

# Court Sets Trial Date for Chinese Men Accused of Importing Substandard Tyres into Nigeria

March 14, 2017 | by Bob Aroture

A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos, before Justice Mojisola Olatoregun, has fixed March 28 for the arraignment of two Chinese Nationals and a Nigerian, accused of importing substandard tyres into Nigeria.

The trial in Charge No. FHC/L/73C/17 was initially scheduled for March 8 but had to be rescheduled in order for the accused persons to have access to an interpreter.

Taoluong Shem, 36, Xu Jimq Yao, 22, and Chinedu Madubuiké, were arrested in Lagos in February and charged in a five-count charge for allegedly conspiring among themselves and imported tyres below Nigeria's industrial standards through means of stuffing various sizes of tyres into one, knowing same to be in dangerous state or injurious to life of human beings.

Daily Trust Reports that one of the charges against the defendants reads:

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*“That you Taoluong Shen ‘M’, Xu Jim Yao ‘M’, Sino Nigeria Limited, Nedeca International Limited and Chinedu Madubuiké ‘M’ sometimes in the month of February, 2017 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this honourable did conspire among yourself, and imported tyres which did not comply with mandatory standards on account of your act of stuffing various sizes of tyres into one which makes the tyres to be unfit for purpose and not complying with the mandatory standard and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Sections 26(2)(b)(iii) of the Standards Organisation Act No. 14, 2015 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.”*

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Lawyer to the Defendant, Mr. Victor Okpara, notified the court that one of the defendants was unable to speak English, and that he had contacted the Chinese consulate in Lagos for an interpreter who would interpret the charges for the accused persons.

The Prosecutor from the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation, Mr. Babatunde Alajogun, stated that he was not aware that the defendants cannot speak English. He

therefore urged the court to remand the defendants in prison custody pending when their plea will be taken.

Justice Olatoregun ordered that the accused should remain in police custody till March 28 when their plea will be taken through an interpreter.

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