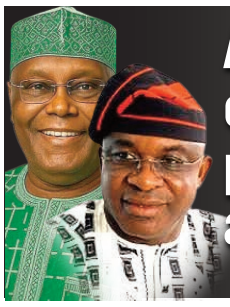
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Vol. 43, No. 18,251 ■ Friday, November 6, 2026 Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria N300



ADC judgment throws opposition's 2027 plans into uncertainty as party kicks

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Tinubu takes re-election campaign train to A'Ibom, Rivers

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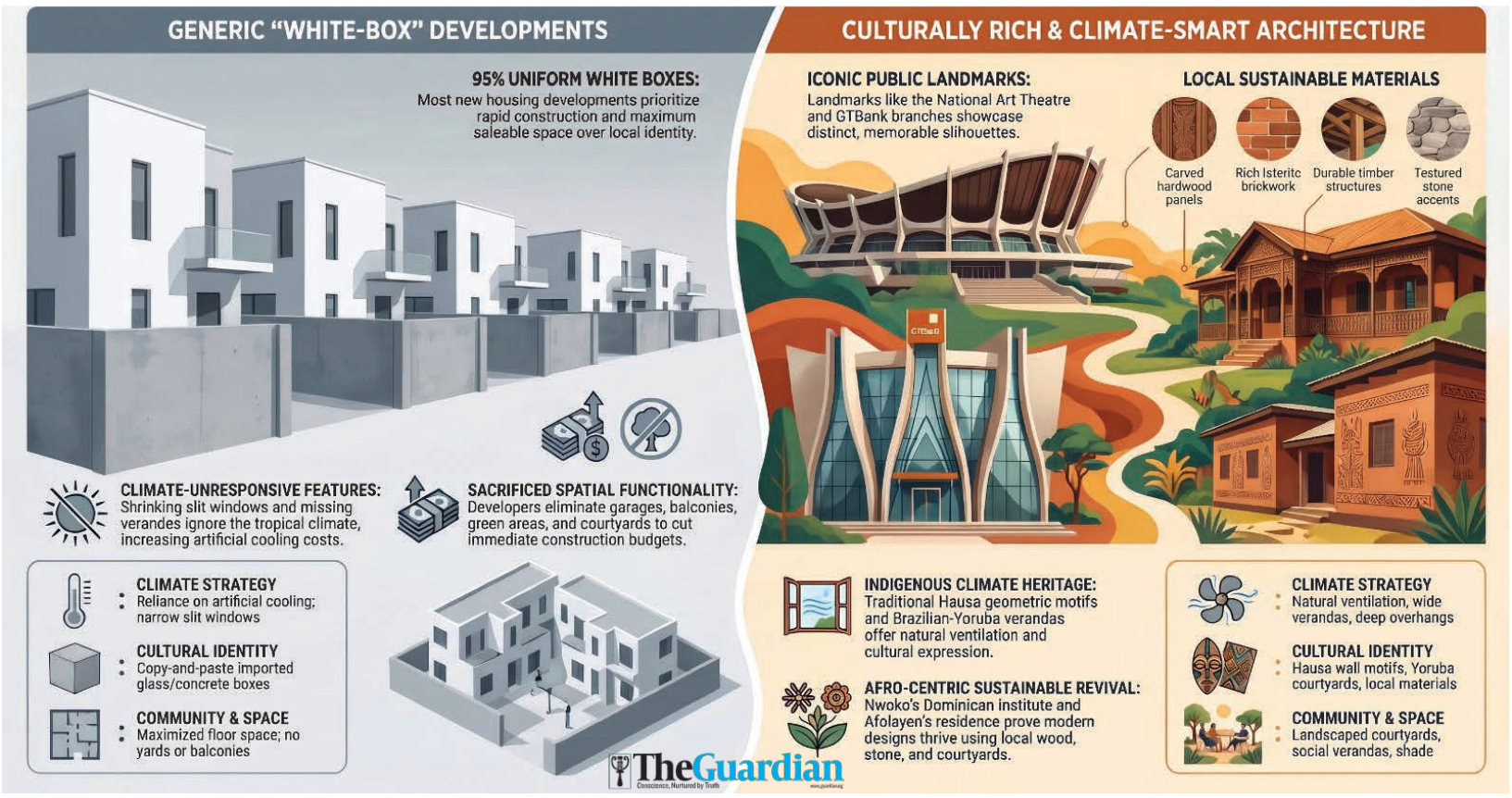
519 security incidents, 27 election-related deaths fuel 2027 poll concerns

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From verandas to concrete boxes:

BIG STORY PAGES 4 & 5

How profit, generic designs erode architectural identity in Nigeria



Gas shortages, falling hydro capacity worsen Nigeria's power crisis

BUSINESS PAGE 18

PSN urges FG to declare state of emergency in pharmaceuticals

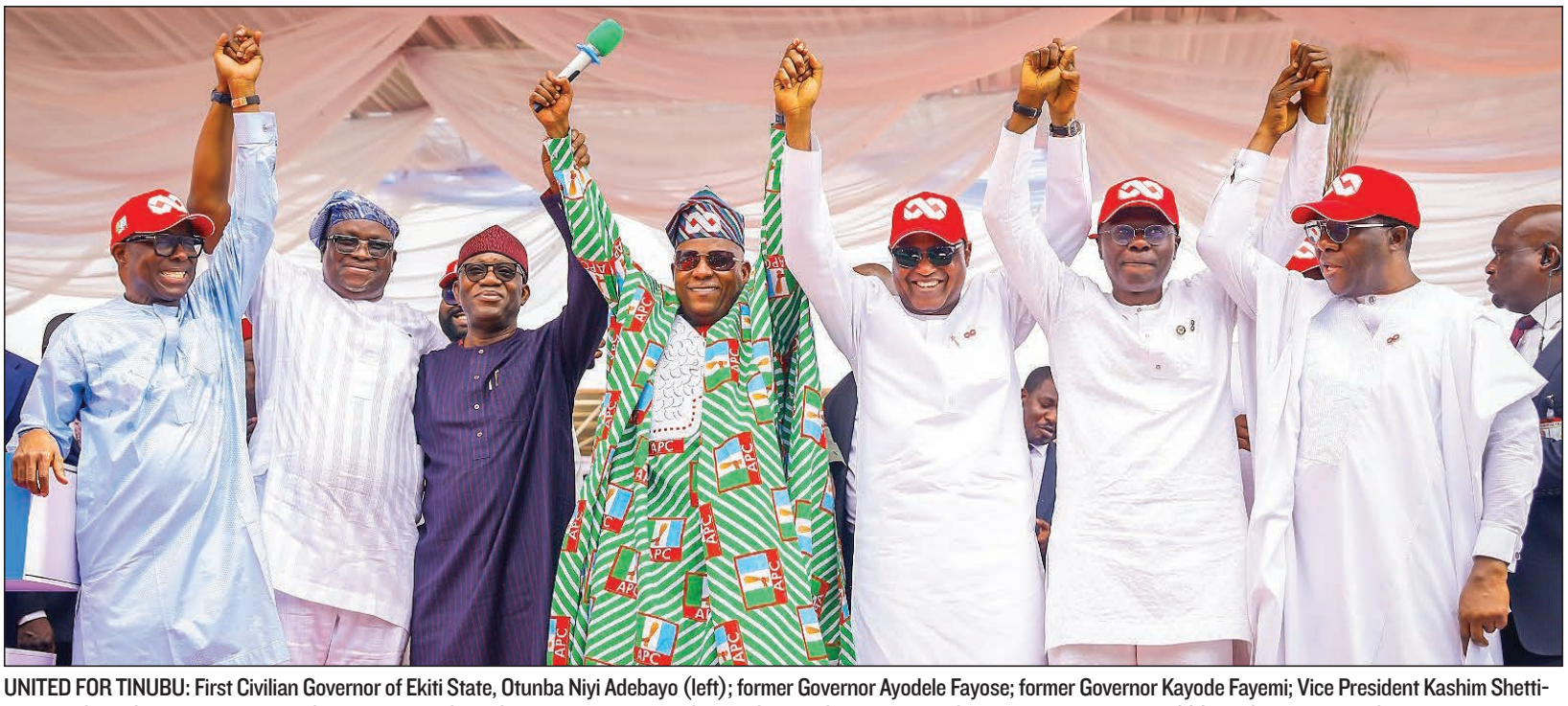
NEWS PAGE 28

VP Shettima, SDP, Ondo APC reject Wike's Rainbow Coalition

NEWS PAGE 3

Military mulls gradual withdrawal from internal operations

NEWS PAGE 29



UNITED FOR TINUBU: First Civilian Governor of Ekiti State, Otunba Niyi Adebayo (left); former Governor Ayodele Fayose; former Governor Kayode Fayemi; Vice President Kashim Shettima; Ekiti State Governor, Mr Biodun Oyebanji; Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Senate Leader, Opeyemi Bamidele; at the 2027 APC Presidential Campaign Rally in support of Tinubu/Shettima re-election, at Ekiti Parapo Pavilion, Ado-Ekiti, yesterday.

Court acquits man accused of sexually assaulting daughter after eight years in custody

METRO PAGE 8

Panorama

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Ogun ready for State Police, Abiodun declares

From **Segun Ayinde, Abeokuta**

OGUN State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun, has declared his administration's readiness to establish a state police force, describing it as a critical step towards strengthening security, protecting investments and sustaining the state's growing economic activities.

The governor also announced the immediate commencement of a social investment cash transfer programme for vulnerable residents to cushion the effects of rising food and transportation costs.

Abiodun made the announcements at a town hall meeting on the 2027 budget and the 2027–2029 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for Remo Division, held at the Akarigbo Palace, Sagamu.

Speaking on the proposed establishment of state police, the governor, who chairs the Nigeria Governors' Forum Committee on State Police, said Ogun was prepared to embrace the initiative, noting that the state's expanding industrial and commercial activities required a more robust security framework.

He declared: "I am the Chairman of the Governors' Forum on State Police creation. Ogun State is ready for state police."

Abiodun said his administration had consistently strengthened the state's security architecture through the provision of operational vehicles, allowances and equipment, as well as increased recruitment into the Ogun State Security Network, popularly known as Amotekun.

Shettima, others call for active support for creative industry

By Helen Oji

VICE PRESIDENT, Kashim Shettima has urged African governments to remove barriers to trade within the continent to enable creative products, particularly films, to circulate freely across African markets and generate greater economic benefits.

Shettima, who spoke at the opening ceremony of the Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX) WKND 2026 in Lagos, said Africa's creative industry had become an important economic infrastructure that required stronger policy support, intellectual property protection and investment to unlock its potential.

Declaring CANEX WKND 2026 open, he said Nigeria and other African countries must position their creative industries as important contributors to economic growth.

He described the creative economy as central to the Federal Government's Renewed Hope agenda, stressing the need to strengthen intellectual property rights and position creativity as a viable trade sector.

He challenged creative professionals attending the event to turn the gathering into business opportunities rather than leave with only memories.

Paraguay president resigns after bank collapse sparks protests

PARAGUAYAN President Santiago Pena announced his resignation on Thursday after the takeover of a bank linked to him blocked millions of people from accessing their money.

Protests have roiled the South American nation after its central bank took control of Ueno Bank on Tuesday, citing a severe capital shortfall.

Opposition lawmakers on Wednesday submitted a request to impeach Pena over the crisis, accusing him of favouritism toward the bank in regulatory and pension fund decisions.

"I want to apologise to the people if at any point I failed. It was never my intention to betray the trust you placed in me," the right-wing president said in a video announcing his resignation on X.

His priority is "the peace of mind of Paraguayans who entrusted their savings to our financial system," he added.

Some three million depositors, including pensioners, lost access to their money.

Long lines of people trying to withdraw their money from Ueno branches snaked down Asuncion's streets on Tuesday and Wednesday, while angry protests swarmed the capital on both evenings.

Paraguay's Central Bank said it took over Ueno due to a severe capital shortfall, in order to "protect depositors and preserve the stability of the financial system."

... DAY 4576

OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING

Tope Templer Olaiya,
News Editor
@TopeTempler

TODAY IN HISTORY

- **Obama Day (in Kenya)**
- **Intl Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict**

• 2024 - Nigeria
Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Taoreed Lagbaja died at 56 after a prolonged illness.

• 2024 - USA
Bitcoin surged to record high of $75K as Donald Trump defeated Kamala Harris to emerge as America's 47th President.

• 2016 - Nigeria
After massive backlash, Government suspended implementation of the controversial National Code of Corporate Governance released by the Jim Obazee-led Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria.

• 1986 - UK
Alex Ferguson became the manager of Manchester United. He served for over 26 1/2 years, until May 2013.

• 1982 - Cameroon
Paul Biya became President of Cameroon. He is currently the longest-ruling non-royal leader in the world and oldest ruler in Africa after Robert Mugabe stepped down during the 2017 Zimbabwean coup d'état.

• 1860 - USA
Abraham Lincoln was elected 16th president of the United States with 40% of the popular vote, defeating John C. Breckinridge, John Bell, and Stephen A. Douglas in a 4-way race.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

RANDOM FACTS

- Sunburn is the result of your skin cells committing mass suicide to protect you from their damaged DNA, which can cause cancer.
- China has more English speakers than the United States.
- You have a second brain in your gut, called the Enteric Nervous System. This is where the term 'gut feeling' comes from.
- Epistemophobia is the fear of knowledge.

TheGuardian WEEKEND

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NOVEMBER 7 - 8, 2026

POLITICS



2027 Elections Face Accessibility Test As PWDs Confront Barriers To Voting

WEEKENDBEATS



Fola: Breakout Star Inching For The Sky

SHOWBIAST

At Festival, MUSON Spotlights Music, Technology, Education



NEWSFEATURE



How Growing Sahel Insecurity May Shape Nigeria's Reopened Trade Routes

INSIGHT



SIDF: Creating Ambience Where

INTERVIEW



'Development Transcends Policies, It Is About People And Opportunities Available To Them'

IBRUCENTRE

Leadership That Unites The Church, Transforms Society (1), By **Venerable Ifeanyi Nsofor**

Why Have You Done This? By **Pastor Lazarus Muoka**

When A Spouse Commits Adultery, By **Bishop Charles Ighele**

The Wonders Of Christ (2), By **Pastor W. F. Kumuyi**



ARTS

LIMCAF's *Open Letter* To Emerging Artists

Olotu Explores Identity, Body Politics, Displacement In *Before We Know Ourselves Gold Dust: Treasures Of Quiet Years*

Sterling Bank, Aké Partner To Put Africa At Centre Of AI Debate

Sterling Bank, Aké Partner To Put Africa At Centre **Of AI Debate**



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News

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Tinubu takes re-election campaign train to A'Ibom, Rivers

From **Terhemba Daka**, Abuja

- Police ban drones, fireworks, restrict traffic in Uyo
- Delta APC flags off campaign in Oleh

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu will today begin a two-state visit to Akwa Ibom and Rivers states, combining the commissioning of major infrastructure projects with political engagements as the All Progressives Congress (APC) intensifies its mobilisation ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Amid an unprecedented crowd of party faithful, the Delta State chapter of APC, yesterday, flagged off its 2027 campaign in Oleh, Isoko South Local Council. At the rally, Governor Sheriff Oborevwori and other party leaders called for massive votes for all APC candidates.

Meanwhile, the police in Akwa Ibom banned drone operations and fireworks in Uyo and announced temporary traffic restrictions ahead of Tinubu's visit to the state.

The President's visit to Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, will see him inaugurate many landmark projects executed by Governor Umo Eno's administration before proceeding to Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on for an APC campaign rally.

The Uyo leg of the visit will feature the commissioning of key aviation infrastructure at the Victor Attah International Airport, including the new International Terminal Building, the International Airport Hospital, and the Ibom Aviation Village.

Other projects scheduled for inauguration include the Airport-Okopedi Road, which traverses Nsit Atai and Okobo local councils, and Ring Road 3, linking Idoro Road to Ikot Ekpene Road through Uyo and Ibiono Ibom.

The President will also commission the AKWA-GIS Office Complex, the Command and Control Centre and the ARISE Palm Resort.

In anticipation of the presidential visit, Governor Eno has declared today a work-free day to enable residents to participate in the President's reception.

Beyond the infrastructure inaugurations, the visit is expected to provide an opportunity for President Tinubu to consolidate political alliances, engage party stakeholders and mobilise support for his re-election bid.

Tomorrow, the President will proceed to Port Harcourt, where he is expected to participate in the APC rally.

The Rivers rally will be the third major campaign outing by Tinubu since the party commenced its re-election mobilisation with a flag-off rally in Kaduna last month.

AKWA IBOM Commissioner of Police, Baba Azare, announced the security measures yesterday while briefing journalists at the Police Headquarters in Ikot Akpan, Abia, Uyo.

He said the restrictions were part of security arrangements to maintain public order, protect strategic locations and ensure the smooth movement of the President's convoy during his engagements.

"There will be total restriction on the operation and flying of drones within Uyo metropolis throughout the period of the visit. Members of the public, drone operators and service providers are advised to strictly comply with the directive," he said.

The CP also announced a ban on fireworks, knockouts and other explosive sound-producing devices within the state capital during the visit.

He said the measure would prevent panic and allow security personnel to respond effectively to genuine security threats.

EXUDING confidence, Governor Oborevwori said the decision to join the APC followed wide consultations with stakeholders and was aimed at aligning Delta with the Federal Government for accelerated development.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

Presidency canvasses global action against AI-driven disinformation

McArthur Foundation urges voters to resist inducement

From **Terhemba Daka** (Abuja) and **Murtala Adewale** (Kano)

THE Presidency has called for urgent global action to check the growing misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in political communication, warning that unchecked deployment of the technology could undermine democratic institutions, distort electoral processes and erode public trust ahead of the 2027 elections.

This was as the Country Director of MacArthur Foundation in Nigeria, Dr Kole Shettima, urged Nigerians to resist political inducement and avoid selling their votes before or during the elections.

Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Mr Bayo Onanuga, said the proliferation of AI-generated images and other digital content for political purposes made it imperative for governments, media organisations and technology stakeholders to establish safeguards against disinformation and manipulation.

Onanuga made the call yesterday in Beijing, China, while delivering a paper, '*AI and the Future of Global Communication*', at the 7th World Media Summit organised by *Xinhua News Agency* and the People's Government of Beijing Municipality.

He observed that social media platforms, including *X, Facebook* and *TikTok*, were increasingly inundated with AI-generated content designed to advance political interests, entertain audiences and influence public opinion.

With political activities and campaigns ahead of the 2027 general elections gathering momentum, the presidential aide said AI had become a powerful tool in the hands of politicians and their supporters, with the potential to serve both legitimate and destructive purposes.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng



All Progressives Congress (APC) deputy governorship candidate for Lagos State, Damilola Sonayon James (left); Chairman, Board of Trustees (BoT), Women in Management, Business and Public Service (WIMBIZ), Ebisan Akinsanya; Lagos State Deputy Governor and APC governorship candidate, Dr Kadri Hamzat; Founder/President, Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote and WIMBIZ Conference Chairperson, Bennedikter Molokwu at the 25th anniversary of WIMBIZ, in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: SUNDAY AKINLOLU

VP Shettima, SDP, Ondo APC reject Wike's Rainbow Coalition

From **John Akubo** (Abuja) and **Adewale Momoh** (Akure)

- SDP plans joint opposition vote protection
- Gombe accuses APC of plotting to infiltrate opposition

VICE President Kashim Shettima has rejected the plan of Nyesom Wike's Rainbow Coalition for split voting.

He urged supporters to vote only for the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the 2027 general election.

Similarly, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) rejected any involvement in what it described as the APC Rainbow Coalition, accusing the ruling party of attempting to infiltrate opposition parties and weaken their structures ahead of the 2027 general elections.

APC elders in Ondo State also rejected any coalition arrangement that would require the party to sacrifice its candidates or surrender constituencies in exchange for support for President Bola Tinubu's re-election, adding that the APC could win the state without any coalition.

Shettima issued the directive on Wednesday in Lafia, Nasarawa State, during the APC presidential campaign rally.

The Rainbow Coalition, led by the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, is mobilising support for President Tinubu's re-election.

Wike had repeatedly said the coalition was set up only to back the President, while it would back candidates of other parties for governorship, Senate, House of Representatives and House of Assembly seats.

Shettima disagreed with that position, saying the Presidency would not accept such an arrangement and that President Tinubu's main message is a clean sweep for the party.

"APC from top to bottom; APC from bottom to top. We do not want a situation where they say vote for the President and not the governor, or vote for the governor and not the President, or the senator, or the House of Assembly. We want APC straight," Shettima stated.

THE SDP also disclosed plans to collaborate with other opposition parties to protect votes by jointly training polling agents and establishing common election-monitoring situation rooms across the country.

National Chairman of SDP, Prof. Sadiq Gombe, during an engagement with nine governorship candidates from different states in Abuja, yesterday, disclosed that the meeting was organised to harmonise strategies, share experiences and strengthen the party's preparations for the presidential, governorship and legislative elections.

Gombe said the SDP was fully prepared for the elections and would not support any attempt to postpone the polls.

"We are not part of any attempt whatsoever to shift the elections for whatever reason. We are ready, and we have been preparing. We are doing everything possible to win the election at the national level and in most states of the federation," he said.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

TUC insists on salary increase, rejects wage award

FG says CNG to power irrigation pumps, cut farmers' energy costs

From **Collins Olayinka**, Abuja

AMID disagreement with the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC) has reiterated its demand for a sustainable salary increase for Nigerian workers, insisting that another wage award would not provide a lasting solution to the erosion of workers' purchasing power.

In another vein, the Federal Government said Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) will be deployed to power irrigation pumps as part of efforts to reduce farmers' energy costs and make agricultural production more affordable.

TUC said its demand was informed by the Federal Government's failure to fully implement the 10-month wage award palliative agreed with organised labour on October 2, 2023, before the introduction of the new national minimum wage.

According to the union, workers received an average of only three months' pay out of the 10 months agreed upon, leaving a substantial part of the intervention unpaid.

In a communiqué issued at the end of an emergency meeting of the congress' National Administrative Council (NAC), on Wednesday, the NAC maintained that a sustainable salary increase would provide a more meaningful intervention to address the declining living standards of workers, stressing that the national minimum wage should be regarded as a statutory minimum and not a ceiling on workers' earnings.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

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From verandas to concrete boxes:

How profit, generic designs erode

From landmark public buildings and distinctive traditional homes to today's near-identical white-box developments, Nigeria's architecture tells a story of changing priorities. Shrinking windows, vanishing balconies and generic designs have fuelled concerns over lost cultural identity and climate-unresponsive housing. Land costs, construction budgets, client demands, and professional practice shape the trend, prompting experts to call for buildings that balance affordability, functionality, sustainability, and a recognisably Nigerian character, ***VICTOR GBONEGUN*** *reports.*



Vernacular Meets Modern
Combining vernacular Yoruba building techniques with modernist spatial planning.



Deep cultural depth: Detailed geometric motifs, high coastal rainfall adaptations, and natural air designs.

ACROSS the length and breadth of the country, the erstwhile National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos, an iconic cultural landmark, which was constructed during the military regime of General Olusegun Obasanjo and completed in 1976 in preparation for the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC '77), has stood out as a massive landmark in the country.

Following its recommissioning on October 1, 2025, the edifice was officially renamed the Wole Soyinka Centre for Culture and Creative Arts.

The 2025 unveiling, which coincided with the country's 65th Independence Day celebrations, marked the completion of about N68 billion in renovation works, supported by the Bankers' Committee, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Lagos State Government, and the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy.

Designed by a Bulgarian architectural firm, Technoexport, and modelled directly after the Palace of Culture and Sports in Varna, Bulgaria, its exterior profile, for some strange reasons, was deliberately shaped to resemble a military officer's peak cap. But despite that, it served as the focal point for post-independence cultural renaissance and African artistic performance throughout the late 20th century.

At No. 10 Educational Zone, Samonda, Ibadan, Oyo State, is the Dominican Institute. It is a landmark of modern Afro-centric architecture in which master artist, sculptor, and designer Demas Nwoko combined vernacular Yoruba building techniques and local materials—granite, laterite, carved hardwood columns, and brick—with modernist spatial planning.

Somewhere on Victoria Island in Lagos State is a structure with a unique architectural character that houses a branch of Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB).

Beyond the building hinting at what is possible in commercial space and worthy of emulation by others, the unique curtain wall designs and sundry designs at different branches of the bank simply communicate to the banking public the outfit's architectural language.

Doubtless, the bank's distinctive architectural masterpieces across the country, despite being in business, convey immense meanings to those with an eye for contemporary architectural heritage.

The Lagos Island banking outfit has a symmetrical tapering tower façade on either side of the roads bounding it. Viewed from the exterior, it is a structure of unique balance, harmony and a distinctive silhouette, with angled facades. Essentially, the curtain wall system is double-glazed, creating a cosy workplace ambience free of vehicular noise pollution. The exotic building features sculptural installations and informal lounges for breakout meetings.

Over the last four to five decades, architectural designs in the country have been anchored in creativity and distinctive character, whereby buildings in diverse locations tell distinct stories. But the growing decline in architectural flair and design in the real estate sector has raised serious questions about whether the profession is experiencing genuine growth or gradually losing its identity and creative character.

Echoes of the golden age of architecture

FROM time immemorial, many Nigerian cities were reputed for having their building character, as houses in these locations bore unique designs that spoke volumes of their creative prowess.

In Lagos Island, for instance, old buildings are still reminiscent of architectural designs different from those found in locations like Yaba, Surulere, Ibadan, Kano, Enugu, Abeokuta, Calabar, among others.

These buildings, some of which have been standing for over 70 years, embraced the use of local and cultural materials, encompassing sufficient natural air design, balconies, garages, courtyards, shades, verandas and beautiful gardens for evening gatherings.

Lagos Island was particularly popular for its classy new format of architectural developments, which were well laid out.

The Brazilian returnee settlements in places like Ibadan, Abeokuta, Ijebu Ode, Ilesha and Ijebu-Ode reflected their acquired worldview with the best of architectural workmanship created in buildings that spoke about heritage, being structurally strong and long-lasting.

> "The use of balconies and verandas has become extremely rare in most of the new developments; where they exist, they are narrow and lack adequate shading from sun rays. Roofing designs, for their part, are not enhancing comfortable living in homes but are aesthetic-driven, with too little attention to local identity."

In the North, building architecture boasted immense depth of creativity, with walls adorned with detailed geometric and unique wall patterns as well as handcrafted motifs reflecting Hausa or *Arewa* artistic traditions. Additionally, many of them featured beautiful, unique architecture that reflects the climate, culture, and beliefs of the people. To date, some of these designs can be categorised into calligraphy, surface design and ornamentation.

Like in other parts of the country, the domestic architectural design in Southern Nigeria evolved around high annual rainfall, coastal humidity, intense land pressures in urban centres, and distinct cultural aesthetics, which contrasted sharply with the arid, expansive, and privacy-focused residential forms predominant in the North and parts of the Middle Belt.

In the South-East specifically, structures were created to reflect immense greenery and sustainability, with a view to enhancing people's lifespan.

Today, the love for modernisation appears to have triggered the loss of all these architectural identities. Regrettably, these buildings are also being replaced quickly with houses that look the same in architectural design, lacking character but similar in steel and concrete design.

Prioritising cost reduction, rapid construction over aesthetics, creativity

IN many parts of the country, residential and commercial developments appear to prioritise cost reduction, rapid construction and maximum lettable or saleable space over originality, functionality, environmental responsiveness and cultural expression.

The situation is a mixed fortune, with 95 per cent of new developments, particularly for residential housing, appearing like white boxes, bereft of unique aesthetic design and a dearth of creativity.

In contemporary Nigerian architecture and urban planning, this decline in creative and culturally responsive structures, on the one hand, can be seen in the now rampant copy-and-paste architecture and modern homogenisation, whose main features include an over-reliance on generic, imported architectural styles (e.g., all-glass facades or "box" structures) that ignore local climate, topography, and cultural context.

On the other hand, the glaring neglect of vernacular and sustainable principles is reflected in the continuous departure from climate-smart features like courtyards, natural ventilation, wide verandas, and shading devices, resulting in buildings that rely heavily on artificial cooling and high energy consumption.

As real estate developers prioritise maximum floor-area space and rapid returns over aesthetic value, durability, public space, and green areas, what has become the order of the day is the uniform duplexes and terraced houses in Abuja, Port Harcourt, Onitsha and Kano.

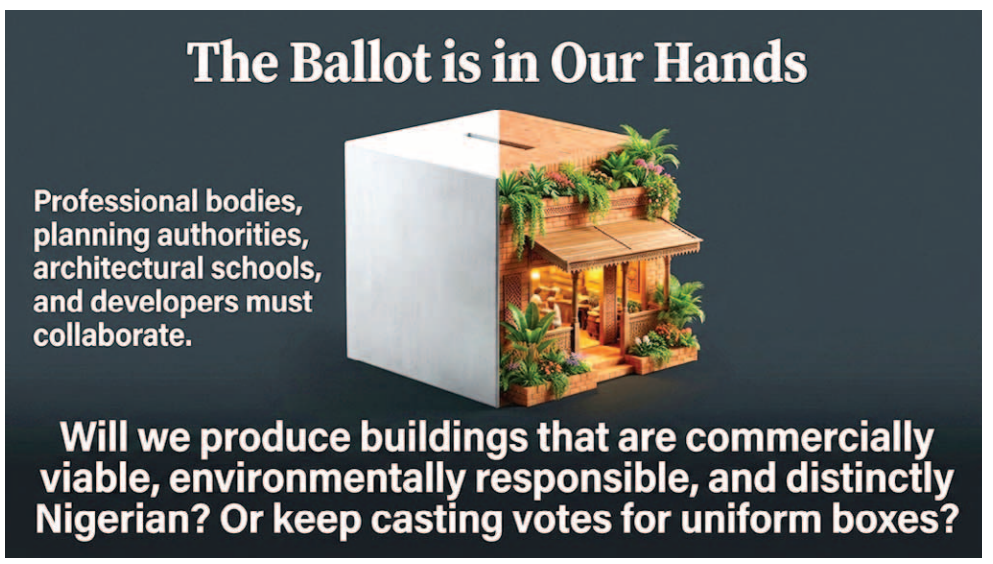
A visit to locations such as Alapere, Ikeja, Victoria Island, Lekki, and Ajah revealed the same setup: windows looking like a last-minute addition after building completion, no privacy, same settings, same colours, same interior decor, insufficient parking lots, etc.

While contemporary architecture naturally evolves with changing lifestyles, technologies and materials, the increasing similarity of building designs has fuelled concerns that some developments lack distinctive character and fail to reflect Nigeria's diverse cultural heritage, climatic conditions and urban realities.

However, the issue may not necessarily be a decline in architectural competence, but a combination of economic pressures, client preferences, regulatory shortcomings and the changing demands of the property market.

Also, as architecture continues to evolve, innovations and creativity now drive the design of unique spaces in advanced countries, but this hasn't been the reality in Nigeria, as most buildings appear neither substantial nor responsive to the peculiar environment.

Indeed, from a critical standpoint, one of the



architectural identity in Nigeria

major challenges confronting architects in the country is the growing influence of developers and investors, who often prioritise commercial returns over architectural quality. High construction costs, expensive building materials, limited access to affordable financing and pressure to deliver projects also constrain creativity and encourage repetitive designs.

In housing estates that promise "modern luxury living," windows are shrinking, slim and sometimes reduced to narrow vertical slits or modest square frames punched into concrete walls. Findings show that smaller windows, especially when placed on only one façade of an apartment block, undermine this natural cooling strategy for buildings.

As the trend raises questions about developers opting for such designs despite the harsh tropical climate, housing experts link the development to cost savings. Glass, aluminium frames and fittings significantly affect construction budgets, particularly in mid-market and mass housing schemes where margins are tight amid aspirations to maximise profits and reinvest elsewhere.

In some cases, clients dictate design decisions without adequately considering ventilation, natural lighting, energy efficiency, accessibility, spatial functionality or the long-term maintenance costs of buildings.

The growing preference for imported architectural styles, particularly those associated with luxury housing and commercial developments, also raises concerns about the neglect of indigenous design principles.

The use of balconies and verandas has become extremely rare in most of the new developments; where they exist, they are narrow and lack adequate shading from sun rays. Roofing designs, for their part, are not enhancing comfortable living in homes but are aesthetic-driven, with too little attention to local identity.

To some experts, allocating space for special garages inflates construction costs, while changing habits have made the desirability of the garage less of a strict homeowner's priority in some developments. For some homeowners, in view of safety regulations, eliminating car lots from building spaces goes a long way in curbing carbon monoxide and fire risks from vehicles in spaces linked to residential estates.

The Guardian further gathered that in modern design, the transition from traditional centralised sewage to septic sewer is essentially driven by physical, economic, and environmental realities. Sewage in property is no longer connected to a centralised city sewer due to the cost of laying pipes for millions of miles for many projects, as modern design leverages decentralised wastewater treatment systems.

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Noble Grounds Limited, Mr Olajide Dosunmu, links the lack of distinctive character in many new residential developments to the high cost of land and the concentration of development in expensive, high-growth locations.

He said the cost of acquiring land and providing infrastructure has left developers with limited room to invest in individual designs, noting that mass housing projects often relied on repeated designs and neutral finishes to minimise costs and avoid alienating prospective buyers.

According to him, developers frequently consider it more profitable to replicate one design across several properties than to create distinctive homes, which may require additional investment.

He cited a property being developed by Nollywood actor Kunle Afolayan as an example of how locally available materials, wood and thoughtful design could produce an architectural masterpiece. He emphasised that the project demonstrated the possibilities of combining local materials with contemporary and international influences, although developers often hesitated to take similar risks because of cost considerations.

Case for return to building styles that are climate-compliant, reflect character, personality

WHILE expressing concern over the trend in a viral video, an architect-turned-interior designer, who simply identified herself as Jemima, highlighted the challenge with many architectural designs in cities, including poor space management; lack of privacy, poor finishing, lack of ventilation, unnecessary embellishments and little consideration for furniture layout.

She added: "We need to design houses that are suitable for our climate and reflect our heritage. These box houses are uncomfortable, and we keep replicating them- why?"

She added: "One architect will design a house, and developers make 100 copies of it. Why do all new houses look the same? I can take a random picture of a house with the same white-box aesthetic. New developments in Surulere, Yaba, Ikeja, Abuja, Port Harcourt and other cities all look alike."

According to her, the minimalist white-box style, once associated mainly with wealthy homeowners, has become widespread across different income groups, reducing the sense of distinction between properties.

She, however, predicted that this trend could prompt wealthier Nigerians to explore more sustainable and personalised designs to distinguish their homes.

"Now that everybody has the same thing as them, they would want to be different. I think we are going to return to building styles that reflect our character and personality. In the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and early 2000s, you could look at a house and instantly get a sense of the person who owned it," she said.

She also expressed concern that architects were not being adequately engaged in the development process, arguing that the problem was not necessarily a lack of willing professionals but limited employment opportunities.

Similarly, a real estate critic, who opted to remain anonymous also raised concerns about modern architecture shortcomings in luxury property located in a highbrow estate location in Osapa, London. Dissecting the architecture and finishing, he lamented the absence of critical space like the garage for car parking, especially with the intensity of rainfall, noting that it is weird for a developer not to allocate space for a garage in a luxury development worth billions of naira.

As the call for a return to building styles that reflect unique character and personality grows louder, popular Nollywood filmmaker Kunle Afolayan has joined the movement with his impressive home located between Lagos and Ogun states. Built on a 920-square-metre plot of land, the house features a spacious living area with high ceilings and large curtain walls that allow plenty of natural light into the building.

Afolayan, in a video, said the wood used in the structure was the type used in rail lines and has very high durability. Another unique feature of the building, he said, is the use of stone on the walls, a few paintings and more textures, as well as the use of sculptures from different parts of the world.

He said the house is on three levels, with the topmost having spaces for a bedroom with a skylight, a gym, and windows that allow natural light to last longer. The building also creates room for easy passage from the bedroom to the sanctuary, a cinema screen and is designed with crawling plants, while regular fumigation is ensured to send crawling insects off the walls.

Most professional architects argue that many buildings across the country reflect clients' preferences, as architects are often constrained by property owners to leave little room for creativity and distinctive designs due to diverse considerations, especially finance.

Economic realities, not waning creativity responsible for proliferation of 'white boxes'

WITHOUT mincing words, a member of the National Executive Council of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), Adeleke Nadi, insists that factors including the country's economic realities and clients' reluctance to invest in creative architectural features contribute to criticism of building designs.

"When you introduce features that clients consider unnecessary, decorative or fashionable, they tend to avoid them to reduce construction costs. I would like to urge architects to find creative ways to ensure that innovative designs are not perceived as unnecessary additions but as essential components of a building," Nadi said.

He urged architects to demonstrate how creative designs could deliver long-term cost savings, reduce renovation expenses, improve durability and enhance the functionality of buildings.

While admitting that incorporating certain design features and materials can significantly increase construction costs, prompting clients to demand their removal when budgets become tight, he emphasised that unless clients see such designs as an essential part of the building and understand the functionality and value of that design feature, creative space or material, they may not be willing to retain it," he said.

> "Professional bodies, planning authorities, architectural schools and developers must collaborate to promote design excellence through public education, competitions, professional advocacy and stronger industry partnerships. The goal should be to produce buildings that are commercially viable, environmentally responsible, functional and distinctly Nigerian, rather than repeatedly reproducing uniform designs."

He also recommended a review of architectural education curricula to encourage more research and equip architects with the knowledge to develop innovative and cost-effective design solutions.

"Through research, architects can discover easier and more affordable ways to achieve their creative ideas. The key is to explore and implement these ideas as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible," he said.

He also stressed the need for clients to give architects greater freedom to express their creativity, noting that distinctive designs could enhance a building's appeal, attract buyers and users, and increase its market value.

Nadi urged architects to extend their creative approach beyond commercial developments to residential buildings, arguing that innovative designs could improve property values and elevate the status of the profession.

"In the long run, the recognition goes to the architect whose creative design was delivered. Architects should strive to fully realise their creative ideas in every project that they undertake, whether residential or commercial," he said.

For the Vice Chairman of NIA, Lagos Chapter, Moniba Odunlami, the growing tendency to replicate similar designs, regardless of location or context, raises concerns about the quality of the built environment.

She said the pressure to maximise saleable space, and the perception that architectural fees were expendable, has led developers to sacrifice garages, balconies, gardens, courtyards and outdoor spaces that enhance comfort, privacy, ventilation and social interaction.

Odunlami urged developers to recognise that good architecture adds value beyond initial construction costs, while architects should challenge restrictive briefs and demonstrate how thoughtful design improves functionality, sustainability and commercial appeal.

She stressed that originality does not necessarily require expensive imported materials or elaborate structures, as well-positioned windows, effective shading, functional balconies, landscaped courtyards and intelligent spatial planning could give buildings character without substantially increasing costs.

According to her, Nigeria could develop a distinctive contemporary architectural identity by adapting the principles of traditional buildings, including verandas, rooflines, human-scale proportions and designs suited to the tropical climate.



Read the remaining part of this story on www.guardian.ng

ADC judgment throws opposition's 2027 plans into uncertainty as party kicks

- Court nullifies Mark-led NWC, Atiku's ticket, other nominations
- ADC rejects verdict, cites earlier ruling, prepares appeal
- Atiku, Obi, SDP, CUPP fault timing, warn of electoral uncertainty
- Okorie calls judgment 'invitation to anarchy'
- Lawyers urge swift appeal as Gombe hails court decision
- APC denies role, describes crisis as ADC's internal dispute

From **Leo Sobechi, Ameh Ojochila, Andrew Oota, Ernest Nzor** (Abuja), **Seye Olumide** (Lagos) and **Lawrence Njoku** (Enugu)

A FEDERAL High Court judgment nullifying the David Mark-led National Working Committee of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) and invalidating its presidential primary has thrown the party's preparations for the 2027 general election into uncertainty, with former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar's candidacy among the decisions affected.

The ruling, delivered barely a day after the party's campaign launch in Sokoto, has prompted calls for an immediate appeal and warnings about its implications for political competition.

Justice Peter Lifu, who delivered the judgment yesterday, also nullified all processes leading to the nomination of candidates by the party for the forthcoming elections, holding that their emergence flowed from an illegal leadership structure.

The suit was instituted by Nafiu Bala Gombe, a former Deputy National Chairman (North) of the party, who challenged the emergence of Mark, former Osun State Governor Rauf Aregbesola and other members of the party's leadership.

Gombe had sought an order restraining Mark, Aregbesola and others from parading themselves as leaders of the ADC, arguing that their emergence violated the party's constitution and the Electoral Act, which prescribe procedures for electing party leaders through national conventions.

The defendants included the ADC, Mark, Aregbesola, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and former National Chairman of the party, Ralph Nwosu.

Justice Lifu dismissed 27 separate motions filed by Mark, Aregbesola, the ADC and others seeking to have the case thrown out at the preliminary stage, describing them as frivolous and baseless.

The judge also rejected applications by some NWC members seeking to be joined as defendants, holding that their interests would be determined through the proceedings involving the leadership already before the court.

ADC rejects verdict, cites earlier judgment

THE ADC and its Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) yesterday rejected the judgment, insisting that an earlier ruling of the same Federal High Court had affirmed the Mark-led leadership.

In a statement signed by its Director of Media and Publicity, Kola Ologbondiyan, the ADC PCC described Justice Lifu's decision as an academic exercise that had been overtaken by events, insisting that it could not displace an existing judgment of a court of coordinate jurisdiction.

The council recalled that Justice Musa Liman, in a judgment delivered on July 2, 2026, in Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/1637/2025, had examined the circumstances surrounding the emergence of Mark and Aregbesola and upheld their positions as National Chairman and National Secretary respectively.

It said Justice Liman had held that the transfer of leadership from Nwosu to Mark complied with the party's constitution, noting that the July 29, 2025 National Executive Council (NEC) meeting, at which the duo emerged, was monitored by INEC.

"The leadership question has already been subjected to judicial scrutiny by a court of coordinate jurisdiction. It is therefore untenable to suggest that a subsequent pronouncement can simply erase or displace an existing judicial decision without due regard to the principles governing judicial authority and the administration of justice," the council said.

It added that its legal team was taking immediate steps to challenge the ruling, including seeking appropriate interim relief and a stay of execution where legally applicable.

The ADC also said it was awaiting a Certified True Copy of the judgment to establish its precise terms and consequential orders.

In a separate statement, the party's National Publicity Secretary, Bolaji Abdullahi, described the ruling as another attempt to cripple the opposition and deny Nigerians the opportunity to choose their leaders.

Abdullahi questioned the timing of the judgment, alleging that its delivery barely a day after the party's successful Sokoto rally was connected to the growing national support for the ADC.

He said the ruling could affect thousands of candidates seeking elective offices at local, state and federal levels, beyond the presidential nomination of Atiku.

The party maintained that the earlier judgment by Justice Liman remained subsisting and argued that a court of coordinate jurisdiction lacked the authority to set it aside.

It urged members and supporters to remain calm and law-abiding while pursuing available legal remedies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



Deputy Director, Epidemiology and Strategic Information, U.S. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr Ibrahim Dalhatu (left); Chief Executive Officer, APIN, Dr Jay Osi Samuel; Country Deputy Director, U.S. Centre for Disease Controls and Prevention, Dr Gbolahan Cole; Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr Dayo Lajide; Health Assistance Coordinator, Office of the Department of State, U.S. Embassy, Abuja, Omoshalewa Oyelaran, and Chief Executive Officer, Lagos State Aids Control Agency, Dr Folakemi Animashaun, at the Lagos State Art Impact Survey (AIS) Dissemination forum in Lagos, yesterday.

519 security incidents, 27 election-related deaths fuel 2027 poll concerns

From **Sodiq Omolaoye**, Abuja

- Situation Room warns against abuse of incumbency ahead of 2027 polls
- EFCC begins background checks on campaign spending
- Report projects 120 security incidents weekly in November
- Security agencies neutralised 491 gunmen, 972 abductees rescued in two months
- Police vow crackdown on attacks against opposition, assure INEC ad-hoc staff of protection

WITH 70 days to the 2027 general elections, fresh concerns over Nigeria's security situation have emerged ahead of the poll, as an October security assessment by EONS Intelligence recorded 519 incidents nationwide. This came as security agencies said they neutralised 491 terrorists, bandits and criminals while rescuing 972 kidnapped victims over two months.

Also, the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room yesterday raised the alarm over rising political violence ahead of the 2027 polls, saying 27 people were killed in 20 election-related incidents recorded across the country in the first 10 months of 2026. The organisation said the incidents formed part of 70 physical election-related attacks recorded across 19 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) between January 1 and October 27, 2026.

The EONS report covering Weeks 39 to 43 of October 2026 showed that overall security incidents declined by 11 per cent compared with September. However, it warned of a changing pattern of insecurity, with incidents in the southern region increasing by 36 per cent, while those in the North fell by 29 per cent.

The findings come amid growing political activities ahead of the 2027 elections, with the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) warning that attacks on opposition supporters, destruction of campaign materials and other forms of political violence would attract arrest and prosecution.

The report recorded 300 incidents in the North, representing 58 per cent of the national total, compared with 219 incidents, or 42 per cent, in the South. Although the North retained the highest overall volume, the rise in southern incidents points to a growing security challenge outside the traditional conflict areas.

Other major incidents captured in the report included a boat accident in Rivers State, which left 10 people dead and seven missing, and an explosion along the Trans-Niger Pipeline in Eleme, Rivers State, which reportedly injured 20 people and destroyed about 50 homes.

The report raised concerns about political tension ahead of the 2027 elections and warned that security threats could take different forms across the country, including armed attacks, kidnapping, cult violence and politically motivated disturbances.

It projected between 90 and 120 security incidents weekly in November, including 10 to 20 armed attacks, and urged residents and travellers to exercise caution, particularly on high-risk routes in parts of the North.

Against this backdrop, the Defence Headquarters on Thursday disclosed that troops neutralised 435 terrorists and bandits, arrested 809 suspects and rescued 717 kidnapped victims and other captives in two months.

Director of Defence Information, Brig.-Gen. Samaila Mohammed Uba, stated this on Thursday in Abuja at a joint security agencies' briefing where they presented their operational reports for September and October 2026. The military reported that 198 insurgents surrendered, while troops recovered 5,666 arms, ammunition, explosives and improvised explosive devices.

Among the notable rescue operations were the release of 20 prospective National Youth Service Corps members in Owerri and 11 people in Danko-Wasagu Local Government Area of Kebbi State.

Meanwhile, the NPF, on its part, said it arrested 1,519 suspects, neutralised 56 armed criminals and rescued 255 kidnapped victims during the review period. The police also recovered 191 firearms and 3,873 rounds of ammunition, while 117 vehicles were seized.

Presenting the police report, the Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Anietie Okokon Edem Iniedu, disclosed that the force recorded 418 homicide incidents, 227 kidnapping cases, 168 banditry incidents, 165 armed robbery cases, 73 cult-related clashes, 51 terrorism-related incidents and 49 cases of gender-based violence.

On concerns over the destruction of campaign posters and alleged intimidation of opposition parties ahead of the 2027 general elections, Iniedu said the police had received reports of pre-election violence.

He said special police commands and commissioners of police had been directed to arrest and prosecute anyone involved in pre-election violence or destruction of campaign materials. He urged victims to report incidents at police stations rather than rely solely on social media to draw attention to them.

The police spokesman also said the force had conducted threat assessments ahead of the 2027 elections and was working with other security agencies and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to strengthen protection for National Youth Service Corps members and other ad hoc election personnel. He added that commissioners of police had been directed to arrest and prosecute individuals involved in hate speech and incitement.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) reported recovering N1.23 trillion and securing 10,872 convictions between October 2023 and July 2026. Its spokesperson, Dele Oyewale, said the commission was conducting background work on possible illicit financing ahead of the 2027 elections but declined to disclose details of its investigations. "We are doing our work," he said, adding that the commission would make information available when there was something to report.

MEANWHILE, the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room, while raising the alarm over rising political violence as contained in the CLEEN Foundation's Election Security Threat Assessment, identified campaign rallies and party offices as major targets of political violence.

Addressing a press conference in Abuja on Thursday, Co-Convener, Nigerian Civil Society Situation Room, Celestine Odo, said violence had been recorded around party congresses, primaries and campaign activities, with September accounting for 14 incidents.

Read the remaining part of this story on www.guardian.ng

Court admits FG's evidence against putschists, fixes Dec 7 for trial

From **Ameh Ochojila,** Abuja

JUSTICE Joyce Abdulmalik of the Federal High Court in Abuja has dismissed the objections of the alleged coup plotters to the admission of their statements and video recordings made to the military during their interrogation for allegedly plotting to violently overthrow President Bola Tinubu's government.

The judge yesterday upheld the submission of the Federal Government that the statements and video recordings were voluntarily made by the defendants during interrogation by the military.

In a ruling on trial within trial conducted by the court to ascertain the genuineness of the plotters' allegations, Justice Abdulmalik held that there was no iota of evidence that the statements and video recordings were made under duress.

Rejects claims of coercion

Justice Abdulmalik said that the allegations of duress raised by the defendants were an afterthought and unbelievable in all ramifications.

Specifically, the judge dismissed the allegations of torture, inducement and the employment of force by the military to make them make the confessional statements and video recordings.

She admitted the statements and video recordings as exhibits against the defendants while dismissing their claims of being made under duress.

The alleged coup plotters are retired Major General Mohammed Gana, retired Navy Capt. Erasmus Victor, Insp. Ahmed Ibrahim, Zekeri Umoru, Bukar Goni and Abdulkadir Sani as 1st to 6th defendants respectively.

The Federal Government, through the Office of the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF), had, on April 22, arraigned the six defendants on a 13-count charge.

The charge, marked FHC/ABJ/CR/206/2026, was filed on April 20 by the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federation, Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN.

The defendants were accused of offences ranging from treason and terrorism to failure to disclose security intelligence and money laundering linked to terrorism financing.

Justice Abdulmalik had, on May 11, ordered the trial-within-trial after defence lawyers objected to the admissibility of the statements and video recordings the prosecution sought to tender.

They argued that the statements were not made voluntarily and filed an objection after the prosecution had called four witnesses.

The 4th prosecution witness (PW-4), an army officer identified by the codename "AAA" had tendered video recordings of the defendants' interrogations before the trial-within-trial began.

Justice Abdulmalik admitted the statements of the accused persons and the video recordings against the defendants.

She subsequently fixed December 7 and 10 for continuation of the trial.



Chief of Staff to the Governor, Johnson Erijo (left); immediate past Governor of the State, Ifeanyi Okowa; Deputy Governor, Monday Onyeme; Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwori, Director-General of the State APC campaign council, James Manager; Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Emomotimi Guwor; and National Publicity Secretary of the party, Felix Morka, during the flag-off of APC campaign rally at Oleh, Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State.

Olaopa urges civil service commissions to prepare for future of work

CHAIRMAN of the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC), Prof. Tunji Olaopa, has urged civil service commissions to brace for the future of work.

Olaopa spoke yesterday during the conclusion of the 45th Annual National Council of the Civil Service Commissions of the Federation, which was held in Asaba, Delta State.

According to Olaopa, civil service commissions must respond to changing professional expectations, generational perspectives and the implications of artificial intelligence.

He urged them to, in collaboration with Offices of the Head of Service, examine schemes of service, emerging job requirements and the skills needed for effective government.

Noting what would be required in the future of work, he urged civil service commissions to embrace continuous learning, digital competence and the relevant leadership behaviour.

National Library: FG targets 2028 completion after 20 years

As Presidency, First Lady mobilise N180.52b for completion

From **Owede Agbajileke**, Abuja

FEDERAL Government has fixed 2028 for the completion of the National Library of Nigeria headquarters in Abuja, nearly two decades after the N8.59 billion project was initiated and subsequently abandoned.

The Minister of Education, Dr Tunji Alausa, gave the assurance yesterday in Abuja during an inspection of the project site, expressing confidence that the renewed construction work would be completed within the agreed timeframe.

The Minister's inspection comes ahead of the formal flag-off of the return to site by the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2026.

Alausa said contractors had fully mobilised to site, adding that the Federal Government would ensure prompt release of funds to prevent another interruption to the project.

The minister's assurance comes against the backdrop of renewed government intervention in the project.

Unpaid NIN agents stall enrolment of 59m Nigerians, World Bank warns

By **Adeyemi Adepetun**

NIMC claims some partners were settled recently

THE World Bank has raised concerns over Nigeria's ongoing national identification challenges, highlighting that millions of citizens remained outside the National Identification Number (NIN) system.

It noted that despite years of government efforts to expand enrolment, the process had been hampered by unpaid agents and logistical bottlenecks, leaving a significant portion of the population without access to formal identification.

The World Bank noted that nearly 59 million Nigerians had not been enrolled in the NIN database, a figure that underscores the scale of the problem.

The NIN is critical for accessing government services, financial inclusion, and digital identity verification, but the enrolment drive has stalled due to disputes over compensation for registration agents.

The World Bank revealed this in its October 2026 restructuring paper for Nigeria's Digital Identification for Development (ID4D) project. It noted that agents, popularly known as Front-End Partners (FEP), hired by the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) had not been paid since January 2026.

According to the bank, the unpaid fees are an operational issue that must be resolved to meet the target of 180 million NINs. As of September 30, 2026, about 121 million Nigerians had received NINs, leaving a shortfall of roughly 59 million.

Recall that the Director of NIMC's Strategic Programme Office, Dr Alvan Ikoku, in a conversation with DPI Alumni last month, disclosed that NIMC had enrolled 142 million Nigerians into the database, but some 100 million had been issued with the NINs.

FG urges N'Assembly against proliferation of higher institutions

By **Opeyemi Babalola**

THE Federal Government, through the Minister of Education, Dr Tunji Alausa, has appealed to members and leaders of the National Assembly to stop considering and passing bills that would create new federal universities, polytechnics and colleges of education.

In the letter, Alausa said that if the NASS continued to create new higher institutions, it would be against a moratorium the Federal Executive Council adopted last year.

In a copy of the letter dated 2nd November 2026 to the Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio, the minister asked the National Assembly to support the Federal Government's seven-year moratorium on new federal tertiary institutions.

He wrote that the appeal was made "in the interest of educational quality, fiscal sustainability and the efficient utilisation of public resources."

The Federal Executive Council approved the moratorium at its meeting on the 13th of August 2025.

According to the minister, the decision followed concerns about "institutional proliferation, duplication of programmes, under-utilisation of existing facilities and the declining capacity of government to adequately fund and sustain the growing number of public tertiary institutions."

He noted that legislative proposals for new institutions were still receiving attention "despite this clearly articulated policy direction."

He acknowledged the constitutional powers of the National Assembly to initiate and enact legislation, but argued that such proposals should reflect national education policy, demonstrable needs and the financial implications of creating more institutions.

The minister further went on to say that the main task facing the sector was no longer simply widening access, but rather "the urgent need to strengthen existing institutions through improved infrastructure, adequate funding, recruitment of qualified academic and non-academic personnel, provision of modern teaching and research facilities, and improved institutional efficiency."

Alausa listed the problems facing existing federal institutions as inadequate lecture halls, overcrowded classrooms, insufficient laboratories, shortages of qualified staff, accommodation deficits and deteriorating facilities.

Nigeria targets two million jobs from creative economy by 2030

As Africa moves to integrate creative industry into economic devt plan

By **Helen Oji** and **Opeyemi Babalola**

THE Federal Government has set a target of creating no fewer than two million jobs in the creative economy by 2030, as part of efforts to diversify the economy, attract investment and provide employment opportunities for young Nigerians.

The Minister of Arts, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy, Hannatu Musa Musawa, disclosed this during the Ministerial Roundtable at the ongoing Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX) WKND 2026, an initiative of Afreximbank held in Lagos, yesterday.

Musawa said the government was taking deliberate steps to position the creative industry as a major contributor to economic growth, job creation and international trade, stressing that the sector must move beyond cultural expression to become a strong source of revenue and investment.

She said the creative economy offered Africa an opportunity to harness its large youthful population, create businesses and provide jobs, particularly at a time when digital technology and artificial intelligence were changing the way creative products were produced, distributed and commercialised.

The minister said Nigeria was working towards the two-million-job target through policy reforms, improved access to finance, investment in infrastructure and stronger protection of intellectual property.

She disclosed that the ministry published Nigeria's comprehensive Creative Economy Data Mapping Report in 2025, describing it as the first of its kind to provide information on the sector's value chains, investment opportunities and infrastructure gaps.

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Court acquits man accused of sexually assaulting daughter after eight years in custody

By **Yetunde Ayobami Ojo**

A Lagos court has discharged and acquitted a man, Taiwo Oyelabi, who spent more than eight years in custody over allegations that he sexually assaulted his 21-year-old biological daughter, ruling that the prosecution failed to prove the charge beyond reasonable doubt.

Justice Rahman Oshodi of the Lagos Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Court held that although the prosecution established that Oyelabi had sexual intercourse with his daughter, it failed to prove that the act was without her consent.

The judge said the prosecution's inability to call the alleged victim to testify was a major weakness in its case, as she was the only person who could directly provide evidence on whether the sexual intercourse was consensual.

Oyelabi was arraigned on a one-count charge of rape, contrary to Section 260 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The prosecution alleged that sometime in November 2017, the defendant had unlawful sexual intercourse with his daughter, whose identity was withheld, at Community Road, Obadore, Igando, Lagos.

Delivering judgment, Oshodi said the prosecution called only one witness, ASP Iyabo Bakare, attached to the Igando Police Station.

The police officer told the court that on April 16, 2018, the police received information that a man was having sexual intercourse with his biological daughter.



She said she and her superior officer subsequently visited the location and took the defendant and his daughter to the police station.

According to the judge, Bakare testified that the daughter made a statement alleging that her father had been having sexual intercourse with her since she started living with him.

The officer also told the court that Oyelabi admitted having an affair with his daughter and impregnating her.

However, the court rejected the defendant's written confessional statement following a trial-within-trial, ruling that it had not been recorded in compliance with Section 9(3) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Lagos State, 2015.

Oshodi held that the prosecution could not rely on the police officer's account of what the daughter allegedly told her to establish the absence of consent, describing such evidence as hearsay.

He said the failure to call the daughter, who was the alleged victim, was fatal to the prosecution's case.

"The evidence shows that the defendant had sexual intercourse with his daughter. It does not show that he sexually assaulted her," the judge said.

He stressed that the prosecution was required to establish every ingredient of the offence beyond reasonable doubt, adding that a defendant could not be convicted on suspicion, no matter how grave the allegation.

HURIWA urges IGP to probe prolonged detention of four MT THOR suspects

By **Ayonote Clement**

THE Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) has urged the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Tunde Disu, to order an immediate review of the continued detention of four men linked to the MT THOR vessel and investigate allegations of abuse of power and disregard for court orders against a senior police officer.

The association said the plight of the four men, who have reportedly remained in detention since December 2025, raises serious concerns about prolonged incarceration, respect for fundamental human rights and the obligation of security agencies to obey judicial directives.

HURIWA challenged Disu to emulate the Director-General of the Department of State Services (DSS), Oluwatosin Adeola Ajayi, whose reported interventions in cases of wrongful detention and operational excesses demonstrate the importance of accountability in security institutions.

It cited the DSS chief's recent decision to release four men arrested over alleged links to the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and approve N20 million compensation for them after investigations reportedly established that they had been misled into believing they would receive monthly payments of N100,000 under the Federal Government's Amnesty Programme.

The four men, Emele Uduma Ibe, Berefgagha Appah, Ondokeyilemi Aggry and Oyeinmokebebeton Aggry, were arrested in Bayelsa State in May 2022. Each was approved to receive N5 million in compensation.

HURIWA described the intervention as an example of how security agencies could acknowledge mistakes, correct injustices and restore public confidence, stressing that national security must never become a justification for the arbitrary detention of citizens.

It urged the police chief to demonstrate the same commitment in the case of the four MT THOR detainees.

The call followed a petition dated October 26, 2026, submitted to the IGP by lawyers P. O. Onucheyo and S. D. Om de, who represent interests connected to the vessel.

The petition concerns Ebor Eric Kessiena, John Atawo Lawrence, Godwin Okpaje and Mukaila Sarumi, who were reportedly arrested on December 15, 2025, following the interception of the MT THOR vessel at Koko, Warri, Delta State.

Developer denies canal encroachment, blames Osborne flooding on poor drainage

By **Bertram Nwannekanma**

THE developer of Abba Court, on Mahogany Close, Osborne Foreshore Phase II Estate, Ikoyi, Lagos, Chief Ken Okonha, has denied allegations that his company built on a canal, encroached on public land or carried out construction without permits.

The Chief Executive Officer of Kensha Group Limited, insisted that the controversy surrounding his development in Osborne Estate, Lagos, arose from a personal disagreement over access to a disputed gate.

Okonha, who spoke against allegations of land grabbing and the obstruction of drainage channels, said the disagreement involved an individual with whom he had a dispute over a gate near a transformer installed by his company.

"The allegation was made by somebody I had an issue with over the opening of a gate where I installed a transformer. It is an individual issue, not an estate problem," he said.

He explained that the matter had been reported to Dolphin Police Station about three years ago, where the affected portion was identified as a setback. He also denied using the Federal Government to grab land, saying his company's involvement was through a public-private partnership arrangement under a build, operate and transfer framework.

On allegations of building on a canal, Okonha insisted that the water channel passing through his property was not connected to the drainage system serving Osborne Estate.



The alleged canal..yesterday

Iwerebor family demands forensic probe into businessman's suspicious death

By **Yetunde Ayobami Ojo**

THE family of late businessman, Solomon Iwerebor, has called for a thorough police investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death, demanding an autopsy and forensic examination to establish the actual cause of death and determine what happened to his remains.

The family, which expressed concern over the circumstances surrounding his death, also urged the police not to succumb to pressure to release two suspects, including the deceased's brother, Justin Iwerebor, and his wife, Anthonia, who were arrested on Monday in connection with the alleged murder.



Lagos CP, Olatunji Fatai

Addressing journalists in Lagos, two sisters of the deceased, Mrs Stella Iwerebor and Mrs Udo Hamis, alongside their lawyer, Dr Charles Mekwunye (SAN), said they were distressed by the manner in which they learnt of their brother's death and the absence of clear information about the events leading to it.

They said Solomon, who lived in Germany with his wife and children, had travelled to Nigeria to visit Justin and his wife but had not been seen by other members of the family for more than two years.

According to them, the family was shocked to receive information about his death through third parties on September 6, several days after he reportedly died.

They said nobody had informed them that Solomon was ill before his death, while subsequent efforts to establish the nature of the illness, the hospital where he was allegedly treated and the whereabouts of his remains yielded no satisfactory answers.

The sisters said the family's demand was not to prejudge anyone but to establish the truth and ensure that whoever was found responsible was brought to justice.

"All we want is a proper investigation."

Police arrest suspect posing as military general in Ogun

From **Azeez Olorunlomeru**, Abeokuta

OPERATIVES of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Unit of the Ogun State Police Command have arrested a man, Akinola Damilare, for allegedly impersonating a military general popularly known as "General Don" in Abeokuta.

Damilare was arrested at about 2:00 a.m. on November 3, 2026, at Kajola, Elega, Abeokuta, following intelligence provided by a community leader and surveillance by SWAT operatives.

The Police spokesperson, DSP Oluseyi Babaseyi, said the arrest was part of the command's efforts to curb impersonation and other criminal activities across the state.

According to Babaseyi, items recovered from the suspect included a military face cap, a pair of three-quarter-length military trousers and four photographs showing him dressed in military uniform.

He said the Commissioner of Police, Bode Ojajuni, had reaffirmed the command's commitment to tackling criminal activities and urged residents to report suspicious movements and activities to the police.

The command said investigations were ongoing to establish the full extent of the suspect's alleged activities and determine whether other persons were involved.



The suspect

Man arrested for allegedly stabbing 21-year-old to death over roasted meat

From **Charles Akpeji**, Jalingo

A DISAGREEMENT over roasted meat has reportedly ended in tragedy in Adamawa State, with 21-year-old Haggai Markus allegedly stabbed to death by a 28-year-old man, Ibrahim Augustine, in Mubi North Local Government Area.

The incident occurred at Mararaban Vimtim at about 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday when the two men reportedly disagreed over roasted meat allegedly taken from a butcher's table.

What began as an argument reportedly escalated into violence when Augustine allegedly drew a knife and stabbed Markus in the chest.

The Adamawa State Police Command confirmed the incident yesterday, saying the suspect had been arrested.

The spokesperson, SP Suleiman Yahaya Nguroje, said the deceased's father, identified as Markus Gabo, reported the incident to the police at about 8:45 p.m.

Following the report, police operatives attached to the Mubi North Divisional Police Headquarters visited the scene and found the young man lying lifeless in a pool of blood.

The officers recovered a sharp knife suspected to have been used in the attack as an exhibit and arrested Augustine, who was subsequently taken into custody.

Markus's body was evacuated to the Federal Medical Centre, Mubi, where a medical doctor confirmed his death.

The police said the suspect and the case file would be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) for further investigation and prosecution.



IGP Tunji Disu

14-year-old Nigerian develops digital platform to promote children's rights

By **Debo Oladimeji**

A 14-YEAR-OLD Edo-born Nigerian, Ivan Momoh, has developed a digital platform, ChildFirst Nigeria, aimed at promoting children's rights, improving access to opportunities and strengthening child protection across the country.

The initiative, unveiled ahead of this year's World Children's Day on November 20, is designed as a one-stop digital platform where children, parents, guardians, organisations and government institutions can access information, resources, support and opportunities relating to children's welfare.

Momoh, a child-rights advocate and technology enthusiast with an emerging interest in cybersecurity, said his passion for children's welfare predated his interest in technology.

He explained that his concern about the challenges facing children, particularly in the areas of rights, protection, education and development, inspired him to seek practical ways of making a difference.

"As my interests evolved, technology became another avenue through which I could translate my ideas into practical solutions," he said.

With interests in application and web development, Ivan has worked on various digital projects. He also recently completed a cybersecurity boot camp organised by TechstartersAfrica in August 2026, gaining practical knowledge of digital security and online safety.

Police justify RRS officers' wrong-way driving in viral video

By **Bertram Nwannekanma**

THE Lagos State Police Command has defended officers of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) seen driving against the direction of traffic in a viral video, saying they were responding to distress calls from motorists trapped in a traffic gridlock.

The command said the officers, who were on an official assignment, drove through the opposite lane to reach the source of the obstruction and restore the free flow of traffic.

In a statement, the command explained that the RRS patrol team, led by an Inspector of Police and operating with the vehicle marked RRS Attack 07, was dispatched by the Control Room after receiving distress calls from people trapped in the congestion.

According to the police, the team was the closest available formation to the location and had to navigate through the opposite lane to reach the point where the obstruction originated and address the situation.

The command said the officers' action was a deliberate operational decision taken in the interest of public safety and to ease the movement of other road users, rather than an arbitrary disregard for traffic regulations.

It explained that traffic congestion in Lagos could quickly spread to adjoining roads if not promptly addressed, disrupting economic activities and potentially preventing emergency services from reaching people in distress.

The police also cited Regulation 158 of the National Road Traffic Regulations, 2012, which allows law enforcement officers responding to emergencies or engaged in civil protection duties to disregard traffic signs, provided they exercise due regard for the safety of other road users.

So-Safe Corps rescues three missing siblings in Ogun after overnight search

From **Segun Ayinde**, Abeokuta

THREE siblings who reportedly left their family home amid their parents' marital disagreements have been rescued by operatives of the Ogun State Community, Social Orientation and Safety Corps, popularly known as So-Safe Corps, after an overnight search.

The children, aged 13, eight and six, were found safe and asleep with their belongings beneath the Arepo railway bridge in the early hours of Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

Their rescue followed a distress call from their father, 45-year-old bricklayer, Mr Shittu Dauda, who reported them missing from their home in Ifote Village, Ifo Local Council of the state.

Dauda reportedly contacted the Divisional Officer of the Corps' Onireke Division, SC Jinadu Okikiola, at about 9:45 p.m. on Monday, November 2, after efforts by family members and residents to locate the children proved unsuccessful.

According to the father, he had instructed the children, through their eldest sibling, Mary, to go to school for registration at about 8 a.m. before leaving for work. However, when he returned home, he discovered that the three children had left with their belongings and could not be found.

The children were said to have told some people that they were travelling to Arepo, where their mother reportedly lived, although the family did not know her exact address.

Confirming the incident, the Corps Commander, Dr Soji Ganzallo, in a statement issued by the Director of Information and Public Relations, Assistant Commander of Corps Adegunwa Adegbuyi, said Okikiola immediately mobilised officers for an extensive search following the report.

Gunmen kill four, including pastor, injure eight in Benue attack

From **Felix Uroko**, Makurdi

RESIDENTS of Abeda Shitile community in Logo Local Council of Benue State were thrown into panic on Tuesday evening when suspected armed herders invaded the area, killing at least four people, including a pastor, and injuring eight others.

The attack, which occurred at about 5:00 p.m. in Gaambe-Tiev Ward, reportedly happened as traders and other residents were preparing to leave the community market.

A resident, who identified himself simply as Andy, said the attackers stormed the community and opened fire, forcing people to flee in different directions for safety.

According to him, the gunmen operated for more than two hours, moving from one location to another and shooting indiscriminately, leaving several residents dead or injured.

The deceased were identified as Msoo Chan, Pastor Terungwa Tyonungo, Suurshater Iornumbe and Dodo Shingir. Andy said their bodies had been recovered and deposited at a morgue in the area, while the injured victims were receiving medical attention.



CP Cletus Nwadiogbu

Those reportedly injured were identified as Kumater Awua, Miracle Gangera, Tsetim Terungwa, Iortyom Helen, Seember Aondongu, Kofi Aondosoo, Chuku Okoro and Orker Iortyom.

However, the Benue State Police Command gave a different casualty figure, confirming that three people were killed and two others injured.

Yuletide: LASTMA inducts 100 community volunteers to promote traffic discipline

By **Ayonote Clement**

WITH Lagos preparing for the heavy traffic that usually accompanies the Ember Months and December festivities, the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has enlisted more than 100 community volunteers to promote road safety and responsible motoring across the state.

The volunteers, known as LASTMA Mayors, were formally decorated and inducted into an expanded traffic advocacy network at a ceremony held at the agency's headquarters in Lagos.

The initiative is designed to strengthen community participation in traffic management and reduce the burden on enforcement officers by mobilising residents to educate motorists, transport operators and other road users on the need to obey traffic regulations.

Speaking at the ceremony, LASTMA General Manager, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, said effective traffic management could not be left to government agencies alone.

Container truck menace: Brake failure causes crash, disrupts traffic at Mile 12

By **Bertram Nwannekanma**

THE growing menace of container trucks on Lagos roads came into focus again on Wednesday after a loaded articulated truck conveying two 20-foot containers overturned at Mile 12, inward Ikorodu, following an alleged brake failure.

The accident, which occurred shortly after the Mile 12 Bridge, saw the truck ram into a culvert along the road median, leaving its cabin lying on its side, spilling part of its cargo onto the roadside and damaging sections of the road railing.

Although no life was lost, the motor boy sustained a leg injury and was given medical attention.

The Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), in a statement by its Permanent Secretary, Dr Olufemi Damilola Oke-Osanyintolu, said its Tiger Response Team from C3 was alerted to the incident at about 2:51 a.m. and arrived at the scene 15 minutes later.

According to the agency, the truck was carrying two 20-foot containers loaded with Natural Active Clay, also known as Bleaching Earth, when it reportedly suffered brake failure, causing the driver to lose control and crash into the culvert.

The incident once again highlights the dangers posed by articulated and container trucks on Lagos roads, particularly when mechanical defects, poor vehicle maintenance and loss of control turn heavy-duty vehicles into threats to motorists and other road users.



Rescuers removing the container at Mile Two.

Pastor Adefunke Oluwole for burial November 17

THE family of Pastor Mrs Adefunke Rhoda Oluwole (née Tella), who died on October 16, 2026, at the age of 75 after a protracted illness in Lagos, has announced arrangements for her burial.

A Christian Service of Songs will be held on November 16 at 5:00 p.m. at The Mountain of Salvation Pentecostal Church, No. 8, Ligali Street, Ogudu Ori-Oke, off the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

The funeral service will take place on November 17 at 10:00 a.m. at The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Maranatha Church, 22/23 Layori Soetan Street, Gbagada, Lagos.

She is survived by her husband, Olaolu Oluwole; children; grandchildren; biological and spiritual children; and other members of her extended family.

Her Children described her as a woman of deep Christian faith whose life was guided by her father's philosophy, "Ranti omo eni ti o n se" (Always remember the family you come from).

He said his mother embodied unwavering faith in Jesus Christ, forgiving love, intellectual discipline and maternal wisdom, values she passed on to her family and the wider community.

Beyond her family life, Pastor Oluwole played a significant role in building a strong and thriving children's ministry at The Mountain of Salvation Pentecostal Church, where she devoted herself to nurturing the faith of young people.

Professionally, she served as chief technologist in water analysis at the Public Health Laboratory, Civil Engineering Department, University of Lagos, until her retirement.

She is remembered for her contributions to the church, her professional service and the enduring values she instilled in those whose lives she touched.



Pastor Oluwole

Specific Procurement Notice
Request for Bids- Goods
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Nigeria
Issued On: 4th November 2026
Name Of Project: Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria. 2.0- Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Contract Title: For Procurement of Android Tablet
Credit No.: CR-IDA-77440
RFB Reference No.: RFB NO: NG-PMU-2.0-569155-GO-RFB

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRiN) Project 2.0. and intends to apply part of the proceeds for payments under the contract for procurement of Android devices. For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing (IPF), except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit.

2. The Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRiN) Project now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of Android devices. The description of goods is provided in Section II –Bid data sheet (BDS) ITB1.1 and the distribution to end lines is on Annex1 attached to the bidding document.

3. Bidding will be conducted **through Open National Competitive** procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" February 2025 ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRIN 2.0) Project: Dr. Dogara Okara - National Project Manager. **e-mail** okaradb@gmail.com and inspect the bidding document during office hours 0900 to 1700 hours at the address given below.

5. The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **N75,000.00** The method of payment will be Direct Bank transfer/deposit to :

Account Name: Federal Ministry of Health Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria Project (ANRiN) Project Draw Down Account
Account Number: 0020096761199
NUBAN Number: 3000099736
Bank Name: Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)

NOTE

Please use your Company Account details to make the transfer. All bidders are mandated to purchase the bidding document as described in paragraph 6 above. The evidence of payment for the bidding document must be attached to the bid submission. **Bid(s) submitted without evidence of payment for bidding document and without bid security shall be rejected**. The bidding document can be accessed at: www.anrinproject.com.ng. Any prospective Bidder that encounters difficulty in making payment should reach out to the Project Accountant immediately

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **2nd December 2026**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **2nd December 2026**. **at 12:00pm**.

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security from a Commercial Bank: **USD42,000**

8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

9. The address referred to above is:

Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRiN 2.0) Project,
Attn: - Dr. Dogara Okara – National Project Manager,
Project Management Unit,
No. 21B Agadez Crescent Wuse 2, Abuja FCT, Nigeria.
Tel: +234-8034504889 & +2348034502133
E-mail: okaradb@gmail.com , & alikaliom@yahoo.com

PUBLIC NOTICE AND CAVEAT EMPTOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC that the following properties are the subject of a pending appeal and an application for injunctive relief filed by our clients, Stallion Nigeria Limited & Ors., before the Court of Appeal, Lagos Judicial Division, in Appeal No. CA/LAG/CV/1304/2026: Stallion Nigeria Limited & Ors. v. United Bank for Africa Plc & Ors.:

A) Premises of Von Automobile Nigeria Limited at **Km 17, Lagos Badagry Expressway, Lagos State**;

B) Premises of Havana Nigeria Limited at **Plots 353, 370** and **371 Trans Amadi Industrial Layout, Port Harcourt, Rivers State**;

C) Premises of Popular Farms and Mills Limited at **No. 54, Challawa Industrial Estate, Kano State.**

The appeal challenges the judgment of the Federal High Court, Lagos Judicial Division, delivered on 16th October, 2026, in Suit No. FHC/L/CS/2074/2023: United Bank for Africa Plc & Ors. v. Stallion Nigeria Limited & Ors. The judgment concerns, among other matters, the receivership and the rights asserted over the properties identified above.

Stallion Nigeria Limited & Ors. have also filed an application before the Court of Appeal seeking a stay of execution of the judgment and orders of injunction restraining United Bank for Africa Plc and the Receiver/Manager, Mr. Romeo Ese Michael, together with their agents, solicitors, privies, representatives and all persons acting through or on their behalf, from, among other acts, demolishing, selling, leasing or otherwise dealing adversely with the properties pending the determination of the appeal. Both the appeal and the application remain pending.

All parties and their counsel have been served with the applications for injunctive relief. They are hereby put on express notice of the pending proceedings and are called upon to refrain from selling, leasing, alienating, demolishing or otherwise interfering with any part of the properties in a manner that would prejudice the pending applications or undermine the authority of the Court.

Any person who negotiates with the aforesaid bank or the Receiver/Manager, Mr. Romeo Ese Michael, whether directly or through any person purporting to act on their behalf, to purchase, lease or otherwise acquire an interest in any of the properties does so entirely at their own risk and subject to the outcome of the pending proceedings.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any person who interferes with any of the properties in disregard of the pending proceedings of court or otherwise unlawfully obstructs the administration of justice in the pending proceedings, may be liable for contempt of court and subject to such sanctions as the Court may impose.

ALL PERSONS ARE HEREBY WARNED. CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Dated this 5th day of November, 2026.

KANU G. AGABI (CON) SAN
WAHAB SHITTU, SAN
UCHENNA NJOKU, SAN
LAOLU OWOLABI, SAN
F. D. OLORUNTOBA
C. S. EZE
C/O Bonajo Badejo & Co.
Solicitors to Stallion Nigeria Limited & Ors.
53B, Akintunde Adeyemi Drive,
Off Freedom Way,
Lekki Phase 1, Lagos.
E-mail: bonajobadejo@gmail.com

FOUNDER: ALEX U. IBRU (1945 – 2011)
Conscience is an open wound; only truth can heal it. Uthman dan Fodio 1754-1816

Editorial

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Ebola outbreak: Better health emergency preparedness is non-negotiable

THE confirmation of a Bundibugyo Ebola virus disease case in Abuja should be a wake-up call for the Federal Government. It is a grim reminder that infectious diseases do not respect national borders and that a country's ability to contain an epidemic depends less on emergency declarations than on sustained investment in public-health preparedness. Nigeria must not wait until Ebola spreads before taking measures that should have been in place long before its arrival.

On October 20, 2026, the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare confirmed Nigeria's first case of Bundibugyo Ebola in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. The case involved a 42-year-old woman, reportedly a diplomat, who had travelled from Uganda after exposure to the virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Public health authorities initiated contact tracing, identified at least 46 contacts, and placed them under surveillance. The reported flight restrictions imposed on contacts and the screening measures under consideration at the country's entry points underscore the seriousness of the situation. International health warnings and growing concern about the spread of Ebola in parts of Africa should further galvanise the government into action. But the immediate question is not merely how Nigeria will contain this case. It is why the country appears to be confronting renewed anxiety about preparedness despite the substantial resources supposedly earmarked for that purpose months earlier.

On June 9, 2026, President Bola Tinubu approved the establishment of a Presidential Task Force on Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness and Emerging Public Health Threats and ordered the immediate release of N10 billion for emergency preparedness. The task force, chaired by the President's Chief of Staff, Femi Gbajabiamila, was expected to strengthen the operational capacity of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) and other relevant public-health institutions.

Four months later, Nigeria confirmed an Ebola case. The development raises fundamental questions about what the task force achieved, what the N10 billion was intended to accomplish and whether the country's preparedness improved commensurately with the money committed.

The All Progressives Congress Presidential Campaign Council reportedly stated on October 22 that the N10 billion remained untouched, while the NCDC, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria and other surveillance agencies had utilised other available resources. If that account is correct, the government owes Nigerians an explanation. Why was an emergency allocation approved for a serious public-health threat allegedly left unused? If the money was released, committed or spent, where are the records showing what it achieved?

The government must publish a comprehensive account of the allocation, including its release, custody, disbursements, procurement contracts, implementing agencies and measurable outcomes. Nigerians deserve to know whether surveillance systems were strengthened, laboratories equipped, isolation facilities restored, emergency personnel trained and border-screening arrangements improved. General assurances of preparedness are insufficient. The evidence must be independently verifiable.

There is also a question of institutional responsibility. Although coordination across government is necessary during a public-health emergency, operational leadership must remain firmly anchored in the country's professional health institutions. A presidential task force may facilitate inter-agency cooperation, but it cannot substitute for the technical expertise, established procedures and operational capacity of the NCDC and other relevant health authorities. The government should clarify the respective responsibilities of the task force and the agencies charged with implementing its mandate.

More importantly, Nigeria must abandon the culture of fire-brigade governance. The country demonstrated during the 2014 Ebola outbreak that prompt isolation, painstaking contact tracing, effective surveillance and coordinated intervention could contain a deadly infectious disease. The response was widely recognised as a significant public-health achievement. That success, however, should have become the foundation for a permanent national preparedness system, not a precedent to be recalled only when another outbreak threatens.

Nigeria now has a network of molecular diagnostic laboratories capable of testing for high-consequence pathogens, including Ebola. This is a significant improvement on the country's diagnostic limitations during earlier outbreaks. But laboratory capacity alone cannot guarantee safety. Equipment must be functional, reagents available, personnel properly trained and referral systems capable of moving suspected cases rapidly to appropriate facilities. Diagnostic capacity is useful only when it forms part of a coordinated and adequately funded response.

Reports that infectious-disease and isolation facilities established in the past have deteriorated or become inactive are particularly disturbing. The Federal Government and state governments should urgently audit existing facilities, restore those that have fallen into disrepair and establish adequately equipped isolation centres where necessary. These facilities must have trained clinical personnel, reliable infection-prevention systems, adequate supplies of personal protective equipment and clear referral protocols. Emergency response teams should be maintained and ready for rapid deployment, including for contact monitoring, environmental decontamination and community-level interventions.

Preparedness must also extend beyond hospitals. Airports, seaports, land borders, schools, hotels, markets, stadiums and other public spaces require effective hygiene and sanitation systems. The government should strengthen environmental health services, enforce appropriate cleaning standards and introduce structured training for cleaners, contractors, healthcare workers and other personnel responsible for maintaining hygienic environments.

Border surveillance must be strengthened without creating unnecessary panic or treating travellers as presumptively infected.

Public cooperation is equally essential. Nigerians should wash their hands frequently with soap and running water or use alcohol-based hand sanitisers. They should avoid direct contact with the blood and other body fluids of suspected or confirmed cases. Anyone developing sudden fever, muscle pain, vomiting or diarrhoea, particularly after relevant international travel or contact with a suspected case, should seek urgent medical guidance, avoid exposing others and contact the NCDC through its toll-free line, 6232, where applicable. Public-health communication must be prompt, clear and based on verified information, not rumours or sensationalism.

The Senate is right to demand emergency funding and stronger screening at Nigeria's points of entry. But screening alone is not a substitute for a functioning national disease-surveillance system. Nor should the response to Ebola become an excuse for another round of emergency spending without transparency or measurable results.

The Tinubu administration must recognise that epidemic preparedness is a continuous public responsibility, not a political announcement or a temporary task force. The N10 billion allocation must be accounted for, and any gaps in the country's readiness must be identified and urgently addressed. The government should publish clear preparedness benchmarks, establish independent oversight of emergency expenditure and regularly report progress to the public.

Ebola is a dangerous disease, and complacency can cost lives. Nigeria cannot afford to wait for an outbreak to expose weaknesses that should have been corrected beforehand. The decisive test of leadership is not how loudly a government announces an emergency response, but how effectively it prevents a public-health threat from becoming a national disaster.

The question Nigerians must continue to ask is: if the government knew that Ebola and other emerging infectious diseases posed a threat, why did the country still face such uncertainty about its preparedness?

The answer must not be another committee, another promise or another hurried release of funds. It must be a transparent accounting of public money and a permanent, functioning system that can detect, contain and prevent epidemics before they spiral out of control.



LETTER

Children should learn practical skills from primary education

SIR: Education is one of the very important foundations we can give a child, but education should not end with learning how to read, write, pass examinations and obtain certificates. Children should also be given the opportunity to learn practical skills that can help them in their everyday lives and prepare them for the future.

This is why practical skills should not be introduced only when a child reaches secondary school, polytechnic or university. It should begin from primary school and continue throughout the different stages of education.

From the primary school level, children can be introduced to simple skills that suit their age and ability. They can learn crafts, drawing, sewing, gardening, cooking, computer skills, public speaking, creative writing and other useful activities. As they grow older, these skills can become more advanced. A secondary school student can learn photography, graphic design, fashion design, catering, agriculture, programming, media production, hairdressing, electrical work and entrepreneurship, among others. By the time such a student reaches higher education, the skill can be developed further and possibly become a source of income.

The idea is not to stop children from studying Mathematics, English, Science, Social Studies, Agriculture and other important subjects. These subjects remain necessary. Rather, practical skills should be taught alongside them. There should be a particular course or programme in schools that gives children the opportunity to learn, practise and develop different skills as they move from one level of education to another.

Read the remaining part of this article on www.guardian.ng

Fatima Jamil Ahmad wrote via fatimajamilahmad98@gmail.com.

Opinion

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Nigerian rulers lack empathy

By **Tony Afejuku**

THIS is perhaps the most dangerous time for anyone who is not in politics to be a Nigerian. Perhaps. Yes, perhaps. Even if you are in politics, and do not belong to the groups or factions in power, you are just there as reeds floating endlessly nowhere. The ruling ones are tormenting us. The rulers are leading Nigerians to a dangerous bend leading all of us to a dangerous destination more dangerous than danger.

The destination will not even favour them at the end of the day – after all is said and done. They do not yet know this even though they posit that the work they are doing or have done will take Nigerians into the world totally and positively different from the one we know now. This is wishful thinking. What they posit is a mere illusion. He who trusts them does so at his peril. Do not ask the glitterer why. Yet the evidence is all about us.

Let the glitterer be clear. All Nigerian politicians of the present time are the same. Those who are not firing the shots are of the same hue as those firing the shots. They are the same characters found in the manuscript of Nigerian politics. They are characters who are not characters in the manuscript of Nigerian politics carved in stone by a god, an invisible god, an invisible sculptor-god, whose efforts of flesh-and-blood human beings end up producing not flesh-and-blood human beings. In other words, they are characters carved into the manuscript of Nigerian politics by an

invisible sculptor-god – an entity whose efforts to mold flesh-and-blood human beings end up producing something entirely unhuman.

Thus the characters cannot but be perceived by the glitterer as those who belong to the Nigerian political system. He is drawing attention to the illusion of choice as the next elections are approaching. The politicians currently in power in the respective parties and those in the opposition or on the sidelines exhibit no real difference.

They all belong to the same political class and share the same flaws. No matter who takes office, for example, as president next year, political events and behaviours are already written down like a predictable drama. No matter who is president of our country – or who takes office as the governor of this or that state – they follow the exact same pre-determined script.

Systematic dehumanisation has been our lot year in year out. The sculptor-god is not leaving Nigerians alone. This is the huge reason why, for instance, Emilokan has not kept any of his pre-2023 presidential election promises to us. The invisible, systemic force (the sculptor-god), inherent in the Nigerian political structure, and to whom our politicians probably made sacrifices – and with whom they share a symbiotic relationship thereafter – compels them to do as they please with us.

When normal, well-meaning people ("flesh-and-blood human beings") enter this political system, the machinery of power deforms them. They lose their humanity, empathy, and individuality, turning into rigid, unyielding "stone" characters who perpetuate the status quo.

Recently, our senate president was reported to have said that anyone who fails to die in his or her suicide attempt should be prepared for the consequences of their failed attempts. To avoid the consequences of failed suicide attempts, in other words, the survivors must make sure they die in their attempts. What compelled victims to attempt to kill themselves is immaterial.

To quote the senate president: "As far as we are concerned, suicide is a crime for now; if you attempt it, you better succeed. If you do not succeed, we send you to prison." By treating a suicide attempt purely as a legal infraction, the justice system treats the underlying catalysts–such as severe clinical depression, mental health crises or the crushing weight of Nigeria's current economic hardships–as completely irrelevant. The law punishes the symptom while ignoring the crises.

The Nigerian political system itself is a factory that strips leaders of their humanity, making every politician ultimately identical and immune to real change.

A ll in all, what the glitterer sees is changeless deception of change in 2027. The oppression, exploitation, hunger, darkness and suffering and suffering, and supremely iniquitous iniquities that underscore the severe post-colonial under-development of Nigeria will continue. But something that is something will break. Human beings who are human beings will descend not with flowers, but with angelic sword-pens to re-write Nigeria's fate and turn it into destiny – the destiny of development that is development.

What should this essay be called? A very compelling prophecy of a detached observer in his Glittering Heights – from which he sees parachutes of wretches descending from the sky at the appointed time with the wretches brandishing Swords of Angels in obedience to our divine destiny's command. Join the Glitterer in his Glittering Heights.

Afejuku can be reached via 08055213059.

2027: Politics, ethnicity and morality need not collide

By **Godwin Sogolo**

POLITICS, ethnicity and morality are three distinct yet interrelated dimensions of human existence. Their interaction often complicates practical judgement and responsible citizenship. Politics concerns the acquisition, exercise and distribution of power; ethnicity refers to a collective identity rooted in shared ancestry, history and culture; while morality provides the principles by which conduct is judged as right or wrong, just or unjust, and responsible or irresponsible.

Of course, there are other dimensions of human existence – such as religion, etiquette and customs – all of which, like politics, are subject to moral evaluation. Through praise or blame, reward or punishment, society encourages responsible behaviour and discourages actions harmful to the common good. This reflects the recognition that laws and institutions alone cannot guarantee social order; mutual trust, shared values and a sense of obligation towards others are also indispensable.

There is, however, a school of thought which holds that politics should be exempt from moral scrutiny on account of its practical realities and peculiar demands. This position is commonly associated with the political philosopher, Niccolò Machiavelli, whose analysis of political power emphasises the realities of governance rather than idealised expectations of how rulers ought to conduct themselves. The underlying argument is that political leaders must contend with competing interests, uncertainty, opposition and the imperatives of national security: circumstances that may sometimes require decisions that depart from conventional moral expectations.

However, the distinctive pressures of politics do not make political conduct immune to moral judgement. They merely require that such judgement take account of circumstances, consequences and competing obligations. Political expediency may sometimes justify difficult choices, but it cannot serve as a blanket excuse for corruption, deception, oppression or the abuse of power. Since political decisions affect people's lives, liberties, property and welfare, citizens must retain the right to evaluate their leaders by standards of justice, integrity and accountability. Otherwise, political necessity becomes a convenient justification for virtually any wrongdoing.

The same distinction applies to ethnicity. Ethnic identity is neither inherently virtuous nor morally objectionable. It can provide a sense of belonging, preserve cultural heritage and foster solidarity. The problem arises when ethnic loyalty is treated as an unquestionable obligation, requiring people to defend wrongdoing by members of their group or to distrust others simply because they belong to a different community. Ethnic solidarity need not entail moral blindness, just as national unity need not require the abandonment of cultural identity.

As we approach the 2027 elections, the challenge is not to eliminate politics or ethnicity, but to ensure that neither overrides moral responsibility. Nigerians are perfectly entitled to support candidates from their own ethnic communities, but ethnic affinity should not become the overriding criterion for political choice. There is, therefore, nothing inherently wrong with a Yoruba person supporting Bola Tinubu or an Igbo person supporting Peter Obi, provided such support is informed by genuine political convictions, considered judgement and legitimate interests, without compromising the fundamental values of honesty, justice, competence and the common good. Ethnic identity may influence political preferences, but it should never be allowed to substitute for independent judgement.

Similarly, opposition to a candidate from one's own ethnic group should not be construed as an act of betrayal or disloyalty. Neither Charles Soludo nor David Umahi should be regarded as an Igbo traitor simply because their political positions or choices differ from those of other members of their ethnic community. In a democracy, political allegiance is a matter of individual conviction, not an obligation imposed by ethnic belonging. Indeed, the freedom to disagree with one's kinsmen, without being subjected to accusations of disloyalty, is an essential expression of democratic maturity. Ethnic identity does not, in itself, establish merit, just as belonging to another ethnic group does not imply unworthiness.

The relevant questions should be what candidates stand for, the values they uphold, how they have conducted themselves in public office, what they have achieved and what they are likely to contribute to the country. These, rather than the accidents of ethnic ancestry, should provide the basis for political evaluation and choice.

In judging one another, our guiding principles must be consistency, objectivity and an unwavering commitment to the common good. We must be prepared to apply the same standards of judgement to ourselves, our political allies and our opponents, without allowing ethnic sentiment, personal interests or political affiliations to compromise our sense of fairness.

Ultimately, whatever our differences in ethnicity, political persuasion or personal convictions, we share a common aspiration: to see Nigeria prosper, become a more just and inclusive society, and fulfil its enormous potential. Our collective responsibility is not merely to secure a better country for ourselves, but also to ensure that we bequeath to generations yet unborn a nation that is more united, stable, prosperous and worthy of their hopes and aspirations.

The distinction between politics, ethnicity and morality is therefore essential to responsible citizenship. It does not mean that the three domains must operate in isolation. Rather, it means recognising their distinct purposes and refusing to confuse political advantage or ethnic solidarity with moral rightness. The conceptual challenge is to preserve these distinctions, while the practical challenge is to uphold them when political competition, communal loyalty, historical grievances and personal interests exert pressure on judgement.

The ultimate test of moral independence is not whether citizens have political loyalties or ethnic attachments, but whether they can subject both to critical moral scrutiny. A society demonstrates greater moral maturity when people can celebrate their ethnic identities without using them to justify injustice; participate in politics without surrendering their conscience; and condemn wrongdoing without allowing the identity of the offender to determine their judgement.

Clearly, therefore, politics, ethnicity and morality need not collide. Their interaction becomes conflictual – and even destructive – only when either political ambition or ethnic allegiance is allowed to override moral responsibility.

As Nigeria approaches 2027, we have an opportunity to demonstrate that ethnic pride can coexist with national solidarity; political pragmatism with moral integrity, and democratic competition with mutual respect. The overall test is whether we can make political choices that recognise both the diversity of our identities and the moral obligations we share as citizens of one nation.

Sogolo is an Emeritus Professor who has taught and conducted research in Philosophy for over five decades – at the University of Ibadan, Cardiff University of Wales and currently at the National Open University of Nigeria. He also served as a member of the Editorial Board of The Guardian Newspapers in the 1980s and 1990s.

Opinion

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Why public service needs structured entry-level training before 2030

By **Omadachi Oklobia**

THERE is a quiet deadline approaching in the Nigerian public service, and it does not appear in any budget or medium-term framework. By 2030, the last officers who were trained by the men and women of the independence generation will have taken their bows. The civil servant who joined in 1965 has been gone for decades; what remained until recently was the generation he mentored, and they too are now retiring on the thirty-five-year rule. What will be left is memory at one remove: stories told in canteens and at send-off parties about how things were once done. Stories are precious, but they are not a system.

I say this as someone who has sat on both sides of the desk. As a Commissioner for Finance in Benue State, I watched files move, and I watched them stall, and I learnt that the difference was rarely the rulebook. It was whether the officer handling the file had ever been shown, by someone who cared, what the rulebook was for. As an academic at the African University of Science and Technology, I now teach graduates who will fill those desks, and I am struck by how little the public service does to receive them.

The 2030 reality check

Every institution runs on two kinds of knowledge. The first is written: the Public Service Rules, the Financial Regulations, the circulars. The second is tacit: knowing which minute to write, how to protect a permanent secretary from a bad decision without embarrassing a minister, when a memo should go up and when it should wait. The second kind is not in any manual. It passes from hand to hand, and only if someone is deliberately handing it on.

For most of our history we relied on that informal transfer and it more or less worked, because the service was small enough and stable enough for apprenticeship to happen by accident. That world has gone. Recruitment now arrives in waves, often politically timed; postings are frequent; and the senior officers who might have mentored a new entrant are themselves overstretched. Where mentoring happens, it happens by luck. A service that depends on luck for the reproduction of its own values is not a service; it is a lottery.

The consequence is what I have elsewhere called the permanent state losing its permanence. The bureaucracy survives every change of government, but it survives increasingly as a structure rather than as a culture. Officers know the procedure; fewer know the purpose. When the purpose goes, procedure becomes ritual, and ritual is easily bent.

The case for structured onboarding

Consider how a new graduate enters a well-run bank. Before touching a customer's account, that graduate spends months in a structured programme: the values of the institution, its systems, its ethics, supervised rotations, examinations, a final assessment on which confirmation depends. The bank does this not out of generosity but because it understands that an untrained officer is a liability.

Now consider how a new graduate enters a ministry. Typically, a letter of appointment, a posting, a desk, and a hope that someone nearby is both knowledgeable and kind. The induction, where it exists, is a few days of talks. There is no supervised rotation, no assessment of understanding, no moment at which the service says: you are now one of us, and this is what that means.

I propose that no one should be confirmed in the Nigerian public service without completing a mandatory graduate trainee programme of at least twelve months, of a rigour comparable to the best private-sector schemes. Its curriculum should rest on four pillars: public service values and ethics, taught through real cases rather than homilies; systems thinking and policy implementation, so that a young officer understands how a budget line becomes a borehole and where it usually fails to; practical administration and citizen-centred service delivery, including time actually spent at a service window; and leadership and professional conduct, because the officer of 2030 will be the director of 2050.

Open the pipeline earlier

Onboarding begins too late if the first time a young Nigerian sees the inside of a ministry is on the day of appointment. Students of Political Science, Public Policy and Public Administration graduate in their thousands each year having studied the state entirely from outside it. The universities and the public service share responsibility for this. I would like to see structured internships, credit-bearing and supervised, that place students inside real institutions for a full semester. Let them sit in a budget call meeting. Let them watch a procurement committee. Let them draft a memo and have it returned with corrections. Some will discover that public service is their vocation; others will discover that it is not. Both discoveries are valuable, and both are cheaper made at twenty than at thirty-five.

Public service as a profession

Underlying all of this is a shift in how we think about the service itself. We speak of it as employment; we should speak of it as a profession, with everything that word implies: selective entry, structured formation, continuing development, a performance culture and a code of conduct that is enforced. Talent management in the public service cannot mean promotion by seniority alone. It must mean deliberate decisions about whom we recruit, how we form them, how we develop them and how we hold them to account. Values, skills and attitudes are not inherited; they are inculcated, or they are lost.

We already know how to do this

The encouraging news is that Nigeria does not need to invent this from nothing. The Aig-Imoukhuede Public Leaders Programme has shown that a values-driven, competitively selected, intensively taught programme can produce public leaders who think differently about their work. The Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation has, through the Mandatory Training Programme for newly appointed chief executives, the Leadership Enhancement and Development Programme, and the Structured Mandatory Assessment-Based Training Programme, demonstrated that structured, assessed training changes performance. These are proofs of concept.

What they have in common is that they aim at the top and the middle. The gap is at the bottom, where the future of the service is decided. The design principles are already there: mandatory participation, a clear curriculum, assessment with consequences, and linkage to career progression. Adapt them downward. Scale them to entry level. Make the first year of a public servant's career the most formative year of it, rather than the most neglected.

Urgent, and achievable

None of this requires a constitutional amendment or a new agency. It requires a directive from the Head of Service, a curriculum drawn up with the universities, partnership with the institutions that have already shown the way, and a modest appropriation defended with the seriousness we reserve for capital projects. The public service is the one capital asset every government inherits and every government passes on. We would not hand over a dam without maintenance. We should not hand over a bureaucracy without formation.

By 2030, the stories will be all that remain. The question is whether we will have built the system to carry what the stories were trying to tell us.

Dr Oklobia is a former commissioner of finance, Benue state and resident Faculty, African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja.

Nigeria's culture of violence

By **Chiwuike Uba**

A NIGERIAN boy comes home crying because a classmate has slapped him. His father asks what happened, listens briefly and delivers his verdict: "And you allowed him to beat you? Are you not a man? Next time, deal with him!"

The lecture has barely ended when the father spots the boy's younger brother touching something he should not have touched, and beats him for it.

No textbook was required. The boy has learnt that violence is an outrage when it lands on him and a legitimate tool when it lands on someone weaker. He has learnt that power carries a right to inflict pain, and that questions are dangerous.

Years later, he may be a teacher, a pastor, a police officer, a manager or a governor. The setting changes, and so does the vocabulary. At home it is called discipline. In school, maintaining order. In the pulpit, submission to authority. In the office, leadership. In politics, intimidation. In law enforcement, the restoration of order. Different words, similar logic.

This is not a claim that every parent is violent or every officer brutal, nor that violence alone explains Nigeria's development problems. The argument is narrower. Our culture of violence is sustained not merely by individual aggression, but by social acceptance, institutional reproduction and uneven accountability whenever violence is used to exercise power. The real question is not why violence occurs. It is why we tolerate, justify and sometimes reward it when it comes from people who hold authority.

The first classroom

In many households, the cane is not merely tolerated; it is defended. It contributes nothing to the household budget, yet everybody knows its responsibilities. Children are flogged for disobedience and sometimes beaten again for crying. The additional offence, apparently, is daring to feel the pain.

This is no marginal habit. The 2021 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics with UNICEF, found that 90.4 per cent of children aged one to 14 had experienced violent discipline in the month before the survey. That included psychological aggression (84.6 per cent), physical punishment (78 per cent) and severe physical punishment (29.2 per cent). These categories overlap, so they cannot be added together. One further finding explains why the practice endures: about 64 per cent of mothers and caregivers said physical punishment was necessary to raise or educate a child.

Attitudes are shifting. An Afrobarometer survey conducted in 2022 found 55 per cent of Nigerians saying parental physical force was sometimes or always justified, but the share saying it was never justified had risen from 28 per cent in 2017 to 45 per cent.

Then comes the familiar defence: "We were beaten, and we turned out fine." Did all of us? And if some succeeded despite the cane, does that prove the cane was responsible? Discipline builds responsibility through boundaries, explanation and fair consequences. Violence extracts compliance through fear. A child who stops because he understands the harm has learnt self-control; one who stops because he fears the belt has learnt how not to get caught.

Many survivors reject what they endured, and childhood violence does not mechanically produce violent adults. But where influential adults keep defending it, children can absorb a durable equation: authority means the power to punish, and respect means fear.

From the school gate to the sibling rivalry

School can reinforce the lesson. Some teachers flog for lateness, noise or wrong answers. Some senior students extract services from juniors under the banner of tradition. And consider the pupil beaten for a wrong answer. He came to school precisely because he did not know something, and is punished for not yet knowing it. We might as well fine patients for being ill.

The damage is educational. Children hide ignorance rather than cure it, stop asking questions, and stay silent about abuse because reporting invites retaliation. A school can boast excellent WAEC results while a pupil trembles at a teacher's footsteps.

The policies exist. Nigeria introduced a National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools in 2021, and in 2025 the Federal Ministry of Education, the Universal Basic Education Commission and UNICEF published Managing Violence in Schools, a handbook on bullying, corporal punishment and positive discipline. Yet at the handbook's launch, UNICEF said a monitoring exercise covering 6,000 schools found that only 20 per cent met at least 70 per cent of the safety standards. A policy does not protect a child because it has been launched. Protection arrives when teachers are trained, complaints can be made safely and abusers face consequences.

The same logic runs through sibling relationships, student associations and professional bodies. "He is your elder brother" becomes a licence to command, insult or beat. Respect for age is a valuable principle, but not a franchise for abuse. Yesterday's victim becomes today's supervisor, and the child who was never allowed to speak becomes the adult who will not listen.

Pulpits, skits and the boss who shouts

Religious and traditional institutions often shelter the vulnerable, mediate disputes and promote compassion. That is exactly why their authority matters. The concern is its abuse: the follower labelled rebellious for raising a concern, the victim urged to endure in silence to protect the congregation's name. Forgiveness and reconciliation are noble, but neither should prevent an investigation or shield a perpetrator from lawful consequences. Must a victim endure abuse because the accused stands in a pulpit? Such questions attack neither faith nor tradition; they hold both to their own highest standards.

Popular culture joins the conversation, usually with a slap. Slapstick between consenting actors is harmless, and satire can expose abusive power. The concern arises when humiliation becomes routine shorthand for correction or comic superiority, and the person who hits is the one in control. Nobody is blaming comedians for national violence. But why should violence be the only reliable route to laughter?

The workplace completes the picture. A manager who shouts is hailed as no-nonsense; a supervisor who humiliates staff is praised for being tough. Yet fear is a poor substitute for competence. In a public agency, a junior officer who learns that questioning an irregular instruction may end his career will stay quiet, and silence is where procurement abuses and falsified reports thrive. Bullying then becomes a governance problem.

When the state becomes the bully

Violence by the state carries a distinct weight. Ordinary citizens cannot arrest, detain or deploy armed personnel. The state can, and those powers carry a duty to act within the law. When that duty is breached without consequence, the damage extends beyond the victim to the credibility of the law itself.

Not every arrest or security operation is abusive; force can be lawful, necessary and proportionate. The test is whether it is scrutinised when it is not.

In November 2024, Amnesty International reported that at least 24 people were killed between 1 and 10 August 2024 during the #EndBadGovernance protests, in Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, Borno, Niger and Kaduna states. The Nigeria Police Force rejected the report. On the first anniversary, on 1 August 2025, Amnesty said no member of the security forces had been prosecuted.

These are Amnesty's documented findings and allegations, not judicial determinations. The significance lies in the unanswered question of consequences.

The 2020 #EndSARS protests were a different moment with a different cause: anger at police brutality. State judicial panels were set up to hear complaints. Yet a UK Home Office country assessment of August 2024, summarising source reports, noted that the panels had not made their findings public. Other bodies, it said, also did not always publish the results of investigations into security-force misconduct. The point is the recurring gap between announcing a reform and demonstrating its results.

The Nigeria Police Act 2020 itself lists accountability, transparency and respect for human rights among its guiding principles. These are not foreign impositions. They are Nigeria's own standards. Why, then, should a badge become a shield against investigation? Why should a uniform turn someone who wields public power into a person beyond ordinary scrutiny? And when citizens fear the people paid to protect them, what has become of the social contract?

The ballot and the bully

Political competition should let citizens remove leaders peacefully. Too often it carries a risk to life. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) recorded more than 200 violent events involving party members and supporters in the 12 months before the February 2023 elections, with nearly 100 reported fatalities. ACLED found that unarmed civilians were targeted in about 80 per cent of those events, and that members of both the APC and the PDP were among the most frequent targets. The European Union Election Observation Mission recorded 101 violent incidents during the campaign, including at least 74 deaths.

Read the remaining part of this article on www.guardian.ng

Professor Uba is a Nigerian development economist, public sector economics consultant, and governance expert.

Blow for Donald Trump



GIVEN the well- known political education and political awareness of an average American and the truly independent posture of the electoral umpire, it did not require much discerning to know that any party to which Donald Trump may belong in these times would be worsted in any electoral contestation. The United States mid-term election was more of an appraisal of Mr. Trump's presidency than it was for the party.

During the electioneering campaigns to return to the White House two years ago, his sing-song was that he was going to take back America and America would be great again. In his words after coasting home to victory: "This will forever be remembered as the day the American people regained control of their country." At the time, most Americans had strayed away from professing any spiritual values. Turning their back largely against the worship of the Most High gave a great many a lot of concerns. They were worried that there were no longer devotional hours in schools nor were prayers being said at public events.

Here is a settler country founded by people who fled all manner of persecutions and tribulations in Europe. They headed for West that Columbus had discovered. They had their inner beings polished from their tribulations with the attendant longing for the ideal, for that which is high and noble. Their gathering linked in reciprocity with helping rays from On High and their land attracted undreamt of blessings. Thus, it was regarded as God's Own Country and it became its appellative reference.

Later the average American was getting to believe in the invincibility of man and his technological wonders. This meant that the thought of God was evidently being banished from the lives of their children as well. They saw it as an albatross round the neck of the country which they believed President Joe Bidden did nothing about and the Democrats abhor the emergence of gay and transgender issues. And those troubled saw in Trump a strong man to restore spiritual values to their lives.

Even from outside the United States there were concerns about the irreverent approach to matters of faith and any mention of the Name of the Creator. As if to satisfy the yearning of Americans, as soon as Trump was proclaimed winner in the election of November 2024, he and some of his followers and family, even in a packed Beach County Convention Centre, and amidst wild jubilation, found space for a few words of thanksgiving. On that occasion as well, red hats with the inscription "Make America Great Again" were distributed. Episcopal church, St. John's, near White House, in Washington D.C. has for centuries been the church for all Presidents of the United States.

However, he had hardly mounted the exalted throne than he donned the egoistic uniform of a chief war monger. At first when it became clear that the Republicans had lost control of both chambers of Congress—the Senate and the House—he tried to dodge responsibility and avoid share in the blame for what some commentators have described as a political earthquake for Donald Trump and the Republican Party. It is seen as a significant setback to President Trump and the Republican Party, with Democrats making remarkable gains and taking control of both Houses.

At first, he waved off blame, saying he was not on the ballot. Later, in an interview with *FOX Newson* Wednesday, he blamed the Iran War and rising gasoline prices triggered by the war for the trouncing of the Republicans. He said although Americans backed him taking action against Iran, they were unwilling to face the immediate economic consequences, especially the cost of living resulting from the rise in gasoline prices.

He said: "People agree with what I'm doing on Iran but they probably weren't willing to do the short, bear the early consequences of paying more for gasoline." As a comic relief to free himself the tension arising from what Cruz called "blue tsunami," according to *The Hill* online newspaper, in his first public appearance, he led those gathered around him to show off the construction of the White House ballroom. "It is for the country, and it's free," he said. Vice-President Vance came out straight to admit that Iran war was "the main reason" why GOP witnessed the Democrats seize the House, the Senate and multiple governor's mansions.

The Democrats won 53 seats in the Senate while the Republicans had 42. In the House of Representatives, the margin is even wider. While the Democrats won 227 seats, the Republicans had 134. What is considered most remarkable development is the Democratic inroad into traditionally Republican settled territory.

Most commentators see the outcome of the midterm elections as a referendum on Trump's second coming. According to one commentator, theAdministration's economic policies, foreign policy decisions, immigration agenda and leadership style have all faced renewed scrutiny from American voters.

Perhaps the most remarkable development is the Democratic breakthrough in traditionally Republican territory. "Victories reported in states such as Texas, Kansas and South Carolina demonstrate that political loyalty is not necessarily permanent. Even states considered reliable party strongholds can become competitive when voters are sufficiently dissatisfied."

In matured democracies where elections are free and fair, thus credible, inflation, cost of living, fuel prices, healthcare and household economic pressures are powerful determinants of electoral behaviour. In other words, the economy determines political destinies. The commentator states that politicians may win arguments on ideology, patriotism and national identity, voters ultimately want government that improve their everyday lives.

Mr Trump will need to change his style. He must drop his arrogance and toga of a semi-god. He has been racist, divisive and uncouth in his pronouncements and conduct. It is even now, more than when he won in his second coming that American people regained control of their country. At that time, he said the emergence of his second presidency "will forever be remembered as the day the American people regained control of their country. It is time to put the divisions of the last four years behind us," referring to Joe Bidden's era. "It's time to unite."


Trump

That charge speaks more to the present-day America than when he was taking over from Mr. Joe Bidden. It is incontestable for instance, in the views of the commentator: "His ICE, DOGE and hate for Diversity Equity and inclusion which gives African Americans and other minority groups a stake counted. Many Blacks in southern states suffered at the hands of KKK/White Supremacist and these formed the basis of Trump's MAGA support."

Even though the Jews are an establishment with considerable lobby and influence in the United States on American power brokers, it is observed that "despite decades of Netanyahu goading America to attack Iran, he never succeeded with successive Presidents until Trump arrived and he was deceived. This war on Iran brought on rippling effect on global economic activities and most especially skyrocketed gasoline prices and brought on inflation in America and all over Europe."

> "Mr Trump will need to change his style. He must drop his arrogance and toga of a semi-god. He has been racist, divisive and uncouth in his pronouncements and conduct."

With the loss of Congressional control, it is certain Mr. Trump will not be able to ride rough-shod over the Congress. According to the analyst, "a Democratic-controlled Congress can significantly complicate his remaining two years in office." This is because it is to be expected that there will be greater Congressional alertness, investigations and tougher oversight. Legislative confrontations and disagreements are predictable, if not given, over government spending and presidential policies.

It should go without saying that the Democrats now have an opportunity to rebuild their party, strengthen their national and international profile and prepare for the next presidential election as, in the words of commentators,"winning the midterm election does not automatically guarantee victory in 2028. They must demonstrate that they can govern effectively and offer credible solutions to America's problems." All said, the dramatic development in the American power equation is indicative of a scenario that is no longer lurking in the shadows. Indeed, "the 2028 presidential election has just become interesting," in the words of the analyst. I cannot agree more in the circumstances of the world today.

Former President Barack Obama, commenting on what has been described variously as Democrats waves, landslide, tsunami etc, said in a post on his social platform: "Tonight, the American people sent a clear message—they want a politics that brings people together rather than divide them, and leaders who offer concrete solutions to the challenges they face."

The Hill online newspaper reports him as setting the tone for the next two years when he said: "Our job now is to roll up our sleeves, make changes wherever we have the power to do so, prevent further damage, and lay the groundwork for the future." His full statement reads:
"Tonight the American people sent a clear message—they want a politics that brings people together rather than divide them, and leaders who offer concrete solutions to the challenges they face.

"These results were only possible because outstanding candidates stepped forward in every region of the country—including areas once considered long shots. They came from different backgrounds and represented a range of political perspectives, but were united by shared values, a belief in public service, and a commitment to putting the people of their districts and states first.

"We also owe a debt of gratitude to the thousands of election officials and volunteers from both parties who helped ensure a smooth election and carried out one of the most essential functions of our democracy.

"While this administration has another two yearsin office, our job now is to roll up our sleeves, make changes wherever we have the power to do so, prevent further damage, and lay the ground work for the future."

It is being speculated that with the Democrats sweeping victory, the House may see the emergence of the first Black Speaker when voting for the Speakership seat takes place in January.

In this last phase of his Presidency, it is to be hoped that Mr. Trump will strive really hard to prove the American Press wrong, which had as far back as 2016 expressed doubts about his fitness and competence to be President of the United States of America. *The New York Times* said the nomination of "Donald Trump least prepared presidential candidate. . .is the Republican Party's trek into darkness. . ." The powerful and highly rated newspaper said at some other time again in 2016: "Mr. Trump, who would be the most volatile and least prepared presidential candidate nominated by a major party in modern times; a man once ridiculed by many prominent Republicans will become the G.O.P.standard bearer.

"This is a moment of reckoning for the Republican Party. It's incumbent on its leadership to account for the failures and betrayals that led to this, and find a better way to address them than the demagogy on offer."

Washington Post did not mince words. Its disapproval of Mr. Trump started from the headline which read: "It's beyond debate that Donald Trump is unfit to be President." And the body of the editorial read in part: "Even if Trump manages to conduct himself presidentially for an hour and ahalf, that could not undo the many, many instances . . .in which he has insulted, acted out, lied and countenancedviolence beyond even some of the most rough and tumble precedents of modern American politics."

The Arizona Republic endorsing Hilary Clinton said it was its first time it would back a Democrat since its founding in 1880. Same for *San Diego Union-Tribune* which had not endorsed a Democratic nominee in its 148-year history. After the *Houston Chronicle* endorsed Clinton, the *Texas Monthly* asked: "Will any major newspapers in Texas Endorse Donald Trump?"

The Chicago Sun-Times reversed a 2012 decision to stop endorsements, saying to its readers that "the best way to avert a train wreck is to wave a warning flag as soon as possible."

USA Today in its own case did not explicitly endorse Clinton. All It said was: "Reset the siren song of a dangerous demagogue. By all means vote, just not for Donald Trump."

The New York Times that led the way stated that its endorsement of Hillary Clinton was rooted in "respect for her intellect, toughness, experience and courage" in an editorial captioned 'Hillary Clinton for President.'Hillary Clinton has a record of service and a raft of pragmatic ideas, and the other, Donald Trump, discloses nothing concrete about himself or his plans while promising the moon and offering the stars layaway. . . The best case for Hillary Clinton cannot be, and is not, that she isn't Donald Trump. The best case is, instead, about the challenges this country faces, and Mrs. Clinton's capacity to rise to them."

Mr Trump's response to the blistering editorials of all major newspapers was a decision to boycott the yearly White House Correspondents' Dinner. He attended for the first time in all his six years as U.S. President and Commander-in-Chief only in April this year!

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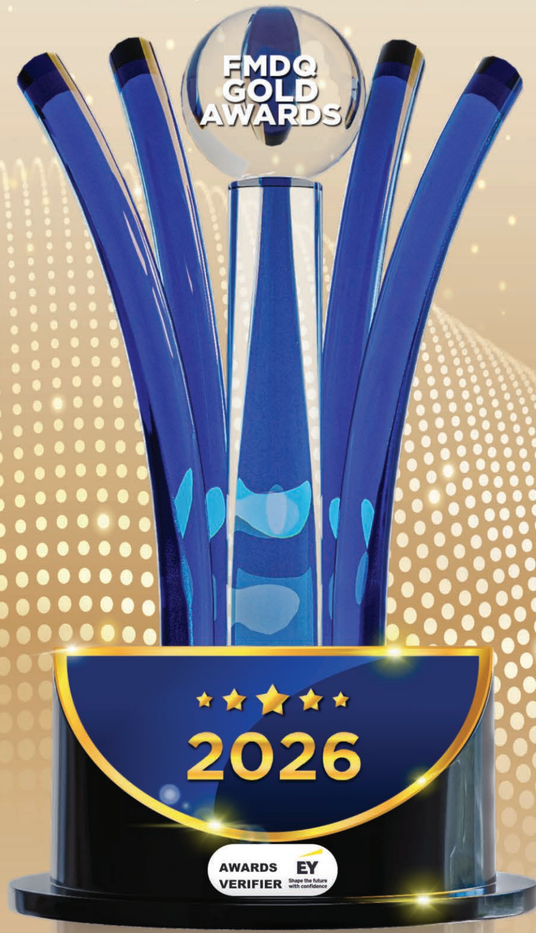
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CRUDE OIL PRICE UPDATE Brent crude: $107.0 | WTI crude: $94.96 **FOREX MARKET UPDATE** I&E Window: N1,326.00

Gas shortages, falling hydro capacity worsen Nigeria's power crisis

By Waliat Musa

- Gas-to-power supply falls 4% to 518mmscf daily
- Minister rules out systemic grid failure, blames maintenance, operational constraints
- NISO blames reduced water inflows for decline, gives no timeline for recovery
- Utomi faults reliance on solar, generators to compensate for poor public supply

NIGERIA's electricity supply crisis is worsening as inadequate gas supply to thermal power stations and declining output from hydroelectric plants constrain electricity generation, leaving households and businesses across the country with little or no supply.

The latest development has heightened concerns about the reliability of the national grid, as consumers continue to lament prolonged outages, forcing many households and businesses to depend increasingly on alternative electricity sources.

The Minister of Power, Joseph Tegbe, has acknowledged the complaints from consumers, saying preliminary assessments showed that the disruptions were not the result of any major or systemic failure of the national grid but were linked to maintenance and operational issues across parts of the power ecosystem, alongside declining electricity generation.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Ministry said the affected areas included Lagos, Abuja, Ogun, Kwara and Oyo, acknowledging the inconvenience caused to households, businesses and public institutions.

He said: "The Federal Ministry of Power has noted the concerns of Nigerians in some parts of the country that have experienced reduced electricity supply in the past few days, especially Lagos, Abuja, Ogun, Kwara and Oyo States. These are areas that had recently enjoyed noticeable improvements in power supply before the current downtimes."

He attributed the disruptions to maintenance and operational issues in parts of the electricity value chain, as well as constraints in gas supply to thermal power stations and reduced output from hydroelectric stations due to lower water inflows into reservoirs.

He distinguished the latest deterioration from a major grid collapse, while acknowledging that multiple operational and generation constraints are affecting electricity delivery.

The Minister of Power, Joseph Tegbe, mentioned that he has consequently begun engagements with the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), the Nigerian Independent System Operator (NISO) and Distribution Companies (DisCos) to address the problems.

The Minister noted that he is working with the operators to resolve the operational constraints behind the downtime, accelerate ongoing maintenance and restore normal electricity supply.

He added that he had also engaged the relevant institutions to ensure that Nigerians were kept informed as efforts to restore supply progressed.

However, the Ministry did not provide a specific timeline for the restoration of normal supply, despite assuring consumers that the identified challenges were being addressed.

The development comes as NISO separately identified inadequate gas supply to thermal generating stations and reduced water inflows into hydroelectric reservoirs as the major factors responsible for the current decline in electricity generation

NISO, in a statement yesterday, identified gas supply constraints and reduced water inflows into hydroelectric reservoirs as the major factors responsible for the current decline in electricity generation.

According to the operator, limited gas availability has constrained the capacity of affected thermal generating stations to operate at their available levels, while reduced water inflows have affected the generation capacity of hydroelectric power stations.

It explained that the combined constraints had reduced the volume of electricity available for distribution, resulting in shorter hours of supply and increased load shedding across distribution networks.

"Consequently, the reduction in available generation has affected the quantum of electricity allocated to Distribution Companies (DisCos) for onward supply to consumers, thereby resulting in reduced hours of electricity supply and increased load shedding across distribution networks, with the level of impact varying according to available generation and the corresponding allocations to individual DisCos," NISO stated.



Chief Human Resources Development UNCTAD, Mark Assaf (left); VP IAPH/Managing Director, Nigerian Ports Authority, Dr Abubakar Dantsoho; President Director, PT Pelabuhan Indonesia, Achmad Muchtasyar and Chief Executive Africa & Europe, APM Terminals, Igor Van den Essen at the ongoing world ports conference in London.

RMAFC links staff performance to results, signs contracts with directors

From Joseph Chibueze, Abuja

THE Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) has taken a step to strengthen accountability and productivity in its operations, signing performance contracts with Directors and Heads of Departments (HODs) as part of efforts to institutionalise a results-driven performance management system.

The initiative is designed to move the Commission away from routine administrative activities towards measurable performance targets, with directors and department heads expected to account for their contributions to institutional objectives.

The Chairman of RMAFC, Dr Mohammed Bello Shehu, who disclosed this at the signing ceremony at the Commission's headquarters in Abuja, described the contracts as a covenant of accountability and a commitment to delivering measurable results.

He said the Performance Management System (PMS) represented a deliberate shift towards a results-oriented work culture in which institutional and individual performance would be assessed against clearly defined objectives.

Shehu said the initiative aligned with the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda, which prioritises institutional efficiency, good governance and improved public service delivery.

He charged Directors and HODs to demonstrate professionalism, commitment and accountability, stressing that the success of the system would depend on their ability to translate agreed targets into improved productivity and tangible institutional achievements.

The Chairman disclosed that the Commission had recorded significant progress towards implementing the system through the development of a dedicated information technology platform, staff training, capacity building for performance management champions, management sensitisation and change management initiatives.

He stressed that the PMS was not designed as a punitive mechanism but as a tool for empowering officers, clarifying responsibilities, identifying capacity gaps and ensuring fairness in performance assessment.

He urged departmental heads to establish realistic, measurable and time-bound targets aligned with the Commission's strategic objectives, assuring staff that management would provide the necessary support and enabling environment for effective implementation.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the Personnel Matters Committee and Federal Commissioner representing Cross River State, Ntufam Eyo-Nsa Whitley, described staff as the driving force behind the Commission's success.

He urged officers to embrace discipline, diligence, emotional intelligence and teamwork, warning against attitudes capable of undermining institutional progress.

High costs, weak demand slow Nigeria's business activity in October

By Isaac Chibuife

NIGERIA's business activity expanded at a slower pace in October 2026, as high operating costs, poor electricity supply and limited access to finance continued to weigh on businesses.

The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), in its latest Business Confidence Monitor (BCM), said the composite Current Business Performance Index (CBPI) fell to 115.4 points in October from 117.8 points in September.

Although the index remained above the 100-point threshold for expansion, it was lower than the previous month's reading. However, it was higher than the 111.3 points recorded in October 2025.

The slowdown came despite a moderation in headline inflation to 14.63 per cent in September from 15.39 per cent in August, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). However, food inflation remained elevated at 19.59 per cent, reflecting the continued pressure on household budgets and consumer spending.

For businesses, lower inflation does not necessarily translate into cheaper production. Rather, it means prices are rising at a slower rate, while the cost of energy, raw materials, transportation and other inputs may remain high.

The manufacturing sector continued to face significant energy challenges. Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) figures showed that operators spent about N1.35 trillion on alternative energy in 2025, up from N1.1 trillion in 2024, as unreliable electricity supply forced more firms to rely on generators and other sources of power.

Energy accounted for more than 40 per cent of manufacturing costs, according to MAN, leaving businesses with less money for raw materials, equipment maintenance, wages and expansion.

Nigeria's $54.52b external debt mirrors rising borrowing burden in developing nations

By Isaac Chibuife

DEVELOPING countries' external debt rose by 5.5 per cent to a record $9.4 trillion in 2025, the fastest yearly increase since 2021, as borrowing costs for the poorest nations climbed to their highest levels in decades.

Nigeria's external debt also increased, rising to $54.52 billion as of June 30, 2026, from $43.16 billion in June 2023, according to the Debt Management Office (DMO).

The World Bank disclosed the global figures in its International Debt Report 2026, released in Washington yesterday, warning that rising debt servicing costs could leave vulnerable countries with less money for healthcare, education and other essential services.

Nigeria's total public debt stood at N166.79 trillion ($120.93 billion), comprising N91.59 trillion in domestic debt and N75.20 trillion in external debt. Eurobonds accounted for $18.55 billion of its external obligations, while the World Bank Group was the country's largest multilateral creditor, with $20.73 billion.

The increase in developing countries' external debt was nearly four times the average growth recorded between 2022 and 2024, reflecting renewed access to international financing even as borrowing costs remained high.

Private creditors accounted for much of the increase as bond markets reopened to developing economies. Bond issuance by public entities rose nearly 35 per cent to $251 billion, the highest level in five years.

Nigeria returned to the international bond market in November 2025, raising $2.35 billion through a Eurobond issuance that attracted orders worth $13 billion.

The World Bank noted that many governments issued new bonds to refinance maturing debt, easing immediate repayment pressures without significantly reducing their overall debt burden. Some also incurred higher interest costs in the process.

Some of Nigeria's outstanding Eurobonds were issued at yields of up to 10.375 per cent, although secondary-market yields ranged from about 5.3 to 8.3 per cent in 2026 trading.

Debt increased faster in the poorest and most vulnerable economies. External debt in countries eligible for concessional financing from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) rose by 8.1 per cent to $1.3 trillion.

These countries paid an average interest rate of 8.2 per cent on new private loans in 2025, the highest since 1989, while new bond issues attracted an average rate of 9.4 per cent.

The gap between borrowing costs from private and official creditors widened to 5.5 percentage points from 3.4 percentage points in 2016. In comparison, countries eligible only for non-concessional loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) paid an average of 5.5 per cent on new bonds, down from 5.8 per cent in 2024.

Across low- and middle-income countries, debt service payments, covering principal and interest, rose by 1.9 per cent to $1.4 trillion in 2025, marking the fifth consecutive annual increase.

Experts call for future-ready African businesses

By **Gbenga Salau**

BUSINESS leaders, technology executives and governance experts have called for stronger leadership, continuous workforce development and the strategic adoption of technology to help African organisations compete in a rapidly changing global economy.

The call emerged at the Lead the Future Conference 2026, under the theme: 'Leading Globally Competitive and Future-Ready Organisations: People, AI, Innovation.' Chaired by the Group Chairman of Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX), Dr Umaru Kwairanga, the conference explored leadership, artificial intelligence, governance, talent development and organisational transformation.

In his opening address, Kwairanga urged African businesses to look beyond geographical boundaries and take advantage of technology to expand their reach and compete globally.

"Modern technology democratizes opportunities, and African enterprises must take advantage of that to scale their businesses," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of effective leadership, sound governance and strong institutions in translating Africa's human and natural resources into sustainable economic growth.

The first day featured a keynote address by Bright 'UK' Ukwenga, convener of the conference and Principal Consultant at SixthSense Leadership, on "Redefining Leadership for the Future." Ukwenga challenged leaders to see leadership as a continuous process of personal growth, influence and helping others fulfil their potential.

FG offers N50,000 relief via Moniepoint USSD

By **Adeyemi Adepetun**

MONIEPOINT Microfinance Bank has announced that its customers can now check their eligibility for the Federal Government's N50,000 National Emergency Relief and Stabilisation Intervention (NERSI) and access the funds via its USSD Channel.

The initiative, led by the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, is designed to provide direct financial assistance to vulnerable Nigerian households to cover essential needs. Through it, the Federal Government is providing N50, 000 in financial support to eligible beneficiaries as part of its broader efforts to cushion the impact of prevailing economic pressures.

As one of the payment providers selected by the Federal Government to facilitate NERSI disbursements, Moniepoint MFB is leveraging its extensive digital banking infrastructure to provide an accessible channel through which eligible beneficiaries can receive their funds. Customers can check their eligibility by dialling *5573*27# from their registered phone numbers and selecting the option to check their status. Customers confirmed as beneficiaries will be guided through the steps to accept the support and receive the funds into their Moniepoint account, with no fees applied.

Investors lose N3.28 trillion in one day

By **Helen Oji**

THE Nigerian stock market closed on a downturn yesterday as investors lost N3.28 trillion in market value following renewed selloff in major bluechips.

The market capitalisation of listed equities declined by 1.98 per cent, shedding N3.28 trillion to close at N162.13 trillion, down from N165.42 trillion recorded at the previous trading session.

Similarly, the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) All-Share Index (ASI) fell by 5,052.22 basis points to close at 249,710.59, compared with 254,762.81 recorded on Wednesday.

The decline reflected widespread profit-taking and sell-offs across several sectors, with market breadth closing negatively as 36 stocks recorded price depreciation against 20 gainers.

The downturn was largely driven by losses in some highly capitalised stocks, particularly Dangote Cement and Presco, which ranked among the worst-performing equities during the session.

Dangote Cement led the losers' chart with a 10 per cent decline, falling from N1, 490 to N1, 341 per share, representing a loss of N149. Presco also shed 10 per cent, dropping from N1, 840.80 to N1, 656.80, translating to a loss of N184 per share.

Other major decliners included Wapic Insurance, which fell by 9.91 per cent to N2.00. Austin Laz was down by 8.57 per cent to close at N2.24, Lasaco Assurance declined by 8.57 per cent to close at N1.60. Mansard Insurance lost 8.09 per cent to close at N10.80 kobo.

United Africa Company of Nigeria (UACN) depreciated by 7.85 per cent to close at N166.80 kobo.

On the other hand, CWG Plc emerged as the best-performing stock, appreciating by 9.94 per cent from N15.60 kobo to N17.15 kobo. Abbey Mortgage Bank followed with a 9.84 per cent gain to close at N6.70 kobo while Honeywell Flour mills appreciated by 9.82 per cent to close at N26.85 kobo.

E-Tranzact International advanced by 9.71 per cent to N18.65, while Caverton Offshore Support Group gained 8.96 per cent to close at N3.65.

Other notable gainers included Transnational Corporation of Nigeria, which rose by 8.18 per cent to N219.60; Mecure Benefits, up 8.09 per cent to N2.94; and Africa Prudential, which appreciated by seven per cent to N10.70 kobo.

The sectoral performance also reflected the bearish sentiment, with several indices recording losses. The NGX Industrial Index suffered the steepest decline, falling by 7.14 per cent to 11,707.38 points.

Yesterday's activities also ensured that the NGX Insurance Index dropped by 2.51 per cent to 993.55 points. Similarly, the NGX 30 Index fell by 2.08 per cent to 9,208.30 points.



Co-founder/Chief Executive Officer, Quidax, Buchi Okoro (left); Head, Lagos Zonal Office, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), John Briggs, and General Partner, Launch Capital, Uyoyo Ogedegbe, at The Exchange event hosted by Quidax and Tether in Lagos.

Nigeria, France advance agribusiness cooperation

By **Benjamin Alade**

FRANCE and Nigeria are strengthening economic cooperation in agriculture as both countries seek to attract investment into agro-processing, mechanisation, irrigation, cold-chain infrastructure and agricultural technology.

The development was featured prominently at the France-Nigeria Agri-Business Summit organised by the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) as part of French Week 2026 in Lagos, where government, business and research leaders called for stronger commercial partnerships across the agricultural value chain.

The Consul-General of France in Lagos, Laurent Favier, said Nigeria had the land, climate and human resources required to become one of Africa's leading agri-food hubs, but needed to bridge the gap between its agricultural potential and growing food-security challenges.

Favier said more than 36 million Nigerians were facing severe food insecurity, making investment in technology, finance and know-how critical to improving domestic production and positioning the country to supply international markets.

He disclosed that a €300 million facility managed by Proparco would support agricultural value chains across Africa. The facility is part of a wider €27 billion commitment announced at the Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi.

According to him, the France-Nigeria Agri-Business Club, launched in July under the FNCCI, is expected to bring together more than 500 members from business, government and academia.

Favier said the platform would facilitate investment in agricultural mechanisation, local capacity building, agro-processing and the reduction of post-harvest losses.

He noted that bilateral trade between France and Nigeria reached $4.7 billion in 2025, with Nigeria ranking as France's fifth-largest trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa.

He also pointed to the growing presence of Nigerian businesses in France, including JR Farms and Babafood, while noting that Flour Mills of Nigeria Group had expressed interest in developing its activities there.

On agricultural exports, Favier said French experts were helping Nigerian producers meet European Union standards, including addressing Tuta absoluta, aflatoxin and Salmonella contamination affecting products such as tomatoes, sesame and ginger.

He stressed that reducing post-harvest losses and strengthening cold-chain infrastructure could significantly improve farmers' incomes and Nigeria's ability to access international markets.

Speaking on the role of French businesses, Maxime Bieliaeff of Business France said the agency was working to connect French companies with Nigerian partners across the agricultural value chain.

Customs earn N302b from Apapa port in October, streamline transire processing

By **Adaku Onyenucheya**

THE Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has recorded a revenue of N302 billion from trade at the Apapa port in October, representing a month-on-month growth of approximately 7.13 per cent.

This figure represented an increase of N20.16 billion over the N282.79 billion recorded in September 2026, reflecting the NCS' continued drive to strengthen revenue generation while facilitating legitimate trade at the Apapa port.

The Customs Area Controller, Apapa Area Command, Murtala Mu'azu, told journalists yesterday that the October collection marked another significant revenue performance above the N300 billion threshold, following the Command's record-breaking collection of over N323 billion in July 2026.

As part of measures to improve operational efficiency, the Command has intensified efforts to review and streamline the processing of Transire.

Mu'azu said the initiative is aimed at eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic bottlenecks, improving inter-departmental coordination and reducing processing time, while retaining the necessary compliance and control measures.

He said this initiative seeks to ensure that the various offices involved discharge their responsibilities more efficiently, while maintaining the necessary compliance and control measures.

He added that the initiative is also driven by the command's commitment to trade facilitation and the need to address operational inefficiencies that could subject traders to unnecessary delays and hardship.

"Traders should not suffer the consequences of avoidable administrative lapses or delays. We must identify challenges, address their root causes and adopt practical solutions that will promote seamless business operations, enhance service delivery and create a more efficient trading environment," he stated.

In furtherance of this commitment, Mu'azu has directed that cargo examinations must be conducted strictly in accordance with extant procedures and the requisite documentation and authorisation.

He also emphasised that examinations must not become a source of avoidable delays and has cautioned officers against unwarranted, repetitive or unnecessary checks capable of frustrating legitimate business transactions.

Officers have also been charged to discharge their responsibilities promptly and professionally, without compromising compliance, revenue protection or national security.

The Controller said these directives are intended to ease cargo clearance, improve turnaround time, promote a more predictable trading environment, while adhering strictly to the Nigeria Customs Service Act (NCSA) 2023.

He said the Command is also strengthening coordination among relevant departments and port stakeholders to address operational bottlenecks affecting cargo movement.

Dangote tops aslocal brands leadNigeria's top 50

By **Kehinde Olatunji**

NIGERIAN-OWNED brands have strengthened their dominance in Nigeria's corporate landscape, accounting for 27 of the 50 brands ranked in the 2026 Top 50 Brands Nigeria assessment, against 23 multinational brands.

The latest ranking, unveiled at the Brand Nigeria Leadership Forum and Awards 2026 in Lagos, represented a shift from the equal representation of 25 indigenous and 25 multinational brands recorded in the 2025 edition.

Dangote Industries retained its position as Nigeria's most valuable brand for the ninth consecutive year, scoring 89.7 out of 100 on the Brand Strength Measurement (BSM) Index, while MTN Nigeria emerged as the country's most popular brand.

Seven Nigerian-owned companies also featured among the top10 brands, underscoring the growing competitiveness of indigenous businesses across manufacturing, banking, telecommunications, consumer goods and other sectors.

The top 10 ranking comprised Dangote Industries, MTN Nigeria, Airtel, Globacom, Access Bank, Zenith Bank, BUA Group, FirstBank, Coca-Cola and United Bank for Africa (UBA).

MTN Nigeria, which ranked second overall with a score of 81.8, secured the most popular brand distinction based on the Top-of-the-Mind (TOM) survey, which measures unaided consumer recall.

Airtel and Globacom occupied the third and fourth positions with scores of 76.3 and 76.1, respectively, while Access Bank ranked fifth with 74.7.

Zenith Bank followed with 72.9, BUA Group scored 70.4, FirstBank recorded 70.3, Coca-Cola placed ninth with 69.2, while UBA completed the top10 with 68.7.

ICMR holds 15th yearly conference, investiture of Fellows

THE Institute of Capital Market Registrars (ICMR) will hold its 15th yearly conference, investiture of Fellows and induction of new members on November 14.

This is contained in a statement signed by the President & Chairman of Council, Mrs. Catherine Nwosu, at the weekend in Lagos.

According to the statement, the conference has the theme: 'Beyond Recapitalisation: Building Resilient Institutions and a Sustainable Capital Market" and the Chief Executive Officer of Financial Derivatives Company Limited, Bismarck Rewane, will deliver the keynote address at the conference.'

The statement said that Rewane would provide insights into strengthening institutional resilience and promoting sustainable capital market growth.

It added that the one-day conference would bring together industry leaders and stakeholders to discuss emerging opportunities, institutional capacity, innovation and market development.

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL-NIGERIA

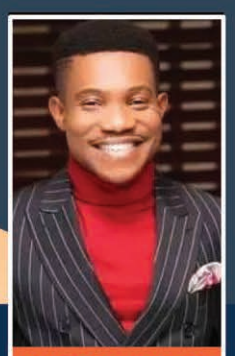
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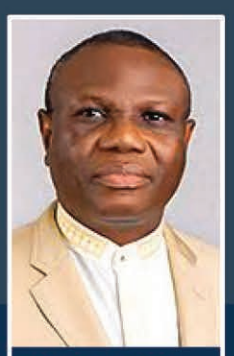
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2026 LAGOS NATIONAL CONVENTION

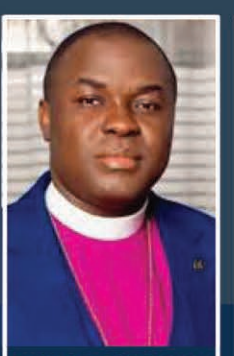
THEME: PRESSING TOWARD THE MARK


BISHOP DAVID OYEDEPO


PASTOR JERRY EZE


REV. SAMSON AJETOMOBI


DR. CHARLES A. C. AYAEBENE


BISHOP FOREMAN NEDISON


PROF. MRS. IKEOLUWA LAGUNJU


ARC. IFEANYI ODEDO


MR. ISAAC OKPANACHI ESQ

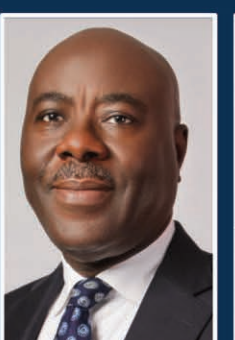

MR. FELA DUROTOYE


DR. OKEY ENELAMAH


DR. DEMOLA SHOGUNLE


ENGR. DAERE AKOBO

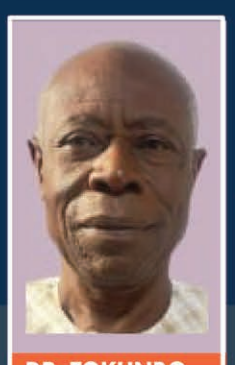

ENGR. ELOKA EJEH


HON. ABAYOMI OLUYOMI


DR. OKEY AKPA


DR. OLUSEGUN FALOPE


ENGR. FEMI ADESANYA


DR. TOKUNBO AJAYI


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ENDOCRINE AND METABOLISM SOCIETY OF NIGERIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 47TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF THE ENDOCRINE AND METABOLISM SOCIETY OF NIGERIA (EMSON), HELD AT EXCLUSIVE SERENE HOTEL, WUYE, ABUJA, 23RD–25TH SEPTEMBER 2026

PREAMBLE

The Endocrine and Metabolism Society of Nigeria (EMSON) held its 47th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference (AGMSC) in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, from the 23rd to 25th September 2026. The conference brought together adult and paediatric endocrinologists, diabetologists, family physicians, surgeons, obstetricians and gynaecologists, laboratory scientists, pharmacists, nurses, dietitians, researchers, trainees, policymakers, industry partners and other stakeholders from across Nigeria and beyond.

The meeting provided a platform to share scientific knowledge, present new research, strengthen professional collaboration, and address emerging challenges in endocrine and metabolic health in Nigeria.

THEME AND SUB-THEMES Theme:
Endocrine Practice in Nigeria: Improving Patient Care and Outcomes Through Advocacy

Sub-themes:

1. Emerging Therapeutic Options in the Management of Diabetes and Obesity
2. From Bench to Bedside: Leveraging Basic Endocrine Science to Improve Patient Care and Outcomes
3. Paediatric Endocrine Disorders: Early Detection and Management
4. Lifestyle Medicine – A Primary Rather Than Complementary Treatment for Metabolic Disease

OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was chaired by **Dr. Adedolapo Fasawe,** Mandate Secretary, Health Services and Environmental Secretariat, FCT. The **Special Guests** were **Professor Raji Mahmud,** Chief Medical Director, National Hospital Abuja and **Professor Sa'adAhmed,** Chief Medical Director, Federal Medical Centre Jabi, Abuja, ably represented by Dr. Shaheed Alimi and Dr. Izuchukwu Ben Achusi, respectively. The **Keynote Speaker** was **Professor Anas Sabir**, former Chief Medical Director, Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH), Sokoto. Prof. Sabir delivered an insightful lecture, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen endocrine services, improve access to diagnostics and medicines, and enhance advocacy to address Nigeria's rising burden of metabolic diseases.

In her remarks, Dr. Fasawe emphasised the importance of advocacy, evidence-based practice, research, and health-system collaboration. Professor Yunusa underscored the rising burden of diabetes, obesity, endocrine disorders and the need for improved access to specialist care. The highlight of the opening ceremony was the induction of eight members of the society, who have distinguished themselves in various areas of endocrinology and metabolism, as **Fellows of the Endocrine and Metabolism Society of Nigeria (FEMSON),** in a colourful gown event.

Professor Chioma Unachukwu delivered the **Dagogo-Jack Memorial Award Lecture,** titled "*From Bench to Bedside, To Population Health: The Expanding Frontiers of Endocrinology.*" The scientific programme featured 56 research papers, delivered as oral presentations and moderated poster sessions, alongside symposia, workshops, meet- the-expert sessions and industry-sponsored presentations. During the annual general meeting, eleven full members and seven associate members were inducted into the society.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The scientific programme featured keynote lectures, plenary sessions, symposia, oral and poster presentations, workshops and interactive discussions. Major areas covered included:

Diabetes mellitus and its complications
Thyroid, adrenal, pituitary, gonadal and metabolic bone disorders
Obesity and metabolic health
Women's endocrine and reproductive health
Paediatric endocrine disorders
Cardiometabolic disease
Research, innovation and translational endocrinology
Lifestyle medicine and prevention of metabolic disease

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Friday, 25th September 2026, with deliberations, committee reports presented and discussed, and far-reaching decisions and resolutions made on key aspects of the society. Awards were also presented to well- deserving members, individuals and key support partners. The Professor Aihanuwa Theresa Eregie Memorial Awards for the best part 2 dissertations in EDM for the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and the West African College of Physicians were presented to Dr Obiamaka Jane Ede and Dr Oluchukwu Taiwo Ugwunne, respectively. The Professor Thomas O. Johnson Memorial Award for the best abstract presentation in diabetic foot was presented to Dr. Ajibade Oluwaseun. In keeping with the constitution of EMSON, an election of the National Executive Council for the year 2026 - 2028 was conducted electronically. The election was supervised by an electoral committee chaired by Prof. Adamu Bakare Girei, assisted by Prof. Babatope Kolawole, with the Secretary being Dr Oluwatoyin Ohenhen.

The following officers emerged as the new National Executive Council members of EMSON for the years 2026 - 2028;

1. Prof. Andrew E. Uloko	President
2. Dr. Olubiyi Adesina	Vice President - 1
3. Prof. Christian I. Okafor	Vice President - 2
4. Dr. Ibitrokoemi F. Korubo	Vice President - 3
5. Dr. Oluwarotimi Olopade	Secretary General
6. Dr Beatrice Bello-Ovosi	Treasurer
7. Dr. Ayoola Ojo	Publicity Secretary
8. Prof. Andrew Edo	Welfare Secretary
9. Prof. Aderonke Samuel	Curator
10. Prof. Michael Olamoyegun	Internal Auditor

OBSERVATIONS

The Society made the following key observations:

1. **Rising Burden of Endocrine and Metabolic Diseases**
Nigeria faces a growing burden of diabetes, obesity, hypertension, dyslipidaemia and other endocrine disorders. Access to diagnosis, medicines, technologies and long-term follow-up remains inadequate.

2. **Workforce Shortage and Brain Drain**
A critical shortage and uneven distribution of endocrinologists and allied professionals persist. Brain drain continues to weaken specialist capacity.

3. **Limited Access to Medicines, Diagnostics and Technologies**
Essential endocrine medicines, insulin, glucose monitoring tools, and newer diabetes and obesity therapies remain unaffordable or inaccessible for many Nigerians.

4. **Increasing Childhood and Adolescent Endocrine Disorders**
Early detection, referral and management of paediatric endocrine conditions remain suboptimal. Registries for rare and congenital disorders are lacking.

5. **Women's Endocrine and Metabolic Health**
Conditions such as Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS) (formerly known as PCOS), menopause, diabetes in pregnancy and other reproductive endocrine disorders require greater attention and integrated care.

6. **Research Gaps and Limited Local Evidence**
Nigeria needs stronger epidemiological, clinical and translational research, as well as multicentre collaborations to generate locally relevant evidence.

7. **Health System and Policy Gaps**
Challenges persist in primary-care detection, referral pathways, health insurance coverage, financial protection, endocrine emergencies, patient education and national guidelines.

RESOLUTIONS

At the conclusion of the 47th AGMSC, EMSON resolved as follows:

1. **Workforce and Training**
   - Advocate for increased postgraduate training positions in endocrinology and metabolic medicine.
   - Strengthen mentorship, continuing professional development and retention strategies.
   - Promote equitable distribution of specialist services across all geopolitical zones.

2. **Access to Medicines, Diagnostics and Technologies**
   - Engage government, the National Health Insurance Agency (NHIA), and regulatory agencies to improve availability, affordability and insurance coverage for essential endocrine medicines, insulin, glucose monitoring tools and diabetes technologies.
   - Advocate for improved access to diagnostic services including hormone assays and metabolic investigations.

3. **Diabetes Prevention and Comprehensive Care**
   - Promote integrated diabetes care that includes glycaemic control, cardiovascular risk reduction and complication screening.
   - Support integration of diabetes services into primary and secondary healthcare.
   - Strengthen patient education, self-management support and multidisciplinary care.

4. **Obesity and Metabolic Disease**
   - Advocate for national obesity prevention and management strategies.
   - Promote lifestyle medicine as a core component of metabolic disease care.
   - Encourage multidisciplinary approaches involving physicians, nutritionists, psychologists, physiotherapists and other professionals.

5. **Women's Endocrine Health**
   - Improve awareness, screening and management of PMOS, menopause, diabetes in pregnancy and other endocrine conditions affecting women.
   - Advocate for inclusion of women's endocrine health services in national health insurance coverage.

6. **Paediatric Endocrine Services**
   - Strengthen early detection, referral pathways and specialist care for paediatric endocrine disorders.
   - Support development of national registries for congenital and rare endocrine conditions.
   - Establish structured transition clinics for adolescents aged 13–15 years, where paediatric and adult endocrinologists jointly review patients during the initial phase of transition to adult care. This model aims to ensure continuity of care, reduce loss to follow-up, and improve long-term outcomes for young people living with endocrine and metabolic disorders.

7. **Research, Innovation and Evidence Translation**
   - Promote multicentre collaborative research within Nigeria and with international partners.
   - Advocate for increased funding for endocrine and metabolic research.
   - Support translation of research findings into clinical practice, guidelines and public health policy.

8. **Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement**
   - Strengthen collaboration between EMSON, government agencies, academia, industry, sister societies and patient groups.
   - Promote national guidelines, registries and data systems for endocrine and metabolic diseases.

APPRECIATION

EMSON expresses profound appreciation to:

- The Federal Government of Nigeria
- Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare - Prof. Ali Pate
- Chairperson of the Opening Ceremony – Dr Adedolapo Fasawe, The Mandate Secretary of the Federal Capital Territory
- Special Guests of Honour- Professor Raji Mahmud and Professor Sa'ad Ahmed
- Keynote Speaker – Prof. Anas Ahmed Sabir
- Dagogo-Jack Memorial Award Lecturer – Prof. Chioma Unachukwu
- Invited speakers and delegates
- EMSON National Executive Council
- The Local Organising Committee, ably led by Dr Yakubu Lawal.

for their support toward the successful hosting of the 47th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference.

The Society acknowledges its **founding fathers** and also appreciates all members, partners and industry sponsors who contributed to the success of the 47th AGMSC.

The 48th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of EMSON will be held in Enugu, Nigeria, in September 2027.

Prof. Andrew E. Uloko
President, EMSON

Dr. Oluwarotimi Olopade
Secretary-General, EMSON

Prof. Michael Olamoyegun
Publicity Secretary, EMSON

KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY, MALETE

Human Resources Division

(Office of the Registrar)

Ref: KWASU/ADM/244/VOL.1/ **6th November 2026**

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSTS OF REGISTRAR, BURSAR, AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment to the posts of Registrar, Bursar, and University Librarian at the Kwara State University, Malete, Kwara State.

A. REGISTRAR

i. Duties

The Registrar, a Principal Officer, is the Chief Administrative Officer of the University, responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administrative duties of the University.

The person holding the Office of Registrar shall, by virtue of that office, be Secretary to the Council, Senate, Congregation and Convocation.

ii. Qualifications

Applicants must possess:

- •a good honours degree obtained from a recognised University. Possession of postgraduate qualifications and membership of professional bodies will be added advantage;
- •at least fifteen(15) years of work experience in a university registry, five (5) of which must be as a Deputy Registrar;
- •a clear understanding of the roles and nature of the Registry in a university of the new global century. Applicants must be Information and Communication Technology (ICT) compliant; and
- •a command of respect and ability to provide leadership and offer appropriate advice on matters affecting the University.

B. BURSAR

i. Duties

The Bursar is a Principal Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of the University responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration and control of the financial affairs of the University. He/she should provide the University Management with appropriate advice and support for all of the institution's financial transactions including investments.

ii. Qualifications

Applicants must possess:

- • a good honoursdegree in Accounting/other finance related courses from a recognised University;
- • membership of at least one of the underlisted professional bodies:

(a) Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN)
(b) Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN)
(c) Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (ACCA)
(d) Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CPA)
(e) Chartered Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMA)

- • at least fifteen (15) years ofwork experience in the University as an accountant, five (5) of which must be as a Deputy Bursar;
- • a clear understanding of the roles and nature of university finances in the new global century. Applicants must be Information and Communication Technology (ICT) compliant; and
- • a command of respect and ability to provide leadership and offer appropriate advice on matters affecting the University.

C. UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

i. Duties

The University Librarian is a Principal Officer of the University responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the administration of the University Library andcoordination of all Library services in the University (the Main Library and in Libraries across all campuses of the University).
As an Academic Staff, the University Librarian will be required to provide both academic and administrative leadership to staff in the University Library.

ii. Qualifications

Applicants must possess:

- • a good honours degree from a recognised university with minimum of Master Degree in Library Science. Possession of a Doctorate Degree will be an added advantage;
- •at least twenty-four (24) scholarly publications in reputable journals;
- •at least fifteen (15) years cognate experience in a recognised University, five (5) of which must be as a Deputy University Librarian or be at least an Associate Professor of Library Science;
- •a clear understanding of the roles and nature of a University Library in the new global century. Applicants must be Information and Communication Technology (ICT) compliant; and
- •a command of respect and ability to provide leadership and offer appropriate advice on matters affecting the University.

GENERAL CONSIDERATION

i. Tenure

The successful candidatesas Registrar, Bursar, and University Librarian shall hold office for a term of five years respectively with eligibility for reappointment for a second term of five (5) year sonly.

ii. Remuneration

The successful candidates as Registrar, Bursar, and University Librarian will be entitled to the salary and other conditions of service as applicable to the Registrar, Bursar, and University Librarian respectively in a Nigerian public university as may be approved by the Governing Council of the Kwara State University, Malete.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants should forward ten (10) hard copies of their applications and comprehensive Curriculum Vitae attaching copies of relevant credentials. The hard copy applications should be forwarded under confidential cover in an envelope sealed and marked **"POST OF REGISTRAR, BURSAR AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN"** as may be applicable at the top right corner and addressed to:

The Vice–Chancellor
Kwara State University, Malete
P.M.B.1530
Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

The applications must also be sent as e-mail with relevant attachments to vicechancellor@kwasu.edu.ng

Referees

Applicants are advised to request three (3) referees to forward confidential report on them to the Vice Chancellor, Kwara State University, Malete through e-mail to vicechancellor@kwasu.edu.ng

Closing Date

All applications and referee reports should be submitted not later than 12 noon on Friday, December 18, 2026.

Signed:
Dr. Kikelomo W. Sallee
Registrar

www.guardian.ng

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'How poor airport infrastructure may slow trade competitiveness'

Stories by **Olusegun Koiki**

NIGERIA's inadequate airport infrastructure, weak cargo-handling facilities and poor connectivity between transport systems could hinder the country's trade competitiveness and economic growth, former Managing Director of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Dr Richard Aisuebeogun, has said.

Aisuebeogun, in an interview with The Guardian in Lagos, warned that unless urgent investments were directed towards operational efficiency, safety and sustainable maintenance, the country may not achieve its goal.

Aisuebeogun, who identified inadequate airport infrastructure as one of the major challenges confronting the nation's transportation sector, said airport development should go beyond the construction of terminals and other physical structures to address critical operational requirements.

According to him, investments in runways, baggage-handling systems, navigation equipment, security installations, cargo facilities, fire and rescue services, reliable power supply and digital infrastructure were essential to improving airport performance.

He emphasised that infrastructure deficiencies contributed to congestion, flight delays, higher operating costs, and a poor passenger experience, while inadequate cargo-handling capacity and inefficient ground operations weakened Nigerian exporters' ability to compete effectively in international markets.

Aisuebeogun insisted that airport development should be measured by operational performance, safety standards, cargo throughput, passenger demand, connectivity, and financial sustainability, rather than by the physical scale of construction projects.

He advocated prioritising safety-critical assets, modern navigation and communication systems, dependable electricity, efficient passenger-processing facilities, temperature-controlled cargo infrastructure and functional access roads.

He also called for transparent cost-benefit assessments and credible maintenance plans before the commencement of major airport projects to ensure that investments deliver measurable economic benefits.

Aisuebeogun expressed that Nigeria's transportation challenge was not only about building more infrastructure, but also about establishing a system that was reliable, affordable, safe, integrated, financially sustainable, and capable of withstanding external economic shocks.

He said: "Transportation remains central to trade facilitation, with airports, seaports, railways, highways, inland dry ports and pipelines playing complementary roles in reducing logistics costs and improving national competitiveness.

"The absence of effective integration among these transport systems continues to increase the cost and time required to move passengers and goods across the country.

"The aviation sector occupies a strategic position in Nigeria's economic development because of its capacity to connect businesses to international markets, facilitate the movement of time-sensitive cargo, support tourism and attract investment."

However, he said realising these benefits would require financially sustainable airlines, efficient airport infrastructure, streamlined cargo procedures, credible regulation, appropriate financing and sustained investment in technical manpower.

He also identified aviation fuel supply and pricing as major concerns, noting that disruptions in energy supply could trigger flight delays and cancellations, increased airfares, reduced connectivity and economic losses.

The former FAAN MD explained that geopolitical conflicts and instability in major energy-producing regions could increase the cost of fuel, insurance, shipping and imported technical equipment, with serious implications for transport operators.

He noted that the effects extended beyond aviation to road haulage, public transportation, railway operations and maritime logistics, where rising energy costs ultimately translated into higher passenger fares and freight charges.

The industry expert further warned that foreign exchange volatility exposed airlines and other transport operators to higher aircraft leasing, maintenance, insurance, and equipment replacement costs, potentially resulting in reduced investment, delayed fleet renewal, higher fares, and lower service frequency.

On other modes of transportation, Aisuebeogun identified deteriorating roads, inadequate drainage, congestion, poorly maintained bridges and insufficient rural access roads as major obstacles to national productivity.

He said poor road conditions increased vehicle maintenance costs, fuel consumption, travel time and accident risks, while raising the cost of transporting agricultural produce and manufactured goods.

He further canvassed for improved railway network coverage, maintenance, security and freight capacity, stressing that rail investment should be guided by demonstrated passenger and cargo demand.

According to him, economically important railway corridors should be rehabilitated, while rail terminals should be connected to seaports, warehouses, industrial clusters and major commercial centres.

On maritime transportation, he advocated improved navigability and safety of commercially viable inland waterways, modern cargo-handling facilities and stronger connections between ports and road and rail networks.

Aisuebeogun also identified climate change and environmental pressures as emerging threats to transport infrastructure, warning that flooding, extreme rainfall, excessive heat and coastal erosion could damage roads, bridges, railway tracks, ports and airport facilities.

He stressed the need for stronger supply chain risk management, strategic inventory planning, diversified sourcing arrangements, and domestic technical capabilities to reduce Nigeria's exposure to international disruptions.

XEJet sets Q1 2027 target for Saudi Arabian market

XEJET Limited has unveiled plans to expand its international operations, with Saudi Arabia as its target effective quarter one 2027.

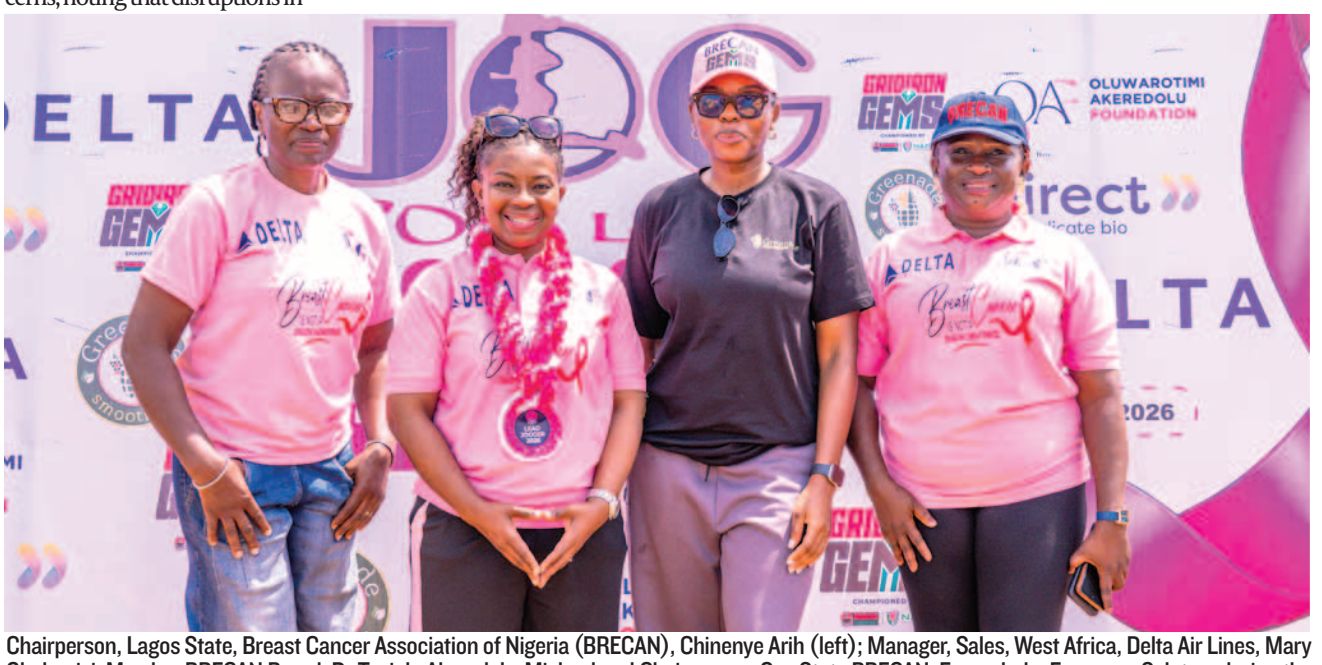
A statement by the Brand & Communications Manager, XEJet Limited, Juliet Atikpekpe, said that the airline was targeting the business and leisure market in addition to Umrah, which can be performed at any time of the year.

Atikpekpe stated that the airline is introducing new aircraft to support its expansion drive, stressing that the new aircraft provide XEJet with the seat capacity and cabin space that a long international sector requires.

The statement added: "Route details, including the Saudi airports to be served, schedules, and fares, will be announced separately. Services will begin subject to regulatory approvals in Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.

"Saudi Arabia is the first international market; business, leisure, and Umrah travel are the key sectors to be served, and we are confident that there is year-round demand between the two key city pairs.

"The new aircraft will give us the capacity and the right cabin mix for that sector. At home, we are adding routes so that passengers in more Nigerian cities can connect to it. We will also be boosting connectivity during the upcoming Christmas and New Year period. We will share schedules and fares as soon as the approvals are in place," said Group Chief Operating Officer, XEJet Sukhjinder Mann.



Chairperson, Lagos State, Breast Cancer Association of Nigeria (BRECAN), Chinenye Arih (left); Manager, Sales, West Africa, Delta Air Lines, Mary Gbobaniyi; Member BRECAN Board, Dr Teniola Akeredolu-Micheal and Chairperson, Oyo State BRECAN, Emuoghoke Emonena-Solotan, during the breast cancer campaigned sponsored by Delta Air Lines, held in Lagos, recently.

Delta, BRECAN partner to drive breast cancer awareness in Nigeria

THE United States' carrier, Delta Air Lines has partnered with the Breast Cancer Association of Nigeria (BRECAN) to promote breast cancer awareness, encourage early detection and enhance community education during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

A statement by the airline in Nigeria, said that this partnership aligned with its commitment to community support with BRECAN's efforts to raise breast cancer awareness, encourage timely medical attention, and assist those affected by the disease.

The event, held on October 31, 2026, in Lagos, included an awareness walk, breast cancer education, and a survivor engagement session, among others.

Participants gained knowledge about breast health, learned to recognise potential warning signs and understood the importance of professional medical advice and screening.

Manager, Sales, West Africa, Delta Air Lines, Mary Gbobaniyi, said Delta believed that connecting people extended beyond transportation; rather, it involves supporting the communities where the airline operates.

She explained that breast cancer impacts individuals, families, and communities, stressing that increased awareness and early detection were critical steps towards improving outcomes.

She added, "Our partnership with BRECAN allows us to support efforts that educate individuals, encourage prompt medical attention, and assure those affected by breast cancer that they have support."

Also, the Founder of BRECAN, Dr Betty Anyanwu Akeredolu, a 29-year breast cancer survivor, called for stronger healthcare systems, accessible screening and diagnostic services, affordable treatment, and adequate financial and psychosocial support for patients and their families.

NATCA pushes for deeper collaboration to boost air traffic management

THE Nigerian Air Traffic Controllers' Association (NATCA) is set to bring together aviation stakeholders and industry professionals to deliberate on strategies to improve air traffic management and strengthen operational efficiency in Nigeria.

The deliberations would form the centrepiece of the association's 55th Annual General Meeting (AGM), scheduled to hold in Lagos from November 10 to 11, 2026.

The AGM, with the theme 'Beyond Silos to Synergy: Shaping the Future of Nigerian Air Traffic Management,' sought greater collaboration among aviation agencies, industry operators, and other stakeholders to address the challenges confronting Nigeria's air traffic management system.

As the nation's airspace becomes increasingly important to economic activities and regional connectivity, effective coordination among aviation institutions remains critical to ensuring flight safety, operational efficiency and the modernisation of air navigation services.

The meeting is expected to provide a platform for air traffic controllers, aviation regulators, industry experts and other stakeholders to examine emerging developments in the sector and explore collaborative approaches to improving air traffic management.

NATCA, an affiliate of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA), plays a key professional role in promoting the interests of air traffic controllers and advancing safety and efficiency in air navigation services.

The event is supported by key industry organisations, including the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) and United ATS, as well as other aviation stakeholders committed to promoting flight safety and operational excellence.

The two-day event is also expected to generate discussions on technological advancement and improved professional standards.

WorldReport

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Trump under pressure after 'disastrous' midterm election

PRESIDENT Donald Trump faced pressure from Republicans on Wednesday to change course after a midterm election rout handed Democrats control of Congress and voters rejected his handpicked candidates in key races.

Republican allies and strategists called for Trump to shake up his White House personnel, restore discipline and scrap policies they blamed for the losses, including the Iran war and tariffs, as his presidency enters its final years.

Veteran Republican strategist John Feehery called the results a "huge disaster" for Trump.

"He needs to clean house," Feehery said. "Every day from this point forward, he's becoming more and more lame."

But Trump showed little indication that he viewed the election outcome as a reason to change direction.

"I don't view it as a hit on me," he told Fox News late on Tuesday.

Democrats will now have the power to block Trump's legislation, investigate his administration and challenge his nominees. That is expected to push Trump, who has already used executive authority aggressively, toward an even greater reliance on unilateral action.

He will also have to decide whether to double down on an agenda that some Republicans fear has become a political liability, particularly for potential successors eyeing White House bids in 2028.

Vice President JD Vance, who is viewed as Trump's likely political heir, appeared to put some distance between himself and the president on Wednesday, blaming the Iran war for the midterm losses.

Such breaks could become more common if Republicans conclude Trump's longtime grip on the party's voters is weakening, strategists and party officials said.

Inside the White House, senior aides were bracing for staff departures, possible Cabinet changes and Democratic investigations, according to a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Six dead, others injured at New York City building fire outbreak

SIX people have died after a large fire broke out in a residential building in Brooklyn, New York City, officials say.

Several others were hurt in the blaze, which occurred early yesterday morning, the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) said in a statement.

More than 230 fire and emergency medical personnel were sent to the scene near Sunset Park after the fire was first reported at around 01:40 local time (06:40 GMT).

The cause of the blaze is being investigated.

A crew specialising in hazardous materials was also sent to the scene because of the presence of a lithium-ion battery, although it was not clear whether this was linked to the blaze.

The emergency responders reportedly discovered on their arrival that the building's first and second floors had been engulfed by flames.

The bodies of four of those who died were found at the scene. Two others were found in a critical condition and later died. United States media reports varied on whether they died in hospital, or while being taken there.

French unions begin strike to protest high cost of living

PROTESTS are taking place across France after five unions launched a national day of strike action, joining high school students and demonstrators criticising the rising cost of living.

More than 250,000 people had taken to the streets in almost 70 towns and cities by 13:00 (12:00 GMT) yesterday, and that was "just the start", said Sophie Binet of the CGT union.

The unions have vowed to take the wave of protests that began in September over poor conditions and resources at lycées (high schools) "to the next level".

They have since spread to include workers and the so-called "yellow-vest" movement against high prices.

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said 70,000 police were being deployed, vowing "an extremely firm response" to any potential outbreaks of violence.

Multiple European flights targeted by bomb threats for second time this week

AT least 18 aircraft across Europe have been targeted by bomb threats, the second such incident this week, which the UK has called a "malicious hoax".

Flights bound for Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Poland and Romania have been affected, including an Aer Lingus plane which departed Dublin for Rome but was forced to divert to Evreux air base in northern France.

Italian fighter jets escorted a Finnair flight from Helsinki to Rome, where it landed as scheduled. In Spain, three flights in the capital, Madrid, were affected.

No explosives have been found in those searched so far.

Egypt-U.S. sign $625m pact to advance prosperity

EGYPT and the United States signed a framework agreement on "Strategic Objectives" to advance mutual prosperity.

Foreign Minister Dr Badr Abdelatty attended the ceremony, along with the ministers of finance, supply and internal trade, and higher education and scientific research.

Dr Samar Al Ahdal, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Cooperation, signed for Egypt while Robert Silverman, Chargé d'Affaires at the United States embassy, signed for the United States.

Al Ahdal said the United States contribution could reach $625 million over five years.

"The total amount of America's contribution under the agreement amounts up to $625 million over a period of five years," said Al Ahdal.

Silverman called it the first of what Washington hopes will be annual agreements, with $125 million in grants committed in this first round.

PUBLIC NOTICE
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC DISPLAY EXERCISE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) OF THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF NINE (9) STOREY ICONIC OFFICE COMPLEX, BAYELSA STATE SECRETARIAT, YENAGOA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, BAYELSA STATE BY BAYELSA STATE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

In accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act CAP E12 LFN 2004, which makes it mandatory for proponents of all new major developmental activities to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of their proposed projects, the Federal Ministry of Environment hereby announces twenty-one (21) working days Public Display for the draft EIA report submitted by Bayelsa State Ministry of Environment.

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The proposed project shall involve the construction of a nine (9) storey iconic office complex at the Bayelsa State Secretariat, Off Melford Okilo Expressway, Yenagoa Local Government Area, Bayelsa State.

THE DISPLAY CENTERS ARE:
- Headquarters, Yenagoa Local Government Area, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State;
- Bayelsa State Ministry of Environment, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State
- Federal Ministry of Environment, State Office, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State;
- Federal Ministry of Environment, Environmental Assessment Department, (Environment House), Independence Way South, Central Business District, Abuja - FCT;
- www.ead.gov.ng

DURATION OF DISPLAY:
Date: 5th November - 3rd December, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

ALL COMMENTS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HEADQUARTERS, MABUSHI, ABUJA - FCT AND VIA info@ead.gov.ng ON OR BEFORE 10TH DECEMBER, 2026.

SIGNED:
PERMANENT SECRETARY
FOR: HONOURABLE MINISTER

PUBLIC NOTICE
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC DISPLAY EXERCISE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ESIA) OF THE PROPOSED 36MW HYBRID GAS AND SOLAR POWER PLANT AT APAPA PORT TERMINAL, APAPA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, LAGOS STATE BY INCOME ELECTRIX LIMITED

In accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act CAP E12 LFN 2004, which makes it mandatory for proponents of all new major developmental activities to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of their proposed projects, the Federal Ministry of Environment hereby announces twenty-one (21) working days Public Display for the draft ESIA report submitted by Income Electrix Limited.

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The proposed project involve the development of a 36MW Hybrid Independent Power Plant with pipeline natural gas as primary fuel and a proposed LNG backup on a landtake of 3,990 square metres at the Old Power House Site, Apapa Quay within the Nigerian Port Authority (NPA), Apapa Port Complex, Apapa Local Government Area, Lagos State.

THE DISPLAY CENTERS ARE:
- Headquarters, Apapa Local Government Area, Apapa, Lagos State;
- Lagos State Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos State;
- Federal Ministry of Environment, State Office, Lagos State;
- Federal Ministry of Environment, Environmental Assessment Department, (Environment House), Independence Way South, Central Business District, Abuja - FCT;
- www.ead.gov.ng

DURATION OF DISPLAY:
Date: 6th November - 4th December, 2026
Time: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

ALL COMMENTS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HEADQUARTERS, MABUSHI, ABUJA - FCT AND VIA info@ead.gov.ng ON OR BEFORE 11TH DECEMBER, 2026.

SIGNED:
PERMANENT SECRETARY
FOR: HONOURABLE MINISTER

Court nullifies Mark-led NWC, Atiku's ticket, other nominations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Atiku, Obi fault timing, warn of electoral uncertainty

ATIKU also accused the ruling APC of using the judgment to frustrate his presidential ambition and weaken the ADC's growing political influence ahead of the 2027 elections.

In a statement issued by Phrank Shaibu, Director of Strategic Communication of the ADC PCC, the former Vice-President said the ruling came barely 24 hours after supporters welcomed him to Sokoto for the campaign launch, alleging that it was intended to weaken his support base in the North and disrupt the campaign's national momentum.

"The timing of this judgment is no coincidence. It is part of a strategy to weaken my support in the North and frustrate a campaign whose message is resonating across the country," he said.

He, however, insisted that the development would neither derail the party's campaign nor diminish its appeal across the country, urging supporters to remain peaceful.

Similarly, the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) presidential candidate, Peter Obi, expressed concern over the judgment, urging Nigerians and the judiciary to protect democratic principles and allow opposition parties to thrive.

In a statement posted on his X platform, Obi said he respected the authority of the courts to determine disputes but was concerned about the uncertainty created by the ruling with the general election approaching.

"I do not challenge the ruling of the court. The court of law is constituted to determine disputes according to the law. My concern is that three months before a general election, it is in the public interest to have certainty," he said.

The former Anambra State governor alleged that opposition parties were facing efforts to weaken their structures and restrict their campaign space, claiming that similar developments had affected him during his time in the Labour Party.

He also expressed concern over alleged violence against opposition campaigns, warning that the developments could weaken democratic institutions at a time when military rule was spreading in parts of West Africa.

"One mark of democracy is that at all times, it is voters and not courts that choose leaders," he said, appealing to the judiciary and other stakeholders to protect political participation.

The Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) also condemned the ruling, alleging that it was part of a broader effort to weaken opposition parties and create conditions for a one-party state.

In a statement issued in Abuja, the coalition accused the APC-led administration of benefiting from developments capable of undermining political competition.

It urged the judiciary to protect citizens' constitutional rights and ensure that its decisions did not restrict democratic participation.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP), through its National Chairman, Prof. Sadiq Gombe, also called on the judiciary, security agencies and INEC to remain impartial and protect the electoral process.

Speaking in Abuja after a meeting with the party's nine governorship candidates, Gombe accused the APC of attempting to infiltrate opposition parties and weaken their structures ahead of the elections.

He said the SDP was working with other opposition parties on joint training of party agents and the establishment of common situation rooms to protect votes during the elections.

The party reaffirmed its commitment to presenting Prince Adewole Adebayo and Prof. Usman Bugaje as its presidential and vice-presidential candidates respectively.

Okorie warns of anarchy as stakeholders urge appeal

THE ruling has also attracted criticism from lawyers, politicians and civil society figures, with several stakeholders expressing concern about its implications for the electoral process.

Founding National Chairman of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Chief Chekwas Okorie, described the judgment as an "invitation to anarchy", warning that its timing could heighten political tension.

He said delivering such a ruling while candidates were already campaigning for the 2027 elections could create perceptions of exclusion and trigger reactions that might prove difficult to contain.

"For a law court to choose this time to give this kind of ruling when all candidates are in the field campaigning for votes in the 2027 elections sends a bad signal," he said.

Okorie, who recalled warning President Bola Tinubu in an open letter in March about rising political tension, urged the judiciary to ensure that outstanding appeals were resolved promptly and that the country conducted credible elections.

A partner at the law firm of Tayo Oyetibo, Paul Mgbeoma, advised the ADC to file an immediate appeal, expressing confidence that the party had competent lawyers to pursue the matter.

He said the judgment had serious implications for the ADC as a political institution, its leadership, presidential aspirants and candidates contesting other elective positions.

According to him, the court had invalidated the leadership arrangements and nominations made under the Mark-led NWC, including Atiku's presidential ticket.

He, however, clarified that the decision did not amount to the deregistration of the ADC or extinguish the constitutional rights of its members to participate in elections.

"The ADC cannot simply proceed as though nothing has happened. Even if the party immediately files an appeal, it must contend with the fact that the subsisting judgment has purportedly invalidated the very authority under which its candidates emerged," he said.

Mgbeoma expressed the hope that appellate courts would expedite the determination of pre-election disputes filed ahead of the general election.

The Yoruba Ronu Leadership Forum also faulted the judgment, with its President, Akin Malaolu, questioning the timing and circumstances surrounding the decision.

The group cited alleged attempts to frustrate Atiku's campaign flag-off in Sokoto, threats of treason by members of the APC presidential campaign media team and an earlier judgment in a separate suit seeking the ADC's deregistration.

It urged political leaders to avoid actions capable of heightening tension and called on the judiciary to ensure that its decisions were founded on established legal principles.

Read the remaining part of this story on www.guardian.ng

FMN NNFM Northern Nigeria Flour Mills Plc.

NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC

NO.15 MAIMALARI ROAD BOMPAI INDUSTRIAL AREA KANO STATE

Q2 UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2026

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Note	Six Months Ended 30-09-26 N'000	Six Months Ended 30-09-25 N'000	Three Months Ended 30-09-26 N'000	Three Months Ended 30-09-25 N'000
Revenue		**3,882,471**	**14,033,145**	**2,056,864**	**7,213,573**
Cost of sales	1	(5,051,694)	(12,930,087)	(2,816,918)	(7,386,037)
Gross profit/(Loss)		**(1,169,223)**	**1,103,059**	**(760,053)**	**(172,464)**
Other Operating Income	2	223,282	430,727	136,723	428,783
Selling and distribution expenses	3	(48,308)	(249,011)	(42,420)	411,842
Administrative expenses	4	(934,245)	(733,277)	(535,358)	(411,592)
Operating profit/(Loss)		**(1,928,493)**	**551,498**	**(1,201,109)**	**256,569**
Investment income		7,204	1,185	7,144	535
Finance cost	5	(1,294,286)	(11)	(1,098,035)	-
		(3,215,575)	**552,672**	**(2,291,999)**	**257,105**
Profit/(Loss) before tax		(3,215,575)	552,672	(2,291,999)	257,105
Tax expense					
Profit/(Loss) after tax		**(3,215,575)**	**552,672**	**(2,291,999)**	**257,105**
Profit/(Loss) attributable to:					
Owners of the Company		**(3,215,575)**	**552,672**	**(2,291,999)**	**257,105**
Earnings per Share - Basic (Kobo)		(1,804)	310	(1,286)	144

MR Adrian Naidoo
Managing Director
FRC/2023/POR/DIR/071/023658

Mr. Emmanuel Akajagbon
Chief Financial Officer
FRC/2025/PRO/ICAN/001/476868

October 30th, 2026

Explanatory Notes:

Management is implementing measures to improve sales volumes, production efficiency with the objective of restoring profitability

PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: FRCN'S STATUTORY TITLE AND RECOVERY OF POSSESSION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AT NO. 12 TURNBULL ROAD, IKOYI, LAGOS

The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) has noted with concern a video in circulation containing grave and unverified allegations concerning the Corporation's lawful recovery of possession of its property situate at No. 12 Turnbull Road, Ikoyi, Lagos.

FRCN wishes to state categorically as follows

1. ON TITLE: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROPERTY VALIDLY VESTED IN FRCN

The property at No. 12 Turnbull Road, Ikoyi, is and remains a property of the Federal Government of Nigeria acquired by the Federal Government and vested in FRCN for its use and operations pursuant to the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria Act, Cap F34, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

FRCN's title is rooted in valid and subsisting acquisition instruments and Federal Government Gazette. By virtue of Section 49(1) and (2) of the Land Use Act, 1978, title of the Federal Government to land in any part of the Federation cannot be defeated, revoked or extinguished except in strict compliance with Section 28 of the Act and with Presidential approval. No such revocation, re-acquisition, forfeiture, or lawful alienation in favour of Mr. Marcel Imoisili or any private person is contained in FRCN's records.

2. ON RECOVERY OF POSSESSION: NO TRESPASS, NO SELF-HELP

Contrary to the allegation of trespass and unlawful demolition, FRCN acted within its rights as a title holder in recovery of possession. For the avoidance of doubt, trespass is founded on exclusive possession. FRCN being the title holder and person with the immediate right to possession cannot commit trespass on its own property. What FRCN undertook was a lawful recovery of possession after due notice.

Mr. Marcel Imoisili was neither in occupation nor in possession of the property in 2025, when FRCN recovered possession of its property. FRCN did not resort to violence, brigandage or any form of self-help inconsistent with Sections 43 and 44 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended). In addition and contrary to claims made in the video, the original structures on the property - comprising a detached house and four-room Boys Quarters - were constructed by FRCN and served as its Lagos Guest House. They were not newly erected by Mr. Marcel Imoisili.

3. ON STATUS OF DISPUTES: SUB JUDICE AND LIS PENDENS

FRCN is aware that the title, possession and competing claims relating to this property are subject of pending litigation and official cautions at the Federal Lands Registry, Ikoyi, Lagos. The doctrine of Lis Pendens applies.

Issues of title to land, trespass, and validity of competing instruments are justiciable issues reserved exclusively for determination by a court of competent jurisdiction. They cannot be conclusively determined by trial in the media or by social media commentary. Any person asserting a private title in conflict with Federal Government title is bound to prove same before the court with superior evidence of root of title, as enunciated in *Idundun v. Okumagba (1976) 9-10 SC 227.*

CONCLUSION

FRCN remains irrevocably committed to the rule of law, due process, and the protection of Federal Government assets from encroachment and unlawful conversion, in line with its statutory mandate and the Federal Government's policy on safeguarding public assets.

Any person claiming any lawful interest in the property is advised to ventilate such claim before the competent court, where all documents, including any purported deed of assignment, excision will be subjected to judicial scrutiny.

FRCN urges members of the public and the media to disregard unverified allegations calculated to prejudice matters pending before the court and to erode public confidence in a Federal Government institution.

Signed:

Olusegun Fabunmi, SAN
The Lead Counsel
FRCN Onikoyi Legal Consortium
Olufab Law Office, Olufab Place
No. 11, Bishop Street, Surulere, Lagos.
4th November, 2026

GOVERNMENT OF RIVERS STATE

APC

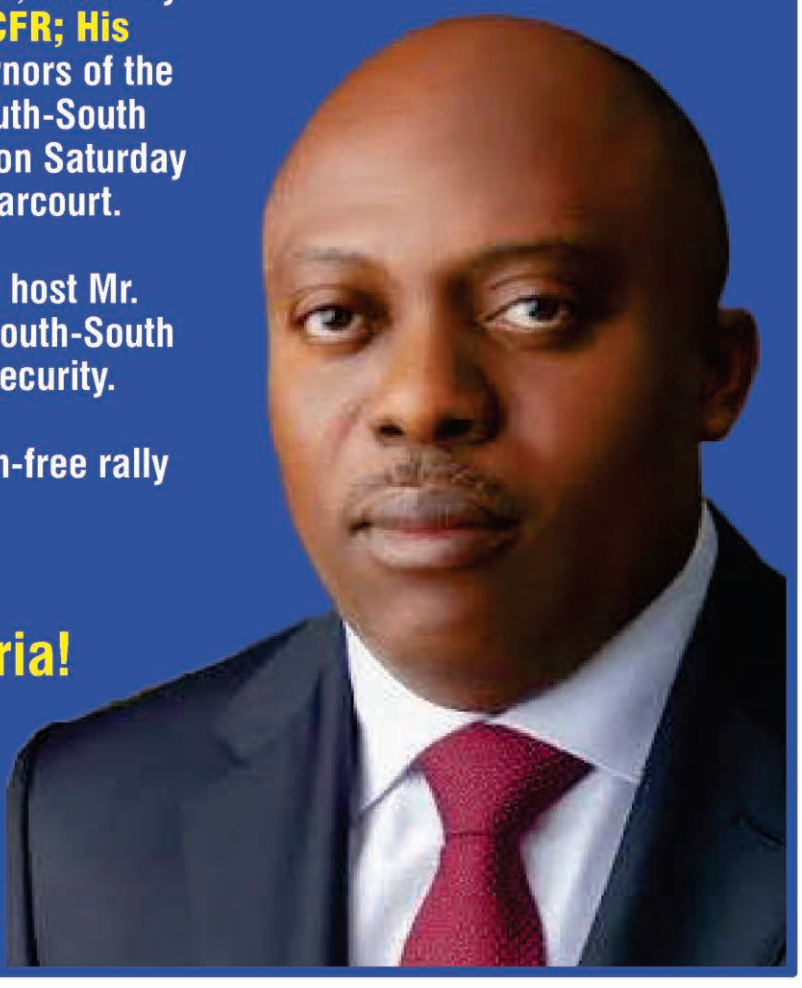
WELCOMES
MR PRESIDENT TO THE
APC SOUTH SOUTH RALLY

On behalf of the Government and the good people of Rivers State, I heartily welcome **His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR; His Excellency, Vice President Kashim Shettima, GCON**; all Governors of the South-South Zone and all leaders of our great party, to the South-South Campaign Rally of the All Progressives Congress (APC) holding on Saturday November 07, 2026 at Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium, Port Harcourt.

As the Treasure Base of the Nation, Rivers State is pleased to host Mr. President, his entourage and all party faithful from across the South-South Region. We assure you of our warm hospitality, peace and security.

We wish Mr. President and his entourage a successful and hitch-free rally in Rivers State.

Long Live Rivers State!
Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!



His Excellency,
Sir Siminalayi Fubara, GSSRS,
Governor of Rivers State.

Osun govt warns Oluwo over 'inflammatory' remarks, fears religious, communal conflicts

You can't sack me, Oluwo dares Adeleke's govt

From **Oluwole Ige**, Osogbo

THE Osun State Government has cautioned the Oluwo of Iwo, Oba Abdulrasheed Akanbi, over what it described as inflammatory public statements capable of triggering religious and inter-town conflicts.

In a letter dated November but with no particular day stated and addressed to the monarch, the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs warned that the monarch's alleged conduct could undermine communal peace and peaceful coexistence among people of different faiths.

The letter, signed by the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Wale Alli–yu, said the government had observed with "worries and anxieties" recent inflammatory statements and pronouncements attributed to the monarch.

MEANWHILE, the Oluwo's Spokesperson, Alli Ibrahim, confirmed yesterday that the monarch had received the government's letter.

Oba Abdulrosheed Adewale Akanbi, yesterday, declared that Governor Ademola Adeleke's administration could not sack him from his throne.

LASEPA records over 30,000 noise pollution cases

LASCOPA recovers N759 million for consumers in six years

By **Gbenga Salau** and **Shakirah Adunola**

LAGOS State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) has revealed that it had in the last 30 years of its existence, carried out at least 30,000 environmental enforcement, including noise pollution, which are aimed at protecting residents from environmental hazards.

General Manager of the agency, Dr Babatunde Ajayi, disclosed this while speaking at an event to mark the 30th anniversary of LASEPA in Lagos.

Ajayi said that the agency had consistently undertaken more than 1,000 noise-related enforcement actions yearly since its establishment, covering businesses, industrial facilities, religious institutions and residential premises where necessary.

RELATEDLY, the Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA) said it had recovered N759.35 million and $14,901.80 in billing adjustments and direct refunds for aggrieved consumers over the past six years.

The agency also disclosed that it had resolved 10,720 consumer complaints out of 11,120 received across various sectors, including banking, aviation, real estate, e-commerce, logistics, telecommunications and utilities.

2027 Polls: APC targets 800,000 votes for Tinubu in Ekiti, urges issues-based campaign

From **Adamu Abuh** (Abuja) and **Ayodele Afolabi** (Ado-Ekiti)

- Yari seeks 90% support as Oshiomhole, Yilwatda highlight government's reforms
- Oyebanji assures Tinubu of total victory

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) has set a target of at least 800,000 votes for President Bola Tinubu in Ekiti State in the January 16, 2027 presidential election, urging party leaders and supporters to intensify grassroots mobilisation to secure his re-election.

Director-General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council (PCC), Senator Abdulaziz Yari, announced the target at the party's presidential campaign rally in Ado-Ekiti, where he expressed confidence that the state could deliver an overwhelming victory for Tinubu.

Yari recalled that Tinubu secured about 80 per cent of the votes in Ekiti during the 2023 presidential election, insisting that the President's interventions in infrastructure and others deserved even greater electoral support.

He said that with about 1.08 million registered voters and more than 900,000 Permanent Voter Cards collected in the state, the APC should mobilise to deliver at least 800,000 votes for the President.

He urged Governor Biodun Oyebanji and other political leaders to take the campaign message to the grassroots, stressing that Tinubu had demonstrated commitment to Ekiti's development.

Earlier, the APC National Chairman, Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda, presented the party's candidates, beginning with Tinubu and extending to its senatorial, House of Representatives and state House of Assembly candidates in Ekiti.

He urged residents to support all APC candidates in the forthcoming elections, stressing that the party needed to maintain control of the Presidency and secure a strong presence in the National Assembly and state legislature.

Yilwatda described Tinubu as a performer and reformer, highlighting the administration's tax reforms, particularly the exemption of small businesses with yearly turnover below N100 million from tax obligations.

He said the policy was designed to protect small-scale entrepreneurs and low-income earners from unnecessary tax burdens.

Also speaking, former Edo State Governor, Adams Oshiomhole, challenged opposition parties to explain what they would do differently if elected, insisting that the Tinubu administration had introduced reforms aimed at repositioning the economy and improving living conditions.

Oshiomhole particularly highlighted the administration's interventions in education, workers' welfare, security and industrial development.

Read the remaining part of this story on www.guardian.ng



Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji (right), during the swearing-in ceremony for the newly appointed commissioners and special advisers in Ado-Ekiti, yesterday.

NIMR denies internal crisis, says FG's tenure policy must be obeyed

By **Ijeoma Nwanosike**

THE Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) has denied reports of an internal crisis following the retirement of three research directors, insisting that its management and staff remain united and that the controversy has not disrupted the Institute's operations.

NIMR said all members of staff, including researchers, remained at work performing their official duties, while the management continued to discharge its mandate of advancing medical research and improving public health in Nigeria.

The denial comes amid public discussions over the implementation of the Federal Government's eight-year tenure policy for directors and vacation notices subsequently issued to the affected former directors, following allegations by the National Secretary of the Academic Staff Union of Research Institutions (ASURI), Prof. Theophilus Ndubuaku.

In a statement signed by its Media Consultant, Sam Eferaro, NIMR said the retirement of the three directors resulted from a Federal Government directive and was not a personal decision of its Director-General, Prof. John Oladapo Obafunwa.

It explained that the policy was neither formulated by the Institute nor independently introduced by its management, adding that two separate directives were transmitted through the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation on February 10, 2026, and the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health, on February 16, 2026.

According to the Institute, the affected officers were provided with copies of the relevant instructions, stressing that as a Federal Government research institution, it was obligated to comply with applicable government policies.

LASG steps up CNG drive, seeks control of energy infrastructure

By **Waliat Musa**

LAGOS State Government has said that it is targeting 19 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations by the first quarter of 2027, as it intensifies efforts to expand alternative fuel infrastructure and strengthen energy supply across the state.

The state's Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Biodun Ogunleye, who disclosed this ahead of the Lagos Energy Summit 2026 at a media briefing in Lagos yesterday, said that the state was also negotiating with the Federal Government to secure greater control of its energy infrastructure.

He said discussions between both tiers of government were ongoing, although some issues were yet to be resolved.

Ogunleye said the state was working to end what he described as a culture of dysfunction in energy provision, stressing that the challenges require collective action by government, investors, regulators, engineers, academics and citizens.

He said the summit, scheduled for November 10-12, 2026, themed "Lagos Energy Evolution, Transforming the Future," would address issues across the energy value chain, including electricity supply, renewable energy, metering, affordability and alternative transportation fuels.

According to him, the state would use the gathering to showcase its progress in the electricity sector and provide an opportunity for other states to learn.

He added that discussions on electricity tariffs would address the need to balance affordability for consumers with cost recovery for investors, noting that tariffs must be sustainable enough to attract and retain investment in the market.

Managing Director of Ibile Oil and Gas Company (IOGC), Tayo Gbajumo, who spoke on the expansion of alternative fuel infrastructure, said the state currently had three operational CNG stations, with plans to increase the number to 19 by the first quarter of 2027.

Gbajumo said the expansion, being undertaken in collaboration with the ministry, was aimed at addressing queues at existing stations and making CNG more accessible across Lagos.

He said the company planned to establish an additional 10 stations by the first quarter of 2028 to extend the network to more locations across the state.

Read the remaining part of this story on www.guardian.ng

FG clears 44 of over 300 stranded power equipment containers at Apapa Ports

'Recovered turbines unlocked 470MW, saved N30b'

By **Waliat Musa**

THE Federal Government has cleared 44 of over 300 containers of stranded electrical equipment at Apapa Ports, in a move to recover assets that have remained idle for years, with some held since 2014.

Minister of Power, Joseph Tegbe, disclosed this after the last Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting in Abuja, saying that the clearance followed President Bola Tinubu's directive to resolve the prolonged delays and facilitate the deployment of the equipment to the national grid.

Tegbe said the President had directed the Federal Ministry of Power to work closely with the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to address the issues preventing the release of the containers.

He said the President also instructed the agencies to reconcile outstanding charges to remove the bottlenecks responsible for keeping the equipment at the ports.

The clearance of the first 44 containers, according to the minister, represents progress in the government's efforts to recover electrical equipment already procured for power infrastructure projects.

He said that technical experts would inspect the equipment after clearance to determine which items were serviceable and could be deployed in ongoing power projects, while those considered unusable would be disposed of appropriately.

Bowen graduates 1,443, records full accreditation

By **Seye Olumide**

THE capacity of Nigerian universities to produce skilled manpower, strengthen critical sectors of the economy and compete in global research has come into focus as Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State, prepares to graduate 1,443 students at its 21st convocation ceremony.

Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the institution, Prof. Jonathan O. Babalola, said that Bowen recorded 100 per cent success in the accreditation of eight academic programmes presented to the National Universities Commission (NUC).

According to the VC, the achievement, alongside the university's contribution to healthcare manpower development and research, underscores the potential role of private universities in addressing Nigeria's educational and human capital challenges.

In a statement yesterday, Babalola said the eight programmes that secured full accreditation include Surveying and Geoinformatics, Biochemistry, Industrial Chemistry, Pure and Applied Biology, Religious Studies, Architecture, among others.

PSN urges FG to declare state of emergency in pharmaceuticals

From **Osiberoha Osibe**, Awka

• Opposes medipool drug supply plan • Soludo, Pate seek pharmacists' support in fight against fake drugs, others

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) has called on the Federal Government to declare pharmaceutical insecurity a national security threat, warning that drug diversion, illicit trafficking and counterfeit medicines are fuelling insecurity and undermining public health.

The Society also urged the government to establish a Federal Drug Management Agency backed by law, insisting that the proposed Medipool drug procurement scheme must operate within a public sector framework.

President of the PSN, Ayuba Tanko, gave the charge during the opening ceremony of the Society's 99th yearly national conference, tagged "Ijele 2026" and themed "One health, One Pharmacy: Bridging Knowledge, Practice and Policy for National Impact," held at the International Convention Centre, Awka, Anambra State.

Tanko said the government must retain control of the pharmaceutical supply chain, particularly the procurement, storage, distribution and dispensing of medicines, to protect the country against drug diversion, counterfeiting and the financing of organised crime.

He said the Federal Government's approval of Medipool as a National Group Purchasing Organisation in May 2025 had generated controversy over its legality and implications for public health and national security.

The PSN President acknowledged that pooled purchasing could reduce medicine costs, prevent stock-outs and improve transparency, but warned against handing over the entire drug supply chain of public health facilities to a private company.

He said the Society's objection was not to group purchasing itself but to the structure and legality of the proposed arrangement.

Tanko said that the government must retain direct control of medicines because of their public health and security implications, particularly the risks associated with controlled and psychoactive drugs.

He said the involvement of a private company in the drug-utilisation chain could weaken collaboration between the government and regulatory agencies, including the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN), the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

MEANWHILE, Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, has advocated stronger collaboration with pharmacists in the fight to stamp out fake and adulterated drugs, quackery and other unwholesome practices in the health sector.

Soludo, who noted that the state passes for the biggest drug market in Africa, lamented the huge negative impact counterfeit drugs would have in the lives of the citizens if not adequately checked,

Otu decries attack on Obi's convoy, vows action

• C'River denies APC's involvement, alleges internal rift

From **Tina Agosi Todo**, Calabar

GOVERNOR Bassey Otu of Cross River State has condemned Wednesday's attack on the convoy of the presidential candidate of the Nigerian Democratic Congress (NDC), Mr Peter Obi, by suspected political thugs in the state capital, Calabar.

In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr Linus Obogo, Otu expressed sadness and concern at the attack, empathising with Obi and his visiting entourage.

"I extend my deepest, most heartfelt sympathies to Mr Peter Obi and his team over the deeply disturbing incident that occurred yesterday (Wednesday) during his campaign visit to our state capital," the governor said.

Emphasising that Cross River State is in solidarity with all political actors seeking to engage peacefully with the electorate, Otu said the state remains an enclave of civil harmony and hospitality, making the ugly incident an unacceptable anomaly.

"As a government and as a people, our hearts go out to him, and we stand in firm solidarity against any act designed to instil fear or disrupt the peaceful exercise of political rights," he added.

Nigeria presents Deep Blue Project at IMO

By **Adaku Onyenucheya**

NIGERIA has presented its experience in tackling maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) with the Deep Blue Project to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council as a model for protecting vital global shipping lanes, improving seafarers' welfare, strengthening institutional governance and promoting a sustainable maritime industry amid growing security concerns and threats to commercial vessels in high-risk maritime zones.

Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Dr Adegboyega Oyetola, said safeguarding and sustaining international shipping was a major focus at the 138th session of the IMO Council in London, holding from November 2 to 6, 2026.

The minister led a high-level Nigerian delegation to the five-day meeting that brought together member states to deliberate on critical issues shaping international shipping, maritime security and the future of the global maritime industry.



Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Ibiloka Kasunmu (left); Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Biodun Ogunleye; General Manager, Lagos State Electrification Agency (LSEA), Kamaldeen Balogun, and Managing Director, Ibile Oil and Gas, Tayo Gbajumo, during a media briefing on the forthcoming 2026 Energy Summit in Lagos, yesterday.

Lawyers urge NASS to scrap AGF's consent in enforcing judgments

From **Ameh Ochojila**, Abuja

LAWYERS at Law Corridor have urged the National Assembly to abolish the requirement for Attorney-General's consent before monetary judgments against government funds can be enforced, warning that the provision undermines the enforcement of court decisions and delays justice for successful litigants.

Addressing journalists in Abuja yesterday, the Managing Partner at Law Corridor, Henry Kelechukwu Eniotu, also urged federal and state lawmakers to decriminalise attempted suicide, strengthen mental healthcare services and ensure greater transparency in the management of voters' registers ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

The firm made the calls while addressing three issues of national importance at a media briefing to mark its Founders' Day, where it also announced the admission of Prof. Olanrewaju Aladeitan

On enforcement of monetary judgments, Law Corridor said the law required for the consent of the appropriate Attorney-General before a garnishee order nisi could be made against certain public funds created opportunities for unnecessary delays.

It noted that although courts had clarified aspects of the provision, including circumstances involving funds held by the Central Bank of Nigeria, the broader consent requirement remained a potential obstacle to successful litigants seeking to enforce judgments against government institutions.

According to the firm, citizens and businesses that secure favourable court judgments should not be subjected to prolonged administrative hurdles before receiving the benefits of such decisions.

It warned that delays in enforcement could expose successful litigants to financial losses, particularly as inflation continued to erode the value of monetary awards.

The firm argued that government already had access to established legal remedies, including appeals and applications for stay of execution, and should not enjoy an additional avenue for indefinitely frustrating the enforcement of court judgments.

It therefore urged the National Assembly to amend the law, remove the consent requirement and introduce clear enforcement procedures with definite timelines, effective post-judgment remedies and judicial oversight.

On mental health, Law Corridor called for the repeal of provisions criminalising attempted suicide under Section 327 of the Criminal Code and Section 231 of the Penal Code.

NDLEA declares war on illicit drugs, trafficking in Edo

From **Sodiq Omolaoye** (Abuja) and **Joseph Kanjo** (Benin City)

• Seeks religious bodies' support • 'S'Africans using Nigeria as trafficking route'

NATIONAL Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), yesterday, declared war on drug abuse and trafficking in Edo State, urging Christian and Islamic leaders to join in the fight.

The agency also raised concerns over the increasing involvement of South African nationals in international drug trafficking, disclosing that three citizens of the country were arrested in recent operations involving large quantities of illicit substances.

Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig-Gen. Mohammed Buba Marwa, spoke at an Interactive Stakeholder Engagement attended by the army, police, members of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community leaders and other stakeholders.

Addressing the stakeholders at the event with the theme, 'Addressing the Drug Problem in Edo State', the NDLEA boss said the fight against illicit drugs "is a whole-of-society approach that all stakeholders must join hands, flex muscles, work together, collaborate and defeat this criminality."

Marwa, who urged parents and guardians to set good examples and monitor their children, said it's better to take an early approach to drug abuse and take those who are already into it seriously early.

He said every criminal act could be traced to the use of illicit drugs.

The NDLEA boss urged schools in the country to establish drug-free and counselling clubs within school communities, just as he encouraged students and pupils to report to their teachers and headmasters when offered drugs.

THE agency said the South African suspects were arrested in separate operations, with operatives recovering heroin, cocaine and synthetic cannabis, popularly known as Loud.

Assistant Director, Media and Advocacy of NDLEA, Francis Okogun, during a joint security briefing in Abuja yesterday, said the arrests attracted attention because of the negative impression they could create about Nigeria internationally, particularly amid concerns over the activities of foreign nationals involved in moving illicit drugs through the country.

He said investigations showed that some foreign nationals were increasingly facilitating the movement of illicit substances through Nigeria to other countries, while others were involved in bringing drugs into the country.

NDC vows to shock Soludo as Anambra govt hails FG's presence in South-East

From **Chuks Collins**, Awka

A DEVASTATING defeat and embarrassment await Governor Chukwuma Soludo and his supporters in Anambra State and all over Nigeria on January 16,2027, the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) has declared.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner for Works, Okey Ezeobi, said the existing synergy between Governor Chukwuma Soludo's administration and President Bola Tinubu's government is due to what he described as the federal government's "significant investments" in Anambra State.

SPEAKING at the formal inauguration of the Anambra State NDC 2027 Campaign in Awka, the coordinator and former member of the House of Representatives, Ifeanyi Ibezi, said the All Progressives Congress (APC) would be woefully disappointed if it was banking on rigging or any form of malpractice.

Ibezi said the NDC is committed to an open, fair and credible election, and would frustrate any form of untoward act by the APC or any other paid agent or group.

Foundation asks FG to include Spina Bifida, Hydrocephalus in health policy

By **Quadri Wahab**

FEDERAL Government has been urged to include Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus in Nigeria's national health and disability policies to guarantee access to healthcare, prevent discrimination and protect affected persons from financial barriers to treatment.

It was also called upon to improve prevention measures, early detection and comprehensive health insurance coverage for persons living with the conditions, stressing that no child should be denied emergency medical attention because their parents could not afford treatment.

The Founder of the Festus Fajemilo Foundation, Mr Afolabi Fajemilo, made the call in Lagos yesterday during the Foundation's 20th anniversary and launch of its 20-Year Impact Report held in Ikeja, Lagos.

Fajemilo said the Foundation had spent two decades supporting persons living with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus through healthcare interventions, advocacy, disability inclusion, empowerment and inclusive education.

Military mulls gradual withdrawal from internal operations

From **Sodiq Omolaoye**, Abuja

• DHQ denies ceasefire with Boko Haram, ISWAP, others

IN view of the federal government's efforts to strengthen the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) to assume its primary responsibilities, the Minister of Defence, Gen. Christopher Musa (rtd.), has disclosed that the Nigerian Armed Forces have started plans to gradually withdraw from internal security operations across the country.

Musa, who acknowledged that prolonged internal security deployments had overstretched the armed forces, said ongoing investments in police recruitment, training, equipment and institutional reforms were intended to restore the police's capacity to effectively manage domestic security challenges.

In the meantime, the Defence Headquarters has dismissed allegations that the federal government or the Nigerian military entered into a ceasefire agreement with Boko Haram, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) or any other terrorist group.

The military said its sustained and intensified offensives against terrorists, armed bandits, kidnappers and other criminal groups demonstrated that no such agreement existed.

THE minister spoke at the Abuja Roundtable, "Promise to Proof: The Renewed Hope Conversation", convened by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Presidential CNG Initiative and Electric Vehicles (Pi-CNG & EV), Ismaeel Ahmed, and organised by the APC Progressive Strategy Roundtable.

The minister also advocated reintroducing tollgates on major highways, supported by modern surveillance and vehicle identification technology, to strengthen security and curb criminals' movement.

Addressing concerns about the military's increasing involvement in internal security, Musa explained that soldiers were being deployed to confront threats that had overwhelmed conventional law enforcement agencies.

He stressed that such deployments should not become permanent substitutes for effective policing, noting that the government was strengthening the police so the armed forces could refocus on their core constitutional responsibilities.

The minister explained that military involvement became necessary when security challenges exceeded police capacity, adding that the ultimate objective was to build a police institution capable of independently maintaining internal security.

However, he noted that improved collaboration among the armed forces, police and other security agencies was already yielding operational gains, describing the current level of interagency cooperation as unprecedented.

On the security situation nationwide, the minister disclosed that troops had neutralised over 300 terrorists and bandits, including over 10 commanders, in operations conducted during the preceding week.

He attributed the gains to improved intelligence gathering, coordinated operations, increased defence spending and the acquisition of modern surveillance and combat equipment, among others.



Chief of Policy and Plans, Naval Headquarters, Rear Admiral Olatunde Olodudu (left); Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Idi Abbas; and Chief of Administration, Rear Admiral Jonathan Mamman, during the closing ceremony of the CNS 2026 Retreat on Wednesday night in Abuja.

Architects urge mentorship, innovation to preserve legacy

• Experts seek resilient design for future cities

By **Bertram Nwannekanma** and **Opeyemi Babalola**

ARCHITECTS have called for stronger mentorship, professional development and innovation to sustain the profession and prepare younger practitioners for emerging challenges.

In another development, industry experts, urban planners, architects and engineers have called for bold leadership, integrated planning and climate-resilient infrastructure to address the growing challenges of urbanisation and shape sustainable cities in Nigeria.

They made the call at the PrimeTech Day 2026 in Lagos, organised by the design and engineering subsidiary of Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, PrimeTech Design and Engineering, where stakeholders examined how innovation, technology and human-centred design could help build inclusive and adaptable urban centres.

SPEAKING at the NIALSC Biennial General Meeting 2026 in Lagos, with the theme, "Preserving Our Legacy: The Past, the Present and the Future," they urged architects to look beyond physical structures when considering their professional legacy.

Awomolo task judges on judicial integrity

From **Ameh Ochojila**, Abuja

THE Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Justice Husseini Baba-Yusuf, has urged judicial officers to uphold fairness, humility, integrity and accountability in the discharge of their duties.

Speaking at FCT High Court's 2026/2027 Legal Year, he warned that arrogance, unnecessary adjournments and poor time management could undermine public confidence in the judiciary.

Baba-Yusuf said judicial authority should not be exercised with arrogance or discourtesy, stressing that judges must treat litigants, lawyers and court personnel with respect, regardless of their social or economic status.

He stressed that judicial independence does not exempt judges from ethical responsibilities, but rather imposes a greater obligation on them to remain accountable to the public.

FG asks states to align food production with demand

From **Joke Falaju**, Abuja

• Stakeholders seek unified action on food, nutrition security

AS part of plans to protect farmers from losses and stabilise food prices for Nigerian households, the federal government has charged states to align agricultural production with consumption.

Meanwhile, stakeholders in the agriculture, health and development sectors have called for stronger collaboration and an integrated approach to addressing Nigeria's food security and nutrition challenges.

They said that fragmented policies, programmes and interventions by government institutions and development partners undermine efforts to improve agricultural productivity, household incomes and nutrition outcomes.

THE Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, made the call at the National Council on Agriculture and Food Security (NCAFS), held in Enugu State, with the theme "Enhancing Agricultural Value Chains, Agro-Industrialisation and Market Access for Economic Growth."

Kyari urged commissioners to build on the progress made ahead of the 2027 season through more reliable production forecasts, closer alignment between agricultural supply and industrial demand, as and provide a stronger coordination between producing and consuming areas.

He explained that the alignment would protect farmers from losses, ensure that factories get raw materials in the right quantity and quality, stabilise food prices for consumers, and reduce waste across value chains.

According to Kyari, this is why agricultural value chains must connect production with processing, investment and dependable markets, even as he regretted that the past three years had exposed a difficult imbalance in agricultural markets.

Nevertheless, he highlighted the federal government's interventions to include the operationalisation of the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF), recapitalisation of the Bank of Agriculture, and the introduction of the N200 billion Guaranteed Minimum Price Programme, among others.

Declaring the council open, the Enugu State Governor, Peter Mbah, said Nigeria does not suffer from a shortage of agricultural potential or policies, but from failure to turn potential and policies into an agricultural economy that delivers prosperity at scale.

The governor disclosed the state's determination to grow its economy from approximately $4.4 billion to $30 billion, with agriculture as one of the principal engines, noting that at the administration's assumption of office, agriculture was already contributing approximately 40 per cent of its GDP.

12% vegetable oil, salt are fortification deficient, says FCCPC

From **Collins Olayinka**, Abuja

THE Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) has raised concerns over compliance with national food fortification standards, disclosing that inadequate vitamin and mineral fortification has been found in some vegetable oil and salt products sampled from Nigerian markets and households.

This followed a two-month survey conducted in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), covering randomly selected markets and households across northern and southern Nigeria.

An analysis of 200 samples, comprising 100 vegetable oil and 100 salt samples, showed that 12 per cent of the vegetable oil samples and two per cent of the salt samples were inadequately fortified at the household level.

The survey also identified gaps in manufacturers' adoption of digital product traceability systems designed to monitor fortified food products from production to consumption.

According to the FCCPC, the findings are significant because large-scale food fortification (LSFF), which involves adding essential micronutrients such as vitamin A, iron, folic acid, zinc, and iodine to commonly consumed foods, is a key public health intervention to tackle micronutrient deficiencies and hidden hunger.

Also, Nigeria's national food policy requires manufacturers to fortify designated food products to improve nutritional outcomes, particularly among vulnerable populations, including preschool children and women of reproductive age.

A breakdown of the vegetable oil samples showed that 49 were unbranded, while 51 carried identifiable brand names, with Devon Kings accounting for 19 samples, Power Oil 12, Activa four, Golden Penny and Laziz Oil three each, while other brands accounted for the remaining samples.

For salt, 19 samples were unbranded and 81 branded, with Mr Chef accounting for 71 samples and Dangote 10.

Beyond the fortification gaps, the commission identified limited manufacturer participation in the Digital Fortification Quality Traceability Plus (DFQT+) platform developed by GAIN to strengthen monitoring and accountability across the food supply chain.

The FCCPC said that only six vegetable oil producers had registered on the platform, with just eight results from three of the six companies uploaded among the 100 vegetable oil sample results analysed.

The commission said the limited adoption of the platform undermined efforts to improve product traceability, transparency and the ability of manufacturers and regulators to identify and address quality concerns across the supply chain.

Kogi group alleges political motives in EFCC's petition against Natasha

From **Sodiq Omolaoye**, Abuja

A GROUP, the Kogi Central Progressive Elite, has condemned a petition by the Obi-Kwankwaso Movement asking the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to investigate Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan's recent cash empowerment programme.

In a statement yesterday, its president, Abdullahi Omeiza, alleged that the move was politically motivated, describing it as an attempt to use anti-corruption rhetoric to undermine the senator's political influence ahead of the 2027 general elections.

It insisted that while public officeholders should be held accountable, allegations against them must be supported by credible evidence and subjected to established legal procedures.

Omeiza further faulted attempts to portray the senator's third-anniversary empowerment programme as electoral malpractice, arguing that the distribution of financial assistance to constituents did not automatically amount to vote-buying.

MPAC alleges discrimination as law school denies barring hijab at Bar exams

By **Suliyat Tella**

THE Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC) Nigeria has accused the Council of Legal Education of defending discriminatory practices rather than addressing the complaints following its response to allegations that female Muslim candidates were harassed for wearing hijabs during examinations at the Nigerian Law School.

On their part, the Nigerian Law School has denied allegations that hijab-wearing female Muslim candidates were harassed or prevented from entering examination halls during the Bar Final Examinations held on 31 October.

In a statement by the Secretary to the Council and Director of Administration, Aderonke Osho, the school described the allegations as false, insisting that it had no policy or institutional practice of religious discrimination.

FridayWorship

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In the Name of the Almighty, the Beneficent, the Merciful

"And say, Do deeds! Allah will see your deeds, and His Messenger and the believers. And you will be brought back to the All-Knower of the unseen and the seen, and He will inform you of what you used to do." Qur'an 9 verse 105.

إِنَّ ٱلدِّينَ عِندَ ٱللَّهِ ٱلْإِسْلَٰمُ

"Surely, the religion with Allah is ISLAM,complete submission"... Qur'an 3:19

Kuliyan Sokoto: When service speaks, honour follows

By **Kabir Alabi Garba**

BRETHREN, the focus of our sermon today may appear unusual, but the event on November 1, 2026 at the Sultan's palace in Sokoto has many lessons that should be analysed deeply. When a scholar from Egbaland is celebrated by the Sultanate of Sokoto, the significance goes beyond the individual. It speaks to the Nigeria we ought to build: a country where merit transcends ethnicity, knowledge commands respect and contributions to society matter more than the circumstances of one's birth.

This is the larger message behind the conferment of the traditional title of *Kuliyan Sokoto* on Professor Is-haq Oloyede, former Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB).

At a time when ethnic loyalties increasingly compete with national identity, and when public recognition is sometimes divorced from demonstrable achievement, the Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, has offered a compelling example of the unifying possibilities of traditional institutions.

By recognising Oloyede, the Sultanate has drawn attention to a distinguished record in education, Islamic affairs and public administration, while affirming that excellence and integrity know no geographical or ethnic boundaries.

Kuliyan Sokoto is therefore more than an addition to Oloyede's collection of traditional distinctions. It is a symbolic embrace by one of Nigeria's most respected traditional institutions, carrying the weight of the Sokoto Sultanate's historical, religious and intellectual heritage. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the values that should define public life in a country searching for credible institutions and responsible citizenship.

There is perhaps no more appropriate Qur'anic injunction for appreciating the significance of this recognition than Surah At-Tawbah (Chapter 9), verse 105 referenced above.

This verse offers a profound reminder that the ultimate measure of an individual lies not in the titles acquired or positions occupied, but in the quality of deeds and their consequences. It provides a fitting spiritual perspective for examining Oloyede's career, particularly his contribution to strengthening public institutions.

His decade-long stewardship of JAMB remains perhaps the most visible demonstration of his administrative impact. When he assumed office as Registrar in 2016, the examination body faced longstanding challenges involving operational inefficiency, examination integrity, public confidence and financial management. His administration embarked on reforms centred on technology, transparency, financial discipline and institutional efficiency.

Under his watch, JAMB strengthened its technology-driven examination processes, improved operational efficiency, tackled financial leakages and recorded significant surpluses while contributing to government revenue. These developments challenged the familiar assumption that government institutions must necessarily be inefficient, wasteful and financially dependent.

More importantly, the reforms demonstrated that public agencies could discharge their statutory responsibilities effectively while maintaining financial discipline and public confidence. In a country where many government institutions continue to struggle with weak management and operational inefficiency, the JAMB experience offers an important lesson about the possibilities of institutional reform.

His administration also reinforced the importance of fairness and credibility in the admission process, helping to protect opportunities for millions of young Nigerians seeking access to higher education. This contribution is particularly relevant in a country where education remains one of the most important pathways to social mobility and economic advancement.

Oloyede's credentials, however, extend well beyond JAMB. As Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin between 2007 and 2012, he provided leadership during a period of institutional consolidation, strengthening the university's reputation for academic discipline and administrative stability. His scholarship in Islamic jurisprudence and his engagement with the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, where he serves as Secretary-General, further reflect his contributions to education, Islamic scholarship and national development.

> **At a time when ethnic and religious identities are too frequently exploited to create divisions, the conferment sends a valuable message: Nigerians can recognise and celebrate one another's achievements without being constrained by regional or cultural affiliations. It demonstrates how traditional institutions can use their moral influence to promote mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and national unity.**



His professional journey illustrates the importance of translating knowledge into practical solutions. In Islam, knowledge is not merely an ornament of personal prestige; it is a trust that should benefit humanity. The message in Qur'an 17: 36 is instructive: "And do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge."

This injunction underscores the importance of informed judgment and responsible decision-making. Nigeria's development challenges, from unemployment and insecurity to poverty and weaknesses in the educational system, require the application of knowledge, competence and integrity to public affairs.

The Qur'an also provides a clear foundation for the ethical management of public responsibilities. In Surah An-Nisa (Chapter 4), verse 58, Allah (SWT) declares: "Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice."

This is one of the fundamental principles of Islamic governance. Public office is an *amanah*, a trust that must be discharged with fairness, competence and sincerity. The holy Prophet (peace be upon him) reinforced this principle when he said: "Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you is responsible for his flock."

This Hadith establishes that responsibility accompanies every position of authority, whether in government, religious institutions, professional organisations or the family.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Oloyede's humility offers another dimension to his public profile. In an environment where recognition can sometimes encourage arrogance and the pursuit of social status, humility remains an important virtue. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "No one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him."

The Hadith captures the relationship between humility and greatness. True distinction does not require constant self-celebration. It is reflected in respect for others, appreciation of one's limitations and an understanding that personal accomplishments should create opportunities to contribute further to society.

The significance of *Kuliyan Sokoto* becomes even clearer when viewed against Nigeria's continuing struggle for national integration. The Sokoto Sultanate occupies an important place in the country's religious, intellectual and traditional history. Its recognition of a Yoruba scholar and administrator reinforces the possibility of building bridges across ethnic and regional differences.

At a time when ethnic and religious identities are too frequently exploited to create divisions, the conferment sends a valuable message: Nigerians can recognise and celebrate one another's achievements without being constrained by regional or cultural affiliations. It demonstrates how traditional institutions can use their moral influence to promote mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and national unity.

The title also brings with it the expectation that its recipient will remain connected to the values and responsibilities associated with the institution that confers it. Traditional honours are most meaningful when they encourage greater commitment to community development, intellectual advancement and the welfare of society.

For Nigeria, the broader lesson is that the credibility of public institutions depends on the quality of people entrusted with their management. Government resources must be treated as public assets, appointments should reflect competence, and the welfare of citizens must remain central to public administration. Moreover, citizens must reject corruption, respect the rule of law and demand good governance without ethnic, religious or political prejudice.

Sanwo-Olu, Olusi pledge support for MUSWEN's 11th General Assembly

By **Suliyat Tella**

LAGOS State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Council (GAC), Prince Tajudeen Olusi, have pledged support for the 11th General Assembly of the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN), scheduled to hold on November 15, 2026, in Ibadan, Oyo State.

The two leaders commended the organisation for its contributions to religious tolerance, interfaith engagement and peaceful coexistence across the South-West.

They made the commitments during separate courtesy visits by a MUSWEN delegation led by its President, Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo, as part of efforts to mobilise support for the forthcoming assembly.

Sanwo-Olu received the delegation at Lagos House, Marina, where discussions centred on the role of religious institutions in promoting peace and unity, as well as MUSWEN's activities and preparations for the assembly.



Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu (middle) and members of MUSWEN delegation during the visit.

The governor acknowledged the contributions of religious leaders to nation-building and their partnership with the government in promoting an inclusive society.

He assured the delegation that the Lagos State Government would be represented by a high-powered team at the assembly. He also pledged support for MUSWEN's proposed endowment fund, which is expected to provide long-term financial backing for the organisation's programmes and projects.

On the request for the reactivation of the Lagos State chapter of the Nigerian Inter-Religious Council (NIREC), Sanwo-Olu said the joint Muslim-Christian platform was already operational in the state and had the active support of his administration.

The governor also sought MUSWEN's support for President Bola Tinubu's second-term ambition and other All Progressives Congress (APC) candidates in the 2027 general elections.

At a separate meeting with the delegation, Olusi urged Muslims to deepen their understanding of Islamic knowledge, particularly the Qur'an and Hadith, and ensure that religious teachings were properly applied to different aspects of life.

He challenged Islamic scholars to take the lead in promoting research into Islamic teachings and practices, noting that a better understanding of the religion would help strengthen its application in society.

Olusi also called for greater Muslim participation in politics, arguing that religious engagement should not be separated from involvement in the country's democratic process.

He noted that Prophet Muhammad was both a spiritual and political leader, and urged Muslims to show greater interest in governance and national affairs.

The GAC chairman cautioned against political apathy and encouraged Muslims to support the present administration in its efforts to deliver good governance. He also urged MUSWEN to organise special prayers for peaceful, credible and successful elections in Nigeria.

Speaking during the visits, Oladejo reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to religious tolerance, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and nation-building.

He appealed to both leaders to support the assembly through their attendance or representation, as well as moral, logistical and material assistance.

According to him, the gathering will bring together delegates from across the South-West, Islamic scholars, community leaders and other stakeholders to review the organisation's activities, renew its commitments and determine its strategic direction.

TheGuardianSports

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Edo wins maiden Alex Otti National Senior Judo Championships

From **Gordi Udeaja**, Umuahia

THE first Governor Alex Otti National Judo Championships came to a thrilling end on Wednesday, at the Umuahia Township Stadium, Abia State, with Edo State emerging champions.

The three-day competition, organised by the Nigeria Judo Federation (NJF) in collaboration with the Abia State government, attracted more than 250 judokas from 15 states and five clubs across the country.

The participating states included Bayelsa, Ogun, Edo, Delta, Benue, Kano, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Enugu, Osun and Kwara.

Edo secured the top spot on the medals table with an impressive haul of four gold, three silver and four bronze medals. Akwa Ibom finished second despite also winning four gold medals, as they managed two silver and three bronze medals to trail Edo on countback.

Rivers State claimed third position with two gold, one silver and one bronze medal, while Enugu finished fourth after recording one gold, one silver and three bronze medals. Host state Abia completed the top five with one gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

In recognition of their performances, the top three judokas in each weight category received cash prizes of N250,000, N150,000 and N100,000 respectively.

Speaking after the championship, Acting Technical Director of the Nigeria Judo Federation, Sule Musa, commended the government and people of Abia State for hosting a successful tournament.



Winners at the maiden Governor Alex Otti National Judo Championships displaying their medals at the award ceremony of the event, which ended in Umuahia, Abia State, yesterday.

He also expressed appreciation to the leadership of the National Sports Commission (NSC), led by Chairman Shehu Dikko and Director-General Bukola Olopade, as well as the International Judo Federation (IJF), for their support in strengthening governance, promoting accountability and improving the administration of judo in Nigeria.

According to Musa, the championship served as a platform for discovering new talents and provided athletes with the motivation and exposure needed to develop their skills.

"A lot of promising judokas have been discovered through this championship. The level of motivation, encouragement and competitive exposure provided by this event brought out the best in many of our athletes and revealed the enormous potential within Nigerian judo," he said.

End of an era as Ronaldo retires from Portugal duty

PORTUGAL legend Cristiano Ronaldo says he is retiring from international football, reports BBC. The 41-year-old forward has scored 146 goals and won 234 caps for his country - both world records - since making his debut in 2003.

He walked out of the Portugal camp in September after being told he would not start the Nations League match against Denmark, resulting in a £215 fine and a 30-day suspension.

"To the Portuguese people, the day has come for me to hand back the number seven shirt of our national team," Ronaldo said in an Instagram video.

"I never felt it belonged to me alone, but for 23 years I had the privilege and responsibility of wearing it, defending it and carrying it with me into stadiums all around the world.

"Today the time has come to pass it on to the future. It was not an easy decision, because some decisions are not made with the mind alone - they are also made with the heart.

"A journey that began in August 2003 and changed my life forever has come to an end."

Portugal will, today, announce their squad for this month's Nations League fixtures - against Denmark at home and Wales away. The PFF said it will not "let this farewell take place without due tribute".

A statement read: "It is our firm and immense desire to organise, plan, participate and actively collaborate in what will always be a fitting tribute to Cristiano Ronaldo's immense career, in which fans and the country can applaud and celebrate, once again, the player who has given us so much."



Ronaldo

Nigeria National League, Locker Room Bonus extend partnership for 2026/2027 Season

By **David Meshioye**

THE Nigeria National League (NNL) and Locker Room Bonus have renewed their partnership for the 2026/2027 football season, which kicks off on November 1.

Locker Room Bonus, powered by popular betting platform Betpawa, is a bonus-based reward initiative that gives players and technical staff winning bonuses directly to their phones before they leave the dressing room.

The Locker Room Bonus is designed to cater to the welfare of the players, where rewards are received in real time after every win, and also to increase the competitiveness of matches in the Nigeria National League.

In a bid to continually put players' welfare at the forefront, the renewed agreement between the NNL and Locker Room Bonus for the 2026/2027 season is valued at N496.9 million, which covers match-win bonuses, operational promotional support, and a set-aside N8 million cash reward for the most outstanding players and clubs at the end of the season.

Danlanmi Alanana, NNL's Chief Operating Officer, said the Locker Room Bonus has added value to the league, enhanced its competitiveness, and has improved the welfare of the players.

Top African golfers register for Aba 2026 Oris Pro-Am tourney

From **Gordi Udeaja**, Umuahia

TOP international golfers have indicated interest in participating in the Oris Pro-Am Championship billed to hold at the Aba Sports Club 1926 from November 25 to 28, 2026, the organisers have said.

The event, sponsored Oris Signature Hotel, has already attracted over 150 professional golfers, including 15 players from other African countries. They will compete for a N35 million prize purse, while amateur participants will vie for more than 60 prizes across various categories.

Chairman of Oris Signature Hotel, Owelle Greg Okafor, described the championship as an opportunity to promote talent development and support the tourism initiative of the government of Abia State.

"As a sports enthusiast and community builder, this is our contribution to developing local talent, showcasing our city and complementing government efforts to reposition Aba. This year's edition coincides with Aba Sports Club's 100 years anniversary and it is great to be part of it," Okafor said.

The championship is also expected to spotlight Aba's growing tourism potential, supported by the ongoing economic and infrastructural transformation initiatives of Governor Alex Otti's administration.

Local Organising Committee Chairman, Chief Greg Esotu, confirmed that professional entries had closed following overwhelming interest, while registration remains open for amateurs.

South Africa leads, Nigeria fifth at Africa Golf Championship

From **Ernest Nzor**, Abuja

SOUTH Africa has taken an early lead at the 2026 All Africa Challenge Trophy (AACT), returning 154 strokes on Day One of the continental women's golf championship at the IBB International Golf and Country Club, Abuja.

Nigeria occupies the fifth position with 166 strokes as 20 countries competed in the opening round of the three-round championship, which featured 54 holes.

Kenya placed second with 158 strokes, while Tanzania finished third with 160 strokes. Uganda occupies the fourth position with 163 strokes.

Zambia followed in sixth position with 167 strokes, ahead of Botswana, which returned 170 strokes to place seventh.

Ghana finished eighth with 172 strokes, while Zimbabwe and Tunisia occupied ninth and 10th positions with 174 and 176 strokes respectively.

In the individual standings, South Africa's Isabella Ferreira emerged as the Day One leader with four strokes over par (+4).

Ferreira, who expressed satisfaction with her opening-round performance, said she was encouraged by her start but remained focused on maintaining consistency.



Oluseun Sokefun (left); Senior Partner/CEO, Knight Frank, Frank Okosun; Funmi Omo and Managing Director, Tatum Bank, Niyi Adeseun at the 2026 Knight Frank Golf Classic held at Ikoyi Club 1938. PHOTO: SUNDAY AKINLOLU.

'Legends Football Game will reunite Super Eagles heroes of 1994, 1996 against African stars'

By **Gowon Akpodonor**

AS Lagos prepares to welcome some of Africa's greatest football heroes for the Legends Football Game, organisers of the event have explained that it will be a historic reunion celebrating the legendary Super Eagles squads of 1994 and 1996.

The match scheduled for Sunday, November 8 at the Mobolaji Johnson Stadium, Onikan, Lagos, will bring together Super Eagles legends from the two celebrated squads to face a team of African Football Legends in a fitting tribute to the men who made history and inspired generations of football fans.

In a statement made available to The Guardian, yesterday, the organisers said the game will leave a lasting memory in the mind of many Nigerians and African football lovers.

The 1994 Super Eagles won the Africa Cup of Nations in Tunisia before reaching the Round of 16 at their maiden FIFA World Cup appearance in the United States. Two years later, Nigeria conquered the football world, winning Olympic gold at Atlanta 1996 after defeating Brazil and Argentina en route to the historic triumph.

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Morocco 2026 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

Flamingos: 'We want to win for Africa'

Joseph: 'Argentina 2022 spirit guiding Flamingos'

ARGENTINA fell to defeat in their opener against Saudi Arabia before going on to win the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. They were just the second nation to achieve that following Spain 12 years earlier. Just shy of four years on from their triumph over France, *La Albiceleste* have inspired a fightback of their own, writes *fifa.com*.

Nigeria, after losing their curtain-raiser to Poland, became the second nation since 2014 to recover and reach the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup decider following a well-earned 3-1 semi-final win over Brazil.

"We took the Argentina spirit from the (2022) World Cup after losing our first game," an overjoyed Queen Joseph, who scored the opener, told FIFA. "They came back and won the trophy, so we are also hoping that with the help of God Almighty we are going to win the trophy.

"I feel very happy. Playing in the final is a big privilege, representing my country in the final is a big privilege for me. I'm super proud of myself and my team because we made history. We are not here just representing Nigeria; we are here representing Africa as a whole."

The Flamingos were, simply put, a class above their South American counterparts on Wednesday night. The Akeem Busari's side recorded 35 shots on goal compared to seven from Brazil, while the Seleção's only effort on target came through Greise Kelly's 89th-minute consolation.

"It's an awesome thing, it's a great achievement," Busari said. "Reaching the final is a plus for our country, it's a plus for our football. We are happy, the class are happy.

"It was a key contest and it wasn't an easy one. Brazil really showed the stuff they have technically, but we tried to really block the view of their passing line, so we had to show character. (We played) really, really bravely. We appreciate the class because they are young, we could only encourage them and tell them what they need to do to make the final."

Awawu Bashiru stole the show. The No 11 hadn't started any of Nigeria's six matches and had only played just 73 minutes, but she rewarded her coach for the faith instilled in her with two goals.

"Today was my first start, so I'm so happy, I'm so excited," Bashiru said, clutching her Player of the Match trophy like a newborn baby. "I'm so proud of myself, my team-mates, my coach and the teamwork. We did it, and it was not an easy task. I thank God. I'm grateful."

The Flamingos will now take on Japan in the nation's first U-17 Women's World Cup final. Defeating odds-on favourites, and fellow AFC giants, DPR Korea 3-1 during the groups has given Busari a blueprint to work from.

"It's just about showing the same character and playing the same way we played with North Korea, because they play with the same philosophy," Busari stated. "They want to build the ball, they look at the high line of passes, they want their full-backs to support, so we really want to look at all that.

"I'm excited and I'm happy and the class were happy, but we just really want to pick up the trophy. That would be the icing on the cake."



Goal scorer, Awawu Bashiru, and Favour Nkwocha celebrating Flamingos' third goal against Brazil during the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup semifinal on Wednesday. PHOTO: FIFA

Japan's Tashima to stand against Infantino for FIFA presidency

THE Japan Football Association honorary president, Kozo Tashima, has announced his intention to stand against Gianni Infantino to be the next FIFA president, reports the *BBC*.

Tashima, 68, is a member of the FIFA Council and a former international footballer and coach.

He said he wants to convey "integrity, soundness, and high moral standards" and "contribute to a better future for football".

Infantino has been under intense scrutiny since it emerged he had been planning to sell stakes in the World Cup to private investors.

The FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal was abandoned at the end of July, after significant backlash from across world football.

The deadline for candidates to stand in the election is November 18.

While support for Infantino was severely impacted by the FFE scandal, he has shored up support in recent months.

Infantino told *BBC Sport* last month that he felt he had the backing of the "vast, vast majority" of world football as he bids for a fourth term in charge of FIFA.

His comments came after he was "fully endorsed" by the Asian Football Confederation - following a U-turn by its president Sheikh Salman.

Dakar 2026: Beyioku, Alabi predict 'greatness' for Nigeria's budding stars

Focus shifts to track and field events

From **Gowon Akpodonor**, Dakar, Senegal

THE Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games has crossed its half way mark. Team Nigeria narrowly missed its first medal on Wednesday evening, when swimmer, Obatoyinbo Kashope Eyituoyo placed sixth in the Men's 50M freestyle.

The lad had raised Team Nigeria officials' hope earlier at the venue, when he made it to the final after winning the swim-off against his Bahrain counterpart 23.55seconds as against 23.56seconds. He finished sixth in the final event.

His sixth position notwithstanding, Team Nigeria's officials praised the swimmer for his resilience and determination.

He was the first Nigerian athlete to reach the final at Dakar 2026 YOG.

Speaking with *The Guardian* after the event, the Director of Grassroots Sports at the National Sports Commission (NSC), Prince Adeniyi Beyioku, and the Assistant Director of Grassroots Sports, Olalekan Alabi, were full of praises for the nation's athletes for their show of character in Dakar so far.

Beyioku, the first Secretary General of the Nigeria Rugby Football Federation when the body came into existence in early 2000s, said: "At this level of competition, it takes great courage, determination and self-discipline for an athlete to get to the medals zone. So far, our athletes have displayed this character of self-discipline, and it is only a matter of time for the medals to come."

On his part, Alabi, who is a member of the Main Organising Committee (MOC) for the maiden National Intermediate Games to be hosted by Lagos State next year, urged the athletes to see the ongoing Youth Olympic Games as a stepping step in their career.



Rosemary Nwankwo will lead Nigeria's charge in athletics at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympics this weekend.

Idowu: 'Improved youth football structure 'll curb age cheating'

By **Eniola Daniel**

THE Chairman of the Nathaniel Idowu Foundation, Yemi Idowu, has called for reforms in youth football development in Nigeria, urging stakeholders to focus on player development, proper nutrition and the creation of a fair system that allows young talents to thrive.

Idowu made the call at the grand finale of the fourth edition of the 1XCup, which ended with Tonic Football Club of Ikorodu defeating Young Strikers Football Club of Lagos Island on penalties to emerge champions.

Speaking on the state of grassroots football in the country, Idowu stressed the need for a change in attitude towards nurturing young players, noting that talent alone is not enough for success.

According to him, young footballers require the right environment, opportunities and support systems to maximise their potential. He also highlighted the importance of nutrition, describing it as a fundamental aspect of youth development that is often overlooked.

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