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Guardian Nigeria | GuardianNigeria | 08136370421 | Guardiannigeria | N300



ADC: 'Court yet to release judgment sacking Mark-led leadership'

NEWS PAGE 3



Court orders Amupitan, Igbokwe to testify, rejects Sowore's bid

NEWS PAGE 8



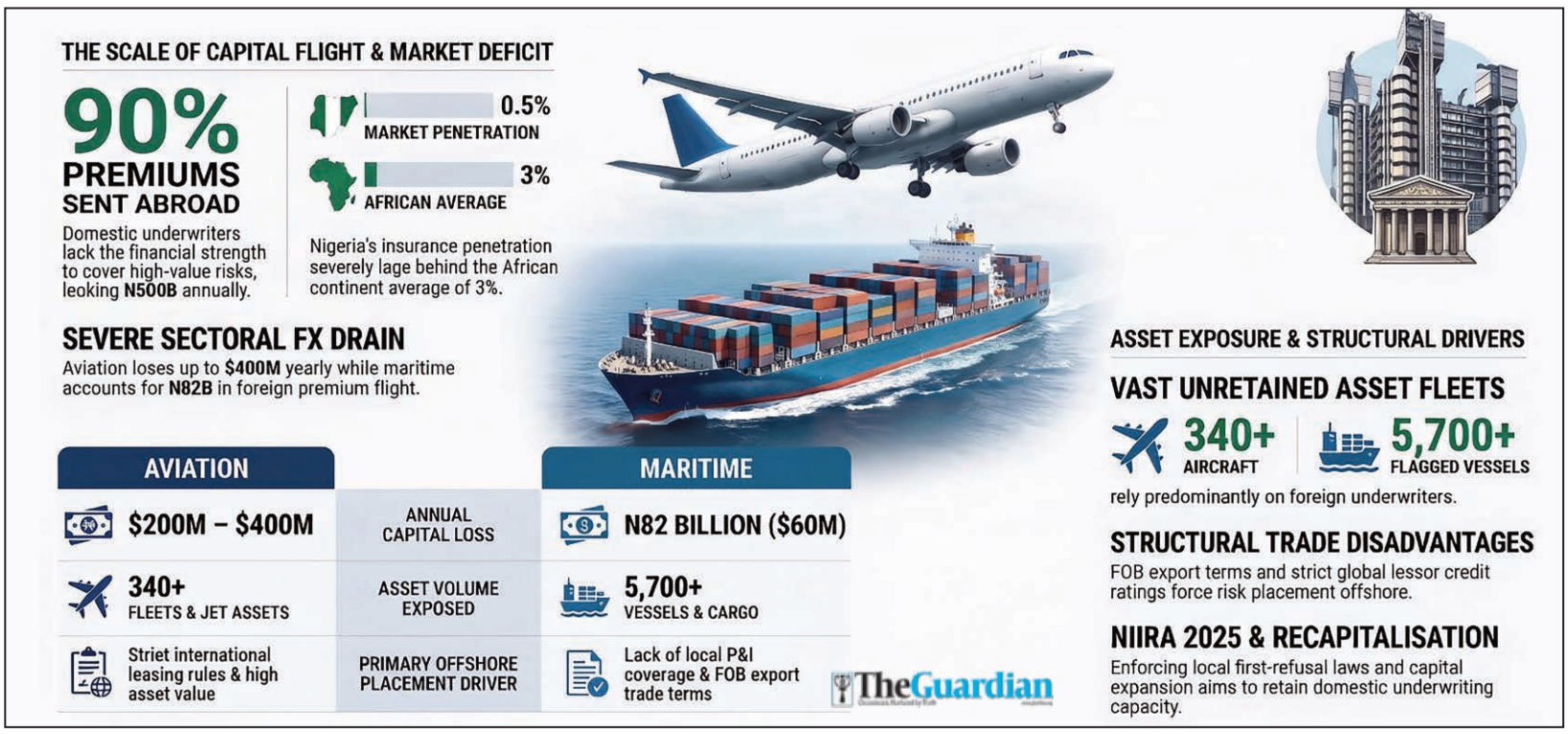
2027 elections: INEC expunges 1.6m records, flags 54 officials as 375 judges brace for disputes

NEWS PAGE 6

Insurance reform:

PAGE 6

Insurers' low capacity, offshore cover cost aviation, maritime N500b yearly



Petrol price may ease as crude oil nears $90 per barrel

NEWS PAGE 4

IFAD warns El Niño could cost global economy $1ltr, food security

NEWS PAGE 4

NDIC blames debtors of failed banks for delay in depositors' payouts

NEWS PAGE 4

FG unveils N70b oral health plan to end noma mouth disease

NEWS PAGE 8





The Federal Ministry of Youth Development (FMYD), in partnership with Cascador and Sapphital, through the Nigerian Youth Academy (NiYA), presented awards to the winners of the NiYA × Cascador Founders Programme Pitch Day in Abuja. The Honourable Minister of Youth Development, Ayodele Olawande, led the presentation of awards, with eight winning founders receiving N5 million each in non-dilutive funding to support the growth of their businesses, while nine additional founders received NI million each.

Online, property scams, DisCos' billing top FCCPC complaints in S'West

BUSINESS PAGE 22

Panorama

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SPOTLIGHT

Midterm fallout: Republican moves to impeach Trump's defence chief

A REPUBLICAN lawmaker yesterday moved to impeach U.S. Defence Secretary, Pete Hegseth, over the war in Iran, setting up a potentially explosive vote in Congress just days after President Donald Trump's party suffered a crushing midterm defeat.

Kentucky congressman, Thomas Massie, introduced eight articles of impeachment accusing Hegseth of illegally waging war without congressional authorisation and abusing his powers as Pentagon chief, implementing what he described as unlawful orders to launch a war against a foreign country.

A CNN, a vote on the impeachment motion would have to take place by Wednesday. Hegseth has remained defiant, while Trump has publicly backed his defence secretary. The Pentagon chief is also expected to address the matter at a news conference on Tuesday.

The impeachment move comes amid growing criticism of Hegseth following the Republican Party's poor performance in the 2026 midterm elections.

Some Republican lawmakers and allies had blamed the Iran war for the electoral setback, accusing Hegseth of playing a leading role in persuading Trump to attack Iran without a clear exit strategy

Federal workers demand comprehensive wage review

THE Federal Workers Forum (FWF) has called on the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) to strengthen collaboration in addressing economic challenges facing workers.

The forum also proposed a comprehensive wage review and reduction in petrol prices to N500 per litre to ease the rising cost of living.

This is contained in a statement jointly signed by Mr Andrew Emelieze, National Coordinator, FWF, and Mr Ayo Ogundele, General Secretary, issued on Monday in Abuja.

The forum said the Federal Government's agreement to pay N70,000 transport allowance to federal workers highlighted the need for improved remuneration and better welfare packages.

It described the allowance as a welcome development but maintained that more measures were needed to address workers' financial challengesaL It also appealed to NLC President, Mr Joe Ajaero, and TUC President, Mr Festus Osifo, to resolve their differences and pursue common interests through constructive engagement.



Chairman, Military Pensions Board, Maj-Gen. Julius Osifo (left); former Warrant Officer, Echenim Emmanuel; Chairman, Delta State Legion, Captain Robert Akpojovo (rtd) and Director, Military Pensions Board, Commodore Galadima Chiroma during the honour of former Warrant Officer, Echenim at 98 by Military Pensions Board in Ute-Erumu, Ika North East Local Government Area of Delta State, yesterday.

After weeks of dispute, Toluwanisings buried at Ibadan residence

WEEKS after his death sparked a disagreement among his family members and associates over burial arrangements, the body of gospel singer Olayemi Bolaji, popularly known as Toluwanisings, has been laid to rest at his residence in Ibadan, Oyo State, yesterday, in a private ceremony attended by a few guests.

Aside from the family of the late gospel singer and members of the Toluwanisings Ministry, the burial venue was not disclosed. LTM Funerals and members of the Toluwanisings Ministry conducted the programme.

The funeral programme included a lying-in-state, which held at 9am and the funeral service, which followed from 10am at Banjola Event and Conference Centre, Alakia, Ibadan amidst tight security.

Operatives of the Oyo State Police Command were seen as security surveillance was mounted at the main gate and the entrance of the hall.

The ceremony followed weeks of public controversy over his final resting place, after his father, Muniru Adekunle Olayemi, and his widow disagreed over where he should be buried.

Turkish envoy: Why we stopped issuance of e-visa to Nigerians

THE Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Nigeria, Mehmet Poroy, has explained why the Government of Türkiye stopped the issuance of e-visa to Nigerians.

Poroy who spoke in Abuja during a media briefing on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the elevation of diplomatic ties between Türkiye and Nigeria to ambasadorial level, said the decision was taken as a result of the existence of some fake Schengen, United Kingdom and United States visas.

Poroy said: "It is a sensitive issue. And we have stopped this issue, I understand, because of the existence of some fake Schengen, UK, and US visas. This is the precondition that you might get e-visa, but when my authority cited some fake visas, Schengen, UK on the passports and through the people that got their e-visas through these fake visas, they had to stop the system."

... DAY 4580

OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING

Tope Templer Olaiya,
News Editor
@TopeTempler

RANDOM FACTS

- South African author, Coral Hart made $1 million in a year from writing books with AI. She wrote 370 books in 20 months.
- Going to sleep at the same time every night increases your chances of achieving a good night's sleep.
- Nomophobia is the fear of being without your mobile phone.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- Under the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act, consumers have a right to a refund for defective or unsafe goods. General "no-refund" policies have been declared illegal, null, and void by the courts and consumers have a right to redress or replacement when goods are defective or services are not rendered as agreed.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"The most important thing for me is that I've used my talents as a writer to enable the Ogoni people to confront their tormentors. I was not able to do it as a politician or a businessman. My writing did it. And it sure makes me feel good!

KEN SARO-WIWA

No change happens while standing still. We can be prisoners of the past or pioneers of the future.

MARTHA HOY"

TODAY IN HISTORY

• 2023 - Nigeria
Nigeria's first female Major-General, Aderonke Kale (rtd), died in London, aged 84. Kale, an army psychiatrist, rose to command the Nigerian Army Medical Corps. She trained as a medical doctor at University College, which later became the University of Ibadan.

• 2021 - Chile
Chilean Pres. Sebastián Piñera, was impeached by the lower house over Pandora Papers revelation of offshore financial dealings of prominent figures around the world, including Piñera, one of Chile's wealthiest personalities.

• 2019 - Bolivia
Evo Morales resigned as Bolivia President during a political crisis over his disputed re-election of October 20. Many government officials also resigned after 19 days of civil protests and a recommendation from the military.

• 2014 - Nigeria
A suicide bomber dressed as student killed 48 people, mostly students, and injured 79 others at a school assembly in Potiskum, Yobe State.

• 1995 - Nigeria
Writer and environmental activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People were executed by the military regime led by Sani Abacha.

• 1989 - Germany
Germans began to tear down the Berlin Wall, which fell after the Peaceful Revolution, marking the beginning of the destruction of the figurative Iron Curtain, as East Berlin transit restrictions were discarded. It was one of the series of events that started the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe. An end to the Cold War was declared at the Malta Summit in December, and German reunification took place in October the following year.

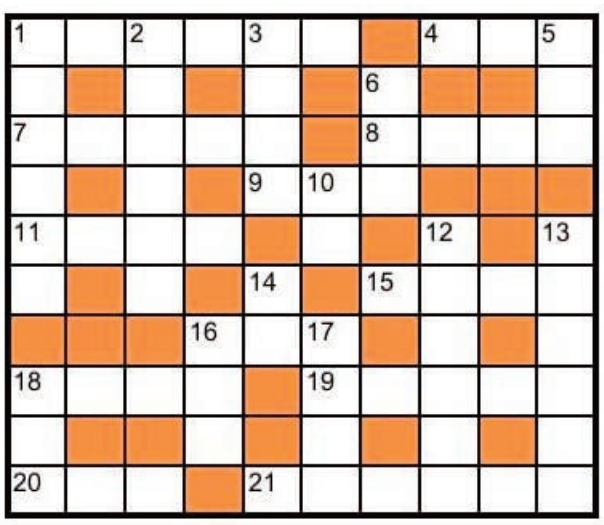
• 1983 - USA
Bill Gates introduced Microsoft Windows 1.0.

• 1975 - Israel
Israeli-Palestinian conflict: United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 3379, determining that Zionism is a form of racism. This is repealed by 1991.

• 1969 - USA
The television show *Sesame Street* aired for the first time in the United States.

• 1918 - Europe
The Western Union Cable Office in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, received a top-secret coded message from Europe (that would be sent to Ottawa and Washington, D.C.) that said on November 11, 1918, all fighting would cease on land, sea and in the air, ending World War 1.

CROSS WORD PUZZLE



• ACROSS
I. Town in Imo state, (6).
4. 'Petrol' in America, (3).
7. Telegram sent abroad, (5).
8. World's largest continent, (4).
9. Furrow made by wheels, (3).
11. Man-eating giant, (4).
15. Staple Nigerian food, (4).
16. Professional, abbr., (3).
18. Zamfara state ex-Governor, (4).
19. Farthest planet from the Sun, (5).
20. Small mischievous fairy, (3).
21. Animal excrement fertilizer, (6).

• DOWN
1. Ship's heavy hooked device, (6).
2. Senate former President, (6).
3. Stratum, (4).
5. Mineral-water spring resort, (3).
6. Gentle stroke, (3).
10. Indicating readiness, (2).
12. LGA in Benue state, (6).
13. Very excited reaction, (6).
14. Indicating alternatives, (2).
16. Seize and hold fast, (3).
17. Ruth ___, NTA ex Newscaster, (4).
18. Perceive with the eyes, (3).

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Check page 39 for solution to the puzzle

News

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PRP alleges APC playing dangerous politics, suffocating opposition

Makinde accuses ruling party of copying 'reset' manifesto

From **Sodiq Omolaoye**, Abuja

THE Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) has accused the All Progressives Congress (APC) of suffocating opposition parties and playing dangerous politics capable of deepening Nigeria's religious and ethnic divisions ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Also, the presidential candidate of the Allied Peoples' Movement (APM), Seyi Makinde, has accused the ruling APC of lifting ideas from his manifesto.

PRP said the APC administration was using different tactics to weaken opposition parties, including alleged interference in their internal affairs and the use of state power to frustrate their political activities.

The National Chairman, Dr Hakeem Baba-Ahmed, stated yesterday that the ruling party appeared determined to secure victory in 2027 despite growing national resistance to its return.

"It is now clear to all Nigerians that APC is putting no stops in suffocating all opposition," the party said.

Baba-Ahmed accused the APC leadership of moving beyond political competition to exploit the country's religious and ethnic differences for electoral advantage.

He recalled the controversy surrounding the Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket adopted by the APC in the 2023 general elections, arguing that the decision triggered concerns about national unity and religious sensitivity.

The party also accused the administration of resorting to selective patronage in governance, alleging that its approach had further alienated sections of the population.

MAKINDE made the allegation yesterday at the APM presidential campaign rally in Jos, Plateau State, where he urged Nigerians to reject the APC and support his party in the forthcoming elections.

He had unveiled his manifesto, entitled 'Reset Nigeria Agenda', on November 4, while the APC is expected to launch its manifesto, themed 'From Reforms to Prosperity', today.

The Oyo governor called on party supporters to take his agenda to their polling units, adding that elections are won at the grassroots.

"Let me quickly say this: when we unveiled our reset agenda, I said in Abuja that they would soon start stealing our ideas. Now they have started," Makinde said.

ADC: 'Court yet to release judgment sacking Mark-led leadership'

From **Andrew Oota**, Abuja

- Aregbesola urges INEC to halt action on Mark-led ADC leadership
- Wike criticises party over reaction to court judgment

AFRICAN Democratic Congress (ADC) has demanded the immediate release of the certified true copy (CTC) of the judgment delivered by Justice Peter Lifu, a judge of the Federal High Court in Abuja, over the party's leadership dispute. Lifu had on Thursday, November 5, sacked the David Mark-led caretaker committee of the ADC and invalidated its decisions, including the process that produced Atiku Abubakar as the party's presidential candidate.

But Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, yesterday criticised the ADC over its comments on the court judgment that removed the Mark-led executive committee of the party.

Wike spoke at a town hall meeting with political stakeholders, traditional rulers, and residents of the Kwali Area Council of the FCT.

Meanwhile, the National Secretary of ADC, Rauf Aregbesola, yesterday wrote INEC through his lawyer, Mohammed Sheriff, SAN, urging the commission not to remove the party's leaders as presently constituted in its official records pending the hearing and determination of his appeal against the judgment of the Federal High Court in Abuja.

In a statement yesterday, the Director of Strategic Communication of the ADC Presidential Campaign Council, PhrankShaibu, said the party's lawyers had applied for the CTC and paid the required fees but had yet to receive it.

Shaibu said counsel to the first defendant filed a formal application on Friday, while counsel to the third defendant submitted one a day earlier, on the day the judgment was delivered.

He said both applications bore the court's "PAID" stamp, adding that all requirements had been met.

"The ADC demands the immediate release of Justice Peter Lifu's judgment. He declared in open court that copies were ready. Our counsel applied for the certified copy and paid the required fee, yet the judgment remains out of reach," the statement reads.

"This is an indefensible denial of access to a ruling that directly affects the party and its members. If the judgment was ready, there is no excuse for keeping it from the parties."

The ADC campaign council spokesperson said withholding the CTC prevents the affected parties from knowing the exact orders made by the court and responding through the appropriate legal channels.

He also called on the court to explain the delay in processing despite payment of the required fees.

WIKE said political parties should serve as vehicles for development and good governance rather than platforms for persistent internal conflicts.

The minister also accused opposition politicians of placing personal ambitions above the welfare and development of the people.

He commended the area council chairmen and political leaders across party lines who had agreed to work together in the interest of the FCT.

Urging residents to reject politicians who only appear during election periods with promises, he called on them to support leaders whose performance could be assessed through infrastructure delivery and empowerment initiatives.

AREGBESOLA'S letter, dated November 9 and addressed to the INEC Chairman, was also received in Abuja yesterday.

The former governor of Osun State informed the electoral umpire that, in addition to his appeal, he had also filed a motion on notice for a stay of execution of the judgment delivered by Justice Lifu, which nullified his assumption of office as ADC national secretary under the leadership of former Senate President Mark.



Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Joash Amupitan (right); with INEC Commissioners, May Agbamuche-Mbu and Sam Olumekun, during a world press conference to address concerns over the AI-generated voter register, in Abuja, yesterday.
PHOTO: LUCY LADIDI ATEKO

Attacks on opposition: Groups fear escalation of political violence

From **John Akubo** and **Joel Oladele**, Abuja

- Demand probe, threaten perpetrators, warn public officials

THE Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD-West Africa) has raised the alarm over what it described as an escalating wave of political violence, intimidation and attacks on political candidates, their supporters and campaign activities across Nigeria ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Similarly, the Pan-Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF) raised concerns over "a dangerous pattern of political violence in the South-South", warning that the region could slide into renewed hostility if political leaders fail to rein in their supporters.

The warning followed violent incidents in Warri, Calabar and Asaba, with the November 7 Asaba tragedy claiming a life.

Meanwhile, Citizens' Advocacy for Social and Economic Rights (CASER) threatened legal action against perpetrators of electoral violence and public officials found to have participated in, financed or facilitated attacks ahead of the 2027 general elections.

CDD-West Africa warned that the growing incidents of violence could undermine democratic participation, intimidate opposition politicians and create an atmosphere of fear ahead of the elections.

In a statement signed by its Director, Dr Dauda Garuba, the centre cited recent attacks involving the presidential candidates of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Peter Obi, and the African Action Congress (AAC), Omoyele Sowore, as well as the governorship candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) in Sokoto State, Manir Daniya.

It also condemned the violent disruption of an All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaign rally in Nasarawa State, warning that political violence was becoming an increasingly disturbing feature of Nigeria's political environment.

The centre said the incidents represented a dangerous escalation from threats and inflammatory rhetoric it had previously condemned, raising serious concerns about the safety of political actors and the integrity of the country's democratic process.

It warned that such perceived differences in official reactions could fuel public suspicion of selective accountability, political tolerance of violence and unequal protection of citizens based on their political affiliations.

According to the organisation, government authorities have a responsibility to demonstrate their commitment to protecting democratic participation consistently, irrespective of whether those affected belong to the ruling party or opposition.

It further urged federal and state governments to publicly condemn political violence regardless of the political affiliations of victims or perpetrators.

"The legitimacy of the 2027 general elections will depend not only on the credibility of the voting and result-management processes but also on the extent to which Nigerians are able to participate freely, safely and without intimidation," the organisation PANDEF said the incidents were disturbing signs that political competition was taking a dangerous turn in a region whose stability is critical to peace and development in the Niger Delta.

In a statement yesterday, PANDEF National Chairman, GodknowsIgali, condemned the attacks and called for immediate investigations into the circumstances surrounding the violence.

The forum specifically identified the Warri/Effurun incident of September 18, the violence in Calabar on November 4 and the deadly incident in Asaba on November 7.

Beyond condemning the attacks, PANDEF placed responsibility on political leaders to control the conduct of their followers, warning that inflammatory rhetoric, provocation and political intimidation could deepen tensions.

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Petrol price may ease as crude oil nears $90 per barrel

Brent extends 16% weekly decline on prospects of U.S.-Iran deal

From **Kingsley Jeremiah**, Abuja

NIGERIA'S petrol prices may come under downward pressure following a fresh decline in international crude oil prices, as diplomatic efforts to end the conflict between the United States and Iran raise hopes of restoring crude oil and petroleum product shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.

Brent crude, the global benchmark, fell 6.32 per cent to $92.11 per barrel yesterday, extending its 16 per cent decline last week, the steepest weekly drop in recent times. West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the U.S. benchmark, also declined by 5.01 per cent to $86.28 per barrel as of 9:31 p.m. WAT.

The decline followed reports that Qatar's Prime Minister was heading to the White House with an Iranian proposal for an interim agreement aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping corridor through which about 20 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products moved daily before the conflict.

Under the reported terms, Iran would reopen the strait and halt attacks on Gulf tankers, while Washington would lift its naval and economic blockade of Iran and release $8 billion in Iranian funds frozen in Qatar. Tehran would also abandon its demand to control the waterway and impose transit fees.

However, the proposed arrangement has not been confirmed by either government, while disagreements over Iran's nuclear programme and other conditions continue to complicate negotiations.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday that renewed American strikes against Iran were highly unlikely if negotiations produced a strong agreement. However, U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, maintained that both sides remained far from a breakthrough, describing some Iranian demands as unacceptable.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, meanwhile, said Tehran was prepared to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within two days, provided the war ended on all fronts.

The uncertainty has prevented a complete recovery in market confidence. Shipping through the strait came under fire again over the weekend, with Washington and Tehran reporting attacks on vessels in or around the waterway.

For Nigeria, the latest movement in crude prices could provide some relief to motorists and businesses struggling with elevated petrol prices since the conflict began on February 28, 2026, especially as demand begins to mount towards Yuletide.



Presidential candidate of the African Action Congress (AAC) 2027, Omoyele Sowore (middle) and concerned youths in Nigeria at a protest titled "Tinubu Must Go" in front of the Federal High Court, Abuja, yesterday. PHOTO: LUCY LADIDI ATEKO

ICPC files 36-count amended charge against Adeyemi

From **Ameh Ochojila**, Abuja

INDEPENDENT Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has filed a second amended 36-count charge against Adeniyi Adeyemi, alleged Director General of a purported agency, the Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council (PFIPC), and four others before the FCT High Court, Maitama, Abuja.

The amended charge, which expands the previous 22-count charge, brings the total number of defendants to five and further delays their arraignment following the absence of one of the accused persons.

At the resumed hearing yesterday, prosecution counsel, Sylvanus Tahir, SAN, informed the court that the commission had expanded the earlier charge from 22 to 36 counts and introduced four additional defendants.

FG suspends broadcast licence fees reviews indefinitely

MINISTER of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, has announced the suspension of all reviews of broadcast licence fees until further notice, as part of measures to address the challenges facing Nigeria's broadcasting industry.

Idris announced the decision during a courtesy visit by a delegation of the Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON), led by its Chairman, Dr Tony Akiotu, yesterday in Abuja, following the organisation's 82nd General Assembly.

Responding to concerns raised by BON over the rising cost of operating broadcast stations, the minister reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to creating a more conducive environment for the growth and sustainability of the broadcasting industry.

The minister also directed the Director-General of NBC to expedite the review of the National Broadcasting Code to ensure that the regulatory framework remains responsive to developments and emerging realities in the broadcasting industry.

NDIC blames debtors of failed banks for delay in depositors' payouts

By **Isaac Chibuife**

THE Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) has blamed delays in recovering loans from debtors of failed banks for the slow payment of depositors' funds, accusing some borrowers of hiding assets, frustrating court proceedings and intimidating its officials to evade repayment.

The Director of Asset Management at the NDIC, Ogungbemi Theophilus, said this yesterday at the corporation's Stakeholders' Seminar and Public Relations Workshop in Abuja.

He said some borrowers wrongly assumed that revoking a bank's operating licence automatically ends their obligation to repay outstanding loans.

He warned that prolonged recovery processes also erode the value of assets available for liquidation, as buildings depreciate, equipment deteriorates and outstanding loans become increasingly difficult to recover.

The NDIC's Asset Management Department is responsible for recovering loans and managing the physical assets and investments of closed deposit money banks, primary mortgage banks and microfinance banks. Proceeds from these recoveries are used to pay depositors whose balances exceed the insured limits.

Deposits in deposit money banks, non-interest banks and mobile money operators are insured up to N5 million per depositor per bank, while the coverage limit is N2 million for microfinance banks, primary mortgage banks and payment service banks.

Theophilus said the insured limits fully covered about 99 per cent of depositors, while customers with balances above the thresholds had to depend on liquidation dividends from recovered loans and the sale of assets to receive their outstanding funds.

IFAD warns El Niño could cost global economy $1ltr, food security

"May cause disease outbreaks, heat risks in 2027"

By **Benjamin Alade** and **Victor Gbonegun**

GLOBAL economy could lose up to $11 trillion to El Niño, with the climate phenomenon expected to have significant and lasting effects on food security, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has warned.

IFAD gave the warning in a new report, Food Systems Under Stress: Building Resilience from the First Mile, released at the ongoing COP31 climate conference in Antalya, Türkiye, in collaboration with the Türkiye Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The report identified El Niño as one of several overlapping climate and economic shocks increasingly affecting small-scale food producers and rural economies.

It noted that global energy and fertiliser shocks in 2026 had spread across food systems within a single planting season, increasing costs from production and processing to transportation and distribution.

According to the report, the impact has been particularly severe on small-scale farmers, who produce about one-third of the world's food.

IFAD said the growing frequency and interaction of climate and economic shocks underscored the need for stronger resilience across rural economies, rather than relying on isolated interventions.

It advocated coordinated investments that improve farmers' access to agricultural inputs and technology, markets and financial services, including credit and weather insurance.

IFAD President, Alvaro Lario, said evidence from the organisation's investments showed that resilience was stronger when interventions were implemented together.

Lario said where the three areas were addressed together, farmers' incomes increased by more than 40 per cent, while technology adoption rose by three-quarters.

The report also found that combining interventions could significantly reduce farmers' losses when climate and price shocks occur simultaneously.

Türkiye's Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Ibrahim Yumakli, stressed the importance of preparing farmers before climate-related crises occur.

He said farmers' ability to withstand shocks depended on access to water, affordable inputs, finance, insurance and reliable markets.

COP31: UN demands faster climate action, warns against failure to deliver finance

By **Chinedum Uwaegbulam**

UNITED Nations has challenged world leaders to move beyond climate pledges and accelerate the delivery of renewable energy, adaptation funding and emissions reduction measures, as vulnerable countries continue to bear the highest costs of global warming.

Opening the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye, yesterday, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell, said countries must translate existing climate targets and national commitments into practical measures, particularly by removing barriers preventing developing nations from accessing promised finance.

He said the conference must move beyond setting global targets and political direction to breaking down existing commitments into actionable steps, stressing that progress since the 2015 Paris Agreement remained too slow and unequal.

U.K., Nigeria forge creative growth pact

By **Adeyemi Adepetun**

UNITED Kingdom and Nigeria have concluded creative-sector engagements in Lagos, connecting businesses, practitioners, policymakers and cultural institutions with expertise, networks and potential routes to new audiences and markets.

The U.K. creative sector delegation brought together 17 professionals from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with Nigerian counterparts, working across film, television, music, fashion, design, literature, theatre, visual arts and other creative sectors.

Through targeted meetings, roundtables and activities around the Africa International Film Festival, the Creative Africa Nexus Weekend, Lagos Fringe and Art X Lagos, participants exchanged knowledge, developed professional relationships and explored areas for future collaboration.

Tinubu orders implementation of youth confab resolutions

Advocate urges President to act on recommendations within 90 days

From **Ernest Nzor**, Abuja

PRESIDENT Bola Ahmed Tinubu, yesterday, directed the Federal Ministry of Youth Development to immediately implement the outcomes of the 2026 National Youth Conference.

The President also called for the active involvement of young Nigerians in implementing and monitoring the conference resolutions, stressing that youth participation must extend beyond consultation to actual decision-making and implementation.

Tinubu, who spoke in Abuja during the closing ceremony of the National Youth Conference, insisted that its recommendations must produce measurable results within clearly defined timelines.

The President, represented by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Abbas Tajudeen, directed the Minister of Youth Development, Ayodele Olawande, to work with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), state governments, the private sector and development partners to develop a practical implementation framework.

The framework, he said, must contain clear priorities, assigned responsibilities, realistic timelines and measurable indicators to track progress.

Tinubu, while acknowledging the economic and social challenges confronting Nigerian youths, said his administration understood their concerns about unemployment, the cost of living, access to education, business opportunities and insecurity.

He stressed that young Nigerians deserved more than explanations about current economic difficulties, assuring them that the government's reforms and investments in education, skills development, innovation and entrepreneurship were intended to create opportunities that would improve their lives.

He, however, commended the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, the Conference Planning Committee and participating young Nigerians for demonstrating that the country's youths possess the ideas, courage and determination required to contribute meaningfully to national development.

Olawande, who spoke earlier, disclosed that the conference had produced a comprehensive 18-point action agenda covering six priority areas, following nationwide virtual consultations and physical deliberations involving youth representatives from across the country and the Diaspora.

MEANWHILE, a legal practitioner and youth development advocate, Habeeb Whyte, has urged Tinubu to establish a 90-day government response mechanism and a transparent accountability framework to ensure that recommendations from the 2026 national youth conference translate into concrete policies and programmes.

Whyte made the call while delivering a policy implementation masterclass to about 360 delegates drawn from across the country.



University of Ibadan (UI) Registrar, Ganiyu Saliu (left); Guest Speaker, Prof. Babatunde Salako; Vice Chancellor of the institution, Prof. Peter Olapegba; Chairman of the occasion, Prof. Oladipo Otolorin, and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics), Prof. Simisila Akintola, during a stakeholders' engagement forum on adolescents and youths' health in Africa, organised by UI Research Foundation, yesterday. PHOTO: NAN

Dangote Refinery, Fertiliser expansion to employ over 90,000 people in Lagos

Firm mulls over 20 fertiliser blending plants to drive Africa's agricultural revolution

PRESIDENT and Chief Executive of Dangote Industries Limited, Aliko Dangote, has said that over 90,000 people are expected to be working at the group's Petroleum Refinery & Petrochemicals and Fertiliser operations in Lagos next year, as the group accelerates investments to create jobs, strengthen industrial production and transform agriculture across Africa.

Dangote, who disclosed this in an interview, also unveiled plans to establish 20 fertiliser blending plants in strategic locations across the continent to improve farmers' access to essential inputs and support year-round supply.

The projects, according to him, form part of an investment programme that could reach $65 billion over four years, spanning refining, fertiliser, petrochemicals, power, pipelines and other businesses.

"The refinery expansion is huge. By next year, we expect to have almost 90,000 people working on the refinery and fertiliser projects in Lagos," he said.

Dangote said creating opportunities for Africa's youthful population was a central motivation for the group's expansion, stressing that the continent needed more factories and greater domestic production to meet its growing needs.

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

LBS Alumni Association to hold homecoming confab on November 12

By **David Emokpae**

LAGOS Business School Alumni Association has announced plans to hold its 2026 Alumni Day Conference and President's Dinner.

President of the Association, Valentine Okelu, while speaking at a media briefing yesterday, said that the programme would be held on November 12 and 13.

According to Okelu, the conference will be held via two platforms: the Alumni Day (November 12) and the President's Dinner (November 13).

He said that the event would bring together alumni members across different sectors, such as the economic, political, social, academic and entertainment sectors, to discuss particular topics and influence policies that will affect the governance of the country.

Group removes Oyo NDC chairman amid pushback

From **Ameh Ochojila** (Abuja) and **Rotimi Agboluaje** (Ibadan)

- Candidates don't have power to remove me, says chairman
- LP chieftain urges probe into alleged planned interference in Ogun PDP court case

A LEADERSHIP crisis has hit the Oyo State chapter of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), following the announcement by a group of party executives, aspirants and members of the removal of its State Chairman, Oyeronke Bolajoko.

The group, which announced the decision at a media briefing held at the party's state office in Ibadan yesterday, also named Akeem Aderogba as her replacement.

The State Secretary of the party, Adeolu Adewuyi, who addressed the media on behalf of the group, said the action was not motivated by personal animosity or political vendetta but by a collective commitment to preserving the party's unity, internal democracy and constitutional integrity.

Also speaking, the NDC Campaign Director-General in Oyo State, Adeola Ebisemiju-Olamide, who announced Aderogba as the new state chairman, said the decision was taken by the executives, aspirants and members to restore accountability, unity and democratic discipline in the party.

BUT reacting, Oyeronke said those who allegedly removed her are not qualified to do so.

She said: " This is not how to remove a party chairman. Those who carried out the illegality are not the party executives. They are candidates. They don't have the power to remove executives."

IN another development, the National Vice Chairman of the Labour Party (LP), South-West, Arabambi Abayomi, has called on the Attorney-General of the Federation, Lateef Fagbemi, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court to examine allegations of possible interference in the ongoing Ogun State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship litigation before the Federal High Court, Abuja.

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

LP candidate faults exclusion of rivals from Lagos TV debate

Why I participated in debate, by Hamzat

By **Seye Olumide**

LAGOS State governorship candidate of the Labour Party (LP), Rotimi Odunaike, has faulted his exclusion and that of several other candidates from the governorship debate organised by the Nigeria Debate Consortium, comprising *TVC, Channels Television, The Punch and Vanguard* newspapers.

Only four of the 17 candidates cleared by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to contest in the 2027 governorship election were invited to the debate.

In a statement yesterday, Odunaike said the exclusion of several candidates from public-facing debates ahead of the election had raised concerns about fairness, transparency and the role of the media in promoting an informed democratic process.

He questioned the rationale for limiting participation to four candidates when INEC had cleared 17 candidates to contest the election.

Those who participated were the candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Obafemi Hamzat; Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Funso Doherty; African Democratic Congress (ADC), Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour, and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Adedeji Doherty.

Odunaike said his team made several attempts to secure his participation but was informed that the selection had been restricted to the four candidates.

Meanwhile, Hamzat said that he participated in the debate to pitch his vision for the state, comparing the exercise to a job interview where leaders must align policies with citizen priorities.

He said the debate provided an opportunity for him to communicate his development agenda and outline practical steps to address the needs of Lagos residents.

In a post shared on his X handle late on Sunday, Hamzat said leadership required understanding the needs of the people and developing policies to address them.

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

Akodu assumes office as NUJ Lagos Council Chairman

Anaba kicks, alleges electoral malpractice

By **Eniola Daniel**

THE endorsed and elected unopposed Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Lagos State Council, Adewale Akodu, yesterday, assumed office amid protests.

Akodu, during his swearing-in at the NUJ Lagos State Council Secretariat, 22 Iyalla Street, Alausa, Ikeja, pledged to prioritise the welfare, professional development, rights and interests of journalists in the state.

The new chairman, who expressed gratitude to members for entrusting him with the mandate, said his administration would be guided by three major pillars: welfarism, professionalism and capacity building.

Meanwhile, the only opponent in the election, Innocent Anaba, who withdrew before the election, said the fight was not over, saying that he would go to any length to see a union that represents journalists.

Anaba said that delegates' list was inflated and deadline for campaign breached, but instead of sanctions, the party that breached the deadline was rewarded with an extension.

He said that he sought clarifications and documents on the delegates added to the list, particularly the Lagos Information Chapel, which increased to 309, but there was no response from the committee and the national body of the union.

The opponent said that the odds worked against him from the start, saying that participating in the election was not wise, as he would be accused of failing to withdraw when he noticed the manipulations.

Also, Chairman of the electoral committee, Wahab Akinlade, said that the journey was not without challenges, pressures and difficult moments.

He, however, said that patience, resilience, maturity and commitment to the ideals of the union gave strength to navigate the process and discharge the responsibility.

Insurance reform:

Insurers' low capacity, offshore cover cost aviation, maritime N500b yearly

By **Olusegun Koiki, Adaku Onyenucheya** and **Bankole Orimisan**

- Over 90% of aviation, maritime insurance premiums sent abroad
- Sector reform threatened by poor capacity, trust deficit
- 'Weak capacity fuelling N82b capital flight in maritime'
- Sosoliso crash victims yet to be compensated 21 years after
- NAICOM defends risk sharing with foreign firms

THE perennial low capacity of local insurance underwriters currently accounts for Nigeria's 90 per cent reliance on foreign insurance firms, which bill the aviation and maritime sector an estimated N500 billion yearly.

Despite reforms in the insurance sector, estimates indicate that its penetration remains at 0.5 per cent – a far cry from Africa's average of three per cent.

Stakeholders are counting on the recent recapitalisation reform to significantly bolster local capacity. However, months after the reforms, the gains are still awaited.

Indeed, the insurance sector is tipped as a potential driver of the economy. But its inability to provide mutual cover for the critical sector, which draws from its low perception and contributes to it, has partly incapacitated its contribution to the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

Worried about the sector's historically poor performance, some stakeholders said the success of the Nigerian Insurance Industry Reform Act (NIIRA) 2025 would depend on how quickly the sector can recover lost ground, including underwriting risks in aviation and maritime.

It is estimated that Nigeria loses about $360 million (about N500 billion) yearly to capital flight due to ongoing offshore insurance by the two sectors.

Besides, about 90 per cent of assets in the sectors are insured abroad because the country's local operators lack the capacity to underwrite large-value assets, contrary to the Commission's position.

For instance, Nigerian ships, airlines, cargo-handling companies, oil tankers, offshore rigs, port infrastructure, and other auxiliary organisations insure their critical assets with Lloyd's of London and major European and American insurance companies.

But the new insurance law amends Section 204 of the NIIRA2025, which requires that local insurers be given the first opportunity to underwrite risks before recourse is made to foreign insurance markets. The provision is not primarily about a lack of local capacity; rather, it reflects the core insurance principle of risk spreading, whereby risks are distributed across insurers and markets to prevent excessive concentration and mitigate the potential impact of catastrophic losses.

The over 60 insurance companies, pre-recapitalisation, have consistently proved to lack the financial wherewithal to insure these assets. The National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) is betting on the recapitalisation to expand operators' capacity to carry higher risks.

The Guardian investigation indicated that there are no fewer than 100 aircraft in the fleet of the country's scheduled carriers, with most of the assets insured abroad. As of December last year, about 38 of them were airworthy, while the others were in maintenance workshops abroad.



Group Chief Executive, Oando Plc, Adewale Tinubu (left); Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and Minister of State for Industry, John Owan Enoh, during the National MSME Conference 2026, organised by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) in Lagos.

Some of the aircraft brands are Boeing, Airbus, Embraer, ATR and many others.

The non-scheduled operators and private jet owners have about 240 aircraft in their fleets, the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, said. These range from Gulfstream-G550-G650, Bombardier Challenger, Hawker-800XP-900XP (Beechcraft), Dassault Falcon 7X, 900, Embraer Legacy 600, Embraer Phenom 300 and ATR-242-72, among others.

As of 2025, Nigeria's insurance industry generated N1.98 trillion.

According to the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), the insurance industry's total assets were N4.4 trillion in the second quarter of 2025. Of the total N2.5 trillion in non-life business assets, marine portfolios contributed 8.8 per cent.

Also, marine insurance recorded a 69.7 per cent settlement ratio in the non-life segment of the market.

As of March 2025, data obtained from the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Nigeria had a fleet of 4,610 flagged vessels with a total tonnage of 6,131,814.55 gross registered tonnage (GRT) and 1,102 cabotage vessels with a combined tonnage of 2,037,184.63 GRT. Most of the assets, cargo and vessels are insured abroad, industry information said.

But the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) insisted that Nigerian insurers have the capacity to underwrite complex aviation and oil-and-gas risks. Besides, domesticating these risks is supported by extant laws and regulatory frameworks.

NAICOM's Head of Corporate Affairs, Abba Halil, told *The Guardian* that the use of foreign reinsurance and risk distribution is standard global risk management practice and not a reflection of local inadequacies.

He insisted that local insurers actively participate in underwriting high-risk sectors, but typically retain a portion of such risks, while ceding the balance to international reinsurers with large capital bases.

This, he said, enabled operators to optimise capital effectively, diversify exposures and safeguard against large-scale losses, particularly in specialised segments where risks are significant.

Experts decry Nigeria's loss of business, opportunities

EXPERTS in the maritime sector, however, expressed concern that Nigeria loses at least $60 million (about N82 billion) yearly due to capital flight to foreign insurers for cargo, vessels, and other assets.

Dean of Faculty at City University, Cambodia, Prof. Alfred Oniye, confirmed to *The Guardian* that a large proportion of vessels and cargo in Nigerian waters are insured with foreign firms, especially for protection and indemnity (P&I) coverage, noting that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

2027 elections: INEC expunges 1.6m records, flags 54 officials as 375 judges brace for disputes

From **Sodiq Omolaoye, Ameh Ochojila** and **Joel Oladele** (Abuja) and **Lawrence Njoku** (Enugu)

- Commission identifies registration irregularities across 10 states
- CJN cautions lawyers against multiple suits, conflicting court orders
- Amupitan warns against AI-generated evidence, electoral deepfakes
- HURIWA urges judges to resist political, financial inducements
- INEC, judiciary urge media to uphold professional standards

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has removed more than 1.6 million invalid entries from the national voters' register and identified 54 personnel across 10 states allegedly involved in registration irregularities, warning that those found culpable would face disciplinary action and possible prosecution.

The development comes as the judiciary prepares to handle disputes arising from the 2027 general elections, with 375 judges nominated for election petition tribunals and the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, cautioning lawyers against practices capable of undermining electoral justice.

The warning formed part of a broader call by judicial and electoral authorities for professionalism, impartiality and accountability in the conduct of elections and the resolution of disputes, amid emerging concerns over artificial intelligence-generated evidence, digital manipulation and attempts to influence judicial decisions.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Joash Amupitan, disclosed the removal of the records yesterday in Abuja while briefing journalists on the outcome of the review of the Preliminary Register of Voters ahead of the 2027 general elections.

He said the exercise uncovered multiple registrations, manipulated photographs, irregular registration patterns and records belonging to deceased persons.

According to him, the commission harvested 11,088,238 registration records from the three phases of the 2025/2026 Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise.

The Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) initially flagged 1,545,052 records for further examination, although he clarified that being flagged did not automatically render a registration invalid.

Of the flagged records, 1,277,052 were confirmed invalid and excluded before publication of the Preliminary Register.

Following complaints, claims and objections received during the seven-day display exercise between October 9 and 15, the commission subjected another 268,000 cases to adjudication. Of these, 217,722 were confirmed invalid and removed, while 50,278 were cleared as valid and retained.

Amupitan said additional screening subsequently identified another 113,886 invalid registrations, bringing the number of invalid entries removed during the review to 1,608,660.

The commission also removed 873 records belonging to verified deceased voters.

He explained that the current national register had evolved through successive registration and continuous voter registration exercises since 2011, resulting in the accumulation of biometric and demographic records captured under different technologies, operational arrangements and quality standards.

He acknowledged that previous cleansing exercises and biometric comparisons had addressed some concerns but said significant historical integrity issues remained.

The chairman disclosed that the commission's technical assessment uncovered deliberate attempts to circumvent established registration procedures, including the misuse of provisions intended for exceptional registration circumstances, particularly those relating to persons with disabilities.

He said the affected records had been identified and subjected to verification and remediation, while personnel allegedly connected with the infractions had been identified for administrative investigation.

"Fifty-four persons cutting across ten States have been identified as complicit and necessary disciplinary action will be taken against them, including possible prosecution," he said.

Amupitan, however, warned that the exercise had yet to resolve all concerns surrounding the register, as many irregularities predated the latest registration exercise.

He said most complaints involved multiple registrations and suspicious photographs circulating on social media related to historical records captured between 2011 and 2023.

According to him, the commission's decision to defer the proposed nationwide voter revalidation exercise until after the 2027 elections did not suspend existing mechanisms for identifying and removing invalid registrations.

INEC strengthens safeguards against AI manipulation

ON allegations that artificial intelligence-generated photographs had been used to compromise voter registration, Amupitan confirmed that the commission had identified cases involving manipulated images and was introducing additional safeguards.

He said INEC had directed its Director of Information and Communication Technology to discontinue external webcam-based image uploads for voter registration, insisting that photographs should instead be captured through an approved application.

The chairman also disclosed that the commission had approved a comprehensive Artificial Intelligence Governance Framework to regulate the responsible deployment of the technology in its operations.

He said the framework, developed with partners, including the Institute for Security Studies and the British High Commission, had undergone peer review and received the commission's approval.

Amupitan added that security agencies were conducting their own investigations into the irregularities, while cases involving suspected criminal conduct would be forwarded to appropriate law enforcement agencies for prosecution.

He maintained that existing safeguards, including the Bi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

Nigeria targets major reserves growth from fresh oil, gas exploration

By **Abigail Ikhaghu**

NIGERIA could more than double its oil and gas reserves by intensifying frontier exploration, particularly in deepwater and other underexplored basins, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Heineken Lokpobiri, said.

However, the minister noted that the country's substantial hydrocarbon potential would remain largely untapped without sustained investment in exploration, saying that the value of reserves depends on the ability to develop them and bring production to the market.

Lokpobiri spoke yesterday at the opening of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists' (NAPE) 44th annual conference and exhibition in Lagos, where he urged industry operators to intensify drilling campaigns, strengthen indigenous technical capacity, and invest in discoveries.

According to him, Nigeria's deepwater terrain holds significant opportunities for additional discoveries; therefore, the country needs to move beyond its existing reserve estimates through deliberate exploration programmes.

He said the country cannot depend on discoveries made several decades ago to sustain future production, noting that exploration activities had declined over the years before the current administration began efforts to revive upstream operations.

The minister further said that active drilling rigs had increased from about 10, when he assumed office in August 2023, to over 50 currently, while Nigeria's oil production has risen from about one million barrels per day, including condensates, to over 1.8 million barrels daily.

He said the increased drilling activities by operators had laid the foundation for future production, stressing that exploration undertaken today would determine the country's ability to sustain oil and gas output in the coming years.

Lokpobiri, however, called for greater investment in frontier exploration, noting that the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) had provided a dedicated fund for the purpose. He expressed confidence that sustained exploration could significantly expand the country's reserves and unlock additional hydrocarbon resources.

Therefore, the minister warned that Nigeria must not mistake the size of its reserves for economic prosperity, citing Venezuela's over 300 billion barrels of oil reserves as an example of how enormous resource endowments did not automatically translate into wealth.

He noted that the country's oil and gas industry remained central to its economic stability, disclosing that approximately 85 per cent of Nigeria's foreign reserves, which stood at about $56 billion, came from the petroleum sector.

In her keynote address, the Special Adviser to the President on Energy, Olu Verheijen, said Nigeria must ensure its increased oil and gas production translates into stronger industrial capacity, employment opportunities and improved economic conditions for citizens.



Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike (middle), with members of the National Councillors Forum of Nigeria, FCT Chapter, during the Kwali All Progressives Congress and Peoples Democratic Party stakeholders interactive meeting in Kwali Area Council yesterday.

INEC faults 'rig and die', vows sanctions for electoral offenders

CSOs demand forensic audit of technology in INEC's custody

From **Solomon Azu**, Calabar

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has condemned the "rig and die" slogan being popularised by some political actors ahead of the 2027 general elections, warning that the phrase incites electoral violence and threatens innocent citizens.

However, it vowed that any electoral official, including ad hoc personnel, found to have compromised the electoral process would face the full weight of the law.

In the meantime, the national coalition of civil society organisations (CSOs) and election observers have demanded an independent forensic audit of INEC's electoral technology over the alleged artificial intelligence-generated voters' names and photographs.

THE Chairman of INEC Information and Voter Education Committee, Mohammed Haruna, gave the warning in Enugu at a media engagement forum for newsmen and media executives from the South-East, South-South and South-West geopolitical zones.

FG's security, infrastructure investments repositioning S'East, says Shettima

Nwifuru, Umahi, Yari set 1.3m vote target for Tinubu in Ebonyi

From **Terhemba Daka**, **Adamu Abuh** and **Sodiq Omolaoye**, Abuja

VICE President Kashim Shettima has said the federal government's investments in critical infrastructure, security, agriculture and human capital development are repositioning the South-East for economic growth, improved connectivity and greater national economic integration.

This comes as the All Progressives Congress (APC) has set an ambitious target of 1.3 million votes for President Bola Tinubu in Ebonyi State in the January 16, 2027 presidential election, banking on federal infrastructure projects, political appointments and what party leaders described as renewed attention to the South-East.

Also, the grand patron of the PBAT Door-to-Door Movement, Government Ekpemupolo, popularly known as Tompolo, has deployed 25 vehicles and sound systems to Enugu State as part of efforts to mobilise grassroots support for Tinubu's re-election bid in 2027.



Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Sabre Works Real Estate Investment Ltd., Mr Segun Phillips, alongside Aspire, co-founder of BRG, and other distinguished guests at the Oranje Chateaux luncheon held at Atlantic Nominee Estate, Lekki-Ajah, Lagos.

Sabre Works unveils N335m Oranje Chateaux in Lekki-Ajah

CSOs demand forensic audit of technology in INEC's custody

SABRE Works Real Estate Investment Limited has commenced the development of Oranje Chateaux, a 10-unit residential project at Atlantic Nominee Estate, Lekki-Ajah, Lagos, with a commitment to deliver the properties within 18 months.

The project, officially unveiled at a groundbreaking ceremony on November 7, 2026, and offering prospective buyers a range of housing options priced between N263 million and N335 million, comprises four-bedroom duplexes with boys' quarters.

Speaking at the event, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Sabre Works, Segun Phillips, expressed confidence in the company's ability to meet the delivery timeline, citing its previous experience with Oranje Apartments - its earlier development in the area.

According to him, the company had initially committed to delivering the apartment project within 18 months but completed it five months ahead of schedule. He added: "We promised to deliver Oranje Apartments in 18 months, and we have done it before, and we are doing it again."

Oranje Chateaux is the company's second residential development in the area, following Oranje Apartments, which comprises 14 units of two- and three-bedroom flats.

The new development consists of two fully detached duplexes priced at N335 million each, two semi-detached units at N299 million each, two corner terrace duplexes at N275 million each, and four middle terrace units selling at N263 million each.

Phillips said the development was designed with particular attention to space, comfort and functionality, noting that the company was responding to the changing expectations of property buyers.

The project will also feature shared recreational facilities, including a swimming pool and gymnasium, alongside smart home technology designed to improve convenience and household management.

Meanwhile, the company disclosed that buyers would enjoy a promotional discount of 20 per cent, with an initial deposit of 10 per cent of the selected property's cost. Further payment arrangements are available under agreed terms.

Five years after PIA legislation, Reps demand tangible benefits for Nigerians

From **Joel Oladele**, Abuja

THE House of Representatives has urged the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) to translate the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) into increased oil production, greater investment and tangible economic benefits for Nigerians.

It said the success of the five-year-old legislation must be reflected in improved energy security, stronger domestic refining, higher revenue generation and employment opportunities.

Speaker of the House, Tajudeen Abbas, made the call yesterday in Abuja at a retreat on PIA implementation, corporate governance and legislative oversight, organised by NNPCL in collaboration with the Office of the Speaker.

Abbas, represented by the House Majority Leader, Julius Ihonvbere, said the anniversary of the legislation provided an opportunity to assess how much of its promises had translated into practical results.

U.S. Consulate, media career body back journalists

THE United States Consulate-General in Lagos is extending its support to the Media Career Development Network (MCDN) for the second year to strengthen the capacity of emerging Nigerian journalists through a year-long Journalism Clinic beginning in November 2026.

The expanded programme will deliver 12 monthly training sessions across multiple cities, including Lagos, Ibadan, Benin City, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Awka and Enugu.

Bringing together early-career journalists from print, online, radio and television outlets, the programme will combine expert-led instruction, practical skills development and opportunities to connect with experienced journalists and subject matter experts.

The initiative will equip journalists with the knowledge and skills to report more effectively on issues shaping the U.S.–Nigeria relationship, particularly trade, investment, technology, creative economy, and other areas of bilateral cooperation.

The clinic will strengthen participants' understanding of freedom of expression as a cornerstone of democratic governance, prosperity, innovation, and long-term economic development.

FG unveils N70b oral health plan to end noma mouth disease

By Ijeoma Nwanosike

• Raises concern as dentist-to-population ratio falls below WHO benchmark

THE federal government has unveiled a five-year National Oral Health Strategic Plan estimated to cost N70 billion as it steps up efforts to eliminate noma and improve access to oral healthcare.

Noma is a rapidly progressing gangrenous infection of the mouth and face that primarily affects malnourished and immunocompromised children. It often begins as a gum infection but can destroy facial tissues within days if left untreated.

Launching the plan yesterday in Abuja, the Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Iziaq Salako, said it was aimed at strengthening oral healthcare delivery, expanding preventive services and integrating oral health into primary healthcare as part of efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

Speaking at the commemoration of the National Noma Day and National Oral Health Day, Salako said the government was determined to end the neglect of oral health and make it an integral component of Nigeria's healthcare system.

He stressed that the country's high burden of Noma, particularly in the North-West and North-East, required sustained national attention, describing the disease as a preventable condition that could cause devastating facial destruction, disability and death among affected children if not detected and treated early.

Salako noted that survivors also face stigma, social isolation and exclusion from their communities, adding that the World Health Organisation's recognition of Noma as a Neglected Tropical Disease in 2023 was a significant milestone in drawing global attention to the condition.

Consequently, the federal government had integrated Noma surveillance into the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response system and was strengthening the capacity of primary healthcare facilities to identify and refer cases at stages zero and one, when interventions were most effective, he added.

According to him, the ministry has also trained frontline healthcare workers, traditional healers and traditional birth attendants in 19 states on the early identification of Noma and other oral diseases.

Gunmen kill five, injure two in Plateau as police rescue APC chairman after 68 days

From Murtala Adewale, Kano

GUNMEN suspected to be bandits have reportedly killed five persons and injured two others in an attack on Berom communities in Barkin Ladi and Riyom local council areas of Plateau State.

In another development, Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Rogo Local Council Area of Kano State, Abdullahi Beli, has regained his freedom after 68 days in the kidnappers' custody, following his abduction on September 1, 2026, at his residence in Beli Village, Rogo Local Council Area.

Confirming the breakthrough, the spokesperson of Kano State Police Command, SP Abdullahi Kiyawa, said the APC chieftain was rescued unhurt by operatives of the command's Anti-Kidnapping Squad, who successfully dismantled a notorious syndicate terrorising Kano and neighbouring states.

However, spokesman for the Berom Youth Moulders Association (YMA), Rwang Tengwong, said the two separate attacks occurred on Sunday.

Strike paralyses Osun public schools, councils

From Oluwole Ige, Osogbo

ACTIVITIES in Osun State council secretariats, public schools, primary healthcare centres and other government offices were brought to a standstill yesterday as the state's council of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) observed a sympathy action over the withheld local council funds.

In a joint statement on Sunday, the Osun NLC Chairman, Christopher Arapasopo, and Secretary, Victor Amusan, called for a three-day sympathy strike by council workers and members of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE).

On a visit to Osogbo and Olorunda local council secretariats yesterday, workers were seen milling around, discussing in groups.

Meanwhile, all public primary and secondary schools in the state have been shut down, with the gates to public schools within the state capital, Osogbo, found locked and the compounds empty during a visit.



Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa (left); President, Nigerian Association of Petroleum Exploration (NAPE), Olajumoke Ajayi; Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Heineken Lokpobiri; and Special Adviser to the President on Energy, Olubukola Verheijen, during the 44th yearly NAPE International Conference and Exhibition held in Lagos, yesterday.

Court orders Amupitan, Igbokwe to testify, rejects Sowore's bid

From Ameh Ochojila, Abuja

THE Federal High Court in Abuja has ordered the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Joash Amupitan, and a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Joe Igbokwe, to appear as defence witnesses in the ongoing cyberbullying trial of Omoyele Sowore.

It also directed Amupitan to testify in the case following an application by Sowore's defence team. The subpoena dated October 26, 2026, and issued by Justice Mohammed Umar, specifically requires Amupitan to produce two categories of electoral documents.

The documents are the affidavit in respect of the lost certificates submitted by Bola Tinubu as a candidate in the 1999 Lagos State governorship election, and his Form CF001 in connection with his candidacy in the 2023 presidential election.

The documents are being sought by Sowore's defence team as part of its evidence in the criminal proceedings arising from his public statements describing President Tinubu as a criminal. The court directed the INEC chairman to appear, produce the specified documents, and give evidence on the defendant's behalf.

However, in what marked another setback for Sowore in the proceedings, the court dismissed the activist's application to compel a lawyer to the Department of State Services (DSS), Akinlolu Kehinde, SAN, to testify in the case.

In his ruling yesterday, Justice Mohammed Umar set aside the subpoena earlier issued against Kehinde, holding that legal practitioners are bound by professional confidentiality and cannot ordinarily be compelled to disclose communications relating to their representation of clients.

The judge explained that a lawyer could be compelled to testify only in limited circumstances, particularly where the evidence sought concerns an uncontested matter or an issue that would not prejudice the client's interests.

Following the ruling, defence counsel, Ruben Adakole, informed the court of the defence's intention to subpoena Igbokwe and Amupitan to testify in the case, a request that was approved by Justice Umar, who directed that subpoenas be issued to both proposed witnesses.

The court then adjourned the matter until November 11, 2026, for the appearance of the subpoenaed defence witnesses.

Oyewole, others decry impact of poor data on women empowerment drives

By Gloria Nwafor

INADEQUATE data on women's skills, businesses and economic activities is limiting the effectiveness of government empowerment programmes and efforts to expand their participation in Nigeria's economy, the Chairperson of Women in Management Africa (WIMAFRICA), Dr Ngozi Oyewole, has said.

To enable government and development partners to design interventions that address women's actual needs rather than relying on broad policy commitments, she called for a comprehensive identification of women's economic activities across the country.

Addressing newsmen yesterday ahead of the maiden African edition of the Women in Management Global Economic Forum, scheduled for November 10 and 11 in Lagos, Oyewole disclosed that her Business Women of Influence initiative was developing a community skills census to identify women across the states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

According to her, the exercise will document women's skills, occupations, businesses and levels of enterprise development, providing information that could guide government policies and development interventions.

Among others, the WIMAFRICA chairperson cited the federal government's skills acquisition programmes through the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), inclusive public procurement initiatives, and interventions under the Ministry of Women Affairs as efforts to promote women's economic inclusion.

However, she maintained that the effectiveness of these interventions would depend on reliable information to identify beneficiaries, establish their needs, and ensure that government policies translated into access to finance, skills, productive assets and sustainable business opportunities.

According to her, inadequate data on women, particularly those operating businesses in rural communities, makes it difficult for policymakers to understand the realities they face and to develop appropriate support programmes.

Regarding the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Oyewole observed that many women entrepreneurs lacked adequate information on rules of origin, documentation requirements, and procedures for accessing cross-border markets.

Therefore, she called for practical education and institutional support to enable women-owned businesses to capitalise on opportunities in the continental market.

For her part, the founder and Chairperson of Women in Management (WIM), Dr Sulochana Segera, said the decision to bring the organisation's global platform to Africa was driven by the need to recognise African women's contributions and connect them to international business and investment opportunities.

Offa bank robbery: 'State govt's withdrawal of charges proves false claims'

From Mansur Aramide, Ilorin

THE Abubakar Bukola Saraki Media Office has described the Kwara State Government's withdrawal of all 18 Offa armed robbery-related charges against two former governors of the state, Dr Abubakar Saraki and Abdulfatah Ahmed, as an embarrassment to the state and an abuse of judicial process.

This comes as some politicians, including the Kwara South Senatorial candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Saheed Popoola, confessed over the weekend that they linked Saraki to the robbery case in which over 25 people, including policemen, were killed, for political motives.

Popoola said he aligned with the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the movement that removed Saraki.

Meanwhile, in a statement yesterday, Saraki's Media Office, Yusuph Olaniyonu, described the amendment of the charges as ridiculous, mischievous, ill-intentioned, and a further attempt to abuse the judicial process.

Okpebholo inspects projects, recommits to improving lives

From Joseph Kanjo, Benin

GOVERNOR Monday Okpebholo of Edo State has reiterated his administration's commitment to delivering infrastructure that will improve residents' living conditions and address the long-standing environmental and transportation challenges across the state.

He spoke during an inspection tour of ongoing projects across Benin City with newsmen, as part of activities marking his second year in office.

Okpebholo, who also inspected areas affected by flooding and erosion and monitored the progress of road construction and drainage works, assured residents of his administration's commitment to addressing erosion and flooding challenges in affected communities.

Showcasing completed road and drainage projects as part of his achievements in two years in office, the governor said his administration had already made significant progress in completing roads that were previously abandoned.

Politics&Policy

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South-East: Between Uzodimma, Okorocha and Wike's Rainbow Coalition

The battle for the All Progressives Congress (APC) ticket for the Imo West Senatorial seat has again pitted Governor Hope Uzodimma and Rochas Okorocha against each other. The undercurrent is the ruling party's interest in the South-East ahead of the 2027 polls, ***LEO SOBECHI*** *reports.*

THE late Abba Kyari, Chief of Staff to former President Muhammadu Buhari, set the tone for the APC's effort to make political inroads into the South East, then seen as a belated attempt at national inclusion.

Kyari, who was reportedly nursing a presidential ambition ahead of the 2023 election on the APC platform, had urged the region to vote massively for the ruling party, arguing that such support would strengthen its case for a Nigerian president of Igbo extraction.

At the time, the Buhari administration was displeased with Imo State governor Rochas Okorocha for challenging the President in the APC presidential primary ahead of the 2015 general election.

As Okorocha prepared to leave office after two terms and move to the Senate, the Presidency needed an ally capable of retaining Imo, the South East's most populous state, for the APC.

Hope Uzodimma, who had defected from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) alongside his political ally, Senator Ali Modu Sheriff, fitted the bill. Okorocha's determination to install his son-in-law, Uche Nwosu, as his successor, while retaining influence in the Senate, provided an opening for Uzodimma's governorship ambition.

With Kyari's backing, Uzodimma contested the 2019 governorship election on the APC platform after emerging from a parallel primary conducted by the party's late electoral panel chairman, Ahmed Gulak. Nwosu, whose claim to the APC ticket was also in contention, defected to the Action Alliance (AA), where he became the governorship candidate.

As preparations for the 2027 general election gather momentum, the two Imo political heavyweights are again locked in a battle over the state's political future. Okorocha, who lost his bid to retain the Imo West Senatorial seat in 2023, is challenging the governor's political dominance. He blames Uzodimma for frustrating his ambition to install Nwosu as his successor.

Had Nwosu not withdrawn his case challenging Uzodimma's emergence as the APC candidate, he might have benefited from the Supreme Court's January 14, 2020 judgment, which declared Uzodimma the winner of the March 9, 2019 governorship election.

Like Okorocha in 2019, Uzodimma is seeking to use the advantages of office to secure a return to the Senate in 2027. But the plan has generated fresh tensions.

His reported proposal to have his deputy, Lady Chinyere Ihuoma Ekomaru, resign to pave the way for a preferred successor has reportedly met resistance from her supporters and the governor's political adversaries, including Senate President Godswill Akpabio, Senator Adams Oshiomhole and Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike. The dispute has therefore become a test of influence.

Court ruling alters political calculations

THE Federal High Court judgment of October 28, 2026, which nullified Uzodimma's victory in the APC primary for Imo West Senatorial District, has given Okorocha fresh political momentum.

After keeping a relatively low media profile, the former governor began a series of television appearances, revisiting events that preceded his departure from Government House, Owerri. He also accused the chairman of the Progressive Governors Forum (PGF) of never winning an election transparently.

To those familiar with the Presidency's influence in Imo politics, Okorocha's renewed visibility appeared to signal a possible shift in the Tinubu administration's calculations. President Bola Tinubu, who had his own disagreements with the Buhari Presidency, is believed to have reasons to reconsider the political leadership of the APC in the South East.

> "At the height of the dispute over the senatorial ticket, the Presidency's efforts to broker peace between the two politicians reportedly failed. Uzodimma was said to have rejected a proposal that would have required him to choose between determining his successor in 2028 and returning to the Senate."

At the height of the dispute over the senatorial ticket, the Presidency's efforts to broker peace between the two politicians reportedly failed. Uzodimma was said to have rejected a proposal that would have required him to choose between determining his successor in 2028 and returning to the Senate.

Following the failed reconciliation effort, Tinubu was reportedly of the view that Okorocha deserved recognition as one of the APC's founding figures in Imo.

The former governor had participated in negotiations that brought a faction of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) into the merger that produced the ruling party.

Beneath the apparent effort to accommodate Okorocha, however, was the lingering question of Uzodimma's loyalty during the 2022 APC presidential primary. The Imo governor had supported the unsuccessful effort by Buhari loyalists, including Senator Abdullahi Adamu, to secure the Senate President Ahmad Lawan's ticket.

Although Uzodimma subsequently aligned with Tinubu's campaign and reportedly contributed N1 billion to its activities, his earlier position remained a source of suspicion among some members of the President's camp.

The governor nevertheless strengthened his standing in the party. After succeeding Okorocha as chairman of the PGF, he used the position to expand his influence and later emerged as Director-General of the Renewed Hope Ambassadors. He also cultivated allies within the APC National Working Committee (NWC) and supported retaining the party's zoning arrangement for key elective positions.

Party insiders claim that part of his negotiations involved securing Tinubu's commitment to the South East producing a principal officer of the National Assembly, an arrangement likened to the political accommodation extended to the region during the Olusegun Obasanjo administration.

In pursuing this objective, Uzodimma has had to contend with political interests on several fronts. Although Okorocha has not openly declared an ambition to become Senate President or occupy another National Assembly leadership position, his remarks on Channels Television's Politics Today suggested an interest in the same opportunities being pursued by the incumbent governor. He said that even if he wanted the same position, he would not approach the matter as Uzodimma did.

Okorocha had challenged the declaration by the APC Senatorial Primary Election Committee that Uzodimma won the direct primary, insisting that he secured the majority of votes cast. He also questioned the governor's eligibility to contest the senatorial election while still in office, citing Section 182(1)(g) of the Constitution.

In its judgment, Justice Egwuatu declared Okorocha winner of the primary and the authentic APC candidate for Imo West. The court granted his reliefs, restrained Uzodimma from parading himself as the party's candidate and directed the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to recognise him.

Reacting, Okorocha described the ruling as a victory for democracy, the judiciary and the people of Imo West. In a statement issued by his Senior Special Assistant on Media, Sam Onwuemeodo, he said the jubilation that greeted the judgment would not be taken for granted.

He also thanked Tinubu for providing what he described as an enabling environment for the judiciary and other institutions to function, and commended Uzodimma for being among the respondents in the case.

The dispute extends beyond the senatorial ticket. With the APC determined to retain its zoning arrangement for National Assembly leadership positions, Uzodimma's return to the Senate has been linked to wider calculations over the Senate presidency, currently occupied by Akpabio.

Supporters of the governor claim the South-East was promised a significant leadership position as an incentive to support Tinubu's second-term ambition rather than Peter Obi's presidential aspiration.

Rainbow Coalition widens political contest

WHEN Okorocha appeared on *Arise News*' *Prime Time* last Thursday, he praised the Wike-led Rainbow Coalition for Tinubu's re-election and pledged to advance its objectives and mobilise votes for the President in Imo.

The appearance revived memories of his political relationship with Wike, particularly a public display of friendship that has acquired fresh significance amid the rivalry between the Rivers politician and Uzodimma.

Towards the end of his second term as Rivers governor, Wike invited Okorocha to the commissioning of the Rumueche-Rumuakunde-Ohna-Awuse Road in Emohua Local Government Area. At a reception in Port Harcourt, Okorocha, seated beside his host, rose to dance to a local tune, drawing Wike into the performance.

Beyond the public display of friendship, political observers in the South-East and South-South regarded both men as influential and combative politicians known for assertive approaches to political contests.

At the event, Okorocha hinted that politicians across party lines were considering a new movement to rescue the country. He said progressive Nigerians should come together to make the country work, arguing that good and bad politicians could be found in both the APC and PDP.

He also urged the South-East and South-South to build on their cultural affinities for greater political and socioeconomic cooperation, adding that an alliance with Wike and other like-minded politicians could make a difference.

Okorocha as alternative political salesman

SOME APC stakeholders believe Okorocha could be a more effective mobiliser than Uzodimma for Tinubu's re-election in the South-East.

Party insiders claim the Presidency has been uncomfortable with what they regard as the governor's reluctance to openly challenge Obi's presidential ambition.

There are also claims that it was displeased with Uzodimma's role in the emergence of former Minister of Science and Technology, Uche Nnaji, as an APC political figure, particularly following controversies over Nnaji's academic credentials.

During his television appearances, Okorocha focused on Obi's commitment to a single-term presidency and criticised Uzodimma's political style. He portrayed himself as having greater grassroots appeal than the incumbent, whom he accused of spending more time in Abuja than maintaining contact with Imo people.

Some Presidency insiders believe Okorocha's influence could provide a rallying point for APC stakeholders in the South East, including former governor David Umahi and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Benjamin Kalu, as well as political allies in the Rainbow Coalition, such as Governors Chukwuma Soludo and Alex Otti.

The Presidency has reportedly been concerned about the absence of a broadly accepted political leader capable of coordinating the APC's interests across the South East. Some party stakeholders accuse Uzodimma of concentrating more on projecting himself as a regional leader than strengthening the party's grassroots appeal.

Okorocha's record in building the APC in the region is often cited in this regard. Shortly after the party's formation, he tried to bring Ebonyi State into its fold, but the initiative brought him into conflict with the late Dr Ogbonnaya Onu, a prominent party leader and Buharist.

Although the APC fielded Barrister Julius Ali Ucha as its governorship candidate in the 2015 election, Onu's influence limited Okorocha's efforts to extend his political reach into Ebonyi.



Uzodimma Okorocha Wike

IJAW NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC)

"Leadership by Service"

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, IJAW HOUSE, SANI ABACHA EXPRESSWAY, YANAGOA, BAYELSA STATE.

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE FOUR-DAY LEADERSHIP RETREAT OF THE IJAW NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC), HELD AT OGULAGHA, DELTA STATE, FROM 26 TO 29 OCTOBER 2026

THEME: A NEW IJAW NATION IS POSSIBLE

The 9th National Executive Council (NEC) of the Ijaw National Congress (INC), alongside Ijaw leaders, stakeholders and representatives of relevant institutions, held a four-day leadership retreat at Ogulagha, Delta State, from 26th to 29th October 2026. The gathering deliberated extensively on leadership in Ijaw land, the future of the Ijaw Nation, implementing a New Ijaw Agenda, political representation, economic advancement, environmental justice, ethnic identity, and the Ijaw people's strategic position within Nigeria. At the end of the deliberations, the gathering reaffirmed the INC's historic responsibility to unite the Ijaw people, defend their collective interests, protect their ancestral homeland, and advance their legitimate aspirations through purposeful leadership, strategic engagement, and collective action. The following observations, resolutions and recommendations were adopted.

1. OBSERVATIONS

A. The gathering observed the urgent need for a New Ijaw Agenda that places the permanent interests, identity, security, development and political aspirations of the Ijaw Nation at the centre of all engagements within and outside Nigeria.

B. It observes that unity, solidarity and collective responsibility are indispensable to the Ijaw Nation's quest for self-determination, development and effective representation.

C. It observed the need for the INC to establish sustainable and transparent funding mechanisms, develop credible projects and promote commercially viable Ijaw-owned enterprises.

D. It noted that fragmentation among Ijaw organisations and institutions weakens collective representation and called for improved coordination under the leadership of the INC.

E. It expressed grave concern over the oppression, harassment, intimidation and violence directed at the Gelegelegbene Ijaws of Edo State and affirmed that an injury to any Ijaw community anywhere is an injury to the entire Ijaw Nation everywhere.

F. It recognised the enormous opportunities available to the Ijaw people in the blue economy, particularly in maritime transport, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism and other marine-related enterprises.

G. It observed that the historical balkanisation of Ijaw land across administrative and political boundaries has weakened territorial cohesion, cultural integration and effective political representation.

H. It acknowledged the need for renewed engagement on the position of the Ijaw Nation within Nigeria, particularly regarding resource control, fiscal justice, environmental protection, security, development and equitable participation in the federation.

I. It observed that the existing derivation formula does not adequately reflect the contribution of oil-producing communities and reaffirmed the demand for total control of its resources.

J. It expressed deep concern over the continuing environmental despoliation and ecological destruction of Ijaw land through oil spills, hydrocarbon contamination, gas flaring, industrial emissions, toxic discharges, soil degradation, mangrove destruction, erosion and pollution of rivers, creeks, wetlands and coastal waters. These conditions threaten biodiversity, aquatic life, public health, food security and the livelihoods of Ijaw communities. The scale, duration and cumulative consequences of the damage have not been matched by adequate remediation and ecological restoration.

K. It reaffirmed that the Ijaw people constitute a distinct ethnic nationality with their own history, culture, identity and ancestral territory. Partnerships and political alliances with other ethnic nationalities must therefore respect Ijaw identity, dignity, territorial integrity and national aspirations.

2. RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the foregoing observations and following extensive deliberations, the Ijaw National Congress hereby makes the following resolutions and recommendations:

1. The INC shall pursue a comprehensive, inclusive and actionable New Ijaw Agenda that clearly defines the political, economic, cultural, environmental and developmental aspirations of the Ijaw Nation. This agenda shall serve as a common framework for engagement with the Federal Government, state governments, political parties, development institutions and other relevant stakeholders. The permanent interests of the Ijaw people must remain central to every political decision, alliance and national engagement undertaken in their name.
2. Ijaw leaders, traditional institutions, political actors, community organisations, youth groups, women's organisations and other stakeholders are called upon to place the collective interests of the Ijaw Nation above personal, partisan, sectional and immediate political considerations. The INC shall promote dialogue, reconciliation, mutual respect and cooperation as essential instruments for strengthening unity and building a common front to advance Ijaw interests.
3. The INC shall establish a transparent and sustainable financing framework supported by credible projects, clearly defined budgets, measurable outcomes and effective accountability mechanisms. The Congress shall encourage commercially viable Ijaw-owned enterprises and strategic partnerships capable of generating revenue, creating employment and supporting its long-term institutional sustainability. Rather than relying solely on donations, the INC should present prospective contributors and investors with viable projects, transparent budgets and demonstrable results.
4. Every major resolution and programme of the INC shall be supported by a clear implementation framework specifying responsibilities, timelines, measurable targets and reporting procedures. Relevant committees should be empowered to monitor progress, evaluate outcomes and report regularly to the appropriate organs of the Congress. The objective must be to translate resolutions into practical results for the Ijaw people.
5. The INC shall strengthen coordination among Ijaw organisations, institutions and advocacy groups to promote a coherent national voice and prevent avoidable fragmentation. Such coordination shall respect the autonomy and legitimate functions of constituent organisations while encouraging cooperation, consultation and collective action on matters affecting the Ijaw Nation.
6. The INC shall promote a deliberate strategy to position the Ijaw people to benefit from the emerging opportunities of the blue economy. Priority areas shall include maritime transport, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, marine services and related industries. Investment, training, infrastructure and strategic partnerships should be encouraged, with particular attention to young people and women through skills development, entrepreneurship and access to economic opportunities. The natural maritime advantages of Ijaw land must become a foundation for productive enterprise, employment and sustainable prosperity.
7. The retreat notes that Ijaw Nation is aware that the 1914 Amalgamation of Nigeria which has reached its centenary in 2014 has expired and maintains that this milestone warrants a renewed examination of the terms of Nigeria's political union. In the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the relevant provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, particularly the principles of self-determination and respect for the rights of peoples to the ownership of resources found in their ancestral land, the retreat demands a renegotiation of the position of the Ijaw Nation within the Nigerian state, with a view to securing equity, justice, recognition and a mutually beneficial federal relationship, the federal government is therefore put on alert.
8. The INC shall intensify engagement on the position of the Ijaw Nation within the Nigerian federation. Such engagement shall address resource control, fiscal justice, environmental protection, security, political representation, infrastructure, development and equitable participation in national affairs. The Ijaw people must not be marginalised in decisions concerning their land, resources, political future and place in Nigeria. Every national engagement must be assessed by its implications for the enduring interests of the Ijaw Nation.
9. The INC reaffirms the demand for the creation of Toru-Ebe State and Oil Rivers State as part of the Ijaw Nation's continuing quest for equitable political representation, administrative inclusion and development. The Congress shall intensify constitutional, political and diplomatic engagement with relevant authorities, legislators, political stakeholders and other supportive groups to advance these demands through lawful and democratic processes.
10. The INC reaffirms that the Ijaw people constitute a distinct ethnic nationality with their own history, language, culture, ancestral geography and national aspirations. The Ijaw people are neither Hausa, Yoruba nor Igbo, nor members of any other ethnic nationality in Nigeria. Accordingly, the Congress rejects any attempt to annex, subsume or diminish Ijaw identity and territorial integrity.
11. The INC recognises the value of strategic alliances with other ethnic groups and stakeholders where such partnerships advance mutual interests, justice, peaceful coexistence and equitable participation in Nigeria. However, such alliances must respect the distinct identity, dignity, territorial integrity and political aspirations of the Ijaw Nation. Cooperation must strengthen the Ijaw people, not erase their identity or compromise their legitimate interests.
12. The INC condemns the oppression, harassment, intimidation and violence against the Gelegelegbene Ijaws of Edo State and declares its unalloyed support for their legitimate rights, safety, dignity and territorial interests. The relevant authorities are urged to prevent further harassment, investigate reported abuses and ensure justice through lawful and peaceful means. No Ijaw community should be abandoned or treated as an isolated minority because of its location outside Bayelsa State or any other predominantly Ijaw administrative area. The protection of one Ijaw community is the collective responsibility of the entire Ijaw Nation.
13. The INC condemns the environmental despoliation and ecological destruction of Ijaw land and demands comprehensive environmental assessment, total clean-up, remediation and restoration of polluted lands, rivers, creeks, mangroves, wetlands and coastal waters. It calls for strict enforcement of environmental laws, accountability of polluters, prevention of further contamination, safe drinking water, appropriate compensation, livelihood restoration and the meaningful participation of affected communities. All remediation programmes must be adequately funded, independently monitored and transparently implemented. From both biocentric and anthropocentric perspectives, environmental protection must preserve the intrinsic value of nature while safeguarding human health, livelihoods, biodiversity, cultural heritage and future generations. The wealth extracted from our homeland must never become an excuse for its destruction.
14. The INC shall establish a legal team to explore both national and international legal frameworks to seek for environmental remediation against the International Oil Companies (IOCs) and the Federal Government for the years of monumental ecocide and large-scale environmental destruction in the Niger Delta.
15. The Ijaw National Congress (INC) expresses grave concern over the devastating oceanic incursion and coastal erosion that have severely battered Ogulagha, an age-long oil-producing community whose immense contribution to Nigeria's economic survival has not been matched by adequate protection of its people and territory. The relentless advance of the ocean has drastically reduced the landmass of the community, threatening its ancestral heritage, livelihoods and continued existence. Recognising that the magnitude of this ecological disaster is beyond the capacity of the community to confront, the INC demands the immediate restoration of the eroded coastline and the construction of strong, durable and technically sound shoreline protection walls to halt further oceanic encroachment, safeguard the remaining landmass and protect the lives, properties and future of the people of Ogulagha.
16. The INC condemns the prolonged negligence and failure to address the persistent gas leakage and fire incidents affecting Alakiri and Bille communities in Rivers State for over a year, and the massive long-termed crude oil spill and environmental crisis in Odidi federated communities in Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State, arising from equipment failure. This dangerous situation exposes the people to continuous environmental pollution, serious health risks, fire hazards and other threats to human life and ecological safety. The Congress therefore demands the immediate intervention of the relevant government agencies and responsible oil and gas operators to contain the gas leakage, extinguish the fires, investigate their causes, assess the environmental and health impacts, and undertake comprehensive remediation of the affected areas. The INC further demands urgent medical assessment and appropriate assistance for affected residents, alongside enforceable measures to prevent recurrence and ensure accountability. The continued exposure of these communities to such danger without effective intervention is unacceptable; the safety, health and environmental rights of the people of Alakiri, Bile and Odidi must no longer be neglected or compromised.

The Ogulagha Leadership Retreat reaffirms the historic responsibility of the Ijaw National Congress to provide purposeful leadership, unite the Ijaw people and translate their collective aspirations into measurable outcomes. The challenges confronting Ijaw land require disciplined leadership, transparent institutions, strategic engagement and sustained collective action. All Ijaw leaders, institutions, communities and stakeholders are called upon to support the implementation of these resolutions in the overriding interest of the Ijaw Nation. The relevant authorities, corporate organisations and development partners are also urged to respond constructively to the legitimate demands for political inclusion, environmental justice, economic advancement and respect for Ijaw identity. From Ogulagha, the message is clear: the Ijaw Nation shall stand united, defend its identity, protect its homeland and pursue its rightful place in Nigeria with courage, wisdom and determination. Our observations must inform our actions; our resolutions must produce results; and our unity must become the foundation of our collective strength. The future of Ijaw land is our shared responsibility, and its destiny must never be surrendered.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE IJAW NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC):

High Chief (Hon) Macdonald Ebi Igbadiwei, Esq.
President

HR- Dr. Anyanate Kio
National Secretary

Hon. Ikosomi I. Barry
National Publicity Secretary

HM King Bubaraye Dakolo
(Agada IV) Ibenanaowei Of Ekpetiama Kingdom
Chairman INC-CITRE

Mr Jeff Teyeibo
Leader, INC-NRC

Dr. Doubra C. Okotete
President, IYC

Dr. Vivian Elenwo
President, IWC

Dame Meg Agidee
National President, ILA

Kennedy West
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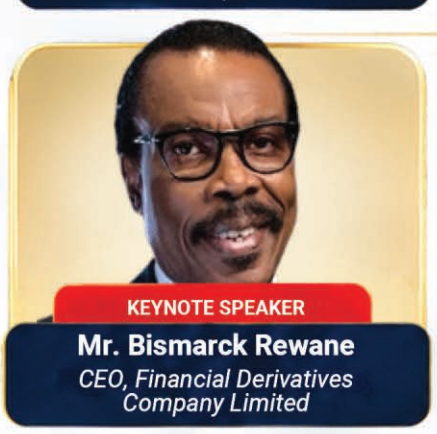
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President and Chairman of Council, ICMR



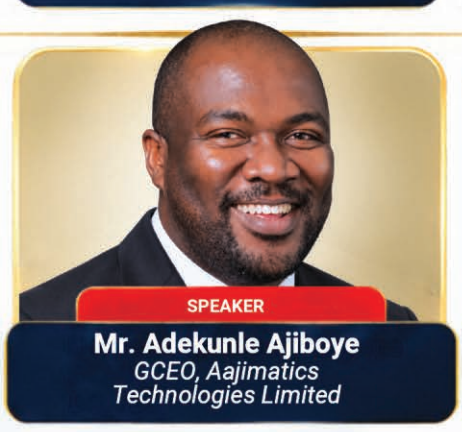
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Jonathan Eborah FCMR
Registrar/Chief Executive, ICMR

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Recapitalization as a Catalyst for Institutional Resilience & Governance Reforms for Sustainable Growth



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President, Association of Corporate Trustees



PANELIST
Dr. Kamal Okunola
1st Vice President, Institute of Capital Market Registrars



MODERATOR
Ms Arese Ugwu
Acting CEO, NASD Plc

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14th November 2026

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Delta community cries out over decades of neglect as bad roads trap trucks

From **Monday Osayande**, Asaba

RESIDENTS of Ebu community in Oshimili North Local Council of Delta State have raised the alarm over what they described as decades of government neglect, accusing successive administrations of abandoning the community to deteriorating infrastructure, deplorable roads and a lack of basic social amenities.

The residents, who expressed frustration over the worsening condition of their roads, said the situation had reached an alarming level, with motorists, commercial drivers and visitors facing serious difficulties accessing the community.

Several trailers and other heavy-duty vehicles were reportedly trapped along the damaged stretch of road, with some drivers stranded for between two and three weeks, unable to move forward or reverse their vehicles.

The road had deteriorated to such an extent that cars and buses could no longer access certain sections, effectively cutting off the community from neighbouring towns and other parts of the state.

Members of the Association of Community Newspaper Publishers of Nigeria (ACNPN) and other journalists who visited the community to cover its cultural festival also experienced the hardship.

The visiting journalists had to park their vehicle at a point where further movement became impossible and trek about one kilometre to the palace of the Onu Ebu, where the festival was taking place.

Speaking on the deplorable situation, an indigene, Okai James, lamented that Ebu had suffered approximately three decades of neglect, questioning whether the community was still considered part of Delta State.

He expressed disappointment that successive administrations had failed to provide the community with adequate road infrastructure and other essential amenities, despite its longstanding presence within the state.



The road

James, however, acknowledged the contributions of former Governor James Ibori, particularly the construction of the gateway road linking Ebu with Ukala-Ezi and neighbouring communities.

The residents have consequently appealed to Governor Sheriff Oborevwori to extend the benefits of his administration's MORE Agenda to the community, insisting that it should not remain excluded from the state's development initiatives.

They specifically called on the governor to urgently intervene on the dilapidated road and provide sustainable solutions to the community's electricity and water supply challenges.

The community further recalled that Governor Oborevwori had previously dispatched a government delegation led by Patrick Ukah to visit Ebu and assess its deplorable condition.

According to the residents, the delegation witnessed the difficulties confronting the people and the urgent need for government intervention. They, however, lamented that no meaningful action had followed the visit.

Ogun govt explains video of corps members sleeping in Sagamu camp

Blames surge in corps members for congestion at NYSC camp

From **Segun Ayinde**, Abeokuta

THE Ogun State Government has clarified the circumstances surrounding a viral video showing prospective corps members sleeping in a multi-purpose hall at the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Orientation Camp in Sagamu, attributing the development to an unexpected increase in the number of participants and delays in registration.

The government explained that the use of the hall was a temporary measure to provide accommodation for prospective corps members whose screening and registration processes extended late into the night.

It, however, stressed that responsibility for registration, verification of credentials and allocation of hostel accommodation rested solely with the NYSC.

The Special Adviser on Media and Strategy to Governor Dapo Abiodun, Kayode Akinmade, said mattresses were provided for the affected prospective corps members in the multi-purpose hall to enable them to rest while awaiting the completion of their registration and hostel allocation.

546 Shangisha landlords challenge Lagos over allocation of 549 plots to three individuals

By **Bertram Nwannekanma**

A fresh controversy has erupted over the protracted Shangisha land dispute, as 546 judgment creditors have challenged the Lagos State Government over the issuance of a global Certificate of Occupancy covering 549 plots of land to Chief Adebayo Adeyiga and two associates, despite two substantive appeals pending before the Court of Appeal, Lagos Division.

The aggrieved landowners alleged that the allocation of the plots to the three individuals could undermine the interests of the other judgment creditors and prejudice the outcome of the ongoing appellate proceedings.

They also questioned the role of the state Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Lawal Pedro, SAN, alleging that the issuance of the disputed title contradicted his earlier position before the Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee (LPPC), where he reportedly stated that administrative action on the allocation had been suspended.

The dispute dates back to the Supreme Court's 2012 judgment concerning the Shangisha Landlords Association. Following the judgment, the beneficiaries were expected to work with the Lagos State Government to determine an appropriate mechanism for its implementation.

However, disagreements reportedly emerged during subsequent negotiations when Adeyiga allegedly demanded that all 549 plots be allocated exclusively in his name and those of two associates.

The majority of the judgment creditors reportedly rejected the proposal, insisting that individual titles should be issued to the respective beneficiaries. Alternatively, they proposed that the land be allocated in the name of the Registered Trustees of the Shangisha Landlords Association for equitable distribution among bona fide members.

The individual beneficiaries also reportedly petitioned the Land Use and Allocation Committee, insisting on separate allocations. They said they had similarly communicated their position directly to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Efforts to resolve the disagreement reportedly collapsed during the administration of former Governor Akinwunmi Ambode, with the matter subsequently generating parallel legal proceedings that have continued under the present administration.

Motorcycle theft suspect allegedly poisoned as police launch investigation in Ogun

From **Azeez Olorunlomeru**, Abeokuta

A 26-year-old man, Timothy Ashamu, who allegedly confessed to stealing more than three motorcycles from members of the public in Oke-Odan, Yewa South Local Council, has himself become the victim of an alleged retaliatory attack.

The incident reportedly followed an October 2026 robbery allegation in which Ashamu allegedly dispossessed one Adetunji Vincent of his Bajaj motorcycle along Agosu Road, Oke-Odan.

Police findings revealed that Ashamu allegedly confessed to stealing more than three motorcycles in the area, using hammers, sticks and cutlasses to dispossess his victims.

However, the allegations against him took a disturbing turn when he was reportedly accosted at a farm in Oke-Odan by three individuals who allegedly forced him to ingest a substance suspected to be Gamalin.

Upon receiving the report, detectives from Owode-Yewa Division swiftly mobilised to the area, rescued Ashamu and rushed him to a hospital in Owode-Yewa, where he is currently receiving treatment.

Acting on information provided by the victim, the detectives proceeded to Ihunbo.

Babcock University dismisses reports of student's death after hostel incident

By **Eniola Daniel**

THE management of Babcock University, Ilishan Remo, Ogun State, yesterday addressed reports circulating about an incident involving a student who resides in one of the university's residential facilities.

The university confirmed that the student was alive and receiving medical attention at the Babcock University Teaching Hospital.

A video circulated on November 8, 2026, showed a 400-level student near a window ledge at a hostel. It also showed some of his roommates attempting to restrain him and pull him away from the ledge.

Contrary to reports suggesting that the student may have died, the institution assured the public that he was responding positively to treatment and receiving the necessary medical care.

A statement by the Associate Vice-President, Communication, Media and Branding, Johnson Akintaye, said the incident was brought under control through the prompt intervention of the student's roommates, whose timely action prevented what could have been a more tragic outcome.

The student and one of his rescuers, however, sustained injuries in the process and were immediately taken to hospital for medical attention.

Akintaye said the student's parents had been contacted and were on campus to be with him as he received treatment. He added that the other student, who sustained an injury while rescuing his roommate, had been treated and discharged.

Houseboat workers seek FG's intervention over 34-month unpaid salaries

From **Obinna Nwaoku**, Port Harcourt

HOUSEBOAT workers in the Niger Delta have appealed to President Bola Tinubu to intervene in their 34-month salary crisis, saying prolonged non-payment has pushed their families into hunger, disrupted their children's education and left their businesses struggling to survive.

The workers made the appeal yesterday during a protest at the Federal High Court in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, where a suit filed by three indigenous houseboat contractors over outstanding payments allegedly owed by the Nigerian Army came up for hearing.

Carrying placards, the protesters accused military authorities of failing to settle payments for houseboat rental services, despite the continued use of the facilities to support military operations in the Niger Delta.

They also called on the National Assembly to intervene and prevail on the relevant authorities to clear the outstanding debts.

Some of the placards read: "Mr. President, hear our cry, pay our contractors"; "Our families are hungry, our children are suffering. Pay us our monies"; and "Pay us for our 34 months houseboat supply services."

Others read: "Houseboat contractors are not slaves"; "Our sweat, our labour, our right"; and "Enough is enough. Army is on our boat, but refused to pay for the services."

Speaking during the protest, some of the workers described their situation as unbearable, saying the prolonged delay had deprived them of their means of livelihood.



Protesters

Police, DSS kill another kidnapper, arrest one, recover two AK-47 rifles in Ogun

From **Segun Ayinde,** Abeokuta

OPERATIVES of the Ogun State Police Command, in collaboration with the Department of State Services (DSS), have killed another suspected kidnapper, arrested an 18-year-old suspect, Abubakar Yinusa, and recovered two AK-47 rifles in an ongoing anti-kidnapping operation across the state.

Recalled that on November 8 2026, the operatives after rescuing 10 kidnapped passengers stormed the hideouts of kidnappers along the Ibadan-Ijebu Ode Road, where they engaged them in a gun battle resulting to the death of one while others escaped.

The police also recovered items include an AK-47 rifle, 20 rounds of ammunition, 1,376,800 in cash and a mobile phone from the operation.

The police ia sustained operational collaboration with the DSS, led by the State Director of Security, Mr Adelakun Adeyinka, alongside other security agencies, were able to neutralised a suspect and arrest one.

Spokesperson of the Command, Oluseyi Babaseyi confirmed this in a statement made available to newsmen in Abeokuta, the Ogun State Capital, yesterday.

Babaseyi explained that the joint security forces engaged the kidnappers in a gun battle, which led to the killing of one and arrest of Yinusa as well as the recovery of the two AK 47 riffiles.

He noted that the successful operation had increased the number of suspected kidnappers neutralised to two, while the total number of AK-47 rifles recovered had risen to three.

"The latest operation resulted in the neutralisation of one additional suspected kidnapper, the arrest of Abubakar Yinusa, male, aged 18, and the recovery of two additional AK-47 rifles."

"This brings the cumulative number of suspected kidnappers neutralised to two and the total number of recovered AK-47 rifles to three." he added.

Babaseyi said that the Command reiterates that sustained partnership among security agencies remains central to ongoing efforts to dismantle criminal networks and ensure the safety of residents across the state.

He said that the Police, DSS and other security outfits have vowed that all individuals involved in the kidnapping incident will be apprehended and brought to justice.

The Police Public Relations Officer, however, urged members of the public to remain vigilant and promptly report anyone sighted with suspicious gunshot wounds to the nearest police station or other security agencies.


Recovered rifles

Police warn motorists against one-way driving in FCT

• Nab eight suspects over vandalism of streetlights

THE FCT Police Command yesterday warned motorists and other road users against the dangerous practice of driving against traffic, popularly known as "one-way", particularly around road construction sites, diversion points and other areas where traffic movement has been temporarily or permanently restricted.

The Command noted with concern the increasing disregard for traffic regulations by some motorists who deliberately drive against traffic (one way), disregard road signs, bypass diversions in an attempt to evade traffic congestion.

The Command further warns against the practice of contacting senior police officers, government officials or other influential personalities to facilitate their release when apprehended for traffic violations. No individual, regardless of status, position or connections, will be exempted from the consequences of violating traffic regulations.

Consequently, the Commissioner of Police, CP Ahmed Muhammad Sanusi, has issued a stern directive to the Command's Motor Traffic Department (MOTOPOL) and all Divisional Traffic Officers (DTOs) to work closely with the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and other relevant traffic management agencies to intensify enforcement operations and ensure the arrest and immediate prosecution of any motorist found driving against traffic (one way) or disobeying lawful traffic directions.

The Commissioner of Police also warned enforcement officers to refrain from exploiting the exercise to extort road users. He warned that such actions will be dealt with in accordance with extant Police Rules and Regulations.

The Command urged motorists to exercise patience, obey traffic signs and instructions from traffic officers. Road users are reminded that a few minutes saved through reckless driving are not worth the risk of losing lives or causing damage to property.

A statement by the Command Police Public Relations Office, SP Josephine Adeh, said the FCT Police Command also urged residents to remain security conscious and promptly report suspicious persons or activities to the nearest police station.

Lagos Taskforce nabs another impostor, impounds 128 motorcycles in twin operations

By **Eniola Daniel**

THE Lagos State Taskforce has apprehended another notorious impostor, identified as 36-years-old Adeyemo Olalekan, who allegedly paraded himself as a Taskforce operative to unlawfully seize commercial motorcycles and extort unsuspecting operators across the state.

The suspect was a former operative of the agency who had been dismissed from service several years ago over theft-related misconduct. Despite his dismissal, he allegedly continued to impersonate Taskforce personnel, conducting illegal arrests and demanding huge sums of money from victims in exchange for the release of their motorcycles.

Director, Press & Public Affairs, Lagos State Taskforce, Gbadeyan Abdulraheem, said that the suspect was arrested following a tip-off received through the agency's official hotlines. Operatives responded to the report and apprehended him while attempting to extort two commercial motorcycle operators whose motorcycles he had unlawfully impounded.

Gbadeyan said that one of the victims, who became suspicious of his activities, contacted the Taskforce and subsequently discovered that the suspect had long been dismissed from the agency. He had reportedly evaded arrest on several previous occasions before finally being apprehended.

Speaking on the arrest, the Chairman of the Lagos State Taskforce, Adetayo Akerele, disclosed that the agency had been tracking several individuals involved in similar fraudulent activities following repeated complaints from members of the public. He described the impostors as criminal elements who exploit the identity and authority of the Taskforce to illegally apprehend motorcycle operators and negotiate financial settlements for the release of their motorcycles.


Seized motorcycles

LASTMA urges clerics to promote road safety in sermons

LAMATA, firm accelerates green transit with arrival of 11 new electric buses

By **Ayonote Clement**

THE Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has urged religious leaders across the state to make road safety and responsible motoring regular themes in their sermons and congregational teachings to reduce road crashes and save lives.

The agency said religious institutions could play a significant role in changing motorists' attitudes and promoting compliance with traffic regulations through their influence on congregations and communities.

The General Manager of LASTMA, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, made the appeal during the investiture, rebranding and induction of more than 100 LASTMA Mayors (volunteers), an initiative aimed at strengthening the agency's grassroots engagement and supporting traffic management operations before, during and after the forthcoming Yuletide festivities.

Bakare-Oki said religious leaders, given their moral authority and wide reach, could complement government efforts to tackle traffic violations, protect pedestrians and promote responsible behaviour among road users.

Group demands release of Benjamin Kalu's constituent, seeks compensation over alleged unlawful detention

By **Victor Gbonegun**

THE Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) has demanded the immediate and unconditional release of Emenike Okorie, a constituent of the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Benjamin Kalu, who is reportedly languishing at the Kuje Correctional Centre, Abuja.

HURIWA also demanded N100 million compensation over what it describes as his alleged arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention, insisting that the Nigerian state must take responsibility for any abuse of citizens' fundamental rights.

The association says it is particularly disturbed that a Nigerian citizen who reportedly questioned his elected representative over the management of public funds should allegedly end up behind bars.

HURIWA alleged that Okorie's ordeal followed questions he raised about billions of naira reportedly received by Benjamin Kalu from the Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led Federal Government in his capacity as a member of the House of Representatives.

It said: "When did demanding accountability from an elected representative become a criminal offence in Nigeria? Why should a constituent who seeks explanations about public resources allegedly find himself languishing in prison?"

Commission delivers relief to gas-hit Bille community as residents seek solution

From **Obinna Nwaoku,** Port Harcourt

RESIDENTS of Bille Kingdom in Degema Local Council of Rivers State have appealed to the Federal and State Governments to urgently address persistent gas seepage and methane emissions threatening their water sources, livelihoods and health.

The appeal came as the South-South Development Commission (SSDC) distributed food and non-food relief materials to the affected community following reports of contamination of underground water, rivers and local wells.

Its Managing Director, Ms. Usoro Akpabio who was represented by the Commission's Executive Director, Social Services and Human Capital Development, Preye Aganaba, initiated the intervention.

Speaking on behalf of the Bille Council of Chiefs, its Chairman, Chief Bennett Okpoke, said residents had endured the environmental crisis for a considerable period, with serious consequences for their daily activities and means of livelihood.

While appreciating the Commission for responding to the community's plight, Okpoke urged relevant government authorities and environmental regulatory agencies to go beyond the distribution of relief materials and find a permanent solution to the gas seepage.

He described the SSDC's visit as a demonstration of solidarity but insisted that the community needed urgent intervention to halt the environmental threat.

In her remarks, Akpabio assured the residents that the Commission would sustain its support for Bille, describing the community as an important economic hub in Rivers State and the South-South region.

She said the environmental crisis had implications beyond property damage, noting that it had disrupted businesses, threatened food security, displaced families and deprived residents of their sources of livelihood.

"The plight of the people of Bille is of great concern to the Commission. Their recovery remains a priority, and we want to assure them that they will not be overlooked in our developmental agenda," she said.


Relief materials

Army neutralise suspected criminal, recover AK-47 in Old Oyo National Park

By **Victor Gbonegun**

NIGERIAN Army through the troops of Operation IGBO DANU II under 2 Division, in partnership with hybrid forces, have recorded another operational success within the Old Oyo National Park, following an encounter that resulted in the neutralisation of one suspected criminal and the recovery of an AK-47 rifle and other weapons.

The army disclosed that on November 7, 2026, troops conducting operations within the park engaged suspected criminal elements, who fled upon sighting the advancing troops.

It disclosed that troops recovered one AK-47 rifle, one empty magazine and one Dane gun, further degrading the operational capabilities of the fleeing elements.

According to the army a follow-up exploitation on November 8, 2026, led to the discovery of the corpse of one of the fleeing suspects, confirming the neutralisation of one criminal element.

The troops also destroyed temporary shelters believed to have served as hideouts, further disrupting criminal activities and denying the perpetrators safe havens within the forested area.

The Nigerian Army reiterated that troops in collaboration with other security stakeholders, remained resolute in sustaining operations to dismantle criminal networks, deny them safe havens and restore security across the 2 Division Area of Responsibility.

It further expressed confidence that exploitation of the general area would help to track fleeing elements and prevent their regrouping in the area.

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IBADAN 4:
Shoprite Mall, Ring Road, Ibadan.
091-1233-3315

IBADAN 5:
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091-1220-0100

PH 1 & 2:
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090-2666-6618
091-1220-0111

PH 3:
32, Aba Road, After CFC Bus-stop Opp. Road Safety Port-Harcourt.
091-1233-3319

PH 4:
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Editorial

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Mambilla hydroelectric project: Reforming contract awards for public good

NIGERIA'S recent legal victory over the controversial Mambilla Hydroelectric Power Project is significant not only because it saved the country a substantial sum for the public good; it is even more significant because it reveals a terrifying reality of systemic rot in the public procurement process. The dispute raises broader questions about transparency and accountability in awarding government contracts.

The victory came after an International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Arbitration Tribunal in Paris dismissed a $2.35 billion breach-of-contract claim filed by Sunrise Power and Transmission Company Limited (SPTCL).

Praising Nigeria's legal team's outstanding performance, President Bola Tinubu said: "This latest decision affirms the Nigerian State's determination not to succumb to predatory and exploitative claims by corrupt local and international entities and their enablers and funders."

The dispute arose from a 2003 contract awarded by the then Minister of Power, Olu Agunloye, to SPTCL for the construction of a hydroelectric power plant in Taraba State under a Build-Operate-Transfer arrangement, without approval from the Federal Executive Council (FEC). Given the controversy surrounding the project, the Buhari administration revoked the contract. Aggrieved by this action, SPTCL instituted arbitration proceedings against the Federal Government, seeking $680 million in damages, and broader compensation exceeding $2.7 billion in a related arbitration claim.

However, Nigeria argued that the contract was void ab initio, and hence unenforceable against the government. It contended that the contract award was inconsistent with established procedure because it lacked the mandatory FEC approval. The arbitration tribunal upheld Nigeria's argument and dismissed the claims of the company accordingly.

The tribunal's decision reflects the principle that failure of the former Minister to obtain FEC's prior approval before executing the contract was fatal. A contract entered into by a public officer on behalf of the government without required approval or outside the scope of their legal authority is generally considered null and void, or unenforceable against the government, even if the other contracting party was completely unaware of the lack of approval. The ruling potentially saved the country substantial costs.

Beyond that, the dispute indicates that despite the enactment of the Public Procurement Act in 2007, contract awards across all tiers of government remain opaque. The process has largely become a conduit through which the country's commonwealth is siphoned by corrupt public officeholders in connivance with their co-conspirators, the contractors. In outright abuse of power, these government officials circumvent established procedures and subject the country to potentially problematic contractual arrangements at public expense.

Many public officers execute complex contracts with questionable terms on behalf of the country without following due process. The bidding and award process is shrouded in obscurity to avoid public scrutiny and fair competition. Also, there is often little regard for due diligence or merit, competence, and national interests, as personal gratification is the overriding factor.

Contractual terms are deliberately lopsided in favour of contractors, thereby exposing Nigeria to significant legal and economic risks in the event of default. At face value, many public contracts are entered into with no actual performance expectations from either party. The underlying intent seemingly is to extract public funds by means of litigation, arbitration, or corrupt settlement.

The process can be described as an institutionalised economic sabotage orchestrated by some public officers in connivance with their cronies. Ironically, public lawyers, duty-bound to protect state interests, are sometimes complicit either by direct involvement or negligence.

Several instances highlight the entrenched predatory procurement culture in the public sector. In 2010, Nigeria signed a Gas Supply and Processing Agreement with a British Virgin Islands-based company, Process & Industries Developments Ltd (PID). Neither party reportedly performed its obligations under the contract, but PID subsequently sued Nigeria for breach of contract. The arbitration tribunal ruled in favour of the company and ordered Nigeria to pay over US$11 billion as damages.

Following Nigeria's appeal, the award was set aside by a UK Court on findings of fraud and corruption in the arbitration process. Nigeria accused PID of procuring the contract and the arbitral award via bribery and corrupt practices, including bribing some of its (Nigeria's) lawyers during arbitration.

Allowing Nigeria's appeal, Justice Robin Knowles CBE held inter alia: "However, in my judgment … there is an overall fraudulent enterprise or plan from the start to procure an award. Here the contract is a first or early step in carrying out that overall fraudulent enterprise or plan, but the result is the award." This decision was recently reaffirmed by the UK Supreme Court.

The Ajaokuta Steel civil works contract is another example of a "fraudulent enterprise". The Federal Government awarded the contract to a French joint venture known as Fougerolle Nigeria Ltd and French Firm Fougerolle SA in 1981. The contract was terminated in 2004, and the contractor sought additional payments totalling ₦3.85 billion and €185 million.

Nigeria paid N3.89 billion through Federal Government bonds in 2006, and the contractor signed an indemnity relinquishing further claims. Surprisingly, in 2022, the company attempted to seek additional multi-billion-naira compensation via arbitration. Fortunately, this gold-digging ploy became a misadventure!

Dismissing the claim, the arbitration panel held that the company failed to establish its case, had waived its rights to further claims after the 2006 bond settlement, and improperly brought the arbitration nearly 18 years after the contract was terminated. The above cases disclose a common pattern: none of the projects for which the contracts were awarded eventually materialise.

The current government appears caught in the grave error of its predecessors. As an instance, the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway contract award followed the tradition of opacity and favouritism. There was no prior budgetary provision or public bidding.

Justifying the procurement process, the Minister of Works, David Umahi, claimed the contract is a direct procurement - an exception to public bidding permitted by law. Yet, the contract does not meet any of the conditions precedent for direct procurement prescribed by Section 42 of the Public Procurement Act. This demonstrates a lack of transparency in awarding the contract, which may become complicated when a different administration takes office.

Government at all levels should imbibe the culture of due diligence in public procurement. Before finalising any deal, the relevant questions should be raised. How crucial is the proposed project to the people? Does the government have the financial or technical capacity to fulfil its part of the bargain? Does the contractor possess the requisite expertise and experience?

Similarly, every public contract should have a performance review clause. The government should be able to track, measure, and evaluate the contractor's performance. No public contract should run its full term without proof of actual work being done. Additionally, project or developmental milestones should be clearly specified, and if consistently missed, the government should be at liberty to terminate the contract without incurring any pecuniary liabilities.

Importantly, complex public contracts involving large sums of money should be drafted or reviewed by the office of the Attorney-General. In addition, the professionals representing the government during the formation and execution should take an indemnity insurance policy in favour of the government. Public authorities should block the systemic channels through which the country's limited resources are being funnelled illegally.

LETTER

Reflection of healthy leadership at Lagos State University

SIR: All establishments thrive not only on existing policies or set structures but also on the quality of the principal leading personalities guiding other members to sustain vision with sharp implementation, measuring of results and necessarily restrategising.

At Lagos State University, the Vice Chancellor symbolises the centre of formation, co-ordination, direction and service. The tenure of Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello has risen attention on the exact description of healthy leadership - a leadership style that is sanely strategic, fulfilling and responsive.

Healthy leadership entails the ability of not only the leader but also stretching merits of a leader's ability. The course of health in leadership is not of a definite meaning because it continues recreation of an environment where students, staff and visitors can engage in co-operative and meaningful terms for themselves and the institution.

This article demonstratively reveals the reflective tenure of Professor Olatunji-Bello through the structured support to students, the inclusive conditions provided to members of staff and the accommodating engagement extended to visitors, which in unison signify the applaudable development and public image of the university.

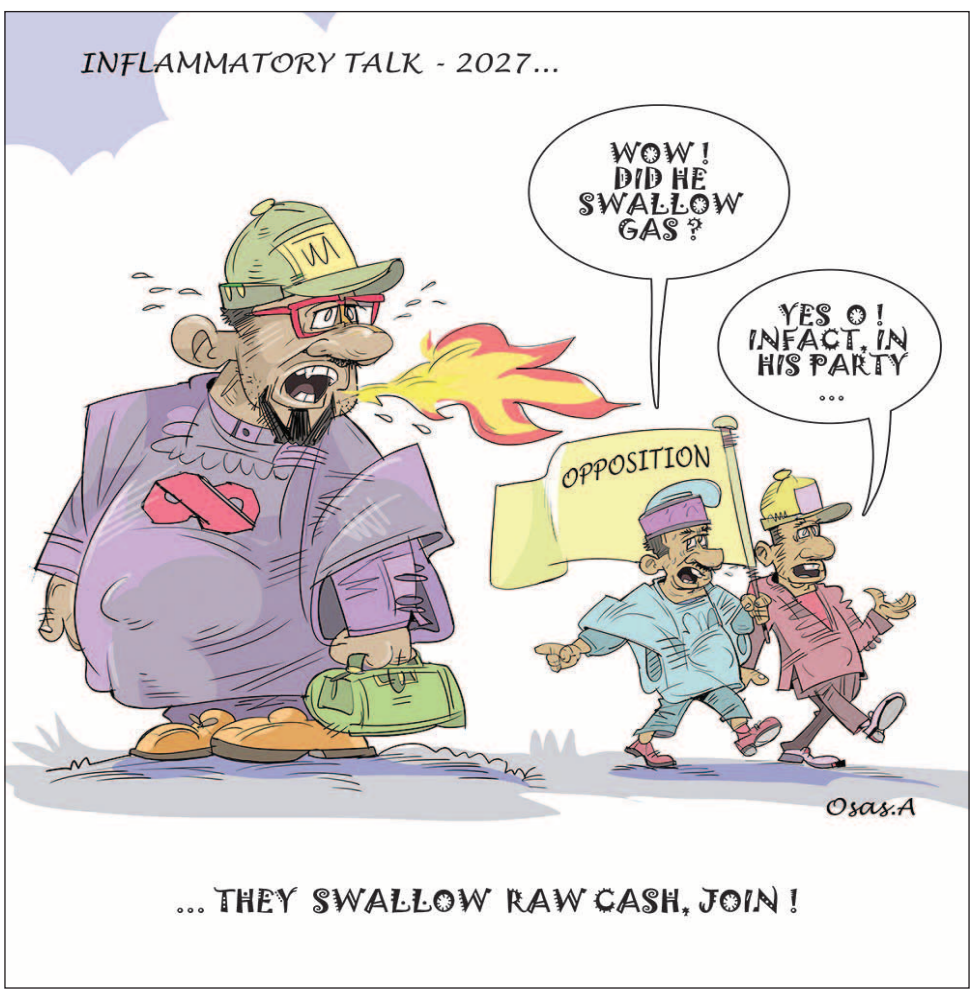
First, the tenure of the 9th substantive vice chancellor of Lagos State University has shown a structured support of students' academic and personal growth. Students are the core of the tertiary system; the progress of a university setting is measured by how the students' needs are addressed with seen results of addressing modes. Olatunji-Bello's tenure inculcated healthy discipline; students were put to constant check through mandatory rules that denied them abrupt, indecent an undisciplined attitude.

Colton (1823) says: "There are two models of establishing our reputation, to be praised by honest men, and to be abused by rogues." She has simply shown adequate protection of students' reputation in the present and future by telling them the truth through actions and interesting encouragements. Students have been seen dressing decently, away from occultic groups through the anti-cult forms and monitoring close-circuit televisions in the school.

Vincent Sowedo who is the general secretary of Language, Arts and Social Science Education, Faculty of Education (2025/2026) says: "During the tenure of our dear VC, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, there was an eradication of cult clashes in the school premise which made the school a safe place for learning."

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

Rashidat Olamidayo Ajakaye is of the Lagos State University, Ojo.



Opinion

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Poison for profit: Nigeria needs a war not another raid

By **Abdlrazaq Ayodeji Shittu**

IN February, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) officers entered a three-story building at the Lagos International Trade Fair Complex, registered as a spare-parts warehouse. Inside, they found more than 10 million doses of counterfeit medicines, including injections for cerebral malaria, antibiotics, and the banned painkiller Analgin. NAFDAC valued the stock at over N3 billion and said it could have killed three million Nigerians.

"What we discovered should make every Nigerian cry," said Dr. Martins Iluyomade, NAFDAC's Director of Investigation and Enforcement. "When fake injections are used in emergencies, such as for cerebral malaria, they become a death sentence."

Days later, in the same complex, officers found another N3 billion in banned and counterfeit cosmetics hidden in an unfinished building. This month, they returned and seized counterfeit and "revalidated" alcoholic drinks worth over N2 billion, stored in more than 20 illegal shops behind makeshift parking lots.

Same addresses. Same products. Same ending: a raid, a press release, a bonfire. Then the warehouses fill again.

An industry, not a crime wave

Let us stop calling these isolated scandals. This is an organised industry with its own warehouses, logistics, packaging suppliers, financiers, and protection.

When NAFDAC raided the Trade Fair market in October 2025, armed thugs attacked its officers and vandalised their vehicles. Market security reportedly locked the gates. NAFDAC's Director-General called the attack premeditated. Criminals who fight like that are not protecting a few cartons. They are protecting a billion-naira business.

Some have tried to pin this crime on a single ethnic group. They are wrong, and they help the real culprits hide. Poison has no tribe. Those caught come from every part of Nigeria. Greed is the common thread.

This industry is in our food as much as in our medicine. Federal officials have warned that palm oil is being mixed with dye, lard, and even transformer oil to make it look richer. Fruit is ripened with calcium carbide, which NAFDAC says contains arsenic and phosphorus. Expired milk, yogurt, ketchup, and soft drinks are given new dates. In December 2025, NAFDAC destroyed N55.4 billion worth of fake and substandard products in Ibadan. That was one zone, in one exercise.

No household is safe, no matter how careful. In August, former Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, told a gardeners' seminar in Lagos about what happened when his wife, Dolapo, switched from fizzy drinks to freshly squeezed orange juice. "After a while she started having some strange headaches," he said. She sent the juice to a laboratory, and the result came back: "not fit for human consumption."

His warning belongs in every kitchen: "The fact that fruit looks fresh doesn't mean that it is safe." He cited surveys in which half of the fruit sellers questioned in Ado-Ekiti and a quarter of those in Uyo admitted using calcium carbide. In Lagos, 22 of 50 retailers surveyed admitted treating produce with chemicals. If a former Vice President's household can be exposed, so can every one of us.

Some of this is cheating. Much of it is poisoning, and we must call it that. A mother who gives her child a counterfeit antimalarial is not just cheated; her child is left untreated. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime estimates that counterfeit antimalarials cause about 267,000 deaths yearly in sub-Saharan Africa. Counterfeit antibiotics also contribute to drug resistance, which the WHO links to about 60,000 deaths in Nigeria each year.

The true death toll is invisible. When a fake drug fails, the death certificate reads "complications". Nobody counts the fake drug.

Why raids are not working

NAFDAC's officers deserve our respect. They work under fire, underfunded and understaffed, with too few laboratories across 36 states. But courage cannot fix a broken system, and that system has three fatal flaws. First, the punishment is a joke. Under the Counterfeit and Fake Drugs Act, the maximum fine is a measly N500,000.00.

For a syndicate holding N3 billion in stock, that is not a deterrent. It is a licence fee, or at best a light slap on the wrist. As NAFDAC's Christy Obiazikwor put it: "They can simply pay a small fine and go free." Some cases filed in 2010 are still in court, and suspects on bail return to business.

Second, enforcement is reactive. NAFDAC must locate the warehouse before it can act. By then, many consignments have already reached homes. Seizures do not measure success. They measure how much got through.

Third, the Constitution ties the states' hands. Drugs and poisons fall under the Exclusive Legislative List, so only the federal government can regulate them. Yet counterfeiting occurs in markets, warehouses and shops that states and local governments control. The tier of government closest to the crime has the least power to fight it.

What must happen now!

We must shift from catching criminals to stopping them. There are five steps: Declare a national emergency for food and drug safety, with emergency funding for NAFDAC and the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON). Every zone needs accredited laboratories, field test kits, and proper security for officers.

Fix the law. Pass the long-delayed amendments to the NAFDAC Act and the Counterfeit Drugs Act. Set fines based on the value of seized goods, not on a fixed naira amount that inflation has eroded. Toxic adulteration should carry life imprisonment, and the proceeds should be forfeited automatically.

Devolve power. Move drugs and poisons to the Concurrent List. Federal standards should remain the minimum, but states must retain the authority to inspect and enforce. We moved electricity to the Concurrent List in 2023, and the sky did not fall. India shows what happens without coordination, so the amendment must require shared data and federal minimum standards.

Let states act now. Any building used to store counterfeit goods should be forfeited. Large warehouses should be licensed. Landlords, transporters, and security officers who knowingly assist should be prosecuted. The South-West, where the largest operations are based, should lead with a joint law and a shared intelligence centre.

Make every product traceable and every citizen a watchman. Put a scannable code on every medicine and on high-risk foods. Pay whistleblowers a share of what is seized. We need to build a national movement around three actions: See it. Report it. Stop it.

The cost of doing nothing

SON estimates that Nigeria loses about N15 trillion yearly to substandard goods. Honest manufacturers cannot compete with fakes that pay no taxes and cut corners. Counterfeiting was one reason GSK and Sanofi stopped manufacturing in Nigeria in 2023. Every fake sold costs jobs in factories that employ Nigerians.

What you can do:

Check the NAFDAC number and scratch code before buying medicine. Buy from sellers you know and can return to. If the price is too good to be true, it may be poison. Report suspected products to NAFDAC's toll-free line at 0800-162-3322. Talk about it in your religious and community gatherings, your market union, social clubs, your estate meeting, and your family's WhatsApp group.

Those who poison our food are counting on two things: that we will not notice, and that if we do notice, we will do nothing. Nigerians have beaten impossible enemies before. This one is easier to find. It operates in buildings we can name, in markets we all know.

The question is whether we will act before the next child, the next mother, the next breadwinner becomes another death nobody counted.

Enough is enough. It is time to rise!

Dr Shittu, a Telecoms and IT expert of almost five decades, a scholar-practitioner, is chairman of Medsure Medical Ventures Limited.

How Ojulari is changing NNPC

By **Abdullahi Aliyu**

AS we approach the 2027 general elections, the noise of politics seems to be drowning out the quiet sound of real progress. Nigeria is in such a moment now. While many are busy arguing, blaming and predicting doom and gloom, a lot of progress is being made in the oil and gas sector, and it deserves to be celebrated, or at least acknowledged.

At the just concluded Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) 2026, the Group Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, Bashir Bayo Ojulari, an engineer, stood before the world and told the Nigerian story with facts, not propaganda. And the facts were impressive.

Nigeria's crude oil production has risen from about 1.2 million barrels per day to 1.8 million barrels per day. That is an addition of 600,000 barrels per day. In the complex, difficult world of oil production, where a drop of 50,000 barrels can cause panic in government circles, an increase of 600,000 barrels is one achievement that is truly impactful.

For years, Nigerians watched helplessly as production fell, as oil theft crippled the economy, as pipelines were vandalised, and as investors took their money to other countries. We became used to excuses, to hearing why Nigeria could not meet its OPEC quota. We became used to the embarrassment of being an oil-producing country that could not produce oil.

Ojulari has changed that narrative because he is doing the basics well. At ADIPEC, he was clear about how the implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act of 2021, an improved investment climate, better investment decisions, and closer collaboration between NNPC and its partners are translating into the much-needed progress in the sector.

For decades, the PIA was debated, delayed and diluted. When it was finally passed, many doubted it would be implemented. Ojulari and his team have shown that with political will and professional management, the law can work. Investors are returning because they now see a country that respects contracts, protects investments and provides clarity to the minutest of the details.

The result is that Nigeria is once again competing for energy capital on the global stage. At ADIPEC, Ojulari did not go to beg, but to present a case. He told investors that Nigeria is ready, that production is rising, and that the country is on a journey to 2 million barrels per day by 2027.

That target is not a wishful thinking. It is built on a clear strategy through the maintenance of existing infrastructure, protection of base production, improvement of output from producing assets, and advancement of new projects scheduled to raise production. This is the language of a man who understands the industry, not a politician making empty promises.

But Ojulari's achievements go beyond crude oil. Anyone who has followed the gas sector knows that gas is Nigeria's future. Indeed, it is now becoming real that Nigeria is more of a gas nation than just crude oil. We have some of the largest gas reserves in the world, yet for years we flared it, wasted it, and failed to use it to power our homes and industries. Under Ojulari, that is changing.

The Obiafu-Obrikom-Oben, OB3, gas pipeline was completed in August 2026. For those who do not follow the fine and technical details, OB3 is a critical artery that connects gas from the East to the West, unlocking supply for power plants and industries. It had been delayed for years, becoming a symbol of abandoned projects. Its completion is proof that this administration means business.

Even more ambitious is the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano, AKK, pipeline, which is expected to deliver gas to Abuja before the end of 2026 for power generation, data centres and industrial hubs. When that happens, it will transform the economic landscape of Northern Nigeria. It will mean cheaper power for industries, jobs for young people, and a new foundation for manufacturing in Abuja, Kaduna and Kano.

Ojulari has set a national gas production target of 10 billion standard cubic feet per day by 2027 and 12 billion standard cubic feet per day by 2030. These are bold targets, but they are supported by real projects and real investments. At ADIPEC, he disclosed that commercial agreements covering about 20 billion U.S. dollars in investment have been concluded, including TotalEnergies' Ubeta, Shell's Bonga South-West and Eni's Zabazaba developments.

Think about what $20 billion means. That amount brought the Dangote Refinery to reality. So, it means jobs, it means more foreign exchange, and it means technology transfer. It means that international oil companies, who had almost given up on Nigeria, are now betting billions of dollars on our future. They are betting because they trust the leadership at NNPC.

Equally important is what Ojulari is doing at home to ease the burden on ordinary Nigerians. The removal of petrol subsidy was painful, and no one should pretend otherwise. Ojulari is working hard to support the government in pushing a major Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) programme, with over 400 CNG conversion centres established across the country and more than 1,000 trucks that move petroleum products now running on CNG.

Without doubt, CNG is cheaper, cleaner and more sustainable than petrol and diesel. For transporters, it means lower operating costs. For ordinary citizens, it means the possibility of lower transport fares in the future. For the environment, it means less pollution. This is the kind of practical, forward-thinking policy that Nigeria needs and is already benefiting from.

The reality is that Nigerians need to support him. Leadership in the oil and gas sector is one of the most difficult jobs in Nigeria. The NNPC boss is under pressure from all sides, ranging from politicians who want patronage, from oil thieves who want to continue stealing, from vested interests who benefited from the old opaque system, and from a public that is rightly impatient for results.

To succeed in that environment requires courage, integrity and focus. Ojulari has shown all three. He has shown that he is not there to enrich himself or his friends, but to rebuild an institution that was once synonymous with corruption and inefficiency. He has shown that he is willing to make tough decisions, to cut costs, to enforce discipline, and to demand accountability from partners and staff.

Nigerians must understand that the success of NNPC is the success of Nigeria. When NNPC produces more oil, the Federation Account gets more money for roads, schools, hospitals and security. When NNPC completes gas pipelines, industries get power and young people get jobs. When NNPC attracts foreign investment, the naira becomes stronger and inflation comes down.

We should therefore rally behind Ojulari. We should support the reforms at NNPC. We should demand that the National Assembly, the media, civil society and the general public give him the space to work. Criticism is healthy, but it must be constructive and based on facts. The media, instead of amplifying unverified rumours, should focus on the fact that production is up, gas pipelines are being completed, investments are coming in, and CNG is expanding. These are verifiable facts, not press releases. President Bola Tinubu gave Ojulari a mandate to reform NNPC and make it a world-class energy company. Ojulari is delivering on that mandate.

The journey to 2 million barrels per day by 2027 is not Ojulari's journey alone. It is Nigeria's journey. The journey to 10 billion cubic feet of gas per day is not just an NNPC target. It is a national target that will determine whether our children will have electricity, jobs and a future.

At ADIPEC, Ojulari spoke with confidence because he had results to show. He spoke like a man leading a company that is back on its feet and ready to compete. Nigerians should be proud of that. We should be proud that for the first time in a long time, our national oil company is being led by a professional who is respected internationally and who is delivering locally.

Aliyu wrote from Abuja.

TOP MANAGEMENT & MANAGERIAL VACANCIES IN UPSTREAM OIL & GAS

We are a leading Oil Exploration and Production Company with active operatorship of prolific blocks and Oil and Gas Assets in the Niger Delta. As a result of our new expansion and development programmes, we are seeking to engage experienced, passionate and resourceful senior manpower in Top Management and Managerial positions below:

Remunerations for the positions are attractive and above industry average.

UPSTREAM OPERATIONS DIRECTOR (Ref: OD)

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Operations Director (Upstream) oversees all exploration and production activities within the organization's upstream sector. This role requires strategic leadership to enhance operational efficiency, ensure regulatory compliance, and drive the achievement of production targets while maintaining safety and environmental standards.

Qualifications and Skills

- Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Geoscience, Business, or a related field
- Post-graduate degree(s) would be added advantage
- 20+ years of hands-on experience in the upstream onshore/offshore oil and gas industry, with a minimum of 7 years in a top management role.
- Strong knowledge of exploration, drilling, production, and project management.
- Excellent leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills.
- Proven ability to manage complex projects and multi-disciplinary teams.

Key Responsibilities

- Identify opportunities for operational improvements and implement best practices across teams.
- Lead major projects, ensuring they are completed on time, within budget, and meet quality standards.
- Coordinate cross-functional teams to ensure project objectives are met.
- Provide mentorship and professional development opportunities for team members.
- Ensure all operations comply with environmental, health, and safety regulations and industry standards.
- Establish and track key performance indicators (KPIs) to assess operational performance and productivity.
- Analyze data and reports to identify trends, challenges, and opportunities for improvement.
- Develop and manage operational budgets, ensuring cost-effectiveness and alignment with financial goals.
- Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders, including government agencies, partners, and local communities, to foster strong relationships and support operational initiatives.
- Stay informed about industry trends and innovations to maintain a competitive edge.

DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL – UPSTREAM OIL & GAS (Ref: DC)

Qualification / Experience Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Economics, Finance, Business Administration, Engineering, Law or a closely related discipline. A Master's degree, MBA or professional qualification such as ACA, ACCA, CFA or Chartered Institute of Arbitrators is a strong advantage.
- At least 18 years of experience in the upstream oil and gas industry, with a minimum of 8 years in a senior commercial leadership role, such as Commercial Manager, Head of Business Development, General Manager Commercial or equivalent.
- A proven record of negotiating and closing major deals, including crude oil and gas sales and offtake agreements, gas supply and processing agreements, transportation and tolling arrangements, farm-ins and farm-outs, and acquisitions or disposals.
- Strong understanding of upstream fiscal regimes and contracts, including production sharing contracts, joint operating agreements, royalties, taxes, cost recovery and profit-sharing mechanisms.
- Demonstrated skill in economic evaluation and investment analysis, including NPV, IRR, sensitivity and risk analysis, and the ability to turn a technical story into a sound business case.
- Experience with crude and gas pricing, marketing and price risk management, including benchmarks such as Brent, differentials and hedging strategies.
- Hands-on experience managing joint venture partners, national oil companies, regulators and government agencies, and keeping those relationships constructive even when interests differ.
- Working knowledge of contract law, dispute resolution and commercial risk management, including credit and counterparty risk and local content requirements.
- Experience in the African upstream environment, including working with national oil companies and host-government stakeholders, is highly desirable.

Responsibilities

- Lead the Company's commercial function and set the commercial strategy to maximise value from its upstream assets and portfolio.
- Negotiate, structure and manage crude oil and gas sales, offtake, transportation, processing and other commercial agreements, making sure terms are competitive and risks are well managed.
- Develop and execute business development plans, including farm-ins, farm-outs, acquisitions, divestments and new licence opportunities, from first screening through to closing.
- Prepare and challenge economic evaluations, investment cases and portfolio analysis, and advise the executive team and board on investment decisions.
- Manage the Company's relationships with joint venture partners, national oil companies, regulators and government bodies, and represent the Company in commercial and fiscal discussions.
- Oversee joint venture commercial matters, including JOA administration, cost recovery, cash calls, partner reporting and audits.
- Monitor markets, pricing and fiscal developments, and recommend hedging and price risk strategies where appropriate.
- Work closely with the Finance, Legal, Operations, Subsurface and Procurement teams to align commercial decisions with operational and financial plans.
- Oversee major contracting and procurement strategies, making sure contracts deliver value, are well administered and are compliant with local content requirements.
- Manage commercial risk, including credit and counterparty exposure, contractual compliance and dispute resolution, working with Legal where required.
- Build, lead and develop a strong commercial team, and create a clear pipeline of future commercial leaders.
- Uphold the Company's ethics, compliance and anti-corruption standards, and contribute to the Company's long-term strategy and growth plans.

DRILLING ENGINEERS (Ref: DE)

The Drilling Engineer must have a good knowledge in drilling, completions and well engineering practices to provide support to company's operations from the initial design to delivery of a well to production.

Minimum Knowledge and Experience

- Responsible for executing the appropriate procedures for well drilling projects
- Prepare drilling program and performing all aspects of drilling engineering works for the successful, cost effective and safe implementation of drilling activities.
- Direct and supervise the on-site work of the drilling contractor and service companies through consultation with senior Drilling Engineer.
- Communicate and interface with relevant internal and external parties to ensure that drilling programs and operation are carried-out out as per approved plan
- Prepare and provide the basic requirements for the scope of works and technical specifications for tender packages to be in line with project requirements and meet the minimum cost concept and HSE requirements.
- Provide immediate and effective solutions for operational continuity, equipment malfunctions and other onsite problems.
- Prepare the technical specifications for drilling equipment and services required for field development in consultation with department concerned.
- Ensure that drilling operations comply with statutory and regulatory requirements, with respect to health and safety and emergency procedures.
- Monitor day-to-day rig operations during drilling and completions operations
- Liaise with project partners, such as geologists and drilling contractors etc, in order to keep up-to-date on all developments that may have an impact on drilling activities.

Qualifications and Required Competences

- B.Sc. in Petroleum Engineering required, preferably in Drilling. A Master's degree in any of the relevant Engineering disciplines will be an added advantage
- At least 6 years' experience in offshore and onshore activities and various engineering work including experience in drilling operations.
- Knowledge on well completion work would be an advantage.
- Proficient in using Landmark's software, Microsoft Office, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- Must have a Committed, Integrated and Knowledgeable approach in the work place
- Must have ability to plan and lead projects and must be able to work under pressure
- Ability to prepare work schedules and comprehensive drilling plans to meet project objectives and deadlines.
- Must be capable of working seamlessly with geosciences, production and reservoir groups in executing drilling/operations engineering solutions.

SENIOR COMPLETIONS ENGINEER (Ref: SCE)

Qualifications and Skills

- Bachelor's degree in Petroleum, Mechanical, Chemical or Civil Engineering, or a closely related engineering discipline. A Master's degree in Petroleum Engineering is an advantage, as is membership of SPE or a recognised engineering body such as COREN.
- 12- 15 years of hands-on experience in oil and gas well operations, with a minimum of 8 years in a senior or lead completions role, including offshore or swamp operations.
- A proven record of designing and executing completions across onshore, shallow-water and, ideally, deepwater wells, from conceptual design through installation and handover to production.
- Strong experience in upper and lower completion design, including tubing and packer systems, sand control (gravel pack, frac-pack, standalone screens), intelligent completions and artificial lift.
- Solid knowledge of well testing, perforating, stimulation and well intervention, including coiled tubing, wireline and workover operations.
- Working knowledge of well integrity, barrier philosophy and international standards such as API and ISO, as well as industry well control requirements (IWCF or IADC WellSharp).
- Hands-on command of industry tools such as Landmark WellCat, Prosper and StimCADE, or equivalent completion design and modelling software.
- A track record of delivering completions programmes on schedule and within budget, with documented cost savings or performance improvements.
- Experience working with drilling, subsurface, production and facilities teams, as well as joint venture partners, regulators and service companies.
- Problem solving under pressure. When a job does not go to plan at 3 a.m., you stay calm, think clearly and bring the team to a good decision.
- Vendor and contractor management. You can challenge service companies constructively, evaluate technologies on merit and hold suppliers to what they promise.
- Clear communication. You can explain a technical recommendation to a rig crew, a partner or senior management in language each of them understands.
- Commercial awareness. You think about cost, schedule and value in every design choice, not just technical elegance.

Minimum Knowledge and Experience

- Design and deliver safe, efficient and cost-effective completion programmes for new wells, including upper and lower completions, sand control and artificial lift.
- Prepare detailed completion programmes, procedures, equipment specifications and well schematics, and make sure they are properly reviewed and approved.
- Work closely with geoscientists, reservoir engineers and drilling teams to select the right completion strategy for each reservoir and well objective.
- Provide technical supervision and decision support during completion operations, including onsite or remote support to the rig team.
- Plan and oversee well testing, perforating, stimulation, flowback and clean-up operations.
- Support workovers, interventions and well remediation to restore or improve production, and recommend candidates for well optimisation.
- Safeguard well integrity by applying robust barrier management, equipment verification and compliance with company and regulatory standards.
- Evaluate and select service providers and new technologies, manage vendor performance and contribute to tender and contract reviews.
- Lead post-job reviews, capture lessons learned, and keep completion standards, procedures and best practices up to date.
- Mentor and coach junior completions and wells engineers, review their work and help build a strong technical culture within the team.
- Uphold the Company's HSE standards, take part in risk assessments and hazard reviews, and contribute to emergency response readiness for well operations.

SENIOR FACILITIES ENGINEER (Ref: SEF)

POSITION OVERVIEW

The ideal candidate for this position must have in-depth knowledge of facilities' practices and principles in piping, process and facility engineering in an E&P company.

Minimum Education and Experience

- TMinimum of a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering or other relevant Engineering degree (Petroleum/Chemical) with a minimum of Second Class Upper Division. A Master's degree in Engineering will be an added advantage.
- A minimum of fifteen (15) years of relevant/cognate experience in an E&P company with a track record of engineering design and operations of oil & Gas facilities.
- Coordinate and monitor the design and development of production facilities, on/off shore from conception through implementation, including wellheads, flowlines, pipelines, oil/water/gas separation, conditioning and processing facilities.
- Technical evaluation of quotations, project schedules and participate in the commercial evaluation of projects and repair works.
- Trouble shoot the process plant problems, suggest feasible short term and long term solution to problems
- Develop, modify/review scope of work procedures/project execution plan in line with relevant specification and industry codes for Job Safety Analysis (JSA)
- Manage and supervise engineering design and installation of repair works on company projects.
- Must be able to communicate effectively with all levels of Management and Contactors
- Must be result oriented and committed to company goals

Candidate must have competence in the following areas:

1. Technical evaluation of quotations, project schedules and commercial evaluation of projects and repair works.
2. Must have detailed understanding and competence in conceptual design, feasibility Pre FEED, FEED and detailed engineering design
3. Provide commercial solutions that deliver optimum hydrocarbon value chain
4. Must be capable of working seamlessly with geosciences, production and reservoir groups and well as with other support teams in executing company's projects and driving operation.
5. Must be able to manage and apply multiple concurrent field projects and work in a team environment.
6. Must have in-depth knowledge of technical and operational practices as well as field development planning.
7. Excellent leadership, interpersonal and analytical skills

HEAD, G & G (Ref: HG&G)

General Qualifications, Experience, Attributes & Skills Required

- This position requires a Bachelor's degree in Geology / Geophysics (with minimum of second class upper). A Master's degree in any of these disciplines will be an added advantage.
- Minimum of Twenty (20) years of relevant experience in an upstream Company is required for this position.
- Candidate must be proficient in the use of Geoscience software such as Landmark and Petrel environment with ability to evaluate geological and geophysical interpretation using well logs, production and reservoir data to construct geological/reservoir models.
- Must be a good team player with strong interpersonal skills, able to work under pressure and ready to travel at very short notice.
- Key accountabilities would be to deliver geological and geophysical elements of exploration, appraisal & field development projects such as exploration / appraisal / development wells, creating and updating an existing reservoir model, which are well scoped and can deliver long term development scenarios.
- Integration of logs & production data, seismic data, static & dynamic models to identify bypass pay, upside potential, work over and drilling candidates.

Responsibilities

- Proficient in geological evaluation, geophysical interpretation, petrophysical interpretation, innovative mapping using wells, seismic, production and reservoir data experience to construct geological/reservoir models etc.
- Set the overall geoscience strategy, exploration vision and technical standardsfor resource assessment, modeling and data interpretation
- Provide expertise related to field development plan, reserves assessment, asset acquisition, exploration, appraisal and development strategies.
- Collaborate with exploration geoscientists to ensure all relevant geological and geophysical data is incorporated into field development plans and the execution of field development drilling programs.
- Ensure all operations strictly adhere to the commission instructions, environmental protection and safety regulations and must be capable of representing company with regulatory and government agencies
- Collaborate with reservoir, drilling & facility engineers in order to orchestrate subsurface dynamics with facility upgrade or constraints.
- Evaluate exploration and production portfolios, frame capital allocation, and advise senior management or the executive board on subsurface project risks
- Ability to collaborate effectively with reservoir, drilling and facilities engineers to orchestrate subsurface dynamics in support of facility upgrade.

HEAD GEOLOGIST (Ref: HG)

The candidate for this position must have good knowledge of Operational and Technical Practices in an E&P company. He is expected to have an in-depth knowledge of offshore / swamp and land sub-surface structures, vast in geological evaluation, geophysical interpretation, petrophysical interpretation, lateraling prediction, innovative mapping using wells, seismic, production and reservoir data experience to construct geological/reservoir models.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide key technical input and guidance for geoscience team during exploration, appraisal and development of assets to maximize hydrocarbon resource potential.
- Integrate several data types including well logs, seismic production and other analysis to create integrated geological framework models, risk, uncertainty analysis, hazard identification and integration.
- Provide guidance and geological requirements for simulation models and reservoir studies
- Provide final QC and guidance for all geological and geophysical products within the Company.
- Deliver geological and geophysical elements of appraisal & field development projects such as exploration / appraisal / development wells, creating and updating an existing reservoir models which are well scoped and can deliver long term development scenarios.
- Integration of logs & production data, seismic data, static & dynamic models to identify bypass pay, upside potential, work over and drilling candidates.
- Provide expertise related to field development plan, reserves assessment, asset acquisition, exploration, appraisal and development strategies.
- Collaborate with exploration geoscientists to ensure all relevant geological and geophysical data are incorporated into field development plans as well as the execution of field development drilling programs.
- Must be capable of representing the company with regulatory and government agencies.
- Must not be more than 50 years of age.

Qualifications and Required Competencies

- This position requires a Bachelor's degree in Geology / Geophysics.
- A Master's degree in Geology or Geophysics will be an added advantage.
- Must have worked in a Managerial position for at least 15 years in a reputable E&P company and overall E&P experience of not less than 20 years.
- Must be proficient in the use of Geoscience software such as Landmark and Petrel environment with ability to evaluate geological and geophysical interpretation using well logs, production and reservoir data to construct geological/reservoir models.
- Must have strong interpersonal and communication skills to work in a multidisciplinary and multi-tasking team.
- Must be result oriented and committed to company goals.
- Must be capable of representing the company with regulatory and government agencies.
- Must be a good team player with strong interdepartmental skills, be able to work under pressure, cooperate with other departments and function to deliver projects and ready to travel at very short notice

EXPLORATION GEOSCIENTISTS (Ref: EG)

The ideal candidate will be part of a dynamic and an integrated team working to identify, characterise, and safely produce new reserves of commercially viable hydrocarbons. The candidate for this position must have good hands-on experience in Seismic Interpretation and Petro Physical knowledge with an E&P Company.

Minimum Knowledge and Experience

- Integration of logs & production data, seismic data, static & dynamic models to identify bypass pay, upside potential, work over and drilling candidates.
- Responsible for conducting surveys and mapping areas as well as advising Company on appropriate sites for exploration and extraction and producing reports on findings
- Provide key technical input and guidance for geoscience team during exploration, appraisal and development of assets to maximize resource potential
- Prepare technical reports about geological findings and their implications for future exploration activities
- Prepare maps of mineral deposits using computer software programs such as GIS (Geographic Information Systems) or CAD (Computer-Aided Design)
- Deliver geological and geophysical elements of appraisal & field development projects including exploration, appraisal and development wells.
- Create and update an existing reservoir model, which are well scoped and can deliver long term development scenarios.
- Prospect, evaluate and mature new candidate(s)
- Provide expertise related to field development plan, reserves assessment, asset acquisition, exploration, appraisal and development strategies.

Qualifications and Required Competences

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Geology / Geophysics with minimum of second-class upper division. A Master's degree in any of these disciplines will be an added advantage.
- Minimum of ten (10) years active hands-on Seismic interpretation and Petro Physical experience with a multinational E&P Company will be required.
- Proficient in geological evaluation, geophysical interpretation, petro physical interpretation, innovative mapping using wells, seismic, production and reservoir data experience to construct geological/reservoir models etc.
- Must be proficient in the use of Geoscience Software particularly in landmark and petrel environments and with vast knowledge of Seismic interpretation and Petro Physical experience
- Must be result oriented and committed to company goals.
- Must be a good team player with strong interpersonal skills, able to work under pressure

SENIOR PETROLEUM ENGINEERS (Ref: SPE)

The candidate for this position will Lead petroleum engineering activities and integrate subsurface and surface optimization programs to achieve production targets safely and economically.

Key Responsibilities

- Supervise petroleum engineering staff and ensure data quality and integration.
- Lead well performance reviews and deliver field optimization plans.
- Oversee production enhancement and well intervention campaigns.
- Provide input into reservoir surveillance, material balance, and reserves evaluations.
- Ensure well integrity compliance and operating envelope adherence.
- Support investment planning and budget control for production improvement projects.

Education & Experience

- B.Sc. in Petroleum Engineering or related discipline.
- 8–12 years' experience in upstream production operations.
- Experience managing marginal fields or brownfield redevelopment desirable.

Key Skills / Competencies

- Expert in well performance and field optimization.
- Leadership and mentoring ability.
- Proficient in integrated production modeling.

LOGISTICS/ SUPPLY MANAGER (Ref: LSM)

Manage the end-to-end import and export workflow, minimise transit delays and tariffs, maintain strict legal compliance, and build strong relationships with overseas and local suppliers and customs authorities.

Responsibilities

- Compliance & Documentation: Ensure all shipments comply with local and international trade laws, tariffs, and licensing requirements. Prepare or verify invoices, bills of lading, and customs declarations.
- Logistics & Coordination: Coordinate transport schedules with customs brokers and shipping lines. Track active shipments and resolve border or port delays.
- Vendor & Stakeholder Management: Negotiate pricing, contracts, and service level agreements with international suppliers, carriers, and warehouses.
- Cost & Risk Management: Monitor import/export costs, calculate import cost prices and minimum export transfer prices and mitigate supply chain risks.
- Team Leadership: Supervise, train, and evaluate import/export coordinators, specialists, or customs clearance staff.

Requirements & Skill

- Bachelor's degree or HND in relevant field(s)
- Minimum of 10 years hands-on experience in international trade, freight forwarding, or exim operations.
- Mastery of Incoterms, customs tariff coding, ERP/logistics software, and regulatory frameworks.
- Strong negotiation, cross-cultural communication, problem-solving, and attention to detail.
- Proficiency in logistics management tools and software
- Excellent communication and interpersonal abilities
- Extensive experience with logistics management principles and techniques
- Detail-oriented and highly organized
- Dedicated to ensuring efficient logistics operations and project success.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIST (Ref: PT)

Deliver well productivity and flow assurance through optimal well design, surveillance, and production system management.

Key Responsibilities

- Manage well test programs and production data validation.
- Design artificial lift systems (ESP, gas lift) and monitor performance.
- Diagnose production anomalies (sand, scale, wax, water cut).
- Develop surveillance plans and recommend optimization measures.
- Liaise with field teams on well start-ups, choke settings, and well integrity.

Education & Experience

- B.Sc. in Petroleum Engineering or Production Technology.
- 5–8 years' relevant experience.
- Experience with swamp and offshore well operations.

Skills / Competencies

- Flow assurance, data interpretation, artificial lift optimization.
- Fluent in production system software (IPM suite).
- Cross-discipline collaboration and safety focus.

SENIOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER (Ref: SCRO)

The ideal candidates will assist in the planning, negotiating, supervising and implementing development projects and programmes in company host communities as well as provide health and mutually beneficial relationships with relevant host and neighbouring communities. He must have rounded experience in community engagement, negotiation and issues management in an Oil & Gas Industry.

Minimum Knowledge and Experience

- Build, develop and maintain strong relationships with members of Company host and neighbouring communities
- Ensure Community Relations practices and policies are followed and promoted.
- Monitor and implement Early Warning Systems and community surveillance system for proactive intervention
- Liaise with host and neighbouring communities to ensure healthy relationship with host communities, smooth operation and activities within host communities
- Monitor and ensure Community assisted projects are timely executed and within budget
- Timely secure FTOs from host communities and provide timely intervention as well as anti-conflict actions for seamless operations
- Hold targeted and periodic meetings with the CLOs, Community Chiefs. relevant government agencies to ensure Company's facilities are fully secured and seamless operations are sustained within host and neighbouring communities
- Prepare acceptable community development plans and strategy
- Perform other related duties as assigned

Responsibilities

- HND/B.SC/BA in Communication, Public Relations, Marketing, or related discipline. A Master's degree or equivalent will be an added advantage.
- Minimum of 10 years relevant and rounded experience in Community relations, public participation principles and practices in Oil & Gas Industry of which 5 years must be in an E&P company.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Demonstrated ability to build and maintain strong relationships
- Ability to work well under pressure and manage sensitive or controversial subjects with tact, kindness, and professionalism.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Superior interpersonal skills and ability to work extremely well as part of a team.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite or related software.
- Must be available to travel to any part of the Country at short notice
- Must have ability to manage stress and meet critical deadlines, build and maintain strong relationships, as well as manage restive and agitated groups

SENIOR PETROLEUM ACCOUNTANT (Ref: SPA)

Key Responsibilities

- Supervise monthly reconciliation of crude oil and gas production, liftings, and sales volumes across swamp and offshore fields.
- Validate production allocation between JV partners, royalty, and cost oil/gas entitlements.
- Liaise with operations, marketing, and terminal operators to confirm lifting schedules and realized revenues.
- Monitor cost recovery and prepare JV billing statements in accordance with joint operating agreements.
- Review cost allocations, accruals, and overhead distributions to ensure transparency and fairness among partners.
- Support audit processes (JV, internal, external, and regulatory) with accurate, reconciled documentation.
- Analyze operating expenditures, CAPEX, and project costs to improve financial efficiency.

- Lead monthly and quarterly financial close for petroleum operations.
- Prepare detailed management reports on production, cost, and profitability trends.
- Oversee royalty, tax, and regulatory payments to government agencies and verify compliance.
- Support budget preparation and forecast updates for production and revenue streams.
- Coordinate with petroleum engineers and production teams to reconcile production data with accounting records.
- Provide financial input to asset development and investment planning.

Education & Experience

- B.Sc. in Accounting, Finance, Economics, or related discipline.
- Professional qualification: ICAN / ACCA (mandatory).
- Minimum of 10 years accounting experience, with at least 5 years in oil & gas upstream (production accounting, JV, and revenue management).
- Proven record of handling multi-asset or JV accounting environments in Nigeria's petroleum sector.
- ERP experience (SAP, Oracle, or SunSystems) preferred.

Key Skills & Competencies

- Strong knowledge of oil and gas accounting principles, JV accounting, and production cost allocation.
- Solid understanding of lifting and terminal operations, royalty, and tax computations.
- Advanced Excel and ERP proficiency with attention to data integrity.
- Analytical, detail-oriented, and capable of explaining complex financial data to non-finance colleagues.
- Excellent stakeholder management—operations, partners, and regulators.
- High ethical standards, confidentiality, and accountability.

SENIOR AUDITORS (Ref: SA)

General Qualifications, Experience, Attributes & Skills Required

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accountancy, Business Administration, Social Sciences, Engineering or any other related field.
- Must be a qualified Chartered Accountant with a minimum of 10 years' post qualification experience in accounts/finance/audit in a multi-national company..
- High degree of integrity, confidentiality, confidence and ability to contribute to new culture.
- Good knowledge of FMCG, Commerce, Telecommunication or Banking dynamics will be added advantage.
- Ability to handle the pressure of working in a dynamic and result oriented environment.

Responsibilities

- Prepare reports and advise on ways of improvement vis-à-vis compliance, methodologies and best practice to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness.
- Monitoring instituted controls and laid down procedures.
- Review, coordinate and implement audit plans.
- Conduct risk assessment reviews from time to time, to determine key audit areas.
- Conduct independent appraisal to review the company's accounting, financial and other operations.

SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER (Ref: SLO)

This position requires a seasoned and consummate Lawyer with in-depth knowledge of corporate and Oil & Gas laws. The ideal candidate will support the activities of the Company in Legal department and provide legal advice, interpretation as well as guidance to Senior Management and Officers regarding contracts, State and Federal laws and regulatory requirements and other business matters.

Minimum Knowledge and Experience

- Draft, review and negotiate legal and commercial documents especially contracts and Service Level Agreements (SLAs)
- Manage disputes and liaise with relevant external counsel in handling legal, and regulatory issues, regulatory investigations and preparing court proceedings
- Provide legal advice to company management on operation issues and other corporate matters
- Provide advice on mitigation of legal risks.
- Maintain corporate records, and ensuring compliance with company law
- Develop compliance policies and ensure company adheres to all statutory, regulatory, and legal requirements
- Review information and prepare defense for any legal action against the company and advice on prosecuting lawsuit on behalf of the company.
- Provide legal input on strategic decisions that affect the functional area of responsibility
- Provide necessary support regarding arrangements required for Arbitration and proceedings
- Provide assistance in resolving escalated legal issues arising from operations and requiring coordination from other departments
- Maintain legal documentation within the department and ensuring proper filing and completeness.
- Follow up with relevant departments on outstanding legal documents and responses.
- Attend court proceedings and liaison with relevant law enforcement agencies

Key Responsibilities

- Minimum of LL.B, BL and LLM with a minimum of Second Class (Upper Division).
- Any higher qualification will be an added advantage.
- Minimum of 10 years relevant post call experience
- Must be versatile in corporate law, legal drafting, litigation and arbitration proceedings
- Excellent communication skill - written and oral
- Must have special skill in vetting contract and drafting international agreements.
- Must have good knowledge of Oil & Gas Laws.
- Honesty, commitment, hardworking and self-motivation.
- Must be proficient in the use of IT Software.
- Must be a team player, self-motivated and multi-task oriented.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Qualified professionals should send their application letter and CVs to: oilexploration.pros@gmail.com not later than two weeks from the date of this publication with position applied for as subject of the email.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Opinion

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Who regulates herbal medicine?

By Hope O'RukevbeEghagha

THE immediate trigger for this intervention is the reckless manner in which herbal 'solutions to all ailments' are routinely and insultingly advertised on radio and social media platforms across the country.

The adverts have misled very many people to the grave.

Judging from reactions to my Facebook post on the subject, the malaise is deeply cancerous and malignant across the country, and as someone observed, I should travel to Ghana to see for myself. The impression the person gave is that the situation is worse in Ghana. The major question is: who regulates practitioners of herbal medicine?

Let me state from the outset that if I had my way, if our traditional herbalists can perfect their art and skills, I would rather go with them than with the big names and medications which the pharmaceuticals parade with aggressive propaganda. I believe in the efficacy of herbs if we understand and know how to use them as our African progenitors did.

Also, as a man of the Christian faith, I believe the revelatory verse by Prophet Ezekiel when he says, '*Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not fail. . . their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for MEDICINE!* (The Book of Ezekiel 47:12). '*Agbo*' in Yoruba or '*obe*' in Urhobo language, has a biblical basis!

For the record, our African progenitors asserted that *for every ailment there is a cure in the bush,* as quoted by Nigerian dramatist Ola Rotimi in his play *The Gods Are not to Blame*! For effectiveness, they added the spiritual dimension to herbal treatment. This, most Christians object to. The cure is in the herb. Not in the incantation! So, let no one assume that as a professor I denigrate herbal medicine because it is practised by the no-so-educated!

By extant regulations, 'herbal medicine in Nigeria is primarily regulated by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), alongside complementary oversight from the Federal Ministry of Health and the Nigeria Natural Medicine Development Agency (NNMDA).

How effective are these safeguard bodies in their supervisory and policing roles? Do they have capacity to vet the claims made in those adverts?

Apart from NAFDAC registration numbers which can be faked, does the monitoring agency have the facilities to monitor and establish the authenticity or otherwise of the claims? Do they have functional laboratories and equipment to do the job? What about the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC)? As the statutory body charged with licensing, monitoring, and regulating radio and television stations in Nigeria, has it lived up to its duties?

Most of the herbal medicine practitioners make bogus claims. They promote fear by describing certain symptoms and claiming that you should pay them a visit before the disease will '*kpai*' you. 'Staphylococcus' is frequently mentioned by almost all of them. I asked a doctor friend about the disease and she said it's an infection. I followed it up with a search on yahoo engine. Staphylococcus '*is a group of spherical, Gram-positive bacteria that commonly cluster together like bunches of grapes*. Some claim to cure all diseases. No specialisation. No boundaries.

I am particularly concerned about radio adverts. The medium seems to give the product and its advertiser some credibility. '*Baba's shop is at Udu junction or behind Uduaghan bus park*', is a radio jingle in the Warri area of Delta State. This is the first contradiction I would like to point out. If medical doctors are not allowed to advertise their hospitals why should herbal medicine practitioners be an exception?

If lawyers are not by convention and the ethics of their profession precluded from advertising their products, why are herbal medicine practitioners allowed to flaunt their bogus claims? I am aware that the religious programme '*Atmosphere for Miracles*' was banned by the Nigerian media regulatory authorities because it 'advertised miracles!

Herbal and traditional medicine is very popular in Nigeria. Not too long ago, that is, before contact with Western medicine, herbal medicine was the only health care choice that was open to Nigerians who took ill. Meta AI says that '*before western biomedicine arrived, healthcare across Africa was driven by diverse, deeply rooted indigenous traditional medical systems tailored to local ecologies, cultures, and social structures.*

For example, herbs effectively treated malaria and other fevers. There were herbs to aid childbirth, to stop bleeding, to stop stomach pain, to aid sleep, and other ailments. The bone doctors were also very effective though they got it wrong sometimes. It was a small, close group.

Tightly knit like a cult. They let out the treatment secrets to their chosen acolyte. They did not practise herbal cure to be wealthy. Often, some would ask their patient to take the herbal medicine and return to say thank you once they got better. As young as I am, I met a few back in the Delta.

There are recent studies which '*show that awareness of herbal and traditional remedies (often called Maganin Gargajiya in the north or local root mixtures/bitters (agbo) in the south) exceeds 97%, with active usage rates ranging between 65% and 82% across various demographics and patient groups.* There is hardly anybody in the country who is not aware of '*agbo*' or 'roots' made from different barks of trees and leaves from the bush. *Dogonyaro* is very popular. Moringa. *Efirin* or scent leaf. *Obokoiyeke*.

Herbal medicine is both cultural and social, deeply embedded in the consciousness of the average Nigerian. Of course, the typical elite look down on '*agbo*', mainly because one is not sure of its chemical composition.

It is popular all over Africa too. The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that over 80% of the 'continent's population relies on it for their basic health care needs. It is also reported that "*90% of the population in Ethiopia and over 70% in countries like Ghana use herbal remedies as part of their primary healthcare.*

The reason for this continuous patronage is the high cost of receiving medical attention in hospitals (both government-owned and private).

Medications have been priced out of the reach of the common man. Herbal medicine is cheaper in the short run. It can be costly because by the time the health condition deteriorates and the patient rushes to the hospital it is often too late. Sometimes, *agbo* destroys body organs. Doctors say that kidney failure rates in the country have increased exponentially.

This is not to disparage traditional herbs at all. I know some have been very efficacious. Someone I know visited a masseur/traditional birth matron in Ketu area of Lagos when she had her last pregnancy for a massage. The old mama would position the baby if it had shifted. Just before delivery, the lady was told that the baby was breech, and they would have to do surgery. Mama re-positioned the baby before D Day and there was no surgery!

As an elite wife, she couldn't say to the elite doctors at Island maternity that it was traditional birth mama that performed the miracle. During one of her visits, when the mama saw that madam kept spitting, she asked: *when a hen is pregnant does it spit?* Madam said no. She brought out a powder and gave it to her to lick. The excessive spitting stopped immediately.

As for the media houses, they smile to the bank because of the easy money which the adverts and jingles bring into the broadcasting business. But we cannot because of expected income endanger the lives of citizens. The government needs to regulate such broadcasts.

NAFDAC should step up its regulatory activities. Only NAFDAC-verified and approved claims should be broadcast. 'Regulating herbal medicine in Nigeria is mandatory to protect public health, ensure product safety and efficacy, and stop the circulation of unregistered or toxic remedies. While I was working on this essay, I saw a TV footage of a NAFDAC raid on a filthy facility in Lagos where some miscreants were producing fake herbs. Such persons must be brought before the law and punished in accordance with extant laws.

In fact, there ought to be a strong link between NAFDAC and NBC on this subject. Also, the National Association of Nigeria Traditional Medicine Practitioners (NANTMP) ought to be worried that its members are making preposterous claims on radio. Our traditional medicine practitioners should internalise their products the way the Chinese have done.

You can walk into a shop in London and buy Chinese herb for hypertension.

This is because their products have been tested through the British system. Let us put on our thinking cap and codify our herbals! Through a collaboration between ministry of Health and the relevant departments in the universities, something revolutionary can be achieved.

Eghagha is a Professor in University of Lagos.

Dele Cole and his public service

By Eric Teniola

ON July 29, 1975, General Murtala Mohammed became Head of State by overthrowing General Yakubu Gowon. On August 7, 1975, General Mohammed set up a committee on the creation of more states in the country. At that time, Nigeria had 12 states.

The committee was headed by Justice Gabriel Ayo Irikefe of the Supreme Court. Other members of the committee were Dr. A.D. Yahaya, Mr. S.D. Lar, Brigadier Godwin G. Ally and Mr. C. Audifferen. The Secretary of the committee was Dr. Patrick Dele Cole of The Cabinet Office.

At that time, Dr. Dele Cole was an administrative officer in the Political division of The Cabinet Office. He has returned from his studies at the University of Otago, New Zealand, 1962-1965, Free University of Amsterdam, Netherland, 1966, University of Cambridge, England, 1966-1969, and visiting Professor, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA, 1969-1973. Dr. Dele Cole was a fellow, Kings College, Cambridge, England, 1970-1973.

The political division in The Cabinet Office was headed by Alhaji Umaru Sanda Ndayako (1937–2003), who later became the Etsu Nupe in 1975. Alhaji Ndayako had his education at the East School, Bida, 1945-1948, Ilorin Middle School, 1949-1950, Government College, Zaria, 1951-1956, Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Zaria, 1957-59, University College, Ibadan, 1959-1962; Senior Civil Servant, Ministry of Local Government, Kaduna, 1962-1965, Principal Administrative Office, 1965-1967 and deputy Permanent Secretary, later head, Political Division, Cabinet Office.

Top officers in the Political division, Cabinet Office, who were also colleagues of Cole at that time also included Mr. Eniolorunda Ojumu from Kwara State, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar from Kaduna State, Dr. Niyi Adedeji from Ilesha, Osun State, Ambassador Timothy Ayodele Olu Otunla also from Ilesha, Mr. Bisi Ogunniyi from Iree in Osun State and Brigadier Ibrahim Ahmed Bako (N/548) (March 5, 1943-December 31,1983).

On February 3, 1976, General Murtala Mohammed, made the following announcements. "The Supreme Military Council has decided that seven of the present states remain unchanged except for minor boundary adjustments. These are: Lagos, North-Central, Kano, Rivers, Mid-Western, South-eastern and Kwara states. In the case of Kwara, Igala area is excised and merged with Benue. The capitals will remain unchanged except for Lagos State whose capital is now Ikeja. The minor boundary adjustments are for parts of Opobo division in the South-Eastern State and Ndoni area in the Mid-West now merged with Rivers State.

States will no longer be described reference to geographical points such as North and South, West or East. This should help to erase memories of past political ties and emotional attachments. The Mid-Western States is now to be known as Bendel; North-Central becomes Kaduna State and the present South-Eastern is to be known henceforth as Cross River State.

"As for the other five states, these have been divided in such a way that the total number of states in the Federation is now 19.

The present Western State is divided into three states as follows: (a) Ogun State, consisting of Abeokuta and Ijebu Provinces with the capital at Abeokuta. (b) Ondo State is made up of Ondo Province with the capital at Akure. (c) Oyo State consisting of Oyo, Ibarapa, Ibadan, Osun, Ife and Ijesha with the capital at Ibadan.

The present East-Central State is divided into two states as follows: (a) Imo State consisting of the following divisions: Afikpo, Oguta, Nkwerre, Mbano, Mbasie, Bende, Orchukwum, Umahia, Okigwi, Orlu, Oru, Mbaitoli/Ikeduru, Etiti, Ohafia, Northern Ngwa, Owerri, Aba and Ukwa with the capital at Owerri. (b) Anambra State consisting of the following Divisions: Enugu, Isi-Uzo, Uzo-Uwani, Ezeagu, N-kanu, Abakaliki, Ezzikwo, Njikoka,Idmili, Igbo-Eze, Nsukka, Udi, Ishelu, Izzim Aguata, Anambra, Onitsha, Awgu, Ihiala, Nnewi and Ogbaru with the capital at Enugu.

The present North-Western State is divided into two states as follows: (a) Niger State consisting of Niger Province less Zuru with the capital at Minna.

(b) Sokoto State consisting of Sokoto Province and Zuru with the capital at Sokoto.

The present Benue-Plateau State is divided into two states as follows: (a) Benue State consisting of Gboko, Makurdi, Katsina Ala and Oturkpo with the capital at Makurdi. The state includes Idah, Dekina and Ankpa Divisions in Kwara. (b) Plateau State consisting of Jos, Pankshin Akwanga, Langtang, Shendam, Nassarawa and Lafia with the capital at Jos. The State also includes Jarawa District in Bauchi Division.

The present North-Eastern State is divided into three states as follows: (i) Bauchi State consisting of Bauchi Province less Jarawa District with the capital at Bauchi. (ii) Borno State consisting of Borno Province less Shani District with the capital at Maiduguri. The State include Gwoza Local Authority area and Uba District in Adamawa. (iii) Gongola State consisting of Sardauna and Adamawa provinces with the capital at Yola. The State also includes Wukari Division in the former Benue-Plateau State and Shani District.

Boundary adjustment Commissions will be set up immediately to look into the various inter-state boundary disputes identified by the panel on creation of States. The peculiar problem of the Riverine areas is to be dealt with through the establishment of a Delta Basin Authority.

The following officers have been posted as Governors of the seven new States. They are Lt. Commander Kanu—Imo, Major I.D. Ikpeme—Ondo, Lt. Colonel A. Shelleng—Benue, Lt. Colonel S.A. Balogun—Ogun, Lt. Colonel M.D. Jega—Gongola, Commander Nyako—Niger and Lt. Colonel B. Kaliel—Bauchi State."

After the report, Justice Ayo Irikefe later became the Chief Justice of the Federation from 1985 to 1987. Dr. Ali Danlami Yahaya of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria became a member of The Constitution Drafting Committee and Mr. S.D. Lar, was Chairman of African Continental Bank, elected Governor of Plateau state in 1979 and became the founding Chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in 1999 and Mr. C. Audifferen was a Map Reproduction Officer for the Federal Ministry of Works.

The decision by the Supreme Military Council was as a result of the reports of the Secretariat of the Committee on the creation of states, then headed by Mr. Dele Cole. From then on, the Chief of Staff, General Headquarters, General Olusegun Obasanjo, bonded a friendship with Dr. Dele Cole.

Following an internal crisis, the Federal Government on September 19, 1975 acquired 60% equity shares in *The Daily Times* Group of Companies. They, therefore, appointed a new Board of Directors for the group. They are Alhaji Aliko Mohammed (Chairman), Alhaji Babatunde Jose, Mr. Douglas Briggs, Mr. Paul Belabo, Dr. Ali Alhakim, Dr. Patrick Dele Cole, Lady Alakija and Alhaji J. Gana. Dr. Cole then became the Managing Director of *The Daily Times*. He was deployed from The Cabinet Office to *The Daily Times*.

While serving as Managing Director of *The Daily Times*, Cole was very involved in acquisition of *West Africa* Magazine - owned by South Africa through her intelligence agencies. This helped weaken apartheid support in the Western Press- during Nigeria's Seizure of Barclays Bank and British Petroleum (BP) in 1979.

A few years later, General Ibrahim Babangida appointed Dr Cole as Nigeria's ambassador to Argentina and Brazil according to Mr. Peter Aribe, a public affairs analyst with deep military background. Ambassador Cole "helped grow tremendously Petrobras involvement in the Nigerian Oil Exploration especially in deep off shore investigations. The partnership between the Nigerian Navy and the Brazilian Navy was also greatly enhanced in this period; with the Brazilian Navy supplying most of the equipment required for the refit and repairs of Navy Boats at Navy Dockyard - Victoria Island, which General Babangida commissioned in 1990."

When his friend, President Olusegun Obasanjo in 1999 became President, he tapped Cole to be his special adviser, along with Dr. Stanley Macebuh (December 28, 1942 – March 7, 2010). During the Obasanjo years, Dr. Tunji Olagunju (82) from Offa, Kwara State, Prince Bola Ajibola (March 1934 – April 2023), Dr. Christopher Kolade (December 28, 1932 – October 8, 2025), Otunba Oyewole Fasawe, the Asiwaju of Owo in Ondo State and Dr Cole, were very close to the President.

In the case of Dr Cole, he participated in numerous talks with Nigeria's creditors, especially with the Paris Club on the debt relief. With his death, Nigeria has lost an astounding public servant.

Teniola, a former director in the Presidency, wrote from Lagos.

NIGERIA'S 2027 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RACE: WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?

1 ARE WOMEN ALREADY MARGINALISED AHEAD OF THE 2027 ELECTIONS?



Before Nigerians vote in 2027, the candidate lists already tell us something about the choices voters will have. In some places, women are visible on the ballot. In others, there may be only one or none.





469 women out of 4,863 candidates are seeking election to the National Assembly.



That means, out of every 10 people seeking a National Assembly seat, **roughly 1 is a woman.**

Senate: **123** **Women**

House of Representatives: **346** **Women**

2 SENATE OR HOUSE: THE PICTURE IS SIMILAR



Whether you are choosing a Senator or a member of the House of Representatives, the women's numbers looks remarkably similar:

Senate	House of Representatives
123 Women	**346** Women
out of **1,303** candidates	out of **3,560** candidates
9.4% Women	**9.7%** Women

3 PARTIES DECIDE WHO APPEARS ON THE BALLOT

The figures show that parties did not put forward women at the same rate.



Before a name appears on the INEC list, political parties select their candidates through their nomination processes and primaries. The final lists show how many women emerged from those processes.

Party	Women	Total Candidates	% Women
APC	33	469	7.0%
PDP	30	417	7.2%
ADC	26	454	5.7%
NDC	25	429	5.8%
APM	53	416	12.7%
ADP	41	348	11.8%
SDP	38	352	10.8%
LP	29	238	12.2%



Among other political parties, DLA, BP, AAC and AA, for example, each have women making up **more than 16%** of their candidates.

- **DLA: 17.9%**
- **BP: 17.6%**
- **AAC: 17.3%**
- **AA: 16.5%**

4 WHAT CANDIDATES REPORT AS QUALIFICATIONS



INEC's list shows that men and women candidates for the 2027 general election are equally qualified, yet the number of women on the ballot is abysmal. Nigeria needs to address the perennial problem of underrepresentation.

	WOMEN	MEN
Secondary	36.7%	35.8%
Bachelor's	26.2%	25.4%
Diploma/HND/OND/NCE	16.0%	13.5%
Postgraduate /Master's	4.5%	5.9%
PhD	2.1%	2.5%

Note: Percentages shown are selected qualification categories and do not add up to 100% because other qualification categories are not shown.

Funded by the European Union

Source: INEC, 2027 National Assembly Final Candidate List, Sept. 2026.

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PLAC POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE

NIGERIA'S 2027 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RACE: WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?

5 WHERE THE WOMEN CANDIDATES ARE



The share of women among candidates varies considerably across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones.

Zone	Women	Total Candidates	% Women
South-South	119	757	15.7%
South-East	89	675	13.2%
South-West	108	838	12.9%
North-East	28	696	4.0%
North-West	43	1,106	3.9%
North-Central*	82	791	10.4%

*Including the FCT.

State examples

Across House and Senate races, the ratio of men to women on the ballot depends entirely on location

Where women are most visible

- **Kwara:** about **1 in 4** candidates is a woman (23 of 100)
- **Cross River:** about **1 in 5** (19 of 88)
- **Akwa Ibom:** about **1 in 5** (27 of 140)
- **Lagos:** about **1 in 6** (34 of 220)

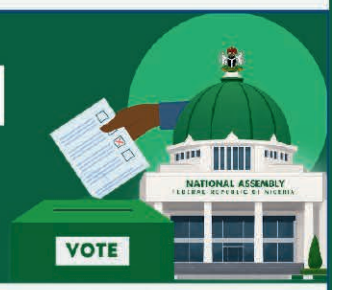
Where women are almost absent

- **Nasarawa:** 1 woman among 97 candidates
- **Yobe:** 2 among 98
- **Katsina, Kebbi, Borno, Jigawa and Zamfara:** 3 each
- **Kano:** 5 among 299, about 1 in 60

Note: Lagos has the most women candidates (34), but its share, 15.5% of 220 candidates, is lower than in Kwara, Cross River and Akwa Ibom.

6 ABSENT FROM THE BALLOT

For some voters, no woman is contesting the National Assembly seat they will vote for.



Senate

36 Senatorial Districts there is no woman among the candidates.

73 of **109** Senatorial districts have at least one woman candidate.

House of Representatives

200 constituencies have at least one woman candidate.

160 of 360 have none.

MORE WOMEN ON THE BALLOT MEANS MORE CHOICES FOR VOTERS.

7 THIS IS WHO IS ON THE BALLOT, NOT WHO WILL WIN



The candidate lists tell us who is contesting National Assembly seats.

469 WOMEN out of 4,863 candidates are listed among the candidates for National Assembly seats in this analysis.

BEFORE YOU VOTE, KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE:

- **Who is contesting your Senate seat?**
- **Who is contesting your House seat?**
- **Which parties are they representing?**
- **What do they say they will do?**

These numbers describe the candidates on the final lists. **They don't tell us who voters will elect.**

BEYOND THE BALLOT: THE SPECIAL SEATS BILL

The numbers show how many women are contesting the 2027 National Assembly (NASS) elections. But with women occupying fewer than 5% of seats in the current NASS, what can be done to improve their representation?

A proposed constitutional amendment, known as the Special Seats Bill, seeks to address this gap by creating additional seats for women in the legislature.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Bill and how it would work.

Funded by the European Union

Source: INEC, 2027 National Assembly Final Candidate List, Sept. 2026.

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PLAC POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE

The Guardian Business

www.guardian.ng Tuesday, November 10, 2026 Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

CRUDE OIL PRICE UPDATE Brent crude: $110.2| WTI crude: $103.5 **FOREX MARKET UPDATE** I&E window: N1,330.47

Online, property scams, DisCos' billing top FCCPC complaints in S'West

By **Gloria Nwafor**

FRAUDULENT property transactions, online shopping scams, arbitrary electricity billing and the refusal of businesses to refund consumers for defective products have emerged as major sources of consumer complaints in South-West Nigeria, raising concerns about business accountability and consumer protection in the region.

The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) disclosed that its South-West zonal office received about 23,000 complaints and resolved over 18,000, a development that underscores the scale of unfair business practices and the growing demand for effective regulatory intervention.

The Zonal Coordinator of the Commission's South-West Zonal Office, Lagos, Dr Olubunmi Otti, disclosed this yesterday during a courtesy visit by the FCCPC delegation to *The Guardian* Newspapers, attributing the high volume of complaints to Lagos State's position as Nigeria's commercial nerve centre.

She identified real estate transactions, online purchases, electricity distribution, digital money lending, aviation services and retail trade among the sectors generating significant consumer dissatisfaction.

According to Otti, complaints involving property transactions are particularly disturbing, with some developers allegedly collecting millions of naira from prospective buyers using architectural designs and three-dimensional images that bear little resemblance to the properties eventually delivered.

She said some developers also failed to complete projects within agreed timelines but subsequently demanded additional payments from buyers, even when the delays were attributable to the developers.

The situation, she added, had left some property buyers exposed to financial losses, with Nigerians living abroad particularly vulnerable because they sometimes commit funds to transactions without conducting adequate checks on developers and properties.

The complaints highlight the risks confronting investors and prospective homeowners in a property market where weak contractual accountability and misleading representations can undermine confidence in real estate transactions.

Online shopping has also become a growing source of consumer complaints, with the Commission receiving reports of customers who paid for advertised products but were subsequently blocked by vendors, making it difficult to recover their money or obtain the goods purchased.

Otti advised consumers to prioritise payment-on-delivery arrangements when shopping online and, where such options were unavailable, verify that vendors had identifiable physical addresses before transferring money.

Electricity distribution companies also featured prominently among businesses attracting complaints, particularly over arbitrary billing, failure to provide prepaid meters, non-compliance with regulatory orders, including the capping of estimated bills and net-metering provisions, as well as poor service delivery.

Other complaints involve digital money lenders and aviation service providers, reflecting the breadth of consumer protection challenges across Nigeria's increasingly interconnected business environment.

Of particular concern to the Commission is the continued use of 'no refund, no return' notices by businesses, despite provisions of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act (FCCPA) 2018 protecting consumers against defective products and misleading business practices.



Head of Corporate Affairs Department, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), Ukason Henry-Kissinger (left); Special Adviser to the Executive Vice Chairman, Sola Cole; Special Adviser on Media, Fola Adeyemi; Zonal Coordinator of South-West Zonal Office, Olubunmi Otti; Legal Officer, Oyinkansola Olaribigbe-Bello and Head of Department, Consumer and Business Education, Humphrey Akam Emmanuel during their visit to *The Guardian* head office in Lagos, yesterday

Oil, gas firms earn N4.43tr revenue in nine months as profit soars by 148.3%

By **Helen Oji**

FOUR oil and gas companies listed on the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) recorded a combined profit after tax of N369.70 billion in their nine-month operations, representing an increase of 148.3 per cent over the N148.92 billion achieved in the corresponding period in 2025.

The companies, Seplat Energy Plc, Eterna Plc, Conoil Plc and Japaul Gold and Ventures Plc also increased their combined revenue by 17.2 per cent to N4.43 trillion, from N3.78 trillion in the previous year, as improved oil price realisations, higher production and growth in petroleum products sales supported their performance.

An analysis of their nine-month results showed that Seplat Energy recorded the highest profit after tax of N355.55 billion, compared with N146.64 billion in the corresponding period of 2025, representing an increase of 142.5 per cent.

Eterna Plc's profit after tax rose to N7.34 billion from N325.88 million, representing growth of about 2,153 per cent, while Conoil Plc recorded N5.31 billion, compared with N1.46 billion in the previous year.

Japaul Gold and Ventures Plc also increased its profit after tax to N1.50 billion, from N496.22 million in the corresponding period of 2025, representing an increase of about 202.3 per cent.

On revenue, Seplat led the four companies with N3.78 trillion, compared with N3.36 trillion in the corresponding period of 2025, representing a 12.5 per cent increase.

Eterna recorded revenue of N365.56 billion, up 71.7 per cent from N212.84 billion, while Conoil's revenue rose to N280.12 billion from N203.83 billion, an increase of 37.4 per cent.

Japaul Gold generated N4.22 billion in revenue, compared with N2.7 billion in the previous year.

The results also showed that the companies recorded varying levels of growth, with Seplat accounting for the largest share of the combined profit and revenue, while Eterna recorded the highest percentage increase in profit after tax.

DMO warns debt costs could gulp 72 per cent of govt revenue

By **Isaac Chibuife**

NIGERIA's debt service is projected to rise to 71.7 per cent of Federal Government revenue by 2030, from 60.6 per cent in 2024, raising concerns about the government's ability to meet its debt obligations without further straining public finances.

The projection is contained in the Debt Management Office's (DMO) 2024 Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) report, released yesterday. It exceeded the agency's recommended threshold of 50 per cent.

Under the baseline scenario, the debt service-to-revenue ratio is expected to decline to 44.9 per cent in 2025 before rising to 51 per cent in 2026 and 57.1 per cent in 2027. It is projected to reach 57.4 per cent in 2028 and 67.3 per cent in 2029.

Already, Nigeria's fiscal strain sharpened in the first half of 2026 as interest payments outpaced government revenue by N1.5 trillion, despite a 72 per cent surge in collections.

Recall that the Finance Minister and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyedele, defended the country's position, countering concerns raised in the World Bank's latest economic assessment.

The Ministry maintained that the ratio should not be interpreted in isolation, arguing that the interest figure includes obligations the Federal Government services on behalf of other tiers of government, including external loans to states.

The outlook is worse under a shock scenario, which projects the ratio to hit 97.3 per cent by 2030. The scenario assumes a 30 per cent depreciation of the naira, a two per cent contraction in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and a 2.5 per cent decline in revenue.

The baseline scenario, however, assumes an exchange rate of N1, 500 to the dollar, real GDP growth of 4.8 per cent and a primary balance of 3.8 per cent.

The DMO attributed the projected increase in debt service to the faster growth of debt obligations relative to government revenue, highlighting the pressure on public finances despite an expected decline in the country's debt-to-GDP ratio.

Under the baseline scenario, public debt-to-GDP is projected to fall from 53.7 per cent in 2024 to 27.3 per cent by 2030. Under the shock scenario, it is expected to decline to 34.6 per cent.

Elumelu champions women's role in African business

CHAIRMAN of Heirs Holdings, Tony O. Elumelu, has called on business leaders across Africa to accelerate female representation in corporate leadership, highlighting the eight women serving as Chairs and Chief Executives across the Heirs Holdings Group as evidence of the transformative impact of creating opportunities for women to lead.

Delivering the keynote address at the 25th yearly conference of the Women in Management, Business and Public Service (WIMBIZ) in Lagos, Nigeria, Elumelu challenged corporate leaders to move beyond just conversations about gender inclusion and demonstrate their commitment through appointments, access to capital and opportunities for women to lead businesses and institutions. "Women's economic leadership is not a concession to fairness. It is a requirement for competitiveness," he declared, arguing that no economy seeking sustainable growth can afford to underutilise half its talent.

Speaking on the conference theme: "Rooted, Rising, Ready: Born in Africa, Built for the World," Elumelu presented the leadership structure across Heirs Holdings Group as a practical demonstration of his conviction that opportunity should be determined by merit rather than gender, geography or circumstances of birth.

Eight women currently serve as Chairs and Chief Executives across the Group's businesses, spanning financial services, investment management, hospitality, real estate and entrepreneurship development. Elumelu highlighted the contributions of his wife, Dr Awele Elumelu, a Founding Director of Heirs Holdings, whose leadership spans healthcare, insurance, hospitality and energy. Dr Elumelu chairs Avon HMO, Avon Medical, Heirs Insurance Brokers, Transcorp Hotels Plc and Heirs Energies, and co-founded the Tony Elumelu Foundation.

For Elumelu, these appointments showed how organisations can build stronger institutions by recognising talent, developing leaders internally and creating pathways for women to assume positions of executive and board-level responsibility. "I did not do it for a headline. I did it because they were the best people for the jobs," Elumelu said. In addition, Elumelu cited The Tony Elumelu Foundation, which has deployed more than $120 million in seed capital to 24,633 entrepreneurs across 54 African countries over 15 years.

Oramah urges Africa to tap homegrown funds for global competitiveness

By **Joseph Onyekwere**

FORMER President of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), Prof Benedict Oramah, has challenged African governments to reduce their dependence on foreign capital and currencies. He warned that the continent's vulnerability to external economic shocks could undermine its development prospects.

He said mobilising domestic savings, strengthening indigenous financial institutions and expanding local currency financing were critical to enabling African countries to take greater control of their economic development.

Oramah, who delivered the keynote address at the 20th AELEX Yearly Lecture in Lagos, argued that Africa must move beyond reacting to global economic disruptions and develop the financial and industrial capacity to exploit opportunities arising from changes in the international economic order.

He identified geopolitical tensions, de-globalisation and rising protectionism as major forces reshaping global trade and investment, warning that African countries risk being disadvantaged if they fail to rethink their development strategies.

Speaking on the theme: 'Global Shocks, Local Impact: Battle for Survival or Opportunities to Leapfrog, and for Growth', the former Afreximbank president described capital as Africa's greatest development constraint.

He argued that the continent's continued reliance on foreign financing and the export of unprocessed commodities had limited its capacity to create domestic value, strengthen industries and retain the benefits of its natural resources.

He therefore called for deliberate investment in indigenous financial institutions that can finance development projects, support African businesses, and reduce dependence on external funding.

UNCTAD: $1.8 trillion climate trade awaits Nigeria, others

By **Benjamin Alade**

NIGERIA and other developing economies could use climate-related trade to diversify their economies, expand exports and build resilience to growing economic risks from climate change, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has said.

UNCTAD, in its latest Global Trade Update: Accelerating climate action requires trade cooperation, said global exports of goods linked to solar and wind energy value chains exceeded $1.8 trillion in 2025, underlining the growing commercial opportunities around the global energy transition.

The agency said stronger trade cooperation would be critical for developing countries, including Nigeria, to gain affordable access to climate technologies, investment, services and technical knowledge while developing domestic capacity to participate in emerging low-carbon value chains.

According to the report, climate change is already creating significant economic risks, with one estimate projecting losses equivalent to 10 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) at 3°C of warming. For poorer countries closer to the equator, losses could reach 17 per cent of GDP.

UNCTAD said the economic implications make access to climate technologies increasingly important for developing economies seeking to strengthen their energy, agricultural, transport and water systems.

It identified solar, hydropower, bioenergy and low-carbon transport technologies among the most frequently prioritised technologies for emissions reduction, while water collection and storage and climate-resilient agricultural technologies were identified as major adaptation needs.

For Nigeria, the findings highlighted the potential to use the energy transition and climate-related industries as part of its efforts to diversify exports and reduce dependence on crude oil.

The report's emphasis on solar, low-carbon transport, agriculture and water technologies is particularly relevant to Nigeria, where investment in renewable energy, electric mobility, gas-based transition technologies and climate-resilient agriculture is expanding.

UNCTAD said developing countries could also increase their participation in environmentally sustainable industries, rather than remain largely consumers of imported technologies.

Developing economies already export substantial volumes of sustainable goods and services, including $1.3 trillion in biodiversity-based goods in 2024, $1.2 trillion in ocean-related goods and services in 2025 and an estimated $204 billion in non-plastic substitutes in 2024.

Expert urges forensic audit, debt cancellation to free Nigeria's fiscal space

By **Bankole Orimisan**

A FINANCIAL expert and economist, Dr Ernest Abegbe, has called on the Federal Government to conduct a comprehensive forensic audit of Nigeria's domestic and external debt portfolio, advocating the cancellation of eligible debts, interest and penalty waivers, and strategic restructuring to create fiscal space for national development.

Abegbe said this in an interview, while speaking to journalists at the weekend in Lagos. He noted that a thorough reconciliation, validation and independent forensic review of the country's entire debt portfolio would establish the origin, authorisation, purpose, disbursement, utilisation, beneficiaries, repayment history, legal status and verifiable outstanding balances of every public debt obligation.

He argued that Nigeria's debt management strategy must move beyond the publication of aggregate debt figures, debt-to-GDP ratios and periodic debt-servicing statistics to a more detailed examination of the authenticity, history and economic value of every borrowing transaction undertaken by successive administrations.

The economist, said the exercise would provide the necessary foundation for the Federal Government to negotiate strategic debt forgiveness, cancellation of eligible obligations, interest and penalty waivers, restructuring and other relief measures with relevant creditors.

He cited the landmark debt relief secured by Nigeria under former President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration in 2005 and 2006 as a precedent that could provide useful lessons for the country's current debt management efforts.

According to him, Nigeria's increasing debt-servicing burden has become a major constraint on economic growth, limiting the government's fiscal capacity, frustrating critical reforms and weakening its ability to finance infrastructure and implement poverty-reduction programmes.

He noted that the pressure of debt repayments has continued to restrict the resources available for capital projects and other essential development initiatives, stressing that a comprehensive debt review could help identify opportunities for meaningful relief.

CMFC pitches Africa's minerals in London

By **Helen Oji**

THE Critical Minerals Financing Corporation (CMFC) is taking Nigeria and other African countries' mining investment opportunities to the global stage, as it seeks to attract international capital into the continent's largely untapped critical minerals sector.

The corporation will headline discussions on Africa's critical minerals at Resourcing Tomorrow 2026, one of the world's major mining investment forums, scheduled to be held in London from December 1 to 3, with more than 2,300 delegates and ministers from 60 countries expected to participate.

As Gold Sponsor of the event, CMFC will present investment opportunities across Nigeria and the East African corridor, while outlining financing structures designed to make African mining projects attractive and accessible to international investors.

The move comes amid growing global demand for critical minerals needed for industrial development, clean energy technologies and other emerging industries, with Africa seeking to attract more investment into the exploration, processing and development of its mineral resources.

CMFC said its participation would focus on demonstrating that African mining assets could attract international financing when supported by proper verification, structured investment processes and effective risk management.

The corporation is also sponsoring the fourth Annual Government Roundtable, an invitation-only ministerial meeting scheduled for November 30 at Canada House, London. The meeting, organised in partnership with the High Commission of Canada in the United Kingdom, is expected to attract about 120 ministers, ambassadors, senior government officials, mining executives and investors from more than 60 countries.

NOG Energy Week opens call for technical papers

By **Abigail Ikhaghu**

NOG Energy Week has opened submissions for its 2027 Technical Seminar, inviting researchers, engineers, academics and other energy professionals to present technical solutions and innovations capable of addressing challenges across Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

The call for papers, which covers 14 technical categories across the energy value chain, is aimed at promoting the exchange of research, field experience and practical knowledge to support investment, operational efficiency and technological development in the sector.

The organisers said submissions would cover upstream activities, including geoscience, field development, drilling and asset management, as well as midstream operations involving infrastructure, facilities, supply and pipeline transportation, shipping and marine services.

Other areas include downstream infrastructure, power generation and industrialisation, alongside cross-cutting subjects such as artificial intelligence, digital transformation, decarbonisation, health, safety, security and environment (HSSE), project management, finance and people development.

Asset Operations Support at TotalEnergies EP Nigeria, Razaq Shuaib, who reviewed submissions for last year's programme, said the contributions reflected the range of expertise available across the industry, including working engineers and students.

He stressed the importance of developing technical knowledge and human capacity to sustain progress in Nigeria's energy sector, noting that human capital remained a major driver of industry growth.



Representation matters, but it does not tell us whether women have meaningful access to opportunity, whether their contributions influence decisions, whether their careers progress at a fair pace or whether the workplace allows them to perform at their full potential. Too often, conversations about women at work have centred on participation figures, diversity statements, commemorative events and leadership appointments. These are useful indicators, but the more consequential question is whether organisations create the conditions in which women's capabilities are fully utilised. That is not merely a social concern. It is a performance concern.

Women are in the workforce, but are organisations getting their full capacity?

PARTICIPATION IS NOT THE SAME AS PROGRESSION

WORLD Bank Gender Data, drawing on ILO modelled estimates, puts Nigeria's female labour-force participation at 80.7 per cent in 2025, compared with 84.3 per cent for men. Yet participation does not automatically translate into quality employment, decision-making authority or senior leadership.

McKinsey's 2025 Women in the Workplace analysis covering Nigeria, India and Kenya reported that women held approximately 51 per cent of entry-level roles in Nigeria but around 38 per cent of senior-level positions. It also noted barriers to entering formal employment and a relatively narrow pipeline into the C-suite.

If women are participating in the workforce, what happens as they seek to progress?

One data point cannot explain the entire Nigerian labour market; industries, organisational structures and career pathways differ. But the evidence reinforces the need to examine progression, not simply participation. An organisation may employ many women while its strategic assignments, revenue-generating responsibilities, succession opportunities and most influential positions remain concentrated elsewhere. It may be counting women's presence without assessing their influence.

THE INVISIBLE STRUCTURES THAT SHAPE PROGRESSION

Career progression is rarely determined by competence alone. It is shaped by access to opportunities, sponsorship, networks, culture, performance evaluation, flexibility, leadership expectations and workplace relationships. Some barriers are formal and visible. Others are embedded in everyday behaviour.

Consider strategic assignments. Who leads a major transformation programme? Who is entrusted with a difficult business unit? Who gains exposure to the board, is sponsored for an international opportunity, or is considered ready for promotion? These decisions shape careers long before a vacancy is advertised.

How leadership potential is interpreted also matters. Organisations sometimes judge readiness through narrow expectations of availability, visibility, personal style or conformity to established leadership behaviour. Left unexamined, these expectations cause capable professionals to be overlooked because they do not fit an inherited image of leadership.

Culture matters too. Employees may formally have equal opportunities while informal behaviours undermine them. Being interrupted, excluded from influential networks, denied credit or expected to prove competence repeatedly can accumulate into significant professional disadvantage. The effect may not appear in any policy document, but it becomes visible in career trajectories.

THE COST OF UNDERUTILISED CAPACITY

When capable women cannot progress, organisations risk losing institutional knowledge, leadership potential, innovation and the return on their investment in recruitment and development. When women leave because they see limited prospects, the organisation incurs replacement costs and loses experience. When they stay but are excluded from meaningful responsibility, it retains talent without fully benefiting from it. And when leadership pipelines are unnecessarily narrow, succession options weaken.

The cost is not always visible in financial statements. It shows up in lower engagement, reduced retention, missed opportunities, weaker decision-making and a leadership bench that does not reflect the organisation's available talent. The question is not only whether organisations employ enough women, but whether they are getting the best from the women they employ.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADERSHIP

This cannot be delegated to human resources or diversity committees. It is a leadership responsibility. Chief executives set priorities. Boards shape governance expectations and succession oversight. Line managers shape daily employee experience. Senior leaders decide who receives sponsorship, visibility and consequential assignments.

WHY MEASUREMENT MATTERS

Organisations cannot improve what they have not examined. This is one reason for the No More Shrinking® Full Capacity Report. It moves beyond general statements about women's empowerment to investigate the workplace experiences, progression conditions and organisational practices that shape women's capacity; where women encounter barriers, how structures influence advancement, and which leadership behaviours enable or constrain contribution.

The report does not begin from a predetermined conclusion that every organisation discriminates against women, or that every difference in career outcome has a single explanation. Its aim is to investigate, listen, examine evidence and identify patterns organisations can act on.

A credible report must be willing to discover complexity, recognising differences across sectors, career stages, organisational sizes and professional contexts, and distinguishing individual experiences from systemic patterns. Most importantly, it must provide a basis for practical action.

Visit www.tppafrica.com for the full article

About Dr. Abiola Salami

Dr. Abiola Salami is a World-Class Performance Strategist, leadership authority and founder of CHAMP Global Leadership Consulting. He is the originator of Performance Leadership™ and the driving force behind No More Shrinking®, platforms dedicated to advancing leadership excellence, human potential and transformative impact. Through his work, he equips leaders and organisations to bridge the gap between investment, capability, execution and measurable outcomes, building the leadership capacity required to achieve extraordinary and sustainable performance. Reach him on hello@abiolachamp.com

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FUTURE LEADERS DO NOT JUST HAPPEN...THEY ARE FORMED

AT JAMES HOPE COLLEGE, LEKKI, LAGOS

NOVEMBER 2025 CAMBRIDGE IGCSE EXAMINATION RESULT	
A*	GRADES: 67%
A*- A	GRADES: 96%
A*- B	GRADES: 99%
A*- C	GRADES: 100%

MAY/JUNE 2026 WAEC EXAMINATION RESULT
A^1 - B^3 GRADES: 94%
A^1 - C^6 GRADES: 100%



- State of the art classrooms, laboratories, boarding and sporting facilities.
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- Proud winners of prestigious international and national awards.
- Beautiful, serene and secure world-class campus where learning thrives.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR YEAR 7 (JSS1) DAY AND BOARDING STUDENTS FOR THE 2027/2028 ACADEMIC SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AS FOLLOWS:

LAGOS

Dates: **Saturday, 30th January and 6th February, 2027**

Location: James Hope College, Twin Lakes Estate, Lekki, **Lagos.**

Time: 10AM

ABUJA & PORT HARCOURT

Date: **Saturday, 6th February, 2027**

Locations: 71 Usuma Street, Opp. Transcorp Hilton, Maitama, **Abuja.**

15 Nnamdi Azikiwe Road, Port Harcourt, **Rivers State.**

Time: 10AM



APPLICATION CLOSES: FRIDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2027

Application forms can be downloaded from www.jameshopecollege.edu.ng under the "admission" tab or can be collected from James Hope College, Twin Lakes Estate, Lekki, Lagos.

OPEN DAYS

DATE: SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 2026 & SATURDAY 9TH JANUARY, 2027

TIME: 9AM TO 12:30PM

DOWNLOAD APPLICATION FORMS

Follow us on all our social media handles:

@jameshopecollege James Hope @JHCLekki

Tel: +2347083662229, +2347018282065, +2347085369376, +2347015349257

Email: admission@jameshope.edu.ng

Web: www.jameshopecollege.edu.ng

ATLANTURE INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER CODE OF PRACTICE SUBMITTED BY ATLANTURE ENGINEERING SERVICES LIMITED IN FULFILLMENT OF SALES AND INSTALLATION LICENSE OBLIGATION

Introduction

1. PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS

1.1 Description of Services:
Atlanture Engineering Services Ltd provides specialized civil and maintenance services for telecom companies. Our core service offerings include:

- **Site Maintenance:** Preventative and corrective maintenance of telecom sites, including generator servicing, HVAC maintenance, tower light repairs, and general site upkeep.
- **Fiber Installation:** Turnkey solutions for fiber optic cable installation, including trenching, blowing, splicing, termination, and Material (Civil, Materials) supplies.
- **Infrastructure Support:** Provision of technical personnel, equipment, and logistical support for network rollouts, site upgrades, and emergency recovery.

1.2 Service Contracts:
A formal contract or Statement of Work (SOW) shall govern the provision of all services. Atlanture Engineering Services Ltd shall supply a copy of this contract upon request. Contracts shall be written in plain and clear language and will specify the scope of work, deliverables, timelines, and the specific commencement and termination dates, subject to the termination provisions contained therein.

1.3 Pricing Information:
Pricing for services, including rates for site maintenance visits, fiber installation per meter, and daily rates for infrastructure support, shall be detailed in the contract or SOW. Any request for tariff changes or variation orders shall be communicated in writing, subject to mutual agreement, and implemented only after the requisite approvals are obtained from the consumer.

1.4 Contract Terms and Termination:
All terms and conditions governing service provision, including liability, intellectual property (where applicable), and grounds for termination, shall be clearly stated in the contract. Consumers will be informed of their right to terminate the contract in accordance with its terms, including any applicable notice periods.

1.5 Product Warranties and Maintenance:
For fiber installation and infrastructure support, ATLANTURE ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD warrants that all work shall be performed to industry standards and in accordance with the agreed specifications. A defect liability period may apply to installation work, during which the Company shall rectify any faults arising from substandard workmanship or materials at no extra cost. Site maintenance activities are governed by service level agreements specifying response and resolution times.

1.6 Fault Repairs and Service Interruption:
In the event of service interruption due to a fault on installed infrastructure or a site maintenance issue, the Company shall deploy resources to diagnose and rectify the fault in accordance with the agreed Service Level Agreement. If a service for which a consumer has been billed cannot be delivered due to the Company's inability to rectify a fault within the agreed timeframe, the consumer will be offered a credit or remediation as specified in the contract. Force majeure events, such as natural disasters or community disturbances affecting site access, shall be handled as per the contract's force majeure clause.

1.7 Subscription of Service:
Consumers may request services by issuing a valid Purchase Order or service request through a convenient channel (e.g., email, dedicated portal). Upon request, Atlanture Engineering Services Ltd shall confirm acceptance of the order and provide the consumer with clear information on the commencement of work.

2.1 Availability of Services:
Atlanture Engineering Services Ltd's site maintenance, fiber installation, and infrastructure support services are available to telecom companies and licensed operators operating in Nigeria. Service delivery may be subject to regulatory permits, right-of-way approvals, and geographical or security constraints. The Company will inform consumers of such limitations prior to project commencement where known.

2.2 Advertising of Packaged Services:
Where the Company advertises a bundled service package (e.g., "Fiber Installation & Site Power Maintenance"), it should ensure it has the capacity and capability to supply all components of the package. If any component cannot be supplied, appropriate information about this limitation shall be clearly stated in the advertising or proposal materials.

2.3 Internet Connections:
Atlanture Engineering Services Ltd provides the infrastructure support (fibre, site power) necessary for internet connectivity but does not directly provide internet access services to end-users. However, we shall provide internet connection in our facilities but not oblige in providing internet connections to customers. Such internetconnection must be adequately secured from intruders and must comply with cyber security policy.

2.4 Disclaimer:
The Company includes disclaimers in its proposals and contracts to cover situations where service provision may be hindered by factors beyond its reasonable control, including but not limited to regulatory changes, delays in third-party approvals (e.g., Right of Way permits), unavailability of materials, or force majeure events such as acts of God, war, or civil unrest.

2.5 Telemarketing:
Atlanture Engineering Services Ltd shall not engage in unsolicited telemarketing. All business development communications will be targeted and respectful of the recipient's preference to opt out of future communications.

3.1 Billing Information:
Atlanture will not provide any services directly to the end user/network operators subscribers and as such there would be need to bill any subscriber. Atlanture will provide infrastructures and solutions to enable network operators manage their call centers. The call centers would primarily be set up by network operators so that customers/subscribers enquiries can be effectively managed. Atlanture has no service and no contract with end users and would not have any basis to bill them. Atlanture shall ensure that at a minimum, the following information is included in any bills issued or accessed by it or on its behalf:

- The Customer's billing name and address;
- Atlanture current business name, address and registered number;
- A way of identifying the bill uniquely;
- The billing period; Description of the charges (and credits) for which the Customer is billed;
- The total amount billed, applicable credits, payments or discounts, and the net amount payable by the Customer (or repayable by Atlanture);
- The date on which the bill is issued;
- The bill (or refund) payment due date;
- Methods of bill (or refund) payment;

3.2 Itemization of Charges:
Where a project involves multiple activities, charges may be itemized on the invoice to reflect the specific tasks completed, such as labor hours, materials used, and equipment hire, in accordance with the agreed contract rates.

3.3 Timing for Issuance of Bill:
Invoices shall be issued in accordance with the billing schedule defined in the contract, typically, upon completion of a milestone or on a monthly basis for ongoing site maintenance. The Company shall issue invoices within a reasonable timeframe, not exceeding ten (10) days following the end of the billing period or project milestone.

3.4 Receipts and Consumer Payment Advice:
Upon receipt of payment, the Company shall issue a formal receipt or acknowledge payment via a statement of account. Consumers can verify their payment status by requesting a statement from the Company's finance department.

3.5 Billing Frequency:
Billing frequency (e.g., monthly, quarterly, per project) shall be agreed upon in the contract. The Company shall provide consumers with written notification of any proposed changes to billing frequency at least sixty (60) days before such changes are implemented. Consumers shall be informed of their right to object to or opt out of the service in response to such changes.

3.6 Non-Payment of Bills:
Consumers are expected to make timely payment of all valid and undisputed invoices in accordance with the agreed payment terms. Failure to pay undisputed amounts may result in the suspension of ongoing site maintenance or infrastructure support activities until payment is received, as provided in the contract.

3.7 Prepaid Services:
Standard site maintenance, fiber installation, and infrastructure support services are typically provided on a credit basis with defined payment terms (e.g., 30 days post - invoice). Prepaid terms may be negotiated on a project-by-project basis, particularly for material procurement or short-term engagements.

Consumers (Telecom Companies) are expected to:

- Provide timely access to sites for maintenance or installation activities.
- Ensure all necessary permits, approvals, and right-of-way access are secured where required.

ATLANTURE
ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD

- Make timely payment of all applicable charges as per the agreed terms.
- Comply with all health and safety regulations when Company personnel are on-site.
- Provide accurate information regarding site conditions and existing infrastructure.

5.1 Data Gathering:
The Company collects consumer data (e.g., site locations, technical specifications, contact information) for the sole purpose of delivering contracted services. Data is gathered with the explicit consent of the consumer and is limited to what is strictly necessary for project execution, billing, and legal compliance.

5.2 Data Storage:
All consumer data, including sensitive site information and project documents, is stored on secure, encrypted servers with access strictly limited to authorized personnel on a need-to-know basis. The Company adheres to a strict data retention policy, retaining data only for as long as necessary for service delivery, legal compliance, or dispute resolution.

5.3 Data Sharing:
The Company upholds a strict policy against the unauthorized sale of consumer data. Information may be shared with trusted partners, such as subcontractors or suppliers, only to the extent necessary for the technical delivery of the service. All such partners are bound by strict contractual agreements to ensure equivalent data protection. Data will only be disclosed to regulatory authorities when required by law.

6.1 Information to Consumers:
Atlanture shall ensure that its complaints procedure is accessible in various media and formats or as directly specified by the NCC from time to time. Information on the complaints procedure shall include:

Consumers' right to lodge complaint
Mode of lodging the complaint to the Host
Requisite documents required to lodge a valid complaint
Means to enquire on status of complaint

The procedure must be expressed in clear language and the Consumer must be able to identify how to lodge a complaint either physically or via dedicated online platforms Consumer complaints shall be duly recorded and processed in accordance with identified practices and procedures.

6.2 Special Needs:
The Company shall make reasonable accommodations to assist consumers with special needs in lodging and resolving complaints related to service delivery, billing, or site access.

6. 3 Complaint Processes:
Atlanture Engineering Services Ltd operates a dedicated service desk for complaints and inquiries, reachable during working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) and via email. Consumers can contact:
- Help Desk: 08080232211
- Email: info@atlanture-eng.com
- Office: Suite C189, Ikota Shopping Complex, Ajah, Lagos.
The Company shall acknowledge all complaints within 48 hours and endeavor to provide a resolution plan promptly.

6.4 Charges:
Atlanture complaint handling processes shall be provided free of charge. However, any complain that requires the retrieval of records more than twenty-four (24) months shall attract charges which the consumers must be informed and agreed to.

6.5 Further Recourse:
If a consumer remains dissatisfied with the Company's final response to a complaint, they have the right to refer the matter to the Nigerian Communications Commission

for further review and mediation.

6.6 Action on Disputed Charges:
If an invoice or charge is disputed, the consumer shall notify the Company in writing. The Company shall investigate the dispute and, if resolved in favor of the consumer,issue a credit note or adjust future invoices accordingly. 6.7 Data Collection and

Analysis of Complaints & Outcome:

The Company shall maintain a recording system for all complaints. This system will track the nature of the complaint (e.g., billing, service quality, site access), the resolution provided, and the timeframe for resolution, allowing for trend analysis and process improvement.

6.8 Changes to Complaint Handling Processes:
Any material changes to the complaint handling process shall be communicated to consumers via the Company's website or direct notice.

6.9 Retention of Records:
Records of complaints and their resolution shall be retained for a period of at least twenty-four (24) months following the resolution of the complaint, or as otherwise directed by the NCC.



CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PURCHASING AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT OF NIGERIA

ESTABLISHED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT No. 21 OF 2007

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Tel: 08037879666, E-mail cipsng@yahoo.com, Website: www.cipsmn.com.

LAGOS OFFICE: 27, Shipeolu Street, Onipanu Junction, Shomolu,
P.O. Box 6995, Surulere, Lagos.
Tel: 08131098063, E-mail:cipsng@yahoo.com, **Website:** www.cipsmn.com.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the

17TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Management of Nigeria shall hold as follows:

Date: Thursday 17th December, 2026.
Venue: Capital City Wetland Hotel,
Plot No. 1022, Cadastral Zone B03,
Off Olusegun Obasanjo Way,
Wuye - Abuja.

Time: 9:00 a.m Prompt

AGENDA

- To receive the President's Statement and Registrar's Report for the period ended 31st December, 2025
- To present and receive Audited Accounts and Reports for the year ended 31st December, 2025
- To adopt the Statement, Reports and Audited Accounts
- Election of New Officers
- Any other business

REGISTRATION/ATTENDANCE FEES ARE AS STATED BELOW:

Fellow Members	Associate Members	Chartered Members	Graduate Members	Student Members
N10, 000	N 8,000	N 7,500	N 3,500	N 2,000

NOTE: All members with adequate and up-to-date financial status with the Institute in the payment of their Annual Subscriptions and other levies are eligible to attend.

By Order of the National Secretary

For enquiries:

08037678198 / 08037879866 / 08023437672/ 08023021374
Or
E-mail: cipsng@yahoo.com, Website: www.cipsmn.com.



PUBLIC NOTICE

INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF
SEBECCLY CANCER CARE & SUPPORT CENTRE

The general public is hereby notified that the above-named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for a change of its trustees under Part "F" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020

Change:

i. Dr. Fred Omotayo Omojole (Resigned)
ii. Prof. Josbert Thomas Kofi Duncan (Death)
iii. Dr. Dorothy Esangbedo (Resigned)
iv. Dr Rose Inuoma Anorlu (Resigned)
v. Dr Babatunde Salako (Appointment)
vi. Prof Kehinde Okunade (Appointment)
vii. Dr Gospel Obele (Appointment)
viii. Dr David Atuwo (Appointment)
ix. Dr Glory Edozien (Appointment)
x. Mrs Kemi Oyegbile (Appointment)

Following the change, the composition of the Board of Trustees will be as follows:

1. Dr. Omolola Salako
2. Engr. Mrs. Adetoro Omojole
3. Dr Babatunde Salako
4. Prof Kehinde Okunade
5. Dr Gospel Obele
6. Dr David Atuwo
7. Dr Glory Edozien
8. Mrs Kemi Oyegbile

Any objection to the proposed change of trustees should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

SEBECCLY CANCER CARE & SUPPORT CENTRE

VACANCIES

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

The Marketing Executive is responsible for planning and executing marketing strategies to promote the organization's services, enhance brand awareness, and generate leads. The role involves both field and digital marketing activities to drive business growth.

Job Description
Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement marketing strategies to achieve organizational goals
- Conduct market research to identify trends, competitor activities, and opportunities
- Plan and execute promotional campaigns (online and offline)
- Build and maintain relationships with clients and corporate partners
- Coordinate with internal departments for campaign execution
- Organize events and promotional activities
- Manage social media platforms and digital marketing activities
- Prepare marketing materials such as brochures, presentations, and advertisements
- Generate leads and follow up to convert them into business
- Ensure brand consistency across all marketing channels

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Business Administration, or related field
- 3-4 years of experience in marketing (Hospitality experience preferred)
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of digital marketing tools and social media platform
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Good presentation and negotiation skills
- Willingness for fieldwork

MARKETING MANAGER

Role Description
The Marketing Manager is a full-time, on-site role based in Lekki, responsible for driving brand visibility, customer engagement, and revenue growth across Twinwaters' restaurants, event suites, retail spaces, rooftop lounge, and gaming arcade. Day-to-day tasks include developing and executing marketing strategies and campaigns, coordinating promotional events and partnerships. The Marketing Manager will collaborate closely with operations, sales, events, and restaurant teams to ensure consistent brand messaging and effective promotion of all Twinwaters offerings.

Qualifications

- STRONG MARKETING STRATEGY TO DRIVE REVENUE GROWTH
- Experience with event marketing, hospitality or retail marketing, and customer engagement initiatives.
- Ability to conduct market research, analyze data, and use insights to optimize marketing activities.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with attention to detail and brand consistency.
- Demonstrated project management abilities, including prioritization, time management, and cross-functional coordination.
- Proficiency with marketing tools and analytics platforms (e.g., social media dashboards, email marketing tools, basic CRM or POS reporting).
- Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Business, Communications, or a related field, or equivalent practical experience.
- Previous experience in hospitality, entertainment, retail, or lifestyle brands is highly beneficial.
- Ability to work on-site in Lekki, maintain professional conduct with diverse guests and colleagues, and adapt to a fast-paced environment.
- 3 to 5 years experience required

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS FULL TIME MARKETING MANAGER ROLE NOT DIGITAL MARKETING OR BRAND MANAGER

METHOD OF APPLICATION : Interested applicants should send their CV to: bukola.oshuntoye@abbstal.com; not later than two weeks from the date of publication. Only qualified candidates will be contacted.

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OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

www.fuoye.edu.ng

Km 3, Oye-Are Road, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POST OF REGISTRAR

The Federal University Oye-Ekiti hereby announces that the position of **REGISTRAR** will be vacant by 2nd February, 2027 and so invites interested and suitably qualified individuals to apply as stated below:

The Institution

The Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, is one of the Universities established by the Federal Government in 2011 to enhance access to tertiary education in Nigeria. The rationale for establishing the Federal University Oye-Ekiti includes, among others, responsive approach to global academic expectations and excellence; access to quality education and inculcate a culture of lifelong learning in students.

The University runs two campuses with the main campus at Oye-Ekiti and the second campus at Ikole-Ekiti. The University operates a near collegiate system with six (6) Colleges and seventeen (17) Faculties. The University also runs a School of Postgraduate Studies and Distance Learning Programmes.

The Position

The Registrar is a Principal Officer and the Chief Administrative Officer of the University. He/She is the Secretary to the Governing Council, Senate, Congregation, Convocation and other Statutory Committees of the University. He/She is also the Custodian of the University's records and is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration of the University. He/She shall perform such other duties as the Council and the Vice-Chancellor may, from time to time, require him/her to do.

Requirements for the Candidate

The Candidate must possess a first degree with a minimum of Second Class Lower Division from a recognised University with at least fifteen (15) years relevant, post-qualification experience in administration of an institution of higher learning. Possession of relevant higher degree shall be an added advantage. Membership of a recognized and appropriate professional body such as ANUPA, NIM, IPMN, ICA, AHEP etc. is mandatory.

The Candidate applying for the above position should:

i. have demonstrable evidence of leadership;
ii. not be more than sixty (60) years upon appointment;
iii. be focused, innovative, technology savvy, with understanding of digital analyses, communication and Artificial Intelligence (AI); and
iv. be in excellent physical and mental health.

Terms and Conditions of Service Applicable to the Position

The successful applicant shall hold the position for a single term of five (5) years on such conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment. The remuneration and other conditions of service are as applicable to the position of the Registrar in all Federal Universities in Nigeria and as may be determined from time to time by the Federal Government of Nigeria/Governing Council of the University.

Method of Application

The applicants are required to submit their application through this link *careers.fuoye.edu.ng* to the Registrar not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

Signed
Mufutau A. IBRAHIM
Registrar and Secretary to Council
08030651986

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OYE-EKITI

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

www.fuoye.edu.ng

Km 3, Oye-Are Road, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POST OF BURSAR

The Federal University Oye-Ekiti hereby announces that the position of **BURSAR** will be vacant by 2nd February, 2027 and so invites interested and suitably qualified individuals to apply as stated below:

The Institution

The Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, is one of the Universities established by the Federal Government in 2011 to enhance access to tertiary education in Nigeria. The rationale for establishing the Federal University Oye-Ekiti includes, among others, responsive approach to global academic expectations and excellence; access to quality education and inculcate a culture of lifelong learning in students.

The University runs two campuses with the main campus at Oye-Ekiti and the second campus at Ikole-Ekiti. The University is at the verge of adopting a near collegiate system with six (6) Colleges and seventeen (17) Faculties. The University also runs a School of Postgraduate Studies and Distance Learning Programmes.

The Position

The Bursar is a Principal Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of the University. He/She is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration and control of the financial affairs of the University. He/she should be able to coordinate the preparation of financial records and provide the University Management and the Governing Council with appropriate advice on all the institution's financial transactions while ensuring compliance with extant financial regulations.

Requirements for the Candidate

The Candidate must possess a first degree with a minimum of Second Class Lower Division from a recognised University with at least fifteen (15) years relevant, post-qualification experience in an institution of higher learning. Membership of a recognized and appropriate professional body such as ICAN, ACCA, ACA, ICMA, ANAN etc. is mandatory.

The Candidate applying for the above position should:

i. have demonstrable evidence of leadership;
ii. not be more than sixty (60) years upon appointment;
iii. be focused, innovative, technology savvy, with understanding of digital analyses, communication and Artificial Intelligence (AI); and
iv. be in excellent physical and mental health.

Terms and Conditions of Service Applicable to the Position

The successful applicant shall hold the position for a single term of five (5) years on such conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment. The remuneration and other conditions of service are as applicable to the position of the Bursar in all Federal Universities in Nigeria and as may be determined from time to time by the Federal Government of Nigeria/Governing Council of the University.

Method of Application

The applicants are required to submit their application through this link *careers.fuoye.edu.ng* to the Registrar not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

Signed
Mufutau A. IBRAHIM
Registrar and Secretary to Council
08030651986

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM NES#32

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CEO, Olaniwun Ajayi LP, Adenike Adeyemi; Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, H.E. Abhishek Singh; Minister of Humanitarian Affairs & Poverty Alleviation, Bernard Doro and MD/CEO, Sterling Bank, Abubakar Suleiman during the closing plenary on Connecting Growth to Households.



Partner, Bola Ajibola and Co, Akin Ajibola; Director-General, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission, Jobson Ewaleifoh; Head, Investment Banking, FirstCap, Ltd, Tonna Ejiofor; Executive Director, The Infrastructure Bank PLC, Barbara Izilein and Head of Cooperation, European Union Delegation to Nigeria and the Economic Community of West African States, Massimo De Luca during the Side Event on Law as Infrastructure: Building Predictability into Public-Private Partnerships.



Executive Director, Ernest Shonekan Centre, Dr. Uchenna Ogbonna during the Launch of NESG/ESC Legislative Bill Tracker.



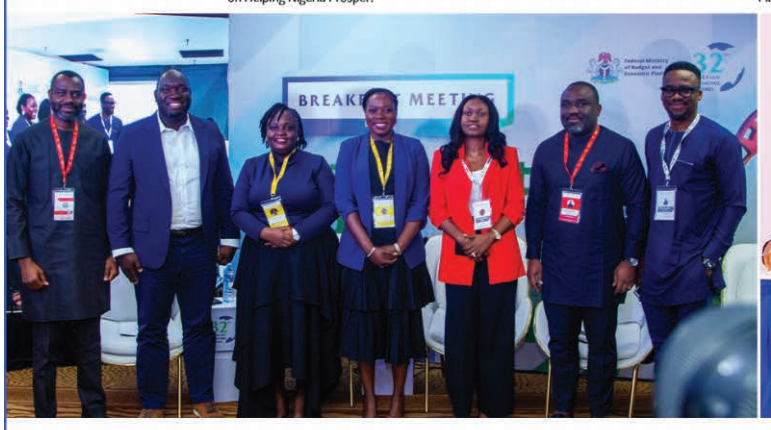
Olaitan Martins-GE, Corporate Banking Directorate, Shehu Aliyu- ED, Public Sector Directorate, Dennis Ajai -Head, Business Planning & Dev, Public Sector Directorate during the Breakfast Session on Helping Nigeria Prosper.



CEO, NESG, Tayo Aduloju; Board Member, NESG, Amina Maina; Current Board Chairman, NESG, Omoboyede Olusanya; Managing Partner, Verraki, Olaniyi Yusuf and Minister for Budget and Economic Planning, Abubakar A. Bagudu during the closing ceremony.



Board Member, NESG, Nnanna Ude; Managing Partner, Verraki, Olaniyi Yusuf; Board Member, Ernest Shonekan Centre, Wonu Adetayo and Chairman, Ernest Shonekan Centre, Kyari Bukar during the Launch of NESG/ESC Legislative Bill Tracker.



MD/CEO, Sterling Bank, Abubakar Suleiman; Group CEO, AFEX, Ayodeji Balogun; CEO, Sterling One Foundation, Olapeju Ibekwe; CEO, Teach For Nigeria, Molade Adeniyi; Group Head of Education Finance at Sterling Bank, Yonodu Okeugo; Board Member, NESG, Lanre Akinbo and MD/CEO, Development Bank of Nigeria, Tony Okpanachi during Sterling Bank Breakfast Session on Scaling that Works at NES#32.



Chair, Central Organizing Committee, NES32, Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia; Co-Chair, Public Sector, Felix Okonkwo; Managing Partner, Verraki, Olaniyi Yusuf; Current Board Chairman, NESG, Omoboyede Olusanya and CEO, NESG, Tayo Aduloju during the Press conference.



Managing Partner, Verraki, Olaniyi Yusuf; Managing Director, J.P. Morgan Chase, Dapo Olagunju; President, U.S.-Africa Business Centre, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Kendra Gaither; Chairman/MD, Chevron Nigeria/Mid-Africa, Jim Swartz and President, Association of Licensed Telecoms Operators of Nigeria, Gbenga Adebayo during plenary IV on Innovation, Investment and the Next Decade of Partnerships.

ILO moves to tackle global informal employment crisis

By **Gloria Nwafor**

THE International Labour Organisation (ILO) has begun deliberations on a proposed six-year global roadmap to move workers from informal employment into the formal economy, as concerns mount over precarious jobs, weak labour protection, and limited access to social security worldwide.

The roadmap, covering 2027 to 2032, is among the key issues before the ILO Governing Body at its 358th Session, which opened on Nov 9 at the organisation's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and will run until November 19.

The proposed framework is expected to advance efforts to reduce informality and promote decent working conditions, with implications for millions of workers operating outside formal employment and social protection systems.

The discussions come as the changing nature of employment, particularly the expansion of digital labour platforms, raises fresh questions about workers' rights, employment status and access to decent working conditions.

Consequently, the Governing Body is also following up on the ILO's standard-setting discussions on decent work in the platform economy, an area that has become increasingly important in debates about the future of work and the protection of workers in emerging employment arrangements.

A major highlight of the session will be the election and appointment of a new ILO Director-General on November 16. The successful candidate will serve a five-year term from October 1, 2027, to September 30, 2032.

The appointment comes at a critical period for the organisation, which is expected to sustain its work on labour standards, decent employment, social protection and the challenges associated with changing global labour markets.

The Governing Body will also review the organisation's financial position, including contingency measures introduced to address financial challenges, progress in implementing institutional reforms and preliminary proposals for the 2028–29 Programme and Budget.

Also on the agenda are country-specific developments on applying international labour conventions, including follow-up issues concerning Belarus, Myanmar and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Network constitutes board to strengthen governance

From **Mansur Aramide**, Ilorin

THE Temitope Amiwo Broadcast Network (TABN) has constituted a seven-member Board of Trustees (BoT) as part of efforts to strengthen its governance structure and advance its formal registration with the government.

The election, held recently, marked a significant step in the organisation's administrative development and the establishment of a formal leadership framework to oversee its activities.

Raphael Eledewo emerged as chairman of the board, while Olafimihan Ajoke was elected secretary and Tajudeen Ayanlere as treasurer.

Other board members include Olusegun Ajileye, Otitoju Omolabake, Ezekiel Oludele and Tope Animasahun.

Speaking on the development, Eledewo said the election was part of the organisation's efforts to establish an effective governing structure and strengthen its administrative processes.

The new board is expected to provide strategic oversight, guide the affairs of the network and support the implementation of its aims and objectives.

Its constitution is also expected to strengthen institutional accountability and provide the organisational framework required for TABN's continued growth and development.

AIB Founders' Award celebrates Nigerian entrepreneurs, names 12 rising leaders

By **Silver Nwokoro**

THE Aisha Ibrahim Babangida (AIB) Founders' Award has honoured outstanding entrepreneurs, business leaders and institutions for their contributions to enterprise development, innovation and economic growth in Nigeria and across Africa.

The second edition of the award, hosted by the Women Enterprise Alliance (WenA), was held on October 30, 2026, in Abuja, under the theme, "Celebrating Excellence."

A major highlight of the event was the introduction of the AIB Next Rated Founder 2026–2027, which recognised 12 promising entrepreneurs for their potential to shape the future of enterprise development.

The initiative aimed to give emerging founders greater visibility and encouragement while recognising their innovative solutions, early business achievements, value creation, and capacity to build sustainable enterprises.

Adekanmbi assures Oyo pensioners of prompt settlement of pensions

From **Rotimi Agboluaje**, Ibadan

THE governorship candidate of the Allied Peoples' Movement (APM) in Oyo State, Bimbo Adekanmbi, has assured pensioners and residents that they would not suffer under his administration if elected governor in 2027.

Adekanmbi also pledged to sustain salaries, pensions, and other benefits, saying he would build on the achievements of past administrations and perform better than the incumbent governor, Seyi Makinde.

The APM candidate gave the assurances during an interactive session with members of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP), Oyo State Council, held at Agbarigo, Ibadan, where he presented aspects of his political and governance agenda.

He declared that his experience and familiarity with the state's needs would enable him to deliver on his promises.

He said, "I will use experience gathered from past governors to take Oyo to greater heights. I am 7.0. I won't disappoint you on salary and pension payments.

"I have first-hand knowledge of all the nooks and crannies of Oyo State. I have toured all the local governments several times. If Seyi Makinde has done well, I want to do more. I know the needs of all regions of the state."

Adekanmbi also promised to improve on Makinde's performance, assuring pensioners that their entitlements would remain a priority under his administration.

"I will do better than Governor Seyi Makinde. I will keep my promises. I will continue to pay your pensions and benefits under the Bimbo Adekanmbi administration. You won't suffer under my government," he said.

He also challenged other gubernatorial candidates to present their programmes and explain how they intended to address the needs of the people.

"Let us, other candidates, come and explain what we would do," he added.

On the conduct of the 2027 governorship election, Adekanmbi urged vigilance, saying his supporters would be on alert to prevent electoral malpractice.

"We will be vigilant and guard against rigging," he said.

The APM candidate's remarks come as political activities gradually gather momentum ahead of the 2027 governorship election in Oyo State.

Insurer honoured with FT–World Bank award for digital innovation

By **Bankole Orimisan**

HEIRS Insurance Group has won the Africa Sustainable Futures Award in the Critical Infrastructure (Non-Energy) category for using digital technology to expand insurance access and promote financial inclusion among underserved communities in Nigeria.

The Financial Times, in partnership with the World Bank Group's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), presented the award at the closing ceremony of the 2026 Africa Summit in London on October 22.

The recognition highlighted the growing role of digital technology in addressing barriers to insurance adoption, particularly in markets where large sections of the population remain outside the formal insurance system.

At the centre of the group's initiative is Prince AI, which the company described as Nigeria's first multilingual generative artificial intelligence insurance assistant. The platform uses AI and local-language capabilities to simplify insurance information and help users understand available protection products. The initiative is supported by the group's USSD platform, mobile application, digital distribution and bancassurance channels, which it said have helped extend insurance access to more than three million people.

The group also linked its digital expansion strategy to customer trust and service delivery, including its pledge to settle validated claims within 48 hours.

Speaking on the recognition, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Heirs Life Assurance, Niyi Onifade, said the award validated the company's commitment to making insurance simple, accessible and reliable.

He said millions of Nigerians remained outside the formal insurance system, exposing them to financial uncertainty, and added that technology was helping the group address the gap.

Onifade said the combination of artificial intelligence, multilingual services and customer-focused distribution was helping bring financial protection closer to underserved populations without compromising service quality.

The Critical Infrastructure (Non-Energy) category recognised private-sector initiatives that strengthened essential infrastructure and improved livelihoods through sustainable and scalable solutions.

The award also highlighted the potential of digital financial services to support economic resilience by widening access to risk protection for individuals, households and businesses.

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ECOWAS Court at crossroads over unenforced judgments

THE creation of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice was designed as an institutional response to obvious gaps in West Africa's integration project. Many decades after, enforcing judgments remains a concern, as member states continue to undermine the judicial institution via disregard for its rulings. ***Yetunde Ayobami Ojo*** *writes.*

WHEN the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established in 1975, its focus was largely economic trade liberalisation, free movement and regional cooperation.

Over time, it became clear that economic integration without a binding legal order would remain precariouswithout a credible judicial mechanism.

It was against this backdrop that the 1991 Protocol formally established the ECOWAS Court as the principal legal organ of the community, mandated to interpret and apply the Revised Treaty. However, its transformation into a truly consequential institution came with the 2005 Supplementary Protocol, which expanded its jurisdiction to include human rights violations and, crucially, granted individuals direct access to the court.

That singular reform altered the trajectory of the court by allowing ordinary citizens across West Africa, including Nigerians, who began to approach it as an alternative forum for justice, particularly in cases where domestic remedies appeared ineffective or compromised.

Since then, the court has developed a significant body of jurisprudence. According to official figures, it has received 737 initiating applications, delivered 465 judgments and 145 rulings, and issued advisory opinions while holding over1,500 sessions. Yet, behind these numbers lies a more troubling statistic - poor enforcement of its judgments by member states.

Estimates have placed compliance at roughly 20 to 22 per cent. As of June 2026, Nigeria leads the region with 54 unenforced judgments, followed by Togo with 36 and Guinea with 17. Other countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Senegal, also recorded multiple instances of non-compliance.

This persistent failure to enforce judgments raises a fundamental concern about how a court that lacks compliance can truly dispense justice.

One of the most cited cases is SERAP v. Federal Republic of Nigeria (2010), where the ECOWAS Court held that the right to education is justiciable and that the Nigerian government has an obligation to provide free and compulsory basic education. The case arose from allegations of corruption and mismanagement of funds meant for the Universal Basic Education programme.

The court ordered Nigeria to take concrete steps to address the violations. Despite the clarity of the judgment, implementation has remained limited. While Nigeria continues to allocate resources to education, systemic issues ranging from underfunding to infrastructure deficits have persisted, raising questions about the extent to which the judgment has influenced policy.

In another case, SERAP v. Nigeria (2012), the court addressed the mismanagement of public funds in the education sector. It directed the government to account for missing funds and ensure transparency.Yet, more than a decade later, concerns about accountability in public spending remained a recurring issue in governance.

Perhaps more direct in terms of compensation is the case of Chief Ebrima Manneh v. The Gambia. It established a critical precedent on unlawful detention that has influenced subsequent Nigerian cases before the ECOWAS Court.

In the case of Registered Trustees of SERAP v. Federal Republic of Nigeria (2016) concerning the failure to provide adequate electricity, the court recognised that access to electricity is linked to the enjoyment of fundamental human rights, including the right to an adequate standard of living. While the judgment did not fix a specific compensation amount, it imposed obligations on the Nigerian government to take steps towards improving access.

In Jonah Gbemre v. Shell Petroleum Development Company & Nigeria, the domestic case influenced environmental rights discourse that has since been echoed in ECOWAS Court litigation involving Nigeria, particularly in matters relating to the Niger Delta region.

A more concrete compensation case is that of Dorothy Njemanze & Others v. Federal Republic of Nigeria (2017), where the Court found Nigeria guilty of human rights violations involving the arbitrary arrest and inhumane treatment of women during raids in Abuja.

The court had awarded damages amounting to N6 million to each applicant. Despite the clarity of the ruling, enforcement has been slow, with reports indicating delays in full compliance.

Similarly, in Godwin Ojo v. Federal Republic of Nigeria (2019), involving arbitrary detention and violation of personal liberty, the court ordered compensation running into millions of naira. As with many other judgments, compliance has not been immediate, reflecting a broader pattern.

Another notable case is Abacha v. Fawehinmi (though decided by Nigerian courts), which laid the groundwork for the domestication of international human rights norms.



CJN, Kudirat Kekere-Ekun



President of ECOWAS Court of Justice, Charlyne M.Brumskine.

Group warns against personal attacks on judges, urges restraint

By **Joseph Onyekwere**

THE Citizens for Good Governance, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Initiative (C4G) has defended the independence of Nigeria's judiciary amid growing public controversy surrounding a judgment delivered by Justice Peter Lifu of the Federal High Court in the leadership dispute within the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

Deputy Director General, C4G, Malam Suleiman Musa, in a statement, said the organisation expressed concern over comments attributed to Kenneth Okonkwo, a prominent ADC figure, and Prof Chidi Odinkalu, concerning Justice Lifu and the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice John Tsoho.

C4G maintained that disagreement with judicial decisions is legitimate in a constitutional democracy but should not degenerate into personal attacks, intimidation or attempts to undermine the institutional standing of judicial officers.

The controversy follows Justice Lifu's judgment of November 5, in suit marked FHC/ABJ/CS/1819/2025, filed by Nafiu Bala Gombe, concerning the emergence of the David Mark-led leadership of the ADC and the validity of consequential decisions and nominations made under that leadership.

According to C4G, the court examined how the party leadership emerged, and the legality of subsequent actions taken under that structure.

The judgment invalidated the processes in question and consequential nominations arising from them.

The organisation argued that political parties must operate within their constitutions and the applicable electoral laws, irrespective of the political influence or popularity of their leaders.

"Political parties are not private empires belonging to their most influential members. They are institutions governed by their constitutions and the laws of Nigeria. No political leader should assume that established procedures can be disregarded simply because a particular leadership enjoys political support", Musa stated.

The organisation noted that decisions from courts of coordinate jurisdiction raise important questions about the application of the doctrines of res judicata, issue estoppel, and the limits of judicial jurisdiction.

It maintained, however, that the appellate process must resolve these questions, with proper consideration of the parties, issues, causes of action, and reliefs involved in the respective proceedings.

ECOWAS Court awards Guinea-Bissau detainees 30m CFA francs

By **Ngozi Egenuka**

THE ECOWAS Community Court of Justice has ordered the Guinea-Bissau government to pay 30 million CFA francs in compensation to five political figures over violations of their fundamental human rights.

The court gave the ruling in Suit No. ECW/CCJ/APP/05/26, instituted in January by Nigerian law firm Adeola Oyinlade& Co, on behalf of the affected individualsfollowing their arbitrary detention by state authorities.

The applicants are former Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau and leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), Domingos Simões Pereira; senior lawyer and PAIGC leader, Octávio Lopes; politician and Social Renewal Party (PRS) leader, Roberto Mbes'ba; PAIGC elected lawmaker, Marciano Indi and party lawyer and political commentator, Augusto Nansambe.

The suit challenged their alleged arbitrary detention by Guinea-Bissau authorities, with the applicants seeking redress for violations of their fundamental rights.

Nansambe was reportedly assaulted and abducted from his residence by armed men on December 28, 2025, amid political tensions in the West African country.

The law firm, led by its Senior Partner and Lead Counsel, Adeola Austin Oyinlade, described the judgment as an affirmation of the rights to personal liberty, human dignity and effective judicial protection under regional and international human rights law.

Oyinlade said the case was not limited to the political standing of any of the applicants but concerned the protection of fundamental freedoms across West Africa.

"This case has never been merely about one individual. From the outset, we made clear that it was about safeguarding the dignity and fundamental freedoms of all citizens across West Africa", he said.

Oyinlade urged the Guinea-Bissau government to comply with the judgment, warning that the recognition of rights by a court would be meaningless without practical enforcement.

"We now expect fullcompliance with the judgment. A judicial ruling protecting personal liberty must not remain a mere declaration on paper. Justice is complete only when the rights recognised by the Court are effectively enjoyed by those to whom they belong."

The judgment was coming amid international concerns over political detentions and the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau following the November 2025 political crisis.

Judiciary cannot rescue nation without moderation, moral discipline - Agabi

From **Ameh Ochojila**, Abuja

FORMER Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Dr Godwin Kanu Agabi (SAN),has warned that the judiciary cannot rescue Nigeria from its challenges without moderation, moral discipline and a collective commitment to righteousness.

Agabi said the country's problems went beyond its economic, political and legal systems, arguing that no amount of judicial or institutional reforms could address the challenges without a fundamental change in the conduct and values of citizens.

He stated this while delivering a paper on 'Acceptable Conduct for Judicial Officers' at the 2026/2027 legal year of the Federal Capital Territory Judiciary, where he argued that the judiciary operated within a wider society whose prevailing values and behaviour inevitably influenced the administration of justice.

According to him, "the judiciary cannot help a nation totally lacking in moderation", stressing that Nigeria must address the moral failures undermining its institutions rather than continue to look to the courts alone for solutions.

The former AttorneyGeneral of the Federation said the conduct of a few judicial officers had damaged the public image of the entire judiciary, despite improvements recorded by the institution over the years.

He noted that Nigeria had more than 2,000 judges and justices across the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Federal High Court and state judiciaries, with thousands of magistrates and other judicial officers.

Agabi said even misconduct by a small percentage of judicial officers could undermine confidence in the entire institution, insisting that judges must avoid any conduct capable of bringing their integrity and impartiality into question.

He urged judicial officers to subject themselves to regular self-examination, uphold their oaths and resist the temptation to place personal wealth above justice.

According to him, judges must remain independent, impartial and competent, deciding cases strictly on the evidence and arguments presented before them rather than personal interests, external pressure or improper influence.

He also cautioned against litigants using the courts to secure advantages they could not obtain through other means, urging judges to remain vigilant against attempts to implicate them in wrongdoing.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN RESPECT OF THE GRANT OF A SPECIAL CONCESSION TO PROCESS "DOUBLE CONSENT" APPLICATIONS OVER LAND TRANSACTION

1. I, MRS. OLAYEMI ADETOLA OKUNNU of 403, Bornu way, Sabo Yaba, Lagos State hereby notify the General Public of my intention to process an application for the Grant of Governor's Consent IN RESPECT OF A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS NO. 1, OLORI OYENIKE OYELUDU STREET, VICTORIA CREST 2 ESTATE OR BLOCK 4, PLOT LXVIII, LYING AND BEING AT OJOMU FAMILY CHIEFTAINCY FAMILY LAND LAFIAJI AJIRAN ETI-OSA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA, MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 92.880 SQUARE METRES, formerly belonging to MR. OGHENEKUME OBIEROMAH of 18A, William Onoh Street, Chevy View Estate, Off Chevron Drive, Lekki, Lagos State.

2. Whereas

a. The property was vested in THE OJOMU CHIEFTAINCY FAMILY OF AJIRAN, LEKKI, ETI-OSA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, LAGOS STATE by virtue of The Lagos State Official Gazette No. 24 Vo. 27 dated the 23th day of June, 1994.

That HRM. OBA TUANI ADETUNJI AKINLOYE & ALHAJI (CHIEF) YEKINI OLAWALE BAKARE being the Family Head and Principal Member of the Ojomu Chieftaincy Family of Ajiran, Lekki, Eti-Osa Local Government Area, Lagos State, for themselves and on behalf of the Ojomu Chieftaincy Family sold the above mentioned property to MR. OGHENEKUME OBIEROMAH of 18A, William Onoh Street, Chevy View Estate, Off Chevron Drive, Lekki, Lagos State but MR. OGHENEKUME OBIEROMAH who did not perfect his title in line with Land Use Act subsequently sold to me.

b. That it is now expedient that I apply for the grant of Governor's Consent.

c. The Lagos State Government has also required this publication as a Notice to anyone who has an objection against my application for Governor's Consent to do so within 14 days of this publication.

3. That the Lagos State Government shall not be liable in respect of any claim or loss by any Third Party in respect of a refund of money paid in line with the registration of the title IN RESPECT OF A PORTION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS NO. 1, OLORI OYENIKE OYELUDU STREET, VICTORIA CREST 2 ESTATE OR BLOCK 4, PLOT LXVIII, LYING AND BEING AT OJOMU FAMILY CHIEFTAINCY FAMILY LAND LAFIAJI AJIRAN ETI-OSA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA, MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 92.880 SQUARE METRES.

4. That I shall be fully and sufficiently liable if found that I have misrepresented any facts or information in the application process at any point in time.

5. The general Public is placed on notice of my intention to register the transaction between myself, MRS. OLAYEMI ADETOLA OKUNNU of 403, Bornu way, Sabo Yaba, Lagos State and the previous owner, MR. OGHENEKUME OBIEROMAH of 18A, William Onoh Street, Chevy View Estate, Off Chevron Drive, Lekki, Lagos State.

6. Any objection to this publication should be made to the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Lands Bureau, Governor's, Alausa-Ikeja, Lagos

Signed:
MRS. OLAYEMI ADETOLA OKUNNU

Commission identifies registration irregularities across 10 states

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

modal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), would prevent multiple accreditation and voting during the elections.

He explained that voters would be required to appear physically at their designated polling units for biometric authentication through fingerprints or facial recognition.

Meanwhile, the commission said final reconciliation, quality assurance and publication checks were ongoing ahead of the release of the Final Register on December 15, 2026.

CJN warns against conflicting court orders

THE preparations for the 2027 election petitions also featured a warning by Kekere-Ekun to lawyers against filing multiple suits on the same subject matter, seeking conflicting orders from courts of coordinate jurisdiction and using ex parte applications to gain tactical advantages in electoral disputes.

She gave the warning in Abuja while addressing judges nominated to serve on the 2027 Election Petition Tribunals during their swearing-in ceremony and a capacity-building workshop organised by the Court of Appeal.

The CJN said such practices could undermine the administration of justice and turn the courts into instruments of political contest.

With the presidential and National Assembly elections scheduled for January 16, 2027, and governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections fixed for February 6, she said public confidence in the electoral process would depend partly on the ability of the courts to resolve disputes fairly and within the timelines prescribed by law.

Kekere-Ekun cautioned judges against allowing political interests, public opinion or pressure from influential individuals to influence their decisions, stressing that election petitions must be determined strictly based on pleadings, evidence and applicable laws.

She said the popularity of a candidate, intensity of public opinion or influence of political interests could not substitute for legal proof.

"The courtroom must not become an extension of the political arena. Disputes must be resolved on the basis of the pleadings, evidence and applicable law," she said.

She reminded the judges that their judicial oath required them to administer justice without fear or favour, affection or ill will, adding that election adjudication demanded courage, patience, professional discipline and impartiality.

The CJN also warned political parties, candidates and their supporters against intimidating judicial officers or taking actions capable of undermining confidence in the adjudicatory process.

She extended the caution to social media users and media organisations, urging them to exercise restraint in circulating information about pending election disputes.

375 judges nominated for election tribunals

THE President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem, disclosed that 375 judicial officers had been nominated to serve on the 2027 Election Petition Tribunals across the country.

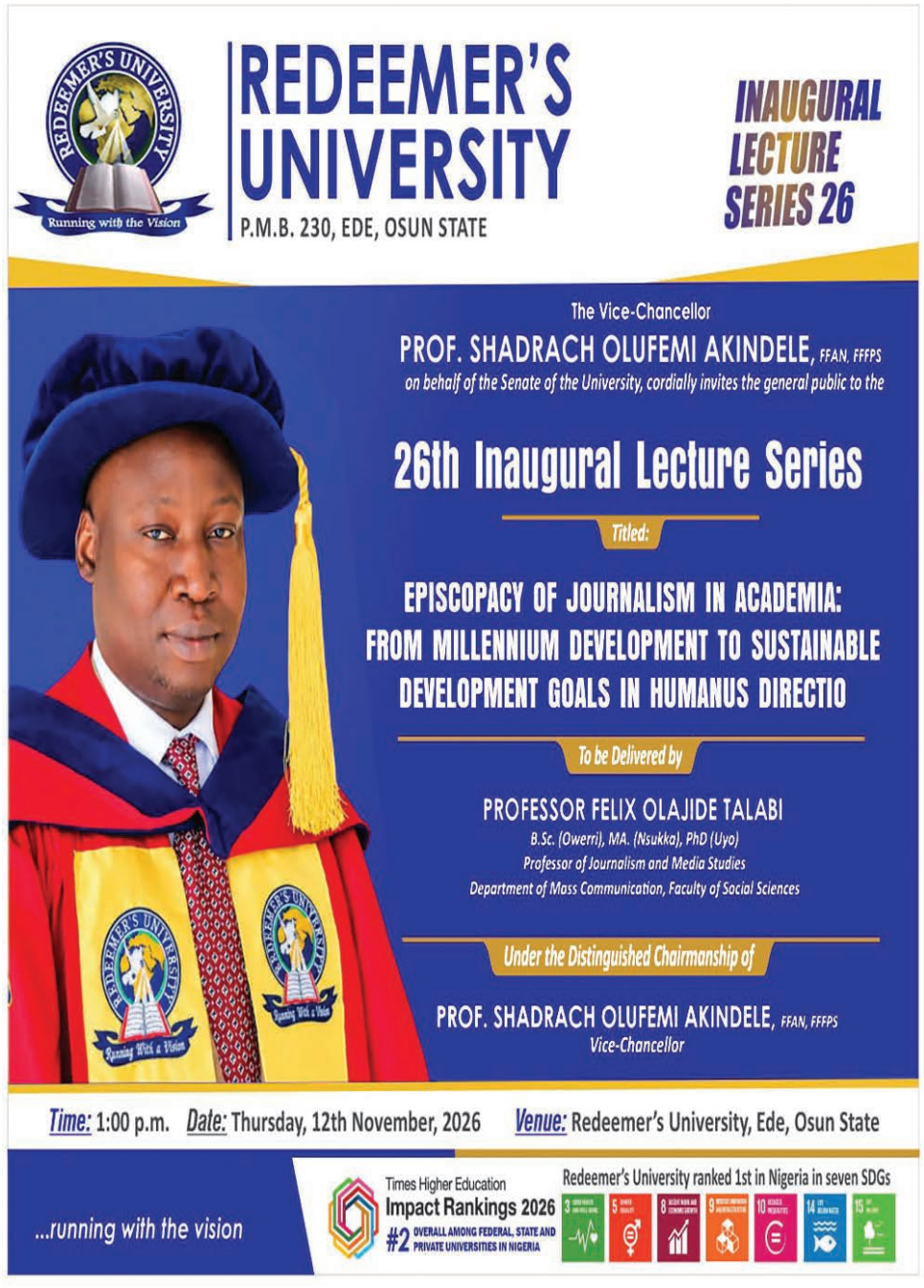
She said 138 of the nominees were returning members with previous tribunal experience, while 237 were newly nominated.

According to her, the selection followed consultations with heads of courts and the Nigerian Bar Association, based on professional competence, integrity, judicial temperament and experience.

She charged the judges to resist political pressure, inducement, intimidation and personal relationships capable of compromising their independence.

Dongban-Mensem also urged tribunal members to discourage unnecessary adjournments, warning that procedural indulgence must not frustrate timely adjudication.

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



PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND (PTDF)

PTDF Tower, Opposite Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre Near Silverbird Galleria, Central Business District, Abuja Website: www.ptdf.gov.ng

PTDF ANNUAL OIL & GAS RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION (2026 CYCLE)

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), in line with its mandate to build indigenous capacity for Nigeria's oil and gas industry, invites qualified researchers to submit proposals for the Annual Oil and Gas Research Grant Competition.

The programme aims to enhance, retain, and apply Nigerian research capacity toward solving real industry problems and to facilitate technological development in Nigeria's petroleum sector.

A Steering Committee comprising of academic and industry experts, policymakers, and professional bodies oversees the competition and ensures high-quality standards in line with the global best practices.

2. RESEARCH THEMES (2026 CYCLE)

2.1 Energy Security, Basin Development & Subsurface Excellence AI-driven seismic imaging, basin modelling, frontier-basin viability, HP/HT and deepwater systems, digital twins, source-rock and charge modelling.

2.2 Sustainable Production, Enhanced Oil Recovery & Asset Integrity Smart wells, predictive maintenance, polymer/surfactant/low-salinity EOR, CO_2-EOR, flow assurance, corrosion/scale control, pipeline and subsea integrity, robotics and mechatronics.

2.3 Gas Commercialisation, Utilisation & Flare Reduction Gas-to-power, GTL, mini-LNG/CNG, LPG/petrochemical processing, flare monetisation, modular gas systems, CCUS in gas value chains, gas-to-chemicals, stranded gas monetisation.

2.4 Integrated Technologies, Renewables & Low-Carbon Solutions Local-material solar PV, hybrid gas-renewable systems, offshore wind, battery storage/microgrids, hydrogen (blue/green), geothermal, waste-to-energy, CCUS for natural gas processing.

2.5 Environmental Sustainability, Circular Economy & ESG Bioremediation, nanotechnology cleanup, produced-water treatment, methane reduction, carbon accounting/MRV, digital ESG systems, circular economy, waste valorisation, biodiversity, spill detection and remediation, host-community development & empowerment.

2.6 Digital Oilfield, Automation & Emerging Technologies AI/ML optimisation, industrial IoT, robotics for inspection/drilling, cybersecurity, cloud-edge systems, autonomous operations, digital twins, blockchain, generative AI, LLMs, digital governance.

2.7 Facilities Engineering, Infrastructure, Local Content & Industrial Systems Integrated facility management, reliability engineering, brownfield retrofits, energy-efficient operations, smart facilities, local fabrication, additive manufacturing, import substitution, supply-chain and logistics systems.

2.8 Energy Economics & Finance; Fiscal Systems; Policy Analytics & Human Capital Development Macroeconomic policy evaluation, oil price volatility, fiscal systems, PIA modelling, investment optimisation, gas fiscal frameworks, energy-market forecasting, carbon pricing/markets, green finance, stranded-asset risk, competency frameworks, workforce.

3. PROPOSAL FORMAT / GUIDELINES

3.1 Cover Page

Research Mission (theme), Project Title

3.2 Executive Summary (1 page)

Industry problem, proposed solution, commercialisation pathway, expected impact (technical/economic/environmental/policy).

3.3 Background & Problem Definition

Industry challenge, evidence of relevance (data/operator needs/regulatory gaps), national priority alignment.

3.4 Literature Review & Gap Analysis

Current knowledge, existing technologies, identified gaps, novelty, Nigerian situational context.

3.5 Objectives

Main objective, specific measurable objectives, capacity-building objectives.

3.6 Methodology

Research design, data sources and availability, tools/models/simulations/ experiments, risk mitigation, ethical/data-privacy considerations, stakeholder engagement plan (where applicable).

3.7 Research Plan & Timeline

Gantt chart showing the phases / core activities, milestones and deliverables, estimated duration for proposed activities and monitoring schedules.

3.8 Commercialisation & Adoption Plan

Technology readiness level, techno-economic analysis, Route-to-market strategy, IP plan, industry role, pilot testing plan, regulatory considerations, expected adoption impact, risk mitigation plan.

3.9 Research Budget & Justification

Personnel, equipment (with availability confirmation), consumables, data acquisition, travel, institutional charges, digital infrastructure/software licensing, value-for-money justification. All costs should align with the nominal capping of cost categories; namely, Equipment, 25%; Personnel, 20%; Travel /Collaboration 5%; and Dissemination 3%; institutional charges (10%). These limits are to aid in self-assessment before submitting the proposal.

3.10 Capacity Building Components

Training plan, knowledge-transfer workshops, expected publications and dissemination. Multidisciplinary collaboration (advantageous).

3.11 References

Properly formatted citations using recent and relevant literature.

3.12 Tables and Figures

These should be separated from text and provided in line with the portal sectional format.

3.13 Appendices

Additional diagrams, schematics, data, evidence of collaboration or industry interest.

3.14 Formatting Requirement

Word count 5,000 (max), 1.5 spacing, Times New Roman (size 12), 2.54 cm margins on all sides. Citation and references should be in APA 7 Style. No personal or institutional identifiers including names, logos etc are allowed in all submissions. Follow all other portal directions to submit.

4. OTHER GUIDELINES

A team of academic and industry resource persons will shortlist proposals for oral presentation.

Submissions will be assessed against the following criteria: industry relevance & problem definition, novelty & gap analysis, objectives, methodology & technical merit, research plan & timeline, commercialisation & adoption plan, budget & value for money, team & institutional capacity among others.

Shortlisted Principal Researchers will defend their proposals before a panel.

Successful proposals will receive research grants, released in instalments based on milestones. Maximum project duration: 24 months.

5. ELIGIBILITY

- Nigerian citizens resident in Nigeria working in academic institutions, companies, research organisations, or NGOs.
- The Principal Researcher should be a senior academic, but collaboration with industry is strongly encouraged.
- Collaboration with Nigerians abroad is welcome, but the Principal Researcher must reside in Nigeria.
- Multidisciplinary teams are advantageous.

6. SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the PORTAL:

https://oilandgasresearch.ptdf.gov.ng

Deadline: Three (3) calendar months from the first date of publication.

Signed:
PTDF Management

Media&Marketing

www.guardian.ng Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

MCPOSA tasks security operatives on journalists' safety during elections

By **Sunday Aikulola**

MEMBERS of the Media Centre for Promotion of Safety Awareness (MCPOSA) have observed that election coverage in the country has become increasingly high-risk, adding that it behoves on state actors to provide adequate protection for journalists.

The members spoke at a symposium convened by MCPOSA and Safety&SecurityWatch magazine. The event was held in Lagos to commemorate United Nations International Day to End Impunity of Crimes against Journalists.

Themed, 'Election safety: Reporting without being the casualty,' there were conversations around safety of journalists during elections, professional conduct, peace and conflict prevention, and security and public safety.

In a communique issued at the end of the symposium, a central warning was repeated: Journalists must not become the story.

Attendees agreed that even security personnel think of personal safety first before protecting others, adding, "journalists must do the same.

Participants at the symposium include, journalists, media managers, security agencies led by the Nigeria Police and other stakeholders/

Participants noted that journalists have different personalities and individual styles. This individuality comes into play when working together and when working with security agencies. It must be managed with professionalism, not friction.

The Nigeria Police, at formation, command and Force Headquarters levels, affirmed that policing cannot be done alone. The Police need the media to project what they are doing, what they are about to do, and what they have in stock to do. The media equally needs the Police for access, protection and credible information; concern was raised that many persons nowadays parade as journalists, particularly with phones and iPhones, without the ethics of the profession. Participants agreed that the absence of ethics endangers genuine journalists, security operatives and the public, and undermines trust.

They further resolved that during joint operations, journalists must listen to operational advice and operational directives from officers on ground. What officers see in real-time is intelligence gathering. Safety instructions may not be given in full detail to avoid panic, but they must be obeyed promptly, such as vacating an area that may be under attack.

The resolutions at the symposium include, no media house shall deploy journalists on election duty without a safety briefing and basic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provision; every journalist is first responsible for his/her own safety before any other person. Journalists must not delegate safety to editor, media house, the police, or anyone else; journalists shall prioritise personal safety over exclusive shots or footage. No exclusive is worth injury or death; every journalist must develop a Safety-First Mindset before launching out on election duty. If you don't plan to be safe, you have already planned to be unsafe.

Other recommendations are media houses and associations, including the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), shall enforce a minimum ethics and accreditation standard for election coverage, to distinguish professional journalists from impostors; security agencies and media shall agree, before every election operation, on a clear signal, safe movement area, and evacuation protocol, and all parties shall comply; journalists shall observe and assess their environment continuously, like observing crowd mood, influx of new persons, and plan available exit routes in case of an emergency; police shall continue to brief media in a timely, non-panic manner, and media shall respect operational confidentiality where disclosure would endanger lives and stakeholders shall promote peace and prevent conflict, professional conduct, and security and public safety as the three pillars of election reporting.

Advertising conference kicks off Nov. 11

By **Sunday Aikulola**

ALL is now set for this year's National Advertising Conference (NAC) scheduled to hold from November 11 to 13, 2026, in Abuja.

Themed, 'Repositioning the marketing communications industry for the next frontier,' NAC Chairman, Tunji Adeyinka, said the 2026 edition would feature insightful keynote sessions, high-level panel discussions, industry papers on critical themes such as, 'Is the industry ready for the next frontier?'

Speaking further, he added, the conference would bring together leading professionals across the marketing communications value chain – including advertisers, agencies, media owners, regulators, technology innovators, and business leaders – to examine the trends, disruptions, and opportunities shaping the future of the industry.

He disclosed some of the speakers include, Minister of Information and National Orientation Mohammed Idris Malagi; Minister of Art, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy Hannatu Musa Musawa; Director General , National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC), Obi Asika; Dr. Olalekan (Lekan) Olumuyiwa Fadolapo, Director General Advertiisng Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON); Director General/ National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) Charles Ebuebu; Chairman, Access Holdings Plc Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede; Managing Director Nairametrics Ugodre Obi-Chukwu;

Executive in Residence, Lagos Business School, Olu Akanmu; among others.

Some of the topics to be dissected include, Regulation in the next frontier: Regulating digital marketing and AI in Nigeria; The Nigerian creative economy.

Stakeholders call for stronger enforcement to strengthen FOI implementation

By **Sunday Aikulola**

STAKEHOLDERS at a recent conference organised by Media Rights Agenda (MRA) and the International Press Centre (IPC) to commemorate this year's International Day for Universal Access to Information have advocated stronger enforcement of Nigeria's Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011.

They canvassed better record-keeping, improved proactive disclosure of information, and greater use of the law by the media and civil society organisations to enable the Law realise its purpose.

The stakeholders also urged public institutions to establish dedicated FOI desks staffed by trained personnel, while calling on the judiciary to expedite the hearing and determination of FOI cases to ensure that information obtained through litigation remains timely and relevant.

The conference brought together journalists and other media professionals, representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs), lawyers, and other stakeholders from different sectors to dissect the implementation of the FOI Act and discuss the importance of access to information in promoting transparency and accountability in an information environment increasingly affected by misinformation and disinformation.

In her speech, senior broadcaster and investigative journalist Anike Funke-Treasure said, 'for Nigerian newsrooms, the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, 2011, is not an academic document.



Participants at the NBC training.

NBC strengthens compliance, promotes ethical broadcasting

By **Sunday Aikulola**

AS part of efforts aimed at promoting professionalism and strengthen regulatory compliance, the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), through its Abuja Zonal Office, recently commenced Compliance and Capacity-Building Training for broadcast stations within the Abuja Zone.

Themed, 'Understanding the Nigeria Broadcasting Code: Ethical broadcasting and responsible management of live, discussion and current affairs programmes,' the training seeks to equip broadcasters with the knowledge and practical skills required to uphold professional standards and ensure responsible programme presentation.

In his speech, NBC Director-General, Charles Ebuebu, who was represented by the Special Assistant to the DG, Kunle Famous-Cole, stressed need for broadcasters to exercise sound editorial judgement, maintain accountability, and uphold the provisions of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code.

He further highlighted the evolving challenges in the broadcast industry, particularly the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital platforms, misinformation, and manipulated content.

Ebuebu also underscored the importance of fairness, accuracy, impartiality, and responsible political communication ahead of the 2027 General elections, noting that broadcasters have a critical role in promoting informed public discourse, democratic participation, and national cohesion.

On his part, former NBC DG, Prof. Armstrong Idachaba also emphasised the importance of ethical standards, accuracy, fairness and professionalism in broadcasting.

LASU, YABATECH commend NGE for promoting practical journalism education

By **Opeyemi Babalola**

THE Dean of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Lagos State University, Prof. Jide Jimoh and the Head of Department, Mass Communication, at Yaba College of Technology (YABATECH), Dr. Olorunyomi Omolara, have commended the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) for its commitment to promoting practical journalism education through its publication, 'Truth, Trust and the Future of Journalism in Nigeria', describing the book as a significant initiative aimed at bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience in journalism.

The duo, in their separate remarks, gave the commendations while receiving copies of the book in their respective offices presented by the Vice President (West) of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, Dr. Kabir Alabi Garba.

Receiving copies of the book, Jimoh, described the publication as a valuable resource that would enrich teaching, research and knowledge acquisition.

He reaffirmed the faculty's commitment to the town-and-gown relationship, noting that some lecturers are already undertaking their sabbaticals in the industry.



Dr Ganiu Okunnu (left); President, Association of Communication Scholars and Practitioners of Nigeria (ACSPN), Prof. Williams Olatunji; Weekend Editor of *The Guardian* /Vice President (West), Nigerian Guild of Editors, Dr Kabir Alabi Garba; Dean, Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, Lagos State University (LASU), Prof. Jide Peter Jimoh and Immediate Past Dean, Faculty of Communications Studies, Prof. Yinka Alawode at the presentation of copies of the book "Truth, Trust & the Future of Journalism in Nigeria" to the Faculty in Ojo, Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: MARVELLOUS OBASA

Celebrating Grace, Honouring Legacy

(54 YEARS AND COUNTING)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, OUR DEAR FATHER, PASTOR AYODELE ORITSEJAFOR!

Today, my heart is filled with gratitude to God as I celebrate a father whose life, leadership, and unwavering devotion to God's Kingdom have been an immeasurable blessing to me and generations.

Sir, you are more than a spiritual leader; you are a father, a mentor, an inspiration; and a remarkable vessel through whom countless lives have encountered God's love, wisdom, and power. Your sacrifices, teachings, and commitment to the advancement of God's Kingdom have left indelible marks that time cannot erase.

I am deeply grateful for the privilege of being connected to the grace upon your life. Your journey continually reminds us that true greatness is found in service, sacrifice, giving and faithfulness to God's calling.

My prayer is that the Lord will continually preserve you, renew your strength, perfect your health, and usher you into greater dimensions of grace, honour, and glory.

As your years increase so shall God advance you beyond your imagination.

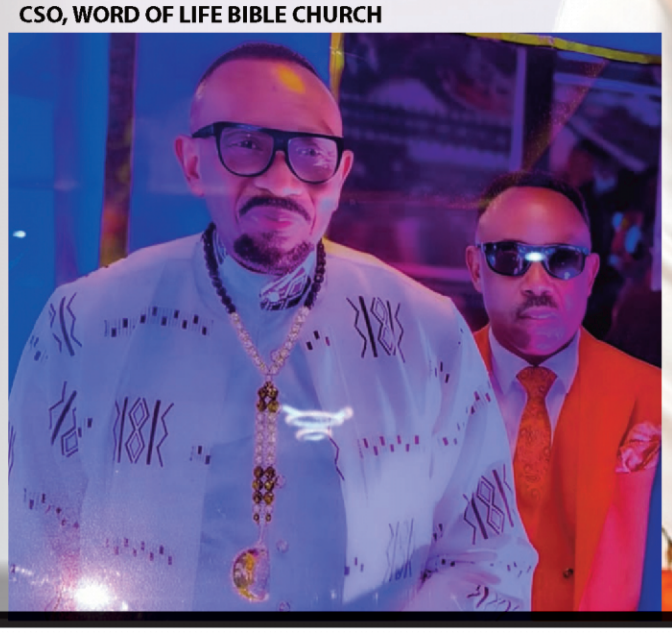
May your influence continue to expand, your voice grow stronger, and your legacy speak powerfully through generations yet unborn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MY ESTEEMED SPIRITUAL FATHER, ASAMAGHO!!

With profound honour, heartfelt gratitude, deep admiration, and abiding love.

LONG LIVE OUR FATHER!
LONG LIVE THE GENERAL OF GOD'S KINGDOM!

DCP DR. HENRY ANYADIKE
CSO, WORD OF LIFE BIBLE CHURCH



Over 90% of aviation, maritime insurance premiums sent abroad

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Nigerian insurers handle only a small fraction of maritime risks.

Oniye insisted that Nigerian insurers lacked the financial strength to cover high-value maritime risks, noting that few specialised underwriters exist for complex marine insurance.

According to him, international shipping companies often demand insurance from globally recognised firms to meet trade and compliance standards, as foreign insurers are perceived as more reliable in claims settlement and risk management.

He said: "Stakeholders prefer foreign insurance because it gives them access to global reinsurance markets for large claims, compliance with international maritime conventions that recognise foreign insurers, better risk pooling and wider coverage options compared to local firms."

Oniye said billions of dollars are lost yearly to foreign insurers, noting that about N81.8 billion was lost in 2022, far above the N37.8 billion allowed under the local content law.

The dean also noted that indigenous insurers remain underdeveloped, adding that dependence on foreign insurers exposes Nigeria to external shocks.

He also mentioned limited employment in insurance and maritime support services, which he said undermined Nigeria's Local Content Act and 2006 Cabotage Act.

Director of International Trade at the Maritime Researchers and Authors Association of Nigeria (MARASSON), Sunday Ademuyiwa, said many companies operating in Nigeria's maritime industry often maintain a combination of local and foreign insurance cover.

Ademuyiwa, like Oniye, said limited local capacity and expertise are key factors driving Nigerian maritime operators to rely heavily on foreign insurance providers, despite ongoing government efforts to boost local participation in the sector.

He noted that although Nigeria's insurance market is growing, with firms such as Mutual Benefits Assurance PLC providing marine insurance services, operators still largely depend on foreign underwriters for their global reach and financial strength.

Ademuyiwa explained that foreign insurers retain a competitive edge due to their international coverage, expertise, established reputation among global shipping companies, and greater risk-absorption capacity, which enables them to offer more comprehensive policies.

He pointed out that the Federal Government, through reforms such as the NIIRA Act 2025, was seeking to reverse this trend and promote local insurance by strengthening local participation and reducing capital flight.

Despite the challenges, Ademuyiwa expressed optimism that a growing number of indigenous shipowners entering the Nigerian market could stimulate demand for local insurance services and drive capacity building and expertise development within domestic content opportunities.

He urged the government to explore strategies to develop the local insurance market and promote local content in the maritime sector.

Ademuyiwa also charged relevant regulatory bodies, including NAICOM, NIMASA, and the Nigerian Insurers Association (NIA), to collaborate on policies to strengthen local insurers, enhance technical expertise, and promote greater adoption of indigenous insurance solutions to drive industry growth.

Head of Research, Sea Empowerment and Research Centre (SEREC), Dr Eugene Nweke, lamented that weak local underwriting capacity, heavy reliance on foreign insurers (particularly for P&I coverage), significant dependence on foreign reinsurance and poor alignment between the country's trade and insurance policies have collectively stifled the growth of indigenous insurers.

Nweke explained that Nigeria's trade structure further compounds the problem, as exports are largely conducted on a free on board (FOB) basis, allowing foreign buyers to control insurance, while imports are transacted on a cost, insurance and freight (CIF) basis, leaving insurance arrangements in the hands of foreign sellers.

Nweke said this dual structure effectively excludes Nigerian insurers from both ends of the value chain.

The SEREC research chief identified foreign dominance of marine insurance as one of the most pressing issues, noting that critical segments such as P&I insurance remain almost entirely controlled by offshore institutions, limiting local participation and revenue retention.

Nweke also pointed to weak enforcement of local content laws, explaining that although regulations mandate local participation, offshore insurance placements are frequently approved, while monitoring mechanisms remain inadequate.

He highlighted capacity constraints among local insurers, including a limited capital base, insufficient technical expertise, and a lack of global claims infrastructure, which have made it difficult for them to compete effectively with international firms.

Nweke warned that the continued reliance on foreign insurers has led to massive capital flight and foreign-exchange pressure, with billions of dollars paid annually in premiums abroad, thereby worsening foreign-exchange scarcity, contributing to naira depreciation, and constraining the growth of Nigeria's financial sector.

He also flagged the high cost of maritime trade as a major concern, with foreign insurers imposing high premiums, including war risk charges, thereby increasing freight costs, raising import prices, and fueling inflationary pressures.

The SEREC researcher noted that the current cumulative effect of these challenges on the economy includes the loss of national revenue from offshore premium payments, the underdevelopment of the local insurance and maritime sectors, reduced employment and skill-development opportunities, and limited national control over maritime liabilities and claims.

SEREC advocated that maritime insurance localisation should be treated as a national economic security priority, noting that by retaining insurance premiums within Nigeria, the country could conserve foreign exchange, strengthen its financial system, enhance trade competitiveness and unlock the full potential of the Blue Economy.

Nweke also outlined a series of strategic policy recommendations, beginning with calls for a transition of exports from FOB to CIF terms to enable the country to capture insurance and freight value, while also encouraging importers to adopt frameworks that allow local insurance to gain control of the market.

He stressed the need for stronger regulatory enforcement, including strict approval processes for offshore insurance placements and minimum local retention thresholds.

Among other recommendations, Nweke advocated establishing a Nigerian P&I Club through a public-private partnership model and gradually scaling from domestic to international coverage.

He also proposed tax incentives for local insurers, alongside targeted support for technical development and capacity building.

A history of poor coverage

FOR the country's aviation industry, the loss is massive. Airlines, ground handling companies, catering services, and other auxiliary companies seek cover from foreign insurers for their equipment and machinery.

Before now, the sector suffered human and equipment losses due to inadequate insurance coverage.

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



Celebration of Life

Chief Mrs
Olufunmilola Veronica Ajala (J.P.)
(Nee Olaniyi)

November 17, 1939 – August 21, 2026

With gratitude to God for a life well lived, the family of Late Chief Simeon Olutoye and Chief (Mrs) Veronica Ajala (Nee Olaniyi) of Osun State, Nigeria announce the glorious exit of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, mother-in-law and auntie.

Chief (Mrs) Veronica Olufunmilola Ajala (J.P.) (Nee Olaniyi)
(A.K.A. Mama Ogo-Oluwa of Ipetu-Ijesa)

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

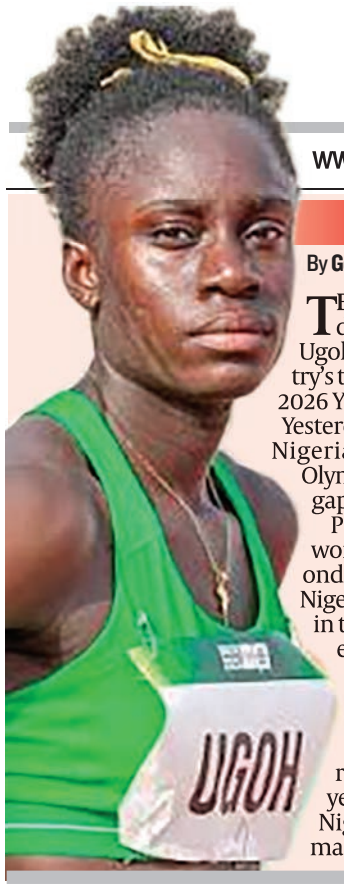
- **Wake-Keep:** Friday, November 13, 2026
- **Funeral Service:** Saturday, November 14, 2026
- **Interment:** Immediately after the funeral service
- **Thanksgiving:** Sunday, November 15, 2026

Signed: **The Children**

TheGuardianSports

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Dakar 2026 Youth Olympics

Ugoh strikes Team Nigeria's third gold medal

By Gowon Akpodonor

TEAM Nigeria's camp came alive yesterday when female quartermiler, Tejiri Ugoh Praise, beat the field to win the country's third gold medal at the ongoing Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

Yesterday's gold medal makes Dakar 2026 Nigeria's best-ever outing at the Youth Olympics, which began 16 years ago in Singapore.

Praise won the gold medal in the women's 400m with a time of 52.76 seconds. The victory came a day after Team Nigeria won the two available gold medals in the male and female 100m on Sunday evening.

At the inaugural edition of the Youth Olympics 16 years ago, Nigeria won a total of four medals, made up of two gold, one silver and one bronze, to be ranked 29th overall in the world. Eight years later in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Nigeria also got a total of four medals, made up of one gold and three silver medals to finish in 48th position on the general medal table.

Speaking on the team's performance, yesterday, the Director General of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Bukola Olopade said: "Today, Nigeria's youngsters showed that we are a people from a great country. It shows that when things are done correctly, we excel. Winning four gold medals so far at the Youth Olympics is like the Flamingos winning the World Cup. All of them within three days."

ALAN CARAY, ATO Architects excel as ACANigeria's AEC Games ends in Lagos

By Victor Gbonegun

ALAN CARAY Technical FC won the five-a-side football title, while ATO Architects took the table tennis title at the inaugural Association of Consulting Architects Nigeria (ACANigeria) AEC Games, which ended in Lagos at the weekend.

The one-day sporting competition, with the "Building together through sports," attracted over 250 participants from across the architecture, engineering and construction industry. It offered architects, engineers, consultants, contractors and suppliers the opportunity to put aside their professional differences and compete in a sporting environment.

Nine teams participated in the five-a-side football tournament, with Alan Caray Technical producing the strongest performance to claim the championship; Baron Architecture finished second, while FMA Architects secured third place.

Other participants in the football event were ATO Architects, ACCL, CA Consultants, Almog Engineering, CCP and Podex Architects.

The football competition also produced individual recognition, with Dele of FMA Architects, popularly known as DT, voted the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng



The Flamingos with some NFF officials on arrival the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport, Abuja, yesterday.

FG, Obi trade words over alleged access denial to Flamingos

By Christian Okpara and Gowon Akpodonor

THE National Democratic Congress (NDC) Presidential Candidate for the 2027 General Election, Mr Peter Obi, yesterday accused the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) of preventing him from greeting the country's U-17 Women's national football team, the Flamingos, at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport, Abuja. The Flamingos defeated Japan 2-1 on Saturday, in Morocco, to win the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

The Flamingos, who returned to Nigeria yesterday, were received by the NFF and the National Sports Commission (NSC) officials at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport, Abuja.

In a statement yesterday, Obi alleged that the officials barred him from approaching the players, saying they feared losing their jobs if they did so.

He described the incident as another example of what he called the growing culture of toxic politics in Nigeria.

Obi said that he arrived at the airport around 7.00 a.m. on his way to Enugu when he saw the national team preparing to leave the airport after arriving.

He said: "With genuine joy and enthusiasm, I asked my protocol officer, Jackie Wayas, to find out whether I could greet and welcome the team. I was informed that officials of the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) had refused and had requested that I not approach them because, if I did, they would all lose their jobs."

He alleged that it was not the first time he had experienced such treatment at a sporting event, recalling that on March 25, 2025, he travelled to Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, for a World Cup qualifying match, where the governor welcomed him at the VIP stand.

"Following the match, other government officials went to greet the players, but I was again prevented from doing so. I was told by the officials that they would lose their jobs if I proceeded."

Reacting to Obi's allegation, the Federal Government, in a statement by the Special Assistant to the President on Social Media, Dada Olusegun, accused the NDC presidential candidate of attempting to politicise national sports teams and institutions.

He said that national athletes, including the Flamingos, "represent the entire Federal Republic of Nigeria, not any specific political party or individual ambition."

Olusegun described Obi's statement as an attempt to turn standard security and administrative procedures into a case of political victimisation.

"To spin standard security and administrative protocols into a narrative of political victimisation is a disservice to the unity that sport is meant to foster in our country," he said.

Meanwhile, NSC' Director General, Bukola Olopade, has attributed the Flamingos' World Cup victory to a "strong foundation," including their participation at the Asaba 2025 National Youth Games.

The victory makes Nigeria the first African nation to win the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, bringing an end to the continent's long wait for the global crown and rewarding the Flamingos for a remarkable campaign in Morocco.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

Olopade traces Nigeria's victory to Asaba 2025 Youth Games

Ujiri's Giants of Africa unveil 54th court in Gambia

By Eniola Daniel

GIANTS of Africa, at the weekend, unveiled its 54th court in Jimara, The Gambia, as part of its Built Within initiative, a commitment to building 100 community basketball courts across Africa.

The non-profit organisation, founded by Dallas Mavericks Team President and Alternate Governor and UN Sustainable Development Goals Advocate, Nigeria's Masai Ujiri, completed the project in partnership with Jaha Dukureh, the UN member, Goodwill Ambassador for Africa, and founder/Chief Executive Officer of Jaapo Capital Company Ltd.

The organisation reached a major milestone earlier this year as it opened its 50th community basketball court in Lagos, Nigeria.

Saturday's official opening ceremony was attended by The Gambia's Minister of Trade, Regional Integration and Employment, Mod K Ceesay, Governor of the Upper River Region, Samba Bah and District Chief of Jimara, Julaba Drammeh.

Located in The Gambia's Upper River Region, Jimara's new court is envisioned as a hub for women from across the region, creating a gathering space that fosters connection, mentorship, and opportunity alongside sport.

Host communities agog as Dangote Cement football tourney begins

DANGOTE Cement Plc has taken its social investment drive to the football pitch, kicking off its maiden tournament simultaneously at the Ibese and Okpella plants to advance youth development, peaceful coexistence and stronger community ties.

The tournament, fully sponsored by Dangote Cement, brings together young people from communities around the company's cement operations in Ibese, Okpella, Obajana, and Gboko, providing them with an opportunity to showcase their football talents while strengthening relationships across community boundaries.

During the ceremonial kick-off of the Ibese edition, the Plant Director, Ayyagari Subbaraidu, described the tournament as another demonstration of Dangote Cement's commitment to the socio-economic development and wellbeing of its host communities.

He said the initiative represented a new dimension in the company's social investment strategy, complementing interventions in its four key Corporate Social Investment thematic areas of education, health, infrastructure and empowerment.

According to him, the company recognises the strategic importance of young people within its host communities and the need to provide constructive avenues for their development and engagement.

"This football tournament is a new dimension of our social investment strategy, specifically designed to promote youth development, engagement and empowerment," Subbaraidu said.



Ibese Plant Director, Mr. Ayyagari Subbaraidu (third right), performs the ceremonial kick-off to declare the 2026 Host Communities' Unity Football Tournament open in Ibese.

GCU Relays unveils fresh incentives

PODIUM finishes at the eighth Government College Ughelli (GCU) Relays will come with added rewards as organisers have introduced customised gifts for medal-winning athletes at the yearly intercollegiate athletics competition.

The latest initiative will see every gold, silver and bronze medalist receive a specially branded beverage cup, marking the first time the organisers are extending this recognition to all podium finishers. The gesture is in addition to souvenir packages traditionally distributed to participating athletes.

The expanded reward scheme adds to the incentives that have made the GCU Relays attractive to secondary schools.

Outstanding performers in the boys' and girls' categories will receive additional prizes, while the school adjudged best in the march-past display will also be rewarded.

SOLUTION

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Tuesday, November 10, 2026





FG, Obi trade words over alleged access denial to Flamingos /39

Guest Writer

Chidi Anselm Odinkalu

Five years of the Petroleum Industry Act



WHEN he ran for the office of president on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Nigeria's 2019 general elections, Nigeria's former Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar, famously promised to privatise Nigeria's hydrocarbons and energy assets. Taking aim at the Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC), he argued, "privatising NNPC would be to our advantage. We are not going to lose anything, but we will rather gain a lot."

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) at the time mocked the idea, accusing him of harbouring an undisguised desire to dispose of the nation's crown jewels to himself and his friends. Two and a half years later, in August 2021, President Muhammadu Buhari assented to the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), substantially implementing the idea of de-regulating the hydrocarbons sector in the country and enacting a vision for transitioning Nigeria's petroleum industry onto a globally competitive footing.

Five years after the adoption of the Act, this vision confronts a rapidly evolving global context in a domestic election season.

Comprising 319 sections and eight schedules, the PIA is one of the most complex pieces of legislation on the books in Nigeria. Most professionals, not to speak of less-informed citizens, will not read or access it.

Essentially, the Act unbundles the NNPC as a state-owned enterprise separating into distinct entities its regulatory functions from its operations, and providing for the protection of the interests of host communities together with a framework for managing investments in renewables and in energy transition.

The PIA creates two new regulatory institutions. One is the Nigeria Upstream Regulatory Commission (NUPRC). The other is the Nigeria Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA).

Separately, the Act requires the NNPC to be unbundled into a Limited Liability Company under the Companies and Allied Matters Act. The authorised shareholders of the new NNPC Limited are the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) and the Ministry of Petroleum Incorporated (MOPI).

Additionally, the Act mandates the new NNPC to prepare the country for energy transition by investing in renewables, act as downstream supplier of last resort "for security reasons", and "engage in activities that ensure national energy security."

Relaunched in July 2022 as NNPC Limited, the business model of the new commercial entity created by the PIA is neither fully private nor a traditional state-owned enterprise. The beneficial interest in the company is in the Nigerian State and the political presence of the president, who also is the Minister of Petroleum, is never too far from it. So, the Act empowers the president to appoint its management and Board of Directors. However, it also makes provision for the possibility of competitive investment in the company at a future time when the Board may be re-constituted to take account of the interests of other shareholders.

In undertaking all these, the Act requires the new NNPC and its subsidiaries to "carry out petroleum operations on a commercial basis, comparable to private companies in Nigeria carrying out similar activities" and to do so "in a profitable and efficient manner without recourse to government funds" so as to "encourage and facilitate both local and foreign investment in the petroleum industry." In other words, the new NNPC Limited under the PIA should be able to compete with its peers both in Nigeria and beyond.

In pursuit of these goals, the new NNPC Group now includes 21 subsidiaries covering a vast stream of interests, including upstream and exploration; downstream and trading; gas and power; engineering and shipping; as well as services and investment.

To adapt to the rapidly evolving global energy ecosystem, the company has to simultaneously retain indigenous talent while being open to attracting internationals where necessary. The PIA is not the only law applicable in this context. The 1999 Constitution, for instance, requires government to "harness the resources of the nation and promote national prosperity and an efficient, a dynamic, and self- reliant economy." The Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act of 2010 equally mandates the promotion of Nigerian human capital in the sector.

One of the subsidiaries of the NNPC illustrates how the company tried to reconcile these obligations. The NNPC Exploration and Production Limited (NEPL) is the flagship upstream subsidiary in the NNPC Group. In existence since 1988, the NEPL holds the NNPC's interests in operating and exploration licenses. In November 2023, the transitional management of the NNPC Group under Mele Kyari recruited internationally to fill the position of the Chief Executive of the NEPL. He leads a management team that includes nine Nigerians. By the end of 2025, the company had reportedly achieved about 75% growth in average daily production from 203,000 barrels per day in 2023 to 355,000 barrels.

This performance ordinarily means more revenue for the country and could provide tentative evidence of the potential yield in pursuit of value optimization by the newly commercialized NNPC Group.

However, that conclusion must await further evidence of improved protocols in oilfield practice, sustainable investment in energy diversification, and greater transparency on compliance with the Environmental Guidelines and Standards for the Petroleum Industry in Nigeria (EGASPIN). This extends to the remediation of legacy deficits in oilfield practice preceding the transition to the unbundled NNPC. Better attention is also required to the needs of host communities. The jury is still out on this package.

> "Nigeria's fate is inextricably tied to the success or failure of the promise of the PIA. The vision of the Act is clear: maximising public benefits through sustainable hydrocarbons governance of an internationally competitive industry. It permeates all the major disputes at issue ahead of 2027."

In an election season dominated by issues in the triangle of electoral integrity, insecurity, and affordability, it is easy to lose sight of structural issues that underpin either directly or indirectly the performance of the country on all three. Yet, there is a particular salience to the PIA in Nigeria's current election season for at least three reasons.

First, when the country originally created the NNPC in 1977, it was on the cusp of a generational energy crisis and economic bust that accompanied the Arab-Israeli war in 1973. Muhammadu Buhari, then an army colonel, was the Petroleum minister. Nigeria's management of petroleum earnings over the half century of the existence of the NNPC since then has been notoriously beset by tales of what the London's *Guardian* newspaper memorably described not too long ago as a "wealth of sorrow." There was, therefore, an almost poetic symmetry to the fact that Buhari was back in the same position 44 years later to end the monopoly and re-structure it under the PIA. The competing candidates and political parties in January 2027 need to set out how they will optimize this framework.

Second, petroleum is the country's most strategic natural resource and the main driver of economic activity. It accounts for about 90% of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings, over 60% of budget revenue, and up to 5.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). On-going events in the Middle East suggest that the obituary of dirty energy may be premature at this time. However, energy transition is a fact, and the country needs to know how the parties propose to prepare the country and host communities for that eventuality.

Third, the PIA represents arguably the single most constructive achievement of President Buhari's eight years in office as Nigeria's fifth elected president. Irrespective of who secures the mandate to lead the country after the elections in the New Year, the objective of achieving national energy security established in section 64(k) of the PIA remains a pressing priority and the country deserves to know how the competing parties propose to pursue and achieve that.

It is fitting that the fifth anniversary of the Act coincides with an election season defined by cost of living, including cost of petroleum products as well as the perennial question of realising a just statutory settlement for host communities.

Nigeria's fate is inextricably tied to the success or failure of the promise of the PIA. The vision of the Act is clear: maximising public benefits through sustainable hydrocarbons governance of an internationally competitive industry. It permeates all the major disputes at issue ahead of 2027.

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