The Guardian

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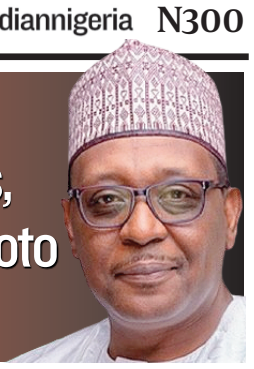
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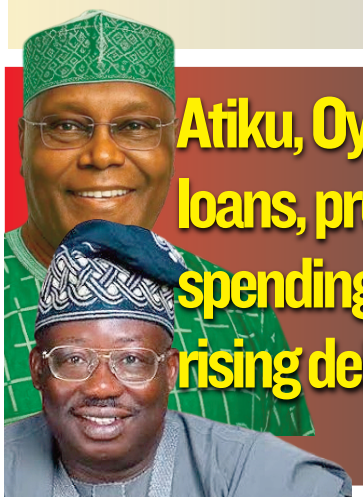
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Atiku, Oye fault fresh loans, pre-election spending amid rising debt

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First Lady Oluremi Tinubu opens the plaque to commission the reconstructed Lagos Governor's Lodge at Asokoro, Abuja, yesterday. With her are Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu (left); his wife, Mrs Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu and Lagos Deputy Governor, Dr Kadri Obafemi Hamzat. (inset: Reconstructed Lagos Governor's Lodge in Abuja)



Managing Director (MD), Lagos Bus Services Limited (LBSL), Engr. Olasunkanmi Ojowuro (left); Head of Bus Services, Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA), Mrs Olukemi Amure; Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Transportation, Mr Maroof Olawale Musa; Commissioner for Transportation, Lagos State, Mr Oluwaseun Osiyemi; President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Oando Clean Energy Limited (OCEL), Mr Ademola Ogunbanjo; MD and CEO, LAMATA, Engr. (Mrs) Abimbola Akinajo; Country Account Manager, Yutong West Africa, Mr Damian Li; and Divisional Head, Infrastructure Finance, Bank of Industry (BOI), Mrs Ibitoru Olutoyin Ubosi, at the launch of OCEL's electric bus rollout, in partnership with the Lagos State Government, at LAMATA Place, Lagos, yesterday.

Oando expands electric bus fleet as pilot phase avoids 216,000 litres of diesel

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Panorama

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SPOTLIGHT

NERC approves N30b for metering to push MAF to N79b

From **Kingsley Jeremiah** (Abuja)

THE Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has approved N30 billion for the third tranche of the Meter Acquisition Fund (MAF), bringing the total amount approved under the scheme to N79 billion in an intensified effort to close Nigeria's electricity metering gap.

The latest approval, contained in Order No. NERC/2026/121 on the Operationalisation of Tranche C of the Meter Acquisition Fund, took effect on November 2, 2026. Under the arrangement, the N30 billion will be distributed among 11 electricity distribution companies (DisCos) in proportion to their respective contributions to the fund.

NERC said the money would be used to meter all remaining unmetered Band A customers and accelerate the provision of meters to Band B consumers, with equitable distribution across states within the respective DisCos' franchise areas.

The latest intervention builds on two previous funding rounds under the Presidential Metering Initiative, which was introduced to address the country's persistent metering deficit and reduce dependence on estimated billing.

In June 2024, the commission approved N21 billion for Tranche A of the MAF, following the accumulation of N21.86 billion from contributions to the fund as of the April 2024 electricity market settlement cycle.

The first tranche was specifically designed to provide meters for unmetered Band A customers, who were placed on higher electricity tariffs.

Court remands FIJ journalist Ojukwu in Kuje over 2024 stories

By **Yetunde Ayobami Ojo**

JUSTICE Joyce Abdulmalik of the Federal High Court, Abuja, has ordered the remand of Daniel Ojukwu, a correspondent with the Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ), at the Kuje Correctional Custodial Centre over stories published in 2024.

The judge ordered that Ojukwu be remanded until December 1, 2026, in a criminal suit filed against him by the Inspector-General of Police (IGP). The IGP, in a criminal suit marked FHC/ABJ/CR/486/2024, dated September 19, 2024, filed a 12-count charge against Ojukwu and Fisayo Soyombo.

Ojukwu pleaded not guilty to all the counts charge read to him. In the charge, the defendants were accused of writing a series of stories in 2024 about Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, the Senior Special Assistant on Sustainable Development Goals (SSAP-SDGs) to the late President Muhammadu Buhari.



Flooded Apolo street, Makoko after yesterday's downpour in Lagos. PHOTO: ENIOLA DANIEL

Oando expands electric bus fleet as pilot phase avoids 216,000 litres of diesel

By **Waliat Musa**

OANDO Clean Energy Limited (OCEL), the renewable energy subsidiary of Oando Energy Resources, has commenced the full deployment of electric buses in Lagos after its two-bus pilot scheme avoided the use of about 216,000 litres of diesel and covered 433,000 kilometres.

The deployment, undertaken in partnership with the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA), marks the transition from the proof-of-concept phase to full implementation of the company's electric mobility initiative with the Lagos State Government.

Since their deployment, the two buses have carried about 788,000 passengers, covered 433,000 km and avoided roughly 216,000 litres of diesel, with close to zero downtime. In the first nine months of 2026 alone, the service recorded more than 212,000 passenger journeys at 73% average capacity utilisation.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Lagos State Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, said the buses support the state's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

Bala emerges winner of 16th UBA Foundation Essay Competition

By **Suliyat Tella**

KHAIRA Ojima Bala of Metro International School, Abuja, has been crowned as Nigeria's top secondary school essayist for 2026, emerging as the winner of the 16th edition of the UBA Foundation National Essay Competition

Khaira, 15, was announced as the winner during the grand finale of the competition, where she received a N15m educational grant to study at any university in Africa. The event was held on Tuesday at UBA House, Marina, Lagos, and had a large audience which included finalists, parents, students, teachers and judges.

An elated Bala dedicated the award to her parents. "I am so happy right now. My parents have sacrificed so much for my education, and this award belongs to them as much as it belongs to me," she said. "I also want to thank the UBA Foundation for giving us a platform to share our ideas."

... DAY 4581

OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING

Tope Templer Olaiya,
News Editor
@TopeTempler



RANDOM FACTS

• Buying new things can make you want more new things — a phenomenon called the Diderot Effect. After getting one item, you're more likely to feel the 'need' to align it with even more upgrades.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

• Do you know that you can escalate unresolved issues to the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), which investigates claims, issues enforcement orders, and provides filing services for free.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Peace does not fare well where poverty and deprivation reign. It does not flourish where there is ignorance and a lack of education and information.

If I look back, the one thing that I am proud of is that for once I as a political leader, kept every promise I made within one term of office. We achieved a new constitution; we achieved a new bill of rights, which encapsulated this vision of justice for all.

FREDERIK W. de KLERK

Palestine is the cement that holds the Arab world together, or it is the explosive that blows it apart.

YASSER ARAFAT"

TODAY IN HISTORY

• 2025 - Nigeria
Soldiers blocked FCT Minister Nyesom Wike and FCTA officials from accessing a disputed Gaduwa District land under orders from former Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo.

• 2021 - South Africa
F. W. de Klerk, ex-President of South Africa, Nobel Peace Prize laureate died. As last head of state from era of white-minority rule, he dismantled apartheid system. In 1993, he publicly apologised for apartheid's harmful effects and oversaw the 1994 non-racial election in which Mandela led African National Congress to victory; De Klerk became Deputy President in Mandela's Government of National Unity where he supported government's economic policies but opposed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission set up to investigate past human rights abuses because he wanted total amnesty for political crimes

• 2020 - Nigeria
Hesitantly, Nigeria finally joined African Continental Free Trade Area after signing the agreement in July 2019, becoming the 34th nation to join AfCFTA after Pres. Buhari signed the protocol at the African Union Summit in 2019 that aims to eliminate tariffs between member states.

• 2018 - Nigeria
The Bill for an Act to establish the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control & Prevention with mandate to lead preparedness, detection and response to infectious disease outbreaks was signed into law by Pres. Muhammadu Buhari.

• 2004 - Palestine
The Palestine Liberation Organisation confirmed the death of Yasser Arafat from unidentified causes. Mahmoud Abbas was elected new chairman of the PLO minutes later.

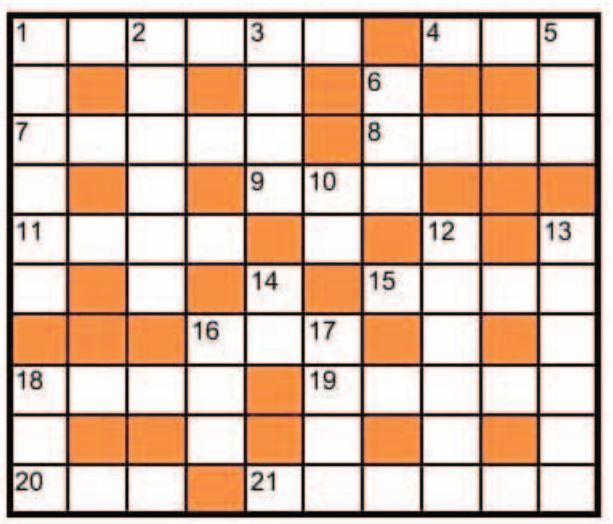
• 1992 - England
General Synod of the Church of England voted to allow women to become priests.

• 1942 - Turkey
Turkish parliament passed the Varlık Vergisi, a capital tax levied on non-Muslims with unofficial aim to inflict financial ruin on them and end their prominence in the country's economy.

• 1923 - Germany
Adolf Hitler was arrested in Munich for treason for his role in Beer Hall Putsch

• 1918 - Germany
Remembrance Day is observed on November 11 to recall end of First World War hostilities that ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" of 1918, in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente.

CROSS WORD PUZZLE



• ACROSS

1. LGA in Akwa Ibom state, (6).
4. Arrest someone, (3).
7. Something inserted, (5).
8. English poet, (4).
9. Lyric poem, (3).
11. A long hair on horse's neck, (4).
15. Type of powdered milk, (4).
16. Taxi, (3).
18. Nothing, (4).
19. Brownish-yellow, (5).
20. Place something, (3).
21. Handle awkwardly, (6).

• DOWN

1. Puzzling person, (6).
2. Mentally ill, (6).
3. Contralto, abbr., (4).
5. Forbid officially, (3).
6. Liberian's Late President, (3).
10. Indicating reversal, (2).
12. Large African tree, (6).
13. America's 5th President, (6).
14. 4th sol fa scale note, (2).
16. Policeman, (3).
17. Hindu courtesy title, (4).
18. Cloth fastener, (3).

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Check page 29 for solution to the puzzle

News

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Ministers, Gbajabiamila defend Tinubu's reforms, manifesto

APC targets bigger oil production, electricity, CNG infrastructure

From **Bridget Chiedu Onochie, Adamu Abuh** and **Johnson Eyiangho**, Abuja

MINISTER of Budget and Economic Planning, Sen. Atiku Bagudu, has said President Bola Tinubu is working towards transforming Nigeria into a $2 trillion economy, insisting that the country has the potential to achieve an economic feat comparable to, or greater than, that of Brazil.

Bagudu disclosed this yesterday at the launch of the All Progressives Congress (APC) manifesto for the presidential election, entitled 'From Reform To Prosperity' agenda 2027 - 2031.

Also, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Jumoke Oduwole, disclosed that the Federal Government is targeting at least $15 billion in yearly non-oil exports, one million export-linked jobs by 2031 and the establishment of an anchor industrial cluster in each of Nigeria's six geopolitical zones.

On his part, Chief of Staff to the President, Femi Gbajabiamila, defended the economic reforms introduced by the Tinubu administration, saying the President chose to govern as a leader rather than a politician by confronting difficult economic challenges despite their immediate consequences for Nigerians.

APC unveiled an ambitious energy sector agenda aimed at increasing Nigeria's crude oil production to three million barrels per day, expanding electricity generation, strengthening domestic refining capacity and accelerating the transition to gas-powered transportation.

Bagudu maintained that the President was driven by the conviction that Nigeria should not place limitations on its economic ambitions when countries such as Brazil had been able to build economies valued at about $2 trillion.

According to him, the President's thinking is anchored on the belief that Nigeria has the human and material resources to attain a much higher level of economic prosperity if the right policies were implemented.

He said: "For the President, if Brazil can be a $2 trillion economy, why not Nigeria? Let me repeat, maybe the journalists may not care. This is how profound his thinking is: why not Nigeria?"

The minister said Tinubu had demonstrated the political courage to take difficult decisions aimed at addressing the country's economic challenges, even when such measures attracted criticism and imposed temporary hardship on Nigerians.

ODUWOLE said the administration also intended to raise manufacturing's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to at least 12 per cent.

She explained that the targets formed part of the government's economic strategy to expand industrial production, strengthen exports and create quality employment opportunities across the country.

The minister said the administration's ongoing interventions had begun to benefit different categories of Nigerians, including electricity consumers, farmers, first-time borrowers and railway commuters.

According to her, estimated electricity bills have declined under the administration, while farmers have received direct agricultural inputs to support their production activities.

She disclosed that more than 350,000 first-time borrowers had gained access to structured credit, with women accounting for 59 per cent of the beneficiaries.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng



Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (left); Vice President Kashim Shettima; President Bola Tinubu; Jigawa State Governor, Umar Namadi; Chairman of Progressives Governors' Forum (PGF), Governor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State; Speaker House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas; Deputy President of the Senate, Barau Jibrin at the commissioning of Bola Ahmed Tinubu Multipurpose Skills Acquisition Centre, during the APC presidential campaign rally in Jigawa State, yesterday.

Kyari says no money is missing from NNPCL, disputes audit findings

Challenges financial officers' submissions as Senate vows deeper probe

From **John Akubo**, Abuja

FORMER Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), Mele Kyari, has pushed back against the N210 trillion financial controversy surrounding the state-owned oil company, accusing auditors of misinterpreting accounting entries and wrongly presenting them as missing funds.

Appearing before the Senate Committee on Public Accounts yesterday, Kyari insisted that not a single kobo of the disputed N210 trillion was lost under his leadership.

Describing the figures as bookkeeping entries that had been misconstrued in the audit reports, the former oil company chief also questioned submissions made by some former NNPCL financial officers, insisting that the controversy required a proper understanding of the company's accounting records.

"I confirm at this moment that nothing is lost," Kyari declared. "It's simply not possible under my care and under my leadership for that to happen. It did not happen, and there are actually entry issues, which I know have been clarified. They are all issues of bookkeeping that have nothing to do with any loss," he told the lawmakers.

His appearance came amid scrutiny of NNPCL's financial statements and audit findings that raised questions about transactions running into N210 trillion.

He also defended the controversial N2.99 billion expenditure on the incorporation of NNPCL, dismissing suggestions that the company made questionable payments to secure its registration or name.

According to him, the expenditure covered statutory services rendered by government institutions and was incurred by NNPCL on behalf of the Federation.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

NCDC confirms dengue in two states, *chikungunya* in Sokoto

Ebola index patient remains positive

By **Ijeoma Nwanosike**

THE Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has confirmed dengue fever in Sokoto and Zamfara states, and *chikungunya* in Sokoto, even as health authorities brace for the seasonal resurgence of other potentially deadly infections.

NCDC also disclosed that the index patient in the country's Ebola outbreak remains positive and hospitalised in Switzerland, while 62 contacts were being monitored.

The development comes as Nigeria approaches the dry season, a period associated with increased risk of cerebrospinal meningitis and seasonal transmission of Lassa fever, prompting calls for strengthened disease surveillance, early detection and preparedness.

The agency urged Nigerians to remain vigilant against multiple infectious diseases, warning against assuming that every fever is malaria, as it disclosed that the country had recorded no additional Ebola case three weeks after confirming an imported infection caused by the Bundibugyo virus.

Director-General of NCDC, Dr Jide Idris, disclosed this in a national health security update/advisory yesterday, marking 21 days since Nigeria confirmed the imported Ebola case on October 20, 2026.

Idris said the agency had deployed National Rapid Response Teams, including entomologists from the National Arbovirus Research Centre, Enugu, to support affected states with case finding, laboratory investigations, clinical readiness, community engagement and mosquito control.

He confirmed that the teams were working with state authorities to address gaps identified during field investigations and monitor the evolving disease situation.

The NCDC chief explained that dengue and *chikungunya* could present with symptoms such as fever, headache, body pains and joint pains, making it important for Nigerians to seek medical assessment rather than automatically treating every fever as malaria.

Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral infection caused by the *chikungunya* virus (CHIKV), characterised by fever, severe joint pain and other flu-like symptoms, while dengue is caused by the dengue virus and presents with high fever, severe headache, muscle and joint pain, nausea and skin rash, with severe cases potentially resulting in life-threatening complications.

He warned that dengue could become life-threatening when warning signs were missed, and advised people with persistent fever, particularly when accompanied by rash, vomiting or severe joint pains, to seek medical attention.

The DG gave the update on Ebola through the agency's Director of Public Health, Dr Odianosan Ehiakhamen, during a Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) webinar entitled 'Safeguarding Nigeria Together: The NIMR Ebola Webinar'.

Ehiakhamen said the patient's viral load appeared to be declining, as indicated by rising cycle threshold (Ct) values, although the test results remained positive. He added that the patient's spouse tested negative and was being accommodated separately.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

Makinde's ex-CoS, 32 others defect to APC in Ogbomoso

Gov presents N1.12tr 2027 budget, swears in four permsecs

From **Rotimi Agboluaje**, Ibadan

THE immediate past Chief of Staff (CoS) to Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State, Segun Ogunwuyi, yesterday led 32 other chieftains of the Allied People's Movement (APM) to join the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ogbomoso.

This was as the governor presented a N1.12 trillion appropriation bill for the 2027 fiscal year to the House of Assembly, allocating N236.15 billion to infrastructure development.

He also reaffirmed his administration's commitment to merit-based appointments, fairness and inclusiveness in the public service, as he swore in four permanent secretaries.

Vehicular movement was halted for over three hours as APC members and supporters trooped out to witness the politicians officially join the APC at the rally held at Oja'Gbo in front of Soun Ogunlola Hall at the city centre.

Other chieftains who reportedly declared for the APC include Rasak Gbadegesin (Agbeti), Timothy Oyeniyi, Alabi Olateju, Dr. Banji Folaranmi, Isaiah Adegbite, Peter Oyetunji and APM Chairman for Ogbomoso North Local Council, Jimoh Sikiru.

Speaking on behalf of the defectors, Ogunwuyi said they came to APC to add value, stressing that APC would win convincingly in Ogbomoso.

Welcoming them, Oyo APC chairman, Moses Adeyemo, assured the defectors of equal opportunities. He urged them to work hard for the success of the APC candidates in the 2027 general elections.

THE budget, christened '*Budget of Sustained Progress*', is the final yearly appropriation bill to be presented by Makinde, whose second term in office is expected to end in 2027.

The governor presented the proposal during a special plenary at the Parliament Building, Secretariat, Ibadan.

Giving a breakdown of the proposed expenditure, Makinde said N670 billion (about 60 per cent) was earmarked for capital expenditure, while N444 billion was allocated to recurrent expenditure.

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Senate raises concern, probes airspace closures for VIPs

From **Olusegun Koiki** (Lagos) and **John Akubo** (Abuja)

• As Air traffic controllers threaten strike over poor infrastructure
• Keyamo seeks dialogue with NATCA

SENATE has raised concerns about the safety implications of prolonged airspace closures for Very Important Personalities (VIPs), warning that poor coordination could turn routine flight delays into aviation disasters.

The lawmakers have consequently ordered an investigation into the practice, with particular attention to commercial aircraft forced to circle for hours while awaiting clearance for VIP movements.

They also want aviation authorities to consider diverting affected flights to alternative airports rather than keeping aircraft airborne for extended periods.

The resolution followed a motion sponsored by Senator Isah Jibrin during yesterday's plenary, which highlighted the growing disruption to commercial flight operations caused by airspace restrictions.

The Senate mandated its Committee on Aviation to investigate the circumstances surrounding the restrictions and determine whether aviation authorities were complying with established safety and operational procedures.

The committee, chaired by Senator Abdulfatai Buhari, is to engage the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB), and the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN).

MEANWHILE, the Nigerian Air Traffic Controllers' Association (NATCA) has threatened to withdraw its services over the alleged persistent failure of the Federal Government to address deficiencies in the country's airspace communication and surveillance infrastructure.

The association specifically lamented that the lack of improvements in critical air traffic management equipment, especially communication systems, despite repeated engagements with relevant authorities and announced procurement approvals, was hindering its ability to discharge its duties effectively.

But the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, asked the association and its members to embrace sustained dialogue over the concerns, saying that the Federal Government, through the Bureau for Public Procurement (BPP), had approved the acquisition of some equipment for air traffic controllers.

Speaking yesterday during his welcome address at the 55th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NATCA with the theme: 'Beyond Silos to Synergy: Shaping the Future of Nigerian Air Traffic Management,' in Lagos, the President of NATCA, Amos Edino, warned that the association may be forced to consider withdrawing its services if the government failed to present a clear strategic plan for the comprehensive overhaul of the infrastructure.

Edino regretted that the association had, over the years, raised concerns about the condition of communication and surveillance facilities across the country without receiving the desired response.

According to him, NATCA had sought high-level intervention from Keyamo, the National Counter Terrorism Centre, the Office of the National Security Adviser and the management of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), all to no avail.

Nigeria to end foreign missions' funding crisis, seeks framework

From **Joseph Chibueze**, Abuja

FEDERAL Government has initiated a comprehensive review of the funding arrangements for Nigeria's diplomatic missions abroad, amid persistent financial constraints threatening their operations.

The review, being coordinated by the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), is expected to produce a sustainable, transparent and predictable financing framework that will address funding uncertainties, improve expenditure management and strengthen accountability in the operation of Nigerian embassies and high commissions.

The initiative follows a presidential directive issued on October 14, 2026, mandating the creation of a Presidential Technical Working Group to examine the existing funding structure and recommend practical reforms to address the financial challenges facing the country's foreign missions.

19 PFAs indicate interest as pension industry targets $750m fund

By **Bankole Orimisan**

NIGERIA'S pension industry is seeking to mobilise up to $750 million for infrastructure development through a proposed investment fund that has already attracted interest from 19 Nigerian pension funds.

The initiative, being developed by the Pension Industry Leadership Council (PILC), in partnership with UK-funded development agency, FSD Africa, is expected to channel long-term pension assets and development finance into critical sectors, including energy, transportation and digital infrastructure.

The proposed Nigeria Infrastructure Investment Platform (PIIP) is targeting an initial capital mobilisation of $350 million at its first close in 2027, before scaling up to $750 million.

Under the proposed structure, Nigerian pension funds are expected to contribute approximately $600 million, while Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) will provide at least $150 million.



Former Presidents of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Davidson Alaribe (left), Dr Comfort Olu Eyitayo; Chairman, Body of Past Presidents, ICAN, Felix Bajomo; President/Chairman of Council, Queensley Sofuratu Seghosime and Vice President, Etofolam Osuji, during the 2026 International Accounting Day walk in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: AYODELE ADENIRAN

AGF pledges support as NHRC, India seal human rights pact

From **Ameh Ochojila**, Abuja

NATIONAL Human Rights Commissions of Nigeria and India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen institutional cooperation, exchange expertise and improve human rights protection in both countries.

The National Human Rights Commission of India, led by the Chairperson, Justice V. Ramasubramanian, who spoke at the signing ceremony in Abuja yesterday, described the agreement as a historic development, saying it would deepen an existing relationship between the two countries and strengthen South-South cooperation.

He commended the Executive Secretary of Nigeria's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Dr Tony Ojukwu, for his efforts in making the agreement possible.

The Indian delegation leader noted that Nigeria and India shared historical and demographic similarities, including religious, linguistic and ethnic diversity, as well as experiences of colonial rule.

He recalled that India established a liaison office in Nigeria in 1958, two years before Nigeria gained independence in 1960, while India became independent in 1947.

The signing took place during the presentation of the commission's October 2026 Human Rights Situation Dashboard in Abuja.

MEANWHILE, the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, has assured the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of the Federal Government's commitment to protecting its statutory independence, declaring that the commission must be free from the control or direction of any authority or individual in carrying out its mandate.

Fagbemi gave the assurance yesterday in Abuja when he received a joint delegation of the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria and its Indian counterpart, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions to strengthen cooperation in human rights protection.

According to the AGF, Section 6(3) of the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010, expressly guarantees the commission's independence in the exercise of its statutory functions, adding that the administration had continued to respect and protect the provision.

He said the effectiveness of human rights protection should be measured not by constitutional provisions alone but by their practical implementation through accessible institutions, accountable public authorities and an independent judiciary.

ECOWAS States set January deadline for biometric ID acceptance at borders

By **Yetunde Ayobami Ojo** and **Oludare Richards**

• African, ECOWAS courts seek stronger cooperation, enforcement of judgments

ECOWAS member States have agreed to accept the bloc's National Biometric Identity Card (ENBIC) at all official border crossing points from January 1, 2027, in a move aimed at easing movement across West Africa and strengthening the implementation of the regional free movement protocol.

The commitment is contained in the Freetown Declaration adopted at the 10th Annual Meeting of ECOWAS Heads of Immigration, held in Sierra Leone from November 3 to 4.

Under the declaration, a valid biometric identity card issued by any ECOWAS member state is to be recognised as sufficient proof of identity and Community citizenship at official border posts, whether or not the issuing country has commenced its own national rollout.

The decision places fresh responsibility on immigration authorities to establish the administrative and technical arrangements required to recognise and verify cards issued by other member states.

For Nigeria, the commitment comes as the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) continues work on its national biometric identity card system and the technology required to support border verification.

The Comptroller-General of the NIS, Kemi Nandap, told the Freetown meeting that Nigeria was implementing the ENBIC through its locally developed Border Control and Immigration Management System (BCIMS).

She said mobile verification devices connected to the system were being deployed at border crossing points, while plans were also underway to extend issuance of the card to Nigerians in the diaspora.

The Heads of Immigration further asked the ECOWAS Commission to finalise common technical specifications and a regional verification mechanism, to operationalise an existing monitoring and evaluation committee, and to report annually on the rollout and acceptance of the card.

They also called for the mobilisation of resources and wider public awareness, particularly among citizens, traders and communities living around border areas.

In a goodwill message, Chief of Mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Nigeria and ECOWAS, Sharon Dimanche, said regional integration should be measured by the experience of travellers at border crossing points.

She noted that recognition of travel documents, harmonised procedures and efficient border services could facilitate legitimate movement, protect livelihoods and strengthen border security.

Germany pledges support for Nigerian entrepreneurs, harps on innovation

By **Moyosore Salami**

GERMAN Government has renewed its support for Nigerian entrepreneurs, saying it remains committed to working with Nigeria and all its partners to ensure that entrepreneurship contributes to inclusive economic growth, productive employment and shared prosperity.

Speaking at the three-day National MSME Conference 2026 in Lagos, which began yesterday with the theme 'The Next Frontier for Innovation, Policy and Market Access,' the Deputy Consul General, German Consulate Lagos, Katharina Ziegler, said the theme of the conference speaks to opportunities Germany and Nigeria want to advance together: "the growth of Nigerian enterprises, stronger commercial ties between our countries and increased investment in Nigeria."

MultiChoice welcomes NBC's directive on content rights

By **Eniola Daniel**

MULTICHOICE Group, a CANAL+ Company, has welcomed a directive issued by Nigeria's National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) on 2 November 2026, reaffirming the rules governing intellectual property rights and the retransmission of audiovisual content in Nigeria.

The directive reinforces a fundamental principle of broadcasting that access to another operator's signal does not confer the right to retransmit or commercially redistribute its content. It makes clear that operators must obtain the necessary rights and authorisations before retransmitting protected content, and that unauthorised retransmission constitutes a violation of intellectual property rights.

Welcoming the directive, Kemi Omotosho, CEO of MultiChoice Nigeria, said the NBC's clarification was an important step towards protecting content creators and rights-holders, while establishing a more orderly and sustainable broadcasting market.

FG considers ring-fencing electricity revenues to secure new investments

By **Waliat Musa**

THE Federal Government is considering a revenue ring-fencing mechanism and credit enhancement arrangements to protect investments in new electricity generation, ensure payment to gas suppliers and generators, and address persistent liquidity challenges in the power sector.

Special Adviser to the President on Power, Dr Rilwan Babalola, disclosed this yesterday, during the second edition of the Lagos Energy Summit 2026, themed "Lagos Energy Evolution: Transforming the Future," held at the Landmark Event Centre, Lagos, where he outlined measures required to make Nigeria's electricity market commercially viable and attractive to investors.

Babalola, who was represented by a member of the Presidential Task Force on Power Sector Reset and Restoration, Uzoma Achinanya, said revenues generated from new electricity supply should be protected and channelled towards meeting the contractual obligations that enabled the power to be delivered, warning that improvements in electricity supply would not be sustainable without corresponding improvements in payments across the value chain.

He said that the electricity market had focused disproportionately on delivering power to consumers while neglecting the financial arrangements required to ensure that generators and their gas suppliers received payment.

Babalola said the government was proposing bilateral contracts backed by secure payment arrangements, including escrow accounts, payment waterfalls and visibility of revenue collection, to ensure that funds reach generators and gas suppliers.

The presidential adviser also called for credit enhancement to support electricity market participants where the market was not yet capable of carrying the risks associated with new investments.

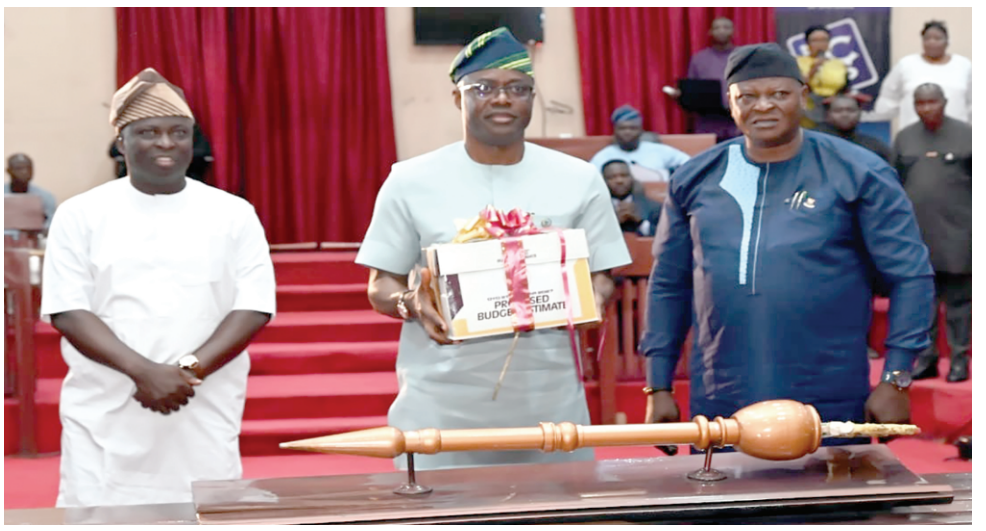
He said such government-backed support should be recovered from revenues generated by the market, rather than become a permanent financial burden on the public purse.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Power, Joseph Tegbe, said the Federal Government had developed a four-pronged roadmap to address the country's electricity challenges.

The roadmap, according to him, covers grid stabilisation, sector liquidity and sustainability, asset optimisation, and expansion and enhancement of the grid.

Tegbe said the government was adopting a corridor-based approach to align generation, transmission reinforcement and distribution capacity with demand in major economic clusters, identifying the Lagos-Ogun, Benin-Enugu-Port Harcourt and Abuja-Kaduna-Kano corridors as priority areas.

He said the Lagos-Ogun corridor and Abuja franchise area, which account for over 50 per cent of national electricity demand, would serve as pilots for the proposed 24-hour energy zones.



Secretary to Oyo State Government (SSG), Prof. Musibau Babatunde (left); Governor Seyi Makinde, and Special Adviser to the Governor on Legislative Matters, Samuel Adejumo, during presentation of the 2027 budget to the State House of Assembly in Ibadan, yesterday.

Tinubu's visit: Ondo will deepen, strengthen party unity ahead of 2027, group states

Vows peaceful mobilisation across 203 wards

From **Adewale Momoh**, Akure

A SUPPORT group within the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), BTO4PBAT, has placed its structures across Ondo State on alert for President Bola Tinubu's today's visit, describing the trip as a test of the APC's ward-level machinery ahead of the 2027 general elections.

According to the group, its network spanning all 18 local councils, 203 political wards and 3,933 polling units in the state has been activated, positioning the presidential visit as a mobilisation benchmark.

In a statement by its Director-General, Adesuyi Adojutelegan, the group said the visit would bring national party leadership face-to-face with grassroots stakeholders, stressing that the development will reinforce dialogue and cooperation within the APC ahead of 2027.

MEANWHILE, the APC, Ondo State chapter, has revealed its determination to surpass its 2023 presidential election performance, vowing to deliver a record-breaking victory for Tinubu in the 2027 general elections.

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

Ekiti ranks second in NGF health budget performance implementation rating

Scores 82.2%, meets NGF's 67% benchmark

From **Ayodele Afolabi**, Ado-Ekiti

EKITI State has emerged second among 34 states evaluated in the Health Budget Performance Implementation Report released by the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), covering the first three quarters of 2026.

Significantly, Ekiti was also among only three states that met the NGF's 67 per cent benchmark for health budget performance implementation, underscoring the state's commitment to effective budget execution and sustained investment in healthcare delivery.

The state scored 82.2 per cent, trailing only Delta State, which ranked first with 84.4 per cent, while Bayelsa State came third with 68.3 per cent.

During the period under review, Ekiti State also recorded a favourable performance in overall budget implementation, ranking among the leading states with a 65 per cent performance rating, further reflecting its commitment to fiscal discipline, adherence to budgetary provisions, and commitment to service delivery.

Sanwo-Olu, ACEN advocate AI-driven solutions to Nigeria's infrastructure gap

By **Victor Gbonegun**

Say Nigeria requires $100b yearly infrastructure investment

STAKEHOLDERS in the engineering sector and the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday, said that Artificial Intelligence (AI) could play a critical role in helping Nigeria address its huge infrastructure deficit by improving the way projects across the country are designed, delivered and maintained for longevity.

They spoke at the 2026 Association for Consulting Engineering in Nigeria (ACEN) yearly conference, general meeting and dinner in Lagos.

The experts, therefore, advocated deeper exploration of AI in consulting engineering towards accelerating infrastructure development and economic growth of the country.

ACEN President, Kunle Adebajo, while speaking at the conference, themed: "Infrastructure Development in the Era of AI: Powering the Nigerian Economy," said Nigeria's infrastructure challenges could no longer be addressed solely through increased funding, but required greater productivity and smarter delivery.

Adebajo said Nigeria requires about $100 billion in infrastructure investment yearly, while its infrastructure deficit is estimated at $2.3 trillion.

He, however, lamented that currently, government spending covers less than 30 per cent of the country's yearly infrastructure needs, adding that the huge gap would require infrastructure projects to be better designed, delivered on time, and maintained for their full life.

He observed that this was where AI could make a significant difference, adding that AI was already being applied across the engineering sector through generative design, predictive analytics, drones, computer vision and digital twins.

According to him, generative design could enable engineers to test hundreds of options for road alignments and drainage networks in hours rather than weeks, while drones and computer vision could detect cracks and corrosion.

He said digital twins could help engineers monitor the performance of bridges and dams and predict maintenance requirements before failures occur.

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

Tinubu tasks leaders on enduring public assets

From **Terhemba Daka**, Abuja

- Says assets must outlive political leaders, serve future generations
- Urges govt not to build infrastructure for personal enjoyment
- Sanwo-Olu unveils rebuilt Lagos Lodge, pledges residents' support for Tinubu

PRESIDENT Bola Ahmed Tinubu has urged political leaders to prioritise enduring public infrastructure and institutional development, saying good governance must be reflected in the quality of assets bequeathed to future generations.

Tinubu, who was represented by the First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu, gave the charge yesterday during the inauguration of the reconstructed Lagos State Governors' Lodge in Asokoro, Abuja.

The President commended Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for delivering the project, describing the new facility as a demonstration of the state's commitment to excellence, responsible management of public resources and preservation of government assets.

He stressed that public infrastructure belonged to the people and should be maintained, upgraded and developed to serve successive generations.

Tinubu said the timely completion of the project reflected the commitment of the Lagos State Government and the dedication of all those involved in its execution.

He recalled that the former structure was demolished in October 2025 to pave the way for the new facility, which he described as a befitting official residence for the Lagos State governor and his family during official engagements in Abuja.

According to him, Lagos State, as Nigeria's commercial hub and a Centre of Excellence, deserves infrastructure that reflects its status, aspirations and contribution to national development.

He expressed hope that the facility would serve as a place of peace, comfort and hospitality for successive administrations and their families.

Sanwo-Olu, while speaking at the event, described the inauguration as another milestone in Lagos State's institutional development, saying that the Lodge was designed not merely as an official residence but also as a centre for government business, strategic engagements and interaction with the Federal Government.

The governor noted that although Lagos State ceased to be Nigeria's capital following the relocation of the seat of government to Abuja, the state had retained its economic and political significance in national affairs.

Adeleke denies taking foreign loans, blames past govt for inherited debt

- Blames $26.56m rise on inherited RAAMP debt maturity
- NLC blasts FG over withheld Osun LG funds, backs striking workers

From **Timothy Agbor** and **Oluwole Ige**, Osogbo

OSUN State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, has denied taking foreign loans either secretly or openly since he took over governance in November 2022, describing any insinuation in that line as fake news.

He contended that the $25.8 million foreign loan, which was reflected in the recent Debt Management Office (DMO) publication, was obtained by the former administration in the state.

The governor was responding to the publication by the DMO, which showed an increase of approximately $26.56 million between December 2024 and June 2026.

Adeleke, while clarifying the details of the debt profile, in a statement yesterday by his Spokesperson, Olawale Rasheed, stated that the DMO had reflected the sum of $25.8 million as an external loan taken by the previous administration for the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project.

The loan repayment process had matured by December 2025; hence its inclusion by DMO in its report, the state governor explained.

The governor further submitted that there are four similar external loans by the previous administration which have matured for repayment and which may soon be reflected in the state external debt stock.

Firm conducts fourth set of embryo transfer

SILAGREEN International Agro Development Limited, yesterday, said it had conducted the fourth set of embryo transfers (ET).

In a statement, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the firm, Michael Akinruli, said the exercise was carried out at two centres in the South West, one in Ogun State and the other in Osun State.

He said that a total of 74 recipient cows were carefully prepared over several weeks to receive high-value tropical dairy and beef genetics, adding that the calves born from this exercise will be 100 per cent purebred premium tropical high-productive animals, genetically identical in breed quality to their parents in Brazil.

However, Chairman of the firm, Dr Amos Ayodele, recalled that the company started an embryo transfer programme in April 2024, and that each one had been built on the experience and results of its predecessor.

Insecurity:

U.S. Congress in fresh hearing over Christian genocide claims, killings

- U.S. lawmakers to examine attacks on Christian communities, M'Belt violence
- APC promises 28,000 troops, 50,000 additional police officers
- ADC challenges Tinubu's record, dismisses re-election promises
- Duke warns of national crisis, offers to step down for consensus
- Obi says Nigeria cannot progress while citizens live in fear
- UNHCR reports 64,000 Nigerians flee to Niger amid worsening attacks

From **Adamu Abuh, Sodiq Omolaoye, John Akubo** and **Andrew Oota** (Abuja)

CONCERNS about killings in Nigeria have attracted renewed international attention, with the United States Congress set to hold another hearing tomorrow on attacks against Christian communities and security challenges in the Middle Belt, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that nearly 64,000 Nigerians have fled to neighbouring Niger this year.

The developments come amid mounting political pressure on President Bola Tinubu's administration, with the All Progressives Congress (APC) promising a major security overhaul ahead of the 2027 elections and opposition figures questioning its capacity to protect lives and property.

The United States Congress is set to hold another hearing on insecurity in Nigeria, with lawmakers expected to examine attacks on Christian communities, the Federal Government's efforts to protect vulnerable populations and the security situation in the Middle Belt.

The hearing will be convened by the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and chaired by Congressman Chris Smith.

Titled "One Year Later: Assessing Nigeria's Efforts to Protect Christians and Secure the Middle Belt", the session will assess the government's response to attacks, efforts to bring perpetrators to justice and measures to safeguard vulnerable communities.

According to a notice from Smith's office, lawmakers will also examine the role of extremist groups in the violence and possible steps the United States could take to address the situation.

Two panels of witnesses are expected to appear, including U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Frank Garcia, and Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, Riley Barnes.

Others are Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute, Ryan Brown of Open Doors U.S. and Oge Onubogu, Director of the Africa Programme at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Smith said the session would be his 14th congressional hearing on the persecution of Christians in Nigeria.

The development comes amid renewed attention from the Trump administration and American lawmakers to attacks on Christian communities in the country.

In October 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump redesignated Nigeria as a Country of Particular Concern over alleged violations of religious freedom.

The designation has featured prominently in discussions between Nigerian and American officials, with the Federal Government maintaining that insecurity affects citizens of different religious backgrounds and should not be characterised solely as religious persecution.

The hearing will take place at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC and will be streamed live online.

Nearly 64,000 Nigerians flee to Niger

THE international attention comes against the backdrop of a growing humanitarian crisis, with nearly 64,000 people fleeing northern Nigeria for neighbouring Niger this year to escape attacks by Islamist militants and armed gangs, according to UNHCR.

The influx is stretching resources in Niger, which already hosts more than 500,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, including about 327,500 Nigerians. Several hundred Nigerians have also sought refuge in Benin.

Most of the new arrivals have settled in the border regions of Diffa and Tahoua. More than 23,000 people, over two-thirds of them children, have arrived in Diffa alone since the beginning of the year.

UNHCR spokesperson, Dominique Hyde, said thousands of newly arrived refugees, many of them children, were struggling to survive with limited access to food, clean water, shelter and essential services, as humanitarian resources fall critically short.

Many families are living in makeshift shelters, while women often walk several kilometres daily to fetch water.

The growing exodus underscores the wider regional impact of violence in northern Nigeria, where attacks by Boko Haram, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) fighters and criminal gangs have displaced millions of people over the past decade.

Aid agencies have also reported rising malnutrition, respiratory infections and poor sanitation among new arrivals.

Protection concerns are mounting, with only about five per cent of refugees who arrived in Niger this year formally registered, leaving many without the documentation required to access aid

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Chairman of National Sports Commission, Shehu Dikko (left); Secretary to the Government of Lagos State, Abimbola Salu-Hundeyin; Chairman, House Committee on Housing, Abdulmi Jibrin; Minister of Budget and National Planning, Atiku Bagudu; Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Jumoke Oduwole; Chief of Staff to the President, Femi Gbajabiamila; Minister of Solid Minerals, Dele Alake; Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris; Minister of Steel Development, Shuaibu Audu and Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, at the media presentation of "From Reforms to Prosperity," All Progressives Congress 2027 Presidential Campaign Manifesto in Abuja.

Atiku, Oye fault fresh loans, pre-election spending amid rising debt

- **$500m loan:** Don't saddle your successor with debt, Atiku tells Tinubu
- Oye: Reckless pre-election spending could widen Nigeria's deficit, affect budget implementation
- DMO urges govt to cut borrowing, boost revenue

By **Kehinde Olatunji** and **Abigail Ikhaghu**

FOLLOWING the latest disclosure by the Debt Management Office (DMO) that Nigeria could spend most of its Federal Government revenue servicing debt by 2030, chairman of the Alliance for Economic Research & Ethics (AERE), Dele Kelvin Oye, has warned that increased government spending ahead of the 2027 general elections could widen the country's fiscal deficit, heighten borrowing pressures and undermine the execution of projects captured in the national budget.

This is as former Vice President and presidential candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Atiku Abubakar, has warned President Bola Tinubu against committing Nigeria to a proposed $500 million World Bank loan shortly before the end of his current four-year tenure. He argued that no administration should saddle the country with fresh debt without adequate justification and public scrutiny.

Raising concerns about the government struggling to generate sufficient revenue to meet its obligations while making funds available for infrastructure, healthcare, education and other public services, the DMO projected that debt service will consume 71.7 per cent of Federal Government revenue by 2030 under its baseline scenario, significantly exceeding its recommended threshold of 50 per cent.

The DMO's projections show that the debt service-to-revenue ratio, which declined from 60.6 per cent in 2024 to 44.9 per cent in 2025, is expected to rise above the recommended threshold in 2026 to 51 per cent and 57.1 per cent in 2027, before reaching 57.4 per cent in 2028 and 67.3 per cent in 2029. By 2030, debt servicing is projected to consume 71.7 per cent of Federal Government revenue.

To address the challenge, the DMO recommended increasing government revenue through tax reforms, expanding the tax base, improving compliance and deploying technology to strengthen tax administration. It also called for greater efficiency in public expenditure, urging the government to direct resources towards growth-enhancing investments capable of expanding the economy and generating additional revenue.

The debt office further advised the government to reduce new borrowing by adopting public-private partnership arrangements to finance capital projects and complying with the Fiscal Responsibility Act and provisions of the CBN Act on Ways and Means Advances.

IN an assessment of the Federal Government's 2026 budget performance in a statement yesterday, Oye said election-period spending was one of the major risks that could derail the country's fiscal targets. "There are four risks to watch closely. First, election-period spending can put pressure on the deficit and financing needs," he said.

Oye, with more than 30 years of experience across public- and private-sector boards, who served as President of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and Chairman of the Organised Private Sector of Nigeria (OPSN), cited the World Bank's October 2026 assessment, which identified higher pre-election spending as a factor that could widen Nigeria's consolidated fiscal deficit in 2026.

"The World Bank identifies higher pre-election spending as one factor that could widen the consolidated deficit in 2026. That is a risk to manage, not a claim that every public project will be diverted for political purposes," he said.

According to him, the government must exercise fiscal discipline, avoid fresh discretionary commitments that cannot be funded and delivered within a credible timetable, and ensure that available resources are directed towards completing essential projects. "Public investment should be planned around what can be funded and completed, not merely what can be announced," he said.

Oye was reacting to the implementation of the 2026 budget, which has an approved expenditure of N68.32 trillion, projected revenue of N36.87 trillion and a deficit of approximately N31.46 trillion. He expressed concern that despite the substantial budgetary provision for capital expenditure, implementation of the 2026 capital budget for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) remained at zero as of June 30, 2026.

According to him, the Budget Office's second-quarter implementation report showed that government agencies were still utilising funds from the extended 2025 capital programme rather than commencing implementation of their 2026 MDA capital budgets. He, however, clarified that the reported zero implementation related specifically to the 2026 MDA capital budget, while cumulative first-half capital expenditure across broader funding categories stood at N4.177 trillion.

Oye further warned that the continued implementation of the 2025 capital programme alongside the 2026 budget could complicate public spending oversight, project monitoring and accountability. "That overlap makes it harder to answer a basic question: which budget year paid for a project, and what was delivered from that year's appropriation? It can also complicate cost control and public oversight," he said.

He called on the Federal Government to close the 2025 capital programme by the statutory deadline of December 31, 2026, and explain any outstanding liabilities. "For the remaining weeks of 2026, the government should close the 2025 capital programme on the statutory date and explain any unresolved liability," he said.

He also urged the government to avoid new discretionary commitments that could not be funded and completed within realistic timelines, while protecting essential projects that were ready for implementation. "It should avoid fresh discretionary com-

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'Nigeria's $1tr economy target requires productive investment'

By **Isaac Chibuife** and **Victoria Nwachukwu**

NIGERIA'S ambition of building a $1 trillion economy by 2030 will depend on increased domestic and foreign investment, higher production and expanded exports, President Bola Tinubu has said.

Tinubu, who spoke yesterday at the 2026 Annual Directors' Conference of the Chartered Institute of Directors (CIoD) Nigeria in Lagos, urged businesses to expand productive investment, pioneer new industries and create lasting employment, saying the target would not be achieved through announcements but by stronger partnerships between government and the private sector.

Represented by the Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission, Tunji Olaopa, the president said Nigeria needed an economy that produces more, attracts sustained investment, exports more value-added goods and services, and achieves faster and more inclusive growth.

Adding that investors need confidence in transparent, accountable and predictable institutional frameworks to commit their resources, he identified stronger corporate governance as essential to reducing investment risks, improving access to capital, strengthening operational efficiency and sustaining businesses.

The president also called on government institutions and businesses to address constraints on investment, including inadequate infrastructure, electricity supply, security, regulatory delays, and weak policy implementation.

Moreover, he urged businesses to expand productive investment, develop new industries, employ more Nigerians, deepen local value chains and build enterprises capable of competing internationally.

Tinubu also acknowledged the pressures that the removal of the petroleum subsidy and foreign exchange market reforms had placed on households and businesses, but said the government was taking steps to address longstanding structural weaknesses in the economy.

He cited economic growth of 4.43 per cent in the second quarter of 2026 and a headline inflation rate of 14.63 per cent in September 2026, following the rebasing of the consumer price index.

However, he cautioned that the figures were calculated using different methodologies and should not be treated as a direct comparison with the 34.80 per cent inflation recorded in December 2024 under the former methodology.

He also called for improved energy and transport infrastructure, policy predictability, greater local value addition and export diversification, urging Nigeria to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area to connect local producers to wider markets.

Similarly, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, George Akume, said government needed to consolidate its economic reforms, strengthen productive capacity and ensure that their benefits translated into improved living conditions.



Enugu State Governor, Peter Mbah (middle), with the students and staff of Smart Green School, Agbada, Nenwe, Aninri Local Council, during the commissioning of the school and campaign tour of development centres in the council.

Groups mobilise for Tinubu, Mbah reelection in Enugu

APC has numbers to deliver Tinubu, others on Delta, says Oborevwori

From **Lawrence Njoku**, Enugu

THOUSANDS of youths from Awkunawnaw in Nkanu West, and Enugu South local councils of Enugu State, yesterday declared that they would mobilise support for President Bola Tinubu and Governor Peter Mbah's re-election in the 2027 general elections, citing their performances and development initiatives.

Also, Enugu State Unity Forum, a leading support group championing the re-election of Tinubu, Mbah and all candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state, embarked on an aggressive grassroots and door-to-door mobilisation campaign ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Meanwhile, Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwori, expressed confidence that "APC has the political strength and grassroots support" to deliver Tinubu and all candidates of the party in the state.

MOSOP accuses govs of mismanaging derivation funds

From **Cornelius Essen**, Abuja

THE Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP) has called for an amendment to the act establishing the 13.5 per cent derivation funds, accusing the governors of misappropriating the funds and keeping the Niger Delta region in poverty.

MOSOP President, Fegalo Nsuke, made the remark during the 31st memorial of the execution of Kenule Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists by the late Gen. Sani Abacha military government.

Nsuke argued that the struggles and sacrifices of martyrs like Saro-Wiwa would not bring about any change in people's lives until laws specifically direct benefits to the regions from which resources are extracted and to those who actually bear the consequences of extraction.

"The idea of derivation funds was to address the underdevelopment in the Niger Delta region. However, the structure of fund administration makes it vulnerable to abuse and has left the funds at the discretion of state governors.

AfriSAFE 2026: Seplat Energy tasks firms on workplace safety

By **Opeyemi Babalola**

35 firms, individuals in Africa receive awards for excellence

SEPLAT Energy Plc has reaffirmed the importance of workplace safety in business leadership, declaring that companies cannot consider themselves profitable if workers lose their lives under their watch.

Seplat Energy Plc Chief Executive Officer Effiong Udofia Okon made the declaration during the 2026 Africa Safety Congress and Awards (AfriSAFE), a two-day event themed 'Safeguarding Lives, Securing the Future', held on November 6 and 7 at the Labadi Beach Hotel in Accra, Ghana.

The Seplat Energy CEO, drawing on his experience in the energy industry, described the emotional and human cost of workplace fatalities, stressing that protecting employees must remain a fundamental responsibility of corporate leadership.

He recalled his experience with workplace fatalities and the difficult responsibility of informing families who have lost loved ones in industrial incidents.

"I have been in the industry for a very long time, and I have seen fatalities. I have led fatalities, and it is not where you want to be. There is nothing as bad as having to call a spouse and say we just lost your partner. It is tough, and it is real," he said.

Okon, who commended AfriSAFE for its continued advocacy, encouraged the organisers to sustain their efforts towards improving safety standards across the continent.

He noted that organisations have no meaningful future without a commitment to protecting human lives, adding that Seplat Energy takes workplace safety extremely seriously.

He therefore pledged the company's continued support for AfriSAFE, stating that Seplat Energy Plc would continue to sponsor the initiative.

Meanwhile, beyond the discussions on workplace safety and corporate responsibility, the 2026 edition of AfriSAFE also recognised 35 organisations and individuals for their contributions to safety, sustainability, environmental stewardship and leadership across Africa.

FG banks on AKK gas pipeline as new CNG facilities target 2,500 vehicles daily

From **Kingsley Jeremiah**, Abuja

MDGIF, Rolling Energy push for cleaner fuel, lower transport costs

THE Federal Government has expressed confidence that the completion of the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) gas pipeline will accelerate investment in gas infrastructure in northern Nigeria, as two new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) facilities commissioned in Kano are expected to supply about 2,500 cars and tricycles, and 200 trucks, daily.

The facilities, comprising a Liquefied-to-Compressed Natural Gas (LCNG) mother station with a daughter facility at Tamburawa and another at Hotoro Quarters, were commissioned yesterday by the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas), Ekperikpe Ekpo.

However, the facilities, developed by Rolling Energy Limited, in partnership with the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund (MDGIF), are expected to improve access to cheaper transportation fuel, reduce dependence on petrol and strengthen gas distribution across Kano and neighbouring states.

Ekpo, while speaking at the commissioning, said the AKK gas pipeline, which he put at about 90 per cent complete, would provide an additional supply opportunity for the region's emerging gas infrastructure.

According to him, the pipeline has been laid up to Kano, with finishing touches remaining, while investments, such as those by Rolling Energy, are preparing the market to receive and distribute the gas when the project becomes operational.

He described the development as an opportunity to meet the realities on the ground, adding that Kano residents and businesses would benefit from improved gas availability.

The minister also commended Rolling Energy for meeting the requirements to access MDGIF financing, stressing that approval was not automatic and that applicants must satisfy specific technical, financial and regulatory conditions before funds could be released.

Ekpo said prospective investors must have the necessary certificates and regulatory approvals, secure land for their projects and provide gas sales and transportation agreements before their applications could be considered.

Earlier, the Executive Director of MDGIF, Oluwole Adama, said the facilities would make a significant difference to transport operators and businesses grappling with rising fuel costs.

'Delayed contract payments, procurement barriers threaten businesses'

By **Gloria Nwafor**

WOMEN-OWNED businesses across Africa may continue to struggle to expand despite securing major commercial opportunities unless public institutions and corporate organisations address procurement barriers and delays in paying suppliers, the President of Women in Management (WIM) Africa, Dr Ngozi Oyewole, has warned.

She urged government agencies and corporate buyers to publish procurement opportunities early, simplify qualification requirements and pay suppliers promptly, warning that businesses could lose valuable contracts when they lack the working capital to finance production while waiting for payments.

Oyewole made the call yesterday at the opening of WIM Africa's conference, themed 'The Power Shift: Women Driving Africa's Global Economic Influence', in Lagos.

Her call comes as the Federal Government seeks to expand opportunities for women-owned enterprises in local manufacturing, including a proposed shift from imported to domestically produced sanitary products in a market estimated at N184 billion yearly.

Six varsities bag $9m NCDMB, NLNG research grants

From **Ann Godwin**, Port Harcourt

NO fewer than six Nigerian universities have signed a $9 million professorial chair endowment programme with the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG) to strengthen local research capacity,advance technological innovation and develop commercially viable solutions to industry challenges.

The schools include the University of Ibadan, Oyo State; Rivers State University; Modibbo Adama University, Yola, Adamawa State; Aliko Dangote University of Science and Technology, Kano State; University of Nigeria, Nsukka; Enugu State; and University of Abuja (Yakubu Gowon University), Abuja, FCT.

Under the Nigerian Content Research and Development (NC-R&D) Professorial Chair Endowment Programme, each university is to receive $1.5 million to establish a specialised professorial chair focused on agreed industry research priorities. The initiative is being implemented in partnership with the NCDMB, under the supervision of its Planning, Research and Statistics Directorate.

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Customs seizes diesel, rice, cosmetics worth N83.12m in waterways raids

By **Adaku Onyenucheya**

THE Nigeria Customs Service, Western Marine Area Command, has intercepted 14,100 litres of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO), 204 bags of foreign parboiled rice and 40 cartons of assorted cosmetic products in a series of anti-smuggling operations along waterways within its area of responsibility.

The Acting Area Controller of the unit, Thomas Jonah, who displayed the seized items to journalists yesterday, said the goods, with a total Duty Paid Value (DPV) of N83.12 million, were intercepted during intelligence-driven enforcement operations and routine patrols.

Jonah said the operations spanned three days. He explained that on November 5, 2026, a joint patrol team from Yekeme, Badagry and the Command Information Patrol recovered the 40 cartons of cosmetics.

He added that at about 3:45 a.m. on November 6, the same joint team intercepted 50 kegs of AGO, amounting to 2,500 litres, during a routine patrol along the Akere waterways.

According to him, at about 1:00 a.m. on November 7, the Command's Information and Barbeach Outstation Team, acting on intelligence, moved to the Takwabay waterways, where it seized 232 kegs of AGO, amounting to 11,600 litres.

He said officers also recovered a fibre boat fitted with a 40-horsepower outboard engine, believed to have been used in the attempted smuggling.

Separately, the command seized 204 bags of foreign parboiled rice, with a DPV of N19.6 million, during its enforcement activities.

Jonah said that in each case, the suspected smugglers abandoned the goods and fled on sighting the approaching officers, escaping arrest. The seized items and associated equipment were subsequently evacuated to the command.

The Area Controller said that, because of its highly combustible nature, the seized AGO had been constructively warehoused for safety and would be auctioned to the public in line with extant laws. He added that the other items were being processed in accordance with established Customs procedures.

Jonah commended the officers involved for their vigilance, professionalism and prompt response to intelligence.



Seized items

Police rescue six-year-old kidnap victim, arrest two suspects in Kaduna

From **Saxone Akhaine**, Kaduna

THE Kaduna State Police Command has rescued a six-year-old boy, Samaila-Haruna, who was abducted at Kunkumi in Makarfi Local Council of the state, and arrested two suspects in connection with the crime.

The police said the victim was rescued unhurt following an intelligence-led operation, while efforts were ongoing to apprehend another suspect who fled.

The command's spokesperson said in a statement that the incident was reported on November 8, 2026, at about 6:00 a.m. by the victim's father, HarunaBala, 30, of Kunkumi.

Bala told the police that unidentified persons invaded his residence while he was away and abducted his six-year-old son.

The kidnappers reportedly demanded a ransom of N300,000, but the father negotiated and paid N30,000.

Following sustained intelligence-led operations, police operatives traced the suspects to a shop in Kunkumi, where the boy was being held.

The operation led to the arrest of two suspects, identified as Usman Ahmed, 22, of Yarkasuwa Zoo Road, Kano State, and AbdullahiYakubu, 25, of Kunkumi, Makarfi Local Council of the state.

The police also recovered the phone allegedly used by the suspects to demand the ransom.

However, a third suspect, identified as Jamesy, of Kabuga, Kano State, remains at large, with the police intensifying efforts to apprehend him.

Court strikes out N6 billion money laundering charges against Mompha, discharges him

By **Yetunde Ayobami Ojo**



ALAGOS Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja has struck out the alleged N6 billion money laundering charges against social media personality Ismaila Mustapha, popularly known as Mompha, and discharged him.

In her judgment yesterday, Justice Mojisola Dada held that the pendency of a similar case before the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos, rendered the charge before her court an act of forum shopping and an abuse of court process.

Consequently, the judge struck out all the charges against the defendant and discharged him.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Lagos, had on January 12, 2022, arraigned Mompha and his company, Ismalob Global Investment Limited, on an eight-count charge.

The charges bordered on conspiracy to launder funds obtained through unlawful activity, retention of proceeds of criminal conduct, laundering of proceeds of unlawful activity, failure to disclose assets and property, possession of documents containing false pretences and use of property derived from an unlawful act.

One of the counts alleged that Mompha, one Ahmadu Mohammed, who is said to be at large, and Ismalob Global Investment Limited, sometime in 2016 in Lagos, conspired to conduct financial transactions valued at N5,998,884,653.18 with the intention of promoting specified unlawful activities.

Yobe villages lose youths to migration, residents lament

From **Muhammad Maitela**, Damaturu

RESIDENTS of Yobe State have raised concerns over the increasing number of young people leaving their communities for Libya, Algeria and other foreign countries in search of better living conditions and economic opportunities, warning that some villages are gradually becoming deserted.

They described the growing exodus as alarming and called on the Federal and state governments to take urgent measures to address the underlying causes of migration, create employment opportunities and discourage young people from abandoning their communities.

Findings by The Guardian indicate that the increasing departure of young people could pose a serious threat to the state's development, given their critical role in driving economic growth, social progress and community development.

The village head of Sonomari in Yusufari Local Council of the state, Baba Alkali, said more than 1,000 youths from communities across the local council area alone had migrated to Libya, Algeria and other countries in search of better living conditions and economic opportunities.

He attributed the growing exodus to insecurity, declining rainfall caused by desertification and worsening economic hardship following the Federal Government's removal of the fuel subsidy.

Alkali, who disclosed this to The Guardian in Damaturu, said the situation had become increasingly worrying, particularly for communities bordering the Republic of Niger.

According to him, the situation had worsened over the years, as young people who previously depended on farming and fishing could no longer engage in these activities because of insecurity and deteriorating economic conditions.

"In previous years, after the rainy-season farming activities, our youths typically travelled to the Lake Chad region, where they engaged in dry-season farming, cultivating maize, beans and other crops, as well as fishing. These activities provided them with a reliable means of livelihood.

"However, when insecurity escalated in the region, it prevented them from engaging in these activities, forcing many of them to remain at home. Subsequently, the removal of the fuel subsidy further worsened the economic hardship, compelling many young people to migrate to Libya and Algeria in search of opportunities," he explained.

Despite concerns over the growing exodus, the village head said migration had also brought some economic benefits to their communities, particularly through financial contributions from youths living abroad.

He said some of the migrants had established an association through which they contributed millions of naira to support the education of children in their communities.

"Furthermore, they provide for the upkeep of their parents and other family members by regularly sending money home. Most of the new houses being constructed in our villages belong to these youths living in Libya and Algeria, who send money to their relatives to build houses and provide financial support for their parents," he said.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF LAGOS STATE
IN THE LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT LAGOS
SITTING AT THE HIGH COURT NO: 14
BEFORE THE HON. JUSTICE A. O. OPESANWO
HEARING NOTICE
SUIT NO: LD/ADR/2383/2019

BETWEEN

Pablo Amaran ..... CLAIMANT(S)/APPLICANT(S)

AND

VAL Trading Oil S.A & Ors ..... DEFENDANT(S)/RESPONDENT(S)

TO: The 1st – 3rd Defendants (Val Oil Trading S.A. ② Rovasi Shipping S.A ③ The Vessel MT. Tina Too, Ex MT. Namisa, 31A Raymond Njoku Street, Ikoyi, Lagos.

The above named: 1st – 3rd Defendant

This case will be transferred from the General Cause List to the Hearing paper for: the 24th day of November 2026

At 9:00' clock in the forenoon and will come to be heard on that day if the business of the Court permits or otherwise on some adjournment day of which you will receive no further notice

If either party desires to postpone the hearing he must apply to the Court as soon as possible for the purpose and if the application on any matter of facts be prepared to give proof of this facts.

For Hearing

DATED AT Ikeja THIS 12th DAY OF October 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COURT

REGISTRAR

IN THE HIGH COURT OF LAGOS STATE
IN THE LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT LAGOS

SUIT NO: LD/ADR/2383/2019

BETWEEN

PABLO AMARAN..... CLAIMANT
(Carrying out its trade through the name and style of Amaran & Associates)

AND

1. VAL OIL TRADING S.A.....DEFENDANTS
2. ROVASI SHIPPING S.A
3. THE VESSEL MT. TINNA TOO, EX MT. NAMISA

MOTION ON NOTICE
BROUGHT PURSUANT TO ORDER 15 RULES 16 AND 17 (1) AND ORDER 26 RULE 8 OF THE HIGH COURT OF LAGOS STATE (CIVIL PROCEDURE) RULES 2019 AND UNDER THE INHERENT JURISDICTION OF THIS HONOURABLE COURT.

TAKE NOTICE that this Honourable Court will be moved on the _____ day of _____ 2026, at the hour of 9 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as Counsel may be heard on behalf of the Claimant/Applicant for the following orders:

1. **AN ORDER** of this Honourable Court striking out the name of the 3rd Defendant – **(The Vessel Mt. Tinna Too, Ex Mt. Namisa)** from this suit.

2. **AN ORDER** of this Honourable Court granting leave to the claimant/applicant to amend the Writ of Summons, statement of claim and all other originating processes filed in this suit by deleting the name of the 3rd Defendant wherever it appears therein.

www.guardian.ng

TheMetroSection

FRSC records 6,454 traffic offences, over 1,600 number plate violations

Intercepts vehicles with fake diplomatic plates, warns against crashes

From **Victor Gbonegun** (Lagos) and **Monday Osayande** (Asaba)

THE Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has disclosed that its nationwide crackdown on vehicle identity fraud and other traffic violations recorded more than 1,600 number plate-related violations.

It also said its operatives intercepted five vehicles bearing fake diplomatic number plates and apprehended motorists for 6,454 other traffic offences during the second phase of its strategic enforcement operation, code-named Operation Guduma II.

The Corps said the enforcement exercise was conducted from November 2 to 6, 2026, across 12 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). It added that the operation represented a renewed offensive against the growing abuse of vehicle registration identities, particularly the unauthorised use of diplomatic number plates, which has serious implications for national security, law enforcement and public safety.

The Corps Public Education Officer at the FRSC National Headquarters, Abuja, Osondu Ohaeri, said the operation, approved by the Corps Marshal, Shehu Mohammed, followed concerns raised by the National Assembly and the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) over the security implications of vehicle identity violations.

He explained that the operation was designed to strengthen surveillance, expose fraudulent vehicle identities and ensure that motorists comply with established vehicle registration and road traffic regulations.

According to him, the enforcement exercise covered Lagos, Ondo, Cross River, Benue, Niger, Sokoto, Taraba, Bauchi, Imo, Abia, Kano and the FCT, with dedicated operational teams deployed to strategic locations to identify and apprehend offenders.



FRSC Corps Marshal, Shehu Mohammed.

The scale of the violations, he noted, underscores the urgent need for sustained enforcement and greater public vigilance against the misuse of vehicle identification systems.

"A comparison with the first phase of Operation Guduma, which recorded 1,003 number plate violations and 683 other traffic offences, reveals a substantial increase in the number of violations detected during the second phase. The development further demonstrates the importance of sustained operational visibility, targeted surveillance and coordinated enforcement in exposing traffic violations that could otherwise go undetected."

Speaking on the development, the FRSC Corps Marshal, Shehu Mohammed, reiterated the Corps' resolve to ensure that Nigerian roads are not exploited by individuals seeking to conceal their identities, evade law enforcement or compromise national security through fraudulent vehicle documentation.

He emphasised that vehicle number plates serve as critical instruments of national security, vehicle traceability and law enforcement. Consequently, the Corps will not relent in confronting their abuse, regardless of the status or disposition of offenders.

He further assured Nigerians that Operation Guduma would be sustained and progressively expanded to other states of the federation, while operational strategies would continue to be strengthened through improved personnel deployment, inter-agency collaboration and intelligence-led enforcement.

Correctional Service confirms escape of two inmates in Kogi

From Tina Abeku, (Abuja) and **Yusufu Aminu Idegu**, (Lokoja)

THE Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) yesterday confirmed that two inmates escaped from the Medium Security Custodial Centre, Okene, Kogi State, on Sunday, November 8, 2026.

The NCoS said it had commenced necessary actions, in collaboration with relevant security agencies, to ensure the prompt recapture of the fleeing inmates. It added that a comprehensive report on the incident was being awaited to establish the circumstances surrounding the escape.

In a statement, the Service Public Relations Officer, Chief Superintendent of Corrections JN Osuji, said the Controller-General of Corrections had also directed that the incident be thoroughly investigated, with a view to identifying any lapses and taking appropriate action where necessary.

The Service assured members of the public that the situation was receiving the necessary attention and that all appropriate measures were being taken to re-arrest the fleeing inmates.

It further said it would provide updates as soon as verified information became available.

"The Service appreciates the public's understanding and cooperation," he said.

MEANWHILE, the Kogi State Police Command has confirmed the escape of two convicted inmates from the Okene Correctional Centre on Sunday, 8th November 2026, at about 1030 hours.

A statement by the police public relations officer ASP Saliu Oyiza Afusat in Lokoja on Tuesday said,

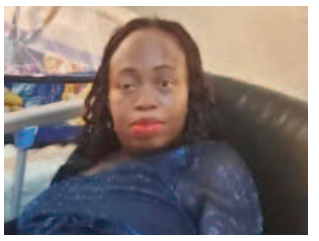
Ogun mother seeks Abiodun's support after giving birth to quadruplets

From **Segun Ayinde**, Abeokuta

A 44-year-old caterer, Mrs Stella Omokhepen Olayioye, has appealed to Governor Dapo Abiodun, corporate organisations and public-spirited individuals for financial support after giving birth to quadruplets in Abeokuta, despite repeated antenatal scans indicating that she was expecting triplets.

The mother of one gave birth to two boys and two girls through a Caesarean section at Atoke Medical Centre, Abeokuta, on November 7. She said both she and the medical team that operated on her were shocked by the unexpected discovery of the fourth baby.

Olayioye disclosed that she had undergone between eight and 10 ultrasound scans throughout the pregnancy, all of which consistently indicated that she was expecting triplets. The unexpected arrival of the fourth baby, she said, prompted the family to seek support from the government and other well-meaning Nigerians.



Olayioye.

She described the arrival of the fourth baby as a miracle, saying that while the birth brought immense joy to the family, it also created a financial burden.

Olayioye said she and her husband waited 11 years after beginning their relationship in 2011 before welcoming their first child, who is now four years old.

She said although the couple had hoped to have another child, they never anticipated that their family would be blessed with four babies at once.

"In the theatre room, when I heard there was a fourth child, it was a shock. It was a miracle.

Rotary Club of Lekki Golden, partners empower vulnerable residents with livelihood support

By **Opeyemi Babalola**

THE Rotary Club of Lekki Golden, in partnership with the Nigeria Rugby League Association (NRLA), CHARM (Caring Hearts And Refuge for Many), Awesome Empowerment Foundation (AEF) and Be The Smile Education & Care Initiative, has launched an economic empowerment project aimed at helping vulnerable individuals build sustainable livelihoods.

The project, launched on Sunday, November 8, at Lekki Heights Hotel, Lekki Phase 1, during the official visit of Rotary International District 9112 Governor, Layi Abidoye, focused on two of Rotary's key areas of service: community economic development, and basic education and literacy.

Among the items and support provided were seven sewing machines, three of which were allocated to AEF's Fortitude Empowerment Scheme; training fees for three women from distressed backgrounds; three barbing kits; a professional hair-styling box; a standing hair dryer; a manual weaving machine; and two laptops.

The project also provided N150,000 towards the rent of a hair-styling shop owned by a beneficiary, two partial university scholarships and primary-school literacy support through Sampogames.

Speaking at the event, the club's President, Abiodun Olawale-Cole, said the initiative reflected Rotary's commitment to creating lasting impact by providing beneficiaries with resources that could translate into long-term economic independence.

"This project is what Create Lasting Impact looks like in practice. A sewing machine, a barbing kit or a laptop is not a gift that gets used up; it is a livelihood. Training, tools and even a shop's rent keep a business open, put food on a family's table and, in time, create work for others," he said.

Lagos monarch appeals ruling halting installation, urges peace

By **Silver Nwokoro**

THE Olu of Oko Baba Agba in the Oworoshoki community of Lagos State, Oba Kabiru Adesegun Basiru, has appealed a November 6, 2026, order of the Lagos State High Court halting his installation as monarch.

The ruling came ahead of his expected coronation, scheduled for November 16, 2026.

In Suit No. ID/9885GCMW/2023, between Prince Adeniyi Saliu and six others v. the Governor of Lagos State and four others, the court granted the claimants' application for a mandatory injunction setting aside the nomination, appointment, approval and installation of Oba Basiru as the Olu of Oko Baba Agba. It also made consequential orders restraining him from parading himself as or holding himself out as the Olu pending the determination of the suit.

However, in a Notice of Appeal dated November 6, 2026, and sighted by our correspondent, the monarch, through his counsel, D.A. Awosika, SAN & Partners, challenged the High Court's decision, raising what his lawyers described as "substantial questions of law".

In a statement by Oladimeji Olabode of Awosika SAN & Partners Chambers, the legal team said it considered it necessary to provide the people with a clear and reassuring update on the situation and the legal steps being taken "to protect the interests of our community and its traditional institution".

Olowoyo's mother-in-law, Princess Afolabi, for burial November 20

THE family of Gbenga Olowoyo, General Secretary of the Joint National Public Service Negotiating Council (JNPSNC), will join other mourners in Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, on November 20 for the burial of his mother-in-law, Princess Juliana Afolake Afolabi, who died at the age of 74.

The Afolabi (Agabaola Royal Family) and Akomolafe (Sapetu Ibariba Family) families announced the burial arrangements, with the funeral service scheduled to hold at St Luke's Anglican Church, Uro, Ikere-Ekiti, at 10:00 a.m.

A Christian wake-keeping will precede the funeral on November 19 at 4:00 p.m. at the deceased's residence, opposite Fawekun, Alagbado Estate, off GOFAMINT Church, Araromi, Ikere-Ekiti. A reception will follow immediately after the church service at Hillmark Events and Conference Centre, along Ikere-Ado Road, Ikere-Ekiti.

Earlier, a service of songs was held at her Lagos residence on November 7 to herald the burial activities.

Afolabi, a member of the Agabaola royal family, was described by her family as a devoted Christian, prayerful mother and woman of substance, known for her kindness, motherly disposition and commitment to her family.



Late Afolabi.

YASA Foundation to expand support for children with cerebral palsy, persons with disabilities

By **Bertram Nwannekanma**

For some children living with cerebral palsy, access to physiotherapy and speech therapy can make a significant difference in their ability to communicate, move and participate in everyday activities. But for many families, the cost of sustained rehabilitation remains a major challenge.

Determined to extend such support to more vulnerable people, the YASA Foundation has announced plans to expand its humanitarian interventions, focusing on healthcare, rehabilitation, inclusive education and economic empowerment.

The foundation, founded by Yeye (Dr) Afolashade Shona-Aluko, also known as Yeye Bobajiro Oodua, said it would build on its previous interventions, including health outreach programmes for children with cerebral palsy across Lagos State, through which beneficiaries received physiotherapy and speech therapy.

It has also distributed white canes to persons with visual impairments to improve their mobility and independence, while organising training and empowerment initiatives for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable members of society.

Speaking at a press conference ahead of the foundation's official unveiling and launch in Lagos yesterday, Shona-Aluko said the experiences gained from these interventions reinforced the need for a structured organisation capable of sustaining and expanding humanitarian support.

She explained that the foundation was established out of the conviction that everyone deserved dignity, respect and equal opportunities, irrespective of physical condition, economic circumstances or social background.

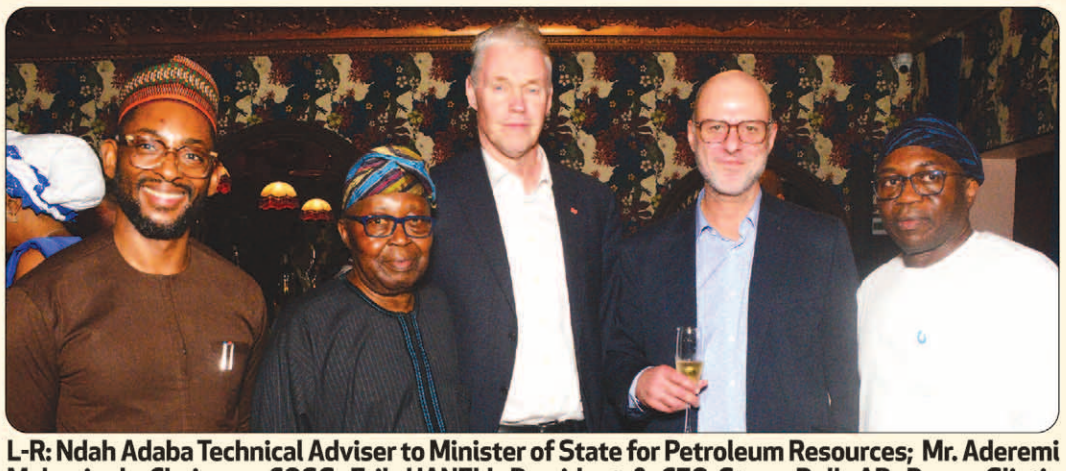


Newly elected Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Lagos chapter, Olayide Awosanya (left); Vice-Chairman, Philip Nwosu; Chairman, Wale Akodu; Treasurer, Adeola Akindele; Assistant Secretary, Gboyega Oni; and Financial Secretary, Kemi Ishola, display their certificates after the Lagos State NUJ election at the Ladi Lawal Press Centre, Iyalla Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos.

CAVERTON HOSTS GLOBAL TANKER LEADERS IN LAGOS AS STENA SONANGOL SUEZMAX POOL MEETS IN NIGERIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

CORPORATE SUITE
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Caverton Offshore Support Group Plc (COSG) hosted the **Stena Sonangol Suezmax Pool** in Lagos on T**uesday 3 and Wednesday 4 November 2026.** COSG is one of Nigeria's largest indigenous oil and gas logistics groups. This was the first time the Pool has met in Lagos. Senior executives from Stena Bulk, Sonangol Shipping and Trading, Hammonia, Gibson Shipbrokers and NNPC Shipping Limited attended. Pool members meet twice a year to review the Pool's financial performance and its vessel operations worldwide, including in Nigeria and the wider West African market. This session also looked at how to grow indigenous tanker ownership, attract investment into the sector, and deepen Nigeria's role in the global petroleum value chain. Much of that discussion centred on Unity Shipping Worldwide (USW), the joint venture between Stena Bulk, Caverton and NNPC. The visiting executives said Lagos was a deliberate choice. They cited Nigeria's weight in global energy trade, its crude oil exports and its fast-growing refining capacity, as well as Lagos's standing as West Africa's leading commercial and maritime hub. They described the meeting as an opportunity to strengthen international partnerships, draw new investment and raise Lagos's profile in global shipping. The programme opened on Tuesday with a tour of Caverton Helicopters' Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Ikeja. Delegates saw the Group's aviation maintenance capability and its wider investment in Nigerian infrastructure. A welcome dinner followed that evening at Vici, Victoria Island. On Wednesday, the visit closed with a tour of the Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals complex in Ibeju-Lekki. Commenting on the visit, **Olabode Makanjuola, Group Chief Executive Officer of Caverton**, said: *"This collaboration matters not just for Caverton but for Nigeria as a whole. Building shipping capacity has always been close to Caverton's heart. Most people know us for helicopters, but we started out in shipping. In the early 2000s we were one of the largest importers of LPG into Nigeria. Bringing a platform like this to Lagos shows the scale of the opportunity in global shipping, not just for Caverton but for the industry. It also makes the case for Nigeria as a credible place to invest in shipping and to manage freight."*



L-R: Ndah Adaba Technical Adviser to Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Mr. Aderemi Makanjuola Chairman COSG; Erik HANELL President & CEO Stena Bulk AB; Panos Gliatis Managing Director NNPC Shipping; and Mr Olabode Makanjuola Group CEO COSG.



L-R: Ms Sara Westerberg, General Manager Commercial Operation, Stena Bulk; Mr J.R. Gardner General Manager Head of Crude & Fuel, Stena Bulk & SSSP and Ms Sofia Ericsson, CFO Stena Bulk.



L-R: Mrs. Nneka Obianyor, Director of Reform Coordination, Strategic Management and Blue Economy, NIMASA; Bilikisu Belgore, Legal Counsel, NNPC Shipping Ltd; Abdul-Kadir K. Ahmed, Managing Director, NSML; and Kemi Pinheiro, SAN, Founding Partner, Pinheiro LP



L-R: Ms Sara Westerberg General Manager Commercial Operation, Stena Bulk; Mrs Pauline Sessou-Diop, Chief Commercial Officer Caverton Marine and Mr J.R. Gardner General Manager Head of Crude & Fuel, Stena Bulk & SSSP.



L-R: John Terry vanduhe ED, Crude & Products NSL; Micheal Udoenoh TA to MD, Shipping NSL; Mr Bill Warnement, Antonio Pita Sr Maritime Superintendent, Sonangol Marine Services and Mr Phil Thompson General Manager Commercial Operation, WW Stena Bulk.



L-R: Chief Raymond Ihyembe non-executive director COSG; Ndah Adaba and Mr Olabode Makanjuola.



L-R: Richard Matthews Director of Consultancy & Research at E.A. Gibson Shipbrokers and Philip Eriksson Managing Director, GSB Tankers (Incoming CEO Stena Bulk).



L-R: Ms Ida Fredriksson General Manager & Business Development Stena Bulk, and Abdulfatai Akintola Kekere-ekun Non-Executive Director COSG.



L-R: Mrs Pauline Sessou-Diop and Mr. Mina Oforiokom Non-Executive Director Caverton Marine

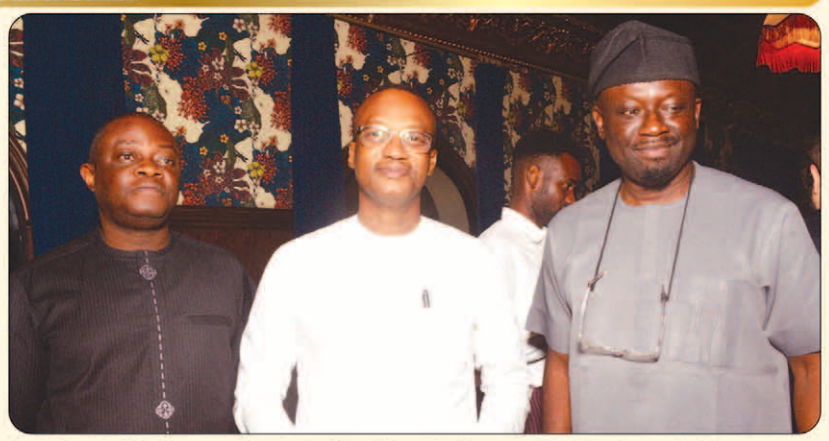


L-R: Mrs. Moyo Makanjuola; Mr J.R. Gardner; Johan Jawert and Mr Olabode Makanjuola.

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L-R: Managing Partner, Hammonia Reederei; Chief Executive Officer, Stena Bulk, Mr. Erik Hanell; Sanjay MAAN, VP Maritime Consultant; Alhaja Lateefat Yoyinsola Makanjuola; and Mr Olabode Makanjuola.



L-R: David Adeoye; Captain Ibrahim Bello; and Publisher, Cable Newspapers, Simon Kolawole



L-R: Richard Matthews; Philip Eriksson; Oscar Onyema, OON, Annette Begg Onyema and Johan Jawert.



L-R: Engr. Greg Utomwen Ogbeifun, Chairman Starzs Marine; Mr. Aderemi Makanjuola; and Mr Olabode Makanjuola.



L-R: Micheal Udoenoh; Delphin Edoho Director NSL; Panos Gliatis; Bilkisu Belgore Company Secretary/Legal Adviser NSL and John Terry vanduhe.



L-R: Annette Begg Onyema; Mrs. Moyo Makanjuola and Mrs Pauline Sessou-Diop.



L-R: Teju Makanju; Strategic Communications & Insights Analyst, COSG; Kunmi Agbaje, Manager, Corporate Strategy & Planning; and Mrs Pauline Sessou-Diop.



L-R: Akin Savage; José Ngunza Assistant Chartering, Sonangol and Aderito Semedo Chartering and Operations Manager, Sonangol;



L-R: Olunloyo Ayobami Akinyode, Communications & Strategic Investor Relations Directorate COSG; Kunmi Agbaje and José Ngunza.



L-R: Ogbonna Chukwumerije, Esq. Associate Partner Pinherio LP and Panos Gliatis



L-R: Chief Raymond Ihyembe and Mr Domingos Delamarte Fernades, Board Director of Trading & Shipping Sonangol



L-R: Rotimi Makanjuola; Ndah Adaba; and Niyi Makanjuola.

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

Editorial

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Disobedience of court orders is anti-development

THE concern of Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka, about willful disobedience of court judgments, or the slow machinery of justice, is well founded. The government's and citizens' failure to obey court judgments and orders remains a manifestation of Nigeria's damaging institutional weakness. It undermines the rule of law, erodes public confidence in the judiciary, threatens citizens' rights and weakens the foundations of economic development.

As Prof. Soyinka rightly observed at the Nigerian Ombudsman yearly conference 2026 in Abuja, some citizens die without benefiting from judgments delivered in their favour. This is a damning indictment of a system in which obtaining justice in court does not necessarily translate into receiving justice in practice, despite the horrendous time it takes to obtain such judgments. No meaningful claim to constitutional democracy can stand when court decisions are treated as optional, particularly by those entrusted with governing the country.

The government, its agencies and public institutions ought to be the foremost defenders of judicial authority, not violators of court decisions whenever such judgments become inconvenient. Indeed, if any institution should be beyond reproach in its compliance with court orders, it is the government itself. Unfortunately, the persistent disregard for judicial pronouncements has become a troubling feature of public administration in Nigeria.

Soyinka cited instances in which litigants waited for years for the return of their passports despite court orders directing that the documents be released. Such cases illustrate the absurdity of a system in which citizens expend scarce resources pursuing justice, secure favourable judgments and are subsequently compelled to embark on another struggle to enforce them. For some, the wait is so prolonged that death comes before the relief granted by the court.

This situation mocks the judicial process. A judgment that cannot be enforced is, for all practical purposes, a denial of justice. It also sends a dangerous message that the powerful can disregard the law without consequences, while ordinary citizens are expected to submit to its demands. Such double standards cannot sustain public confidence in democratic institutions.

The consequences extend beyond the courtroom. Disobedience to court orders is anti-development and poses a serious threat to Nigeria's development aspirations. At a time when the Federal Government is seeking foreign direct investment, it must recognise that investors assess not merely the size of a market, the availability of natural resources or the promise of financial returns, but also the reliability of the institutions that protect their investments.

No serious investor would willingly commit substantial capital to a country where the government itself disregards judicial decisions when they go against it. Investors require assurances that contractual rights will be protected, property disputes will be resolved through established legal processes and court judgments will be respected regardless of the identity or influence of the parties involved. Where these guarantees are uncertain, investment risks increase, the cost of doing business rises and capital is likely to move to jurisdictions with more dependable legal systems.

Nigeria cannot simultaneously promote itself as an attractive investment destination and tolerate institutional conduct that weakens confidence in the rule of law. Government agencies that ignore judgments risk discouraging both domestic and foreign investors, undermining employment opportunities, constraining economic growth and frustrating the country's broader development objectives. Respect for court orders is, therefore, not merely a legal obligation; it is an economic imperative.

At the Ombudsman event, the Emir of Lafia and former Supreme Court Justice, Sidi Bage Muhammad, made an important point when he argued that compliance with court orders must begin with political leaders. Citizens cannot reasonably be expected to respect judicial decisions if those in authority demonstrate contempt for them. Leadership by example is indispensable to building a society in which the law commands universal respect.

The concerns raised at the conference also highlight the importance of strengthening the Public Complaints Commission (PCC). As an accessible and relatively inexpensive avenue for citizens to seek redress against administrative injustice, the Ombudsman has a potentially significant role in addressing complaints involving public institutions, unpaid pensions and gratuities, and inadequate public services. However, its effectiveness will depend on its ability to secure meaningful corrective action rather than merely receive and process complaints.

The PCC should establish effective mechanisms for tracking recurring grievances, monitoring responses from ministries, departments and agencies, and identifying officials responsible for persistent administrative failure. Its recommendations must not be allowed to languish in official files. Where its statutory powers are insufficient to secure compliance, the Federal Government and the National Assembly should examine the legal and institutional reforms required to strengthen its effectiveness.

Nevertheless, the commission cannot substitute for the courts or become an excuse for government agencies to disregard binding judicial decisions. The primary responsibility for compliance rests with the parties against whom orders are made. Government institutions must develop clear internal procedures to ensure that judgments are promptly reviewed, communicated to the appropriate officials and implemented within the applicable legal framework.

Equally important is the need to address concerns over the misuse of ex parte orders and interim reliefs. As the Federal Ministry of Justice and ActionAid Nigeria recently warned, improper applications and grants of such orders can undermine fair hearing, disrupt business activities and weaken confidence in the judiciary. Lawyers must make full and frank disclosure of material facts, while judges must rigorously apply the relevant procedural rules. The urgency of an application cannot justify an abuse of judicial discretion or the denial of fundamental rights.

These concerns are not contradictory. Nigeria needs a judiciary whose orders are respected and a judicial process whose procedures are applied fairly and responsibly. Accountability must operate in both directions: litigants must not abuse court processes, and public institutions must not frustrate lawful judgments.

Ultimately, the Federal Government must demonstrate through concrete action that no agency or official is above the law. Persistent disobedience should attract appropriate consequences, while compliance should be monitored transparently. Digital systems could help track complaints and administrative recommendations, but technology will be useful only where institutions possess the will to act on the information available to them.

The measure of justice is not simply the number of judgments delivered, but the extent to which those judgments secure the rights and remedies they promise. Nigeria's democracy, economy and international reputation will remain vulnerable if court orders continue to be treated as suggestions rather than binding legal obligations.

The government must lead by example, because a state that refuses to obey its own courts cannot credibly demand that its citizens respect the law, nor can it convincingly invite investors to trust institutions whose authority it undermines through its own conduct.

LETTER

Roadmap to Igbo presidency: Patriotic appeal to the nation

SIR: I am pledging before God and my fellow Igbo people my readiness to work tirelessly and for the emergence of an Igbo President after the second term of President Bola Tinubu. I do not say this for political exigencies.

However, my contention and disagreement with my Igbo brothers and sisters is not about goal but about strategies, it is not about the destination, it is simply about the vehicle and the mode of getting to agreed destination. The issue of Igbo Presidency in the shortest possible time is never in contention and cannot be contended by any fair-minded Nigerian who believes in equity, justice and the inalienable rights of the Igbo to Presidency and such other interests in our commonwealth.

My Igbo people must learn from history. Let us follow the Yoruba strategy. When the June 12, 1993 presidential election of Chief MKO Abiola was annulled by the military junta, the Yoruba nation did not go to war. They did not rain insults and abuses on the rest of Nigeria. They strategised, they negotiated, they engaged in principled, peaceful, political struggles that made the nation come to the realisation that justice must be done.

Consequently, the political class was compelled to field only Yoruba candidates; Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and Chief Olu Falae. That was how power was negotiated and won. That strategy of bridge-building, not island-making, is still available to the Igbo nation today.

People fail to learn from history, and that is why history repeats itself. Even the great Chief Obafemi Awolowo, far more intellectually endowed, more administratively proven, more ideologically grounded than Peter Obi, could not win the Presidency of Nigeria through a regional party. Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu tried it. Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe tried it. They all failed. You cannot become President of Nigeria by standing on an ethnic pedestal and mobilising one region against the rest. To win the Presidency, you must join the mainstream.

The Igbo must come to the mainstream of Nigerian politics, they must build bridges, build alliances, and negotiate with the North and the Southwest. Presidency is not given by emotional blackmail; it is earned by political collaboration.

At this juncture and to achieve Igbo Presidency, I humbly wish to proffer a three-point roadmap to 2031: The first one is for my fellow Igbo people to end politics of insults and abuse. You cannot insult, abuse and demonise a people in the morning and expect their votes in the afternoon. Politics is a game of persuasion, not war. No tribe votes for those who abuse them. We must cease all forms of online vituperation against other ethnic groups and leaders.

The second one is that it is very imperative to build bridges across tribes, geo-politics, religion, genders and youth groups, not islands and oasis. An Igbo Presidency cannot be achieved through a religion-driven or ethnicity-driven party platform. Nigeria's Presidency is a national mandate. Ndigbo must strategically return to mainstream national politics and build enduring alliances with the Yoruba, Hausa-Fulani, Niger-Delta and Middle Belt. Power is negotiated, not demanded.

Banji Alabi Esq. is a Lagos-based legal practitioner and public affairs analyst



Opinion

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How Nigeria avoided the Venezuelan pill

By **Akin Olukiran**

FOR anyone to deny that life has become exceedingly difficult for ordinary Nigerians would not merely be disingenuous, but an act of pathological denial. Millions of households are grappling with a dire economic reality in which even basic necessities are increasingly unaffordable. The anguish is real, the deprivation, palpable and the frustration, entirely understandable.

Yet, in our preoccupation with the immediate discomforts of the present, are we in danger of forgetting the economic precipice from which Nigeria might have struggled to retreat, had fundamental reforms been indefinitely postponed?

The three principal reforms undertaken by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (PBAT) - petroleum subsidy removal, foreign exchange market unification and monetary policy recalibration - were always likely to impose considerable short-term costs. Their rationale was to address structural distortions that had become increasingly unsustainable. Unfortunately, geopolitical tensions involving Iran and the United States have compounded these difficulties through their implications for energy prices, inflation and economic stability. This is particularly unfortunate because, tentative green shoots of recovery had begun to emerge earlier in the year, with petrol prices easing and the naira recording periods of appreciation against the dollar.

Some armchair economists, practitioners of what might be called creeping determinism or simply, retrospective certainty, appear oblivious to the precarious circumstances in which Nigeria's economy found itself when PBAT assumed office in May 2023. The country was burdened by an unsustainable subsidy regime, severe foreign exchange distortions, mounting fiscal pressures and an expansive monetary environment under Godwin Emefiele's ignominious stewardship of the Central Bank.

We seem to have conveniently forgotten the aviation crisis, when operators struggled to access the foreign exchange required to repatriate funds owed to international carriers. Some threatened to suspend operations, raising the spectre of further disruption to an already beleaguered economy. Several state governments were struggling to meet salary obligations, while multiple exchange rates encouraged arbitrage and rent-seeking, rather than productive enterprise. To imagine that this arrangement could have continued indefinitely without grave consequences is to confuse political expediency with economic prudence.

Successive governments were not unaware of the three-headed hydra that had stifled our economic development for decades. What was conspicuously lacking was the political will to confront these distortions and entrenched interests decisively. Until PBAT threw down the gauntlet, successive administrations appeared content to manage symptoms rather than confront underlying maladies.

As the Yoruba would say, *A fi ẹtẹ̀ sílẹ̀, a ń pa làpalàpa"*(instead of treating leprosy, one is treating eczema). The wisdom here is profound.A society that persists with superficial remedies, while neglecting the underlying pathology, should not be surprised when its afflictions ultimately consume it.

It is here that Venezuela enters our national conversation, not as an exact replica of Nigeria's circumstances, but as a cautionary tale. With a population of just 28.5 million (according to UNFPA's 2025 estimate), Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven oil reserves - some 303 billion barrels, against Nigeria's 37 billion. Yet this extraordinary endowment did not spare it economic catastrophe. Dependence on oil revenues, fiscal excesses, foreign-exchange restrictions and monetary indiscipline contributed to its devastating collapse. Nigeria is not Venezuela, and their economic histories are not interchangeable.

Nevertheless, the warning is instructive: when governments sustain excessive spending, artificial prices and policies that erode confidence in their currencies, the eventual adjustment can be far more painful than the reforms initially resisted.

The question, therefore, is not whether Tinubu's reforms have inflicted hardship. They unquestionably have. It is whether perpetuating the inherited distortions would have produced a more benign outcome. That question deserves serious consideration rather than the reflexive denunciation that frequently passes for economic analysis in our public discourse.

As young Nigerians would readily quip in their everyday parlance, "Na today?". Economic hardship, of course, is hardly new to Nigeria. As far back as 1966, the late highlife maestro, Dr Victor Olaiya, first released *Ìlú Le O! (Country Hard O!)*, whose plaintive refrain, *"Kòs'ówó l'óde"(there is no money in circulation)*, captured the prevailing economic anxiety. The song remains an unsettling reminder that economic distress may change its outward manifestations while its burden continues to fall disproportionately upon ordinary citizens.

The song found renewed relevance in the 1980s, when it was re-released against the backdrop of General Ibrahim Babangida's Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) and the attendant economic dislocation. The hardship, disillusionment and search for better opportunities contributed to the exodus of Nigerians, memorably captured in the expression, "Andrew was checking out". Generations have since sought their fortunes abroad, driven by aspirations their homeland has too often struggled to accommodate.

Why, then, are we so forgetful? Perhaps behavioural economics offers an explanation. Human beings tend to privilege immediate suffering over hypothetical alternatives. Today's hardship is tangible, measurable and painfully personal. The catastrophe that might have followed a different policy course remains conjectural. We can count the naira lost to rising living costs, but cannot readily quantify the devastation that might have resulted from a prolonged fiscal and monetary crisis.

This creates a curious political paradox. Reforms intended to avert a deeper crisis may become politically indefensible because their immediate costs are more visible than the dangers they were designed to prevent. The patient resents the bitterness of the medicine, particularly when the restoration of health appears painfully slow.

Yet, acknowledging the necessity of reform must not excuse governmental complacency. Economic policy is not vindicated merely by the soundness of its intentions, it must ultimately be judged by its outcomes. The administration must demonstrate that Nigerians' sacrifices are translating into improved purchasing power, employment, public services and productive investment. The vulnerable must not be abandoned to bear a disproportionate share of the adjustment.

There is also an essential distinction between defending reform and defending every decision made in its implementation. The former requires economic reasoning; the latter risks political partisanship. A government that asks its citizens to endure hardship assumes an obligation to govern with transparency, compassion, fiscal discipline and demonstrable competence.

Venezuelans might well wish that their leaders had confronted their country's underlying economic vulnerabilities before the crisis became so devastating. Nigeria has an opportunity to learn from that experience without assuming that our destiny must follow the same course.

PBAT has chosen a difficult path, and history will ultimately judge whether his reforms deliver the promised transformation. The courage to undertake unpopular measures deserves recognition, but courage must be accompanied by competence, accountability and results. Nigerians are entitled both to relief from present suffering and to the prospect of a better future. Neither should be sacrificed at the altar of political expediency.

The tragedy would be not merely to endure the pain of reform, but to forget why it became necessary and, in our impatience, abandon the opportunity to see it through and build something better. A nation that remembers only the bitterness of its medicine may never appreciate the gravity of the disease it was intended to cure.

May we not suffer collective amnesia, and to put it in everyday Nigerian Pidgin: "This our Nigeria go better!"

Olukiran, a social and political analyst, wrote from London. He can be reached via: olukiran@yahoo.co.uk

China-Africa cooperation: Tackling insecurity through development

By **Abdulrahman Dambazau**

A FARMER who cannot safely reach his land, a child whose school has closed because of violence, and a young graduate unable to find productive employment experience insecurity in different ways. Their circumstances reveal a common challenge: lasting peace requires protection from violence and the opportunity to live with dignity. This connection should occupy a central place in China–Africa cooperation.

My experience in military leadership, internal security and diplomacy has reinforced my conviction that security operations must form part of a broader national effort. Armed forces and law enforcement agencies have indispensable responsibilities to protect communities, confront violent groups and uphold the law. The gains they secure become durable when legitimate institutions, functioning services and economic opportunities take root.

Development is therefore a strategic component of security. Where communities can farm, trade, learn and obtain justice, they have stronger foundations for resisting the pressures that sustain violence.

Poverty does not automatically produce terrorism or criminality. Millions endure hardship without turning to violence. Insecurity also arises from political exclusion, contested resources, extremist ideologies, organised crime and institutional weakness. Nevertheless, prolonged deprivation and a lack of credible opportunities can create vulnerabilities that violent actors exploit. Effective policy must address both those actors and the conditions that enable their influence.

China–Africa cooperation offers a framework for advancing this approach. The Forum on China–Africa Cooperation's Beijing Action Plan for 2025–2027 brings peace and security into the same programme as industrialisation, agriculture, infrastructure, education, public health and green development. Its significance lies in the opportunity to connect these fields through practical implementation.

China's development experience provides useful lessons. A joint study by the World Bank and Chinese institutions reported in 2022 that, over the preceding four decades, the number of people in China living below the international extreme-poverty line then in use had fallen by close to 800 million.

The study emphasised economic transformation alongside targeted poverty reduction measures. African countries can examine how agricultural productivity, infrastructure, education and employment expanded opportunity, while adapting relevant lessons to their own circumstances.

Africa's countries have distinct histories, political systems and development priorities. Cooperation will achieve more when African governments define their needs clearly and negotiate partnerships that strengthen domestic capabilities. African ownership must guide project selection, implementation and assessment.

Agriculture should be an immediate priority. In communities affected by insecurity, restoring farming and rural commerce can support recovery and stability. Cooperation in irrigation, improved seeds, machinery, storage, processing and extension services can raise productivity and strengthen livelihoods. Investment should be accompanied by secure access to land, fair arrangements for managing water and grazing resources, and credible mechanisms for resolving disputes.

A processing facility has greater value when farmers can reach it safely, receive fair payment and access wider markets. Communities emerging from violence also need assistance that enables displaced families to return voluntarily, safely and with dignity, and rebuild sustainable livelihoods. Development planning and security planning must meet at this practical level.

Reliable electricity and productive industry are equally important. Power supply enables workshops, factories, health facilities and digital enterprises to function. Industrial cooperation should create opportunities for African workers, suppliers and entrepreneurs, with clear provisions for skills transfer and the maintenance of equipment and facilities.

Young people need realistic pathways from education to work. Technical training should connect to actual demand in manufacturing, construction, agriculture, logistics and technology. Programmes should be assessed by the capabilities and employment they produce. Partnerships between training institutions and employers can help ensure that qualifications lead to productive work. Infrastructure must be judged by the economic activity and public services it enables. A railway, road or port can support national integration and trade, but its wider benefits depend on connections to local production and affordable access. Project planning must account for maintenance, environmental protection, community interests and financial sustainability. Financing arrangements should be transparent, with repayment obligations assessed against realistic economic returns and public resources.

Education and health deserve the same strategic attention. Schools help communities recover continuity and hope after disruption. Accessible healthcare reduces household vulnerability and strengthens confidence in public institutions. Cooperation among universities, research centres, hospitals and technical colleges can build the expertise African countries need to sustain these services.

Women must participate fully in this work. Their livelihoods, access to services and involvement in local decision-making matter to household resilience and community recovery. Programmes designed without their participation risk overlooking essential needs and sources of knowledge.

Development cannot compensate for injustice. Communities require fair policing, accessible courts, accountable administration and protection from abuse. A school or clinic will contribute more to lasting stability where citizens also trust public institutions to treat them fairly. Economic investment and institutional reform should proceed together.

Security cooperation should reinforce these foundations. Professional training, peacekeeping capacity, maritime security, action against illicit arms and stronger responses to organised crime can help protect development gains. Such cooperation should uphold national law, human rights and accountability. Its ultimate purpose must be the safety of people and the strengthening of legitimate institutions.

For Nigeria, the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established during President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's September 2024 visit to China provides a framework for pursuing these objectives. It offers an opportunity to connect bilateral cooperation more closely with Nigeria's priorities for economic transformation and national security.

The next task is disciplined implementation. Every major commitment should have an identified responsible institution, a financing arrangement, a timetable and measurable outcomes. Proposed projects, signed agreements, funds disbursed and completed investments represent different stages of progress. Public reporting should make those distinctions clear.

We should ask practical questions. Has an agricultural project improved farmers' incomes? Has an industrial investment created sustainable employment and developed local suppliers? Has training transferred skills that institutions can retain? Have communities affected by conflict gained safer access to schools, healthcare and markets?

These questions should guide the assessment of cooperation. They also require African governments to fulfil their own responsibilities: coordinating institutions, protecting public resources, maintaining infrastructure and ensuring that investment benefits communities fairly. Regional cooperation is essential where trade routes, shared resources and security threats cross national borders.

China–Africa cooperation can contribute substantially to peace when development expands opportunity, institutions earn public trust and security agencies protect citizens effectively. Its lasting achievement should be visible in ordinary lives: farmers returning safely to their fields, young people securing worthwhile work and children remaining in school. These are the foundations on which a more secure Africa can be built.

Dambazau, former Chief of Army Staff, ex-Minister of Interior, and currently the Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, wrote from Beijing, China.

Opinion

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Ayinde Barrister's legacy: Why celebration without protection is not enough

By Olayinka Adigun

The contrasting approaches to managing Fela Kuti's and Sikiru Ayinde Barrister's musical estates raise uncomfortable questions about intellectual property, family accountability and the future of Nigeria's cultural heritage.

A RECENT social media commentary by Honourable Samsondeen Olatunji Balogun, a son of the late Fuji music pioneer, Sikiru Ayinde Barrister, has reopened an important conversation about how Nigeria treats the legacies of its departed musical icons.

In the post, Samsondeen questioned why Fuji musicians enthusiastically participate in Felabration, wondered whether they receive performance fees, and commended the efforts of Barrister's admirers who have sustained Barrybration.

To the casual fan, his observations may appear to be a harmless commentary on music festivals or commemorative concerns. However, they raise a more fundamental question, one which is more pertinent because of his own genealogy: What is the value of celebrating a musical legend when the intellectual property that constitutes his greatest legacy remains inadequately protected?

Felabration, conceived by Fela's daughter Yeni Kuti in 1998, has grown into one of Africa's most recognisable cultural celebrations. But the real achievement of the Kuti family extends beyond the annual festival.

In April 2026, Femi Kuti publicly explained that the family had deliberately retained ownership of Fela's music catalogue, choosing to license its commercial exploitation rather than surrender control of the intellectual property.

That is a significant distinction. The Kuti family understands that Fela's music is not merely a collection of recordings to be enjoyed by admirers. Rather, it is an enduring cultural and economic asset that must be preserved for successive generations.

Felabration provides visibility and cultural relevance. Professional catalogue management provides protection, commercial value, and continuity. One celebrates the legacy; the other secures it.

Few musicians have contributed as profoundly to the development of a Nigerian indigenous musical genre as Sikiru Ayinde Barrister. His creative genius helped establish Fuji as a major musical movement. His recordings preserve decades of social commentary, political history, Yoruba philosophy, religious reflection, and cultural expression.

Yet, more than 15 years after his death, serious questions remain about the management of his extensive body of work.

Recordings and live performances attributed to Barrister circulate across digital platforms, sometimes through accounts whose relationship with the estate is unclear. Who authorised their distribution? Who controls the recordings? Who collects the revenue accruing for them? And how much of that income reaches the legitimate beneficiaries?

These are not questions intended to discourage the promotion of Barrister's music. They are precisely the questions that responsible estate management should answer.

There have been encouraging developments. A catalogue management company is said to be doing some management and monetising Barrister's works, securing sample clearances and facilitating a partnership for the musical legend's work. Those efforts deserve recognition. Indeed, they demonstrate that Barrister's intellectual property retains significant commercial value when subjected to professional management.

That said, a management arrangement can only deliver its full potential when the estate's rights are clearly established, the relevant recordings are identified, and rights holders cooperate with the authorised structure.

Where recordings remain outside that arrangement, or where competing permissions are granted, the prospects for comprehensive protection become considerably weaker.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the controversy is the allegation that some of Barrister's children who advocate transparency, proper accounting and stronger protection of their father's intellectual property have faced threats, intimidation and sustained online harassment.

There are also allegations that some individuals claiming to be devoted Barrister fans have participated in cyberbullying and threats to life of those who question the commercial exploitation of his works. These claims deserve serious attention and, where necessary, independent investigation.

It would be particularly troubling if the very people seeking to protect a deceased musician's intellectual property were being subjected to hostility by individuals who profess to celebrate his legacy.

No beneficiary of a deceased artiste's estate should face intimidation simply for demanding an inventory of the catalogue, proper licensing arrangements or accountability for royalties.

Equally troubling are concerns about individuals and fan associations allegedly organising fee-paying events in Nigeria and abroad using Barrister's music, name and image without transparent licensing arrangements with the collective permission of the estate.

According to accounts from those raising these concerns, some organisers, when challenged, claim to have obtained permission from older children of the late musician.

If these accounts are accurate, they raise important questions. What authority was granted? Who granted it? Does that individual possess the necessary legal rights? Were any licensing fees collected? And how were the proceeds accounted for?

The fact that someone is a child of a deceased musician does not automatically confer unrestricted authority to commercially exploit every aspect of that musician's intellectual property. Neither does being an older child necessarily establish superior ownership rights over younger beneficiaries. These distinctions are especially important where an estate includes younger or financially vulnerable beneficiaries whose interests must be safeguarded.

Family seniority cannot replace accountability. Physical custody of a recording does not, by itself, establish the right to license it. Neither does emotional attachment to a parent's legacy excuse the absence of transparent commercial arrangements.

If intimidation is being used to discourage legitimate questions, it must stop. The appropriate response to demands for accountability is openness, independent reconciliation and lawful administration, not threats. This is not an argument against Barrybration or the admirable contributions of Barrister's fans. On the contrary, their efforts deserve enormous appreciation.

Over the years, admirers have organised commemorative festivals, musical performances, academic discussions and cultural activities to preserve his memory. The Barry Wonder fan community and other associations have demonstrated remarkable devotion to the man and his music.

In 2024, a major celebration in Ibadan included the premiere of Professor Saheed Aderinto's documentary, Mr. Fuji: Barry Wonder, an important attempt to document Barrister's historical contributions. But subsequent public controversy surrounding copyright permissions for the documentary also illustrated the delicate relationship between cultural preservation and intellectual property protection. That tension should be resolved through transparent licensing processes, not through hostility between the estate, scholars and genuine admirers.

Fans should be encouraged to celebrate Barrister. Researchers should have legitimate pathways to access archival materials. Event organisers should understand the permissions required for commercial exploitation. None of these objectives is incompatible with professional catalogue management.

Indeed, a properly administered estate should make them easier to achieve. There must be a clear distinction between celebrating Barrister out of genuine admiration and exploiting his legacy for private commercial benefit without appropriate authorisation or accountability.

Barrister's estate needs more than commemorative concerts and expressions of admiration. It needs a comprehensive catalogue audit covering studio recordings, live performances, audiovisual materials, publishing rights and other commercially exploitable assets.

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

Adigun, a Nigerian cultural and music enthusiast, wrote from Abeokuta, Ogun State.

Omotoso at 65: A rare gift of generosity, mentorship

By Robert Uwemedimo

WHEN Debbi Fields observed that "there is no such thing as coincidence; people come into our lives for a reason," she captured a truth I have come to know profoundly through my relationship with Mr Gbenga Omotoso.

As he turns 65 on November 11, 2026, I pause to reflect on the extraordinary journey of more than two decades I have been privileged to share with the man I call boss - one who has been to me a father, mentor, benefactor, teacher, and, above all, a blessing from God Almighty.

April 21, 2004, marked the beginning of a journey that would forever alter the course of my life. As I approached the wine-coloured plywood door on the second floor of a six-storey building at Ijora Causeway, Lagos - then the headquarters of The Comet newspaper - I opened it and found myself face to face with Omotoso, the Daily Editor, who needed someone to run errands for his office.

He asked my name. "Robert," I replied. "When will you resume work?" he asked. I was stunned. Here stood a man offering me a job before I had even applied; no interview, no credentials to present, no long queue outside a human resources office. Just one simple question that would rewrite the course of my life. "Tomorrow, sir," I answered.

That brief exchange marked the beginning of a relationship that shaped my life in ways I could never have imagined. I was a young boy who had lost his father at 12. Little did I know that God was preparing another father figure for me in the person of Omotoso.

When *The Comet* closed in 2006, a deep and overwhelming sense of uncertainty settled over us. Yet Omotoso looked me in the eye and assured me that wherever his career took him next, I would not be left behind. True to his word, when The Nation newspaper launched on July 31, 2006, I continued working with him as a 16-year-old boy.

One quality that set him apart from the very beginning was his uncommon, almost instinctive generosity.

I remember one particular week when he repeatedly asked whether I had eaten. Each time, he would give me some money for food. As time passed and his instinctive generosity continued, I grew uncomfortable and began answering, "Yes, sir, I have eaten." Not because I had suddenly become rich, but because I did not want him to think I was turning hunger into a business strategy. That is Omotoso. His kindness is never calculated; it flows naturally.

His generosity was never limited to me. I recall a difficult period when the newspaper's salaries were delayed for months. The newsroom was dampened, heavy with frustration. Sensing and discerning the quiet despair of his colleagues, he reached into his own pocket and gave everyone money to ease the hardship. That single gesture taught me a lesson I have never forgotten: true leadership is not about occupying an office; it is about lifting others when life weighs them down.

Beyond feeding my body, Omotoso fed my dreams. He encouraged me to keep studying while working and never once treated my academic ambitions as an inconvenience. During one management meeting, when questions were raised about my qualifications, he defended my potential and appealed for patience while I worked toward becoming a graduate.

I was determined not to disappoint him. In 2014, I graduated from the then Lagos State Polytechnic with a Distinction. He celebrated the achievement, then immediately urged me to aim higher.

With his continued support, I went on to Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science in 2019, graduating with Second Class Upper honours and a CGPA of 4.36. For someone who had started as an errand boy, this was more than academic progress. It was living proof that when someone believes in your potential, your circumstances need not determine your destination.

Omotoso's fatherly role extended far beyond the professional and academic. When I married in 2018, he provided a Honda Pilot and a personal driver to take me around all day, ensuring the occasion was memorable.

On August 20, 2019, he was appointed Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy. Before leaving *The Nation*, he ensured my contributions were recognised with a promotion to Web Officer.

A month into his new assignment, he invited me to join him at the Ministry of Information and Strategy. That invitation opened yet another significant chapter in my career.

Since then, I have had the privilege of serving closely with him as his Personal Assistant and Programme Analyst within the Lagos State Government.

His commitment to my progress did not end there. He played an instrumental role in my appointment into the Lagos State Civil Service on December 31, 2024, personally presenting my credentials to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for consideration and approval.

How does one adequately thank a man who has consistently opened doors, sometimes long before one even knew those doors existed? Yet my story is only one among countless testimonies of his compassion.

Over the years, I have watched him discreetly pay hospital bills for people with whom he shares no family ties, sponsor the education of children whose parents could not afford school fees, and quietly rescue others from difficult circumstances. He does not need a camera to demonstrate kindness, nor does he wait for applause before helping others.

Behind his serious editorial background and the demands of public office is also a man blessed with a remarkable sense of humour. An accomplished journalist, columnist and writer, Omotoso has a gift for satire. His humorous observations can turn even tense moments into shared laughter.

And then there is table tennis. Anyone who has faced him across the table knows that losing is not exactly his favourite pastime. He approaches every game with the intensity of an editor scrutinising a controversial front-page headline. Every point matters, every rally is a battle, and every defeat deserves a detailed explanation.

At 65, I suspect his opponents will still need more than youthful energy to defeat him. As I celebrate this remarkable man, I see far beyond the professional titles and accomplishments. I see a compassionate father figure, a bridge-builder, a generous leader, and a man whose quiet influence continues to transform lives.

Sir, on your 65th birthday, I pray that Almighty God grants you long life, sound health, renewed strength, divine protection, and enduring peace. May the years ahead be filled with greater accomplishments, happiness, and the joy of seeing the many lives you have touched continue to flourish.

May God reward every sacrifice you have made for others, replenish every resource you have so freely and generously shared, and surround you with love, honour and abundant blessings.

May your pen never run dry, your wisdom never diminish, your laughter never cease, and may you continue winning your table tennis matches, even when your opponents believe they deserve a chance!

For more than 22 years, I have experienced your kindness firsthand. I may never be able to repay all you have done for me, but I will forever remain grateful. Happy 65th birthday, my boss, my mentor, my father figure, and my God-sent benefactor.

The world may know you as Gbenga Omotoso, the accomplished journalist and Commissioner. I know you as the man God used to rewrite the story of a fatherless boy. And for that, I will remain eternally grateful.

Uwemedimo is a programme analyst and Personal Assistant to the Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy.

TheGuardian Business

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CRUDE OIL PRICE UPDATE Brent crude: $108.6| WTI crude: $105.9 **FOREX MARKET UPDATE** I&E Window: N1,332.69

Shell warns gas pipeline gaps threaten manufacturing despite 3,226km network

By Waliat Musa

SHELL Nigeria Gas Limited has warned that gaps in Nigeria's gas pipeline infrastructure could undermine manufacturing competitiveness, despite the country's substantial gas reserves and existing transmission network.

The Managing Director of Shell Nigeria Gas Limited (SNG), Ralph Gbobo, represented by Asset Reliability and Integrity Manager, Samuel Ojo, gave the warning in a presentation titled: 'Gas for Manufacturing: Closing the Pipeline Infrastructure Gap to Improve Manufacturing Competitiveness,' delivered at the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) Energy Security and Energy Efficiency Summit in Lagos.

According to the presentation, Nigeria has proven and probable gas reserves of 215.19 trillion cubic feet (Tcf), but access to the resource remains a challenge for manufacturers that require dependable energy to sustain production.

He said manufacturers spent N1.34 trillion on alternative energy in 2025, highlighting the cost burden associated with unreliable access to energy. "Manufacturers need reliable pipeline infrastructure," he said.

Data from the Global Energy Monitor's pipeline tracker show that Nigeria has 3,226.41 kilometres of operating gas transmission pipelines. A further 1,427km are under construction, while 2,074.67km are proposed, which will bring the combined length of pipelines under construction to 3,501.67km.

The figures highlighted the scale of existing infrastructure as well as projects at different stages of development. However, the proposed and under-construction figures should not be interpreted as completed or operational networks.

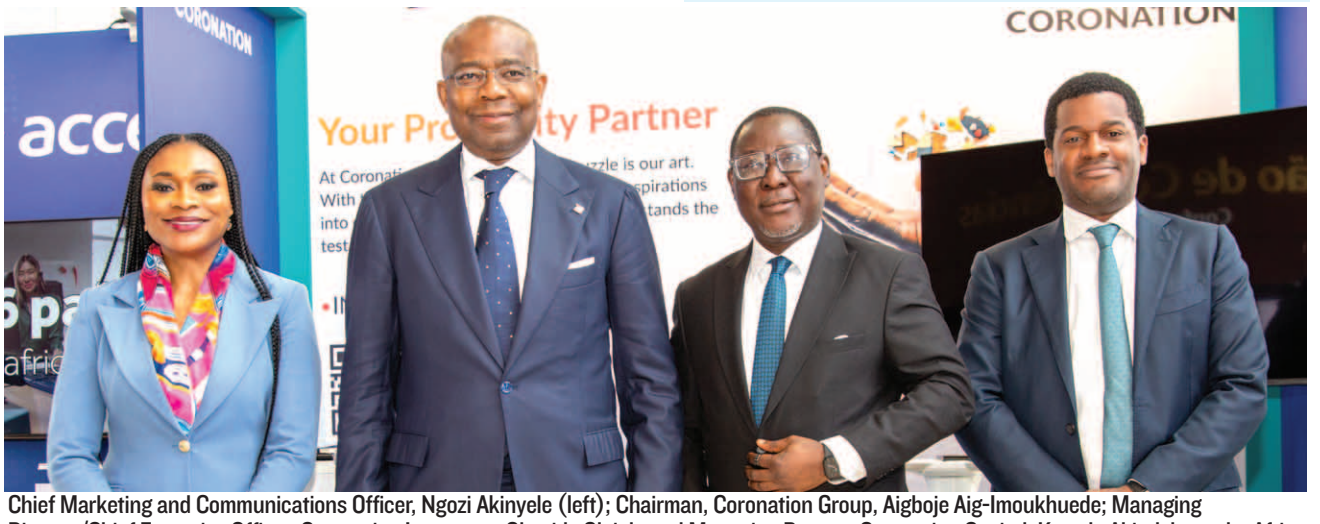
His presentation argued that expanding access to pipeline gas could reduce manufacturers' energy costs through electricity generation and industrial process heat, particularly for boilers, steam systems and kilns.

Its illustrative cost comparison placed diesel self-generation at an index of 100, grid supply combined with diesel backup at 62, and pipeline gas at 30.

The presentation, however, cautioned that the potential savings would depend on access to infrastructure and reliable supply.

He identified the Obiafu-Obrikom-Oben (OB3) pipeline as linking the eastern and western gas networks, while the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) project represents the next step towards expanding access to the northern market.

The presentation also cited the expanded design capacity of the East-West pipeline system (ELPS II) at 2.3 billion standard cubic feet per day, noting that compression would be required to realise the capacity.



Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, Ngozi Akinyele (left); Chairman, Coronation Group, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede; Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Coronation Insurance, Olamide Olajolo and Managing Partner, Coronation Capital, Kayode Akindele, at the Africa Financial Summit (AFIS) 2026 in Luanda, Angola, where they joined African business leaders, policymakers and investors to discuss the future of finance, capital mobilisation and sustainable economic growth across the continent.

FCCPC orders oil marketers to align prices with changing market realities

From Collins Olayinka, Abuja

THE Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) has warned petroleum refiners and marketers against retaining elevated petrol and diesel prices despite the recent decline in international crude oil prices.

It insisted that lower production costs must translate into cheaper fuel for Nigerian consumers.

The commission said it was closely monitoring developments in the international oil market to ensure that the sustained decline in crude prices, if maintained, reflects in domestic petroleum product prices.

The Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of FCCPC, Tunji Bello, gave the assurance in Abuja in response to public concerns over the continued high cost of petrol despite the recent moderation in global crude oil prices.

According to the Commission, Brent crude futures, which had climbed to about $115 per barrel in September, have fallen to below $90 this week, raising expectations of a possible reduction in domestic petrol prices.

However, petrol prices remain elevated across major Nigerian cities, averaging between N1,405 and N1,420 per litre in Abuja and between N1,325 and N1,370 in Lagos.

The prevailing prices represent a significant increase from N839 to N925 per litre recorded in Lagos and Abuja, respectively, on February 27, a day before the outbreak of the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran.

Petroleum marketers have repeatedly attributed the sharp increase in domestic fuel prices over the past eight months to volatility in international crude oil prices following the Middle East conflict and the subsequent disruption of shipping activities around the Strait of Hormuz.

The strategic waterway accounted for at least 25 per cent of global oil traffic, making disruptions to shipping activities a major concern for international energy markets.

However, the FCCPC said a sustained decline in crude oil prices should ease the cost of petroleum products and provide relief to consumers who have endured prolonged increases in transportation and household energy expenses.

Bello said refiners and marketers would have little justification for maintaining elevated petrol and diesel prices if the decline in international crude prices continued.

Nigeria risks $100b investment over policy delays, weak business climate

From Joseph Chibueze, Abuja

. Global investors target diverse sectors but warn of policy drag

NIGERIA is courting a potential investment pipeline of nearly $100 billion from international investors, but slow policy implementation, inadequate infrastructure and an unfriendly business environment could frustrate efforts to convert the interest into actual capital inflows. This is according to the organiser of an ongoing international investment summit in Abuja.

The investment interest, spanning more than 50 countries, presented an opportunity for Nigeria to attract foreign capital into critical sectors, reduce import dependence, expand domestic production, create jobs and strengthen its foreign exchange position.

However, the President of Business Summit Group, Dr M. Haider Uzzaman, cautioned that attracting investors would amount to little if the country failed to establish the institutional, policy and operational conditions required to make investments viable and sustainable.

Speaking in an interview on the sidelines of the two-day investment summit, Uzzaman said investors with almost $100 billion in potential investment commitments were looking at opportunities across Nigeria's oil and gas, renewable energy, artificial intelligence, fintech, agriculture, agritech, poultry, education, healthcare and logistics sectors.

He said the summit had attracted participants from more than 50 countries, including the United Kingdom, Brazil, the United States, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Bangladesh, with some investors participating virtually.

The scale of interest, if translated into actual investments, could provide significant capital for infrastructure development, industrial expansion and private-sector growth at a time when Nigeria needs to reduce its dependence on imports, ease pressure on foreign exchange and create productive employment.

But Uzzaman warned that Nigeria was competing against more than 200 countries aggressively positioning themselves to attract international capital.

According to him, investors no longer wait for governments to invite them but compare investment destinations based on policy certainty, ease of doing business, infrastructure, governance and the overall experience of operating in a country.

He said things are still a little bit slow, and Nigeria needed to remove existing barriers and create a more welcoming investment environment to remain competitive.

He argued that the country's investment promotion strategy must move beyond hosting conferences and announcing investment opportunities to deliberately marketing Nigeria internationally and improving the conditions under which businesses operate.

Uzzaman disclosed that his organisation had facilitated approximately $1 billion in investments in Plateau State alone over the past nine months, covering projects in different sectors.

One of the projects is the proposed Jos dry port, in which he said he was personally investing an initial $11 million, with the objective of making the facility operational within one year.

The dry port, he explained, would serve businesses across the North-Central region and neighbouring countries, including Cameroon, Chad and Niger, potentially improving regional trade, logistics and access to markets.

Beyond infrastructure, Uzzaman identified Nigeria's dependence on imported food products as evidence of the country's failure to fully exploit its domestic production capacity.

He expressed concern that imported liquid milk products were readily available in Nigerian markets while domestic milk processing capacity remained inadequate.

Nigeria to get 60% of proposed $750m pension infrastructure fund

By Gloria Nwafor

AT least 60 per cent of a proposed $750 million infrastructure investment fund backed by Nigeria's pension industry will be channelled into projects within the country, as pension operators moved to deploy more long-term domestic capital into infrastructure development.

The remaining 40 per cent will be available for selected investments across the region, under the proposed Nigeria-focused investment platform being developed by the Pension Industry Leadership Council (PILC) in partnership with UK-funded development agency, FSD Africa.

The fund is expected to attract approximately $600 million from Nigerian pension funds and at least $150 million from development finance institutions, bringing its targeted capitalisation to $750 million.

It is targeting an initial mobilisation of $350 million at its first close, expected in 2027, before scaling up to its full target.

Already, 19 Nigerian pension funds have expressed interest in participating in the initiative, which is being developed by Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs), with support from the National Pension Commission (PenCom) and FSD Africa.

The investment platform is expected to finance projects in energy, transportation and digital connectivity through equity and quasi-equity investments.

The initiative is designed to connect infrastructure investment opportunities with long-term institutional capital, while expanding the role of domestic pension savings in financing productive economic activities.

Chairman of PILC and Director-General of PenCom, Omolola Oloworaran, said the pension industry was committed to mobilising its long-term savings capital to support infrastructure development while safeguarding contributors' retirement savings.

She said the proposed platform marked an important step towards deploying pension assets into investments that can support the country's development needs.

"The pension industry holds the largest pool of long-term savings capital in the country, and we are committed to mobilising it to deepen infrastructure development, while safeguarding the retirement savings of contributors," she said.

Oloworaran described the memorandum of understanding with FSD Africa as the first step in the industry's efforts to achieve the objective.

Chief Executive Officer of FSD Africa, Mark Napier, said the proposed structure would help address the gap between Africa's substantial institutional capital and its infrastructure financing needs.

He said the organisation was keen to work with PenCom and Nigeria's pension industry to unlock the capital they manage for investment in priority infrastructure projects.

Under the agreement, FSD Africa will provide technical advice and support to PILC in establishing the fund.

The support will cover the selection of a fund manager through a competitive process, engagement with potential investors and development finance institutions, capacity building and assistance with necessary regulatory reforms.

The proposed structure will comprise a naira-denominated core investment fund and a separate co-investment vehicle, allowing participating pension funds to invest alongside the main fund in selected projects.

A parallel foreign-currency vehicle may also be established to accommodate international investors.

CORNERSTONE INSURANCE PLC

STATEMENT TO THE NIGERIAN EXCHANGE LIMITED AND THE SHAREHOLDERS ON THE EXTRACT OF THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2026

Cornerstone
RC163170

Consolidated and Separate Statements of Financial Position

	30th Sept 2026 Group N'000	31st Dec. 2025 Group N'000	30th Sept 2026 Company N'000	31st Dec. 2025 Company N'000
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	14,970,675	24,169,632	10,774,043	8,865,104
Financial Assets				
- measured at FVOCI	12,510,801	41,104,559	9,179,987	38,587,248
- measured at FVTPL	93,099,200	46,029,689	70,613,222	35,393,782
- measured at amortised cost	182,455	1,287,977	184,596	373,617
Premium receivables	2,303,141	754,408	1,921,076	546,203
Other receivables and prepayments	1,114,085	1,782,469	747,405	583,651
Reinsurance contract assets	13,368,650	16,142,513	11,042,859	13,121,500
Investment in subsidiaries	-	-	5,008,847	5,008,847
Investment properties	1,584,000	1,584,000	-	-
Property and equipment	5,796,652	5,967,919	2,512,344	2,618,457
Intangible assets	10,255	10,525	6,390	7,454
Statutory deposit	4,200,000	2,200,000	2,500,000	500,000
Total Assets	**149,139,914**	**141,033,691**	**114,490,769**	**105,605,861**
Liabilities				
Insurance contract liabilities	57,039,881	55,083,952	50,980,678	49,454,262
Reinsurance contract liabilities	108,641	92,832	108,641	92,832
Investment contract liabilities	1,243,136	1,348,313	969,065	867,022
Other insurance related liabilities	5,293,578	6,696,695	5,240,415	5,760,071
Other payables and accruals	2,575,696	2,870,475	3,763,040	3,399,768
Current tax liabilities	1,283,479	801,784	1,165,742	743,038
Deferred tax liabilities	1,207,540	1,251,500	1,134,458	1,134,458
Employees benefit obligations	28,665	28,096	28,665	28,096
Total liabilities	**68,780,616**	**68,173,648**	**63,390,704**	**61,479,547**
Equity				
Share capital	9,083,196	9,083,196	9,083,196	9,083,196
Share premium	183,165	183,165	183,165	183,165
Treasury shares	(67,130)	(67,130)	(67,130)	(67,130)
Contingency reserve	14,295,657	14,200,564	9,940,169	9,269,718
Fair value and other reserves	16,382,509	11,201,820	11,805,073	7,714,700
Retained earnings	39,563,154	37,284,440	20,155,591	17,942,664
Equity attributable to owners of the company	**79,440,552**	**71,886,056**	**51,100,064**	**44,126,314**
Non-controlling interest	918,746	973,985	-	-
Total equity	**80,359,298**	**72,860,041**	**51,100,064**	**44,126,314**
Total liabilities and equity	**149,139,914**	**141,033,691**	**114,490,769**	**105,605,861**

The full financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 30th September 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Afolabi Balogun
Acting Chairman
FRC/2015/NBA/00000013423

Stephen Alangbo
Managing Director/CEO
FRC/2017/PRO/DIR/003/00000016217

Jubril Ajose
Chief Financial Officer
FRC/2013/ICAN/00000003148

Consolidated and Separate Statements of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	30th Sept 2026 Group N'000	30th Sept 2025 Group N'000	30th Sept 2026 Company N'000	30th Sept 2025 Company N'000
Insurance revenue	43,307,830	37,110,773	35,304,611	29,879,917
Insurance service expense	(17,856,045)	(18,433,946)	(13,221,439)	(12,632,875)
Net expenses from reinsurance contracts held	(13,703,311)	(7,807,462)	(11,400,049)	(7,747,491)
Insurance service result	**11,748,474**	**10,869,366**	**10,683,123**	**9,499,552**
Interest revenue using effective interest rate method	6,639,729	2,940,769	5,143,958	1,658,906
Net fair value (loss)/gain	3,107,157	2,668,603	3,137,935	2,668,603
Other investment income	343,800	360,900	221,774	226,991
Net (loss)/gain from foreign exchange	(4,757,321)	(1,727,294)	(3,031,687)	(1,641,397)
Gain on deposit administration / investment contracts	49,998	(36,910)	49,998	-
Investment return	**5,383,363**	**4,206,067**	**5,521,978**	**2,913,104**
Net finance expenses from insurance contracts issued	(3,867,882)	(788,700)	(3,825,000)	(1,152,629)
Net finance income/(expense) from reinsurance contracts held	233,429	(169,760)	213,381	(428,102)
Net insurance finance expenses	**(3,634,453)**	**(958,459)**	**(3,611,619)**	**(1,580,731)**
Net Insurance and Investment result	13,497,384	14,116,974	12,593,482	10,831,925
Other operating income	325,490	96,978	203,493	96,869
Management expenses	**(5,910,918)**	**(5,897,736)**	**(4,407,134)**	**(3,775,985)**
Profit before minimum and income tax	**7,911,957**	**8,316,217**	**8,389,841**	**7,152,809**
Minimum tax	(171,686)	-	(140,000)	-
Profit before tax	**7,740,271**	**8,316,217**	**8,249,841**	**7,152,809**
Tax expense	(332,698)	(214,998)	(332,698)	(79,458)
Profit for the year	**7,407,572**	**8,101,219**	**7,917,143**	**7,073,350**
Profit/(Loss) for the year				
Attributable to owners of the company	7,453,291	8,083,112	7,917,143	7,073,350
Attributable to non-controlling interest holders	**(45,719)**	**18,106**	**-**	**-**
	7,407,572	**8,101,218**	**7,917,143**	**7,073,350**
Other comprehensive income				
Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss				
Net change in fair value	-	2,626,594	-	2,693,735
	-	**2,626,594**	**-**	**2,693,734**
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss				
Quoted equity	5,327,533	67,140	4,237,217	-
Unquoted equity	(146,843)	-	(146,843)	-
	5,180,689	**67,140**	**4,090,373**	**-**
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	**5,180,689**	**2,693,734**	**4,090,373**	**2,693,734**
Total comprehensive income for the year	**12,588,261**	**10,794,952**	**12,007,516**	**9,767,085**
Profit attributable to:				
Owners of the company	7,453,291	8,083,112	7,917,143	7,073,350
Non-controlling interests	(45,719)	310,223	-	-
Profit for the year	**7,407,573**	**8,393,335**	**7,917,143**	**7,073,350**
Total comprehensive income attributable to:				
Owners of the company	12,643,500	10,776,847	12,007,516	9,767,085
Non-controlling interest	(55,239)	18,106	-	-
	12,588,261	**10,794,952**	**12,007,516**	**9,767,085**
Basic and diluted earnings per share (Kobo)	41	45	44	39

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IMJ @ 80

Celebrating Eight Decades of Strength, Wisdom & Legacy

With hearts full of gratitude, we celebrate and honour our father and patriarch on the remarkable occasion of his Oak Jubilee.

A life of strength, a legacy of resilience, and eight decades of God's enduring faithfulness.

Happy 80th Birthday

Chief (Dr.)
Isaac Morakinyo Jolapamo

With honour and deepest appreciation,

Signed: The Jolapamo Family & Children

Dangote Cement shelves London listing over market conditions

.Shareholders urge calm, say no cause for panic selling

By Helen Oji

DANGOTE Cement Plc has shelved plans for a secondary listing and share offering on the London Stock Exchange (LSE), citing prevailing market conditions and strategic priorities, in a setback to efforts by the UK bourse to attract major international companies.

The decision, which was announced yesterday, followed a board meeting held on November 10, 2026, where directors resolved that the company and its selling shareholder, Dangote Industries Limited (DIL), would no longer proceed with the proposed listing and offering at this time.

The cement manufacturer disclosed this in a notice to the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX), signed by its Company Secretary, Edward Imoedemhe.

The firm assured investors that its shares would remain listed on the Nigerian bourse and that the decision would not affect its operations or business plans.

Dangote Cement had disclosed in May that it was in early discussions over a possible secondary listing in London, a move expected to broaden its access to international investors and provide additional opportunities for raising capital.

The proposed transaction had attracted the attention of international financial institutions, with Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and Standard Bank reportedly engaged as advisers to the company.

The proposed listing was expected to give the cement manufacturing giant greater exposure to international investors and strengthen its presence in global capital markets.

However, the transaction will no longer proceed following the board's latest decision.

Dangote Cement, Africa's largest cement producer, operates in 11 African countries and has been listed on the NGX since 2010.

The company is currently the NGX's most valuable listed firm, with a market capitalisation of N24.8 trillion, representing approximately 15.1 per cent of the Nigerian equities market.

Former President of the Ibadan Zone of the Shareholders Association of Nigeria, Eric Akinduro, described Dangote Cement's decision to suspend its proposed secondary listing on the London Stock Exchange as a business decision, expressing confidence that the company must have carefully considered the implications before taking the step.

Air Peace, Ethiopian Airlines seal pact to boost African connectivity

By Olusegun Koiki

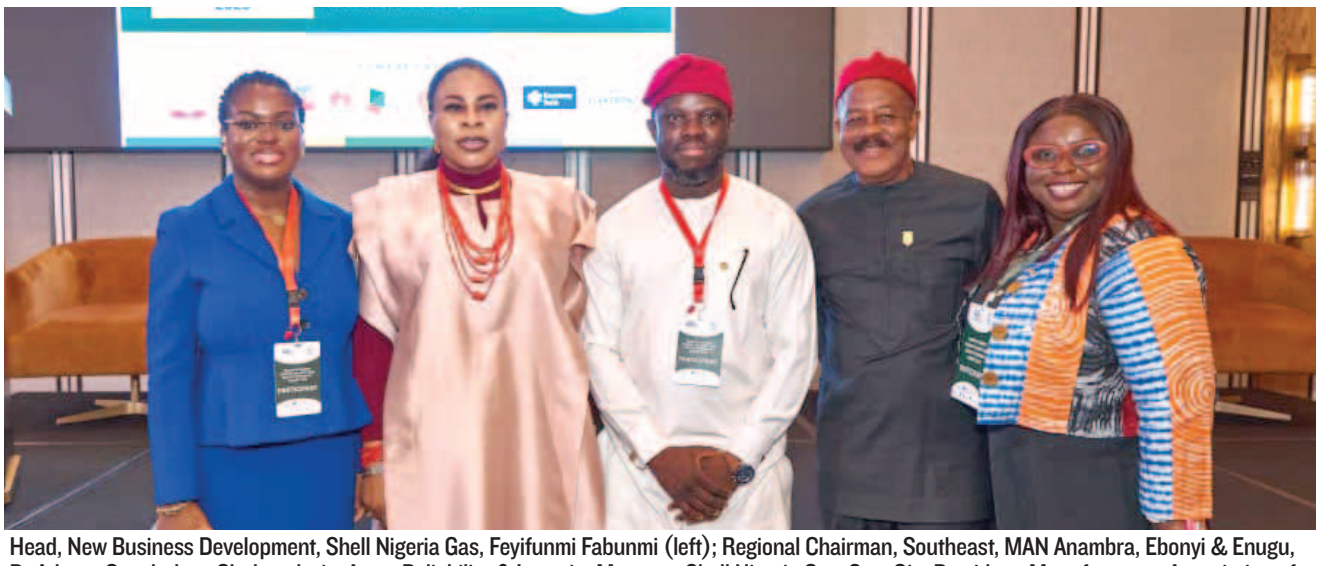
AIR Peace and Ethiopian Airlines have signed a bilateral interline agreement aimed at strengthening air transport connectivity across Africa and providing passengers with seamless access to destinations across the continent and beyond.

The agreement, which covers passenger travel and checked baggage services, would enable both airlines to issue tickets for eligible itineraries involving flights operated by the two carriers. The pact was signed yesterday at the Air Peace office in Lagos.

Under the arrangement, passengers travelling on qualifying routes could book their entire journey on a single ticket and have their baggage checked through to their final destinations, where applicable.

The development is expected to eliminate the inconvenience of making separate flight bookings and re-checking baggage when connecting between the two airlines, thereby simplifying international and regional travel.

The partnership would connect Air Peace's extensive domestic and regional network with Ethiopian Airlines' international operations, which span Africa, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the Americas.



Head, New Business Development, Shell Nigeria Gas, Feyifunmi Fabunmi (left); Regional Chairman, Southeast, MAN Anambra, Ebonyi & Enugu, Dr Adaora Ogochukwu Chukwudozie; Asset Reliability & Integrity Manager, Shell Nigeria Gas, Sam Ojo, President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Dr Ifeanyi Okoye and Media & Communications Adviser, Shell Nigeria Gas, Noredia Douglas-Jombo, at the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) Energy Security and Energy Efficiency Summit in Lagos.

CRC calls Africa to pioneer AI-driven financial innovation for devt

By Adeyemi Adepetun

THE Managing Director/CEO of CRC Credit Bureau Limited, Dr 'Tunde Popoola, has called on African governments, financial institutions, academia, researchers, and policymakers to embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a strategic tool for sustainable development, financial inclusion, and economic transformation.

He made the call while delivering the keynote address at the maiden international academic conference organised by the Department of Finance, Faculty of Management Sciences, University of Ilorin, Kwara State. The conference was themed: "Artificial Intelligence, Finance and the Path to Sustainability in Emerging and Developing Countries."

Popoola highlighted the sustainability challenges confronting emerging economies, including poverty, climate change, energy deficits, infrastructure gaps, financial exclusion, and weak institutions. He noted that many developing countries remain far from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which makes innovative and scalable solutions increasingly important.

He explained that finance is central to sustainable development because it mobilises savings, allocates capital, manages risks, and promotes innovation. However, limited access to credit and inadequate financial infrastructure continue to hamper progress, and he cited estimates that achieving the SDGs requires between $5.4 trillion and $6.4 trillion in yearly financing globally.

Describing AI as a new development equation, he explained that it enables smarter decision-making through advanced data analytics, improves credit assessment, and enhances fraud detection. He added that AI can help address long-standing challenges such as inadequate data, weak institutions, and infrastructure financing deficits.

He pointed to global and local financial institutions already using AI for customer service, risk management, credit scoring, and fraud prevention, and he referenced CRC Credit Bureau's own predictive credit analytics and customer profiling solutions, which support responsible lending and broader access to credit.

NCDMB, NLNG commit $9 million to research in six universities

By Abigail Ikhaghu

THE Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG) have committed $9 million to research programmes in six Nigerian universities, with each institution expected to receive $1.5 million to develop solutions to challenges in the oil and gas industry.

The programme will establish professorial research chairs in the universities, with areas of focus ranging from natural gas processing and pollution control to digital engineering, energy transition and satellite intelligence.

The beneficiary institutions are the University of Ibadan, Rivers State University, Modibbo Adama University, Aliko Dangote University of Science and Technology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and the University of Abuja, also known as Yakubu Gowon University.

Speaking at the launch of the programme, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of NLNG, Adeleye Falade, said the investment was aimed at helping Nigerian universities turn research findings into solutions that could be used by industries.

He said the changing nature of the energy industry made continuous research important, particularly in areas such as operational efficiency, emissions control, safety and the maintenance of industrial facilities.

"In the energy industry, we understand that technology and energy systems are evolving, and the need for sustained research cannot be overemphasised," Falade said.

He said the programme would also encourage closer working relationships between universities, government and industry, allowing researchers to learn from industry experience and test their findings against real challenges.

NSW hits N17b milestone, moves to phase 2 of export drive by December

By Adaku Onyenucheya

THE National Single Window (NSW) Secretariat has revealed that over 4,414 trade manifests and N17 billion have been received in eight months for the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS), and other agencies on the NSW platform.

Director of the NSW Secretariat, Tola Fakolade, disclosed this yesterday in Lagos during the stakeholders' engagement held ahead of the launch of the second phase of the platform for export operations scheduled for December 14.

He said the second phase covering export-related processes would be implemented progressively from the fourth quarter of 2026 to the first quarter of 2027, with additional government agencies and private-sector stakeholders integrated into the platform.

Fakolade said the expansion is expected to streamline export documentation, simplify regulatory procedures, reduce delays and improve the efficiency of Nigeria's international trade.

Under the second phase, the platform will accommodate export licences, certificates and permits, Forms Nigeria Export Proceeds (NXP) and Non-Commercial Export (NCX), export manifests transmitted by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Import Duty Exemption Certificates (IDEC), import and export permits for Free Trade Zones, as well as payments for export-related licences, permits, certificates and other regulatory documents (LPCO).

New cross-border payment system links Naira, Yuan

By Bankole Orimisan

NIGERIA's efforts to deepen trade relations with China and reduce the cost and delays associated with international transactions received a boost yesterday as Stanbic IBTC Bank introduced a cross-border payment platform that enables local businesses to initiate payments in naira and settle directly in Chinese Yuan.

The platform, known as the Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS), is expected to reduce transaction processing time from between 48 and 72 hours under traditional payment channels to about 24 hours, while minimising exchange rate exposure, reducing transaction complexities and improving predictability for businesses operating along the Nigeria-China trade corridor.

The development is considered significant for Nigerian importers, manufacturers and other businesses, given China's position as one of the country's major trading partners and the challenges associated with multiple currency conversions, intermediary banks and settlement delays in international trade.

Speaking at the CIPS Go-Live Ceremony in Lagos yesterday, Chief Executive Officer, Stanbic IBTC Bank, Wole Adeniyi, said the introduction of the platform was made possible by the direct participation of its parent company, Standard Bank Group, in China's cross-border interbank payment infrastructure.

FG moves to ease cross-border investment in W'Africa

By Isaac Chibuife

THE Federal Government has proposed a regional capital market framework that would allow companies and governments to raise funds across 10 West African countries without obtaining separate regulatory approvals in each market.

The proposal, presented by the Minister of Finance, Taiwo Oyedele, at the S&P Global Ratings Africa Summit in Lagos yesterday, is aimed at removing barriers to cross-border investment and improving access to long-term financing for infrastructure and economic growth.

Oyedele said fragmented capital markets across the region had limited the ability of countries to mobilise the scale of funding required for development, noting that no single market was deep enough to meet the region's financing needs.

Under the proposed framework, an issuer approved by regulators in one participating country would be able to raise capital in other member markets without going through separate approval processes. The arrangement, described as a regional "passport" regime, is expected to make it easier for governments and companies to access investors across the region.

Nigeria is also proposing a unified investor identification system that would allow investors registered in one country to buy bonds and equities in other participating markets without repeating registration and verification procedures.

Oyedele said the reforms would be complemented by the integration of regional trading, settlement and payment systems, allowing securities transactions to be settled directly in local currencies and reducing dependence on the United States dollar.

Other proposals include establishing a regional local-currency bond index and a credit enhancement facility to support cross-border infrastructure financing.

The proposed integration covers Nigeria, Ghana and eight French-speaking countries that use the CFA franc and share a common central bank. They are Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Oyedele said existing initiatives, including the West African Capital Markets Integration Council, the African Exchanges Linkage Project and the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), provide a foundation for deeper regional integration.

Central Bank of Nigeria

www.cbn.gov.ng

In furtherance of the transparency and full disclosure stance of the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Monetary Policy Committee has decided that henceforth the lending rates obtainable in all Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) be made public to guide business decisions. Consequently, find below the applicable rates for each of the DMBs as at November 6th, 2026. The rates will also be available on the website of the Central Bank of Nigeria

NAME OF BANK		ACCESS BANK	ALPHA MORGAN BANK	CITI BANK	CORONATION MERCHANT BANK	ECOBANK	QUEST MERCHANT BANK	FCMB	FIDELITY BANK	FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA	FSDH MERCHANT BANK	GLOBUS BANK LTD	GREENWICH MERCHANT BANK	GUARANTY TRUST BANK	KEYSTONE BANK LTD	NOVA BANK	OPTIMUS BANK	PARALLEX BANK	POLARIS BANK	PREMIUM TRUST BANK	PROVIDUS BANK	RAND MERCHANT BANK NIG. LTD	SIGNATURE BANK	STANBIC IBTC	STANDARD CHARTERED BANK	STERLING BANK	SUNTRUST BANK	TATUM BANK	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	UNION BANK	UNITY BANK	WEMA BANK	ZENITH BANK
DEPOSIT RATES																																	
DEMAND DEPOSIT	AVE. INT. RATI	0.67	-	0.96	-	0.03	-	0.28	0.50	-	0.50	0.01	10.00	1.00	0.81	-	6.17	-	-	-	2.50	0.51	-	0.11	0.00	0.33	-	-	0.04	2.50	-	1.84	0.96
SAVINGS DEPOSIT	AVE. INT. RATI	6.90	6.90	6.90	-	0.07	-	3.90	6.90	6.90	-	6.90	-	7.95	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	-	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	-	6.90	6.90
TIME DEPOSIT	AVE. INT. RATI	13.00	11.00	8.07	13.03	0.11	9.17	13.00	10.00	8.66	17.00	13.59	16.00	8.00	19.08	13.20	7.96	12.53	10.50	14.00	16.00	16.89	11.72	14.86	14.32	17.04	12.10	14.00	14.75	10.46	-	9.34	12.33
LENDING RATES																																	
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING	PRIME	25.50	25.00	18.00	9.97	26.75	21.50	31.00	30.00	26.00	24.00	25.70	27.80	9.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50		-	15.00	18.00	24.00	22.00	-	28.50	26.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	30.00	19.00	10.15	35.00	30.00	46.10	36.00	36.00	28.00	33.00	32.80	29.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	35.00	35.00		-	36.00	22.00	33.50	34.00	-	32.00	37.00	-	30.50	32.00
MINING & QUARRYING	PRIME	-	-	18.00	9.00	26.75	9.00	31.00	30.00	-	-	25.70	-	32.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	-	-	18.00	24.00	-	-	28.50	-	-	32.50	23,20
	MAX.	-	-	19.00	9.00	26.75	9.00	-	36.00	-	-	33.00	-	32.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	-	35.00	-	-	-	22.00	33.50	-	-	32.00	-	-	34.50	32.00
MANUFACTURING	PRIME	25.50	25.00	18.00	9.00	26.75	7.00	31.00	30.00	26.00	22.00	25.70	27.80	16.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	24.50	21.00	15.00	18.00	24.00	22.00	-	28.50	25.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	30.00	19.00	35.00	35.00	30.00	46.10	36.00	36.00	32.00	33.00	32.80	32.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	35.00	35.00	24.50	30.00	36.00	22.00	33.50	36.00	-	32.00	38.00	-	33.50	32.00
REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES	PRIME	25.50	25.00	18.00	25.50	26.75	28.00	31.00	30.00	26.00	-	25.70	-	26.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	21.00	23.00	18.00	24.00	20.50	-	28.50	26.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	30.00	19.00	33.00	35.00	28.00	46.10	36.00	34.00	-	33.00	-	30.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	35.00	35.00	-	30.00	39.60	22.00	33.50	33.00	-	32.00	30.00	-	32.50	32.00
PUBLIC UTILITIES	PRIME	-	-	-	-	-	-	31.00	30.00	26.00	-	25.70	-	-	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00		28.00	26.50	-	-	20.00	18.00	24.00	-	-	28.50	-	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36.00	25.25	-	33.00	-	-	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50		-	35.00	-	-	36.00	22.00	33.50	-	-	30.00	-	-	34.50	32.00
GENERAL COMMERCE	PRIME	25.50	25.00	18.00	10.77	26.75	9.00	31.00	30.00	26.00	24.00	25.70	27.80	11.56	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	22.00	21.00	15.00	18.00	24.00	22.00	-	28.50	23.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	30.00	19.00	34.00	35.00	24.00	46.10	36.00	36.00	31.00	33.00	32.80	32.00	36.00	39.00	35.00	32.50	47.31	36.00	35.00	23.00	37.00	60.00	22.00	33.50	34.00	-	48.00	38.00	-	34.50	32.00
TRANSPORTATION & STORAGE	PRIME	25.50	-	18.00	9.00	26.75		31.00	30.00	26.00	-	25.70	27.80	11.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	21.00	20.00	18.00	24.00	22.00	-	28.50	29.75	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	-	19.00	29.00	26.75		46.10	36.00	34.21	-	33.00	32.80	27.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	29.50	35.00	-	37.00	36.00	22.00	33.50	30.00	-	32.00	34.00	-	34.50	32.00
FINANCE & INSURANCE	PRIME	25.50	25.00	18.00	24.00	26.75	20.50	31.00	30.00	26.00	22.00	25.70	27.80	17.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	21.00	20.00	18.00	24.00	25.50	-	28.50	30.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	30.00	19.00	24.00	35.00	28.00	46.10	36.00	36.00	30.00	33.00	32.80	29.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	32.00	35.00	-	29.00	36.00	22.00	33.50	38.00	-	32.00	30.00	-	32.50	32.00
GENERAL	PRIME	25.50	25.00	18.00	12.00	26.75	5.00	31.00	30.00	26.00	23.00	25.70	27.80	5.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	19.00	21.00	15.00	27.00	24.00	22.00	33.97	28.50	15.90	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	30.00	19.00	28.00	48.00	5.00	46.10	36.00	38.00	33.00	33.00	32.80	35.00	36.00	39.00	35.00	32.50	43.46	42.00	35.00	19.00	21.37	60.00	29.00	33.50	37.00	38.97	32.00	38.00	-	34.50	32.00
GOVERNMENT	PRIME	23.00	-	-	-	26.75	-	20.00	30.00	26.00	-	25.70	-	22.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	21.00	20.00	18.00	24.00	-	-	28.50	25.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	28.50	-	-	-	35.00	-	31.00	36.00	32.00	-	33.00	-	23.50	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	35.00	35.00	-	29.00	36.00	22.00	33.50	-	-	32.00	25.00	-	30.50	32.00
WATER SUPPLY SEWAGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES	PRIME	25.50	-	-	-	26.75	30.00	31.00	30.00	-	-	25.70	-	-	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00		28.00	26.50	-	-	27.50	18.00	24.00	-	-	28.50	-	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	29.00	-	-	-	26.75	30.00	46.10	36.00	-	-	33.00	-	-	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50		30.00	35.00	-	-	36.00	22.00	33.50	-	-	32.00	-	-	28.50	32.00
CONSTRUCTION	PRIME	25.50	25.00	18.00	9.38	26.75	-	31.00	30.00	26.00		25.70	-	-	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	21.00	24.75	18.00	24.00	22.00	33.97	28.50	37.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	30.00	19.00	30.00	35.00	-	46.10	36.00	36.00		33.00	-	-	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	35.00	35.00	-	37.00	39.60	22.00	33.50	33.00	38.97	32.00	37.00	-	34.50	32.00
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	PRIME	25.50	25.00	18.00		26.75		31.00	30.00	26.00	25.00	25.70	27.80	12.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	24.00	-	17.50	18.00	24.00	25.50	-	28.50	-	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	30.00	19.00		35.00		46.10	36.00	35.00	25.00	33.00	32.80	31.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.60	-	35.00	24.00	-	35.00	22.00	33.50	26.00	-	32.00	-	-	34.50	32.00
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	PRIME	25.50	-	18.00	-	26.75		31.00	30.00	26.00	25.00	25.70		27.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	-	20.00	18.00	24.00	-	-	28.50	37.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	30.00	-	19.00	-	35.00		46.10	36.00	36.00	30.00	33.00		31.50	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	32.00	35.00	-	-	36.00	22.00	33.50	-	-	32.00	37.00	-	34.50	32.00
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE ACTIVITIES	PRIME	25.50	-	18.00	-	26.75	-	31.00	30.00	26.00	-	25.70	27.80	31.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	-	20.00	18.00	24.00	22.00	-	28.50	-	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	25.00	19.00	-	35.00	-	40.00	36.00	34.00	-	33.00	32.80	31.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	30.00	35.00	-		36.00	22.00	33.50	35.00	-	32.00	-	-	34.50	32.00
EDUCATION	PRIME	25.50	30.00	18.00	-	26.75	-	31.00	30.00	26.00	-	25.70	-	27.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	21.00	23.50	18.00	24.00	22.00	33.97	28.50	28.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	25.00	19.00	-	35.00	-	46.10	36.00	37.00	-	33.00	-	32.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	36.00	35.00	-	26.00	31.75	22.00	33.50	22.00	38.97	32.00	35.00	-	34.50	32.00
HUMAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITIES	PRIME	25.50	30.00	18.00	-	26.75	-	31.00	30.00	26.00	23.00	25.70	-	32.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	-	22.00	18.00	24.00	-	-	28.50	28.75	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	25.00	19.00	-	35.00	-	46.10	36.00	37.00	33.00	33.00	-	32.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	33.00	35.00	-	-	36.00	22.00	33.50	-	-	32.00	31.00	-	34.50	32.00
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION	PRIME	25.50	30.00	-	-	-	-	31.00	30.00	26.00	-	25.70	-	-	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	-	20.00	18.00	24.00	-	-	28.50	-	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	-	-	-	-	-	46.10	36.00	22.00	-	33.00	-	-	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	32.00	35.00	-	-	36.00	22.00	33.50	-	-	32.00	-	-	34.50	32.00
ACTIVITIES OF EXTRATERRITORIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES	PRIME	-	-	18.00	-	-	-	31.00	30.00	-	-	25.70	-	-	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	-	28.00	26.50	-	-	24.00	18.00	24.00	-	-	28.50	-	-	-	23.20
	MAX.	-	-	19.00	-	-	-	-	36.00	-	-	33.00	-	-	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	-	-	35.00	-	-	36.00	22.00	33.50	-	-	32.00	-	-	-	32.00
POWER AND ENERGY	PRIME	25.50	-	18.00	-	26.75	30.00	31.00	30.00	26.00	25.00	25.70	-	12.00	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	-	-	19.00	18.00	24.00	-	-	28.50	14.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	-	19.00	-	26.75	30.00	46.10	36.00	27.50	25.00	33.00	-	28.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	30.00	35.00	-	-	36.00	22.00	33.50	-	-	32.00	27.75	-	34.50	32.00
CAPITAL MARKET	PRIME	-	-	18.00	-	-		31.00	30.00	-	-	25.70	-	-	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00		28.00	26.50	-	-	20.00	18.00	24.00	-	-	28.50	-	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	-	-	19.00	-	-	-	-	36.00	-	-	33.00	-	-	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50		-	35.00	-	-	36.00	22.00	33.50	-	-	32.00	-	-	34.50	32.00
OIL & GAS	PRIME	25.50	25.00	18.00	9.51	26.75	27.00	31.00	30.00	26.00	23.00	25.70	27.80	7.73	30.50	33.78	23.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	26.50	19.50	21.00	17.00	18.00	24.00	22.00	33.97	28.50	19.00	-	32.50	23.20
	MAX.	32.00	30.00	19.00	34.00	35.00	28.00	46.10	36.00	36.00	33.00	33.00	32.80	32.00	36.00	34.00	35.00	32.50	36.00	34.00	35.00	25.50	36.00	38.50	22.00	33.50	32.50	38.97	32.00	35.00	-	33.50	32.00

For further informations please, call: 08176657060

Signed: Management

NMDPRA

NIGERIAN MIDSTREAM & DOWNSTREAM PETROLEUM REGULATORY AUTHORITY (NMDPRA)

NOTICE OF CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 32 OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ACT, 2021:

DEVELOPMENT, VALIDATION AND FORMAL ADOPTION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICING FRAMEWORK

In compliance with Sections 32 &122 of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), 2021 requiring consultation with stakeholders prior to establishing a pricing framework, the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (the Authority) hereby invites licensees, refiners, petroleum products importers, wholesale suppliers, marketers, depot and terminal operators, transporters, distributors, industry associations, permit holders and other interested stakeholders in the midstream and downstream petroleum sector to make submissions within twenty-one (21) days from the date of this publication in respect of the Petroleum Products Pricing Frameworks.

The consultation will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to review and adopt the proposed framework, submit technical and commercial inputs, and contribute to the development of a framework that promotes transparency, competition, market efficiency and appropriate regulatory oversight. Stakeholders are enjoined to visit the Authority's website at **www.nmdpra.gov.ng** to review the consultation document and access the prescribed format for submissions.

All submissions are to be made using the format accessible on the Authority's website to the Executive Director, Economic Regulations and Strategic Planning Directorate, through **nmdpra-pricingandtariff@nmdpra.gov.ng** and must be received not later than 21 days (on or before 9th December 2026) from the date of this notice.

The Stakeholders' Consultation Forum on the proposed Petroleum Products Pricing Frameworks shall hold as follows:

Venue: Abuja.
Date: 5th January 2027
Time: 10.00am

For further clarification, please contact the Pricing and Tariff through **nmdpra-pricingandtariff@nmdpra.gov.ng.**

Signed
Rabiu Abdullahi Umar
Authority Chief Executive



ELIZABETH WURAOLA OJO TOYOTA GOLF TOURNAMENT

By TOYOTA (NIGERIA) LIMITED

PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS' ROUNDS

13TH NOVEMBER, 2026

AMATEUR COMPETITION (MEN & WOMEN)

14TH NOVEMBER, 2026

ELIZABETH WURAOLA OJO TOYOTA GOLF TOURNAMENT

@

The Smokin Hills Golf Resort, Ilara–Mokin. Ondo State.

TOYOTA

STRICTLY BY INVITATION

For enquiries, please call: +234 813 544 2860

NMDPRA

NIGERIAN MIDSTREAM & DOWNSTREAM PETROLEUM REGULATORY AUTHORITY (NMDPRA)

NOTICE OF CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON THE PROPOSED TARIFF METHODOLOGIES

FOR MIDSTREAM GAS FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTIONS 32,123 (3), (4) and (5) OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ACT 2021

The Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Authority), In compliance with Sections 123 (3), (4) and (5) of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021 requiring consultation with stakeholders prior to establishing a tariff methodology, hereby invites stakeholders to make submissions in respect of the proposed Tariff Methodologies for Midstream Gas Facilities and Infrastructure.

Nature of the matter for consultation

The stakeholders' consultation relates to the proposed review and establishment by the Authority of tariff methodologies for the setting of tariffs charged by licensees for the use of any facility or infrastructure licensed by the Authority for use in midstream gas operations, in accordance with Section 123(1) of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021.

The proposed tariff methodologies are intended to apply to gas processing, gas transportation, and distribution infrastructure licensed by the Authority.

Matters upon which submissions are invited

The Authority invites submissions on-

i. Proposed principles and structure of tariff methodologies to be adopted by the Authority;
ii. The recovery of reasonable and efficiently incurred costs, benchmarked against industry's best practice;
iii. The determination of reasonable returns on capital invested;
iv. Efficiency incentives and mechanisms for service quality improvement;
v. Tariff structures applicable to processing facilities, gas transportation pipelines, distribution licences, including charges relating to allocation, metering, and ancillary services; e.g. measures to avoid economic distortions and promote competitive petroleum and natural gas markets;
vi. Differentiation of tariffs for credit-worthy shippers willing to commit to long-term ship-or-pay arrangements, where applicable.

Stakeholders are enjoined to visit the Authority's website **www.nmdpra.gov.ng** to review the proposed Tariff Methodology consultation paper.

All submissions must:

i. Identify the stakeholder (name, organisation, address and contact information including phone number and email address);
ii. Be made in written form, typed and, where applicable, on the official letterhead of the stakeholder;
iii. Contain an executive summary;
iv. Clearly indicates the relevant aspect of the proposed tariff methodology to which the submission relates;
v. State whether any part of the submission is confidential and the basis for such confidentiality; and
vi. All submissions are to be made using the format accessible on the Authority's website to the Executive Director, Economic Regulations and Strategic Planning Directorate, through **nmdpra-pricingandtariff@nmdpra.gov.ng** and must be received not later than 21 days (on or before 9th December 2026) from the date of this notice.

The Stakeholders Consultation in respect of the proposed Tariff Methodologies shall hold as follows:

Venue: Abuja
Date 6TH January 2027
Time: 10.00am

Signed
Rabiu Abdullahi Umar
Authority Chief Executive

GuardianTech

Nigeria surpasses 200m mobile connections as SIM activations surge

Stories by **Adeyemi Adepetun**

- 4G remains dominant network as 5G sees 10.1m connections
- Broadband penetration reaches 128 million Nigerians

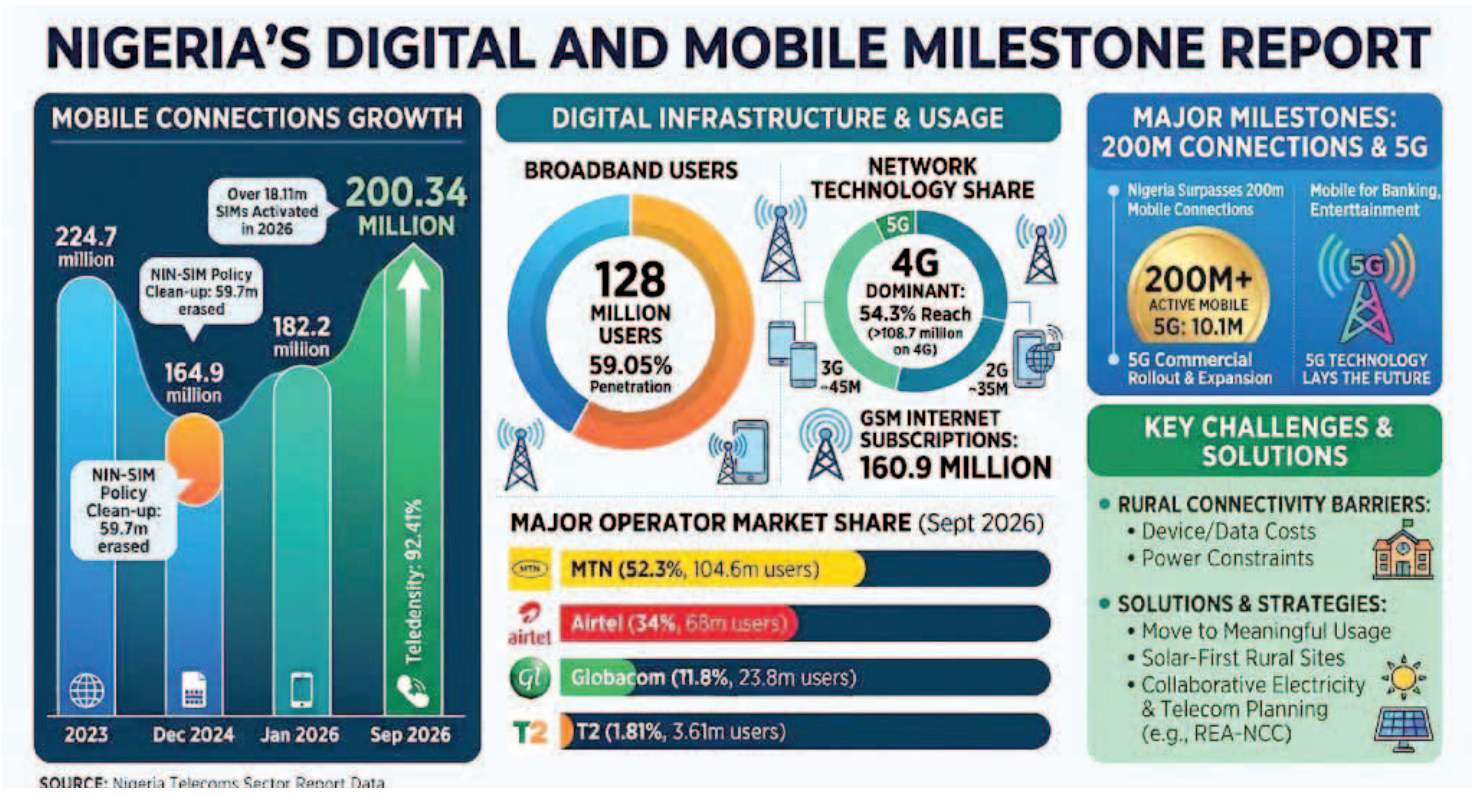
NIGERIA's telecommunications sector has reached a new milestone, crossing the 200 million mobile connections mark as operators continue to roll out new subscriber identity module (SIM) card activations.

This achievement underscores the rapid pace of digital adoption in Africa's largest economy, where mobile connectivity is increasingly central to commerce, communication, and everyday life.

Industry analysts note that the surge in connections reflects both aggressive expansion strategies by telcos and rising consumer demand for affordable mobile services. With more Nigerians relying on mobile phones for banking, education, and entertainment, the sector's growth is reshaping the country's digital landscape.

The expansion is being driven by major operators who have invested heavily in infrastructure upgrades and nationwide SIM distribution campaigns. Rural and semi-urban communities, once underserved, are now seeing more access to mobile networks, narrowing the digital divide and opening new opportunities for economic participation.

Indeed, the latest subscription statistics, the September edition from the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), showed that mobile connections in the country are now 200,337,097, up from 182.2 million as of January 2026.



The growth has translated to a teledensity of 92.41 per cent. 4G network remained dominant with 54.3 per cent reach, where over 108.7 million Nigerians are on it. It should be noted that virtually, most Nigerians explored all the networks including 2G and 3G (which is fast nearing its sunset in most countries, Nigeria inclusive).

Analysis of the data showed that within the period under review, telecom operators activated and reactivated over 18.11 million SIMs. Some SIMs that were barred from the network due to one biometric defect or another have also been corrected and pushed back into the networks.

Recall that through the NIN-SIM Policy Clean-up of 2024 by the NCC and the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), some 59.7 million phone lines were erased as part of the nationwide policy requiring all SIM cards to be linked to a verified National Identification Number (NIN) by the September 14, 2024 deadline. This caused active subscriber numbers to drop from 224.7 million in 2023 to 164.9 million by December 2024.

As of today, mobile connections have reached over 200 million. Further analysis showed that Internet subscriptions via GSM technology reached 160.9 million, and broadband users are 128 million Nigerians, with 59.05 per cent penetration.

In terms of market reach, MTN maintained dominance. NCC statistics showed that MTN, as of September, has 104.6 million users (52.3 per cent); Airtel has 68 million users (34 per cent); Globalcom has 23.8 million users (11.8 per cent); and T2 has 3.61 million users (1.81 per cent).

Meanwhile, stakeholders have tapped Nigeria to move from coverage to meaningful usage. Speaking at a rural telecom event in Lagos, President of the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON), Tony Emoekpere, said the industry must move beyond measuring progress mainly by coverage and subscriber numbers, arguing that the real test is whether people in rural communities can afford and use the services available to them.

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

'How smartphone settings influence mobile data consumption'

AS mobile data costs continue to rise worldwide, experts warn that the way users configure their smartphones may quietly be driving up consumption.

Settings such as background app refresh, automatic updates, and video streaming quality are increasingly under scrutiny, with analysts noting that small adjustments could translate into significant savings for consumers.

The issue has gained attention as telecom providers report surging data usage across markets.

Industry observers pointed out that features like cloud synchronisation and location services often run unnoticed, steadily consuming data in the background.

Streaming platforms, meanwhile, default to high-definition playback that can quickly drain monthly allowances.

Consumer advocates argued that greater awareness of these settings could empower users to manage costs more effectively, while regulators in some regions are beginning to examine whether default configurations unfairly inflate data usage.

These issues featured at MTN Nigeria's Data on Trial engagement in Abuja, where industry stakeholders examined the technology and consumer experiences shaping conversations around data usage and billing.

Chief Executive Officer of MTN Nigeria, Dr Karl Toriola, said consumer education is central to helping customers understand the factors that influence their data consumption, including the settings on their mobile devices.

"Data on Trial helps people understand how their phone settings and background activities affect their data consumption. Through our social media platforms, we share simple tips and practical videos to help customers monitor their data balance and make informed choices about how they use their devices," Toriola said.

Sales Manager for Xiaomi in Nigeria's North-West region, Kelvin Kojode, highlighted how growing demand for smartphones has driven advances in mobile technology, including dual-SIM functionality, eSIM technology and 5G connectivity.

"The growing demand for smartphones has driven significant advances in mobile technology, from dual-SIM functionality and eSIM technology to 5G connectivity. These developments have changed how people connect and use their devices. With 5G, users can access services at higher speeds, and activities such as high-resolution streaming and other data-intensive applications can influence how much data they consume," Kojode said.

Ekeh explains decisions that aided investments in Africa's tech devt

FOREMOST technology entrepreneur and Chairman of Zinox Group, Leo Stan Ekeh, has revealed that his decision to establish a technology company in Nigeria more than three decades ago was considered "corporate suicide" at the time.

He made the disclosure while addressing over 600 global women leaders at the International Women Leadership Conference (TIWLC) in Dubai, convened by the Ibukun Awosika Leadership Foundation.

Speaking on the theme: 'Losing the Fear', Ekeh recounted how he returned to Nigeria after his studies abroad to find his peers gravitating toward banking, oil, and gas, while technology was dismissed as a foreign pursuit.

Despite discouragement, he chose to follow his passion, believing that technology held the master key to unlocking Africa's future. "I chose the road not taken," he told the audience. "It was corporate suicide in the eyes of my parents and many others. I lost the fear because I believed technology was the master key that would unlock possibilities for Nigeria and Africa."

He described years of hardship, surviving on one meal a day and sleeping in a cramped office space. His vision, however, was clear: to create a Nigerian and African IT identity. He launched Task Systems Limited over 35 years ago, pioneering desktop publishing and computer graphics in Nigeria.

At its debut event in Ikeja's Sheraton Hotel, he declared: "No country can claim to be independent without technology independence." The Nigerian media embraced his vision, helping drive the computerisation of nearly all media houses in Nigeria and beyond.

His boldest move came with the founding of Zinox Technologies, which became one of Africa's first Microsoft WHQL- and Intel-certified computer manufacturers.



Founder, Ibukun Awosika Leadership Foundation, Ibukun Awosika (left), and Chairman, Zinox Group, Leo Stan Ekeh, at the International Women Leadership Conference (TIWLC) in Dubai, UAE.

Lagos court ruling on $17,000 investment dispute sparks calls for regulatory probe

By **Helen Oji**

THE controversy surrounding a dollar-denominated investment plan that left a Nigerian investor facing the loss of over $20,000 ($20,106.84) has taken a more serious turn, with calls for regulators and law-enforcement agencies to examine whether the marketing and operation of similar foreign currency-linked schemes could expose retail investors to fraud.

The calls followed a judgment of the Lagos High Court, which ordered Utmost Wealth Solutions (formerly known as Generali) to refund $17,106.84 to Mrs Clara Chinenye Nwachukwu after declaring a key clause in the investment policy "manifestly unjust, unfair and one-sided." The judgment was delivered by Justice K.A. Jose on January 26, 2026.

The case has also raised questions about whether products that are presented to Nigerians as long-term savings or investment plans but involve offshore entities, foreign currencies and complicated charges are receiving sufficient regulatory scrutiny before they are marketed to retail investors.

Nwachukwu had instituted the suit against ProFinAd Nigeria Limited, the local representative for Utmost Wealth Solutions and other parties over a long-term dollar-linked plan introduced to her in 2014.

She reportedly committed to paying $1,000 monthly and made 18 monthly contributions, bringing her total contribution to $18,000.

A valuation of the policy subsequently showed an accrued value of $20,106.84, but the investor later discovered that her policy had been reduced to a zero value after she stopped contributing and sought to exit the arrangement.

The dispute centred on a contractual provision that permitted the company to apply the initial premium payments towards administrative charges.

The court rejected the application of the provision in the manner relied upon by the company, holding that it was manifestly unjust, unfair and one-sided.

While the court accepted that the investment firm was entitled to administrative charges for the period the policy remained active, it limited the allowable charges to $3,000 for the eight years.

The court also awarded N2 million as litigation costs but declined the investor's claim for N10 million in general damages.

The circumstances have prompted questions about whether the way such products are marketed to retail investors should attract closer examination by the relevant regulatory and law-enforcement authorities.

Investor alleges misleading presentation

NWACHUKWU alleged that the product was presented to her as a pension-style savings and investment arrangement, with assurances that her money would be invested to generate returns.

She also alleged that she was led to believe that administrative charges would be deducted from profits rather than from her principal.

The investor questioned how an offshore-linked investment product could be marketed to Nigerians without stronger regulatory scrutiny, particularly where the local representative was the entity dealing directly with the customer.

Her concern goes beyond the recovery of her own funds. It raises the possibility that other retail investors could have entered similar arrangements without fully understanding the charges, surrender conditions, jurisdiction of the contract and risks associated with stopping contributions.



That is where the case becomes relevant to Nigeria's growing concern over unregistered and potentially fraudulent investment schemes.

SEC warns against unregistered schemes

THE SEC said many of the schemes exhibit characteristics of Ponzi or prohibited investment schemes, while some operators provide unauthorised investment services to members of the public.

The SEC further stated that under the Investments and Securities Act 2025, only entities registered by the commission are authorised to promote investment services, provide investment advisory services or solicit funds from the public in the Nigerian capital market.

The commission's current investor-verification platform also tells investors to verify the status of investment platforms and operators before committing funds.

The ISA 2025 has also expanded the SEC's regulatory powers, including powers to register and regulate online forex trading activities, platforms and intermediaries.

This is significant because the boundary between a conventional investment scheme and a foreign currency-linked investment product can sometimes be difficult for ordinary investors to understand.

Dollar denomination does not remove SEC scrutiny

THE fact that an investment is denominated in dollars does not, by itself, place it outside of the SEC's jurisdiction.

Where a product has the characteristics of a collective investment scheme, securities product or other capital-market activity, the SEC has regulatory responsibilities.

The ISA 2025 also gives the Commission broader powers over investment products and market intermediaries.

This means that regulators need to look beyond the label attached to a product.

A scheme described as a "wealth plan", "savings plan", "pension-style investment", "FX investment" or "international investment" should not escape regulatory scrutiny simply because of the terminology used by its promoters.

The regulator needs to examine the substance of the product, including where investors' money goes, who manages it, how returns are generated, what charges are deducted, who has custody of the funds and the legal rights of investors when they want to withdraw.

Offshore structure raises enforcement concerns

The use of offshore entities presents another challenge. A Nigerian investor may deal with a local representative or intermediary but sign a contract with a company incorporated in another jurisdiction.

When a dispute arises, the investor may discover that the governing law, dispute-resolution mechanism and location of the company's assets are outside Nigeria. This can make recovery considerably more challenging and expensive.

It also creates a potential regulatory gap if a foreign product is aggressively marketed to Nigerian retail investors through local representatives without the appropriate Nigerian regulatory approvals.

The SEC has already demonstrated concern about cross-border investment activities. Its regulatory materials include specific provisions concerning foreign collective investment schemes.

The commission has further proposed rules on cross-border securities trading and custody, showing the growing importance of establishing clear regulatory requirements for investment activities involving foreign markets.

Experts call for investigation where fraud is suspected

PROFESSOR of Finance at Igbinedion University, Professor Nat Offor, said investors who believe they have been defrauded should pursue the matter through the appropriate regulatory and law-enforcement channels.

He advised affected investors to petition the SEC where the product falls within its jurisdiction and to have a lawyer issue a formal demand for repayment.

Where there is evidence suggesting criminal conduct, he recommended that the matter also be reported to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and the police, while civil proceedings could be pursued simultaneously.

Professor of Finance at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Professor Chude Nwude, said the first issue that must be established is whether the investment product had the required regulatory approval.

He advised that where SEC approval was required, affected investors should report the matter to the Commission and the Investments and Securities Tribunal.

SEC needs stronger early-warning system

FOR retail investors, however, the bigger issue is prevention. The SEC should consider establishing a stronger early-warning system for complex investment products being marketed to Nigerians, particularly those involving foreign currencies, offshore companies, investment wrappers and long-term contractual commitments.

Before such products are marketed aggressively to retail investors, the regulator should be able to determine exactly what they are.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

Omole: How expatriate negotiations, levies fuelled HOSTCOM crises

- N6m compensation triggered increased compensation, drove oil companies out
- 'Young people remaining in Warri are under-employed

By **Adaku Onyenucheya**

OIL companies' engagement of expatriates to directly oversee negotiations over disputes concerning compensation and unsustainable community levies contributed to continuous operational disruptions, increased vandalism and sabotage of oil facilities by community members. These disruptions frustrated business activities and, ultimately, contributed to some oil companies leaving the country.

This was revealed in a memoir, *My Dream, My Journey*, written by Nigerian broadcaster, communication expert and cultural advocate, Sola Omole.

In a section titled "Bon Voyage, Nigeria," Omole recounted how mistrust of Nigerian negotiators and the recruitment of many expatriates to take over led to persistent community conflicts, oil pipeline sabotage, demands for increased compensation and operational disruptions.

He said this contributed to his eventual departure from Nigeria after years of working in the oil and gas industry.

Omole, a former Director-General of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), described the operational difficulties confronting oil companies, particularly Chevron, where he worked between 2000 and 2003. During that period, community agitations, vandalism and disagreements over compensation increasingly disrupted business activities.

He said the company frequently had to intervene whenever community disputes disrupted its operations, with efforts directed at resolving disagreements and ensuring that workers could return to their duties after negotiations and compensation payments.

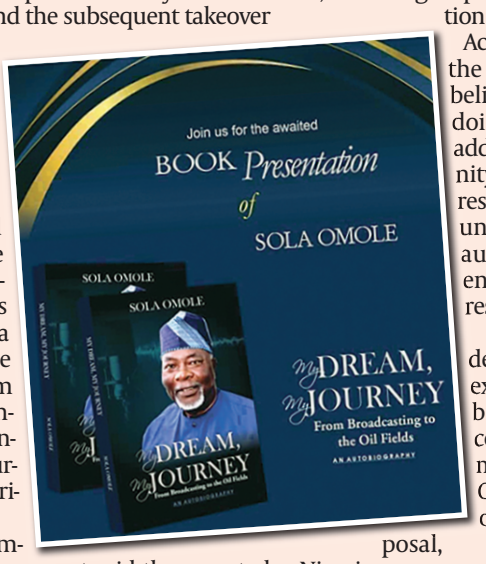
Omole said community members deliberately sabotaged oil facilities by cutting pipelines, resulting in oil spills and extensive environmental damage. He alleged that members of affected communities prevented the company's personnel from taking immediate corrective measures to stop the flow of oil into the environment because they wanted increased financial compensation.

According to him, the culprits allegedly collaborated with others in communities within the company's operational territory to damage pipelines. Some incidents occurred at remote locations along pipelines in the dead of night, making it almost impossible to identify those responsible.

Omole explained that the company established procedures for responding to oil spills, including notifying regulators, inspecting affected sites and negotiating compensation payments.

He said community members also made demands for infrastructure support and other benefits, which became regular sources of tension. Virtually every community request, he said, created the possibility of operational disruptions.

He recalled that the situation became particularly frustrating following the takeover of Chevron's Escravos operations by Itsekiri women and the subsequent takeover of its Abiteye swamp facilities by Ijaw women.



Omole disclosed that the company's Opuekeba offshore platform was completely vandalised during the period.

The communication expert said the repeated disruptions generated considerable frustration among the company's technical team, who blamed him and his Nigerian team for failing to find a lasting solution to the community-related challenges.

According to him, company management explored the option of bringing in expatriates to oversee its operations during the period.

He said the expatriates served as managing director, supervised the Safety and Environmental Affairs Division and handled security services, including dispute and compensation negotiations.

According to Omole, the expatriates believed he was not doing enough to address the community problems. They resisted attempts to undermine his authority and encroach on his responsibilities.

He cited an incident where a young expatriate was brought into the company to handle media relations. Omole said he opposed the proposal, insisting that Nigerians possessed the competence to manage the company's media relations responsibilities.

Omole said his team handled compensation negotiations with communities that received fair and adequate compensation, although reaching agreements was often difficult.

He said that whenever the expatriates became directly involved in negotiations, compensation payments to communities increased significantly. He cited the Tsekelewu community in Delta State, where he said his team had maintained reasonable compensation arrangements until an incident occurred during his absence.

According to him, the late Ken Eakin, then logistics manager, became involved in negotiations with the community and approved a payment of N6 million.

He said the Tsekelewu community stopped dealing with the Public Affairs team, handled by a Nigerian, and preferred to engage directly with the expatriate.

Omole said other communities, having learnt of the N6 million payment, reportedly attempted to secure similar benefits, leading to demands for increased compensation.

He said his team firmly resisted such demands, describing the payment as excessive and far above what the company had previously paid the community.

Omole said his resistance led a group of expatriates to persuade the managing director to remove him from his position as head of the Public Affairs Department. He was relocated to Abuja, where he was assigned to manage the company's government relations office while also overseeing public affairs operations in Lagos.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

THE WORLD BANK

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND SANITATION
SUSTAINABLE POWER AND IRRIGATION FOR NIGERIA(SPIN) PROJECT

INVITATION FOR INITIAL SELECTION

Works
(DESIGN AND BUILD)

EMPLOYER: Federal Ministry of Water Resources & Sanitation
PROJECT: Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria (SPIN) Project
CONTRACT TITLE: Rehabilitation and Modernization of Irrigation Schemes:
LOT 1: Doma Irrigation Scheme (Nasarawa State) and Galala Irrigation Scheme (Bauchi State);
LOT 2: Kampe-Omi Irrigation Scheme (Kogi State) and Duku-Lade Irrigation Scheme (Kwara State); and
Lot 3: Adani Irrigation Scheme (Enugu State) and Ndi-Eze Irrigation Scheme (Ebonyi State).
COUNTRY: Nigeria
CREDIT NO.: 76370NG
ISD NO: FMWR&S/SPIN/D&B/RFP/2026/31
ISSUED ON: November 11, 2026

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria (SPIN) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for Rehabilitation and Modernization of Irrigation Schemes:
   Lot 1: Doma Irrigation Scheme (Nasarawa State) and Galala Irrigation Scheme (Bauchi State);
   Lot 2: Kampe-Omi Irrigation Scheme (Kogi State) and Duku-Lade Irrigation Scheme (Kwara State); and
   Lot 3: Adani Irrigation Scheme (Enugu State) and Ndi-Eze Irrigation Scheme (Ebonyi State).
2. The Federal Ministry of Water Resources & Sanitation, through the Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU) of the SPIN Project, intends to initially select Applicants for the Procurement of works (Design and Build), summarized below:
   a) Scope: Design review/upgrade (surveys, investigations and a modernised final design, including provision for Farmer-Led Irrigation Development) and rehabilitation/construction of intakes, lined canals, hydraulic and drainage structures and access roads, etc through to commissioning and handover. Modernisation includes replacing unlined channels with lined canals or piped/pressurized networks where feasible, improved water control and measurement structures, and innovations that improve scheme performance. Full details of the scope of works are provided in the Initial Selection Document (ISD).
   (b) Performance: The works shall achieve high overall irrigation efficiency from source to field. This includes conveyance efficiency above 90% for lined canals, field application efficiency above 80% for surface irrigation, and distribution uniformity of at least 65%. The works shall also deliver an adequate, reliable and equitable water supply that meets crop water requirements throughout the irrigation season, to head, middle and tail-end users alike. Implementation within 18 months (two dry seasons) per Lot, plus a 12-month Defects Notification Period, under FIDIC Plant and Design-Build 2017, reprinted 2022 with amendments.
   (c) Key Qualification Requirements:
   (i) Financial resources (liquid assets, lines of credit, etc.): Lot 1: US$4 million; Lot 2: US$6.5 million; Lot 3: US$4 million.
   (ii) Minimum average annual construction turnover (2021–2025): Lot 1: US$26 million; Lot 2: US$39 million; Lot 3: US$26 million.
   (iii) General experience: experience under construction contracts in the role of prime contractor or JV member for at least the last five (5) years, starting 1st January 2021.
   (iv) Specific experience: two (2) similar contracts for construction or rehabilitation of irrigation works, satisfactorily and substantially completed between 1st January 2021 and the application deadline, each of minimum value Lot 1: US$16 million; Lot 2: US$24 million; Lot 3: US$16 million; with experience in irrigation works of at least 1,800 hectares, canal networks and water control structures, supported by mandatory documentary evidence.
   (v) Design experience: two (2) contracts for the design of irrigation systems, each with a minimum area of 1,800 hectares, at least one of which demonstrates technical design optimisation addressing scheme-specific hydraulic, geotechnical and structural conditions. This may be met by the Applicant and/or a specialised subcontractor.

   Requirements for multiple Lots are aggregated. Joint Ventures are limited to three members. Full qualification criteria are in the ISD.
3. It is expected that the Request for Proposals will be issued to initially selected Applicants by February 2027.
4. Initially selected Applicants may submit Proposals for one or several contracts (Lots), as further defined in the Request for Proposals document.
5. Initial Selection will be conducted through the procedures as specified in the World Bank's Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, September 2025 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Applicants as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
6. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from the Federal Project Management Unit of the Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria (SPIN) Project (e-mail: info@spinproject.ng) at the address given below, between 09:00 am and 15:00 pm (Nigerian time), Monday to Friday.
7. A complete set of the Initial Selection Document in English may be purchased by interested Applicants on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of NGN 300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) only, or USD 225.00 (Two Hundred and Twenty-Five United States Dollars) only. The method of payment will be:
   (a) Naira: through REMITA (www.remita.net) to the CBN (TSA) Account No. 0020293665077, Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation: Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria, under the service type "Sale of Bid Document"; or
   (b) United States Dollars: by bank transfer to the following account:

Beneficiary Bank: Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)
Beneficiary Bank Address: Plot 33, Tafawa Balewa Way, CBD, Abuja, Nigeria
Beneficiary Bank SWIFT Code: CBNINGLA
Account Name: Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation: Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria (SPIN) USD Project Account
Account Number: 3000151883
Intermediary Bank: Standard Chartered Bank, United Kingdom
Intermediary Bank Address: 1 Basinghall Avenue, London EC2V 5DD, United Kingdom
Intermediary Bank SWIFT Code: SCBLGB2L
Intermediary Bank Sort Code: 609470

Applicants are advised to quote the beneficiary account details and the ISD No. correctly in the payment narration to facilitate identification and reconciliation of funds. Proof of payment shall be presented at the address below or sent to info@spinproject.ng. Upon verification of payment, the Initial Selection Document will be issued in one of the following ways:
   (i) in hard copy, for collection in person by the Applicant's duly authorized representative at the address below; or
   (ii) electronically, through a secure download link to a shared folder, which will be sent to the e-mail address provided by the Applicant in its written application.

8. A pre-application meeting will be held on December 1, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Nigerian time (WAT) at the address below, or at another address to be communicated to Applicants. Applicants may also attend virtually; the link may be requested from info@spinproject.ng. Attendance is not mandatory. Applicants are requested to submit any questions in writing to reach the Employer not later than December 8, 2026.
9. Applications for Initial Selection should be submitted in sealed and clearly marked envelopes and delivered to the address below not later than 12:00 noon (Nigerian time) on December 22, 2026. Electronic submission of Applications will not be permitted. Late Applications may be rejected.
10. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful Proposer's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the Request for Proposals document.
11. The address referred to above is:

ATTENTION: Engr. Ipinlaye Olaiya, National Project Coordinator
Federal Project Management Unit (FPMU), Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria (SPIN) Project
Federal Ministry of Water Resources & Sanitation
Plot 1402 Abba Kyari Street, Off Adesoji Aderemi Street, Apo
1st Floor / Room No. 08
Abuja-FCT, 900104, Nigeria
Tel: +234 803 443 2501
E-mail: info@spinproject.ng
Website: www.spinproject.ng

PUBLIC DISCLAIMER

Ginger Up Nigeria Limited

hereby informs the general public that Mr. Solomon Olubayo, formerly the Warehouse Manager of the Company, is no longer an employee of the company effect from 6th November, 2026.

Members of the public are therefore advised to refrain from purchasing products from him or any individual claiming to act on his behalf or as an affiliate of the Company.



MR. SOLOMON OLUBAYO

The Company shall not be held responsible for any transactions or business dealings conducted with him or persons acting under his authority after the effective date of stopping working for the company.

Management

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

LONG-TERM AGREEMENT (LTA) FOR THE SUPPLY OF ASSORTED GOODS FOR BENEFICIARY START-UP BUSINESSES UNDER THE AVRR PROGRAMME

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM) Nigeria**, in collaboration with the **Federal Republic of Nigeria**, implements the **Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme**, which promotes the safe, orderly, and dignified return of migrants and supports their sustainable reintegration into their communities. Since 2002, the programme has assisted nearly **70,000 returnees**, many of whom have received reintegration assistance to establish and sustain small-scale businesses across various sectors.

To support this initiative, IOM Nigeria intends to establish **three-year Long-Term Agreements (LTAs)** with qualified wholesale suppliers for the provision of assorted goods on an as-needed basis across **15 states in Nigeria**, namely: **Lagos, Kano, Abuja (FCT), Katsina, Yobe, Borno (Maiduguri), Jigawa, Kaduna, Ondo, Ogun, Edo, Delta, Oyo, Imo, and Enugu**. The goods procured under these LTAs will support AVRR beneficiaries in establishing their businesses. Given the nature of the programme, the call seeks to engage reliable wholesale suppliers capable of offering competitive and sustainable pricing to maximize the value of reintegration assistance. Unit prices submitted under this solicitation shall remain **fixed for a period of one (1) year**, after which they may be reviewed and adjusted for subsequent years based on prevailing market conditions and mutual agreement.

Complete bidding documents can be accessed through the following channels:

- **United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM): https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/321224**
- **IOM Nigeria Website: https://nigeria.iom.int**

Interested companies are encouraged to submit their most competitive and fair market prices **no later than 25 November 2026 at 12:30 hrs** through the **WAVE ERP System** or via email to **IOMLagosTenders@iom.int**.

For requests for clarification only, please contact: Achigbu Bright, **bachigbu@iom.int.**

IOM Nigeria looks forward to receiving bids from qualified wholesale suppliers capable of supporting the successful implementation of the AVRR Programme and contributing to the sustainable reintegration of returnees across Nigeria.

U.S. lawmakers to examine attacks on Christian communities, M'Belt violence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

and public services.

APC pledges 78,000 additional security personnel

AGAINST this backdrop, the APC has promised to make the protection of lives and property a priority under President Tinubu's proposed second-term agenda, pledging to recruit 28,000 additional military personnel and 50,000 police officers to strengthen the country's security architecture.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Jumoke Oduwole, who is Deputy Director of the APC Presidential Campaign Council's Directorate of Manifesto and Policy Development, made the disclosure yesterday in Abuja during the presentation of the party's manifesto, themed "Transiting from Reforms to Shared Prosperity".

The party also promised to complete the establishment and equipping of four new Army divisions in Makurdi, Ilorin, Jalingo and Benin City, while sustaining intelligence-led kinetic operations against insurgents and kidnapping networks to dismantle their bases.

To tackle criminal activities in forests, the APC said it would deploy trained Forest Guards, Agro-Rangers and Mining Marshals to protect agricultural belts, farming communities, grazing routes, national forest reserves and mineral deposits.

Beyond security, the manifesto rests on four pillars: a secure and resilient nation; a better quality and more affordable life for Nigerians; energy, infrastructure and economic growth; and effective and accountable governance.

ADC dismisses Tinubu's campaign promises

THE African Democratic Congress Presidential Campaign Council (ADC-PCC), however, has dismissed Tinubu's re-election campaign messages as divisive, vague and uninspiring, accusing the President of recycling unfulfilled promises instead of presenting a credible account of his administration's performance.

In a statement by its Director of Media and Publicity, Kola Okogbodiyan, the council said Nigerians expected explanations on the administration's borrowings, the gains from fuel subsidy removal, worsening insecurity, widespread hunger and the escalating cost of living.

It argued that Tinubu's campaign outings in Kaduna, Rivers and Jigawa states had been dominated by personal attacks and promises that offered nothing new to Nigerians.

The council particularly challenged the President to account for his much-publicised electricity pledge: "If I don't give you electricity, don't vote for me for a second term."

According to the opposition campaign council, millions of Nigerians continue to endure unreliable electricity supply, while the President has reportedly invested in alternative power arrangements for his personal comfort.

It described his renewed electricity promises during the Jigawa campaign as an attempt to repackage old commitments as fresh electoral pledges.

The ADC-PCC also questioned the administration's mechanised farming agenda, asking what had become of the 2,000 tractors reportedly imported from Brazil several months ago, which it alleged had yet to make any meaningful impact on agricultural productivity.

It further accused Tinubu of taking credit for projects initiated by his predecessor, the late President Muhammadu Buhari, arguing that the administration had little of its own to showcase after nearly three and a half years in office.

The council also alleged that the President had exerted undue influence over the National Assembly and was seeking to compromise the independence of the Judiciary.

Maintaining that Nigerians deserved leadership anchored on accountability, competence and respect for democratic institutions, the ADC-PCC urged the electorate to end APC's rule in 2027 and vote for the ADC.

Duke warns of national crisis, backs opposition consensus

SIMILARLY, presidential candidate of the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP), Donald Duke, has warned that Nigeria risks another civil war if the APC continues what he described as its desperation to retain power through the alleged abuse of state institutions and suppression of opposition parties.

Speaking yesterday at the party's national retreat for officers and its presidential, governorship and senatorial candidates in Abuja, the former Cross River State governor drew parallels between the country's current political atmosphere and events preceding the 1966 military intervention and subsequent civil war.

He said the inability of opposition parties to collectively challenge the abuse of state power could push the country towards another national crisis, recalling that the civil war claimed more than three million lives.

Duke accused the APC administration of deploying state institutions, including the courts, to weaken opposition parties, alleging that restrictions on campaign venues, advertising opportunities and political rallies had created an uneven playing field ahead of the 2027 elections.

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

$500m loan: Don't saddle your successor with debt, Atiku tells Tinubu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

mitments that cannot be funded and delivered within a credible timetable, while protecting essential and ready projects," he added.

Oye also advocated a reduction in the country's consolidated debt-service-to-revenue ratio to 40 per cent by 2028, from the World Bank's reported 49.5 per cent baseline for 2025. He said reducing the debt-service burden would create greater fiscal room for the government to address infrastructure, public services and other development priorities.

"At 40 per cent, a larger share of comparable revenue would remain for other public purposes, though it would not all be freely available for capital spending," he said.

REITERATING its opposition to President Tinubu's latest request to the National Assembly for the approval of more loans, Atiku said the proposed borrowing, scheduled for consideration a few days before the May 29, 2027 presidential inauguration, could constrain the next administration and impose repayment obligations on Nigerians without allowing them to scrutinise the decision.

In a statement by Phrank Shaibu, Director of Strategic Communication, ADC Presidential Campaign Council, Atiku described the proposed loan as an attempt to mortgage Nigeria's future and urged the World Bank not to approve the facility on the contemplated timetable.

"Taking loans as if you were a drunken sailor is a road to economic bondage, a second slavery. If this government is determined to mortgage Nigeria's future and place our country at the mercy of creditors, we will not accept it," he said.

He accused the Tinubu administration of attempting to commit the country to fresh financial obligations in the closing days of its current tenure, warning that such a decision could complicate governance for the incoming administration.

Invoking a Swahili proverb, the former Vice-President warned that borrowing shortly before the end of a presidential tenure could leave a successor constrained by obligations imposed by creditors. "As the Swahili proverb warns, 'If you borrow a man's legs, you will go where he directs.' A leader who borrows on his way out leaves his successor walking on the lender's legs, constrained by obligations and choices the people did not make," Atiku said.

He called on the World Bank to defer consideration of the proposed facility, insisting that Nigerians must first be allowed to scrutinise its terms, risks and repayment obligations. Atiku, who said he could assume office on May 29, 2027, if elected, pledged that he would not begin his proposed administration with another loan, but with a commitment to responsible leadership and fiscal discipline.

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Guardian Jobs | Education Page
SME's/Business Page
SME's/Business Page

ENQUIRIES:
LAGOS OFFICE:
08028411767
07069747993

ADIC PROPERTIES LIMITED
Head Office: 234A Murl Olunola Crescent, Victoria Island, Lagos.
Tel: 08177772206 E-mail: adicpropertiesltd@gmail.com

IN LIQUIDATION

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF ADIC PROPERTIES LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Final Meeting of the Members of Adic Properties Limited ("the Company") will be held at 52C, Road 3 Ikota's Villa Estate, Lagos, on Tuesday 15th December, 2026 at 11.00 a.m. (WAT).

The meeting is in accordance with section 631 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020, for the purpose of laying before the meeting an Account of the Liquidator's acts, dealings and giving any explanation thereof.

PROXY
A member of the company entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote in his/her stead. A proxy needs not be a member of the Company. All instruments of proxy must be completed, stamped and deposited at 52C, Road 3 Ikota's Villa Estate, Lagos, or via Email: Adicproperties93@gmail.com not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meetings.

NOTES
(1) Arrangements have been made for Members and their proxies to participate in the meeting virtually via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.
(2) The link to join online will be made available to members before date of meeting.
(3) Members are encouraged to send in any questions in advance of the Meeting by emailing them to Adicproperties93@gmail.com Answers to the questions will be provided at the Meeting.

Any person who requires further information may contact the Liquidator by e-mail to Adicproperties93@gmail.com

DATED: November 04, 2026

SIGNED BY
Chinwe Chiwete (Mrs.)
(Liquidator)

CAVEAT EMPTOR

This is to notify the entire public that I, ONYEMAECHI CYRIL EKUFU of No. 4, Joe Ejeye Street, Oke-Afa, Isolo, Oshodi/Isolo Local Government Area, Lagos State Misplaced the title Documents in respect of my above mentioned property known as No 4, Joe Ejeye Street, Oke-Afa, Isolo, Oshodi/Isolo Local Government Area, Lagos State

This publication is to notify whoever transacts with anyone on the property without me does so at his or her own risk.

The lost documents are hereby declared void and of no effect by me.

BUYERS BEWARE!!!

ONYEMAECHI CYRIL EKUFU

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF LOSS OF TITLE DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the original title document relating to the property known as No. 4 Lawanson Road, Surulere, Lagos State, forming part of the estate of Late Chief Anthony Olujimi Lawanson and Late Mrs. Patricia Apoko Lawanson, is missing.

The missing document is an unregistered Letter of Partition dated 8th April 1994, made by Late Chief Anthony Olujimi Lawanson in his capacity as head of the estate of his father, Late Chief Samuel Bamidele Lawanson.

Any person who has the document or information concerning its whereabouts, is hereby requested to notify the undersigned.

This notice is published for record purposes.

MR. GBOLAHAN LAWANSON
No. 8 Lawanson Road,
Surulere, Lagos State.

LOSS DOCUMENT

WE, Akinwande Denton, Adebayo Denton, Ololade Denton and Olukorede Denton of Flat 4, Block 345, Abesan Estate, Ayobo, Ipaja, Lagos, are the beneficial owners of the 3bedroom flat at Flat 4, Block 345, Abesan Estate, Ayobo - Ipaja, in Alimosho Local Government Area, Lagos State.

That the said Letter of Allocation got missing and all efforts to locate the said Letter of Allocation proved abortive till date, hence the need for this publication in order to prevent any illegitimate interference ortransaction from being executed on the property due to the absence of the original Letter of Allocation.

PUBLIC NOTICE
OF APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF INCORPORATED TRUSTEES

This is to inform the general public that ESAN WEST INSTRUMENTALISTS ASSOCIATION, of Behind MTN Office, Ukpenu, Ekpoma, Edo State, has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration as an Incorporated Trustee under Part F of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

THE PROPOSED TRUSTEES ARE:
1. IREGBEYEN OMON – Chairman
2. ANEKE PAUL AKHERE – Trustee
3. UIJATALOR DAVID – Secretary
4. IJEKHUEMEN IDEMUDIA ISAAC – Trustee

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
1. To unite instrumentalists and persons actively involved in instrumental music within Esan West Local Government Area, Edo State.
2. To promote professionalism, ethical conduct, discipline and excellence among members.
3. To promote the welfare, development and legitimate professional interests of members.
4. To foster cooperation, mutual support and peaceful relationships among musicians.
5. To organise music training, workshops, seminars, rehearsals, cultural programmes and musical events.
6. To encourage young people to develop musical and performance skills.
7. To preserve and promote local music, culture and musical performance.
8. To encourage peaceful mediation and resolution of disputes among members.
9. To establish constructive relationships with individuals, educational institutions, cultural organisations, public bodies and government agencies for lawful music, educational and cultural purposes.

Any objection to the registration of this association should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, within 28 days of this publication, clearly stating the grounds of such objection.

SIGNED:
For: ESAN WEST INSTRUMENTALISTS ASSOCIATION

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CHANGE OF NAME

ADDITION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Adeyemi John now wish to be addressed as Adeyemi John Pamilerin . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ADDITION OF NAME :I, formerly known as Ajayi Kafilat now wish to be addressed as Ajayi Kafilat OluwatoyiN All former documents remain valid. (NIMC) . General public take note

ADDITION OF NAME: I, formerly known as Chinyere Nwachukwu now want to be known as Comfort-Isabel Chinyere Nwachukwu . All documents remain valid. Genera public take note

ADEBAYO: I, formerly known as Adebayo Rashidat Anu now wish to be addressed as Sokan Rashidat Anu. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADEYEMI: I formerly known as Amusan Sadiat Adebimpe now wish to be addressed as Adeyemi Sadiat Adebimpe .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ADEYEMI: I, fornerly known as Adeyemi Abdulazeez T now wish to be known as Adeyemo Abdulazeez Temitope. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

AJAYI: I, formerly known as Chidera Stephanie Achugbu now wish to be addressed as Chidera Stephanie Ajayi all former documents remain valid general public take note

AKHIMIEN : I, formerly known as Miss. Akhimien Mercy Ekata now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Idahosa Mercy Ekata. All former documents remains valid, public note.

ALABI : I, formerly known as Alabi Glory Oluwakemi now known as Aina Glory Oluwakemi . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ALAO: I, formerly known as Kolawole Iyabo Agnes now wish to be addressed as Alao Iyabo Agnes .All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ANET: I, formerly Queen Janet Suleiman now wish to be addressed as Queenjanet Ahuoyiza Godwin .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ANIOKE: I, formerly known as Ufomadu Victoria Ngozi now wish to be addressed as Anioke Victoria Ngozi .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

AYENIBIOWO : I, formerly Ayenibiowo Christianah Oluwaseyi, wish to be known as Elliot-Imoloamen Christianah Oluwaseyi. All former documents remain valid; the public should note.

AYOMIDE : I, formally known as Ayomide Israel Olamilekan now wish to be Known as Alabi Israel Ayomide as it written on NIN. All former documents remain valid. The general public takes note

BISHUNG: I, formerly known as Bishung Caroline Amotiamye now wish to be addressed as Ubudo Caroline Amotiamye. All Former Documents Remain Valid. General public take note.

CONFAMATION OF NAME: That, Eromosele Divine Ozeyo and, Eromoseledivine and Divine Ozeyoeromosele, is same person, now wish to be addressed as Eromosele Divine. Former documents remains valid public note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Okon Scholar now wish to be addressed as Okokon Scholastica Ikwo .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CONFIRMATION OF NAME: I, Arowosegbe Teninlanimi Oluwafemi, going forward, wishes to be addressed as Oni Teninlanimi Oluwafemi. All documents on both names remain valid, general public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I ,formerly known as Abayomi Samuel Kayode now wish to be addressed as Samuel Abayomi Kayode .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I ,formerly known as Hamza A Kola now wish to be addressed as Hamza A Koli .. All documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Nwokolo Kendra Innocent now wish to be addressed as Nwokolo Kendra Oghenefego .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Obue Nyerhovwo Emmanuella now wish to be addressed as Ogemuno Nyerhovwo Emmanuella .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Oluwatayo Kunle Oguntebi now wish to be addressed as Kunle Oluwatayo Oguntebi .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Terwase Tim Now wish to be addressed as Tim Terwase all former documents remain valid general public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Olaniyi Sulihat Feyisewa now wish to be addressed as Olaniyi Sulihat Temileyi All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME :I, formerly known as Ibitoye Micheal Ayomide now wish to be addressed as Ibitoye Michael Ayomide. .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME :I, formerly known as Isijola Adebisola Osaze now wish to be addressed as Isijola Adebisola Osazenaga .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME :I, formerly known as Ogunsanya Ayodele Oloruntoba now wish to be addressed as Ogunsanya Ayodele Oloruntoba David .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME: My name was wrongly arranged as Rosemary Kemmerokwu Nwariji instead of Kemmer Rosemary Okwu. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME: My name was wrongly spelt as Akhille Philemon That my full and correct name is Akhile Philemon all former documents remain valid general public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME: My name was wrongly written in my BVN as Ukah Ifeanyi instead of Ukah James Ifeanyi in my NIN. All former documents remain valid. Public take note.

CORRECTION OF NWE: I, formerly known as Imolede Lilian Omokhosen now wish to be addressed as Imolede Lilian. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME: My name is Oyeranmi Tiri Adekunke and my DOB is 23rd April, 1965 and not Oyeranmi Tirimisiyu Adekunle, 3rd March, 1960 as captured in my BVN.

EBERECHUKWU: I formerly known as Chinazaekpere Blessing Eberechukwu now wish to be addressed as Chinazaekpere Blessing Asota. All former documents remain valid . General public take note.

EDEBIRI: I, formerly known as Miss. Edebiri Iyore now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Imafidon-Osamede Magdalene Iyore all former documents remain valid general public take note

EDOGUN : I. formerly known as Edogun Roseline Franca now addressed as Mrs Ogunleye Edogun Roseline Franca. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

EDOGUN: I, formerly Edogun Roseline Franca now to be addressed as Mrs Ogunleye-Edogun Roseline Franca. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

EHIOROBO: I formerly known as Miss. Ehiorobo Ehimwenma now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Peter-Osagie Ehimwenma Lawrentta all former documents remain valid general public take note

EMMANUEL: I, formerly known as Udum Nkechinyere Victoria now wish to be addressed as Emmanuel Nkechinyere Victoria . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ETOK: I, formerly known as Etok Mary Eno now wish to be addressed as Mary Eno Liwhuliwhe. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

EZEDI: I, formerly known as Wilfred Nnamdi Ezedi now wish to be known and addressed as Wilfred Onochie Ezedi . All former documents remain valid. General Public take note

HANIEL: I, formerly known as Haniel Tamunonengiyeofori Wengilayefa Goodhead, now wish to be addressed As Haniel Wengilayefa Tamunonengiyiofori Goodhead All former documents remain valid. General public take note

IBOI : I formerly known as, Miss Iboi Osaretin Mercy now wish to be addressed as Mrs.. Aisuan-Marvelous Osaretin Mercy,. All former documents remains valid, public note.

IGHALO: I formerly known as, Ighalo Happy now wish to be addressed as, Abudulai Usena. All former documents remains valid, general public take note.

JAMES : I, formerly known as Miss James Uchechi Constance now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Uchechi Nkaniye Kalagbor. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

KUPOLUYI: I, formerly known as Wonuola Olaide Mulikat now wish to be addressed as Kupoluyi Olaide Mulikat . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

LAWAL: Formerly Lawal, Eniola Emmanuela, now wish to be known and addressed as Olota, Eniola Emmanuela. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

LUCKY EPEN : I, formerly Mrs Cynthia Lucky Epen now wish to be addressed as Cynthia Nicholas Oden. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

NGOZI: I, formerly known as Ngozi Lynda Onyema, now wish to be addressed As Ngozi Mee Onyema All former documents remain valid. General public take note

NWOKOLO: I formerly known as Agbodo Kendra Oghenefego now wish to be addressed as Nwokolo Kendra Oghenefego .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

NWOZOR: I, formerly known as Nwozor Vivian Chinwendu now wish to be addressed as De-John Vivian Chinwendu. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OBILOR: I, formerly known as Obilor, Goodness Chimburuoma now wish to be addressed as Alabi, Goodness Chimburuoma . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ODIAGBE : I , formerly known as Miss Odiagbe Rita now wish to be addressed as Omondiagbon Rita, My DOB is 02-02-1982 not 21-02-1982. Former documents remains valid. Public note.

OGULO: I, formerly known as Miss Perpetua Chinyere Ogulo now to be addressed as Mrs Perpetua Chinyere Nnadozie. . Former documents remain valid. Public take note.

OGUNBIYI: I, formerly known as Esther Bushi Ogunbiyi now wish to be addressed as Bushi Ottoinyang. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

OGUNLADE: I ,formerly known as Abiola Aremu Ogunlade now wish to be addressed as Abiola Ogunlade .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

OKE: I, formerly known as Ojoawo Eniola Comfort now wish to be addressed as Oke Eniola Comfort . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

OKECHI: I, formerly known as Okechi Ebelechukwu Somtochukwu now wish to be addressed as Johnston Ebele Okechi .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

OKEMADU: I, formerly known as Flora Chinonye Okemadu. now wish to be addressed as Mrs Flora Chinonye Okemadu Isichei. All Former Documents Remain Valid. General public take note.

OKOINE : I, formerly known as, Miss Okoine Angela now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Onomena Angela Okoine, All former documents remains valid. General public take note

OKOSUN : I. formerly known as Okosun Riday Okoikhere now wish to be addressed as Okoikhere Friday Otueomoanjie. My DOB is 30-06-1969. All former documents remains valid. Public note.

OLUWABAMISE: I ,formerly known as Oluwakemi Oluwafunmilayo Ogunbamise now wish to be addressed as Oluwakemi Oluwafunmilayo Oluwabamise .. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

OYAKHILOMEN : I , formerly known as Oyakhilomen Samuel Osekhehimen now wish to be addressed as, Oyakhilome Samuel Osekheme. My DOB is, 03-10-1954 not 30-10-1954. Former documents remain valid,

PRINCESS: I, formerly known as Amarachi Princess Onyema, now wish to be addressed As Princess Amarachi Onyema All former documents remain valid. General public take note

REARRANGEMENT OF NAME:I, formerly known as John Solomon Wetle now wish to be addressed as Wetle Solomon John. All former documents remain valid. General public, take note

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF NAME I, Victor Eyi Tchiwe whose name was formerly Tchiwe Victor Eyi states that the correct arrangement of my name is Victor Eyi Tchiwe. Former documents remain valid. Public note

SAFIYAT: I, formerly known as Safiyat Ibrahim Mohammed now known as Safiyat Abdulmumeen .All former documents remain valid . General public take note

SIMIU: I, formerly known as Oyedeji Tunde Simiu now wish to be known as Oyedeji Tunde Oselu. All former documents remain valid. General public take note..

TALABI: I, formerly known as Talabi Sunday Ayodele now wish to be addressed as Talabi Sunday Ayodele David. Former documents remain valid. Public take note

UMOH: I, formerly Nsikak Willie Umoh now wish to be known as Nsikak Willie Ajayi. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

World Report

Hegseth defends Iran war record after Republican launches impeachment attempt

UNITED States Defence Secretary, Pete Hegseth, has defended his record at his first news conference in six months after a Republican congressman launched an attempt to impeach him.

Speaking at the Pentagon, the defence secretary called the impeachment effortunpatriotic, sabotage and a farce,as he defended the United States's military operations against Iran.

Hegseth, who has faced criticism over his handling of the Iran war from both Democrats and Republicans, however got a nod from President Donald Trump, scoring himhigh for his performance.

Articles of impeachment were introduced in the House of Representatives on Monday by Republican Thomas Massie, claiming thatHegseth violated the constitution by not seeking approval for the war.

However, the effort will likely fail as Republicanscurrently have the majority power in Congress.

The United States Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, told reporters on Monday that he thinks Hegseth has “done a great job” and described the impeachment proceedings as unfair.

His stance was backed by Republican House Speaker, Mike Johnson, who said impeachment would be terrible thing for allies andenemies to see.

“We don't impeach cabinet secretaries for political gain or cheap tricks”, he said.

But a top Democrat, Hakeem Jeffries, expected to be the next United States House of Representatives Speaker, said he is "a hard yes" for impeaching Hegsethover alleged abuse of power, undermining of national security and engineering the reckless and costly war of choice in Iran.

Meanwhile, his colleague and Democrat Senator, Chris Coons, highlighted Hegseth's central role in the Iran war, saying thatif the President doesn’t remove him, the Congress will.

Congressman, Thomas Massie, said the House of Representatives will vote on the Hegseth Impeachment Resolution yesterday, adding that the first vote will be on a procedural motion to kill the resolution.

Ministry, NiYA, Cascador award eight young entrepreneurs N5m each

From **Ernest Nzor**, Abuja

THE Federal Ministry of Youth Development (FMYD), through the Nigerian Youth Academy (NiYA), in partnership with Cascador, has awarded N5 million each in non-dilutive funding to eight young Nigerian entrepreneurs to accelerate the growth of their businesses.

The beneficiaries emerged from the NiYA-Cascador Founders Programme Pitch Day held in Abuja, which marked the conclusion of a four-week accelerator programme designed to equip young entrepreneurs with business management skills, investment readiness and access to growth capital.

The programme attracted over 19,000 applications from young entrepreneurs across the country following its launch on International Youth Day in August.

Seventeen founders from 13 states, representing Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, were subsequently selected to participate in the programme.

Northern group warns against using churches, mosques for campaigns

From **Sodiq Omolaoye**, Abuja

AHEAD of the 2027 general elections, the Northern Nigeria Minorities Group (NNMG) has cautioned religious leaders against turning churches and mosques into platforms for partisan political mobilisation.

This comes as the group also alleged that individuals within President Bola Tinubu's political circle were exploiting his name and proximity to power to corner lucrative government contracts, urging him to caution them.

Addressing newsmen yesterday in Abuja, convener of NNMG, Jacob Edi Bassange, charged religious leaders, particularly pastors and imams, to shun partisan politics, focus on promoting peace and national unity, and concentrate on their spiritual responsibilities.

Bassange, who represents over 200 minority communities across Northern Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory, expressed concern at the growing intrusion of religious institutions into partisan politics as the country approaches another election cycle.

According to him, "no religious institution has the exclusive prerogative to determine Nigeria's political direction or the legitimacy of public appointments and electoral outcomes.

"Any suggestion that electoral outcomes require religious endorsement or may be rejected on sectarian grounds is profoundly inimical to democratic stability."

Tinubu launches pension scheme, assures health cover for retirees

From **Terhemba Daka** and **John Akubo**, Abuja

• Retired police officers occupy PenCom over failed agreements

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has launched the Minimum Pension Guarantee Scheme, ending a 22-year delay in its implementation, and challenged Nigerians to assess his administration by its pension reforms record and welfare of retired workers, rather than by political promises.

Tinubu, represented by Senate President Godswill Akpabio at the official launch of the scheme at the State House, Abuja, said his administration had moved beyond rhetoric to establish a statutory safety net for Nigerian workers.

He assured subscribers to the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) that they would not fall below a guaranteed minimum income in retirement.

This comes as retired police officers under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) occupied the National Pension Commission (PenCom) headquarters in Abuja yesterday, threatening to renew their demand for complete withdrawal from the scheme if the federal government fails to implement an agreed alternative pension arrangement.

The president also unveiled PensionCare, a pension industry-funded healthcare initiative designed to provide low-income retirees with access to essential medical services at no cost.

He described the twin initiatives as major milestones in the country's social protection system, insisting that workers who had spent decades serving the nation deserved financial security and access to healthcare after retirement.

He disclosed that, in accordance with the Pension Reform Act, the Minimum Pension Guarantee Scheme, which takes effect immediately, would be administered by the National Pension Commission (PenCom).

Nevertheless, he lamented that, although the guarantee was provided under Section 71 of the Pension Reform Act, 2004, and reinforced by Sections 82 and 84 of the 2014 Act, successive administrations had failed to implement it for over two decades.

He assured contributors that the new arrangement would provide a minimum income threshold below which eligible retirees would not be allowed to fall "because it is your right."

He also called on future administrations to sustain the policy, describing the guarantee as a binding social contract between the Nigerian state and its workers.

On the healthcare component, President Tinubu said PensionCare was designed to address one of the greatest challenges confronting retirees, particularly the burden of medical expenses in old age.

He explained that the initiative would provide low-income pensioners with essential healthcare services without charge, adding that the first cards would be distributed to beneficiaries in the coming months.

Tinubu said his administration had also taken decisive steps to settle outstanding pension obligations, issuing a N758 billion bond to clear long-standing arrears.



Newly promoted Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Wilfred Afolabi (left); Inspector-General of Police, Olatunji Disu; and Deputy Governor of Kogi State, Selifu Oyibo, during the decoration of the newly promoted senior police officers at the Force Headquarters in Abuja yesterday.
PHOTO: LUCY LADIDI ATEKO

NUPRC approves 595 well re-entries, 145 drilling operations in 10 months

By **Waliat Musa**

• Rig count rises to 100, seismic investments hit $100m

IN its efforts to raise crude oil production and attract fresh investments into the upstream sector, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) said it approved 595 well re-entries, 145 new well-drilling operations and 39 Field Development Plans (FDPs) in the first 10 months of 2026.

NUPRC Chief Executive Officer, Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan, disclosed this yesterday in a presentation during the management session of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) 44th Annual International Conference and Exhibition in Lagos.

She said the approvals, which reflect increased regulatory activity, came as Nigeria's total rig count rose to 100, with 46 currently engaged in drilling operations.

Represented by the Deputy Director, Basinal Administration, NUPRC, Ahmad Abdullahi, Eyesan said the approvals reflected improvements in regulatory turnaround time, reducing delays and costs associated with projects awaiting regulatory clearance.

However, "from the regulator's perspective, to ensure that our energy security is not threatened, we must ensure that we approve Field Development Plans and new well-drilling applications to meet our production targets and guarantee energy availability," she said.

Eyesan attributed the improvement in rig count to regulatory certainty, noting that investors were more willing to commit capital when they had confidence in the industry's policies and operating environment.

Police begin probe as gunmen kill Taraba MACBAN chairman

From **Charles Akpeji**, Jalingo

• Troops foil Adamawa attack, rescue kidnap victims

SOME unknown gunmen have reportedly killed the Chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) in Takum Local Council Area of Taraba State, Ibrahim Dio.

The incident, The Guardian learnt, occurred on Monday evening in front of the deceased's residence at Anguwan Abuja, opposite Rogo Primary School in Takum, shortly after he returned from the Takum Cattle Market.

Meanwhile, the Taraba State Police Command has commenced an investigation into Saidu's killing. According to reports, the assailants, who reportedly arrived at the scene on a motorcycle, opened fire on Dio, leaving him with fatal injuries. He reportedly died at the scene before he could be rushed to a medical facility.

Confirming the killing, the Northeast Zonal Chairman of MACBAN, Saha'biTukura, described the incident as a rude shock to members of the association. Tukura said the association was deeply saddened by the killing.

He called on security agencies to urgently deploy all necessary security resources to investigate the incident, track down the perpetrators and ensure that those responsible for the killing are brought to justice.

In a statement yesterday, the Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Victor Mshelizah, said preliminary information indicated that the assailants arrived at the deceased's residence on a motorcycle before carrying out the attack.

The statement noted that the Commissioner of Police, Edwin Ogbegagh , had directed a comprehensive investigation to uncover the circumstances surrounding the killing and identify those responsible.

According to the police, efforts were also ongoing in collaboration with other security agencies to strengthen security in the affected area and prevent a possible breakdown of law and order.

The commissioner appealed to residents, particularly family members, associates and supporters of the deceased, to remain calm and avoid actions that could trigger reprisal attacks or escalate tensions in the community.

Plateau govt, United Airlines partner to boost investment, tourism

By **Olusegun Koiki**

THE Plateau State Government has said its partnership with United Nigeria Airlines (UNA) would position the state as a leading destination for investment, tourism, commerce and other economic activities.

Speaking yesterday in Jos following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the airline to introduce scheduled flight operations on two new routes connecting Jos with Kano and Owerri, the Plateau State Commissioner for Transport, JatauGyang, described the partnership as a strategic step towards improving the state's air connectivity and unlocking its economic potential.

Under the agreement, flights on the Jos-Kano and Jos-Owerri routes are expected to commence this month, with each route operating twice weekly.

Gyang thanked the UNA management for its confidence in the state's vision, noting that the selection of Kano and Owerri was informed by their geographical locations, commercial relevance and potential to enhance connectivity across Nigeria's geopolitical zones.

Lagos pledges commitment to public service welfare

By **Gbenga Salau**

LAGOS State Head of Service (HoS), Mr Bode Agoro, has stressed that excellence in public service requires continuous improvement, collaboration and a commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the citizens.

Agoro, addressing newsmen yesterday ahead of the commencement of the 2026 Public Service Week celebration, appreciated the various committees responsible for planning and coordinating activities lined up for this year's celebration, saying their commitment and hard work have laid the foundation for what promises to be a memorable and rewarding celebration.

Stating that the week is an annual occasion dedicated to recognising and appreciating the contributions of public servantsto good governance and effective service delivery, Agoro added that beyond the celebrations, it provides an opportunity to reflect on their achievements, promote professionalism, encourage innovation.

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FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Fall-Out

Senate pledges N100m for Flamingos, challenges FG to match reward

• Akpabio promises immediate payment as lawmakers demand national recognition for victorious U-17 girls

By **John Akubo**, Abuja

THE Senate has pledged N100 million to Nigeria's victorious Under-17 women's football team, the Flamingos, urging the Federal Government to match the gesture with additional rewards.

The Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, announced the pledge during plenary, following a motion sponsored by Senator Abdul Ningi seeking adequate recognition and compensation for the players.

"From the National Assembly, even if we do not have anything else to give these children, we will make a token of N100 million to them immediately," Akpabio declared.

The lawmakers said the team's achievement deserved national recognition, particularly against the background of disappointments recorded by other national football teams.

Moving the motion, Ningi described the Flamingos' performance as remarkable, noting that the players were assembled barely six months before the competition.

He said their achievement had given Nigerians something to celebrate, while bringing honour to the country and Africa.

However, he expressed disappointment over what he described as inadequate publicity and official recognition of the team.

Ningi particularly faulted the absence of senior government officials when the players arrived in Nigeria, insisting that their reception did not reflect the significance of their achievement.

Senator Ned Nwoko, who supported the motion, described the players as national heroes, praising their performances against established football nations, including Brazil and the United States.

He urged President Bola Tinubu to accord them national recognition and called on state governors to celebrate players from their respective states.

Another senator highlighted the team's victory over Japan, describing it as evidence of the potential of Nigerian youths to compete internationally.

Beyond financial rewards, the Senate urged the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to keep the players together to preserve their understanding and prepare them for future international competitions.

Akpabio, however, warned against allowing the team to disintegrate, saying sustained development could help the players grow into a formidable senior national side.

The senate president also appealed to wealthy Nigerians and business leaders to support the players with additional incentives.

The lawmakers commended Tinubu and the National Sports Commission, particularly its chairman, Malam Shehu Dikko, for their contributions to sports development.



Flamingos battling with Japan during the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup final in Morocco on Saturday. Nigeria won 2-1 to become Africa's first champion of the competition. PHOTO: FIFA

Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games

U-23 boys depart for Congo as Chelle tweaks squad

By **Christian Okpara**

THE home-based members of the national U-23 boys' team and their coaches were expected to depart for DR Congo, yesterday, ahead of their Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games' men's football qualifier against the Congolese on Friday.

The Europe-based stars are expected to join the team today to finalise preparation for the game scheduled for Lubumbashi, DR Congo.

Nigeria will face DR Congo in the first leg at the Stade TP Mazembe on November 13, with the return fixture scheduled for November 17 at the Remo Stars Stadium in Ikenne-Remo.

The Nigerian team was camped in Ikenne for over a week's preparation for the qualifier.

With a place in the U23 AFCON at stake, the Olympic Eagles will be hoping to secure a positive result away from home before returning to familiar surroundings for the decisive second leg.



Fortune FA celebrating their success at the 2026 Nathaniel Idowu U-16 Football League on Saturday.

'I didn't forsee Olympic gold medal,' Ugoh confesses

By **Gowon Akpodonor**

NEWLY-CROWNED Youth Olympic Games' 400m champion, Tejiri Praise Ugoh, has confessed that she never expected to win a gold medal at the Dakar 2026 Games.

Ugoh, who delivered Nigeria's third gold medal at the Games, the first 400m gold for the country in history of the nation's participation, was full of joy as she crossed the finish line on Monday.

Ugoh just started running the 400m this season, and her first official outing in the event was a 4x400m relay a few months ago. The Dakar 2026 Youth Olympics was her first individual competition in the 400m flat.

FIFA Presidency: Wenger stand against Infantino



Wenger

FORMER Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger is considering standing against Gianni Infantino as a candidate in FIFA's presidential election, reports *BBC*.

For weeks, senior figures in European football have been hoping the Frenchman would run for the job, and he is now giving it serious thought.

Wenger is 77, leading to questions over whether he could provide long-term leadership for the sport. But some of his supporters have told the *BBC* Sport that they would be happy for him to win the election, then stand down before serving a full four-year term.

Infantino's position was plunged into crisis by a backlash caused by his failed plan to sell commercial stakes in the World Cup to private investors.

But he retains support in South America, Africa and Asia, and recently insisted he has the backing of the "vast, vast majority" of world football.

However, that support could be tested if Wenger stands.

The FIFA's head of global development would have the backing of UEFA, which has spearheaded opposition to Infantino, and he has credibility throughout the footballing world.

Sources close to Wenger say he is yet to decide whether to stand, and they still believe Infantino is favourite to win a fourth and final term in next year's election.

2027 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifier

Okumagba solicits support as Super Eagles begin training for Tanzania double-header

By **Gowon Akpodonor**

THE Chairman of the Unified Nigeria Football Supporters Club, Vincent Okumagba, has called on Nigerians to rally round the Super Eagles ahead of the double header against Tanzania.

The Super Eagles commenced their preparations for their upcoming 2027 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying double-header against Tanzania with their first training session yesterday afternoon, in Uyo. The team's camp officially opened on Sunday, November 8, 2026, as Nigeria prepares for the crucial Matchday Three encounter against the Taifa Stars.

Okumagba told *The Guardian* yesterday that the Super Eagles need moral support from Nigerians to scale the hurdles, adding that anything short of victory in the two matches might not be good enough.

"Apart from targeting an outright win in Uyo, we need to go and secure victory away, and all these can only be possible with the support of Nigerians," Okumagba said.

Fortune FA wins Nathaniel Idowu U-16 Football League in dramatic fashion

By **Eniola Daniel**

FORTUNE FA at the weekend emerged champions of the 2026 Nathaniel Idowu U-16 Football League after defeating Ajegunle United SC 4–3 on penalties in a thrilling Super Four final.

The Saturday's games at the New Maracana Sports Complex, Tolu, Ajegunle, had all the ingredients of a great game - fantastic dribbles, hard tackles and goals.

The grand finale brought the curtain down on an exciting season of youth football, featuring the four best-performing teams from the nine-week regular league campaign: Ajegunle United SC, Fortune FA, Young Eleven FA and SC Heritage.

The Super Four provided an exciting platform for the young footballers to showcase their talents, competitive spirit and determination, with all four teams delivering entertaining performances in their quest for the ultimate prize.

Solution

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A Beautiful Soul, An Everlasting Memory

In loving and affectionate memory of our dearly beloved sister and daughter



MRS. ABIMBOLA AYOOLA OGEFERE

(Nee Ayodele)

(November 19, 1950 to November 11, 1995)

Years may pass, seasons may change, but the memories
of you will never fade.
You remain a precious part of our family story.
Your love will continue to guide and inspire us.

Rest peacefully until we meet again.

Fondly Remembered by:

A. Gbolahan Ayodele

For the family

FUNERAL ACTIVITIES

For

AMBASSADOR CHIEF (DR)

Patrick Dele Cole OFR

NIGHT OF TRIBUTES
Friday, December 4, 2026 | 5PM
No 2, Bunu Sheriff Musa Street,
Katampe Extension, Abuja.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Monday, December 7, 2026 | 5PM
Harbour Point, Victoria Island, Lagos State.

SERVICE OF SONGS
Wednesday, December 9, 2026 | 5PM
EUI Centre – Plot F11, Sani Abacha
Road, GRA Phase 3,
Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

WAKE KEEP SERVICE
Friday, December 11, 2026 | 7PM
St. Paul's Nyemoni Cathedral,
Abonnema, Rivers State.

FUNERAL SERVICE
Saturday, December 12, 2026 | 11AM
The VIP Marquee, Lulu Ama Sandfield,
District town of Abonema, Rivers State.

OUTING SERVICE
Sunday, December 13, 2026 | 10AM
St. Paul's Nyemoni Lutheran Cathedral,
Abonnema, Rivers State.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Sunday, December 20, 2026 | 10AM
St. Paul's Nyemoni Lutheran Cathedral,
Abonnema, Rivers State.



Amb, Chief, Dr.

Patrick Dele Cole

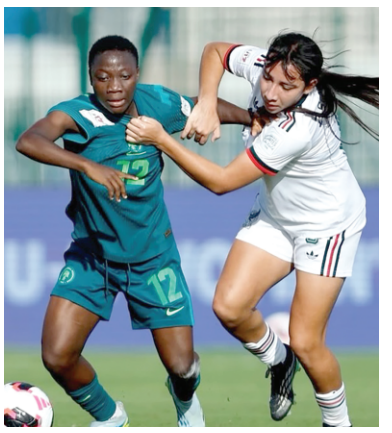
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Wednesday, November 11, 2026



Senate pledges N100m for Flamingos, challenges FG to match reward

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Guest Writer

Ojo Emmanuel Ademola

2027: A defining moment for Nigeria's democracy, governance

AS Nigeria steadily approaches the 2027 general elections, the nation once again stands at a historic crossroads. Elections are far more than periodic exercises in voting. They are defining moments when citizens collectively determine the direction of their country, strengthen democratic institutions, and decide whether progress should be consolidated or disrupted. For Nigeria, the coming election is not merely about choosing leaders. It is about shaping the future of governance, economic reform, security, national development, and democratic stability.

Nearly three decades after the restoration of democratic rule in 1999, Nigeria has demonstrated remarkable resilience. Despite numerous social, political, and economic challenges, the country has maintained constitutional governance and witnessed peaceful transfers of power. This achievement remains significant in a continental and global environment where democratic reversals, political instability, and institutional breakdowns continue to occur.

The significance of 2027 therefore extends beyond political competition. It provides Nigerians with an opportunity to strengthen democratic culture by making informed decisions that place national interest above sentiment and long-term development above short-term political calculations. At this stage of Nigeria's democratic journey, continuity in governance deserves serious and objective consideration because sustainable development often requires policy consistency, institutional stability, and sufficient time for reforms to mature and produce measurable outcomes.

Democracy thrives on informed participation

One of the greatest strengths of any democracy is an informed electorate. The quality of leadership that emerges from any political system is often a reflection of the quality of choices made by its citizens. Consequently, Nigerians must rise above the temptation to vote solely on the basis of ethnicity, religion, region, personality, or political emotions.

A mature democracy encourages citizens to evaluate leaders based on competence, integrity, vision, character, performance records, and their capacity to address national challenges. Elections should focus on policies rather than personalities and on measurable outcomes rather than campaign slogans.

The digital age has made information readily available to citizens. Nigerians now possess unprecedented opportunities to verify claims, compare manifestoes, assess government performance, analyse economic indicators, and participate in informed public discourse. However, access to information also comes with the responsibility of distinguishing facts from misinformation and evidence-based analysis from emotional speculation.

Democracy flourishes when citizens move beyond being spectators and become active participants in national development. Voting must therefore be seen as both a civic responsibility and a strategic national investment.

Why continuity matters at this stage of Nigeria's development

The argument for continuity should not be misunderstood as an argument against accountability. Rather, it is an argument for stability, consolidation, and the completion of reforms already underway.

History demonstrates that many successful nations achieved transformation not because they constantly changed direction but because they remained committed to long-term strategic objectives. Countries such as India, Indonesia, Singapore, Rwanda, and South Korea experienced periods of sustained policy consistency that allowed reforms to mature and generate tangible results.

Economic reforms rarely produce immediate benefits. In many cases, governments first undertake difficult decisions that address structural weaknesses before citizens begin to experience positive outcomes. Infrastructure development, fiscal reforms, agricultural modernisation, industrial expansion, educational transformation, and technological advancement require time, patience, and continuity.



Nigeria is currently undergoing significant economic adjustments aimed at positioning the nation for long-term growth. Such reforms have imposed genuine challenges on citizens. Rising living costs and economic pressures remain serious concerns. Nevertheless, responsible voters must ask an important question: should ongoing reforms be abandoned before they have sufficient time to deliver their intended results, or should they be strengthened, monitored, and refined?

A farmer who plants a crop does not uproot it midway through the growing season simply because the harvest has not yet arrived. Likewise, democratic societies often achieve better outcomes when they allow sound policies to mature under proper oversight.

The stakes are exceptionally high

The stakes in 2027 are exceptionally high because the election will significantly influence Nigeria's economic competitiveness, national security, technological advancement, educational development, and social cohesion.

Nigeria possesses one of the youngest populations in the world. Millions of young Nigerians are entering the labour market seeking meaningful employment, entrepreneurial opportunities, digital skills, and quality education. Their future prosperity depends largely upon the quality and stability of governance.

The global economy is increasingly driven by innovation, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital transformation, and knowledge-based industries. Nations capable of creating stable environments for investment and innovation are more likely to attract capital, develop industries, and create jobs. Nations characterised by policy inconsistency and political uncertainty often struggle to maintain investor confidence.

Investors, development partners, multinational corporations, and international financial institutions watch electoral cycles closely. They assess not only the identity of elected leaders but also the stability of institutions and the predictability of policies. A democratic culture that promotes continuity where appropriate encourages confidence, attracts investment, and supports economic growth.

The decisions made in 2027 will therefore affect not only electoral outcomes but also economic opportunities, technological advancement, international partnerships, and living standards for future generations.

Good governance remains the ultimate objective

At its core, democracy is not simply about electing leaders. It is about achieving good governance.

Good governance is measured by accountability, transparency, the rule of law, prudent management of public resources, respect for human rights, effective public service delivery, and tangible improvements in the lives of citizens. It is not enough for leaders to make promises. They must demonstrate progress through measurable results.

Citizens should therefore demand clear answers regarding national priorities. They should evaluate how leaders intend to improve power generation, strengthen infrastructure, address insecurity, modernise agriculture, support businesses, improve healthcare services, reform education, and accelerate technological innovation.

At the same time, governance should be assessed holistically. No administration inherits a perfect nation. Progress should therefore be measured not only by remaining challenges but also by the direction of movement and the foundations being laid for future success.

Where progress exists, it should be strengthened. Where weaknesses exist, they should be corrected. Where reforms require improvement, citizens should advocate constructively for better implementation rather than wholesale abandonment.

The role of young Nigerians in democratic renewal

The future of Nigeria rests significantly in the hands of its young population. Youth participation must extend beyond social media conversations and campaign rallies. It should include voter registration, electoral participation, policy engagement, civic education, community development, and electoral monitoring.

> "A mature democracy encourages citizens to evaluate leaders based on competence, integrity, vision, character, performance records, and their capacity to address national challenges. Elections should focus on policies rather than personalities and on measurable outcomes rather than campaign slogans."

Young Nigerians possess enormous creative energy, entrepreneurial potential, technological competence, and innovative capacity. These strengths can become powerful instruments of national development when directed towards constructive democratic engagement.

Democracy flourishes when young people view politics not as a distant activity reserved for politicians but as a shared responsibility that influences every aspect of national life, from education and employment to infrastructure and economic opportunity.

The 2027 elections provide a unique opportunity for a new generation of Nigerians to demonstrate that democracy is not merely inherited but actively sustained through participation and responsibility.

Beyond election day: Sustaining democratic accountability

Strengthening democracy does not end at the ballot box. In reality, democratic engagement begins where voting ends.

Citizens must continue to monitor public officials, evaluate policy implementation, participate in community engagement, and utilise lawful democratic mechanisms to demand accountability. Faith-based organisations, professional associations, traditional institutions, youth groups, civil society organisations, and the media each have important roles in sustaining democratic culture.

A healthy democracy requires continuous interaction between government and citizens. Leaders must remain accountable, but citizens must also remain informed, vigilant, and committed to the national interest.

Conclusion: A call for stability, continuity, and national renewal

Nigeria's democratic journey has experienced both triumphs and setbacks. Yet the nation continues to possess immense promise. The 2027 general elections offer an opportunity not only to choose leaders but also to deepen democratic culture and renew the social contract between government and citizens.

At this crucial stage of national development, continuity deserves serious consideration because stability, policy consistency, and institutional maturity are often indispensable ingredients for sustainable progress. Continuity is not about blind loyalty. It is about giving worthwhile reforms the opportunity to mature while maintaining democratic accountability and demanding improved performance.

As 2027 approaches, Nigerians must rise above divisive politics and narrow interests. They must embrace a higher national vision rooted in unity, competence, accountability, justice, and sustainable development. The future will belong neither to those who complain without participating nor to those who seek power without responsibility. It will belong to citizens who understand the stakes, engage responsibly in the democratic process, and insist upon good governance.

History repeatedly shows that nations advance when citizens recognise defining moments and act wisely. The 2027 general elections represent one such defining moment for Nigeria. The challenge before Nigerians is clear: strengthen democracy, protect stability, support continuity where it serves the national interest, demand accountability, and give a stronger voice to good governance.

The future of the nation may well depend upon it.

Ademola is first African Professor of Cybersecurity and Information Technology Management, Global Education Advocate, Chartered Manager.

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