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Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria N300

Oshiomhole, Mimiko applaud Tunji-Ojo as Tinubu eyes 1.2m votes in Ondo

PANORAMA PAGE 2

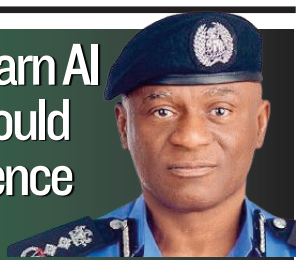


2027: EU warns of rising violence, hate speech as polls flag widespread abuses

NEWS PAGE 6

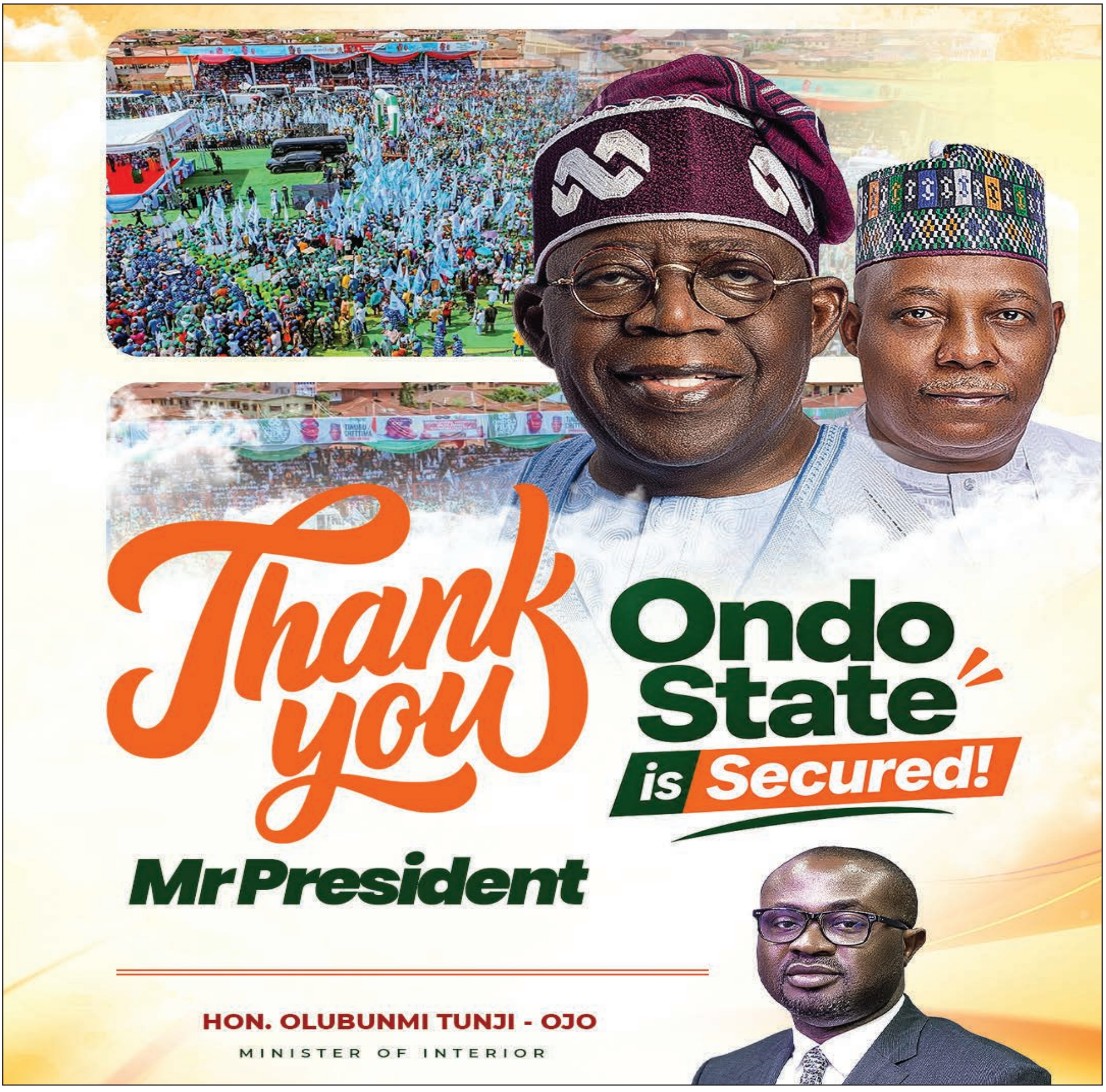
2027: IGP, others warn AI abuse, fake news could trigger election violence

NEWS PAGE 4



Legal battles threaten opposition tickets amid petitions to NJC, UN, EU

P6



Panorama

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SPOTLIGHT

91% of students use AI for studies, global survey finds

By **Adelowo Adebumiti**

A STAGGERING 91 per cent of higher education students are actively using Artificial Intelligence to support their academic workloads and manage study time, a new international survey has revealed.

The report, published by the global student platform Docsity, surveyed 350 university and secondary students across its network, which connects over 20 million students in 180 countries, shedding light on shifting productivity trends and challenges in modern digital learning.

Despite lingering faculty concerns regarding academic integrity, industry leadership asserts that student engagement with AI centers on time management and productivity rather than replacing critical thinking.

Chief Operating Officer, Docsity, Paolo Muoio, said: "AI should not be seen as a shortcut or, worse, a replacement for traditional studying and critical thinking. It is, pure and simple, a powerful ally."

He added that the 9% of students avoiding the technology risk falling behind as baseline digital literacy becomes essential for the job market.

The findings also reveal a notable change in student environments, with traditional campus libraries taking a backseat to remote learning.

The report shows that 79% of respondents reported feeling most productive studying from home while 35% of students experienced peak productivity between 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM, followed by early mornings (22%) and late evenings (18%).

Lagos clamps down on 'no refund' store rules

By **Shakirah Adunola**

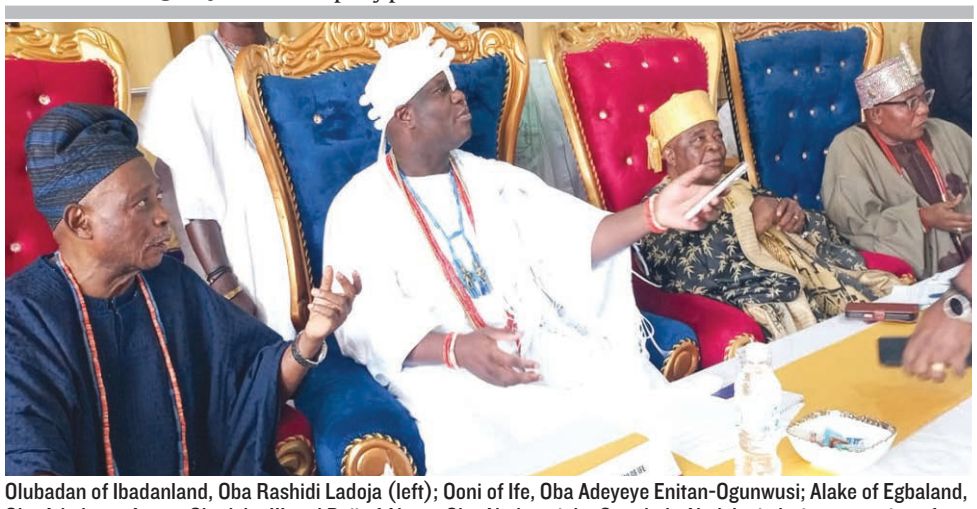
THE Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA) has warned businesses operating across the state against relying on internal company policies, including 'No Refund, No Return and No Cancellation' clauses, to deny consumers remedies guaranteed under applicable consumer protection laws.

General Manager/CEO of LASCOPA, Afolabi Solebo, gave the warning during a mediation session at the agency's headquarters in Ikeja involving a consumer and an event centre management company over a disputed cancellation charge.

The dispute arose after a consumer who had booked an event centre and paid a 50 per cent deposit subsequently requested cancellation of the reservation. However, the facility's management insisted on retaining 50 per cent of the total booking cost, citing its cancellation policy.

Solebo stressed that company policies and contractual terms must comply with Lagos State Consumer Protection Law 2025 (as amended) and the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2018.

He maintained that where internal policies conflict with consumer protections, the law take precedence, adding that it had continue to receive complaints from consumers denied refunds, replacements or other remedies by retailers and service providers on the grounds of company policies.



Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Rashidi Ladoja (left); Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan-Ogunwusi; Alake of Egbaland, Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo III and Deji of Akure, Oba Aladetoyinbo Ogunlade Aladelusi, during a meeting of leaders of the South-West traditional rulers in Ibadan, yesterday. PHOTO:NAN

Oshiomhole, Mimiko applaud Tunji-Ojo as Tinubu eyes 1.2m votes in Ondo

FORMER Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko, and Senator representing Edo North, Adams Oshiomhole, have praised the Minister of Interior, Dr Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, for his performance in office and the reforms he has delivered under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The two leaders spoke yesterday at the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaign rally at the Akure Township Stadium, where party leaders gathered to rally support for President Tinubu ahead of the January 16, 2027 presidential election.

Vice President Kashim Shettima, who led the campaign train to Akure, set a target of 1.2 million votes for Tinubu from Ondo, noting that 1.8 million of the state's 2.1 million registered voters had collected their Permanent Voter Cards. He cited Mimiko and Oke among prominent figures behind what he called a "universal elite consensus" for the President in the state.

"I will also recognise a minister who has done us proud in Ondo State by his performance in the job that the President has given him, and I am talking about the Minister of Interior of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Hon. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, popularly known as BTO," Mimiko said.

The former governor, who is now backing Tinubu's reelection bid, pledged to work with other leaders in the state to deliver votes for the President as well as all APC senatorial and House of Representatives candidates.

OAU mourns former Vice Chancellor Omole

THE management of the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Osun State, has mourned a former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Wale Omole.

In a statement on Wednesday, the institution's Public Relations Officer, Abiodun Olanrewaju, said the management received the news of Omole's passing on Tuesday evening with profound sadness.

The university described the death of Omole at 84 as a painful loss to the Great Ife community, the Nigerian university system and the larger academic community, noting his contributions to scholarship, university administration and the advancement of higher education in Nigeria.

The statement noted that Omole was an accomplished scholar and a distinguished university administrator whose association with Obafemi Awolowo University occupies an important place in the institution's history.

... DAY 4582

OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING

Tope Templer Olaiya, News Editor

@TopeTempler



RANDOM FACTS

- People who wear black are seen as more serious and reliable — almost 50% of women and 64% of men agree that black exudes confidence, according to a survey.
- Cursing when in pain releases Enkephalin. This raises your pain tolerance causing you to hurt less.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- Do you know that under the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act (FCCPA), you have the right to full disclosure of prices and information like hidden charges and material facts matching cash-out prices (Sec. 115).

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Where there is oppression, there will be resistance. It is our duty to fight for our freedom. We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains.

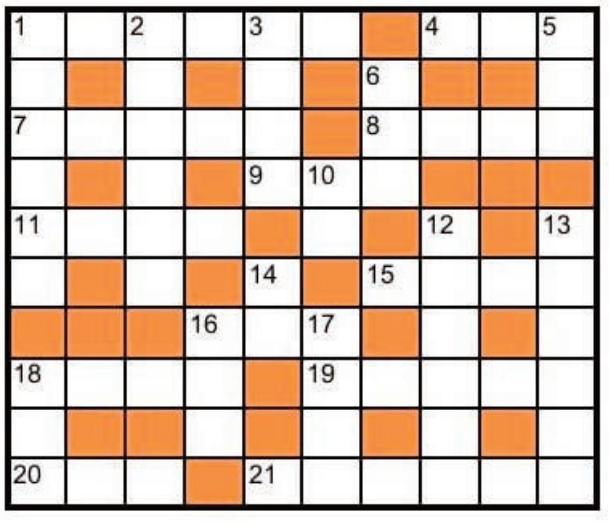
ASSATA SHAKUR

When you dance with the devil, you don't get to pick the tune.

Tragedy and adversary are the stones we sharpen our swords against so we can fight new battles.

SHERRILYN KENYON

CROSS WORD PUZZLE



• ACROSS

1. Town in Edo state, (6).
4. Showing unhappiness, (3).
7. Watchful, (5).
8. Town in Cross River state, (4).
9. Town in Osun state, (3).
11. Bent metal piece, (4).
15. 'One' in Hausa language, (4).
16. Woman underwear, (3).
18. Town in Oyo state, (4).
19. Tropical American fruit, (5).
20. Decompose, (3).
21. Late famous Ibadan politician, (6).

• DOWN

1. Late Nigerian Head of State, (6).
2. Southern African antelope, (6).
3. Large hawk, (4).
5. Plunge briefly into liquid, (3).
6. Start legal proceeding against, (3).
10. Be adequate, (2).
12. Town in Bauchi state, (6).
13. Senate Ex. President, (6).
14. Indicating alternative, (2).
16. Command, (3).
17. City in northern India, (4).
18. Knight's title, (3).

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Check Back Page for solution to the puzzle

TODAY IN HISTORY

- **World Pneumonia Day**

• 2026 - USA

The S.S. United States, a retired American ocean liner built in 1950 will be sunk off of the coast of Okaloosa County, Florida today.

• 2023 - Nigeria

Rivers Governor, Siminalayi Fubara, apologised to residents over recent political crisis. Coming out from a peace meeting called by Pres. Bola Tinubu with Rivers stakeholders to settle the rift between him and his predecessor, Nyesom Wike he said no sacrifice is considered too much to achieve the objective.

• 2021 - USA

The Los Angeles Superior Court formally ended the 14-year conservatorship to pop singer Britney Spears. On Feb. 1, 2008, American musician, Spears was involuntarily placed under a conservatorship by Judge Reva Goetz, with her father, James Spears, and attorney Andrew M. Wallet, as conservators. The conservatorship lasted until November 12, 2021. The management of the conservatorship generated controversy. While Spears was held on an involuntary psychiatric hold in early 2008 for alleged mental health concerns, there was initially a temporary conservatorship intended to last only days.

• 2011 - Italy

Silvio Berlusconi tendered his resignation as Prime Minister of Italy, effective November 16, due in large part to the European sovereign debt crisis.

• 1990 - UK

Tim Berners-Lee published a formal proposal for the World Wide Web. Berners-Lee is an English computer scientist best known as the inventor of the World Wide Web, the HTML markup language, the URL system, and HTTP. He is a professorial research fellow at the University of Oxford and professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

• 1969 - Vietnam

Vietnam War: Investigative journalist Seymour Hersh broke the story of My Lai Massacre, a war crime committed by the United States Army on 16 March 1968, involving mass murder of unarmed civilians in Sơn Mỹ village, Quảng Ngãi province, during the war. At least 347 and up to 504 civilians, almost all women, children, and elderly men, were murdered by U.S. soldiers. Some of the women were gang-raped and their bodies mutilated and some soldiers mutilated and raped children as young as 12. The incident was the largest massacre of civilians by U.S. forces in the 20th century.

• 2006 - Iraq

News

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Nigeria's oil output dips to 1.68mbpd as crude sells for $94

Lower crude prices don't translate to cheaper petrol prices, says Marketers

From **Kingsley Jeremiah**, Abuja

NIGERIA'S crude oil and condensate production declined by 1.7 per cent month-on-month to 1.68 million barrels per day (mbpd) in October, even as international oil prices rebounded to nearly $94 per barrel amid renewed uncertainty over the conflict involving Iran and the United States of America.

However, petroleum marketers have said a fall in crude oil prices does not automatically lead to cheaper petrol at the pump, following a call by the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) for operators to pass on the savings to consumers.

Data released by the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) yesterday showed that the country produced an average of 1,687,710 barrels per day of crude oil and condensate during the month, compared with 1.72 million barrels recorded in September.

Despite the decline, Nigeria maintained its compliance with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production quota for the sixth consecutive month.

Nigeria had produced 1.53mbpd in May, 1.55mbpd in June, 1.51mbpd in July, 1.5mbpd in August and 1.53mbpd in September, sustaining its production above or at the country's assigned quota over the six-month period. Daily production, including condensate, peaked at 1.79mbpd in October, while the lowest output stood at 1.60mbpd.

FG admits Nigerians are suffering, assures of better days

ADC trolls APC over sack of campaigners, new manifesto

From **Isaac Chibuife** (Lagos) and **Andrew Oota** (Abuja)

THE Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Jumoke Oduwole, has admitted that Nigerians are struggling with the high cost of living, but said President Bola Tinubu would resolve the country's electricity crisis if re-elected for a second term.

Meanwhile, the African Democratic Congress Presidential Campaign Council (ADC-PCC) welcomed the dissolution of Tinubu's re-election campaign spokespersons, describing it as an act of desperation by a government unwilling to confront the truth about its failures.

It also described the newly released 2027 APC manifesto as a shameless repackaging of promises made in 2023, claiming that many of those promises remained unfulfilled.

Oduwole, who was involved in drafting the APC 2027–2031 manifesto, said the administration's economic reforms were painful but necessary, insisting that prices were already declining.

She spoke yesterday on *Channels Television* a day after Tinubu unveiled the party's manifesto at a campaign rally in Jigawa State.

Defending the administration's renewed promise to fix the power sector, despite making a similar commitment ahead of the 2023 election, the minister described electricity as a "wicked problem" that successive governments had failed to solve over several decades.

"If the work was finished, we wouldn't be asking for four more years," she said.

THE ADC-PCC said the decision should have gone further by courageously advising Tinubu to withdraw from the 2027 presidential race in the overriding national interest.

In a statement issued by the Director of Media and Publicity, Kola Okogbodiyan, the council recalled that the dissolution followed the damning disclosure by Hassan Alwan, one of the APC-PCC's spokespersons, that ministers under President Tinubu allegedly paid to secure their appointments and were expected to recoup their investments while in office.

According to the ADC-PCC, rather than address the serious allegations of monetised political appointments, the APC has chosen to blame the messengers for exposing the failures of its leadership.

"You cannot sack spokespersons for telling Nigerians the truth about a government that has failed on virtually every front. Hassan Alwan did not invent the rot; he merely brought to public attention what Nigerians have long suspected: that under President Tinubu, public office has become a marketplace and governance a business venture for recovering political investments," it stated.

IN a statement signed by its National Publicity Secretary, Bolaji Abdullahi, the ADC noted that the APC manifesto "reads like that of a new political party seeking power for the first time," rather than one that has governed Nigeria since 2015 and presided over the worst affordability crisis Nigerians have experienced under the current administration.

"The fundamental question Nigerians must ask is simple: Why is a government campaigning on promises it should already have fulfilled? President Tinubu has been in office since May 2023. The APC has controlled the Federal Government for nearly 12 years. Yet, reading this manifesto, one would think they are only now discovering the problems they were elected to solve.

"In 2023, President Tinubu promised health insurance for 40 per cent of Nigerians within two years. Today, barely one in 10 Nigerians is covered, and the same target has been moved to 2031. He promised one million ICT jobs within 24 months.



Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu (left); Director-General of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council (PCC), Abdulaziz Yari; Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa; Vice President Kashim Shettima representing President Bola Tinubu; Imo State Governor, Hope Uzodimma; APC National Chairman, Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda; and Senate Leader, Opeyemi Bamidele during the APC presidential campaign rally in Akure, yesterday.

Amnesty, SERAP demand release of FIJ journalist, Ojukwu

FG under Tinubu won't gag media, minister assures

From **Johnson Eyiangho**, Abuja

AMNESTY International Nigeria (AIN) and the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) have called for the release of a Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ) reporter, Daniel Ojukwu, who was remanded at the Kuje Correctional Centre in Abuja over reports he authored in 2023 on a presidential aide.

But the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, assured that the Federal Government under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu will neither gag the media nor suppress journalists for expressing views contrary to government's positions.

The organisations also want the government to stop the prosecution of Ojukwu and FIJ founder, Fisayo Soyombo, over the reports on the expenditure of the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs).

Ojukwu was remanded by the Federal High Court in Abuja on Tuesday after pleading not guilty to 12 counts of cyberstalking and criminal defamation.

The judge, Joyce Abdulmalik, ordered that he remain in custody until December 1, 2026, when his bail application is due to be heard.

Amnesty International made its appeal in a Facebook post yesterday.

SERAP made a similar post on Tuesday.

The international human rights organisation stated that the prosecution raised concerns about the treatment of journalists who investigate allegations of corruption.

2026 budget: Tinubu seeks Reps' approval for $7.7b loan

Reps demand emergency fund for teaching hospitals as health budget dips

From **Joel Oladele**, Abuja

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has asked the House of Representatives to approve the Federal Government's plan to raise $7.7 billion in external loans to finance part of the 2026 budget deficit.

This was as the House called on the government to urgently increase funding for federal teaching hospitals, medical centres and other tertiary health institutions amid declining budgetary allocations and deteriorating infrastructure.

In a letter to the Speaker, Tajudeen Abbas, the President sought legislative authorisation to secure N10.79 trillion, equivalent to $7.707 billion, at the budget exchange rate of N1,400 per dollar.

Tinubu explained that the request "does not represent a fresh borrowing proposal", but that the National Assembly had already approved the amount and captured it in the 2026 Appropriation Act.

He said the government needed the lawmakers' approval to meet statutory requirements governing the terms and conditions for obtaining external loans. The President cited Sections 21(1) and 27(1) of the Debt Management Office (DMO) Establishment Act, 2003, which require the National Assembly to approve the conditions attached to external borrowing.

Section 21(1) bars the Minister of Finance from obtaining or approving external loans without presenting their terms and conditions to the National Assembly for approval.

Similarly, Section 27(1) empowers the legislature to approve standard conditions for negotiating and accepting external loans, as well as issuing guarantees.

Tinubu recalled that the 2026 Appropriation Act provided for N29.218 trillion in new borrowings to finance the budget deficit.The borrowing plan comprises N18.28 trillion from domestic sources and N10.79 trillion from external sources.

He said the government would explore different financing options simultaneously, weighing their costs, benefits and the time required to access the funds.

However, the President indicated that the government would prioritise Eurobond issuance because of its relatively quicker completion process and its capacity to attract larger financing at lower costs.

Tinubu assured the lawmakers that the Federal Ministry of Finance and the DMO would work to secure the most favourable borrowing terms available in the international market.

MEANWHILE, the lawmakers warned that inadequate funding threatens specialist healthcare delivery, medical training and research across the country. They called for a dedicated infrastructure revitalization programme, improved welfare packages for healthcare workers and timely release of approved funds.

The resolutions followed a motion of urgent public importance moved by Patrick Umoh during yesterday's plenary.

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2027: IGP, others warn AI abuse, fake news could trigger election violence

From **Collins Olayinka** (Abuja) and **Opeyemi Babalola** (Lagos)

INSPECTOR General of Police (IGP), Olatunji Disu, has warned that fake news, fabricated videos and artificial intelligence-generated deepfakes could threaten national security and undermine the credibility of the 2027 general elections.

Disu issued the warning yesterday at the yearly conference and awards of the Crime Correspondents Association of Nigeria (CCAN), held at the Police Resource Centre, Abuja.

The IGP urged journalists, particularly crime reporters, to verify information before publication and avoid amplifying unconfirmed security reports that could trigger panic, violence and public distrust.

He said false information had become a serious security threat, capable of creating insecurity even where no crime had occurred.

SIMILARLY, former Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, has warned that artificial intelligence (AI) could make the spread of fake news and political misinformation more sophisticated ahead of the 2027 General Elections, compared with the misinformation challenges witnessed during the 2023 polls.

Mohammed said the growing capabilities of AI had introduced new dimensions to information manipulation, making it possible to create fabricated audio recordings, photographs, videos and official-looking documents capable of misleading voters.

Delivering his remarks at the Caleb University Maiden Public Lecture titled 'Fake News, Disinformation and Artificial Intelligence: Defending Truth and Public Trust in the Digital Age', the former Minister recalled that ahead of the 2023 elections, his ministry engaged Google, Meta and other social media platforms over concerns about the spread of fake news and misinformation.

According to him, such content could influence public perception of political candidates, discourage voter participation and heighten tensions during the electoral process.

MEANWHILE, the growing capacity of AI to produce convincing fake photographs, cloned voices, manipulated videos and counterfeit documents poses a serious threat to journalism, democratic accountability and the credibility of Nigeria's 2027 General Elections, the Vice Chancellor of Baze University, Abuja, Prof. Abiodun Adeniyi, has warned.

He said the danger of AI extended beyond the production of false information to creating the appearance of authenticity, making it increasingly difficult for citizens to distinguish genuine evidence from fabricated content.

Adeniyi spoke in Abuja while delivering a public lecture, 'Truth in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Journalism, Democracy and Nigeria's 2027 Elections', at the 2026 Annual Press Week of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Voice of Nigeria Chapel.

He warned that political actors could exploit the technology ahead of the 2027 elections to circulate fabricated statements attributed to candidates.

Senate seeks automatic airtime refunds for failed calls, orders NCC probe

From **John Akubo**, Abuja

SUBSCRIBERS could get airtime back for calls that fail or are cut off under measures proposed by the Senate, which has directed the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) to investigate mobile operators' billing practices.

The Senate urged the regulator to require automatic refunds for verifiably failed calls and qualifying network-related interruptions. It also called for an accessible, time-bound complaints process for subscribers seeking redress over unexplained deductions and persistent service failures.

The motion, moved by Senator Tahir Monguno, followed complaints that Nigerians lose airtime on calls that do not connect, drop unexpectedly or require repeated attempts. Lawmakers said the deductions can place a particular burden on low-income earners, traders, students and small businesses.

Judge's absence stalls Sowore's trial as INEC chairman challenges subpoena

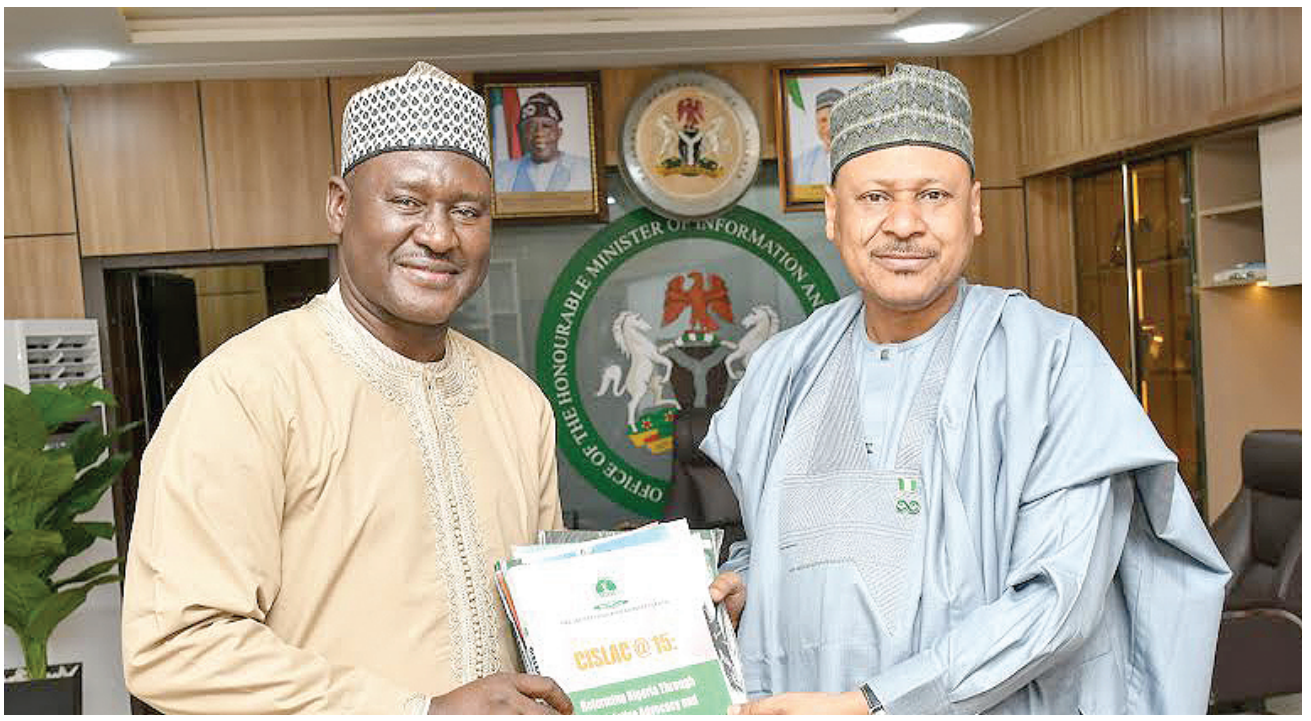
From **Ameh Ochojila**, Abuja

THE trial of human rights activist, Omoyele Sowore, over his description of President Bola Tinubu as a criminal, was stalled yesterday at the Federal High Court, Abuja, following the absence of the presiding judge, Justice Mohammed Garba Umar.

The case, scheduled for hearing, could not proceed after the court registrar informed parties that the judge was indisposed and the court would not sit.

The development came amid a fresh legal challenge by the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Joash Amupitan (SAN), who has asked the court to set aside a subpoena compelling him to produce President Tinubu's electoral records.

Amupitan, who was expected to appear as a defence witness alongside former Lagos State Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Joe Igbokwe, was also absent from the proceedings.



Executive Director of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Auwal Musa Rafsanjani (left), presenting CISLAC publications to the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris Malagi, during the CISLAC advocacy visit to the minister in Abuja, yesterday.
PHOTO: LUCY LADIDI ATEKO

Cancer Society hinges crisis on gaps in health infrastructure, funding

By **Olusegun Koiki**

NIGERIAN Cancer Society (NCS) has identified inadequate healthcare infrastructure, poor funding, limited access to specialised cancer treatment and high cost of medication as major factors contributing to the rising cancer crisis and deaths in the country.

The President of the society, Prof. Abidemi Omonisi, disclosed this yesterday in Lagos, during a visit to United Nigeria Airlines (UNA), where both organisations signed a working agreement aimed at mobilising funds and raising awareness to support cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment in the country.

Omonisi said Nigeria continued to grapple with huge gaps in cancer diagnosis and treatment infrastructure.

He, however, lamented that inadequate diagnostic facilities and limited access to modern medical technology were preventing many patients from detecting the disease at its early stages.

He explained that some hospitals lacked the necessary equipment and expertise to accurately diagnose cancer, forcing them to depend on external laboratories for tests, a situation that could result in misdiagnosis and delayed treatment.

According to him, the availability of advanced diagnostic facilities, including genetic testing, would help identify individuals with inherited cancer risks and enable early screening and intervention before the disease develops.

Besides, he explained that Nigeria had developed a National Cancer Control Plan covering 2026 to 2030, following the document's launch on February 4, 2026, to mark World Cancer Day.

COP31 warns Africans against corporate capture of climate policies

By **Innocent Anoruo**

AFRICAN climate negotiators at the ongoing COP31 climate conference in Antalya, Türkiye, have been urged to establish binding safeguards against corporate capture of climate policies, including conflict-of-interest rules to prevent fossil fuel companies, major industrial polluters and conflicted private consultants from determining national climate priorities.

This is among the recommendations in two reports published by Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA), in conjunction with the Make Big Polluters Pay Coalition (MBPP Africa).

The reports, Four Years On: Examining Nigeria's Just Transition Plan and Nationally Determined Contributions in Africa: A Five-Country Analysis, urged wealthy nations, which bore the greatest responsibility for global emissions, to provide direct, grant-based financial support to African countries rather than loans that could deepen their debt burden.

A statement read by CAPPA's Assistant Executive Director, Zikora Ibeh, noted that the findings speak directly to the choices before COP31.

The organisations, at the presentation of the reports, noted that Africa "contributes barely three per cent to global emissions but bears a disproportionate share of climate impacts," leaving the continent with the additional burden of borrowing to address damage it did little to cause.

Nigeria's energy transition policies, financing arrangements and social protection mechanisms were examined in the first report, while the second assessed the climate commitments of Nigeria, Cameroon, South Africa, Togo and Uganda.

According to the organisations, although African countries have committed to reducing emissions and expanding renewable energy, their policies and investments often contradict these goals, particularly where governments continue to promote oil and gas development.

Nigeria's ambition to achieve net-zero emissions by 2060, for instance, exists alongside a target to increase oil production to three million barrels per day by 2030. Cameroon is also pursuing negotiations for five oil exploration blocks with Murphy West Africa and Octavia Energy.

136 countries adopt early warning systems against extreme weather

By **Victor Gbonegun**

UNITED Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) have said more countries are reporting multi-hazard early warning systems, but major gaps remain in communities most vulnerable to disasters.

According to the Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems 2026, the number of countries reporting some multi-hazard early warning system capability has risen to 136, an increase of 17 from March 2025.

The findings come as an intensifying El-Niño threatens to bring more extreme weather to many parts of the world, underscoring the urgency of ensuring that forecasts result in anticipatory action.

FG opens 3MTT Cohort 5 applications, secures N4b funding

As NITDA trains 2.8m Nigerians, mobilises $151.2m for tech startups

From **Joel Oladele**, Abuja

FEDERAL Government has opened applications for the fifth cohort of its 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) programme, with about N4 billion in partner funding earmarked to support digital skills training and employment opportunities.

The Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy said the funding would support verified outcomes under Cohorts 5 and 6 of the initiative.

In a statement yesterday, the Special Assistant on Media and Communications to the Minister, Isime Esene, said applications were open to organisations and individual experts seeking to join the 3MTT Delivery Network.

The programme aims to expand Nigeria's pool of skilled technology professionals by connecting technical training with actual employment opportunities, freelance work and entrepreneurship.

Tinubu sets 1.2m votes target for Ondo, knocks Atiku, Obi campaign style

From **Gbenga Salau** (Lagos), **Rotimi Agboluaje** (Ibadan) and **Adewale Momoh** (Akure)

- S'West monarchs endorse Tinubu for second term, back southern Presidency
- SWAGA unveils plans to strengthen grassroots mobilisation for Tinubu's re-election

PRESIDENT Bola Ahmed Tinubu has said that with 2.1 million registered voters in Ondo State, the least expected votes from the state for the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the 2027 polls is 1.2 million.

Tinubu, who was represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, stated this during the presidential campaign rally held yesterday in Akure, the Ondo State capital.

Shettima, who led other top party chieftains to the Akure Township Stadium, the venue of the campaign rally, described the turnout as a clear indication that the state remains a progressive stronghold.

The Vice President said the opposition had been conducting campaigns on social media, adding that former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has not been able to put his state in order to the extent that all former governors of his state are not in alignment with him.

He also took a swipe at former Governor of Anambra State and presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Peter Obi, stating that he has nothing to offer other than what he described as obnoxious data.

However, Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa reaffirmed the people of Ondo State's commitment to delivering a minimum of one million votes for Tinubu, citing the President's progressive policies, which he said have changed the country's fortunes.

Also speaking, the APC National Chairman, Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda, described Tinubu as the most experienced, exposed, prepared, and competent among the 18 presidential candidates presented by political parties.

Director-General of the APC Presidential Campaign and former Zamfara State Governor, Abdulazeez Yari, said Tinubu had demonstrated exceptional commitment to Ondo State through political appointments and other benefits.

On his part, the Senate Leader, Opeyemi Bamidele, enjoined the people of the state to vote overwhelmingly for Tinubu in 2027.

Former Governor Olusegun Mimiko, while addressing the rally, urged APC supporters not to relent in their efforts at winning big for the President.

Senator Adams Oshiomhole said Tinubu had worked well for Nigerians and that the best way to reciprocate his good deeds is to return him as President.

Chairman of the APC Governors' Forum, Hope Uzodimma, said Ondo people must prove through their votes that they love Tinubu.

MEANWHILE, traditional rulers from the South-West have endorsed Tinubu for a second term in office ahead of the 2027 presidential election, calling for the retention of the Presidency in Southern Nigeria in the next electoral cycle.

The position was contained in a communiqué issued yesterday at the end of a meeting of the monarchs held at the palace of the Olubadan, Oba Rashidi Ladoja.

HOWEVER, the South West Agenda for Asiwaju (SWAGA) has unveiled plans to strengthen grassroots mobilisation across Lagos State in support of President Bola Tinubu's re-election bid in 2027.

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



Justices R.B. Kadiri (left) and A.F. Obienu, Chief Judge of Ogun State, Justice Mosunmola Dipeolu; Governor Dapo Abiodun, and Justices O.L.A. Oke, F.A. Daudu and O.O. Osho, during the swearing-in ceremony of five new High Court judges at the Governor's Office, Oke-Mosan, Abeokuta.

FG expands CNG network with five new stations in Lagos

By **Divine Yusuf**

THE Federal Government has intensified efforts to deepen the adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in Nigeria by commissioning five additional daughter and last-mile retail stations in Lagos State.

The move aims to expand refuelling network and reduce transportation costs.

The facilities, developed by the Lagos State-owned Ibile Oil and Gas Corporation, in partnership with the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund (MDGIF), are located in Idimu, Ogolonto, Abule- Egba, Ajah and Oko-Oba.

Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas), Ekperikpe Ekpo, who inaugurated the stations, yesterday, said the projects would bring the benefits of Nigeria's gas resources closer to consumers while providing motorists and commercial transport operators with alternative fuel.

He said the stations would expand CNG infrastructure nationwide, following President Bola Tinubu's directive for an additional 500 refuelling stations towards a planned national network of 1,000 outlets.

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

Coker bags impact maker, top 50 professionals' award

By **Quadri Wahab**

THE Industry Newspaper Limited has recognised the Team Lead, Media Relations at United Bank for Africa (UBA), Abiodun Coker, alongside other Nigerian leaders in the media industry, during the second edition of its leadership event, The Industry Top 50 Men of Impact, which took place in Lagos recently.

The award was in recognition of Coker's strategic contributions to corporate communications and brand equity within the African financial sector.

The event, themed "Responsibility and Impact: The Role of Men as Builders of Brands, Businesses and Society," featured a two-part programme comprising a one-hour high-level panel discussion followed by the presentation of certificates to the 50 honourees.

Coker, who is being celebrated in the "Impact Maker" category, is a seasoned media relations and corporate communications practitioner with over 12 years of experience.

Abiodun allocates 49 duplexes, swears in five new judges in Ogun

From **Segun Ayinde**, Abeokuta

OGUN State Governor, Dapo Abiodun, has announced the allocation of 49 newly constructed duplexes to judges of the State High Court in the state in a major intervention aimed at strengthening judicial welfare and improving the conditions of service in the state.

The governor made the announcement yesterday during the swearing-in ceremony of five new High Court judges at the Executive Chambers, Governor's Office, Oke-Mosan, Abeokuta.

The newly appointed judges are Luqman Oke, Adebimpe Obienu, Fatima Daudu, Rafiat Kadiri, and Oludotun Osho, bringing the total number of judges in the state to 49.

Abiodun said that the 49 duplexes, located at the President Muhammadu Buhari Estate along Kobape Road in Abeokuta, were provided in fulfilment of his administration's commitment to judicial welfare and the creation of an enabling environment for effective administration of justice.

The governor described the judiciary as the last hope of the common man, charging the newly sworn-in judges to uphold the highest standards of integrity, impartiality, and professionalism in discharging their responsibilities.

He urged them to dispense justice without fear or favour, carefully evaluate evidence, apply the law faithfully, and ensure that their courts remained accessible institutions where the rights of every citizen are protected.

He also cautioned the judges against political interference, personal relationships, and material inducement, stressing that neither public opinion nor the prominence of any individual or political party should influence judicial decisions.

Abiodun noted that the appointment of the five judges reflected his administration's determination to strengthen the state's judicial capacity, adding that more judges had been appointed under his watch than during previous administrations.

He, however, commended the Chief Judge for the appointments, expressing optimism that the emergence of a younger generation of judicial officers would provide continuity, renewed energy and long-term institutional development for the judiciary.

Awujale: Ogun govt reveals Fusengbuwa crisis, insists on due process

From **Azeez Olorunlomeru**, Abeokuta

Says perpetrators of media blackmail, disinformation will face full weight of the law

OGUN State Government has defended its handling of the succession process to the Awujale stool, insisting that the emergence of the next monarch must strictly follow due process.

The government also warned individuals and groups allegedly sponsoring media attacks and spreading disinformation to pressure it over the succession process to desist or face the law.

The state's Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Oluwasina Ogungbade (SAN), stated this in a statement yesterday, stressing that the government had acted with fairness, restraint and in accordance with the Awujale Chieftaincy Declaration and the Obas and Chiefs Law of Ogun State, 2021.

He said that following the demise of Oba Sikiru Adetona, the government had consistently recognised the Fusengbuwa Ruling House's entitlement to produce the next occupant of the revered traditional stool.

Ogungbade, however, disclosed that the government had to intervene when it discovered that the ruling house was operating under three different family heads, with nomination forms reportedly being sold for as much as N10 million.

He recalled that at a meeting with the family on November 6, 2025, the government advised it to resolve its internal leadership disagreements, operate under one recognised family head and discontinue the collection of nomination fees.

According to him, the intervention yielded positive results, as the family subsequently agreed to operate as one united ruling house, abolish candidature fees, refund payments already made by aspirants and expressed appreciation to the government.

He maintained that the government's intervention was not intended to deprive the Fusengbuwa family of its entitlement but to ensure that the succession process was conducted in an orderly, transparent and legally acceptable manner.

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

LASG moves to tackle maternal mortality

By **Abigail Ikhaghu**

LAGOS State Government has called for a more deliberate and coordinated approach to maternal and newborn healthcare, as it moves to adopt a new programme aimed at improving emergency response and reducing preventable deaths among mothers and babies.

The programme, "Training for Emergency Action, Management and Workflows in Obstetrics and Neonatal Care' (TEAM OB/TEO), was unveiled in Lagos.

The high-level stakeholders' meeting, organised by Technical Advice Connect (TAConnect), in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Health, brought together government officials, development partners, professional bodies and health facility representatives to consolidate existing progress and jointly develop a sustainable, state-owned approach to strengthening emergency care for mothers and newborns.

Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor on Health, Dr Kemi Ogunyemi, while delivering her keynote address, emphasised that maternal and newborn deaths remained major concern despite years of interventions and investments in the health sector.

Dons task UI graduates on excellence, integrity, national development

From **Rotimi Agboluaje**, Ibadan

THE Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan (UI), Prof. Peter Olapegba, and the commencement speaker, Olayemi Oladiran, have charged the 6,025 graduates of the institution to uphold excellence, integrity, consistency and hard work in their careers and contribute meaningfully to national development.

They gave the charge yesterday in Ibadan during the first day of the university's 78th convocation ceremony for first degree graduates, where 509 students earned First Class honours.

Olapegba urged the graduates to deploy the knowledge, resilience and character acquired during their academic training to address societal challenges, stressing the need for them to uphold the values of excellence, integrity and service.

The vice-chancellor said the university remained committed to sustaining its heritage of academic excellence, advancing research and producing graduates capable of responding to emerging global challenges.

2027:

Legal battles threaten opposition tickets amid petitions to NJC, UN, EU

From **Leo Sobechi, Sodiq Omolaoye** and **Andrew Oota**, Abuja

- Nearly half of 19 parties with presidential candidates embroiled in court cases
- Court schedules Xmas break, retains judges for urgent pre-election matters
- ADC, PDP, LP, Accord battle leadership disputes, nomination challenges
- Atiku group demands release of judgment nullifying Mark-led ADC leadership
- Protesters petition ECOWAS, EU, others, threaten stronger action

OPPOSITION parties face mounting uncertainty ahead of the 2027 general elections as unresolved leadership disputes and pre-election lawsuits threaten their presidential tickets and candidates, raising questions about their readiness for the polls and the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) ability to meet electoral timelines.

With nearly half of the 19 parties that fielded presidential candidates embroiled in legal disputes, the Federal High Court's planned Christmas vacation has added another dimension to concerns over the timely resolution of cases.

The anxiety was underscored yesterday as supporters of former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar staged protests over the judgment nullifying the David Mark-led leadership of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), demanding its immediate release to enable the party to exercise its right of appeal.

The protesters, under the auspices of United Friends from Atiku, also petitioned the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), National Judicial Council (NJC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), United Nations (UN), European Union (EU) and other institutions, alleging that the delay could undermine the party's preparations for the elections.

An investigation by *The Guardian* showed that the unresolved disputes are threatening to complicate the participation of several opposition parties, with the ADC, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Labour Party and Accord Party facing different legal challenges over their leadership structures and candidates.

The Federal High Court has announced a two-week Christmas vacation from December 21, 2026, to January 5, 2027, with regular sittings scheduled to resume on January 6, barely days before the presidential election.

The Chief Judge of the court, Justice John Tsoho, announced the vacation in a calendar issued in accordance with Order 46, Rule 4(c) of the Federal High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2019. He also released the list of judges to serve as administrative judges during the period.

However, a statement by the court's Director of Information, Catherine Oby-Christopher, clarified that Justices Inyang Ekwo and Obiora Egwuatu, designated as vacation judges for the Abuja division, would entertain matters involving the enforcement of fundamental rights and other issues of urgent national importance, including pre-election litigation.

Despite the provision, the growing number of disputes has raised concerns about the capacity of the parties and the electoral umpire to resolve outstanding issues within the prescribed timelines.

INEC's updated list names 19 political parties with presidential candidates for the 2027 election, out of 22 registered parties expected to participate. The All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) and Youth Party did not have presidential contenders on the final list.

Among the parties whose leadership or nomination arrangements have attracted legal challenges are the ADC, PDP, Labour Party and Accord Party. The disputes have implications for the recognition of party executives, the validity of primaries and the submission of candidates' particulars to INEC.

The development is particularly significant for opposition parties seeking to mount a formidable challenge against the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

ADC judgment puts Atiku's ticket in jeopardy

THE ADC's crisis is among the most consequential, following a November 5, 2026, judgment of the Federal High Court in Abuja nullifying the leadership of the party under former Senate President David Mark and invalidating processes conducted under its authority, including the presidential primary that produced Atiku as its candidate.

The judgment, delivered by Justice Peter Lifu, followed a suit instituted by Nafiu-Bala Gombe, who challenged the legitimacy of the Mark-led leadership.

The court held that the caretaker leadership did not emerge through the party's required processes and consequently nullified decisions taken under its authority.

The ruling has thrown the party's preparations into uncertainty, given its emergence as a major platform for opposition figures seeking to challenge the APC in the 2027 elections.

Although the party has rejected the judgment and resolved to appeal, questions have arisen over the status of its candidates and the extent to which the ruling could affect its participation in the polls.

Yesterday's protest by Atiku's supporters further brought the dispute into focus.

The group first converged on the Federal High Court premises, carrying placards and demanding that the judiciary uphold the rule of law and resist actions capable of undermining opposition parties. It subsequently took its protest to the United Nations office.

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Partner and Assurance Leader, EY, Jamiu Olakisan (left); Head of Clients and Industries Leader, Ashish Bakhshi; Non-Executive Director, GTCO Plc, Catherine Echeozo; representative of Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Pankan Eze, and Partner, Assurance, EY, Williams Erimona, at the 2026 Audit Committee Transformation Summit in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: AYODELE ADENIRAN

2027: EU warns of rising violence, hate speech as polls flag widespread abuses

From **Seye Olumide** (Lagos), **Ameh Ochojila** (Abuja) and **Tunde Omolehin** (Sokoto)

- Nigerians doubt electoral fairness ahead of polls, Afrobarometer survey shows
- Shrinking civic space, electoral crime impunity threaten elections, NHRC warns
- ADC accuses APC of political harassment as Kaduna seals Atiku's meeting venue
- Tinubu is candidate to beat, Shehu Sani tells Northern leaders

AMID uncertainties over candidates' participation 65 days to the elections, Nigerians have expressed limited confidence in the credibility of next year's polls, according to a new Afrobarometer survey led by NOIPolls.

According to the survey released yesterday, about four in 10 citizens think the 2027 elections will be free and fair, as most expect massive vote buying and political violence, while overwhelming majorities also express fears that valid votes will not be counted and that political parties and candidates will disregard electoral laws, leading to the announcement of incorrect results.

Political disengagement is also evident, as about two-thirds of citizens say they do not feel close to any political party. However, roughly the same proportion said they are likely to vote, including almost half who say they are "very likely" to do so.

Despite their concerns, Nigerians demonstrate a strong preference for inclusive national leadership. An overwhelming majority of potential voters say that their votes will be determined by candidates' stands on policy issues, but significant shares also indicate that they will vote for a candidate from their state, a candidate of their religious group, a candidate of their ethnic group, or a candidate who bribes them with money or a gift.

Large majorities of Nigerians anticipate electoral abuses in the 2027 elections: Nearly nine in 10 (89%) consider vote buying likely, while about eight in 10 foresee valid votes not being counted (79%), political violence (79%), political parties and candidates disregarding electoral laws (78%), and incorrect election results being announced (78%).

THIS is as the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) yesterday warned that shrinking civic space and impunity for electoral crimes will threaten the 2027 elections. It therefore urged authorities to act before the polls. The Executive Secretary of the Commission, Dr Anthony Ojukwu, was speaking at the 2026 Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders Forum on the State of Human Rights in Abuja, convened by the Commission with support from the European Union.

The executive secretary cited harassment, arbitrary arrests, and the misapplication of laws, including provisions of the Cybercrimes Act, against civil society organisations, journalists and human rights defenders. He also flagged political and voter intimidation, exclusion by prohibitive nomination fees that shut out women, youth and persons with disabilities, hate speech and incitement, and regulatory uncertainties around digital platforms.

He pointed to the Commission's September 2026 Human Rights Situation Dashboard, which recorded 338,810 complaints of human rights violations across its 38 offices nationwide, with the North Central zone recording the highest number. In the same period, he said the Human Rights Observatory documented 208 killings and 210 kidnappings, alongside deaths in custody and violence against children. Also, he said the Commission completed 2,458 investigations and undertook 113 monitoring visits to police stations, correctional centres and other places of detention.

On other interventions by the National Human Rights Commission, he said the Human Rights Election Situation Room will move to 24/7 operations through the election window, with monthly dashboards and bulletins, monitors deployed to hotspots, and legal aid partnerships on standby.

MEANWHILE, the European Union (EU) has expressed concern over reports of election-related violence, hate speech and political intimidation ahead of the 2027 general elections, while pledging fresh funding to support the protection of civic and political spaces in Nigeria ahead of the polls.

EU Ambassador and Head of Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Gautier Mignot, disclosed this on Wednesday in Abuja at the 2026 Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders Forum on the State of Human Rights. Mignot said the EU was preparing a new project with additional funding in partnership with the commission to strengthen human rights protection and support democratic governance.

He described the forum's theme, "Protecting Human Rights in Civic and Political Spaces in the 2027 Elections, as timely, particularly against the backdrop of reports of election-related violence, hate speech, political intimidation and violations of fundamental rights. He said the EU's support was not intended to interfere in Nigeria's electoral process but to strengthen the capacity of legitimate Nigerian stakeholders to contribute to free, fair and credible elections.

The ambassador warned that restrictions on civic and political spaces could undermine citizens' participation in elections and weaken public confidence in democratic institutions. He said free media, peaceful assembly, open public forums and active civil society organisations were essential to ensuring that citizens could scrutinise candidates, debate public issues and hold political leaders accountable without fear of censorship or retaliation.

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TRUEFACT: WHO IS CHRIST: GOD

Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. He created everything there is—nothing exists that he didn't make. Eternal life is in him, and this life gives light to all mankind. His life is the light that shines through the darkness—and the darkness can never extinguish it. **(John 1:1-5 TLB)**

Prayer: Thank you Jesus, for giving me your life that shines through darkness.

Email Address: g.truefact@gmail.com

Stakeholders seek coordinated emergency care against preventable deaths

By Ijeoma Nwanosike

STAKEHOLDERS in the healthcare and emergency response sectors have called for a coordinated emergency care system in Nigeria to reduce preventable deaths, improve response times, and ensure that victims receive appropriate medical attention without unnecessary delays.

They made the call at the inaugural ResQ Summit 2026, themed "Building a Coordinated Emergency Care System," which brought together government officials, healthcare providers, emergency response organisations, health financing experts, technology companies and private sector leaders to explore ways of addressing gaps in the country's emergency care system.

The summit also featured the launch of ResQCore, a technology platform designed to connect hospitals, ambulance providers, health insurers and other emergency response organisations to improve the coordination and management of emergency medical transport.

The platform uses artificial intelligence (AI)-driven dispatch technology to identify and assign the nearest available ambulance, connect emergency responders with hospitals in real time and provide transparent tracking of critical resources.

These include ambulance locations, hospital bed availability and specialist services, to facilitate timely and appropriate care.

Speaking at the event, the Convener and Chief Executive Officer of The Ambulance Company, ResQCore and TAC Care, Dr Aisha Onisarotu Atanda, said the need for a coordinated system had become increasingly urgent, given the recurring cases of accidents and medical emergencies in which victims struggle to access appropriate assistance.

She explained that emergency care providers, including hospitals, ambulance companies and health maintenance organisations (HMOs), often operated independently, leaving patients and their relatives to navigate the system without the necessary medical knowledge.

According to her, relatives of accident victims are frequently left to determine which emergency number to call, where an ambulance should take the patient and which hospital has the capacity to provide the required treatment.

Atanda further stressed that stronger collaboration among service providers would enable patients to access care through a single point of contact, while ambulance services, hospitals, specialists and other healthcare professionals coordinate the different stages of treatment.

She called on the government and private sector organisations to recognise their complementary roles, with government providing policy direction and community reach, while private operators contribute the operational expertise required to make emergency services function effectively.

Similarly, the Executive Director and Founder of Health Emergency Initiative (HEI), Pascal Achunine, said Nigeria has continued to experience significant gaps in emergency response, ranging from inadequate skills and resources to limited technology and poor emergency care in hospitals.



Chairman, National Planning Committee, Chartered Institute of Directors (CIoD) 2026 Yearly Directors Conference, Dr Waheed Olagunju (left); First Vice President, CIoD, Mrs Amina Oyagbola; representative of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Emmabong Equere; President/Chairman, CIoD, Adetunji Oyebanji; Second Vice President of the CIoD, Lamis Dikko, and Director-General/CEO of the CIoD, Dr Taiwo Nolas-Alausa, during the CIoD 2026 yearly directors conference in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: SUNDAY AKINLOLU

Google supports child online safety in Nigeria with $600,000

Fund to provide hands-on training for 18,000 parents, teachers, youths

By Adeyemi Adepetun

GOOGLE has announced two child online safety initiatives in Nigeria, pairing the country's first nationwide research on how young people use the Internet with hands-on training for the parents and teachers closest to them.

The commitments come as recent public consultations, led by the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy and the Nigeria Data Protection Commission, found that 93.5 per cent of Nigerians are concerned about online harms facing minors.

Google.org, Google's philanthropy, is providing $550,000 in funding and $50,000 in Google Ad Grants to the Tech-Societal Development Foundation. With this $600,000 in support, TechSocietal will conduct Nigeria's first baseline study of youth digital risks, surveying 2,000 adolescents across all six geopolitical zones, deliver its Safety First curriculum to 5,000 teachers and school administrators, and train 200 community champions to reach up to 10,000 parents and caregivers.

Google is also bringing Meet LEO, short for Learn and Explore Online, to Nigeria in the programme's first pilot in sub-Saharan Africa.

Delivered by Tech Advisory across four states, it will train 500 educators and youth leaders to set digital ground rules with tools such as Google Family Link, SafeSearch and YouTube Supervised Experiences, and equip them to pass that training on to 2,500 more students and community members.

The announcement, made yesterday, comes as more than 22 million Africans turn 18 every year, many of them on phones shared by several family members, and as governments around the world, including Nigeria's, weigh how to protect children online without cutting them off from what they learn there.

ICAN urges accountants to uphold integrity amid economic reforms

By Isaac Chibuife

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) has urged accountants to resist pressure to compromise public interest, warning that institutional credibility amid economic reforms depends on their integrity, independence and professional judgement.

The President and Chairman of the Council, Queensley Seghosime, gave the warning in a message to members on Tuesday to mark the 2026 International Accounting Day, themed "Beyond Numbers: The Conscience Behind the Nation's Confidence."

She said investors, taxpayers and development partners rely on accurate financial information when committing capital, paying taxes or releasing funds. Confidence in such transactions, she added, rests on accountants' ability to ensure that figures are true and fair.

Seghosime urged members to speak truth to power and maintain ethical standards across the public and private sectors, saying their responsibility extended beyond preparing financial statements to protecting transparency and public accountability.

Speaking also, the Institute's Vice President, Etofolam Osuji, urged accountants to scrutinise public sector decisions and the management of national resources, saying they had a duty to ensure public officials and institutions were answerable to Nigerians.

Meanwhile, the President revealed that the Institute would release its accountability index before the end of 2026, after completing verification to protect the credibility and accuracy of the assessment.

She said the Institute was investing in members' capacity to adapt to automation, data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI), but stressed that technology could not replace professional judgement or ethical responsibility.

She disclosed that the Institute planned to establish a business school in February 2027 to strengthen members' AI skills. It is also developing computer-based examinations and expects to confirm the software before the end of the first quarter of 2027.

Seghosime said ICAN's more than 72,000 members included professionals in key government positions, including the Minister of Finance and the chairman of the Nigeria Revenue Service.

SEC reviews draft online forex trade rules as AFTE opens in Lagos

Regulator, organisers, brokers prioritise safety, credibility

By Anthony Nwachukwu

NIGERIA's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has disclosed that its draft rules on online forex and CFD trading are being reviewed following stakeholder submissions, as the second Africa Forex Trading Expo (AFTE) opened in Lagos yesterday.

Following the theme, "Africa's Digital Finance Revolution: Trading, Technology and Opportunity," the Director General of SEC, Dr Emomotimi Agama, said in his keynote address that Section 3(3)(o) of the Investments and Securities Act, 2025, empowers it to register and regulate online forex trading activities, platforms and intermediaries.

According to Agama, represented by the SEC Director of Derivatives, Commodities and Risks Management, Daiyabu Kurfi, the commission released the draft rules for public comment, and different layers within the SEC are now reviewing the responses received.

According to the SEC, the proposed framework sets out which entities must register, what they may do and what they owe customers, just as it also addresses cross-border arrangements and offshore operators whose activities target Nigerian residents, subject to applicable law.

The commission said its approach rests on five priorities: a clear framework for market participation; fitness, competence and financial soundness; transparency and fair treatment of clients; protection of client funds and effective complaint handling; and effective supervision and enforcement.

Urging investors to treat claims of guaranteed profits or high returns with little or no risk with considerable caution, to verify any platform's regulatory status through the SEC's official channels, and to be wary of unsolicited offers, it stressed that registration "is not a substitute for ongoing supervision."

SEC also set out five calls to action for operators, including building compliance into business models from the outset and putting investor interests at the centre of product design and distribution.

Meanwhile, the Director of Azelia Expo Ltd, Zack Kiratu, said the industry's growth must come with responsibility, listing financial literacy, unrealistic expectations, inadequate risk management, questionable marketing practices and consumer protection as issues to be confronted.

He identified innovation, trust and opportunity as the three elements that must work together to shape Africa's digital financial markets, and urged the continent to move from being a consumer of financial products to an active participant in designing them.

Also, the presenting sponsor, FundingPips, said its mission was to close the gap between trading talent and access to capital, citing over $330 million in payouts, more than three million traders and a presence in over 195 countries.

Obidient ex-coordinator, Yunusa, dumps Obi for SDP

Adebayo warns APC against intolerance, dictatorship

From Adamu Abuh and John Akubo, Abuja

FORMER national coordinator of the *Obidient* Movement, Dr Tanko Yunusa, has resigned as Peter Obi's Political Adviser and taken up a new role as National Coordinator of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) for the 2027 presidential campaign.

Meanwhile, SDP presidential candidate, Adewole Adebayo, warned against alleged dictatorial tendencies and growing political intolerance under the All Progressives Congress (APC), cautioning that attempts to restrict opposition activities could undermine Nigeria's democracy.

Yunusa announced his resignation at the unveiling of the SDP's National Campaign Council, saying he submitted a letter to that effect on October 30 after accepting the campaign appointment.

He said he had informed Obi and the leadership of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC).

Oborevwori banks on grassroots support in re-election bid

Otuaro hails Warri South-West for endorsing continuity

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

DELTA State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwori, said the strength of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) lies in its grassroots support and growing acceptance among the people, insisting that the party does not need to buy votes to win the 2027 elections.

Speaking yesterday at the APC council-by-council rally at Akwukwu-Igbo, the headquarters of Oshimili North Local Council Area, he expressed confidence that the area would sustain its strong electoral support for the party in the 2027 general elections.

Urging party supporters to translate their enthusiasm into massive votes, the governor recalled that Oshimili North recorded the highest number of votes in Delta State in the last election. Therefore, he expressed optimism that the council would consolidate its position in 2027.

Oborevwori said the rally was an opportunity to celebrate his administration's achievements and appreciate the people's support, assuring of more development projects.

TheMetroSection

Police nab suspect for allegedly stealing 222 mobile phones, laptop in Kano

From **Murtala Adewale**

OPERATIVES of the Kano State Police Command have arrested a 27-year-old man, Abba Abubakar, for allegedly breaking into four shops at City Centre Plaza, Farm Centre GSM Market, and stealing mobile phones and other electronic items.

Police recovered 222 mobile phones, a laptop, a tablet and other items allegedly stolen from the shops.

The Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, disclosed this in a statement issued yesterday.

According to the statement, the Chief Security Officer of the plaza, Mohd Rabo, reported the burglary at the Farm Centre Police Division on November 7, 2026, after discovering that four shops had been broken into at about 4:00 a.m.

Following the report, the Divisional Police Officer mobilised detectives to the scene to investigate the incident in collaboration with market security personnel.

The statement said the suspect was sighted loitering inside the plaza with an iron saw and a screwdriver. He was subsequently arrested after allegedly failing to give a satisfactory explanation for his presence.

The police said the suspect confessed during interrogation to breaking into the shops.

The recovered items include 95 keypad phones, 127 Android phones, a Lenovo laptop, a Samsung tablet, a sound system, an inverter, 17 used Android screens, 29 power banks, 15 wireless earpods, 130 assorted phone accessories and N350,000 in cash.

The Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Adamu Bakori, said the suspect would be charged to court after the completion of the investigation.



Recovered items

Rescuers save man trapped while evacuating soakaway in Oyo

From **Rotimi Agboluaje**, Ibadan

FIREFIGHTERS from the Oyo State Fire Services Agency have rescued a 45-year-old man who was trapped in a soakaway pit while evacuating accumulated faecal matter at NTC Road, Oke-Ado, Ibadan.

The agency said the incident occurred while the victim was carrying out the evacuation exercise.

In a statement, it said a distress call was received at exactly 8:12 a.m. through a telephone call and the Divisional Police Officer, Daniel, prompting the agency to dispatch a rescue team to the scene.

The firefighters, led by ACFS Oyeniyi, swiftly commenced the operation on arrival and deployed appropriate rescue techniques, including safety knots, to recover the trapped man.

The victim was subsequently handed over to a team of policemen from the Iyaganku Divisional Police Headquarters, led by SP Francis Nwamini.

The agency said its fire appliance returned safely to the station at 11:08 a.m. after the operation.

Ogun communities demand access to detained resident, seek police explanation

By **Seye Olumide**

RESIDENTS of Iweke, Ilobi-Omuwa, Koto-Obo and Idode communities in Yewa South Local Council of Ogun State have called on the police to grant a detained resident, Seye Olatunji, immediate access to his lawyer and family, while demanding clarification on the circumstances surrounding his arrest.

The communities, in a statement signed by Idowu Olayanju, said Olatunji was arrested during an early-morning operation on November 10, 2026, by men identified by residents as police officers and taken to the police headquarters at Eleweran, Abeokuta.

They expressed concern over the difficulties allegedly encountered by his lawyer and relatives in gaining access to him following his arrest.

According to the statement, Olatunji's lawyer, Olusola Adenuga, said he was informed that his client would be taken to court but was not given details of the court or the proposed appearance.

The communities urged the Ogun State Police Command to clarify the allegations against Olatunji, confirm his welfare and disclose the police unit handling the investigation.

They also called on the Inspector-General of Police, the Ogun State Governor, the state Attorney-General, the Police Service Commission and the National Human Rights Commission to intervene to ensure that due process was followed.

The demands come against the background of a protracted land dispute involving the affected farming communities. The residents alleged that the disagreement had generated insecurity and recurring concerns over access to farmland.

They said they had previously sought intervention through petitions to relevant authorities and cited a restraining order reportedly issued by the Customary Court, Ilaro, on March 27, 2026, as part of efforts to resolve the dispute.

The communities further referred to correspondence dated October 15, 2026.

The Guardian Editorial Board Chair, former OAU VC, Omole dies at 84

By **Iyabo Lawal** and **Gbenga Salau**

He prepared to be at the editorial meeting of *The Guardian* –Son

FORMER Vice-Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, and Chairman of the Editorial Board of *The Guardian* Newspapers, Prof Adebowale Omole, has died at 84.

Omole was a distinguished academic and university administrator whose career spanned several decades. He died in the early hours of yesterday, according to family sources.

For *Great Ife*, his name evokes pride, controversy, brilliance and resilience in equal measure. His was a life deeply woven into the fabric of the institution he led from November 30, 1991 to November 30, 1999.

Born to Pa Emmanuel Adedeji Omole and Mama Beatrice Aarinola Omole, young Adebowale Omole attended Ilesa Grammar School from 1956 to 1962. After secondary school, he worked as a civil servant at the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ibadan, doing menial jobs to survive, including working as a disc jockey and playing guitar with a live band in Mokola, and modelling for corporate organisations to pay his tuition, buy books and feed himself.

That hustle took him to OAU, the same institution that would later define his life. He studied Agriculture, left for Canada for his PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, between 1971 and 1973, returned, and rose rapidly.

He became Professor in 1980 at age 38, and in 1983, made history as the first alumnus Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. His inaugural lecture in January 1983, titled 'Waste recycling in the food chain - Turning thrash to cash', was prophetic. Decades before waste-to-wealth became government policy, he argued that Nigeria's agricultural waste could drive industrialisation.

When he was appointed Vice-Chancellor in 1991, it was not an easy time to lead. Nigeria was under military rule. Universities were underfunded, under surveillance and restless. Ife, known as the bastion of radical student unionism and pro-democracy activism, was at the centre of the storm.

Omole applied himself to keeping the university running. Classes held when other universities were shut, infrastructure was maintained with little money, and when the federal government set up a Visitation Panel to probe the finances of his eight-year administration, the panel ordered audits three times using different audit firms; he was cleared.

By June 1999, at a Council meeting, he announced his plan to retire voluntarily at the end of his tenure. He forwarded a letter to that effect in September 1999 to Council Chairman, Justice Anthony Aniagolu, who accepted it.

But his tenure will forever be remembered for the events of 1999. For most of his eight years, Omole battled the students' union. He banned the union several times. In 1995, he expelled its President, Anthony Fasayo, and many other activists.

The union, which was very active in the national struggle to end military rule, saw him as an extension of the military administration. He saw the union as an impediment to orderly administration. That mutual distrust created a dangerous vacuum. Cult groups thrived.

On March 7, 1999, students apprehended members of a cult group with an AK-47 rifle and 58 rounds of ammunition and handed them over to the university security, and then to the police. The suspects were charged before a Magistrate Court in Ile-Ife, which discharged and acquitted them. Students were outraged.

Four months later, tragedy struck. In the early hours of July 10, 1999, armed cultists invaded Awolowo Hall of residence and murdered five people. Among them were the Secretary-General of the students' union, George Iwilade, fondly called Afrika, Eviano Ekelemu, Yemi Ajiteru, Babatunde Oke and others. It was the first time student leaders would be murdered in their hall in such numbers in Nigeria.

Omole was out of the country when it happened. The then Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics), Prof A.E. Akingbohungbe, was in charge. When Omole returned, he was summoned to Abuja to give an account and was subsequently suspended on July 14, while Prof Roger Makanjuola was appointed Acting Vice-Chancellor.

In interviews years later, his son, Dr Damola Omole, said his father never regretted serving as vice-chancellor, despite the turmoil, and remained calm despite allegations that he sponsored the attack, allegations he denied, and which were never proved.

After Ife, Omole became Chairman of the Editorial Board of *The Guardian* for many years, where late President Muhammadu Buhari would later acknowledge his worthy perspective on national discourse.

He served as Chairman of the Council of two universities, served on the Board of Trustees of Chrisland University, and was appointed Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) in 2013.

He devoted his later years to culture and education. He was part of the team that started the Yoruba Academy, a multidisciplinary institution that brings together scholars to preserve Yoruba heritage.

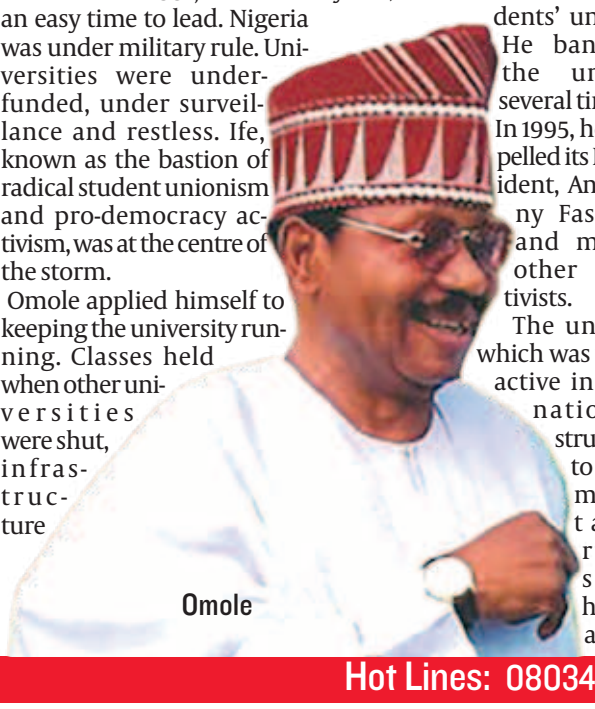
He inaugurated the Wale Omole Foundation for Virtues and Ethics in Yoruba culture to revive the Omoluabi ethos, awarded scholarships, supported teacher training and improved educational infrastructure for disadvantaged youth and women.

He was also unapologetic about his belief in mother-tongue education. In his last public education interventions, he told audiences that the continued delivery of a British theoretical curriculum in English was why Nigeria produces job seekers instead of innovators, and insisted that children must be taught in Yoruba at the early stage, as he did with his own children who were forbidden from speaking English at home.

Commenting on his death, his first son, Damola, said his dad had planned to attend the weekly meeting of *The Guardian's* editorial board yesterday (Wednesday), so he went to bed as normal on Tuesday; he was in high spirits and did not give any indication that anything was making him uncomfortable. When the doctor got here, he said it probably happened overnight."

Omole was a man not only committed to excellence, but also to impeccable integrity, which reflected in his service as vice-chancellor and Chairman, Editorial Board.

In a book on federalism and development compiled in *The Guardian* editorial series on restructuring, the preface to the book written by Omole gave insight into the mind of the man.



Omole

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

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TheMetroSection

CNG-powered bus explodes as LASTMA rescues 17 on Lagos–Ibadan Expressway

By **Victor Gbonegun** and **Eniola Daniel**

A COMPRESSED Natural Gas (CNG)-powered commercial Hiace bus with number plate EKY 798 YK yesterday burst into flames following a gas explosion at Berger Bus Stop, along the Lagos-bound section of the Lagos–Ibadan Expressway.

The incident involved 18 occupants travelling from the Mowe-Ibafo axis towards Lagos when the fully loaded vehicle caught fire, causing panic among passengers and other motorists plying the busy expressway.

One male passenger, who was seated at the rear of the vehicle, sustained severe burns during the incident. He was immediately evacuated by personnel of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) and taken to the Lagos State Trauma and Emergency Centre, Toll Gate, for urgent medical attention.

Officers of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service also deployed firefighting equipment to extinguish the fire and prevent it from spreading.

LASTMA personnel, who promptly mobilised to the scene, rescued the remaining 17 occupants, including the driver, without injuries.



Scene of the incident

Personnel of the Ojodu Police Division also supported the operation by securing the scene throughout the rescue and firefighting efforts.

The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr Olalekan Bakare-Oki, commended the prompt response and inter-agency collaboration demonstrated during the incident. He particularly praised the LASTMA personnel for their courage, operational dexterity and timely intervention.

He said the incident underscored the importance of emergency response, inter-agency cooperation and the deployment of trained personnel in mitigating the consequences of road accidents.

Bakare-Oki advised commercial transport operators, particularly those using CNG-powered vehicles, to prioritise regular inspections, compliance with safety standards and proper maintenance of their vehicles' gas storage and delivery systems.

He reiterated LASTMA's commitment to safeguarding lives, ensuring seamless traffic movement and strengthening collaboration with relevant emergency response agencies across Lagos State.

He also appreciated the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service and the Nigeria Police Force for their support during the rescue operation.

Fire razes eight rooms, 20 shops in Kwara, guts room in Ibadan building

From **Mansur Aramide** (Ilorin) and **Rotimi Agboluaje** (Ibadan)

A FIRE that broke out in the early hours of yesterday razed eight rooms and 20 shops at Alangua Compound, opposite Kulende Market, Sango area of Ilorin, Kwara State.

The Guardian learnt that the affected building had already been engulfed in flames before firefighters were alerted.

The Public Relations Officer of the Kwara State Fire Service, Hassan Hakeem Adekunle, who confirmed the incident, said: "Before the arrival of our firefighters, due to the late notification, the rooms and shops had been consumed."

He said the firefighters received the distress call at 5:16 a.m. and arrived at the scene at 5:32 a.m.

"Upon arrival, our firefighters immediately commenced intensive firefighting operations and successfully brought the fire under control at 6:10 a.m.

"The fire affected eight rooms, while other adjoining buildings were successfully protected from the spread of the flames through the swift and coordinated intervention of our personnel," he said.

Call for Direct Tender: Procurement of Farm Machineries

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Peace, Transhumance and Development of the Pastoral Economy around Lake Chad (PETRADEP), implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and co-funded by the European Union, would like to procure:

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f. Evidence of tax payment (TCC) for 2023, 2024 and 2025 or more recent, with a combined average turnover of NGN 25,000,000 (1 page).
g. A bank introductory letter not older than 2 months.
h. Evidence of similar supplies: minimum of two purchase orders.

Items (a – f) should be on ONE-PAGE paper document (PDF). Items (g) and (h) should be one-page PDF documents each.

For consideration, all interested bidders should submit the aforementioned documents in **PDF format**, addressed as follows:

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Email: **NG_quotation@giz.de**

Your complete documents must not exceed 2 pages. **Submissions received later than Wednesday, 25th November 2026 will not be accepted or considered. Do not send price offers.** Please note that complete tender documents will be sent only to qualified firms that comply with these instructions.

For clarifications on this advertisement, kindly send an email to **procurementunitnigeria@giz.de**. Bidders should not send submissions to this email, as they will not be considered.

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Police arrest suspect, recover locally made pistol in Borno

From **Musa Njadvara**, Maiduguri

OPERATIVES of the Nigeria Police Force, Borno State Command, have arrested a suspected criminal, Musa Alhaji Karimu, and recovered a locally made pistol from him.

The command said that on November 9, 2026, at about 2:00 p.m., a team of police operatives attached to Balbaya Police Outstation in Bayo Local Council, while conducting a routine foot patrol at Balbaya Market, arrested Karimu, a resident of Gulani, on suspicion of unlawful possession of a firearm.

In a statement, the State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Nahum Kenneth Daso, said a search conducted on the suspect led to the recovery of a locally made pistol, which he could not give a satisfactory account of possessing.

He said the suspect was in police custody, while preliminary investigations were ongoing to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident and other relevant facts.

The Commissioner of Police, Borno State Command, Naziru Abdulmajid, assured residents of the command's continued commitment to proactive policing and the protection of lives and property.

Police dismiss siege reports, clarify deployment at Awujale palace

From **Segun Ayinde**, Abeokuta

THE Ogun State Police Command yesterday dismissed reports alleging that the Awujale Palace in Ijebu-Ode was under siege by thugs or miscreants, clarifying that its personnel were deployed there strictly to maintain law and order.

The command said the deployment was a preventive security measure aimed at safeguarding lives and property and forestalling any breakdown of public peace.

It added that an Assistant Commissioner of Police had been deployed to oversee the security arrangement and ensure effective supervision and operational coordination.

The command also clarified that Chief Adebisi Adaran, popularly known as Gbenden, was invited following a written petition containing allegations against him.

It said he honoured the invitation, was questioned in connection with the allegations and was subsequently released on self-recognisance, while investigations continued.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the Ogun State Command, Eleweran, Abeokuta, DSP Oluseyi Babaseyi, said the invitation was part of a legitimate investigative process and should not be misconstrued as an indication of guilt.

Rotary Club of Greenfield: Oyesile unveils N64.5m community projects at investiture

By **Gbenga Salau**

ROTARIAN Kayode Oyesile has assumed leadership of the Rotary Club of Greenfield for the 2026/2027 Rotary year, unveiling a N64.5 million humanitarian programme focused on education, healthcare, youth empowerment and community development.

Oyesile announced the programme at the club's fifth presidential investiture and induction of its new executive committee, held on Sunday, November 8, 2026, at Envogue Event Centre, Ago Palace, Lagos. He succeeds Rotarian Bonny Ogirri.

The programme comprises 11 intervention areas, with the establishment of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) centres in Amuwo-Odofin and Okota as its flagship project. Budgeted at N23 million, the initiative is expected to provide digital skills training and technology opportunities for more than 2,000 young people.

Healthcare interventions include N16.5 million for disease prevention and control, including free fibroid surgeries for indigent women.

The club has also earmarked N6.5 million to furnish newly constructed classrooms and staff rooms at Police Children School, Okota, alongside N4 million for a borehole, toilets and septic tank to improve sanitation for more than 500 pupils and teachers.

Other projects include N3.5 million for maternal and child healthcare support at Apena Maternal and Child Health Centre, N3.5 million for women's economic empowerment, N2.5 million for vocational training and another N2.5 million to sponsor 10 youths to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.

The programme also provides N1.5 million for SO-SAID Charity Home, while environmental sustainability and peacebuilding initiatives will receive N500,000 each.

Family seeks Ogun govt's review of DPP advice three years after assault

By **Eniola Daniel**

- Accuses Attorney-General of shielding attackers
- I'll never allow justice system to be used to settle scores, says AG

AFTER three years of seeking justice over an alleged assault, the Odugboro family in Sagamu, Ogun State, yesterday appealed to the state government to intervene and ensure that their case against some young men was given a fair hearing.

The family called on the government to review the legal advice issued by the state's Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), insisting that all offences established by the Ogun State Police Command's investigations should be reflected in the charges against the suspects.

The appeal was made in Gbagada, Lagos, where the family expressed concern that the nine-count charges reportedly recommended by the police had been reduced to a charge of assault in the DPP's legal advice dated February 26, 2026.

The incident reportedly occurred on August 14, 2024, when members of the family, including their mother and an elderly family head, attended a meeting at the Odugboro family land in Sagamu.

Recounting the incident, a family representative, Alhaji Azeez Ashiru, said they were allegedly attacked by a group of young men armed with dangerous weapons.

According to him, several family members were assaulted, while their vehicles and personal belongings were vandalised or carted away.

He said the items allegedly stolen included phones, money, jewellery, food, drinks, chairs and other valuables.

Ashiru also alleged that he was forcibly pulled out of his vehicle, molested and further humiliated by the suspects, who made him sit on the floor.

He said he contacted the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) and the then Commissioner of Police in Ogun State, Mustafa Alamutu.

According to him, a police patrol team led by an officer identified as ASP Raji later arrived but was initially overwhelmed by the situation before reinforcements were deployed.

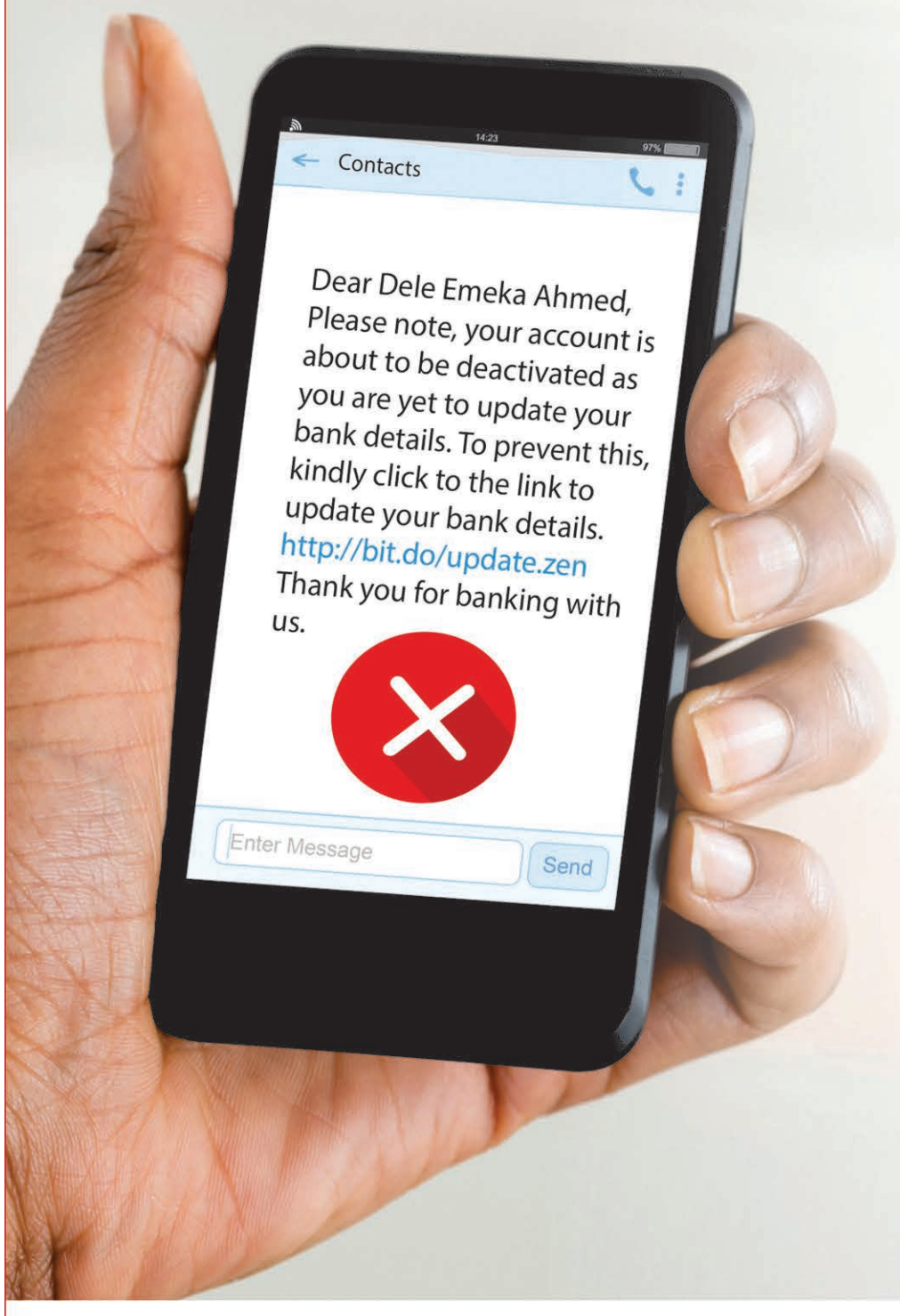


Members of the Odugboro family.

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Time: 10AM

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Editorial

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Funding research for Nigeria's industrial transformation

THE Senate's decision to advance the National Research and Innovation Development Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2026, for second reading offers an opportunity to confront one of the country's most persistent development challenges: the inability to translate knowledge generated in universities and research institutions into practical solutions, commercial products and industrial growth. That decision is therefore laudable.

Nigeria's ambition to become a productive, technologically advanced, and economically independent nation will remain elusive unless it treats research and innovation as essential investments rather than peripheral activities.

The bill, sponsored by Senate Leader Opeyemi Bamidele, proposes a yearly allocation of 20 per cent of the Nigerian Content Development Fund to support inventions, indigenous technologies and commercially viable research. It also seeks to establish a National Council on Research and Innovation to coordinate research priorities and oversee the proposed fund. These provisions recognise that Nigeria's research deficit is not simply a question of the quality of its scientists or the capacity of its institutions. It is also a question of financing, coordination, infrastructure and the absence of a functional relationship between research and the productive economy.

For decades, Nigerian universities, polytechnics and research institutes have operated under difficult conditions. Laboratories are poorly equipped, research grants are inadequate, postgraduate researchers struggle to finance their work, and promising discoveries frequently fail to progress beyond academic publications. The result is a system in which valuable intellectual capacity exists but is insufficiently harnessed for national development. This must change if Nigeria is serious about industrialisation.

The proposed fund could provide the financial foundation for that transformation. However, the Senate must ensure that the bill establishes a sustainable and accountable funding mechanism rather than creating another institution that consumes public resources without delivering measurable benefits.

The proposed 20 per cent allocation deserves scrutiny, particularly regarding the existing obligations of the Nigerian Content Development Fund, the legal framework governing its resources and the implications for the oil and gas sector. The objective should be to secure predictable funding without undermining other legitimate responsibilities of the fund.

More importantly, the legislation must be clear on how resources will be mobilised, allocated and monitored. Nigeria has established several intervention funds and development institutions whose effectiveness has been constrained by weak governance, political interference, poor accountability and inadequate monitoring. The proposed research fund should not become another bureaucratic structure that distributes resources without regard to scientific merit, commercial potential, or national priorities.

The National Council on Research and Innovation must therefore be constituted to guarantee professional independence, transparency and competence. Its membership should include researchers, representatives of relevant industries, technology entrepreneurs, public-sector institutions and other stakeholders with demonstrable expertise. Research funding decisions must be based on clearly defined criteria, peer review and competitive assessment. Political considerations and institutional favouritism should have no place in the process.

The fund should also support research at different stages of development. Basic research is essential to scientific advancement, even when immediate commercial returns are not apparent. Applied research, technology development, prototyping and commercialisation require different forms of financing and support. A funding framework that focuses exclusively on immediate profitability could undermine discoveries whose long-term value may be considerable. The legislation must strike a balance between scientific exploration and the practical application of knowledge.

Nigeria's universities must equally be encouraged to develop stronger relationships with industry. Research institutions cannot operate as isolated centres of academic activity while manufacturers, farmers, construction firms, healthcare providers and technology companies depend on imported solutions. The proposed fund should provide incentives for collaborative research that addresses identifiable industrial and societal challenges. Companies that invest in research partnerships with universities should be encouraged through appropriate policy incentives, while institutions must be held accountable for the quality and relevance of their work.

Former President Goodluck Jonathan's recent call for African countries to invest in research-intensive universities, science and technology reinforces this imperative. His warning that Africa cannot remain a passive consumer of foreign technologies is particularly relevant to Nigeria. Economic sovereignty is not achieved merely by increasing domestic production of imported goods. It requires the capacity to develop the technologies, materials, processes and knowledge upon which productive industries depend.

The experiences of countries such as South Korea, Singapore and India demonstrate the importance of sustained investment in scientific infrastructure, technical education and industrial research. Nigeria should draw appropriate lessons from these experiences, recognising that technological advancement requires more than the establishment of innovation centres or the announcement of funding schemes. It demands consistent public investment, competent institutions, strong intellectual property protection and an environment in which innovators can develop and commercialise their ideas.

The potential applications of the proposed fund are extensive. In agriculture, research could improve crop yields, develop climate-resilient varieties, reduce post-harvest losses and strengthen food preservation. In healthcare, local research could support the development of diagnostics, medicines and interventions suited to Nigeria's disease burden. In the construction sector, indigenous technologies and locally developed building materials could reduce dependence on imports, lower construction costs and improve building safety. In manufacturing, research into materials, industrial processes and energy efficiency could strengthen local production and competitiveness.

The mental health sector illustrates the consequences of neglecting research. Experts at the International Yaba Research Conference reportedly disclosed that Nigeria allocates only 0.1 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product to mental health research, while Africa contributes less than two per cent of global mental health research despite carrying a substantial share of the burden. Such figures underscore the need for research funding that reflects local realities. Nigeria cannot depend indefinitely on interventions developed elsewhere without investing in evidence that addresses its own population, social conditions and healthcare challenges.

Indigenous knowledge also deserves a place in the proposed funding framework. At the recent Postgraduate College Week of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, the Founder of the Tunji Olowolafe Foundation, Dr Tunji Olowolafe, called for the scientific validation of indigenous knowledge in medicine, agriculture, construction and food preservation. His reference to the work of Chinese scientist Tu Youyou, whose investigation of traditional medicine contributed to the development of artemisinin for malaria treatment, illustrates the potential value of combining traditional knowledge with rigorous scientific investigation.

Above all, research funding must be accompanied by an effective system for measuring outcomes. The proposed council should publish periodic reports detailing the amount disbursed, institutions supported, research projects completed, patents registered, products commercialised, jobs created and industrial challenges addressed. Public access to these records would strengthen accountability and enable Nigerians to assess whether the fund is delivering value.

The real test of this legislation will not be the establishment of another council or the amount allocated to a new fund. It will be whether Nigerian researchers can develop solutions that improve lives, strengthen industries and reduce the country's dependence on foreign technologies. The Senate must ensure that this opportunity does not become another unfulfilled promise. Nigeria needs research that works, innovation that produces value and a funding system that can turn scientific knowledge into national prosperity.



LETTER

Beautiful quotes of a lifetime

Just put it before God!

SIR: "Life is not a bed of roses" is a timeless British proverb and witty saying. This statement is not stale, hackneyed or stereotype regarding the truth surrounding the whole world presently.

If white people can reason this way and utter such a bitter truth, why are we still chasing shadows and bubbles that would burst at the end of the day? Life is not all bliss, happiness and ecstasy even in Europe and America. The grasses are not greener on the other side of the fence.

The world is filled with various religions as I type this: Christianity, Islam, Bhudism, Zoroastrianism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Hinduism, African Traditional Religion etcetera...

All these beliefs are tilted towards one goal - fervent prayers for divine mercy and breakthroughs. The Almighty God can be reached anywhere in this globe. We are all under His banners or canopy! His divine breeze is felt everywhere!

Whatever you do, just focus on the passionate idea that God is with you. Put everything before Him - all your worries. But do not go to sleep thinking all is well and your prayers would be answered without hard work, resilience and tenacity. Things don't get done until you think out of the box and focus all your energies on breaking the yoke of survival.

"Heavens helps those who help themselves!" is a great truth in our lives. Believe in the Stoic's philosophy of: "Endurance, Hope, Perseverance, Patience and Resilience." Have these important points in your mind in all you do. You will surely get there and attain your heart's desires. It may take some time.

Just be patient and be rest assured that God will do it. Do not indulge in any criminal acts, trickery, chicanery, cheating, subterfuge and stealing to eke out a living. You really don't need these bad elements to survive and achieve financial success.

I knew of a young man, a close friend, who was so poor, penniless and broke some decades ago but who is now successful, happy and very rich presently without involving himself in any shady or criminal deals.

"*Ile aanu Oluwa kii su.*" is a powerful Yoruba quote, meaning: "The night will never come until God answers our prayers and shows His mercy."

Give it a thought.

Segun Durowaiye can be reached via 08055356855.

Opinion

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The comeuppance of Donald Trump

By **Adekeye Adebajo**

THE Democratic tsunami that recently swept the party to victory in the United States (U.S.) Congressional elections – from the former slave plantations of the South to the grassland prairies - winning both the Senate and the House of Representatives, represents a stunning repudiation of President Donald Trump's policies over the last two years. The Democrats are projected to win at least 54 Senate seats to the Republicans' 44 (with two undecided); and 255 House seats to the Republicans' 166 (with 14 undecided), as Trump's national net approval has plummeted to -27.

Master of chaos and cruelty

Trump is a delusional president who has acted like a naked Emperor, constantly musing about running for an unconstitutional third term. He has fiddled while Washington burned, touting grand projects like an Arch of Triumph, a White House ballroom, and renovating the reflecting pool at the Lincoln Memorial, even as millions suffered a cost-of-living crisis, and his majority in both houses of Congress crumbled around him.

Trump has also been a master of chaos and cruelty. He has enacted the largest ever cuts to the social safety net for the poorest Americans, with food aid cut by four million people in the last year, and 10 million people expected to lose their healthcare by 2034. Spending cuts are estimated at $1 trillion. In stark contrast, the U.S. president successfully pushed tax cuts of $1 trillion for the richest 1% of Americans.

Furthermore, 114 of America's largest corporations paid no taxes in 2025 including Elon Musk's Tesla which enjoyed tax-free profits of $5.7 billion. Trump has further avoided curbs on AI juggernauts like OpenAI and Anthropic despite the potentially existential threat such lack of regulation poses to humanity. The climate denialist U.S. president has also done great damage to America's standing in the multilateral system through illegal military interventions in Iran and Venezuela, and massive aid cuts. This vote was thus a total rejection of Trump's thoughtless vandalism.

The crumbling coalition

This electoral defeat was also, in many ways, an overwhelming rejection of the hateful, white supremacist Trump-led Make America Great Again's (MAGA) efforts to make America white again. The president and his obsequiously spineless acolytes, Vice President, JD Vance, and Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, have consistently sought to deny five centuries of genocidal Western "civilisation," while divisively seeking to portray America as a Christian white-heritage country. These polls decisively proved that MAGA racists cannot turn back the clock of history in the world's most culturally diverse melting pot.

Instead, these elections saw the U.S. elect its first Muslim Senator in Michigan, Egyptian-American, Abdul El-Sayed (only four Muslims have ever been elected to the House); Texas's first Latino Senator (James Talarico) and first Hispanic governor (Gina Hinjosa), and California's first Latino governor (Xavier Becerra). Also elected were the first Native American Senator (Peggy Flanagan) in Minnesota; the first female Native American governor (Deb Haaland) in New Mexico; Georgia's first black female governor (Keisha Lance Bottoms); and the first openly gay Senator (Chris Pappas) in New Hampshire. Hakeem Jeffries is also likely to become the first black Speaker of the House. Trump had mocked El-Sayed as a jihadist member of the Muslim Brotherhood, and derided Talarico as "Talafreako," while JD Vance condemned El-Sayed as "very, very evil," suggesting that America's pervasive Islamophobia will not disappear overnight. This spiteful bile, however, backfired as spectacularly as the Trump-instigated efforts to gerrymander electoral districts in Texas, North Carolina, and Ohio in favour of Republicans, while seeking to suppress the black vote across the South.

With Democrats blamed for high grocery prices and high inflation in 2020, many Americans had incredibly gambled on the now 80-year old Trump, a foul-mouthed former real estate mogul with a chequered business record. In a disastrous first presidential term (2017-2020), Trump was impeached twice, before an inglorious *fin de régime* saw him rousing a rabble to storm the U.S. Capitol in a vain bid to reverse his election loss to Joe Biden.

Just two years after Trump's 2024 presidential victory, many supporters have developed buyer's remorse, with 75% of Americans feeling that their country was going in the wrong direction. Republican losses were thus widespread even in areas that Trump had won easily two years ago. Democrats scored unprecedented victories in traditional Republican strongholds like Texas, Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maine, and Iowa.

Democrats also won white working class voters in Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Ohio. The 46% of Hispanics who had backed Trump in 2024, plummeted to 30%, as his ICE storm troopers arrested, brutalised, and deported their relatives and friends. Trump's 24% black male vote similarly collapsed to 12%. A majority of the 45% of adult voters identifying as Independents supported the Democrats, as did 70% of young people. Democrats also won a majority of gubernatorial races for the first time in two decades. But only 29% of Americans view Democrats positively, so this is more a protest vote than a resounding endorsement of the party.

This election outcome further represents a massive defeat for the heartless, avaricious Trump-supporting Big Tech executives who sought to buy a Republican victory by massively outspending Democrats. Musk spent $400 million supporting Republican candidates, with half of this amount disbursed to Texas, where he relocated his businesses to escape California's taxes. The South African-born trillionaire has received over $1.6 billion in tax incentives and more than $100 million in government grants from the outgoing Republican administration. The popular backlash against the building of electricity-guzzling data centres by tech giants also hurt Republicans. These huge tech campaign contributions were supplemented by Trump's $400 million Super PAC, but all to no avail. People Power still trumped Big Money.

The economy, tariffs, and the war

Economic fragility at home resulting from the reckless tariffs of a directionless Trumponomics, coupled with a deeply unpopular war in Iran, have proved to be the president's undoing. The most expansive tariffs in a century alienated friends and foes alike, without notably returning jobs and manufacturing to America. Instead, these tariffs have harmed low-income families, farmers, and small businesses. Trump insensitively dismissed this affordability crisis as a Democratic "hoax," while quixotically declaring an economic "golden age". This is despite grocery and electricity prices having risen by 2.7% and 5% respectively, amidst a $2 trillion federal deficit.

Trump's illegal war against Iran further drove up gas and diesel prices for American consumers. He seemed naively to have believed that his country's status as the world's largest oil exporter would spare it from higher oil prices. His theatrically incompetent defence secretary, Pete Hegseth, was utterly unprepared for Tehran's closing of the Strait of Hormuz. As a result of this war, domestic petrol prices shot up to $3.46 a gallon, even as 30-year mortgage rates passed 7%.

Twilight of a trickster

It is unlikely that Trumpism will survive without Trump. He is the irreplaceable heart and soul of the MAGA movement. Americans have now unequivocally voted to check his excesses, and Democratic-led Congressional investigations are expected to probe how Trump raked in a $2.2 billion fortune in his first year in office, wielded constitutionally questionable tariffs, and started a ruinous war with Iran. This election has badly exposed the president as the fraudulent trickster he has always been, peddling magical illusions and quack cures. Trump clearly lacks the self-reflection and political astuteness that enabled presidents Bill Clinton (in 1994) and Barack Obama (in 2010) to recover from similarly crushing mid-term defeats. In the end, his tariffs and tax cuts, warmongering and wanton illegalities, have left him a lame duck two years before the end of his monarchical presidency.

Prof. Adebajo is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Pretoria's Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship in South Africa.

Nigeria and Ethiopia: What rail and road comparisons leave out

By **Tanimu Yakubu**

CORRUPTION takes money from public works and leaves people to bear the loss. Nigeria cannot afford it. But a charge this serious must rest on sound evidence. The comparisons between Lagos and Ethiopia do not yet provide it. They mix the cost of a whole railway with the passengers carried on part of it. They treat different contractors as one company. They quote freight charges without the distance to which those charges apply. They then turn these weaknesses into a firm verdict. We should demand the accounts. We should also get the comparison right. Correcting a faulty argument gives no government a certificate of good spending.

What Lagos and Addis Ababa actually bought

Lagos's Blue Line was built by CCECC. Addis Ababa's light rail was built by CREC. They are separate Chinese companies. The claim that the same contractor built both is wrong. [1, 2] LAMATA's reported explanation puts the whole 27-kilometre Blue Line at $1.17 billion, including trains and a maintenance depot. About 13 kilometres, from Marina to Mile 2, are in service. The rest remains under development.

The full project cost and the traffic on the opened section must be identified separately. The agency's explanation also needs published accounts behind it. [3, 4] On those figures, Lagos costs about $43.3 million per route-kilometre. Ethiopia's railway corporation gives a cost of $475 million and a length of about 34 kilometres, or roughly $14 million per kilometre. Shared track on the Addis network needs to be accounted for when measuring its length. Neither ratio adjusts for price dates or scope.

[2, 3] Lagos still looks dearer. That is a reason to examine the difference closely. We need the quantities of elevated and surface track, the foundations, bridges and stations. We need to know what each total includes for land, trains, power, signalling and depots. We need the contract dates, variations, taxes and financing charges. Difficult ground may raise a price. It cannot explain any price put before us. An engineer must show the quantities. An auditor must follow the payments. Any remaining premium must be explained.

The years lost

Fourteen years against three and a half is a grave delivery gap. People paid for it in lost hours, high fares and journeys that wore them down. But calendar years alone cannot tell us how efficiently a contractor worked. Was funding available? Was the land clear? Did work stop? Did the design change? Who made the decisions, and what did they cost?

These questions establish responsibility. They do not excuse delay. Corruption, poor preparation, interrupted funding and weak supervision can all damage a project. We should establish what happened and deal with it.

What the passenger numbers can tell us

There is no sound calculation that turns a cost ratio into 250,000 daily passengers. Nor does a budget of $6 billion, by itself, produce one million daily commuters. Trains need passengers who can reach the stations, afford the fare and get to their destinations. They need enough service at the hours people travel. More tracks and more trains help only when the service fits those needs.

In September 2026, LAMATA reported more than nine million passenger journeys in three years. Daily train trips had risen from 12 to about 94. That shows service growth. It does not settle whether the investment is being used well. Nine million journeys also does not mean nine million different passengers. [5] Publish the monthly figures. Show boardings, distances travelled, occupied seats and standing space, cancellations and subsidy. Show what capacity stands idle and why. Measure the whole commute. A fast ride between two stations can still leave a long walk, an expensive bus connection or a poor journey home. Fares need the same care. A cheap ticket may be supported by subsidy. A higher ticket may reflect costs that another government pays elsewhere. The claim that Lagos fares could be cut by 50–75 per cent needs an operating account to support it.

What Ethiopia teaches

Ethiopia's lower reported construction cost deserves serious study. So do the problems that followed. A World Bank assessment records missed ridership forecasts, inadequate power, shortages of spare parts and debt-service difficulties on the Addis light rail. It describes an earlier period, not a complete account of today's service. Its lesson remains useful: a railway can be built and still struggle to serve its city. [6] Nigeria should learn how Ethiopia built more cheaply. It should learn how to keep the trains running after the builders leave.

A highway and a freight railway

The coastal highway and the Addis–Djibouti railway are similar in length. Their work, their designs and their costs are different. A road's price depends on its lanes, pavement, bridges, drainage, land and ground conditions. A railway's price depends on its tracks, gradients, structures, power, signalling, trains and terminals. There is no rule that an electrified railway must cost more than a concrete road. Even the arithmetic in the criticism needs repair. $11 billion over 750 kilometres gives about $14.7 million per kilometre. $4.5 billion over 756 kilometres gives about $6 million. These differ from the figures quoted.

Recent reports attribute to the Works Minister the position that the coastal highway is being designed and costed in sections, and that its full cost remains undetermined. That does not permit us to call $11 billion a settled final cost. It does require government to publish the engineering plan, the price of each section and the commitments needed to finish the corridor. [7, 8] We can compare road and rail as choices for public spending.

We should ask which combination moves people and goods best, at a cost the country can carry. A coastal road may serve coastal towns, trade and industry. Its case must be made on those benefits. It need not be the main route for northern food traffic to have value. But government must show what it will deliver and why it deserves priority over other needs.

Freight costs need a distance

Djibouti's ports authority reports a reduction in the journey to Addis Ababa from three days by road to about 12 hours by rail. It also describes direct port-terminal connections. Those are valuable gains. They are not the full time needed to clear goods and deliver them to a customer. [9] The quoted N31–N62 per tonne has no useful meaning without a distance and an exchange-rate date.

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

Yakubu, Director-General, Budget Office of the Federation, wrote this as a rejoinder to an untitled message circulated with project comparisons attributed to Meta AI.

Opinion

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When the right idea meets the right moment

By **Akin Monehin**

"In public policy, being right is not enough. Evidence must also arrive in the right frame, at the right moment, for a problem government is ready to solve."

GOVERNMENTS are not short of ideas; universities produce research, think tanks publish recommendations, committees investigate problems, development institutions generate evidence. Yet years later, many of the same problems remain, often surrounded by even more research explaining how they might be solved.

Then, occasionally, something different happens. An issue that has existed for years suddenly enters the national conversation. Policymakers pay attention. Institutions mobilise. Funding appears. Coalitions form. What was peripheral becomes urgent.

Why?

Perhaps the difference is not simply the quality of the evidence. Perhaps it is whether the problem has been framed in a way decision-makers recognise, and whether the evidence arrives when political priorities, public attention and institutional conditions make action possible.

For Nigeria, this matters. When useful evidence fails to influence public choices, the loss is not academic. It can appear as weaker policy, delayed reform, misdirected resources and public problems that remain unresolved despite available knowledge.

The conventional picture of research impact is deceptively tidy. Research is conducted. Findings are published. Policymakers discover them. Better decisions follow.

Reality is messier.

Evidence competes with budgets, electoral cycles, institutional interests, ideology, crises, public opinion and the limited attention of decision-makers. A compelling study can therefore be both correct and irrelevant to the immediate problem government believes it is solving. Another, perhaps no more rigorous, can arrive at precisely the moment society is ready to hear it.

Public-policy scholars describe such moments as policy windows; periods when recognition of a problem, credible solutions and favourable political conditions come together in ways that make change more possible.

A recent coffee conversation with renowned Professor Bukola Salami, Canada Research Chair in Black and Racialised Peoples Health at the University of Calgary, brought this idea into sharper focus for me. Her work has travelled beyond academic publication into public-policy engagement, including evidence before Canada's House of Commons, and the government of Canada. One point from our conversation stayed with me; "researchers seeking policy impact cannot always wait until the intellectual journey is complete before beginning the policy conversation. Understanding emerging priorities and engaging those who may eventually use the evidence are themselves part of creating impact."

That changes the question. Instead of asking only, "How good is the research?" perhaps we must also ask, "What policy outcome are we trying to influence, and how is the problem currently being understood?" The second question matters because problems do not simply announce themselves to governments.

In a policy paper Prof. Salami later shared with me, David Rochefort and Roger Cobb examine how problem definition shapes agenda access and policy choice. Their insight is uncomfortable but important: *Public attention does not follow automatically from the objective seriousness of a condition. How a problem is described — its causes, severity, affected population, urgency and perceived solvability — can influence whether it gains political attention and what responses become thinkable.* Essentially the same evidence can therefore travel differently depending on how the problem is framed.

A youth-employment study framed mainly as an academic labour-market question may struggle for attention. The same evidence connected credibly to productivity, insecurity, industrial competitiveness or fiscal pressure may enter a very different policy conversation; the evidence has not changed but its position within the decision-maker's field of attention has.

I describe this as the Evidence Positioning Gap™: the distance between producing credible evidence and positioning that evidence so that it can be understood, considered and acted upon within the realities of policymaking. That gap becomes especially important when a window opens.

Some windows are difficult to predict. Crises can reorder priorities almost overnight. Public attention can move quickly. New evidence can suddenly change how an old problem is understood. Others are more foreseeable. Prof. Salami made an important distinction, "changes in government can create openings because political leadership often brings changes in ideology, priorities and perceptions of what constitutes an acceptable solution. An idea ignored under one administration may become relevant under another.

"The tragedy of unused knowledge is not that a report sits unread. It is that the answer can already exist while the problem continues."

This is where the policy entrepreneur matters. A policy entrepreneur does more than produce evidence or advocate loudly. They recognise when an issue is moving, understand what decision-makers are trying to solve, translate evidence into usable choices, build legitimacy around the problem and connect knowledge to opportunity while the window remains open…because evidence does not walk into government by itself.

Nigeria's challenge, therefore, is not simply to produce more policy-relevant research. It is to become better at positioning credible evidence inside the moments when national choices are genuinely movable.

That requires a different conception of research impact. Universities should remain places of independent inquiry; not every study should begin with an immediate policy application. But where policy impact is an explicit ambition, publication is not the end of the intellectual journey. The researcher must understand the system into which the evidence is expected to travel.

The pattern extends beyond universities; regulators, professional bodies, civil-society organisations and businesses all generate evidence intended to shape public choices. Their influence depends not only on what they know, but on whether they can connect that knowledge to the problems government is prepared to recognise and the choices it is prepared to make.

In public leadership, timing and framing are not substitutes for evidence, but part of how evidence becomes consequential. I believe that Nigeria possesses more answers than its performance suggests. The more consequential question may be whether our institutions are sufficiently capable of recognising the right evidence, framing the right problem and connecting both to the right moment.

A question worth leaving with

How much useful evidence already exists inside Nigerian universities and research institutions that could influence national policy … but may miss its moment because nobody positioned it for the window when government was ready to act?

Monehin is the best-selling author of Execution Is a Lie and Managing Partner of Praxis Execution Advisory.

Cry, not crime: Why Nigeria must decriminalise attempted suicide

By **Udoka Onyechere**

The words that travelled

THERE is a particular silence that falls over a ward when someone is brought in after trying to end their life. It is not judgement but the silence of people who know that something precious has nearly been lost. I have sat in that silence many times and seen patients unable to stop apologising and families arrive frightened, bewildered and grieving. Never, in any of those rooms, did it occur to me that what the person needed was a prison cell.

So, when a short video began travelling around social media in October 2026, it landed heavily. During the Senate debate on the National Suicide Prevention Bill 2026, the President of the Senate was reported to have said that anyone who attempts suicide should make sure they die, because if they survive, they will go to jail. The Senate President has since clarified that this was not his personal opinion, but a statement of what the current law provides, the very law this bill seeks to replace. We accept that clarification in good faith. Yet that is precisely the point. If the law, stated plainly, sounds that cruel when spoken aloud then it is the law that must change. Those of us who work with people in their darkest hours know that words travel further than their intent. Somewhere in Nigeria, a person already convinced that the world would be better without them may have heard that sentence and believed it.

A law older than our independence

In Nigeria, attempting suicide remains a crime. Section 327 of the Criminal Code provides for up to a year in prison, while Section 231 of the Penal Code provides for imprisonment, a fine, or both. These provisions are remnants of the colonial era. Britain itself abandoned this approach with the Suicide Act 1961. Many of us now practise in the very country that wrote that law, and we have seen what happens when a nation chooses care and compassion over punishment. People come forward and are able to speak up. Families receive the care and support they need and the society is better off for it.

On 13 October 2026, the Senate passed the National Suicide Prevention Bill 2026 (SB 730), sponsored by Senator Asuquo Ekpenyong, at second reading. It seeks to replace criminal punishment with crisis support, medical assessment, referral, rehabilitation and follow-up care. That is a humane step forward which now in danger of being drowned out by a single remark.

You cannot punish pain away

Around 16,000 Nigerians die by suicide each year, according to WHO figures cited during the Senate debate. Behind every one of those deaths is a family left asking what they missed. For everyone in suicidal distress, one road should lead to a clinic, a listening ear, a treatment plan and a way back. It should not lead to a police station and a charge sheet or shame. The law as it stands pushes people down the second road. We already live in a society where depression may be dismissed as laziness, spiritual weakness or lack of faith. Criminalising attempted suicide does not challenge that stigma but rather gives it the force of law.

As Dr Hal Abdullahi, President of Nigerian Psychiatrists in the United Kingdom, puts it: "Suicidal distress is a wound to be tended, not a wrong to be punished... You cannot punish someone out of pain; you can only help them find their way through it."

Far from home, never far from you

Those of us in the diaspora carry Nigeria with us. We carry it in our accents, in the way we greet our elders, in the pots of soup we cook on cold English evenings. We also carry the stories that reach us from home: the cousin who stopped picking up the phone, the classmate whose death was quietly called "an illness", the family that never spoke of it again.

Many Nigerian psychiatrists were trained at home before coming here. We were shaped by Nigerian teachers and Nigerian patients. When we speak now, we do not speak as outsiders lecturing from afar. We speak as children of the soil who want for our people the same compassion we are able to offer our patients here.

We are not alone in this. Our colleagues across the Black and African diaspora in British psychiatry stand with us.

"Decriminalising attempted suicide is both an ethical and compassionate step that recognises the needs of individuals experiencing severe mental distress and mental illness. At one of the most vulnerable periods of their lives, such individuals require understanding, care and support rather than criminal sanctions. The Association of Black Psychiatrists UK wholeheartedly welcomes this important development and expresses its strong support for the proposed reforms. We sincerely hope that the legislative process is concluded swiftly, resulting in the enactment of a progressive and humane law that promotes suicide prevention, protects vulnerable individuals and advances mental health care in Nigeria."

— Dr Mosun Fapohunda, President, Association of Black Psychiatrists UK (ABP-UK).

A matter of health, not crime

Nigeria would not be reinventing the wheel. Country after country has removed these penalties, and the World Health Organisation has long urged the rest to follow. This is for a simple reason - suicide prevention works only when people feel safe enough to ask for help.

The bill before the Senate understands this. It builds something in place of an offence: a number to call, a professional to assess, a pathway into care, and someone to check in afterwards. We have also heard the honest questions raised in the chamber about how reform will apply where the Penal Code operates as state law. Those questions deserve careful answers.

"I strongly support the decriminalisation of suicide. Suicide should be recognised as a public health and mental health issue, not a criminal offence. Criminalisation can deepen stigma, discourage people from seeking help and compound the distress experienced by individuals and families. We must replace punishment with compassion, prioritise prevention, improve access to mental healthcare and create environments where people feel safe to seek support. Every life matters, and our response must be grounded in dignity, understanding and humanity."

— Dr Shahid Latif, Chair, Royal College of Psychiatrists Diaspora Groups Committee.

"Onye aghala nwanne ya"

To our distinguished senators: you have already taken an important step by passing this bill at second reading. History will remember not what was said in a moment of jest, but what was done when it mattered. Please see the bill through.

To every Nigerian reading this: notice the friend who has gone quiet; sit with the relative who seems far away; ask twice when someone says, "I'm fine." And to the person struggling in silence: your life matters. Reaching out is neither a crime nor a weakness. It is the bravest thing a person can do.

Among the Igbos there is a saying: *"Onye aghala nwanne ya"* – "Let no one abandon their brother or sister."

A nation shows its humanity in how it meets people at their most broken. Not with handcuffs but with open arms.

Dr Onyechere is a forensic psychiatrist completing her residency in CNTW and serves as officer for strategic priorities for Nigerian Psychiatrists in the United Kingdom (NPUK), a Royal College of Psychiatrists Diaspora group. She hails from Imo State.

The Guardian Business

www.guardian.ng Thursday, November 12, 2026 Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

CRUDE OIL PRICE UPDATE Brent crude: $114.8| WTI crude: $102.3

FOREX MARKET UPDATE I&E window: N1,344.80

Weak oversight, market gaps stall power tariff reforms

By Waliat Musa

. NGF plans uniformity as Task Force moves to end revenue leakages

STAKEHOLDERS in the electricity sector have raised concerns over weak regulatory enforcement and fragmentation of electricity markets, as the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) disclosed plans to develop a uniform tariff methodology to guide electricity pricing across states.

At the ongoing Lagos Energy Summit in Lagos, a member of the Presidential Task Force on Power Sector Reset and Restoration, Uzoma Achinanya, accused electricity regulators of failing to monitor and enforce existing regulations, warning that the absence of compliance mechanisms had weakened discipline across the sector.

The NGF, through its representative, Chijioke Chukwu, said it was developing a national minimum electricity code and a uniform tariff methodology to address inconsistencies that could emerge from the decentralisation of electricity regulation across the country.

Achinanya said the country's electricity challenges required more than the introduction of new regulations, insisting that regulators must ensure operators comply with existing provisions.

He argued that despite the numerous laws and regulations governing the sector, the absence of effective monitoring and enforcement had allowed operators to disregard their obligations.

"And regulation without monitoring and enforcement is no regulation; you can write all the laws, all the regulations. In Nigeria, regulation is more than the height of this building, but no monitoring and no enforcement. That is why nobody is doing it," he said

He said the proposed electricity market redesign would establish clear responsibilities for regulators, operators and policymakers, while ensuring that all participants in the value chain understood their obligations.

Achinanya also identified poor payment discipline as a major threat to sustainable electricity supply, warning that gas suppliers and generation companies could not continue delivering services without receiving payment.

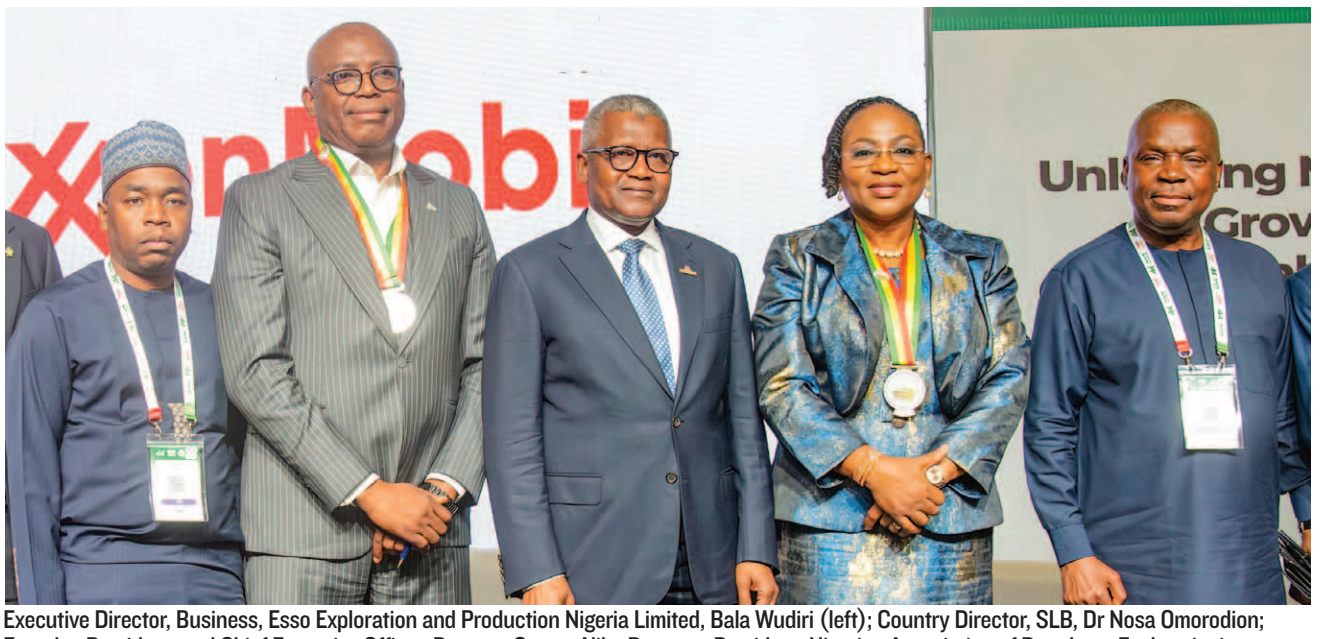
According to him, the failure to settle energy bills could eventually disrupt supply, regardless of the volume of electricity generated.

"Energy delivered today that is not paid for, in the next 30, 40, 60 days, will stop flowing," he added.

He said the proposed restructuring would connect energy flows with corresponding financial flows, ensuring that revenue recovered from electricity consumers was sufficient to settle obligations across the value chain.

"And what has been introduced now is that we will go in this direction for the energy flow and come back with another trajectory for the money flow and we must try to block all the loopholes along the line, reduce losses, reduce leakages, so that we can pay everybody who is involved in power generation, transmission, and distribution, including the gas supplier; without that, we would not have 24/7 to apply," he said.

He further called for improvements in transmission capacity, maintenance of transmission corridors and adequate redundancy to ensure electricity could be moved to areas of greatest demand.



Executive Director, Business, Esso Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited, Bala Wudiri (left); Country Director, SLB, Dr Nosa Omorodion; Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer, Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote; President, Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE), Olajumoke Cecilia Ajayi and Chairman, AA Holdings, Dr Austin Avuru, during the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) 44th yearly conference executive session held at Eko Hotel and Suites, Lagos, yesterday.

FirstBank reinforces commitment to fraud prevention

FIRSTBANK has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting customers and promoting secure banking practices as it commemorates International Fraud Awareness Week, taking place from November 15-21, 2026.

With fraud tactics becoming increasingly sophisticated across digital and physical channels, the Bank is leveraging the global observance to deepen awareness and encourage proactive measures that help customers safeguard their finances and personal information.

This year, FirstBank's Fraud Awareness Week campaign is themed: "Fraud Stops With Me: See It, Stop It, Report It." The initiative is designed to empower customers, employees and the general public with the knowledge and tools needed to identify fraud indicators, protect sensitive information, verify transactions and promptly report suspicious activities.

As part of the campaign, the Bank will drive a series of awareness activities focused on common fraud schemes, including phishing attempts, identity theft, account takeover fraud, social engineering tactics and other emerging financial scams. Customers will also receive practical guidance on secure banking practices and steps they can take to reduce their exposure to fraud.

Speaking on the significance of the awareness campaigns, Chief Information Security Officer, FirstBank, Harrison Nnaemeka Nnaji, said: "As digital technology continues to reshape the way we live, work and transact, building awareness remains one of the most effective tools for combating cybercrime and fraud.

Afreximbank commits $75 million to boost SME financing in Nigeria

By Tobi Awodipe

THE African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has committed a $75 million financing facility to the Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN) to expand access to funding for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), particularly businesses in export-oriented sectors and the creative economy.

The facility, which will be channelled through DBN's participating financial institutions (PFIs), is designed to provide eligible businesses with funding for working capital, asset acquisition, pre-export and post-export activities, as well as supply chain operations.

Businesses operating in fashion, film, music, design and other creative industries are among the intended beneficiaries.

The commitment was announced during the 2026 Creative Africa Nexus Weekend (CANEX WKND), held in Lagos, where Mrs Kanayo Awani, Executive Vice President, Intra-African Trade and Export Development at Afreximbank, and Dr Tony Okpanachi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of DBN, led the ceremonial signing on behalf of their institutions.

The facility, in line with Afreximbank's Export SME Development Programme, will combine financing with capacity-building and export-readiness support to equip beneficiary businesses with the skills, tools and market knowledge needed to strengthen their operations, improve competitiveness and access regional and international markets.

Beyond providing capital, Afreximbank and DBN will jointly develop a capacity-building programme to improve the ability of participating financial institutions to identify, finance and support export-oriented SMEs.

Afreximbank will also provide beneficiaries access to its trade platforms, including MANSA, TRADAR, the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) and the African Trade Exchange (ATEX). Additional market access opportunities will be facilitated through the Africa Buyer Programme, African Trade Distribution Company (ATDC) and the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF).

'$10billion Africa blended finance too small for infrastructure gap'

By Isaac Chibuife

AFRICA's blended finance market has grown fivefold to about $10 billion over the past decade, but the expansion has not been enough to address the continent's infrastructure financing needs, S&P Global Ratings has said.

The ratings agency said the market remained too small and fragmented to attract the scale of institutional investment required to bridge Africa's infrastructure gap, urging governments and development finance institutions to pool projects into larger investment platforms.

In a report released at the S&P Global Africa Summit 2026, it cited the African Development Bank's estimate that Africa faces a yearly infrastructure financing gap of between $60 billion and $100 billion. The funding challenge is being compounded by declining development assistance, with official development assistance to sub-Saharan Africa falling by 26 per cent in 2025. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projects a further 12 per cent decline in 2026.

Access to blended finance is also concentrated in a few markets. Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal account for between 75 and 80 per cent of the continent's activity, leaving other African countries with limited access to the financing model.

S&P identified the small size of individual transactions as a major obstacle to attracting institutional investors. While many institutional investors prefer debt issuances of at least $100 million, typical African blended finance transactions range from $10 million to $100 million, with a median size of between $35 million and $55 million.

The problem is compounded by limited credit ratings. Few transactions carry international ratings, while many asset managers restrict their exposure to unrated or non-investment-grade assets to between five and 10 per cent of their portfolios.

To address these constraints, S&P recommended pooling smaller projects into larger investment vehicles with standardised financing terms. According to the agency, this would reduce the cost of originating transactions, improve investment scale and provide institutional investors with a more regular pipeline of projects.

It cited the $1.5 billion Africa Infrastructure Financing Facility (AIFF), launched in February, alongside the Lobito Corridor and Mission 300, as examples of platforms that could help mobilise larger pools of capital.

However, currency risk remained another challenge, particularly in markets such as Nigeria and Ghana, where project revenues are often indexed to the dollar.

Facebook, TikTok lead as Deepfake fraud hits $4 billion in six years

By Adeyemi Adepetun

DEEPFAKE incidents reached 809 in the first three quarters of 2026, a 24 per cent increase on the 651 recorded in the same period of 2025, according to new Surfshark research.

The research revealed that social media is the main entry point. It stressed that the rate of 24 per cent increase means 2026 will surpass last year's record of 970 incidents, with reported losses already at $972 million for the year to date.

Every quarter of 2026 so far has exceeded its 2025 equivalent: incidents rose 47 per cent in the first quarter, 23 per cent in the second, and three per cent in the third. Across the most recent 12-month period (2025 Q4 through 2026 Q3), losses reached $2.24 billion, 55 per cent higher than the $1.44 billion recorded across the previous four quarters.

The 2026 figures sit on top of a steep multi-year climb. Surfshark identified 2,430 deepfake incidents in total between January 2020 and September 2026, with nearly 90 per cent of them occurring from 2024 onwards. Cumulative fraud losses across the full period total $3.91 billion, of which 98 per cent occurred from 2024 onwards, when popular generative AI tools gained popularity.

Chief Security Officer at Surfshark, Tomas Stamulis, said: "Detection tools often struggle to keep up with deepfake technology, so spotting a fake now takes more than a glance. Look closely at the details: unnatural movements, mismatched colours or lighting, distorted backgrounds, and lips that don't quite match the audio can all be warning signs. It's also worth noting how the content reached you, as deepfakes are often spread by bot accounts."

Stamulis added that context matters as much as detail: "As these flaws become harder to see, be cautious with any message that creates urgency, asks for money, or comes from someone contacting you through unusual channels, as these are common signs of deepfake financial fraud. Seeing or hearing someone is no longer enough to know it's really them. So when in doubt, pause and verify through a channel you trust."

Since 2020, fraud-related deepfakes have accounted for 768 of the 2,430 incidents. Investment scams, in which criminals use deepfakes of celebrities and public figures to promote fraudulent schemes, rank first in both volume and damage: $1.75 billion in losses across 254 incidents. It disclosed that finance and banking fraud ranked second in losses at $1.14 billion across 103 incidents.

Corporate fraud, where scammers impersonate CEOs, employees, or business partners, follows at $545 million across 56 incidents, then product promotion scams at $277 million across 140 incidents, and romance scams at $179 million across 30 incidents.

WSTC FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
RC 160502
2, Maitama Sule Street
Falomo, South West Ikoyi, Lagos
P.O. Box 75519, Victoria Island, Lagos
Nigeria.
Tel: 0907 003 8800

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED AND SEPARATE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Directors present the summary consolidated and separate financial statements of WSTC Financial Services Limited ("the Company") and its subsidiaries (together , "the Group") as at 31 December 2025. These summary consolidated and separate financial statements are derived from the full consolidated and separate financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 and are not the full consolidated and separate financial statements of the Group and Company. The full consolidated and separate financial statements, from which these summary consolidated and separate financial statements were derived will be delivered to the Corporate Affairs Commission within the required deadline. The Group's Independent Auditor issued an unmodified audit opinion on the full consolidated and separate financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 from which these summary consolidated and separate financial statements were derived.

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED AND SEPARATE STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Group 2025 N'000	Group 2024 N'000	Company 2025 N'000	Company 2024 N'000
ASSETS				
Cash and bank balances	819,042	405,194	553,528	175,541
Due from other financial institutions	190,896	154,135	-	-
Investment securities	18,927,319	9,600,061	18,201,720	9,127,740
Loans and advances	4,292,561	3,064,936	4,292,561	3,064,936
Other assets	185,111	271,500	278,907	380,654
Investment in subsidiaries	-	-	601,980	441,980
Right of use assets	50,925	13,545	50,925	13,545
Intangible assets	69,522	1,484	68,948	695
Property and equipment	167,730	48,469	167,730	48,469
TOTAL ASSETS	**24,703,106**	**13,559,324**	**24,216,299**	**13,253,560**
LIABILITIES				
Borrowings	18,538,107	7,926,231	18,538,107	7,926,231
Payables and accruals	197,171	199,105	185,645	189,485
Other liabilities	380,338	375,920	73,792	105,416
Current tax liabilities	104,881	122,838	82,025	119,292
Deferred tax liabilities	703,958	155,408	703,958	155,408
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**19,924,455**	**8,779,502**	**19,583,527**	**8,495,832**
EQUITY				
Share capital	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Fair value reserve	1,045,188	980,207	1,045,188	980,207
Treasury shares	(5,749)	(20,029)	(5,749)	(20,029)
Statutory reserve	947,737	1,218,859	947,737	1,218,859
Regulatory risk reserve	405,509	25,011	405,509	25,011
Retained earnings	885,966	1,075,773	740,087	1,053,679
TOTAL EQUITY	**4,778,651**	**4,779,822**	**4,632,772**	**4,757,728**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	**24,703,106**	**13,559,324**	**24,216,299**	**13,253,560**

The summary consolidated and separate financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 18 March 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED AND SEPARATE STATEMENTS OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Group 2025 N'000	Group 2024 N'000	Company 2025 N'000	Company 2024 N'000
Interest income	2,180,284	1,576,749	2,032,638	1,502,233
Interest expense	(1,765,491)	(878,131)	(1,765,491)	(878,131)
Net interest income	414,793	698,618	267,147	624,102
Fee and commission income	276,486	144,400	-	-
Net investment income	118,573	44,175	118,573	44,175
Net gain on financial assets measured at FVTPL	1,437,538	289,492	1,416,984	284,003
	2,247,390	**1,176,685**	**1,802,704**	**952,280**
Other operating (loss)/income	(129,679)	1,046,578	55,904	1,188,527
Impairment charge	(47,509)	(1,083)	(46,448)	(2,862)
	2,070,202	**2,222,180**	**1,812,160**	**2,137,945**
Operating expenses	(1,147,480)	(890,178)	(1,035,041)	(843,142)
Depreciation & amortisation	(74,474)	(47,490)	(74,259)	(47,419)
Total expenses	**(1,221,954)**	**(937,668)**	**(1,109,300)**	**(890,561)**
Profit before tax	**848,248**	**1,284,512**	**702,860**	**1,247,384**
Income tax expense	(291,257)	(130,453)	(269,654)	(128,221)
Profit after tax	**556,991**	**1,154,059**	**433,206**	**1,119,163**
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods				
Fair value gain on investment securities measured at FVOCI	33,250	476,184	33,250	476,184
Income tax relating to change in fair value of other financial assets FVOCI	(304,372)	(121,632)	(304,372)	(121,632)
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	**(271,122)**	**354,552**	**(271,122)**	**354,552**
Total comprehensive income after tax	**285,869**	**1,508,611**	**162,084**	**1,473,715**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE SUMMARY CONSOLIDATED AND SEPARATE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF WSTC FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD

Opinion
The summary consolidated and separate financial statements, which comprise the summary consolidated and separate statements of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the summary consolidated and separate statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, are derived from the audited consolidated and separate financial statements of WSTC Financial Services Limited for the year ended 31 December 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated and separate financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated and separate financial statements, in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (Amendment) Act, 2023, Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020, the Investments and Securities Act, 2025, the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act of Nigeria, 2020 and relevant Central Bank of Nigeria Circulars.

Summary Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements
The summary consolidated and separate financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020,the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2020, the Investments and Securities Act, 2025, and the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (Amendment) Act 2023 and relevant Central Bank of Nigeria circulars, applied in the preparation of the audited consolidated and separate financial statements of the Group and company. Reading these summary consolidated and separate financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited consolidated and separate financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited consolidated and separate financial statements in our report dated 5 August 2026 .

Directors' Responsibilities for the Summary Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the summary consolidated and separate financial statements, in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (Amendment) Act, 2023, Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020 , the Investments and Securities Act, 2025 and the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2020 and relevant Central Bank of Nigeria Circulars.

Independent Auditor's Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated and separate financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited consolidated and separate financial statements based on our procedures which were conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised) "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Report on other Legal and Regulatory Requirements
In accordance with the requirement of Fifth Schedule of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020, we confirm that:

-we have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purpose of our audit;

-in our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Group and Company, in so far as it appears from our examination of those books;

-The summary consolidated and separate statements of financial position and the summary consolidated and separate statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account; and

In compliance with the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2020 and circulars issued by Central Bank of Nigeria, we confirm that:

- Related party transactions and balances are disclosed in the consolidated and separate financial statements in compliance with Central Bank of Nigeria circular BSD/1/2004.

- As disclosed in the consolidated and seperate financial statements, no contravention of the provisions of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2020 and CBN circulars was brought to our attention during our audit of the Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Morufat Adegbite
FRC/2025/PRO/ICAN/004/784862
For : Ernst & Young
Lagos, Nigeria
5 August 2026

Tax Identification Number: 00061576-0001

Oluwatofarati Agusto
Managing Director
FRCN/2013/PRO/00000001752

Olumuyiwa Obileye
Chairman
FRC/2023/PRO/DIR/003/284884

Ayodeji Oloye
General Manager/Acting CFO
FRC/2013/PRO/00000001754

The above summary consolidated and separate financial statements and report of the independent auditor are published in accordance with the requirements of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2020.



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- Social Media Executive
- Content & Creative Officer
- Depot Sales Hand/Helper
- Sales Representative
- Telesales Representative
- Modern Trade Merchandiser
- Senior Sales Executive
- Telesales Supervisor
- Order Processing Analyst
- System Auditors
- Electronic point of sales Clerk
- Field Surveyors
- IT Support Officer
- Bottle Sticker-er
- Snacks Canvasser
- Contact Hub Lead
- Brand Ambassador
- Forklift Operator
- Van Salesman
- Sales Promoters
- Sales Supervisor
- Sales Executive
- Trade Canvasser
- Unit Manager
- Operations Manager
- Sales Merchandiser
- Store Assistant
- Direct Sales Agent
- Senior Sales Officer
- Sales Partners
- Warehouse Officers
- Warehouse Assistants
- Office Assistant
- Front Desk Officer
- Marketing Assistant
- Loan Recovery Officers
- Head of Sales
- Franchise Auditors
- Van Salesman Rep.
- Unit Manager
- Hotline Agent
- Merchandiser
- Sales Agents
- Driver
- Sales Clerk
- Roving Clerk
- Store Keeper
- Canvassers
- Cleaners
- Team Lead
- IT Support Officer

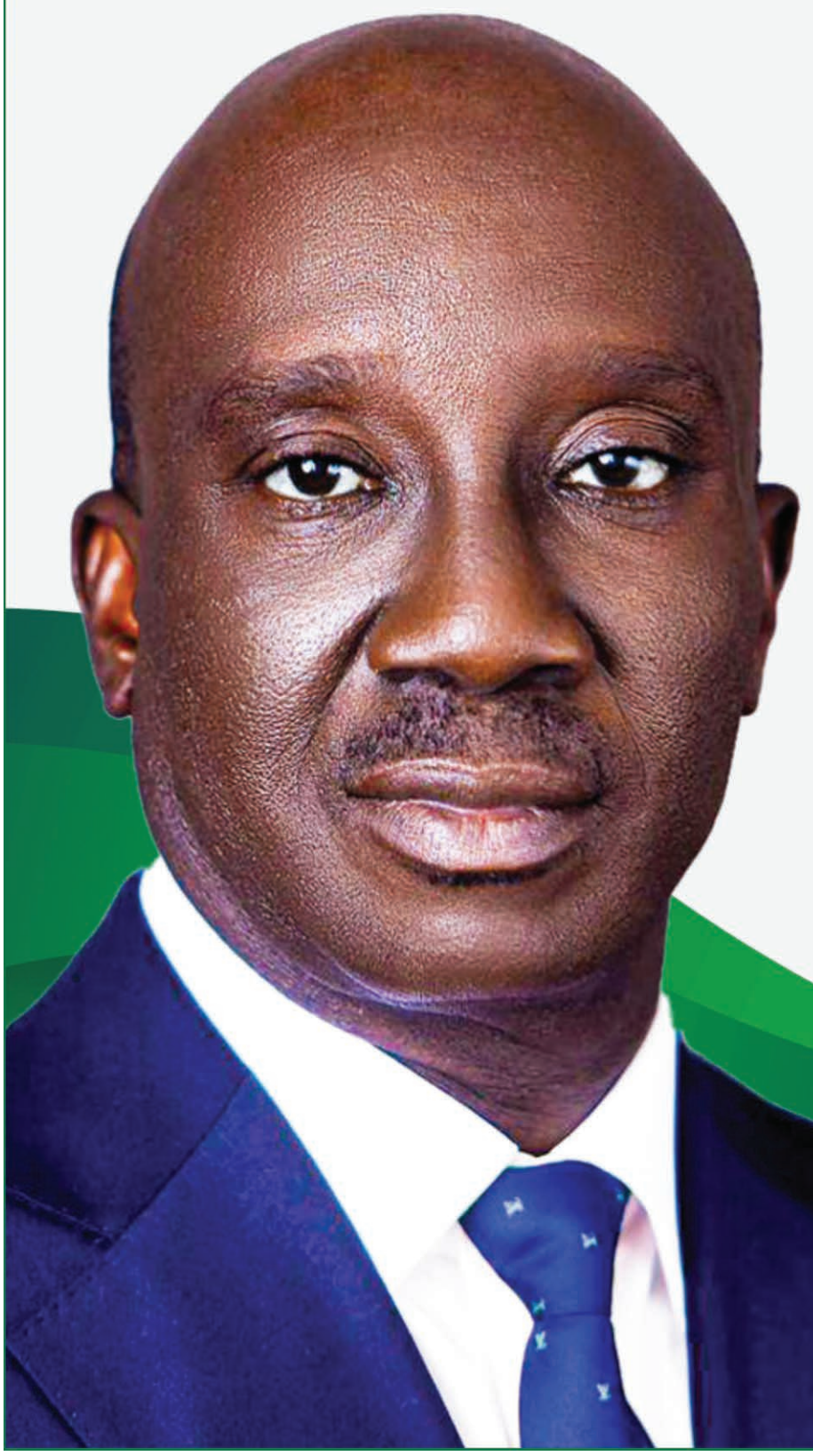
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EDO STATE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Celebrating

2 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY



Your Excellency,

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR TWO YEARS ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE

On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Edo State Internal Revenue Service (EIRS), I congratulate His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Monday Okpebholo, on the occasion of the second anniversary of your focused and result oriented administration and to celebrate your exceptional leadership in driving unprecedented revenue growth and transformative infrastructure across Edo State.

Through your unwavering support for strategic tax reforms, digital integration, and voluntary compliance, Edo State achieved a landmark N109 billion in Internally Generated Revenue in 2025 crossing the N100 billion threshold for the first time with a new record in the making. Most importantly, your administration has validated the core principle that taxation powers development through the judicious, transparent utilization of taxpayers' money to delivering vital and strategic roads, bridges, and public amenities that revitalize communities and drive economic growth.

Your Excellency, as we align fully with the SHINE agenda and the tax reforms framework, EIRS recommits to expanding the tax net and maximizing revenue collection so your administration can continue to translate every tax naira into sustainable growth for all Edo residents.

Congratulations

Signed
Mr. John Osirenimhe Odior FCA, ACTI
Executive Chairman,
Edo State Internal Revenue Service



TAXPAYERS MONEY IN ACTION



HIS EXCELLENCY,
SENATOR MONDAY OKPEBHOLO
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, EDO STATE

Bolt claims N140b investment in Nigeria, 470,000 income opportunities

By **Benjamin Alade**

RIDE-HAILING company, Bolt has invested over N140 billion in Nigeria over the past decade, reaching over 14 million riders and creating 470,000 income opportunities since commencing operations in the country in 2016.

The company disclosed this as it marked 10 years of operations in Nigeria, highlighting its contribution to the growth of the country's mobility sector, digital transportation services and employment opportunities.

According to Bolt, its operations currently cover 31 cities across Nigeria, giving it the widest geographical presence among ride-hailing platforms in the country.

The expansion, the company said, reflected its efforts to extend access to digital mobility services beyond major urban centres while responding to the growing transportation needs of Nigerians.

The N140 billion investment represented the company's financial commitment to developing its operations in the Nigerian market, while its growing customer base and driver-partner network underscore the increasing role of technology-driven transportation services in the country's mobility ecosystem.

Commenting on the milestone, Regional Director, Rides Operations, Africa, Bolt, Caroline Wanjihia, said the company's decade-long presence in Nigeria had been driven by efforts to improve urban mobility and create economic opportunities through its platform.

She said the investment, growing rider base and income opportunities reflected the progress made in collaboration with driver-partners, customers and other stakeholders.

Eleganza to revive Alaba Suru factory

By **Isaac Chibuife**

ELEGANZA Industrial City Limited is preparing to reopen its Alaba-Suru factory in Lagos as part of efforts to bring production and distribution of its household products closer to customers.

The company disclosed this in a statement, saying preparations were underway for the resumption of operations, although it did not specify a date.

The Alaba-Suru facility was previously one of Eleganza's major production centres, manufacturing household items such as coolers and chairs.

According to the company, reopening the factory would help expand production capacity, improve access to its products and bring its operations closer to distributors and customers in Lagos.

"As a company focused on household products, Eleganza recognises the importance of being accessible to the people it serves," the statement said.

It added that the factory's location would make it easier for customers, distributors and other stakeholders to access its products.

Founded by industrialist Chief Rasaki Akanni, Eleganza said products manufactured at the Alaba-Suru facility would carry its seal, which it described as a mark of quality across its businesses.

Investors shed N386b in three days as profit-taking takes toll on outlook

By **Helen Oji**

THE Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) sustained sliding profile as investors wealth declined by N386 billion in three trading days, amid renewed sell-off in many bluechip stocks.

The market capitalisation which stood at N163.917 trillion at the beginning of trading on Monday, November 9, 2026 depreciated by N386 billion or 0.2 per cent to close at N163.531 yesterday. Similarly, the All-Share Index which measures the performance of listed equities declined by 598.5 points from 252,456.74 to 252,861.24 points.

Meanwhile, yesterday downturn was occassioned by price depreciation in both high and medium cap stocks, particularly Okomu Oil, Enamelwa, NASCON Allied Industries, FTN Cocoa Processors and VFD Group as 29 stocks depreciated in price while 23 others constituted the losers chart.

UPL led the gainers' chart with a 9.89 per cent appreciation, rising from N4.55 kobo to N5.00 per share. Caverton Offshore Support Group followed with an 8.96 per cent gain to close at N3.65, while Abbey Mortgage Bank advanced by 8.66 per cent to N6.90.

Champion Breweries gained 8.56 per cent to close at N10.15 kobo, while Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI) appreciated by 6.93 per cent to N74.85 kobo.

Other notable gainers included CHAMS, which rose by 6.17 per cent to close at N3.27 kobo, Wema Bank was up by 3.45 per cent to N33 while Cornerstone Insurance gained 2.50 per cent to close at N4.10 kobo.

On the losers' table, Okomu Oil led with a 10 per cent decline from N1,276.20 kobo to N1,148.60 kobo. Enamelwa followed with a 9.96 per cent loss to close at N33 while NASCON Allied Industries shed 8.99 per cent to N167.

FTN Cocoa Processors declined by 8.36 per cent to close N6.80 kobo, while VFD Group lost 6.67 per cent to close at N11.20 kobo.

On the sectoral performance, t he NGX banking index declined from 2,359.68 to 2,345.43 points, while the NGX Consumer Goods Index fell from 3,963.58 to 3,957.52 points.

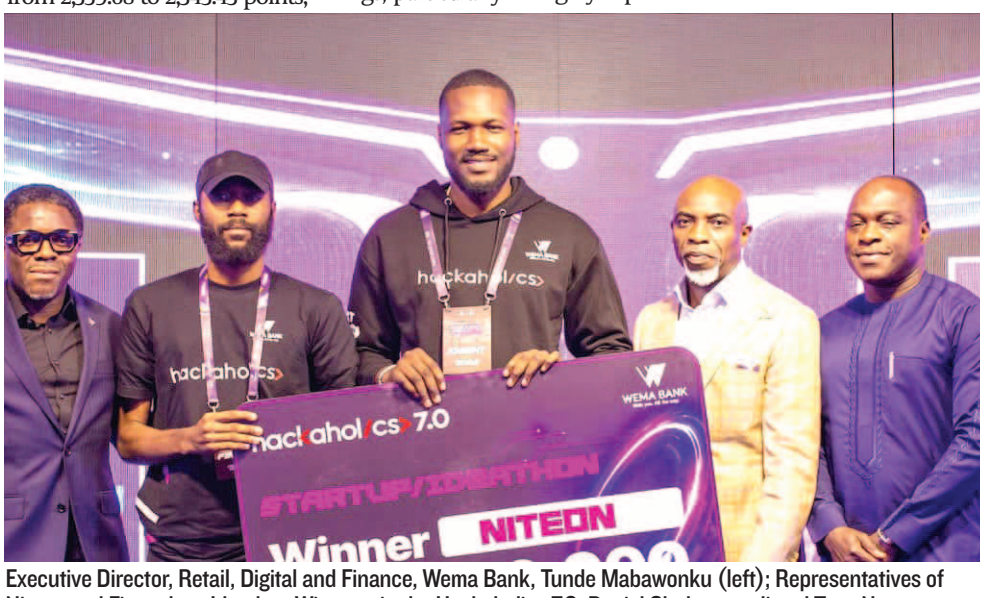
Similarly, the NGX Insurance Index declined from 1,053.71 to 1,050.61 points, while the NGX Oil and Gas Index also.dropped from 5,877.44 to 5,879.41 points.

Operators attributed the renewed decline to profit-taking by investors seeking to secure gains after the strong rally recorded by equities this year, alongside portfolio repositioning and concerns over stock valuations.

They noted that the market's impressive year-to-date performance had encouraged some investors to sell down their holdings, particularly in highly capitalised stocks that had recorded significant price appreciation.

Analysts at Cowry Asset Management Limited said the market could experience renewed volatility this month amid profit-taking, valuation concerns and uncertainty over monetary policy. However, they maintained a cautiously positive outlook, supported by expectations of improved corporate earnings and resilient market liquidity.

Similarly, Chief Executive Officer of Arthur Stevens Asset Management, Olatunde Amolegbe, attributed the losses, partly to profit-taking by investors seeking to secure gains after the market's strong performance, as well as portfolio repositioning ahead of the year-end.



Executive Director, Retail, Digital and Finance, Wema Bank, Tunde Mabawonku (left); Representatives of Niteon and First-place Ideathon Winners, in the Hackaholics 7.0, Daniel Chukwuemeli and Tony Nwose; Managing Director/CEO, Wema Bank, Moruf Oseni and Executive Director, Corporate and Global Markets, Wema Bank, Olukayode Bakare, at the Hackaholics 7.0 Grand Finale in Lagos.

BoI's transformation offers a model for reforming govt enterprises

By **Victoria Nwachukwu**

THE transformation of the former Nigerian Industrial Development Bank (NIDB) into the Bank of Industry (BoI) has been recommended as a model for reforming other government-owned enterprises.

Speaking at the 2026 yearly Directors' Conference of the Chartered Institute of Directors (CIoD) Nigeria, Chairman of the National Organising Committee of the Conference, Dr Waheed Olagunju, said the bank has raised more than $7 billion from the international financial system in the last eight years and signed a $100 million facility with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) the previous week.

"I would like to underscore and possibly recommend the kind of transformative reform of the defunct Nigerian Industrial Development Bank (NIDB) which metamorphosed into the Bank of Industry," he said.

He said successive boards of the bank had provided the right leadership, adding that he had been involved in its development from inception to fruition.

"As an active participant over 28 years, I am convinced that existing government-owned enterprises would find BOI's reform experience beneficial," he said.

Olagunju also spoke about the institute's efforts to strengthen engagement with government, saying the current CIoD leadership had established a Government Liaison Committee chaired by retired Federal Permanent Secretary, Mrs Fatima Mede.

He said one of the committee's early outcomes was a memorandum of understanding between CIoD Nigeria and the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) on improving cooperation in government-owned enterprises.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the conference, Emmanuel Ocholi, said improved corporate profits did not automatically translate into national prosperity.

"A company may report improved profits while its supply chains remain disconnected from local enterprises. An organisation may adopt sophisticated technologies without adequately investing in its workforce's skills," he said.

He said boards should consider the quality of employment their organisations support, opportunities created for local businesses, human capital development, responsible use of natural resources and the wider consequences of their strategic decisions.

According to Ocholi, inclusion should not be treated as a charitable addition to business strategy but as part of the foundations of a resilient economy.

"When more people and businesses can participate productively in economic activity, the market broadens, the supply base strengthens, and the potential for sustainable growth increases," he said.

He also said sustainability should influence how organisations invest, manage resources, assess long-term risks and preserve their ability to operate in the future, rather than being reduced to reporting exercises or regulatory compliance.

'Nigeria's aviation infrastructure deficit may hit $50b in 10yrs'

By **Olusegun Koiki**

THE Managing Director of Topbrass Airlines Ltd, Roland Iyayi, has said that Nigeria will require an estimated $50 billion over the next decade to address its airport infrastructure deficit.

The Federal Government has also been told to institute a Board of Directors for the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) for seamless growth of the agency and the entire aviation industry in the country.

Speaking as a panellist yesterday at the 55th yearly general meeting of the Nigerian Air Traffic Controllers' Association (NATCA) with the theme: 'Beyond Silos To Synergy: Shaping the Future of Nigerian Air Traffic Management ', Iyayi warned that the Federal government could not shoulder the financial burden through the yearly budgetary allocations.

Iyayi insisted the industry generated sufficient revenue to finance its development, but lamented the disconnect between revenue generation, infrastructure investment and policies aimed at supporting the growth of domestic airlines.

He identified poor planning, institutional rivalry among aviation agencies and the failure to optimise existing facilities as some of the major challenges limiting the industry's growth.

According to him, Nigeria's aviation infrastructure became increasingly inadequate following the emergence of private operators and the expansion of the domestic airline market, which placed additional pressure on facilities that were already struggling to meet demand.

He said: "The country will be coping with over the next decade a minimum of $50 billion worth of infrastructure deficit. And that itself is not something the Federal government can appropriate a budget to cover, not even in the next decade.

"The aviation sector has the capacity to generate sufficient revenue to meet its infrastructure requirements if resources were properly managed and reinvested."

Besides, Iyayi blamed the sector's poor performance on the evolution of aviation institutions, noting that the separation of agencies from the former Federal Civil Aviation Authority (FCAA) created rivalries and unhealthy competition among organisations that should ordinarily work together.

He cited the longstanding disagreements between the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) over the control and management of airfield lighting as an example of institutional rivalry.

He stated the situation had created an entrenched culture of competition, rather than cooperation, adding that the agencies needed to embrace a common vision for the industry's development.

The aviation expert further expressed concern over discrepancies in passenger traffic figures provided by NAMA, FAAN and the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), despite the agencies operating within the same industry.

Chapel Hill floats N7.5b gender bond for women SMEs

By **Helen Oji**

CHAPEL Hill Advisory Partners Limited has launched a N7.5 billion gender bond to expand access to long-term financing for women-owned and women-led businesses in Nigeria, marking a new development in the country's capital market.

The five-year fixed-rate bond, issued by Chapel Hill Financing SPV Plc as Series 2 under its N250 billion Debt Issuance Programme, is Nigeria's first gender bond specifically designed to channel funds to businesses owned and led by women.

The initiative is expected to address funding challenges facing women entrepreneurs, particularly small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which often struggle to secure long-term capital to expand their operations.

According to the company, the net proceeds from the bond will be deployed through Chapel Hill Denham Nigeria SME Limited, its gender-focused SME impact investment platform, to provide financing to eligible women-owned and women-led businesses.

To qualify for funding, the firm said businesses must meet the platform's eligibility requirements, the 2X Criteria established by 2X Global and a framework aligned with the International Capital Market Association's (ICMA) Social Bond Principles.

Chief Executive Officer of the company, Bolaji Balogun, said the bond would provide long-term capital to businesses that play an important role in creating jobs, expanding economic opportunities and supporting growth across the country.

New holding company to drive Champion Breweries' African expansion

By **Benjamin Alade**

CHAMPION Breweries Plc has proposed a restructuring that will create Champion Brands Plc as the group's new listed parent company, with shareholders retaining their existing ownership stakes through a one-for-one share exchange.

The firm proposed the establishment of a new holding company, Champion Brands Plc, as part of efforts to reposition the business for expansion across Africa and accommodate its growing beverage portfolio.

Under the proposed Scheme of Arrangement, Champion Brands Limited will be re-registered as a public limited liability company and listed on the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX), becoming the new parent company of the group.

The restructuring will see Champion Breweries become a wholly owned subsidiary of Champion Brands, while its shares will be delisted from the NGX. Its investment in enJOYbev B.V., the company behind the Bullet beverage portfolio, will also be transferred to the new holding company.



GOODWILL MESSAGE

Celebrating Governor Monday Okpebholo's Second Anniversary in Office

On behalf of the Management and Staff of the Edo State Investment Promotion Office (ESIPO)-Ease of Doing Business Secretariat, I warmly congratulate His Excellency, **Senator Monday Okpebholo,** Executive Governor of Edo State, on the **second anniversary** of his administration.

Over the past two years, the administration has demonstrated a strong commitment to repositioning Edo State as a secure, business-friendly and attractive investment destination through strategic policies and development initiatives.

The administration's sustained fight against insecurity has helped strengthen the environment for business operations and investor confidence, while investments in road construction and rehabilitation are improving connectivity, facilitating trade and reducing the cost of doing business across the state.

Equally commendable is the provision of ₦1 billion in interest-free loans to 5,000 beneficiaries to support small businesses. This intervention promotes entrepreneurship, strengthens local enterprises, creates employment opportunities and advances inclusive economic growth.

These initiatives, alongside the administration's commitment to agriculture, industrial development, youth empowerment and economic reforms, are creating a stronger foundation for private-sector growth and sustainable development.

At ESIPO, we appreciate the Governor's vision and remain committed to promoting Edo's investment opportunities, facilitating investments, supporting existing businesses and strengthening partnerships that will translate the state's economic potential into tangible benefits for its people.

As we celebrate this milestone, we commend His Excellency for his purposeful leadership and commitment to building a prosperous Edo State where businesses thrive and investors can operate with confidence.

Congratulations, Your Excellency, on two years of impactful service.

Edo is Open for Business. Edo is Ready for Investment.



ESIPO
EDO STATE INVESTMENT PROMOTION OFFICE
WE ARE DIFFERENT

Amen Odigie
Managing Director
Edo State Investment Promotion Office
(ESIPO)-Ease of Doing Business Secretariat.

CONGRATULATIONS ON TWO YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE



Celebrating His Excellency,
Senator Monday Okpebholo,
Executive Governor of Edo State.

On the occasion of the Second Anniversary of your administration, we warmly congratulate Your Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, Executive Governor of Edo State, on this significant milestone.

As Edo State marks two years of your administration, we recognise this occasion as an opportunity to congratulate you on your visionary leadership, purposeful governance and sustained commitment to the development and prosperity of our dear state.

We appreciate your steadfast support for the laudable work of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in promoting reforms and investments that strengthen infrastructure and create an enabling environment for economic growth.

As a Nigerian gas distribution and pipeline development company, we believe that reliable energy infrastructure is fundamental to economic transformation, industrial expansion and sustainable development, and we remain committed to developing and delivering energy infrastructure solutions that support industrial growth, enhance access to cleaner energy and create an enabling environment for investment and enterprise.

As you celebrate this milestone, we reaffirm our commitment to contributing, through our expertise and investments in energy infrastructure, to the development of a more vibrant, competitive and investment-friendly Edo State.

We look forward to a future in which strategic infrastructure development, private-sector participation and constructive stakeholder engagement continue to drive economic opportunities, support businesses and improve the quality of life of the people of Edo State.

Congratulations, Your Excellency, on two years in office.

May the years ahead bring renewed opportunities for progress, inclusive economic growth and sustainable development for Edo State and its people, as you continue to transform the economic landscape of Edo State through the establishment of more industries and expansion of industrial development.

A MILESTONE WORTH CELEBRATING

A corporate message of goodwill, partnership inprogress and commitment to sustainable economic development.



POWERING THE FUTURE OF EDO STATE

Reliable gas infrastructure. Industrial development. Sustainable

QSL GAS & POWER

BUILDING ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE. CONNECTING OPPORTUNITIES. POWERING INDUSTRIAL GROWTH.

MSI NIGERIA REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

Subject: Purchase and installation of portacabin in Abuja Office
Date of the REOI: 12/11/2026
Closing Date for receipt of EOI: 25/11/2026
Reference: EOI/050/2026

Background:
MSI Nigeria Reproductive Choices is a social enterprise established in Nigeria in 2009 and is a leading provider of family planning and a range of contraceptive options to women, girls, and families across the 36 states of Nigeria and the FCT. With a mission to ensure children by choice not chance, MSI Nigeria envisions a world where every birth is wanted. Through collaborations with government at the national, state, and community levels, MSI Nigeria offers accessible and comprehensive reproductive healthcare services using operational approaches, such as Marie Stopes Medical Centres, community outreach teams, public sector strengthening support, and a toll-free contact centre.

Description of requirements:
MSI Nigeria is inviting Expression of Interest (EOIs) from eligible suppliers for the construction and installation of underlisted item:

S/N	Description	Quantity
1	**Purchase and installation of portacabin in Abuja Support Office** **Scope of work** The Service Provider shall provide the following services to the Organization: 1. Excavation for concrete pedestal. 2. Cast six (6) concrete pedestals using Grade 20 concrete to receive porta cabins. 3. Install aluminum/glass windows: two (2) windows per office, each measuring 0.3 m in height and 0.7 m in width (two on the length and one on the width by the left and right). 4. Each door is complete with hinges, locks, and frames, using a square pipe. 5. Install a ceiling which should be made of POP 6. Install 1.5 Split Unit Air Conditioner COPPER condenser with R22 Gas. Model No - AS12TG1 in each office. 7. Provide electrical wiring for light bulbs, switches, and sockets for air conditioners (1.5 HP). 8. Construct a staircase and platform to access the top porta cabin, including handrails using square pipes and H-channel iron. 9. Construct a roof on the porta cabin using an aluminum roofing sheet and cladding. 10. Painting of the interior and exterior of the porta cabins. 11. The floor shall be tiled. 12. Interior should be painted white. 13. Each Floor will have 1 toilet & wash hand basin 14. Two (2) units of 40ft × 10ft porta cabin, securely stacked on top of each other.	1 Unit
	Ground Floor 15. The cabin on the ground floor shall be partitioned into 2 with each office having a separate door. **Upper floor** 16. A small reception shall be constructed with doors on the left and right to lead to each office. **Note: *Vendor is expected to come for inspection before quoting.*** **Please see the link to the complete scope of work, sample images, video and other details: https://bit.ly/4zAlgjv**	

Delivery Location: No 59, Anthony Enahoro Street, Utako, Abuja.

Note: A 2% applicable Withholding Tax (WHT) rate will be deducted from the total quoted amount at the point of payment. Vendors are also required to clearly indicate the Value Added Tax (VAT) amount applicable to their quotation on a separate line.
MSI Nigeria makes payment for transactions within 21 days.

Potential Suppliers
This Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) is addressed to major distributors of the product. Applicable due diligence will be carried out on successful vendor before award.

Mandatory Documents for Submission: *(ALL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE VERIFIABLE)*
1. Quotation
2. Company Profile
3. Certificate of Incorporation
4. Memorandum of Association
5. Status Report OR CAC Form CO2 and CO7
6. Evidence of tax clearance from 2023-2025

All documentation should not exceed 25 pages as this will be strictly adhered to during selection process.

For all your family planning services and reproductive health questions, concerns, and referral services, call our toll-free numbers: 22252 or 08000022252 and WhatsApp/SMS 09099022252. Follow us on all social media platforms @msichoicesng.

Signed:
For MSI Nigeria Reproductive Choices
Country Director

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unicef | for every child

INVITATION TO BID

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SERVICES | LRPS-2026-9205586

ESTABLISHMENT OF LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS FOR HAULAGE SERVICES

UNICEF Nigeria invites qualified and experienced haulage and logistics service providers to submit proposals for non-exclusive Long-Term Arrangements for haulage services across Nigeria. The services include collection, loading, transportation, GPS tracking, monitoring, offloading and delivery of UNICEF programme goods, supplies and equipment to designated locations nationwide.

TENDER OPENS	ONLINE PRE-BID CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
5 November 2026	12 November 2026 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. WAT	26 November 2026 23:59 hrs. WAT

LOTS

Lot 1: Maiduguri
Lot 2: Bauchi
Lot 3: Kano
Lot 4: Lekki, Lagos
Lot 5: Abuja/FCT
Lot 6: Kaduna

Bidders may submit for one or more lots but must demonstrate the required operational capacity for each lot proposed.

PRE-BID REGISTRATION

Interested companies should register using the Microsoft Forms link below. The Teams meeting link will be shared with registered participants.

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/UjEKdVMM6u

Registration for the pre-bid conference does not constitute submission of a proposal.

Scan to register

Scan to access the Tender

ACCESS TO TENDER DOCUMENTS AND SUBMISSION

The complete solicitation documents are available on the United Nations Global Marketplace at **https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/321488**

All proposals must be submitted electronically through the UNICEF e-submission system accessible through UNGM. Email, fax and physical submissions will not be accepted.

Interested bidders should use the Opt-In function in the UNICEF e-submission system to indicate their intention to submit.

LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED - Tender Reference: LRPS-2026-9205586

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fhi360

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)FOR END OF PROJECT DOCUMENTARY

Solicitation No: RFQ/FHI360/DOCUMENTRY/2026

Date Issued: November 12th, 2026
Closing Date: November 20th, 2026
Type of Award: Fixed-Price Purchase Order Funding
Source: United States Government

A. Background

FHI 360, a global International non-profit organization committed to improving lives by delivering locally driven solutions to health, education, nutrition and humanitarian sectors in Nigeria. In Nigeria, FHI 360 has taken a strategic, multifaceted approach to addressing critical public health challenges such as HIV/AIDS, while also responding to emerging crises like COVID-19 and supporting, nutrition, education and humanitarian initiatives in conflict – affected regions.

The US Government, through FHI 360 EpiC, is supporting the Government of Nigeria (GoN) in strengthening its health system and supporting life-saving interventions. The Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project is an eight-year global initiative (April 2019 - December 2027) funded by the United States Government and implemented by FHI 360 and consortium partners in several countries, including Nigeria.

EpiC has supported Nigeria's COVID-19 response, strengthened Mpox surveillance, provided technical assistance to the GoN on the Global Fund C19RM grant implementation, and supported pandemic preparedness and outbreak response activities.

EpiC is strengthening Nigeria's medical oxygen ecosystem in twelve states, Maternal Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition activities in Bauchi State, and Global Health Security interventions across six states in Nigeria. As the project nears its close, we need to showcase the impact of EpiC's work in Nigeria.

EpiC needs a vendor to document the journey, capture stakeholder voices, and support strategic dissemination.

B. Objective

To produce video documentaries that:
1. Showcases the implementation process and outcomes of the EpiC project.
2. Elevate the voices of all relevant stakeholders to portray the project's impact on their lives and the work they do.
3. Support policy, advocacy, and scale-up through evidence-informed storytelling.

C. Scope of Work

1. Production of video documentary
1.1 pre-production:
- Meeting to develop video documentary concepts and script outlines in collaboration with the team.
- Identify and schedule interviews with key stakeholders.

1.2 Production:
- Film on-site in project states (Akwa-Ibom, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Delta, FCT, Imo, Kano, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ogun, Plateau, and Rivers), capturing the impact of work done by EpiC across all project scopes,

1.3 post-production:
- Edit short videos and 2–3 short clips for social media posts for dissemination.
- Include subtitles, branding, and voiceover narration as needed

2. Stakeholder Interviews
- Conduct and record key informant interviews
- Transcribe and summarize interviews for use in Knowledge products.

3. Strategic Dissemination

Develop a dissemination agenda for the documentary:
- Media engagement strategies
- social media posts

4. Deliverables
1. full-length video documentary/15 to 20 minutes
2. Short video clips/overview videos for social media of the documentary
3. Stakeholder interview transcripts for EpiC Project
4. Dissemination plan and media report.

D. Proposal Submission Requirements:
1. Detailed Company Profile/or work with registered address, functional email, telephone numbers and point of contact for organizations.
2. Evidence of company registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission, including form CAC7 & CAC2
3. Tax Clearance Certificate for the past 3 years
4. Verifiable list of current clients, including International Non-Government Organization
5. Sample of similar work done

E. Evaluation Stage, Selection Criteria and Weighted Score

Stage one: Conformity to the tender – Proposal must have all documents listed in Section D above. Evaluators will not make inference or assumption for incomplete information or document.

Stage two: Technical Evaluation criteria

The technical evaluation will be conducted using the criteria below:

Criteria	Weight (%)
Detailed Company Profile/or work with registered address, functional email, telephone numbers and point of contact for organizations.	15
Evidence of company registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission, including form CAC7 & CAC2	15
Tax Clearance Certificate for the past 3 years	10
Verifiable list of current clients, including International Non-Government Organization	15
Sample of similar work done	15
TOTAL	**70%**

Vendors must attain a minimum technical score of 50% to proceed to the financial evaluation stage.

Stage three: Financial Evaluation – financial proposal (Weight: 30%)

F. Submission of Proposal

Bidders are requested to submit technical and financial bids in two separate PDF file, described as ***"Technical Bid and Financial Bid respectively"***. All fees must be in Naira (NGN) and signed by authorized representative of the bidding organization. You are required to submit your quote on your company letterhead paper duly signed by your authorized representative to quotations.Nigeria@fhi360.org on or before ***5.00pm (Nigerian Time) November 20th, 2026.***

The subject of the email should "EPiC IMPACT DOCUMENTRY"

Safeguarding:

FHI 360 is committed to providing a safe environment for all employees, beneficiaries and anyone contracted by FHI 360. This Includes taking measures to protecting vulnerable people from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by either FHI 360 employees or associated personnel. FHI 360 abides by child safeguarding principles. FHI 360's Safeguarding Policies apply and flow out to all FHI 360 staff, board members, volunteers, and partner staff (subcontractors, consultants, vendors, and sub-recipients), regardless of the funding mechanism or amount of contract, agreement, or purchase order.

General Provisions:
- The issuance of this RFQ, the submission of a response by an Offeror, or the acceptance of such a response by FHI 360 does not obligate FHI 360 in any manner. FHI 360 makes no warranty or guarantee that an award will be made as a result of this RFQ.
- FHI 360 reserves the right:
  - o to amend, modify, or withdraw this RFQ;
  - o to revise any requirement or specification of this RFQ;
  - o to require supplemental statements or information from any Offeror;
  - o to accept or reject any or all proposals to this RFQ;
  - o to waive any proposal deficiencies, and/or communicate with any Offeror to correct or clarify responses that do not conform to instructions;
  - o to extend the deadline for submission of responses to this RFQ;
  - o to negotiate potential contract terms with any Offeror; or
  - o to cancel or reissue this RFQ in whole or in part.
- FHI 360 may exercise these rights at any time without notice and without liability to any responding Offeror or any other party, including liability for expenses incurred in preparation of proposals.
- FHI 360 is not responsible for any costs, including travel expenses, incurred by Offerors for preparation and submission of proposal, including any requests for additional information, interviews or negotiations, or any work performed prior to written authorization from FHI 360 to proceed.

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Pairing global perspectives with local insights, we help uncover emerging trends to shape your wealth strategy.

Our wealth solutions include Fixed Income Securities, Mutual Funds, Wealth Advisory Services, Bancassurance Referral and Foreign Exchange Services.

Now's your time for wealth

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Disclosure: Investments are subject to market risks and returns are not guaranteed. Eligibility criteria, fees, charges and terms can be found at **www.sc.com/ng.** Minimum Assest under Management for a Priority Banking client is N50m

NDIC Maximum insured cover for each depositor is N5,000,000 (for deposit money banks, primary mortgage banks and non-interest DMBs). SCBN is regulated by the Central Bank of Nigeria

EDO STATE GOVERNMENT NIGERIA

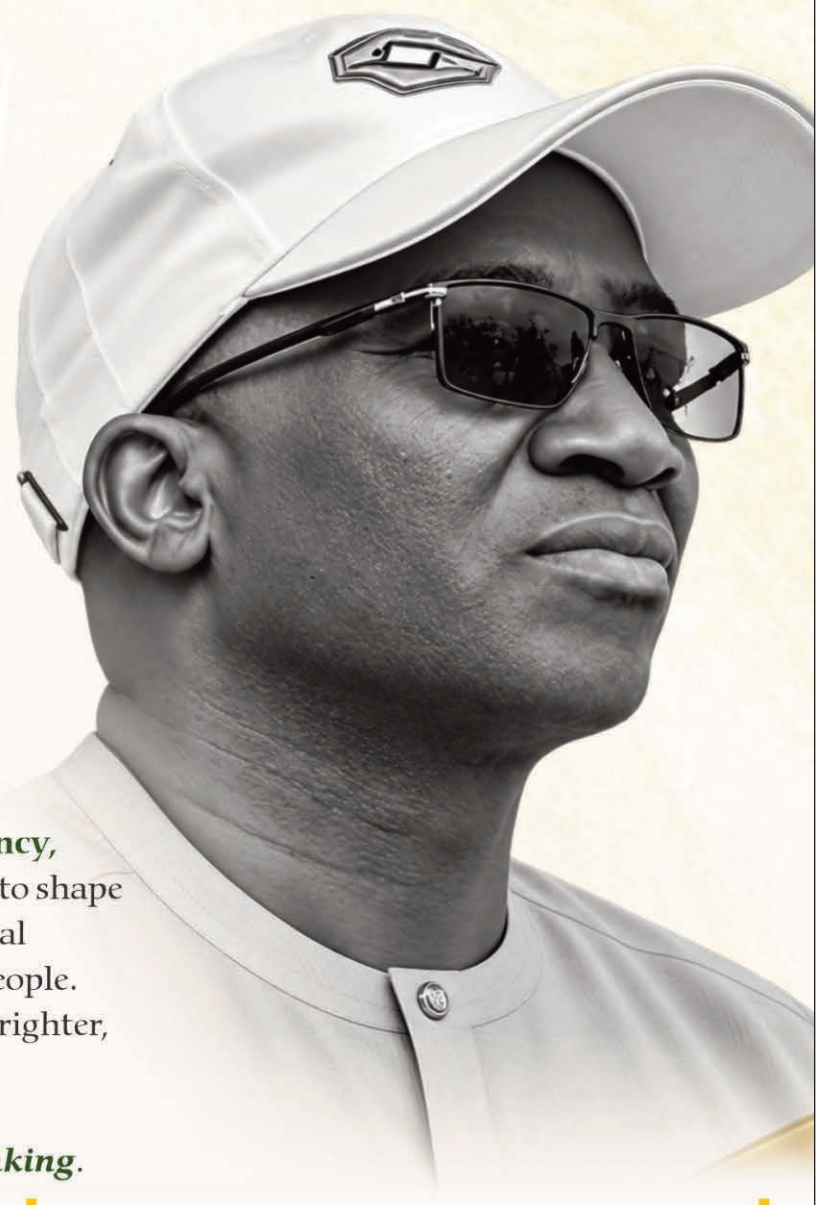
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY EDO STATE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
EDO STATE



Celebrating
2 YEARS
In Office

The Executive Governor of Edo State
HIS EXCELLENCY
MONDAY OKPEBHOLO





Two years of planting seeds of progress,
Two years of turning vision into action,
Two years of building hope through purposeful leadership.
Guided by the SHINE Agenda, **His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo**, continues to shape a new chapter for Edo State, where practical governance meets the aspirations of the people.
The journey continues, the vision shines brighter, and the promise of a greater Edo lives on.

Two Years of Purpose. A Legacy in the Making.

FROM THE DESK OF

HON. DR. JERRY UWANGUE, DFCISM
Honourable Commissioner
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security,
Edo State

Mechanized Agriculture | Food Security | Infrastructure Support | Rural Development

EDO STATE UNIVERSITY
IYAMHO
QUALITY EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

TWO YEARS OF GREAT PROGRESS:

Edo State University Celebrates Its Visitor

THE Governing Council, Senate, Management, Staff and Students of Edo State University, Iyamho, heartily felicitate with His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, the Executive Governor of Edo State and Visitor to the University, on the occasion of his second anniversary in office.

Today, We Tell Our Story As It Is!
Each time we have the opportunity to celebrate you and your achievements, we tell new stories that reflect:

- The vastness of your vision;
- The largeness of your heart;
- Your outstanding capacity for extending compassion;
- Your humility that knows no bounds.

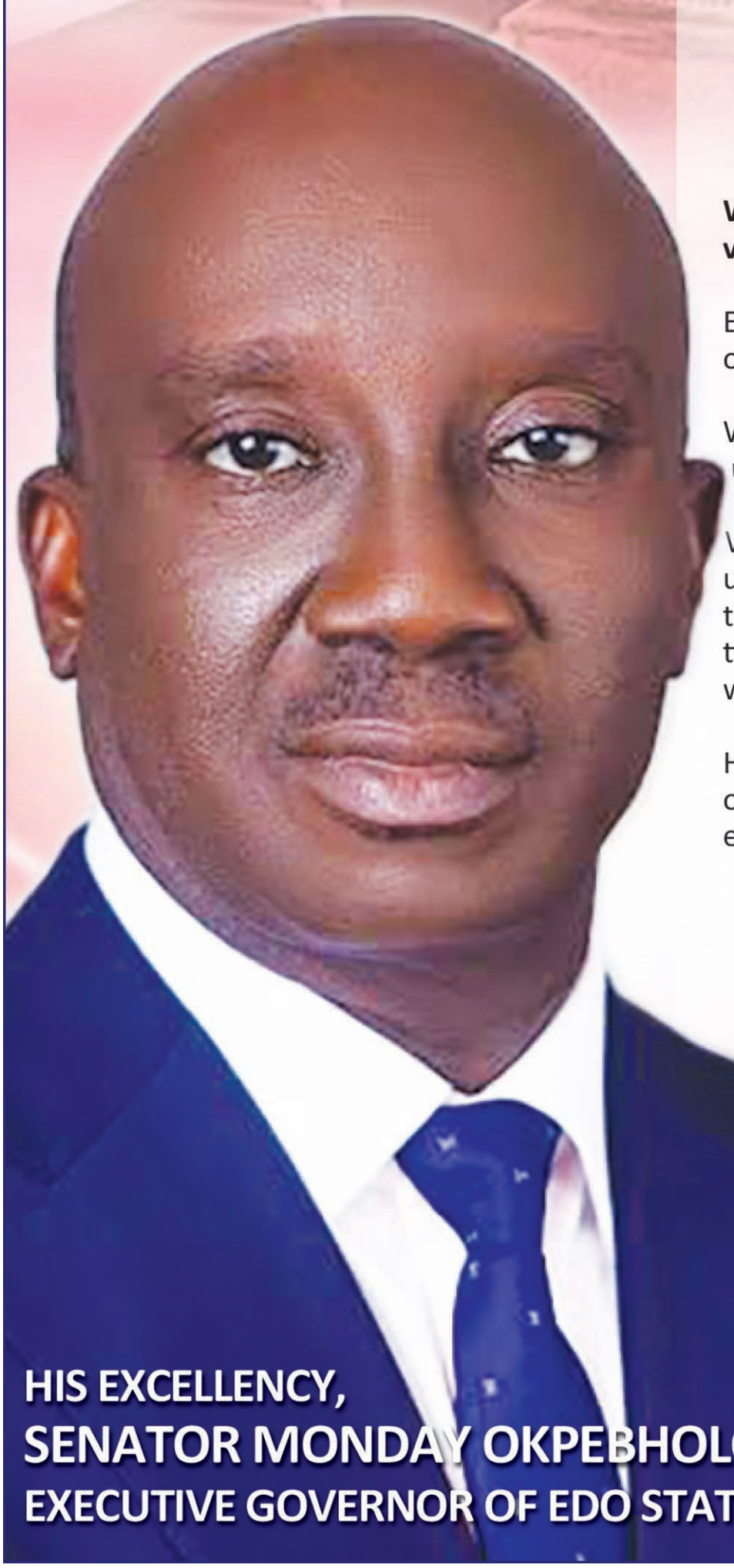
We do not have to ask before Your Excellency makes provisions for us!

Edo State University, Iyamho, continues to enjoy the benevolence, goodwill and love of Your Excellency.

We are privileged to be part of the achievements recorded under your leadership in the last two years.

We thank you for your purposeful leadership and continued support in enabling us to deliver functional education that drives social, economic and technological transformation in Edo State and accelerates our nation's march towards greatness.

Hearty Congratulations, Your Excellency, on this remarkable occasion of your Second Anniversary as the Executive Governor of Edo State.



HIS EXCELLENCY,
SENATOR MONDAY OKPEBHOLO,
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF EDO STATE



Prof. Victor O. Adetimirin
Vice-Chancellor
Edo State University, Iyamho

Labour & Appointments

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NSITF urges MSMEs to protect workers for sustainable growth

From **Collins Olayinka**, Abuja

THE Managing Director and Chief Executive of the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), Oluwaseun Faleye, has called on Nigerian businesses to make workers' safety and social protection integral to enterprise development, warning that businesses cannot achieve sustainable growth at the expense of their workforce.

Faleye said protecting workers was not only a social responsibility but also an investment in productivity, competitiveness and long-term business sustainability.

He made the call on Monday, in his goodwill message at the Grow Nigerian Conference 2026, themed: 'The Next Frontier for Innovation, Policy and Market Access,' held in Lagos.

The three-day conference, organised by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), brought together representatives of the Federal Government, development partners, industry leaders and entrepreneurs.

Commending SMEDAN's Director-General, Charles Odii, for sustaining the platform, Faleye said the conference theme challenged Nigeria to move beyond encouraging business start-ups to building productive and resilient enterprises capable of creating sustainable employment.

He noted that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) remained central to Nigeria's economic transformation, describing them as employers, innovators and critical sources of livelihood for millions of households.

However, he identified high energy costs, inflation, exchange rate pressures, limited access to affordable financing, inadequate infrastructure and logistics constraints as major challenges confronting businesses.

Faleye argued that discussions on enterprise development must go beyond access to finance, innovation and market opportunities to address the welfare of workers who sustain business operations.

He explained that the NSITF administers the Employees' Compensation Scheme under the Employees' Compensation Act 2010, which provides compensation, medical support, rehabilitation and income replacement for workers who suffer work-related injuries, occupational diseases, disability or death.

According to him, the scheme is funded through employers' contributions of one per cent of their total monthly payroll, stressing that the contribution is not deducted from workers' salaries.

He maintained that workplace protection should be regarded as a business investment rather than an additional operating cost, noting that safer workplaces promote productivity, employee motivation and organisational commitment.

The NSITF chief, however, expressed concern over low awareness of the Employees' Compensation Scheme among small businesses, calling for stronger public education, simplified administrative processes and institutional collaboration to improve coverage.

FG moves to formalise care economy, plans national care fund

By **Gloria Nwafor**

THE Federal Government plans to establish a National Care Fund and develop a digital platform through a public-private partnership to formalise Nigeria's childcare and elderly-care sector, creating new investment opportunities and employment for Nigerians.

The initiative is part of the National Care Policy and Implementation Plan approved by the Federal Executive Council, as the government moves to address the economic burden of unpaid care work, estimated at $111 billion yearly.

The Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, disclosed this while outlining the policy's implementation framework at the Top50 Global Economic Forum 2026, held in Lagos.

She said the policy would introduce standards for childcare and elderly-care services, establish a National Care Fund and provide for a National Care Digital Platform to be developed through a public-private partnership.

According to her, the initiative is designed to move care responsibilities, which are largely performed by women without payment or formal recognition, into the formal economy.

She said the policy would create opportunities for investors, financial institutions, technology companies and service providers to participate in the emerging care sector.

Sulaiman-Ibrahim described the care economy as a significant but largely untapped area of economic activity, noting that unpaid care work, carried overwhelmingly by women, costs Nigeria up to $111 billion yearly.

The minister urged investors to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the policy, particularly in developing childcare and elderly-care facilities and providing technology-driven services.

She also called on businesses to partner with the government in developing the National Care Digital Platform, which is expected to support the organisation and delivery of care services.

Beyond the care economy, the minister highlighted the National Policy on Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management as another intervention designed to combine social protection with industrial development.

Directors' breaches under judicial scrutiny

By **Victoria Nwachukwu**

COMPANY directors are increasingly at risk of being held personally accountable for breaches of their duties, amid an emerging judicial trend toward holding board members individually accountable for corporate governance failures.

The warning highlighted the importance of directors' responsibilities beyond individual businesses, as boardroom decisions affect capital allocation, job creation, talent development, and innovation across the wider economy.

Speaking at the 2026 yearly directors' conference of the Chartered Institute of Directors (CIoD) Nigeria in Lagos, Seplat Energy Plc Chairman and former Minister of Budget and National Planning, Senator Udoma Udo Udoma, said the changing business environment had not altered directors' core responsibilities.

He said the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020 sets out these responsibilities and that, for public companies, the Securities and Exchange Commission rules, stock exchange rules, and the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria's Code of Corporate Governance also apply.

According to him, these responsibilities include acting in good faith and in the company's best interests, exercising care, skill and diligence, using powers for proper purposes, and avoiding conflicts of interest.

He cited court cases in Nigeria and the United Kingdom as examples of directors being held personally accountable for breaches of their duties.

Udoma urged directors, including those who had served on boards for many years, to undertake regular refresher courses to remind themselves of their responsibilities.

African workers condemn global arms race, impact on workers

From **Collins Olayinka**, Abuja

THE African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa) has condemned the growing global arms race, warning that escalating military expenditure and declining humanitarian assistance are worsening economic hardship, threatening jobs and undermining workers' welfare across Africa.

The organisation said governments were committing trillions of dollars to military spending while cutting development and humanitarian funding needed to protect vulnerable populations, provide essential services and support economic development.

ITUC-Africa, which represents more than 18 million workers across the continent, raised the concerns in a statement signed by its General Secretary, Joel Odigie, amid continuing conflicts in the Middle East and other parts of the world.

Citing figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the organisation said global military expenditure reached a record $2.887 trillion in 2025, representing a 41 per cent increase over the preceding decade.

Military spending in Africa also rose by 8.5 per cent to $58.2bn, while the world's 100 largest arms-producing companies generated $679 billion in revenue in 2024.

In contrast, official development assistance fell by 23.1 per cent in 2025, its sharpest annual contraction on record, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, with further declines projected for 2026.

The organisation described the trend as a dangerous imbalance in global priorities, arguing that governments were increasingly financing military expansion while reducing resources for humanitarian assistance and development.

3.8 billion people lack social protection as global inequalities widen

By **Gloria Nwafor**

ABOUT 3.8 billion people worldwide remained without any social protection benefit, as rising inequality, economic pressures, and changing labour markets expose the limits of existing welfare systems, prompting renewed calls for governments to turn policy commitments into concrete protection for vulnerable populations.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) disclosed this at a global conference in Geneva, Switzerland, where governments, workers' and employers' organisations, international institutions and civil society representatives called for stronger political commitment, sustainable financing and effective national policies to achieve universal social protection.

According to the ILO's World Social Protection Report 2024–26, only 52.4 per cent of the world's population is covered by at least one social protection benefit, leaving nearly half of humanity without basic protection against economic and social risks.

Participants warned that the coverage gap was becoming more urgent as climate change, demographic shifts, technological transformation and widening inequalities increased the need for comprehensive social protection systems.

The concerns featured prominently at the conference, 'Universal Social Protection in a Changing World: Advancing Social Development and Decent Work', held recently at the ILO headquarters.

The ILO, the World Bank, and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung are part of the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030).

Speaking at the conference, Co-Director of the World Inequality Lab at the Paris School of Economics, Lucas Chancel, cited Scandinavian countries' experience in reducing income inequality during the 20th century through expanded social protection and progressive taxation.

Similarly, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Co-chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation, Jayati Ghosh, said the economic and developmental benefits of social protection needed greater recognition.

On translating political commitments into national policies, participants recalled the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha in 2025, where governments reaffirmed the importance of national social protection policies and strategies.

Similarly, Pierre Vincensini, Special Adviser at the International Organisation of Employers, stressed the importance of adapting social protection systems to changing employment conditions and workers' transitions between jobs.

He said protection mechanisms needed to reflect people's changing circumstances throughout their working lives.

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Choice over hampers: SureGifts offers year-end rewards redeemable across 400+ merchant partners

SUREGIFTS has encouraged organisations planning year-end rewards for employees, customers and clients to move beyond fixed gifts towards rewards that give recipients the freedom to choose.

While hampers and physical gifts remain popular during the festive season, they do not always reflect the different preferences and needs of individual recipients. Through SureGifts, organisations can distribute value that recipients redeem across a network of more than 400 merchant partners, with options ranging from groceries and clothing to electronics, dining and household services.

For organisations, rewards can be issued in bulk by uploading a list of recipients, who receive their vouchers by email. Organisations that prefer something to hand over, particularly those used to hampers, can also order physical gift cards carrying their own branding. Either way, there is no need to purchase, package, store and distribute individual gifts. Each reward can carry a personal message, allowing a gesture sent to hundreds or thousands of people to retain an individual touch, and organisations receive reports on delivery and redemption.

"Year-end gifting should feel personal, even at scale. Choice is how an organisation shows thought for each person it is thanking," the Managing Director of SureGifts, David Fisayo, said.

SureGifts has supported rewards programmes for organisations including MTN, NLNG, Standard Chartered, KPMG, IHS Towers, Diageo, DHL and FairMoney, spanning employee recognition, customer engagement and channel incentives. AIICO Insurance Plc, which has worked with SureGifts for several years, said, "SureGifts has consistently delivered excellent gift card solutions for our staff and clients. Their cards customised with AIICO branding provide a flexible, convenient way to reward and appreciate people, and the redemption process at designated stores is seamless."

The platform supports different reward programmes, including employee recognition, customer promotions and loyalty, sales and distributor incentives, and appreciation for clients and business partners.

More than 1,000 organisations use the SureGifts platform, while more than 1.3 million rewards have been redeemed through its network.

David said an employer can, for example, reward 500 people across multiple locations in a single batch, with voucher values tailored by employee grade or other criteria. Each recipient can choose what matters to them, from groceries at Prince Ebeano and health essentials at Medplus to electronics at SLOT and online shopping through Konga. The same platform supports distributor incentives, marketing promotions and customer gifting.

He encouraged organisations to consider what they want their year-end rewards to achieve and select options that make appreciation more meaningful to the people receiving them.

BENSON IDAHOSA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR | P.M.B. 1100, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE.

ADVERT FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHANCELLOR

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

PREAMBLE:
It is hereby notified for general information that vacancy exists for the position of Vice-Chancellor of Benson Idahosa University, Benin City. The Governing Council, therefore, in accordance with the relevant sections of the University's Law and Statutes, has approved that appropriate machinery be set in motion for the selection of a suitably qualified candidate to fill this important vacancy.

THE INSTITUTION:
Benson Idahosa University, Benin City is a faith-based private University licensed by the Federal Government in February 2002. The vision of the University flows from the divine mandate of raising academics, professionals and entrepreneurs committed in changing Nigeria for the better, by LEADING THE CHANGE.

The University runs both Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes and has recorded remarkable achievements in various areas of research and has great potential for the future.

The University operates a policy of zero tolerance for cultism, examination misconduct, harassment of any kind and other unwholesome practices. The University demands that all its staff and students commit to the highest moral and ethical standards.

APPLICATION:
Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Vice-Chancellor. Interested candidates are to note the following information:

TENURE:
The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a fixed tenure of five years.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSITION:
(a) The candidate must have a Ph.D. from a recognized University. In addition, he must have a good knowledge of Nigeria educational policy.
(b) The candidate should possess considerable administrative experience within the University system and must show demonstrable ability to attract funds to the University.
(c) A valid NYSC discharge certificate.
(d) The candidate must have been a Professor for not less than eight (8) years with an unbroken service within the University system during the period.
(e) Administrative Experience: Must have been in senior academic leadership at the level of Head of Department, Dean, Provost, Director, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or equivalent.
(f) The candidate must demonstrate academic excellence in terms of quality publications, teaching, innovation, credible community service and proficiency in Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
(g) The candidate must be a person of courage and transparent honesty, who can take decisions on merit of facts, equity, and patriotism and not on the basis of parochial interests or primordial pressures. Candidates should also be free from conflicts of interest.
(h) The candidate must have the highest moral standards, impeccable character, and proven integrity with irrevocable commitment to the best practices in corporate governance, with particular emphasis on accountability, transparency, and probity. He/she must ensure the judicious utilization of scarce resources for optimum public good.
(i) The candidate must have a good knowledge of university tradition and operation.
(j) The candidate must be able to command respect among his/her colleagues and peers and be able to motivate staff towards the achievement of the vision and mission of the University.
(k) The candidate must be firm and fair in decision making and MUST FOLLOW DUE PROCESS in taking decisions.
(l) The candidate must be vast in research and should be able to encourage research development through research proposals.
(m) The candidate must have the ability to provide a conducive, aesthetic, and healthy environment for learning.
(n) The candidate must have the ability to promote linkages with external bodies (locally and internationally).
(o) The candidate must enjoy good physical and mental health and be free from any inhibiting health condition.
(p) The candidate must have a strong spiritual (Christian) testimony.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:
Remuneration and other conditions of service are as determined by the Governing Council of the University and are highly attractive

METHOD OF APPLICATION:
1. Interested candidates who meet the conditions stated above should submit a copy of their application and comprehensive current curriculum vitae duly signed and dated, by email to registrar@biu.edu.ng

2. The Curriculum Vitae must include:
   i. The candidate's name in full
   ii. Place and date of birth
   iii. State of origin
   iv. Home address
   v. Contact address (including email and telephone number)
   vi. Marital status
   vii. Number and ages of children
   viii. Nationality
   ix. Academic qualifications
   x. Details of teaching, research, administrative, fund attraction and managerial experiences
   xi. Academic distinction, membership of academic and professional bodies, scholarly publications and
   xii. Names and addresses of three referees.

3. The application must also include a statement of the candidate's vision for the University in the next five years, in not more than 1,000 words and not less than 600 words.

4. Candidates must request their referees to forward references on them in a sealed envelope marked **"Referee Report"** with the name of the candidate underneath and addressed to the Registrar and Secretary to Council. Such referees should be able to attest to the candidate's claim to higher academic and managerial capabilities as well as the candidate's moral uprightness.

5. In addition, candidates should submit by Courier Service under Confidential Cover 10 hard copies of their applications and curriculum vitae in an envelope marked at the top left-hand corner **"Post of Vice-Chancellor, Benson Idahosa University, Benin City"**, to reach the office of the **Registrar, Benson Idahosa University, P.M.B. 1100, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria**, not later than one week from the date of this advertisement.

ELIGIBILITY:
Only candidates below the age of sixty-five (65) years are eligible to apply.

SIGNED:
MR. JOSEPH O. OGBEIDE
Acting Registrar/Secretary to Council

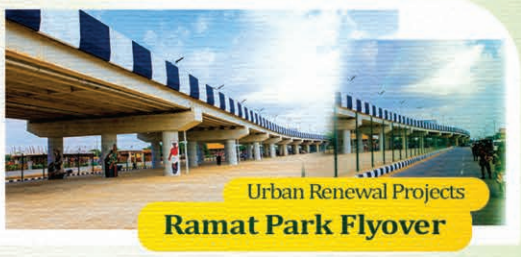
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The Elderly in Edo Loves Him


Rebuilt POWA Market Ekpoma



Transport Sector


Community Development
Okpagha-Amufi Road


Inspection of Ongoing Projects


Agriculture : Tractors for Farmers

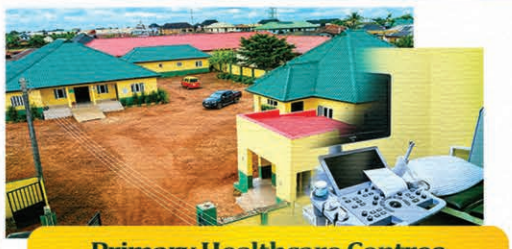

Rebuilt Oredo Girls School


Erosion/Flood Control Sapele Road


Shares a joyful moment with a little one


Transport Sector - CNG Buses


Police Patrol Vehicles


Primary Healthcare Centres


Construction Equipments



Senator
MONDAY OKPEBHOLO
Executive Governor Of Edo State

SEVERAL COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS ACROSS THE 3 SENATORIAL DISTRICTS OF EDO STATE

- Palliative Works on Failed Sections Along Auchi-Igarra-Aiyetoro-Unemu-Nekhua-Aiyegunle-Ekpesa, Ibillo-Ekor-Ikiran-Oke-Ikakumo Junction in Akoko-Edo LGA
- Construction of Ekiuwa-University of Benin City (UNIBEN), off Upper Mission Road (Temboga Road Extension), Benin City
- Dualization/Construction Of Single Carriageway Of Ekehuan Road, Uwadiae Street, Underground Drainage System and Construction Of Agbonkhina Street.
- Construction of Versity Road, Off Usugbenu Road, Irrua in Esan Central LGA.
- Construction of Ikiran-Oke-Ikakhumoh Road (12.85km)
- Construction Of Textile Mill Road, Iyoba Street, Iyobosa Street, Canaan Street, Omozogie Street, Part of Aruosaghe Street, Part of 2nd west circular road, Part of Ogie street and Underground Drainage System
- Construction of Erosion Control Works at Catholic Charismatic Renewal Road off Ekehuan Road, Benin City
- Construction of a flyover Bridge at Adesuwa-Sapele Road Intersection, Benin City.
- Construction of Uromi-Onewa-Udomi-Ibhiolulu-Afuda -Idumoza-Eko-Uwaya-Ewora Road with spurs.
- One Side Dualization Of Ogba-Evbuodia-Evbuovbioba- 35 Irhue- Upper Ekehuan Roads with Bridge Across Ogba River Phase 1 Segment
- Construction of 100 Bed Capacity Hospital at Uwessan, Esan Central Local Government Area, Edo State.
- Renovation/Remodelling of the Former Ministry of Agriculture Building along Ezoti Road, Benin City, Edo and Corp State
- Construction of Fertilizer Warehouse for Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Edo State
- Construction of Irrua-Akho-Illeh-Ukuhun Road in Esan Central LGA
- Renovation/Remodeling Works At Jattu Market In Etsako West Local Government Council
- Ongoing Erosion and Gully Intervention within Edo North
- N1 billion empowerment fund for market women.
- Construction Of 1500 Capacity Lecture Theatre In Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State
- Construction Of 1500 Capacity Lecture Theatre In Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State
- Construction of Palace Road, off Upper Mission Extension Road.
- Construction Of 600 Bed Space Capacity Hostel In Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State
- Construction Of A Forward Operating Base (Fob)Sub-Stations In Illusi, Esan South East Local Government Area Edo State
- Construction Of A Forward Operating Base (Fob)Sub- Ev Moduwa Stations In Ewohimi And Emu, Esan South East Local Government Area, Edo State.
- Construction Of Obaseki Street with Underground and Surface Drainage to Control Flood & Erosion Within That Environ.
- Construction of Evbhukhu-Sapele Road with Surface and Underground Drainage System Oredo Local Government Area.
- Construction of Internal Roads in Ogheghe and Old Sapele Road with Hydrology Structure, Benin City.
- Construction of Mechanic Road Linking Upper Erhunmwunse Road, Egor Local Government Area.

TWO YEARS OF PRACTICAL GOVERNANCE IN ACTION

Science&Health

FG urged to release N72.5b for TB drugs amid nationwide shortage

From **Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze**, Abuja

A CIVIL society group, the Civil Society for the Eradication of Tuberculosis in Nigeria (TB Network), has urged the Federal Government to release the N72.5 billion ($54 million) pledged for tuberculosis (TB) medicines and diagnostics, following nationwide stock-outs that threaten treatment and prevention efforts.

The group warned that shortages of essential medicines, delayed funding and persistent stigma could reverse gains made in the fight against the disease, exposing patients to prolonged illness, drug resistance, increased transmission and preventable deaths.

Speaking at a journalists' training on drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) coverage organised by the group's COMBAT DR-TB Project in Abuja, its National Coordinator, Olayide Akanni, said patients diagnosed with TB were struggling to access treatment, while people exposed to the infection could not obtain preventive medication.

She disclosed that three essential TB medicines were out of stock nationwide, with some states experiencing inadequate supplies for almost two months. Available stocks, she warned, might not last until December.

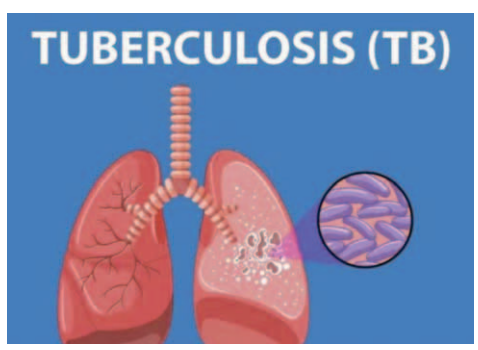
According to her, medicines distributed to states were insufficient to meet the needs of newly diagnosed patients, leaving health workers unable to guarantee immediate treatment despite the availability of diagnostic services.

Akanni also raised concerns over shortages of tuberculosis preventive treatment (TPT), which protects people exposed to the disease, particularly household members and close contacts of infectious patients.

She explained that the absence of both treatment and preventive medicines could increase transmission, as exposed individuals might develop the disease without receiving timely intervention.

Akanni said the Federal Government must account for the $54 million reportedly pledged for TB medicines and diagnostics in 2025, alleging that despite an announcement by the Federal Executive Council around June or July that the funds had been released, the agencies responsible for procuring the commodities had yet to receive the money.

"One year down the line, the funds have not come. The drugs have not been procured," she said, urging the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to explain the status of the commitment, procurement arrangements and expected delivery timeline.



She warned that the funding delay was particularly troubling as international development partners increasingly demanded greater domestic ownership of public health programmes. "The funding climate is changing rapidly. International partners are saying, 'Own your response,' and the government needs to take ownership of the TB response," she said.

Akanni noted that Nigeria would face questions about its commitments at an upcoming Stop TB Partnership meeting, insisting that the country must demonstrate concrete action rather than rely on funding announcements. "The major issue now is that we don't have drugs. We risk an epidemic if the drug situation is not addressed. We are losing a lot of lives unnecessarily because of TB, and we need to change that narrative," she said.

She urged journalists to investigate the reported shortages, track government spending commitments and highlight the experiences of affected patients.

Also, Akanni identified stigma as another obstacle to TB control, particularly for people diagnosed with drug-resistant tuberculosis. She said discrimination could discourage patients from seeking diagnosis, accessing treatment or informing close contacts about their condition, thereby increasing transmission.

"There is still a lot of stigma around tuberculosis in Nigeria. When people have drug-resistant tuberculosis, the stigma is much higher. We need to address this through our reporting and communication," she said.

She urged journalists to adopt responsible reporting practices that correct misconceptions and avoid portraying patients as threats to society, stressing that TB is preventable and curable with appropriate treatment.

Also speaking, a pulmonologist and Head of Training Department, National Institute of Public Health and Infectious Diseases, Zaria, Kaduna State, Dr Eunice Jiya-Chitumu, said tuberculosis is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis and primarily affects the lungs.

'Govt should prioritise research, invest in homegrown innovations'

__Dr Abiodun Adereni__ is a Nigerian social entrepreneur and artificial intelligence (AI) innovator who founded HelpMum, Dobic Health and Smart MRS. In this interview with __IJEOMA NWANOSIKE__, he discusses AI's potential to transform healthcare, Nigeria's infrastructure and funding challenges, the need to expand health insurance and why government should invest in indigenous research and innovation.

What does the future of healthcare in Nigeria look like over the next five to 10 years, and what major changes should Nigerians expect?

FOR Nigeria to achieve the healthcare system we envisage, several policy changes are necessary. One important initiative is the Lagos State Government's move to make health insurance mandatory for residents. This provides a foundation for expanding coverage and encouraging investment in the sector.

I expect healthcare delivery to become increasingly digitalised over the next five years. Patients will be able to access certain services from home, check test results and obtain medical information through verified online platforms. Although these services already exist, they are not yet mainstream.

Health maintenance organisations (HMOs) and health insurance will also become more widespread if governments implement the necessary policies. We will see technologies that improve healthcare providers' efficiency, particularly innovations that accelerate diagnostic processes and the production of medical test results.

Healthcare financing will attract more investment as insurance coverage expands. Imagine a situation where most Nigerians have health insurance, just as access to bank accounts has become widespread. That would create a large market for businesses developing solutions to improve healthcare access and financing.

Artificial intelligence is increasingly being used in diagnosis, medical research, drug development and patient management. Where do you see the greatest opportunities for AI in Nigeria, and where should we exercise caution?

AI has enormous potential in drug discovery and development. Globally, research is exploring how the technology can improve understanding of patients, support drug development and strengthen pharmaceutical manufacturing.

However, we must exercise caution when using AI for healthcare information and advice. People can use it to understand symptoms or prepare questions for their doctors, but it cannot replace medical professionals or healthcare infrastructure.

I have heard of people using AI to obtain drug recommendations. This is risky because the technology may not have access to a person's complete medical history, underlying health conditions or other factors that determine whether a medication is safe.

A doctor can assess a patient's medical history before recommending treatment. AI should support healthcare delivery, not replace professional medical judgement or become a substitute for medical attention.

There are growing concerns that AI is developing faster than safety measures and regulation. Should Nigeria slow down its deployment in healthcare, or would that risk leaving the country behind technologically?

Nigeria is not advancing at that pace yet. We are not innovating at the level required to make slowing down a major concern. I do not think we should restrict innovation. Even if we were moving faster, catching up with leading countries within the next 10 years would be difficult because AI is advancing rapidly. Developments by companies such as OpenAI and Anthropic demonstrate how quickly the technology is evolving.

However, speed should not be our primary concern. AI can be harmful even at its current stage if it is not properly managed. What matters is putting appropriate safeguards and regulatory structures in place.

AI companies, particularly major developers, must be scrutinised and monitored. They should have internal processes to ensure their products are developed and deployed responsibly.

We must encourage innovation while strengthening oversight and accountability, rather than creating an environment that discourages research and development.

Nigeria still faces inadequate infrastructure, shortages of healthcare workers, unreliable electricity and limited access to quality data. Is there a danger of focusing too heavily on sophisticated AI solutions while basic health-system gaps remain unresolved?

Absolutely. We must address fundamental infrastructure challenges before expecting AI innovations to thrive on a large scale. **Take electricity, for instance. Nigeria is struggling with electricity generation of about 6,600 megawatts, while actual output has, at its best, been around 4,500 megawatts. Imagine a company in the United States planning to consume several gigawatts of electricity. How do you expect Nigerian innovators to compete under these circumstances?**

Without reliable electricity, there is a limit to what technology companies can achieve. We cannot expect people to develop and sustain major innovations when the infrastructure required to power them is unavailable.

Reliable electricity would give innovators the confidence to develop bigger ideas and invest in ambitious projects. We must also address other infrastructure requirements instead of concentrating on sophisticated AI products while neglecting the fundamentals.

Resolving the power challenge would create a better environment for innovation and encourage more people to remain in Nigeria and develop solutions locally.


Abiodun Adereni

What are the biggest barriers preventing promising health innovations developed by Nigerian entrepreneurs, researchers and institutions from moving beyond the laboratory or pilot stage to widespread adoption?

The biggest barrier is funding and investment. Nigeria has brilliant innovators who, with the right resources and support, can develop solutions to address the country's healthcare challenges. Unfortunately, limited funding prevents many promising innovations from growing beyond the pilot stage or becoming sustainable.

Consider the investments made in companies such as OpenAI. Without substantial financial backing, we might not be witnessing the level of advancement in AI today. Nigerian innovators need similar support from investors, wealthy individuals, philanthropists and businesses.

Government also has an important role. It must prioritise research and development and deliberately invest in homegrown innovations.

For instance, government could set aside $100 million to support about 10 promising innovators. Such funding would enable them to develop, test and scale their technologies.

Nigeria should also establish a national AI institute to drive research, support innovators and create an environment where locally developed solutions can thrive.

Another challenge is the misconception that innovations developed with grant funding should provide services free of charge. Although international grants are important for getting projects started, they should not undermine the commercial sustainability of the businesses developing those solutions.

Innovators must generate revenue to sustain operations, employ people and improve their technologies. Without viable business models, promising innovations can collapse when grant funding ends.

We therefore need investments that enable innovators to build sustainable businesses, alongside government support, private-sector participation and philanthropic funding. Nigeria has the talent and market; what is missing is the investment required to unlock that potential.

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THE 38TH CONVOCATION CEREMONIES

The Rector, Dr. (Engr.) Ibraheem Adedotun Abdul, on behalf of the Governing Council, Academic Board, College Management, Staff and Students of Yaba College of Technology hereby announces the 38th Convocation Ceremonies scheduled to hold from Friday, November 13 through Thursday, November 19, 2026 for the award of Diplomas, Certificates and Prizes to the graduating students of 2024/2025 Academic Session and Part Time Graduating Students for the 2025/2026 academic session. Details of the programmes of events are as follows:

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Jumat Service
Friday, November 13, 2026
College Mosque
1:30 p.m.

Inter-Denominational Service
Sunday, November 15, 2026
Yusuf Grillo Auditorium
4:00 p.m.

Convocation Lecture

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 Yusuf Grillo Art Auditorium 10:00 a.m.

Topic: From Silos to Synergy: Reimaging Nigerian Tertiary Education System for National Transformation

The Visitor:

His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR
President & Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Guest Speaker:

His Excellency, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat
Deputy Governor, Lagos State

Chairman of the Day:

Prof. Suwaiba Said Ahmad
Honourable Minister of State for Education

Convocation Day Ceremony

Distinguished Guest of Honour: Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, Honourable Minister of Education

Thursday, November 19, 2026 10:00 a.m.
Dr. Phillip Adegbile Sports Complex/ Convocation Ground

Important Information

All graduands, parents and invited guests are advised to note the dates and time slated for all the events.
In addition, graduands must be fully robed and are to be seated at the Convocation arena by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Convocation Ceremony.

Collection of Certificates

Graduands are advised to collect their certificates upon completion of clearance on the College Portal, starting from **Thursday, November 19, 2026**

Collection of Academic Gown

Graduands are required to collect their Academic Robes from their respective School Officers between Monday, November 8 and Wednesday, November 18, 2026 and return same to their School Officers not later than **Tuesday, November 25, 2026.**

All enquiries for guidance and clarification in respect of the ceremony should be directed to Registrar's Office or SMS to:
08023182482, 07037431055, 08023023079.
All concerned graduands and the general public are enjoined to attend and participate fully in the ceremony.

SIGNED
Badejo, H.A.G. (Mrs)
Registrar and Secretary to Council

'Imperative of home-grown solution, investment in AI innovation'

By Iyabo Lawal

ACADEMICS and technology experts have called for deliberate investment in indigenous Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions, digital infrastructure and local research capacity as critical foundations for Africa's sustainable economic growth.

The call was made at the opening of the sixth International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (ICAIR) 2026, held at the Jelili Omotola Multipurpose Hall, University of Lagos (UNILAG).

The three-day conference, themed: 'Artificial Intelligence for Africa's sustainable economic growth,' convened academics, researchers, technology professionals, industry leaders, policymakers and students to examine how AI and robotics can accelerate innovation, deepen accountability and address Africa's most pressing developmental challenges.

Experts at the conference urged African governments, universities and industry leaders to prioritise indigenous technology development, strengthen digital infrastructure and invest in skilled talent as a pathway to building resilient and competitive economies.

In his welcome address, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee and Principal Researcher at the Nigeria AI Research Lab (NAIRL), UNILAG, Dr Sennaike Oladipupo, described Artificial Intelligence as one of the defining developments of the current era, with far-reaching implications for how people work, solve problems and interact with technology.

He noted that sectors such as agriculture, healthcare and education stand to benefit significantly from AI applications, with potential to address longstanding structural challenges, improve service delivery and stimulate inclusive economic growth across the continent.

Oladipupo, however, cautioned against Africa's continued dependence on technologies developed outside the continent, stressing the need to build home-grown solutions that reflect local realities, cultural contexts, priorities and values.

He said ICAIR 2026 was conceived not merely as an academic gathering but as a platform for meaningful engagement, knowledge exchange and partnership building capable of translating research findings into practical, deployable solutions for African communities.

In her goodwill message, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Folasade Ogunsola, highlighted the widening technological gap between Africa and more advanced economies, particularly in the development and availability of critical computing infrastructure.

Ogunsola, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics and Research), Prof. Matthew Ilori, pointed to the limited access to, and local production of central processing units and graphics processing units as a major constraint to advanced research and innovation on the continent.

She called on African governments to recognise the urgency of the digital divide and to commit greater resources towards building local technological capacity.

Ogunsola also urged universities and research institutions to take a more active role in empowering young people to develop innovative solutions and contribute meaningfully to the continent's digital transformation.

She reaffirmed the university's commitment to equipping students with the knowledge, technical competence and adaptive skills required to thrive in a rapidly evolving technology-driven world.

Delivering the keynote address titled: 'From AI research to real-world impact: Building Africa's capacity for data-driven innovation and economic growth', Director of Data Science and Computational Thinking and Professor of Operations Research and Analytics at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, Prof Kanshukan Rajaratnam, examined both the opportunities and structural challenges confronting Africa in the adoption and development of Artificial Intelligence.

Rajaratnam noted that while Africa possesses a youthful population, expanding digital adoption and significant market opportunities, the continent's ability to harness AI remains constrained by inadequate infrastructure, limited investment in research and development, and the persistent migration of highly skilled technical professionals to other regions.

He argued that meaningful AI adoption must go beyond importing foreign technologies or implementing isolated pilot projects.



Vice-Chancellor, Babcock University, Illishan, Ogun State, Prof Afolarin Ojewole (left) with Vice-President and General Manager, Cavista Technologies, Oye Morakinyo at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in Ilishan, recently.

Expert tasks teachers on students' social media addiction

By Adelowo Adebumiti

TEACHERS across the country have been urged to change their approach to handling students and help them deal with growing Internet addiction, emotional stress and pressure from social media.

The call was made at the National Teachers' Conference in Ibadan by the Administrative Manager of Jextoban Secondary Schools, Lagos, Dr Solesi Abayomi, who told hundreds of educators and church leaders that today's students should not be labelled as problematic, but should be treated with patience, empathy, love and support.

Speaking at the conference, Abayomi presented alarming statistics on the time Nigerian students spend online, warning that the trend poses a major threat to their academic performance, mental health, and overall well-being.

According to him, Nigeria ranks among the top countries globally for time spent on social media, with individuals averaging more than 29 hours per week online.

He noted that the figure reflects a growing culture of excessive screen time among young people, driven largely by access to smartphones and affordable data.

He disclosed that a study conducted among 632 secondary school students in Ibadan found that nearly 45 per cent are addicted to the internet, particularly those with unrestricted access to browsing at both school and home.

Similarly, he cited a 2025 study which found that over 73 per cent of college students in Lagos State suffer from internet addiction, a condition closely linked to depression, anxiety and high levels of stress.

Abayomi explained that many students resort to their phone screens as a coping mechanism to deal with emotional pain, loneliness and instability, especially when their home environment is toxic.

He said the internet has become an escape route for many young people who feel neglected or misunderstood.

He warned that new-breed students, specifically Generation Z, born between 1997 and 2012, and Generation Alpha, born from 2013 onwards, are facing eight major interconnected challenges that require urgent attention from parents, teachers and society at large.

He listed the challenges as the erosion of traditional moral values, bullying and violence perpetrated online, drug and alcohol abuse, overexposure to sexualised content on the internet, poor real-life communication and interpersonal skills, declining interest in traditional schooling and formal education, involvement in cybercrime and get-rich-quick schemes, and engagement in dangerous rituals for quick wealth.

According to him, these challenges are compounded by peer pressure, lack of parental supervision and the influence of unregulated digital content, leaving many young people vulnerable and confused.

To better support students, Abayomi challenged educators to implement four practical changes in their classrooms as part of a more compassionate and responsive approach to teaching.

First, he advised teachers to make a deliberate effort to learn each student's name, listen to their personal challenges, and offer one-on-one counselling and guidance instead of relying solely on classroom lectures.

Second, he urged them to make lessons shorter, more interactive and engaging by incorporating student-created content such as videos and podcasts, and to openly discuss critical issues like digital health, online safety and financial literacy.

Babcock varsity, Cavista partner to equip students with industry-ready AI skills

By Iyabo Lawal

A TECHNOLOGY and software solutions company, Cavista Technologies has entered into a strategic collaboration with Babcock University to prepare undergraduate students for careers in the technology ecosystem through practical Artificial Intelligence (AI) training and direct industry immersion.

The agreement was formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the university campus in Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State.

Under the terms of the pact, students in their 300 and 400 levels will be exposed to real-world applications of AI, structured mentorship from practising professionals, and hands-on learning designed to complement classroom theory.

The programme is also structured to help students understand how emerging technologies are being deployed to solve complex problems across sectors such as healthcare, finance, education, agriculture and governance.

Speaking at the ceremony, Vice President and General Manager of Cavista Technologies, Oye Morakinyo, described the partnership as a deliberate step towards closing the persistent gap between academic training and industry expectations.

She explained that the collaboration will create structured avenues for students to work on real industry problem statements and learn directly from engineers and business leaders with extensive experience in building and deploying technology products.

"Through this agreement, we are opening up meaningful pathways for students to get practical exposure to how industry works, learning side by side with our engineers and professionals who carry deep technical and business expertise. We are jointly investing in the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers and technology leaders who will shape the future and deliver impact that matters in society," she noted.

As part of the implementation plan, both institutions will jointly develop and deliver a structured mini-curriculum. The curriculum will be co-created by faculty members from Babcock University and technical leads at Cavista to ensure that academic concepts are directly linked to current industry practices, tools, and workflows.

Morakinyo added that, beyond its educational value, the partnership aligns with Cavista's long-term approach to talent development by helping the company build a sustainable pipeline of young professionals.

"This collaboration not only equips students with practical AI competence and industry exposure, but it also helps us build a strong talent pipeline at Cavista. We are very intentional about finding, developing and keeping some of the brightest minds. Partnerships like this allow us to identify early and nurture the technology leaders of tomorrow," she said.

In his remarks, the President and Vice-Chancellor of Babcock University, Prof. Afolarin Ojewole, said the university is pleased to align with a technology firm that has demonstrated rapid growth and impact within a short period.

He noted that the university is focused on ensuring its graduates are not only academically sound but also employable and entrepreneurial in a fast-changing digital economy, adding that industry collaborations are critical to achieving that goal.

The partnership is also expected to provide participating students with access to professional networks, career mentorship sessions, and practical industry knowledge that will enhance their competitiveness in the job market after graduation.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

Kwara NDC candidate promises N120,000 minimum wage as PDP counterpart unveils manifesto

From **Mansur Aramide**, Ilorin

THE governorship candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) in Kwara State, Prof. Abdulmumin Ajia, has promised civil servants a N120,000 minimum wage if elected into office next year.

Unveiling his "Forward Kwara" agenda at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) yesterday in Ilorin, he promised a government more open and committed to the welfare of the people.

Meanwhile, the governorship candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Kwara State, Bolakale Kawu, will today unveil his manifesto tagged SBKCompact, ahead of the 2027 governorship race.

The manifesto unveiling will offer Kawu an opportunity to formally present his vision, policy direction and proposed commitments to the people of Kwara State, a statement from the state PDP Election Campaign Council explained.

However, Ajia said it would only be an additional N4 billion to the state's present N4.55 billion monthly wage bill, promising to index the new minimum wage to the cost of living.

Jonathan to unveil Buhari's biography

From **Adamu Abuh**, Abuja

FORMER President Goodluck Jonathan will be the chief presenter of *Muhammadu Buhari: The Authorised Biography* at a public presentation in Abuja on Thursday, November 19, 2026, with President Bola Tinubu expected as guest of honour.

Meanwhile, the biography revealed that Buhari declined to resist the military coup that ousted him from power on August 27, 1985, despite having loyal military officers ready to defend his regime, because he feared that fighting back would result in bloodshed.

Chairman of the Planning Committee and former minister of water resources, Suleiman Adamu, told newsmen yesterday that the event would be chaired by former President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger Republic.

The three volumes have forewords by Issoufou, Gen. Yakubu Gowon and Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar, with Adamu saying the occasion was designed to be more than a political gathering.

According to him, Buhari was a partisan political actor during important periods of his life, but his biography belongs to the historical record of Nigeria, and "for that reason, we hope the presentation will draw participation from across political, regional, professional and institutional lines," he said.

IGP cancels officers' leave, deploys more personnel to bandit-hit areas

From **Andrew Oota**, Abuja

THE Inspector General of Police (IGP), Olatunji Disu, has cancelled leave for all officers and directed commissioners of police to submit documented and verified banditry flashpoints to the Force headquarters within 72 hours.

Disu also directed the immediate deployment of more police personnel, operational vehicles and air support to states affected by banditry across the country.

He gave the directive yesterday during the monthly conference with strategic senior officers of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) at the Force Headquarters in Abuja.

Commending the officers for the successes recorded, he paid special tribute to all fallen heroes, directing that all outstanding death benefits and entitlements be cleared without delay, adding that no bereaved family of an officer should be left to struggle.

Consequently, he instructed Commissioners of Police to personally verify all pending cases involving the entitlements of fallen officers in their respective commands, stressing that no family of a deceased officer should be abandoned to face financial difficulties.

Meanwhile, the IGP warned that police officers are not elected office holders and must always work in Nigeria's overall interest and respect their uniforms.

"As we approach another important electoral period, I wish to emphasise that the Nigeria Police Force remains a strictly non-partisan institution. Our allegiance is to the Constitution and the Nigerian people.

"It is our responsibility to guarantee a safe and secure environment for all electoral participants, irrespective of their political affiliation. Every candidate, political party, supporter and eligible voter is entitled to equal protection under the law.

"Consequently, I expect all Commissioners of Police to commence and sustain comprehensive preparations within their respective commands.

"Specifically, all leave is cancelled for officers and men deployed for election security duties, effective immediately.

"All Commissioners of Police and senior officers are to remain in their respective commands until the conclusion of the electoral process. Any travel outside your command requires express approval from Force Headquarters."



Representative of the Director, International Economic Relations Department, Federal Ministry of Finance, Mohammed Bamagai (left); World Bank Task Team Lead, Ikechukwu Nweje; National Programme Coordinator, HOPE-Governance, Dr Assad Hassan; Lagos State Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Ope George; his counterpart for Basic and Secondary Education, Jamiu Alli-Balogun; and Permanent Secretary, Lagos Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Olayinka Ojo, at the HOPE-Governance Implementation Support Mission, themed: 'Accelerating Implementation: Technical Support and Rollout of the Restructured HOPE_GOV Framework', held in Lagos, yesterday.

Obi vows to end kidnapping, killing of innocent citizens

From **Samson Kukwa-Yanor**, Makurdi

Benue govt denies plot to disrupt visit

PRESIDENTIAL candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Party (NDC), Mr Peter Obi, has promised that his government would not condone the kidnapping and killing of innocent Nigerians.

Obi spoke yesterday at a town hall meeting in Makurdi, Benue State, assuring that his government would tackle insecurity head-on.

Meanwhile, the Benue State Government has denied allegations that it planned to disrupt the NDC presidential candidate's visit.

Describing the allegation by the party's governorship candidate, Prof. Terhemba Shija, as false and baseless, it accused the NDC of attempting to create the impression that any disruption during Obi's visit would be the government's responsibility.

THE NDC presidential candidate, accompanied by his running mate, Dr Rabiu Kwankwaso, visited the Tor Tiv, Prof. James Ayatse, and the Yelewata community, where he condoled with residents over last year's massacre of 271 persons.

In Yelewata, Obi knelt at the monument erected in honour of the victims of the June 2025 massacre, saying that if elected, his government would top acts of killing and kidnapping.

Obi also promised to build a better society for the youths by reducing the high rate of unemployment and empowering them to venture into agriculture as well as encouraging entrepreneurship.

"When you finish school, we will ensure you start your own business or get a job," he said. "We assure you of our commitment to engage the youths. Youth unemployment is highly unacceptable.

"We will empower the youths through agriculture. We will build a society where a child of the poor will be allowed to become somebody."

FG secures $65m pledge to reduce maternal, newborn deaths

From **Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze**, Abuja

Minister decries inconsistent, outdated health data

AS part of efforts to reduce preventable maternal and newborn deaths in Nigeria, the federal government said it has secured $65 million in financial and in-kind commitments from seven private sector and philanthropic organisations.

The organisations include Bayer, UNICEF, DSM-Firmenich, Nestlé Nutrition Institute, Roche and Ferring Pharmaceuticals.

This comes as the government launched a new policy and implementation frameworks to improve emergency obstetric care, family planning, and the quality of maternal health services in the country.

Meanwhile, the Minister of State for Health, Dr Adekunle Salako, has called for stronger accountability in Nigeria's health data management, warning that inconsistent and outdated statistics could undermine evidence-based policymaking and assessments of government interventions.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate, disclosed at the ongoing Joint Annual Review (JAR) meeting of the health sector in Abuja that the commitments are expected to address critical healthcare delivery gaps in 172 local councils identified as having the highest burden of maternal and newborn deaths.

Pate described the commitment, submitted through Letters of Intent under the Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Reduction Innovation Initiative Private Sector Compact, as a major boost to the drive to reduce maternal mortality.

He explained that the $65 million commitment was particularly significant given the prevailing economic challenges, noting that reducing preventable maternal and newborn deaths remained a national priority under President Bola Tinubu's administration.

HOWEVER, Salako said the country must address discrepancies in health indicators by reconciling data from surveys and routine administrative records.

Hashim pledges to protect adherents of all faiths

By **Seye Olumide**

ACCORD Party (AP) presidential candidate, Dr Gbenga Olawepo-Hashim, has proposed legislation to criminalise religious persecution and establish an independent commission to investigate attacks and compensate victims, if elected president in 2027.

Hashim disclosed the plan in a policy brief submitted to the United States (U.S.) Congress and the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), ahead of a U.S. House hearing on Nigeria.

He said protecting the right of every Nigerian to practice his or her religion freely should be a central component of the country's security and conflict prevention strategy, adding that the proposed legislation would criminalise religious persecution, hate incitement and forced displacement.

While acknowledging attacks on Christians, churches and clerics in parts of northern and central Nigeria, the AP candidate cautioned against portraying the country's religious crisis as exclusively a conflict between Christians and Muslims.

He argued that Shia Muslims, minority religious groups and some Hausa Muslim communities also faced persecution and discrimination, warning that a narrow religious framing could deepen divisions.

Afenifere decries kidnapping in South-West states

From **Rotimi Agboluaje**, Ibadan

WORRIED by the recent kidnapping incidents along the Ijebu-Ode–Ibadan Road and at the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) in Ibadan, Oyo State, in the penultimate week, pan-Yoruba socio-political organisation, Afenifere, has once again decried the state of security in South-Western Nigeria.

The organisation, in a statement by its National Publicity Secretary, Comrade Jare Ajayi, noted that last Tuesday, travellers en route to Ibadan from Ijebu-Ode in Ogun State were abducted, with the kidnappers demanding a ransom of N25 million.

It noted that the incident occurred just weeks after prospective National Youth Service Corps members travelling from Ibadan were abducted in Imo State on October 1, 2026, among others.

Ajayi noted that while Afenifere is relieved that the victims were ultimately rescued or released, it was deeply saddened that these disheartening incidents were occurring at all, reminding the association that much still needed to be done to secure the people and ensure their safety.

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Lagos 2027: A contest of old order versus promising greenhorns

*The last governorship debate that brought the four main aspirants head-to-head in an exchange of ideas has left the electorate with clear choices and attendant consequences. It is either to sustain the old order and establishment or try something new despite uncertainties, **KEHINDE OLATUNJI** reports.*

THE issues featured prominently at the governorship debate organised by the Nigeria Debate Consortium, comprising five media organisations. The participants were the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Dr Kadri Obafemi Hamzat; Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour of the African Democratic Congress (ADC); Funso Doherty of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC); and Deji Doherty of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Their submissions covered housing, waste management, flooding, transportation and accountability, but often lacked details on financing, implementation and measurable results.

On paper, it leaves voters with choices to make despite the consequences that may follow.

Continuity versus change

HAMZAT faced the task of defending the APC administration's record while persuading voters that his leadership would address problems that have persisted under successive administrations led by his party.

After nearly eight years as deputy governor and in other senior government roles, he presented his familiarity with the machinery of government as a major advantage.

On waste management, he explained the state's transition from refuse collection and disposal towards material recovery, citing the proposed facility at Olusosun. On housing, he referred to the Lagos State Tenancy Registration Agency Law (2025), arguing that enforcement, rather than another regulatory framework, was the priority. He also highlighted ongoing housing projects and efforts to simplify land-title processing.

Yet, the existence of laws, agencies and development programmes raises a difficult question for an incumbent administration's candidate: why do residents continue to experience irregular refuse collection, unaffordable housing, excessive tenancy charges and other persistent problems?

Asked about challenging influential political figures over policy disagreements, he relied substantially on his academic and professional credentials rather than citing a specific instance. Experience in government is valuable, but it does not, by itself, establish political independence or readiness to confront entrenched interests.

The exchange over the October 20, 2020 #EndSARS incident at the Lekki tollgate was particularly significant. Hamzat acknowledged being present, describing the incident as a sad day for Lagos. He defended the judicial commission of inquiry established by the state government and maintained that the government had acted on recommendations within its powers.

Rhodes-Vivour challenged his account, recalling that he and Funso Doherty were tear-gassed when they attempted to lay flowers at the tollgate in remembrance of victims. Hamzat's challenge is to demonstrate that continuity under his leadership would not mean preserving the shortcomings of the administration he has served.

Rhodes-Vivour advanced a different development philosophy, particularly on waste management, housing and environmental protection. He questioned the centralisation of refuse collection, arguing that local governments should play a greater role and that Lagos needed to move beyond depositing waste at dumpsites.

His emphasis on waste separation, recycling and waste-to-energy presented sanitation as an economic opportunity. However, decentralisation would require clear responsibilities for local councils, adequate financing, regulation of private operators and facilities to process different categories of waste.

> "The ultimate test would not be the sophistication of campaign promises or performance on a debate platform, but whether the next governor could deliver affordable housing, reliable sanitation, safer communities, efficient transportation, accessible healthcare, better schools and accountable government."

On housing, he advocated protection against arbitrary rent increases, restrictions on excessive charges and financing arrangements to complete unoccupied buildings for temporary accommodation. But without a corresponding expansion of housing supply, rent controls could create further distortions in the market.

By drawing attention to wetland destruction, sand-filling and climate-responsive urban planning, he challenged the tendency to treat flooding principally as a drainage problem. Implementing these proposals, however, would require environmental mapping, stronger planning enforcement, substantial investment and cooperation with communities and developers.

Rhodes-Vivour also faced questions about his executive experience and capacity to manage Lagos' bureaucracy and finances. His urban housing background provided relevant exposure but not necessarily experience in managing public institutions and competing interests. He must demonstrate that he can translate his criticism of the existing system into administrative readiness.

Accountability and political credibility

FUNSO Doherty emphasised institutional accountability. On waste management, he argued that long-term plans for recycling, waste-to-wealth, and waste-to-power should not be used as excuses for failing to collect daily refuse. Sophisticated processing, he said, must go alongside regular neighbourhood collection.

On housing, he advocated government-led social housing, arguing that the private sector alone could not resolve the accommodation crisis. He cited the programme of former governor Lateef Jakande as evidence that the government could play a more direct role in providing affordable homes.

Doherty also argued that flooding was linked not simply to inadequate drainage but to poor urban planning, wetland destruction and weak enforcement of environmental regulations. He questioned the environmental safeguards surrounding the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road, alleging that an environmental impact assessment was unavailable when a relevant due-process report was presented to the Bureau of Public Procurement. The allegation requires documentary verification and a response from the relevant authorities.

His political journey also attracted questions. Doherty dismissed allegations surrounding his emergence as the NDC candidate, insisting that he followed the appropriate process. He argued that political realignments were compatible with principled leadership in what he described as an increasingly hostile environment for opposition parties.

His social-housing proposal nevertheless requires clearer details on financing, land acquisition, construction costs, allocation criteria and the number of households expected to benefit.

Deji Doherty of the PDP relied substantially on his political experience, grassroots mobilisation and business background. He described his emergence as the party's candidate as the product of 26 years of political engagement and identified the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, as his national political leader.

Wike's political association with President Bola Tinubu attracted attention. Although Deji Doherty maintained that the relationship did not undermine democratic competition, it raised questions about the independence of an opposition candidate whose influential ally belongs to the ruling political establishment.

He cited his business experience, saying he had operated a group of companies since 1986 and once owed banks N3.8bn before working his way out of the debt. His proposal for the government to rent houses directly from landlords and sublet them to residents at affordable rates, alongside promises of free education and tax relief for teachers and doctors, raised questions about financing and the state's fiscal obligations.

Business and grassroots experience do not automatically translate into the ability to administer public institutions. He needs to explain how his proposals would be funded and sustained without creating additional public liabilities.

Stakeholders question debate's scope

THE debate also raised questions about its quality, inclusiveness, and the opportunity it gave voters to assess alternatives.

A former Lagos PDP publicity secretary, Taofik Gani, rated the debate poorly for the quality demonstrated by the candidates.

The Allied People's Movement (APM) candidate, Laja Adeoye, described the exercise as a sham and an arrangement allegedly designed to favour the APC. He questioned the selection of four from 17 candidates, adding that the three opposition participants failed to demonstrate sufficient understanding of Lagos or adequately scrutinise Hamzat's record.

The Labour Party candidate, Rotimi Odunaike, also rejected the exclusion of other contestants, arguing that it denied them an opportunity to present their programmes and engage voters. Adeoye insisted that the APM deserved similar recognition and an opportunity to explain its proposals. He also complained about the organisers' handling of his candidacy after receiving an invitation.

The Chairman of the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL), Debo Adeniran, similarly faulted the limited participation. He questioned whether all parties had been contacted, arguing that prominence or financial strength should not determine participation.

Adeniran said smaller parties could field candidates with credible ideas and detailed development plans. He also observed that some participants offered policy blueprints, while others made vague proposals without explaining how they would be implemented. Candidates, he said, should study the Lagos master plan, identify deficiencies and improve existing programmes rather than promise to discard projects for political reasons.

Using the proposed Fourth Mainland Bridge as an example, he warned that abandoning an existing project and replacing it with proposals for three new bridges could waste public resources, even though substantial planning and investment had already been committed. He added that proposals on transportation, rail and sanitation should be assessed against initiatives already contained in the state's development plans.



Hamzat | Rhodes-Vivour | Funso Doherty | Deji Doherty

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

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Thursday, November 12, 2026

Tinubu rewards victorious Flamingos players, coach with N100m each

From **Terhemba Daka**, Abuja

- Coach gets N100m cash, technical crew members N50m each
- President directs that players' rewards be invested in savings certificates
- First Lady urges young champions to remain humble, disciplined, focused

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu, yesterday, rewarded players of the victorious U-17 women's national football team, the Flamingos, with N100 million each following their historic triumph at the 2026 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Morocco.

The President also approved a N100 million cash reward for the team's head coach, Akeem Busari, while members of the technical crew will receive N50 million each in recognition of their contributions to Nigeria's historic achievement.

President Tinubu announced the rewards through the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, who represented him at a special presidential reception for the world champions at the State House, Abuja.

The President directed that each player's N100 million reward be invested in a savings certificate to safeguard the funds for their future, given their young age.

Announcing the package to the visibly excited players, Mrs Tinubu said the rewards were in fulfilment of the President's commitment to recognising Nigerian athletes who distinguish themselves on the international stage.

"Before I conclude, let me recall Mr President's promise to every Nigerian athlete: Make Nigeria proud and come back to a grateful nation.

"In fulfilment of this promise, it is my pleasure, on behalf of the President, to announce the following rewards for the players, technical crew and administrators of the Flamingos, whose collective efforts have brought honour and pride to our nation by winning the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

"For all our players, Mr President is awarding you a savings certificate of N100 million each. Each of you is getting N100 million," she said.

Explaining the arrangement, the First Lady said the money would be preserved in trust for the teenage footballers rather than handed to them for immediate spending.

"Do you know what a savings certificate is? It is money, but it is in trust for you. You are still very young. Do you want to start handling N100 million now?

"For the coach, a reward of N100 million cash, and then for the technical crew, N50 million each. That's what Mr President said I should tell you," she added.

Mrs Tinubu expressed optimism that the presidential rewards would mark the beginning of wider recognition for the team, particularly from their respective state governments.

"I believe that this is just the beginning of the celebration," she said.

Earlier, the First Lady described the Flamingos' victory as a defining moment in the history of Nigerian and African football, saying the achievement had demonstrated the immense potential of Nigerian youths when given the opportunity and support to excel.

Nigeria defeated Japan 2-1 in Saturday's final in Rabat, Morocco, to become the first African country to win the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.



Bassey

Man United may sack Carrick today, name Pochettino as new manager

Calvin Bassey could be new manager's first signing

MANCHESTER United have a framework agreement with Mauricio Pochettino for him to become their head coach if Michael Carrick is sacked. Carrick is expected to be fired in line with the recommendation from director of football Jason Wilcox and chief executive Omar Berrada to Jim Ratcliffe, according to *The Guardian* of London.

Pochettino is the U.S. men's head coach and, in August, signed a contract to 2030, but he wants the United job after managing in the Premier League with Southampton, Tottenham and Chelsea.

Wilcox and Berrada are meeting Ratcliffe in Monaco, where the minority owner will be informed that Carrick should lose his job. Ratcliffe controls United's sporting policy.

There is a growing sense among United players that Carrick will be sacked, with their expectation being that Pochettino will replace him.

A United board meeting was scheduled for yesterday at which one or more of the six Glazer siblings, who are the majority owners, will be represented.

Solution

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Nigeria's professional golf growth rate excites Okoria

By **Daniel Akinola**

NIGERIA'S professional golf landscape is gathering fresh momentum as some of Africa's leading players converge on the country for two major tournaments: the CIO Classic in Port Harcourt, and the maiden Alpha Bravo Classic, scheduled for November 19 to 21, 2026, at Lakowe Lakes Golf Club in Lagos.

The Alpha Bravo Classic, a 54-hole championship boasting a $25,000 prize purse, is expected to further strengthen Nigeria's growing reputation as an emerging destination for competitive professional golf on the continent.

The Chief Executive Officer of Alpha Bravo Integrated Services, Tombara Okoria, believes the increasing number of internationally recognised tournaments reflects the country's enormous potential in the sport.

"Nigeria is one of the few African countries with a sizeable number of golf facilities and, interestingly, golf talents as well. That is why our company birthed the sponsorship of the Alpha Bravo Classic in 2025, first as an amateur event, but this year, we are bringing on the professionals." Okoria said.

He noted that the growing integration of Nigerian tournaments into international circuits represents a significant breakthrough for local professionals seeking greater exposure and career advancement.

Beyond the attractive prize money, outstanding performances at the championships will offer players opportunities to accumulate Official World Golf Ranking points through the Sunshine Development Tour, alongside valuable qualification points towards the 2027 Magical Kenya Open through the Safari Tour affiliation.

Full house in Uyo as Super Eagles finalise strategies for Tanzania clash

By **Gowon Akpodonor**

THE Super Eagles' camp in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, came alive with players invited for tomorrow's clash with Tanzania in the 2027 AFCON qualifiers reporting in camp.

The team need to beat Tanzania at home and away to stand a chance of picking the only available ticket in the group.

Some of the players arrived in Uyo on Monday, while the rest trooped in yesterday morning. The team had its second full training session yesterday.

A statement by the Super Eagles Media team indicates that all the players are in good shape and ready for the battle against Tanzania.

The players in camp as of yesterday morning were Calvin Bassey, Ola Aina, Alex Iwobi, Arthur Okonkwo, Semi Ajayi, Benjamin Fredericks, Alhassan Yusuf, Bright Osayi-Samuel, Akor Adams, Tochukwu Nnadi and Chibuike Nwaiwu.

Others are Moses Simon, Tolu Arokodare, Ademola Lookman, Francis Uzoho, Stanley Nwabali, Tijani Samson, Wilfred Ndidi, Suleiman Mubarak, Abdullahi Bewene, Taiwo Awoniyi, Moses Usor, Bruno Oyemaechi and Fisayo Dele-Bashiru.

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