  |                        | ARMATURE/STUDENTS            |                                 |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                    | Male                               | Female                      | Male                      | Female                 | Male                         | Female                          |
| Gold               | John Gabriel Odumu (Rivers)        | Ese Ukpeseraya (Delta)      | Tanko Audu                | Joy Nwachukwu (Rivers) | Ndubisi Emmanuel (GSS Lugbe) | Deborah Ogah (GSS Garki Area 1) |
| Silver             | Etim Precious Effiong (Rivers)     | Tombrapa Grikpa (Rivers)    | Emmanuel Wuntok (Plateau) |                        | Olabisi Ayomide (GSS Lugbe)  |                                 |
| Bronze             | Abaka Kurotimi (Bayelsa)           | Mary Samuel (Delta)         | Ibrahim Adamu             |                        | Agharaye Joshua (GSS Kubwa)  |                                 |
| Best 10            | Abraham Daniel (Plateau)           | Patience Otouadang (Rivers) | Suleman Abubakar          |                        |                              |                                 |
|                    | Bethel Vitalis ((Rivers            | Treasure Coxson (Rivers)    | Gabriel Adoe (Abuja)      |                        |                              |                                 |
|                    | Ajibade Qodiri (Oyo)               | Osaretin Godwin (Edo)       |                           |                        |                              |                                 |
|                    | Muhammed Badamasi Adamu (Nasarawa) | Tawakalt Yekeen (Oyo)       |                           |                        |                              |                                 |
|                    | Shamsudeen Alhassan (Imo)          | Olamale Marvelous (Rivers)  |                           |                        |                              |                                 |
|                    | Murtala Hassan (Kaduna)            | Ogbe Divine (Edo)           |                           |                        |                              |                                 |
|                    | Omorogie Emmanuel (Edo)            | Arogundade Aishat (Delta)   |                           |                        |                              |                                 |
|                    | Joel Berry (Plateau)               | Grace Ayuba (Abuja)         |                           |                        |                              |                                 |
|                    | Abdulmalik Yusuf (Rivers)          | Blessing Udale (Plateau)    |                           |                        |                              |                                 |









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